



Winner

Category

Fit-out of Workplace

Region

North of England, North Wales & Northern Ireland

National Winner

Northern Foods Headquarters, Leeds

British Council for Offices Awards 2006

Project Client: Northern Foods; **Owner:** Thorpe Park Developments

Project Manager: Turner & Townsend; **Quantity Surveyor:** Turner & Townsend

Architect: Carey Jones Architects; **Interior Designer:** Carey Jones Interiors

M&E Engineer: N.G. Bailey & Co.; **Structural Engineer:** 3E Consulting Engineers

Contractor: GMI Construction Group; **Developer:** Thorpe Park Developments

Fit-out Contractor: Logic; **Furniture Supplier:** Logic

awards

Sponsored by:

ISG InteriorExterior

in association with

Estates
Gazette



The British Council for Offices Awards

2006

Defining excellence in office space



**Estates
Gazette**

The flexible and open-plan working space has resulted in better communication between management and staff

National winner Fit-out (large projects)

Regional winner: North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

Northern Foods Headquarters



Timber, glass, blazing colours and an unusual floor layout have helped to turn a straightforward building into a showpiece

Sponsored by ISG InteriorExterior

You know something has been done properly when people who never visit the office begin queuing at the front door – particularly when it is your own staff.

When Northern Foods moved from Hull to Leeds, it aimed for more than a permanent home for managers. The building on Thorpe Park would also act as a hub for staff who spend most of their working life travelling.

Many had never visited the old HQ but are now lining up to book space for meetings or use 'touchdown' areas. Communications with managers and other staff has soared – confirming Northern's belief that it needed to move to new kinds of working.

The initial demand was for predominantly flexible, open-plan space that could be

swapped around as demands change. Managers were allowed their cellular privacy but to maintain the sense of openness, partitions are made of glass and can be moved when required.

A Scandinavian theme was chosen to represent the firm's cross-European business but fit-out specialists Carey Jones were also asked to "make it sexy". The answer, a riot of graphics based on the food that goes into Northern's products, does just that.

The timber, glass and blazing colours give a modern, clean feel, while layouts have broken the mould for floor planning by creating interesting angles and curves.

Clients and visitors were also part of the equation, as Northern brings them in to prepare and present its

products. An open kitchen not only fulfilled this basic need but ensured the process was not cut off from the office space occupied by people who play such an important role in administration, marketing and support. Customers are so impressed that they, too, want more and are now asking if they can borrow the firm's facilities.

All in all, an excellent design and good value for money, according to Northern – plus an unexpected bonus. The fit-out has achieved senior management's objectives of a workplace that supported a major cultural shift in the way the business units work together. Staff are responding to a smarter building not just by turning up more often but dressing more smartly, which naturally pleases top management.

Address

Northern Foods Headquarters, Plot 2180 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds LS15 82B

Project client

Northern Foods

Owner/developer

Thorpe Park Developments

Project manager/quantity surveyor

Turner & Townsend

Architect/

Carey Jones Architects

Interior designer

Carey Jones Interiors

M&E engineer

N.G. Bailey & Co

Structural engineer

3E Consulting Engineers

Contractor

GMI Construction Group

Fit-out contractor/furniture supplier

Logic

