

This project was for a new administrative headquarters building for Ineos Capital, a global chemical manufacturing company with plants located in the UK, USA, Belgium, Holland, France, Taiwan, Japan and Malaysia. On a sensitive site in the New Forest, the scheme required a modern but discreet design solution to provide flexible, cellular and open plan office space to accommodate their growing company.

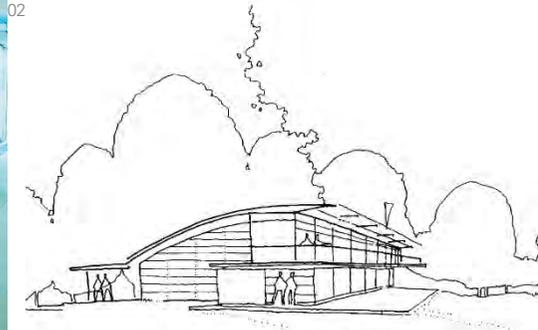
Relocating from their existing head office in Southampton, Ineos required a similar floor area to their existing buildings, but with a more efficient arrangement. The client had a strong preference for a building no more than two storeys in height, with the internal arrangement designed to reflect and suit their corporate structure and working patterns.

The site is located within the Southwest Hampshire Green Belt and also in the New Forest Heritage Area and was therefore subject to complex planning issues during the initial stages. The brief also required that the protected trees around the perimeter be retained and augmented with the creation of new landscaped grounds consistent with the setting, between the urban edge and the surrounding countryside.

Working with the contours of the landscape for minimal visual impact, the form of this two-storey structure maximises the benefits of daylight and natural ventilation. The design strategy adopted by ArchitecturePLB was to remain sensitive to the neighbouring buildings by using traditional materials such as timber cladding, zinc, render and glass in a contemporary manner.

A strong relationship between the internal and outside spaces has been created, making the most of the views out to the countryside by opening up the building to the southwest. On the opposite side, facing the town, the height is restricted to a single storey to minimise its impact from Chapel Lane, with a new landscaped parking area behind the existing boundary planting.

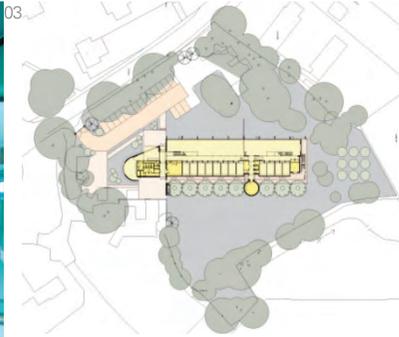
The width and layout of the building have been optimised to maximise the floorplate while also allowing natural cross ventilation via simple opening windows, manually operated by the occupants. The plan and section also allow high levels of natural light throughout the building with floor to ceiling glazing to the office spaces and rooflights to provide daylight into the deeper plan areas.



01 Reception foyer  
02 Conceptual sketch  
03 Glazed offices to rear



Total Area : XXsqm GIA  
 Procurement Type : Traditional JCT 98 Contract with quantities  
 Local Authority : New Forest District Council

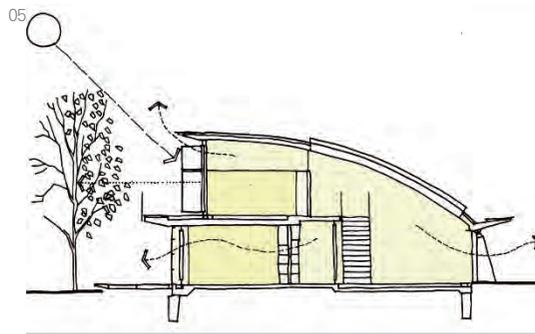


The arrival space to the east of the building faces the entrance and enjoys the morning sun as workers arrive, while a garden to the west provides for relaxation in the afternoon and early evening.

The building envelope was designed to be well insulated and shaded externally by the large roof overhang to the east and by the tall trees to the west. A combination of horizontal and vertical shading on the west elevation deals with both the high angle sun in the summer and low sun in the late afternoon. The use of concrete to the soffit of the mezzanine slab and a dense rendered surface to the underside of the curved roof increases the thermal capacitance of the building and helps to control summertime temperature.



The scheme was awarded an RIBA Award and a Civic Trust Award in 2003.



- 01 Building exterior
- 02 Office interior
- 03 Site plan
- 04 Contemporary timber pod
- 05 Cross-section