



Allen and Overy

Allen and Overy, a major international legal practice with 5000 staff worldwide, recently moved into new premises at One Bishops Square in the heart of the City of London, adjacent to Spitalfields Market.

With over one million square feet of accommodation, and designed by renowned architectural practice Foster and Partners, the new premises provide Allen and Overy with a world class UK headquarters building and a symbol of their commitment to quality, style and modernity.

Modulex joined the project in 2003, working in close collaboration with the architects and the client project team to provide a sign system worthy of this important new development.



Business challenges

A prestigious project such as this demands the best from all those who contribute to it. Modulex, the biggest and acknowledged to be the best in the world in its own field, thrives on this sort of challenge. The signs in One Bishops Square work well and are quite at home in that classy interior.

With a million square feet spread over eight floors, this building has very large floorplates. The wayfinding solution had to provide effective orientation for users and, anticipating high rates of change, flexibility in the system adopted for naming destinations. Also, while Allen and Overy occupy the majority of the building, there are several tenanted areas which had to be taken into account in the overall solution. As is often the case in a project which involves the relocation of a working business, timing and anticipation have been critical. Despite a demanding schedule and unexpected changes, Modulex consistently ensured that the signs were in place on time.

Solutions

Given the scale of the building, the wayfinding design was based on both a grid system and in the use of colour-coded zones which correspond to the architectural layout, ensuring a logical framework for every journey.

But a frequent source of difficulty for the users of a modern office building is the lack of differentiation in the interiors- the floors look the same; long walks across unrelieved office landscapes; in short, a lack of landmarks and memorable visual events which would help the user build up an intuitive picture of where to go. The colour-coding helps and the team have taken every opportunity to introduce character to the interiors by means of sculptural art and large scale environmental graphics which follow a geographical theme (pictures of North America on one floor, Europe on another and so on).

Benefits

A very large and prestigious building such as this presents a unique challenge to the sign supplier. Product quality and project management must be impeccable. Modulex have delivered at One Bishops Square and contributed a critical element to the effective running of the facility.

Modulex have performed well with a demanding site and programme, providing a consistent and bespoke solution which ideally suits our building.

Johnny Nichols
 Head of Business Services
 Projects, Allen and Overy