



Scottish Qualifications Authority

Learning Teaching Scotland

— This last quarter has seen the completion of a series of projects for the public and quasi public sector (SQA, LTS, SCRA, AIB) and it has been good to share in these organisations' enthusiasm to embrace new ways of working. Standardised procurement routes can make innovation difficult so it was good to discover that by the time direct contact was achieved with users, the possibility of rethinking the working environment was welcomed with open arms. The question must therefore be asked to what extent (supposed) cost saving and bureaucratic convenience is damaging or at least limiting those organisations not able or willing to exploit the opportunity of office refurbishment or a move to a new building.

HYMANS ROBERTSON LONDON

AM Interiors **haa design's** joint venture company based in London (as well as Jersey and Glasgow) gets busier every day. Designed, as far as **haa design** were concerned, to service clients away from Scotland, the project for Hymans is doing just that, with concept design and space planning being undertaken from Glasgow and implementation being handled from London. Set in a stylish modern building, the design moves forward the whole idea of open plan working.



Hymans Robertson London



Hymans Robertson London

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA)

The SQA is a large government agency dealing with the setting of standards and the processing of examination material across the country. As such it requires a working environment offering security, efficiency, integration of departments and also creativity and flexibility. **haa design** were invited to join GVA Grimley in designing this environment in the Authority's move to its new home in the Optima building. We would like to think that the result is a little more than what might be expected in an average government office.

LEARNING TEACHING SCOTLAND (LTS)

LTS moved into The Optima at the same time as the SQA as part of a Scottish Executive property consolidation initiative. While sharing certain facilities with the SQA, LTS nevertheless remains independent, with its own culture and working style. Interaction and creativity are high on the LTS agenda and the plan makes full use of circulation areas to allow for informal meetings of various sorts. The open plan areas are also organised to provide for a range of different work-modes from team work to quiet concentration.



Scottish Enterprise Technology Park (SETP)

SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY PARK (SETP)

As previously reported we are busy with a £1.9 million new build office development for Speyroc. Now named the 'Torus' Building, reflecting its doughnut shape and science park credentials, work is on site with completion planned for November 2006.

TORRANCE

haa design are assisting the Torrance Community Initiative develop a new community sports and recreation centre, within an overall masterplan for the village, finding new uses for neglected or redundant community and council assets.



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Scottish Children's Reporter Administration



Whyte & Mackay



Miller Bar



Accountant In Bankruptcy (AIB)



Westerly Developments

SCOTTISH CHILDRENS REPORTER ADMINISTRATION (SCRA)

haa design have won a term appointment to help roll out a new form of Reporter offices which make better use of space and provide a fresher environment. The new facility in Aberdeen has been seen as a test case and first impressions have been positive. The 'hearing rooms', also treated with the new look, are designed to feel relaxed while meeting the strict standards of security and confidentiality set by the Agency.

WHYTE & MACKAY

haa design have been working with Whyte & Mackay for some time to come up with that optimum solution which matches operational needs with available budget and the vagaries of the building. Joined by Whyte & Mackay's in-house team in the final stages to develop the branding, work is now on site with a series of phased handovers running through the summer.

SCOTTISH POWER

haa design are currently working with Cadogan Consultants in the design of facilities for Scottish Power's new plant at Elvanfoot. On another project, working directly to Scottish Power haa design are setting the design specification and planning context for the office and workshop buildings at Whitelee windfarm.

SCOTTISH COURTS

haa design are assisting GHI in the detailed design and implementation of changes to several different court facilities in Edinburgh.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE - STUDENTS UNION 'MILLER BAR'

Plans for a revamped restaurant facility still struggle to achieve necessary funding. As an interim measure however and to provide a daytime facility for students to 'hang about to a purpose', the 'Miller Bar' is being turned into a relaxed space for socialising and informal working - soft, informal but 'student proof' - not easy!

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE - STUDENTS UNION MASTERPLAN

In order to set a programme for the future, reflecting changing Students Union needs, as well as changing patterns in learning, teaching and socialising, haa design have undertaken a review of the Union building to see how it can integrate with university plans to generate an east-west corridor through the campus and make use of soon to be redundant plant and laboratory spaces.

ACCOUNTANT IN BANKRUPTCY (AIB)

This government department has now taken up residence in a new building in Kilwinning. haa design worked with CB Richard Ellis to develop the space planning and interior design.

WESTERLY DEVELOPMENTS

haa design have now been working with Westerly Developments for over a year. The first development at Appin is largely complete and further projects have been both larger and smaller making use of various sites along the west coast in response to the current strong demand for housing.

ALLIED IRISH BANK

haa design are assisting GHI in the refurbishment of Allied Irish Bank in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. This involves finishes and lighting that are sympathetic to the listed town house.



West Lothian College

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE

Working together with BAM ppp (previously HBG) haa design are extending and revamping the college's Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing departments. It's that usual struggle between budgets and timescales but hopefully a chance to deliver a little style!

BANFF & BUCHAN COLLEGE

haa design are currently working with Banff & Buchan College looking at a premises strategy for the next 20 years. The College recognises that the teaching / learning experience is changing radically and that they need to adapt in order to invigorate students and teaching staff alike. Following on from their study with The Funding Council analysing these changes, and drawing on their understanding of buildings, haa design are developing a strategy which will be radical while remaining strategically affordable.



Banff & Buchan College



Spaces for Learning Study



haa design's lunchtime seminars

Over the years haa design have developed something of a reputation for their "discussion lunches". Described as 'social but with a purpose', an invited speaker introduces a topic for general discussion. Guests, no more than eight, are varied in background but with a common interest, and limiting debate rather than provoking it is normally the problem. Our most recent speaker Carol Craig, from the Centre for Confidence and Well being, proved just such a stimulus. Our next speaker, Gwyn Kennedy from Kennedy McTavish, is due to lead a debate on Alternative Regeneration. After that we have Dr. Carol Tannahill, from the Centre for Population Health. Guests and ideas for further speakers are always welcome.

QUICKFIRE NEWS

Completion of 4no. public sector projects.

Joint venture company, AM Interiors, takes on first projects including fit-out within One London Wall

New work for University and Further Education Sector

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