



'Big Blue' Building

BRIGHTON

PENSON, one of the UK's most stimulating Architectural, Structural and Interior Design houses, has completed yet another noteworthy Headquarters Building. Following the recent hand-over of the stunning HQ for London Central/ London General buses central London, PENSON has now completed something visually unique – A Big Blue curvy building in Brighton.

PENSON was commissioned by Brighton & Hove Buses, a subsidiary of The Go-Ahead Group plc, to design a new Headquarters accommodating all Training and Administration facilities for one of the largest public transport providers in Brighton.

The young, talented architect, Lee Penson, founding CEO of PENSON, wanted to help liven up one of Brighton's gateways by replacing the dark and dingy derelict building that once stood on site with a vibrant, stimulating building. We think he has certainly succeeded.

The Big Blue curvy building on Lewes Road, Brighton is made with intelligently economical materials and its "woo" factor vastly outweighs the buildings very efficient construction cost.

Lee Penson describes "For those inside, I wanted to create a joy-by-day & by night a joy for passers by. Why work in a dull building during the day and then look at a non-eventful empty office building by night when the workers have gone home? Light shining into the building through vibrant coloured glass, creates daytime life when the refracted light dresses internal finishes and surfaces. The colour brings a sense of fun to corridors and common areas, whilst within offices, the colour is used to create a contemporary feel.

Light escaping through the buildings apertures by night, also creates a wonderful affect externally, especially at dawn and dusk. Of course, every hour this building changes as the artificial and natural light levels change. A wonderful pattern happens when people turn lights on and off randomly, when filmed over a time lapsed session. The night-time drama is now a much talked about event. >>





Lee Penson continues, "Blue was a natural choice, it sinks into the darkness at night to reveal just the coloured glass, but at day, it brings something different to passers by. Blue simply felt natural. The texture of the carefully selected render system creates a wonderful, soft, spongy appearance. Its one great big blue sponge."

The building continues to demonstrate PENSON's abilities to create special projects, for basic budgets for large demanding commercial clients. PENSON acted as Architects, Structural Engineer, Planning Consultant and advised the client on all project matters. Built for a mere £100 per sq.ft, fully air-conditioned, finished and furnished, the building is of a remarkable value. PENSON is relentless in both design and commercial astuteness.

Lee Penson talks of the buildings simplicity.

"The layout and rear of the building has been set-up with carefully selected materials to build-in the best possible value for money. It is intelligently simple and well thought out, which is only achieved by plenty of design and preparation.

We carried out a structural audit to reduce the weight of the Building, to avoid expensive piled foundations. This also meant that the entire structure required very few elements. This saved time, cost and reduced the number of sub-con-

tractors, thus making everyone's life more straightforward throughout the build. I always strive to check that the designs we create take account of these types of commercial issues.

PENSON are quietly and confidently taking the design world by storm and the Big Blue curvy building is a good example of PENSON's inspirational abilities yet still being functional, intelligently laid out and put together in a way out that is so obviously simple, but so hard to dream up.

We look forward to seeing the other looming projects form PENSON which cover things like 25 acre master plans in Kent, buildings in Shanghai, a key mixed use building on the fringe of the 2012 Olympics, a 40 storey tower in Birmingham, projects in South Africa etc, etc.

PROJECT TEAM

Client: The Go-Ahead Group plc

Architect: PENSON

Interior Designer: PENSON

Contract Administration: PENSON

M&E Design: GDM Partnership

Main Contractor: Coupe Construction Limited

Planning Consultant: PENSON