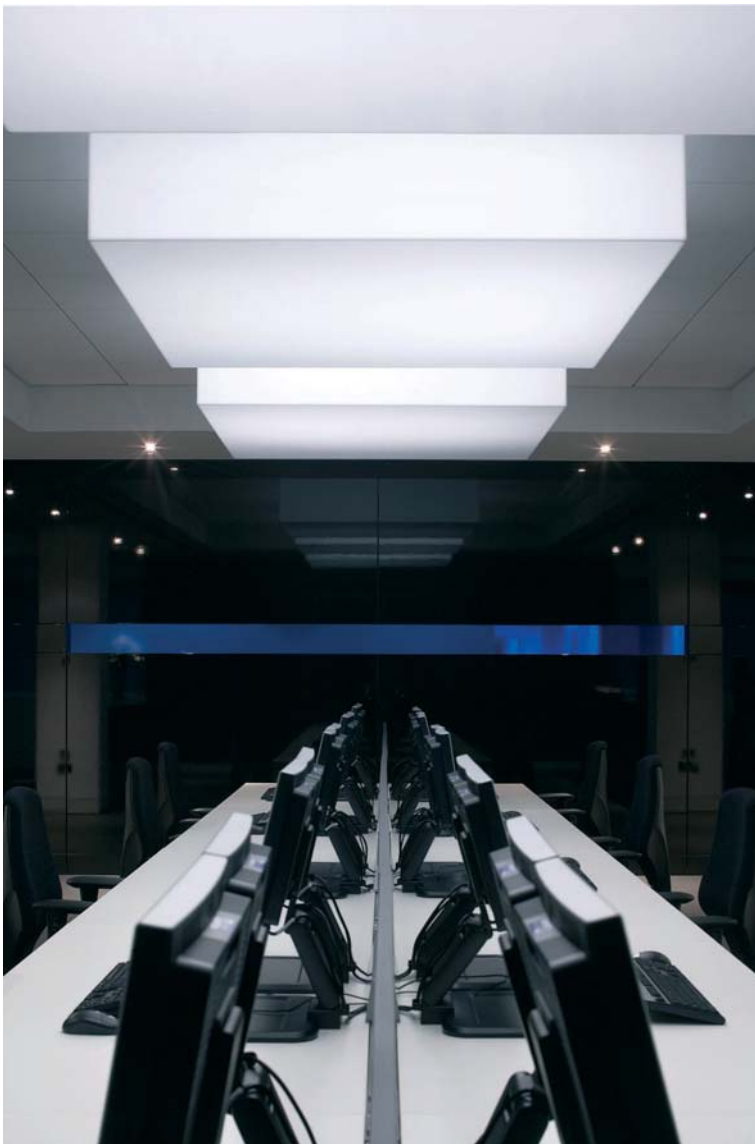


# Box office hit

The Penson Group is at it again. With the help of regular collaborator High Technology Lighting, the architecture group has once more turned the tables on LG7 and installed another striking office installation



**Glossy goodness:** glossy black walls expand the apparent space by reflecting Thomas Holgeth's dramatic fittings

A year ago, *Lighting* described an office installation in the London suburb of Merton and asked: 'Is this Britain's most daring lighting installation?' The scheme, of bespoke pendants with fabric shades, was the work of the Penson Group and equipment supplier High Technology Lighting, which made the fittings.

Well, the team has reunited for another office scheme that pushes the boundaries of what is possible without falling foul of the guidance, this time at Cubic Transportation Systems in Redhill, Surrey.

Thomas Holgeth of High Technology Lighting explains: "Penson came to us and said 'look, we've got other clients and we'd like to do something similar' but this time it's going to be a big cube rather than a circular pendant shade. Thomas, can you do your alchemy for us again and make it work for us?"

Anna Fry, designer at the Penson Group, prepared a dramatic rendered image, that, says Holgeth, raised the question whether the architects wanted a luminaire or a ceiling system.

## Squaring up to LG7

"I created a visual of what I wanted it to look like," says Fry, "the type of finish and effect. Then we talked about the type of light it would emit, and Thomas went away and did his calculations."

Fry's design makes a knowing nod to the client's name – Cubic Transportation Systems – with nine cube-shaped



**Play on words:** the cube motif extends throughout the space, from the light fittings to the furniture and columns

## Project details

**Project:** Cubic Transportation Systems, Redhill, Surrey

**Architect:** Anna Fry, Penson Group

**Lighting supplier:** High Technology Lighting



**Made to measure:** soft ambient light from the nine polycarbonate cubes meets the demands of office lighting guidance, but without cluttering the ceiling with off-the-shelf luminaires

luminaires suspended over blocky furniture, all reflected in glossy black walls.

With the design and manufacture of the luminaires turned over to High Technology Lighting in Leeds, Holgeth and his team set about making a prototype.

They came up with a 1,600 x 1,600 x 400mm opal polycarbonate cube, referred to by some as 'the paddling pool'. All the edges were mitred and carefully finished. Behind the plastic is a steel frame that supports three gear trays, each with two 49W T5 lamps and regulating gear. The entire assembly hangs from the ceiling on adjustable wires.

Holgeth drove from Leeds to Redhill with the prototype, where a relatively straightforward installation allayed the fears of client and architect. "When it went up on the ceiling in 10 minutes, and the client got up on a ladder and said 'oh, you can take these dust covers off and the gear trays lift and tilt out', they realised they weren't getting a lemon."

### Fair and square

Then, says Holgeth, "it was a case of 'can we have the rest of them tomorrow?'". Nine finished luminaires were made in West Yorkshire and shipped to Surrey without incident. "If you break a handmade acrylic shade, you can't go to Woolies and buy another one," says Holgeth.

The completed installation matches the aesthetic of the

space. "That's something that comes across when you see the rendering, and then the photographs," says Holgeth.

To give the client some control of the lighting, there is a manual dimming system that dims all nine fittings at once. "That was quite important," says Fry, "because we didn't want individual fittings being dimmed."

Holgeth is pleased with the result. "It's a light fitting, but it's also an aesthetic object. We've gone through the process of demonstrating it, the client's seen it and we've supplied the photometric data. We've ticked most of the boxes, and so far we've had zero negative feedback about it." ■

"If you break a handmade acrylic shade, you can't go to Woolies and buy another one"

Thomas Holgeth, High Technology Lighting

