



Movable Walls for Rothschild's new London Office

movable walls and sliding, folding partitions for Rothschild bank



NEW CITY OF LONDON HQ FOR ROTHSCHILD BANK

Rothschild was founded in the City of London in 1811 and is now a global firm with 50 offices around the world. New Court, designed by renowned architects Rem Koolhaas and Ellen van Loon from OMA, is the new 21,000m² London office for Rothschild Bank. The design won the New City Architecture Award for 2011.

The building is embedded in the narrow medieval alley of St Swithin's Lane in the heart of the City of London. The design lifts the mass of the building up from the street, opening up views of St Stephen Walbrook church, built by Christopher Wren, which had been hidden from view for 200 years. New Court also offers views of the London skyline from a roof-top pavilion.

Accordial MOVABLE WALLS

Accordial were recommended to OMA Architecture for the New Court project by the world famous acoustics team at Arup following the successful completion of the BSKYB project, where Accordial movable walls were installed and tested to the highest acoustic rating ever achieved in the UK.

Accordial completed the New Court acoustic movable wall installation within a fully glazed building envelope that formed the penthouse floor on Level 15. The project involved a very complex layout of 5 metre high moving panels to form several different layout options. This included 35 operable panels of different types, making up three movable wall sets, one 28m long and two at 7.5m long. The structure also had to accommodate a sloping facade to one side of the building and a deflecting frame that can move in or out depending on weather conditions. Accordial designed a bespoke acoustic aluminium wall post to allow for the panels to connect with the exterior mullions but allowed for the frame to deflect within this post.

A unique Accordial tracking system was designed to enable panels to be moved easily around the large room area to form the various divisions required but with the minimal use of stacking space. The clients were so impressed with the quality of the track and roller system, they commissioned its use in other areas of the building for use with bespoke sliding frames.

Manufacture and installation challenges

Apart from overcoming the building constraints for the connections with the facades, Accordial also had to manufacture the panels on site as there was no way

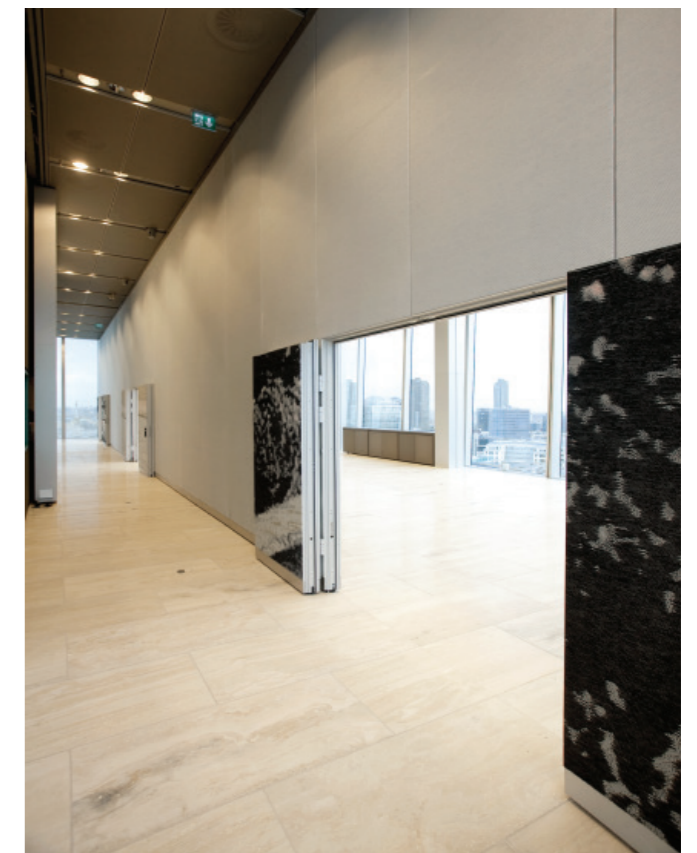
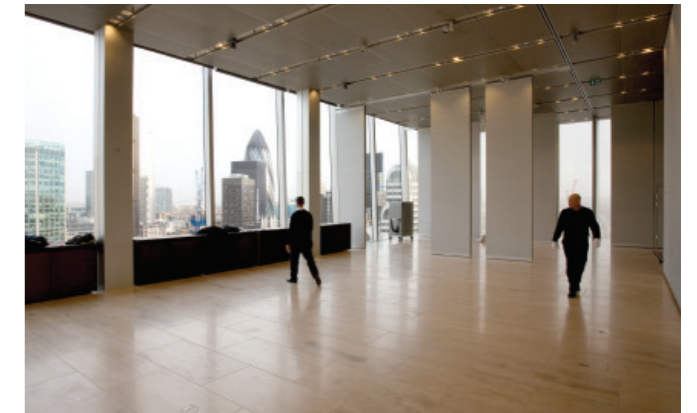
of craning them into the building. All the individual components we hauled up to the top floor partly through lift and partly through stairways, and the manufacturing teams worked on site to assemble the panels on the floor where they were installed.

Bespoke textile woven panel finish

The outstanding and unique panel finishes were created in partnership with designers at the Textile Museum in Holland. To complete the landscape across the 28m x 5m main corridor wall, they wove the special fabric to be fitted to 23 panels including three sets of double passdoors. Accordial employed Fabric Systems to install this to the panels via a stretched fabric system of a track fitted to the perimeter of the movable walls.

Beneath the woven fabric are materials with absorption properties to soak up some of the sound in the rooms reducing reverberation, providing improved noise control when the rooms are in use. The specialist finish also concealed hidden magnetics fitted at 2.5m to hang protective covers from when the panels were positioned in the field kitchen arrangement housing a server area providing food and drink for banquets. Finally an brushed aluminium skirting and pelmet finished off the detailing at the top and bottom.

The challenging project was two years from initial contact to completion, costing just under £300,000 excluding fabric. The high level of skill, experience and professionalism provided by Accordial resulted in a stunning project delivered to the great satisfaction of Lend Lease, OMA and Rothschild.



Accordial win Association of Interior Specialists GOLD Award for Movable Wall Category for the installation at Rothschild Bank



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