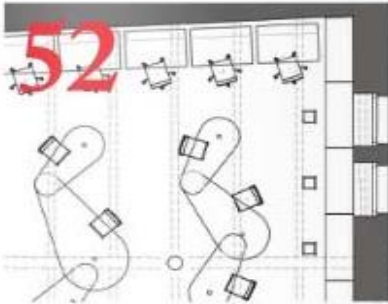


The Architects' Journal



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HOPMANN

LEFT: EDMUND SUMNER, RIGHT: ADAPTIUM/USZE D'ART MODERNE, ST ETIENNE METROPOLE

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Offices
Case study 1

Argent UK Headquarters, King's Cross MoreySmith



First floor plan



JOHN STURROCK

This dual-function office space is shared by property developer Argent and the King's Cross Central General Partner. The development marks Argent's first move in 25 years, which will revolutionise the working practices of Argent's 80-plus staff.

The refurbishment links a tram shed with the listed Western

Granary Office and represents a new chapter in Argent's evolution, as the refurbishment of this space is designed to be visionary and forward-thinking, factoring in the ever-evolving needs of the company's mobile workforce.

Part of MoreySmith's brief was to inject a domestic feel to reflect Argent's familial heritage. The space design expertly reflects MoreySmith's trademark of repositioning old stock and heritage buildings and overlaying with a contemporary style.

While the Argent and the King's Cross Marketing Suite are separate entities with a shared reception space, MoreySmith unified the two spaces through subtle detailing, including recycled timber parquet flooring, to

PROJECT DATA
CLIENT Argent
COMPLETION March 2013
GIA 1,388m²
TOTAL COST £1.9 million, from shell
GROSS W/F £1,235
RETURNS 78%
PROCUREMENT Single stage tender/traditional
M/E CONSULTANT GDM
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Michael Hall ASSIC
MAIN CONTRACTOR B Build
ANNUAL CO₂ EMISSIONS n/a

Left View from south-west

Opposite First floor shared accommodation and reception

demonstrate inter-connectivity and synergy. Beyond unifying the space, the flooring also provides scale and warmth and is integral to the flow of both Argent's employees and visitors.

The mezzanine office embraces the competing working practices of the diverse workforce, creating four clearly defined spaces to accommodate different ways of working. An office snug kitted out with lounge-style furniture leads into an inspiring breakout space, which in turn becomes a tea point for meetings, and finally a more formalised meeting space. MoreySmith accentuated the exposed brickwork to provide contrast to the modern elements of the space.
Linda Morey Smith, director, MoreySmith

