

CAMDEN MILL
Buro Happold Bath



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Buro Happold's Bath office is located within a narrow 19th century wharf building overlooking the River Avon. This comprises two structures, Camden Mill to the east joining the Bayer Building to the west. The site is flanked to the north by the River Avon and to the south by the Lower Bristol Road. In recent years the firm has grown considerably with the Bath office doubling in headcount to 450, putting pressure on the existing internal space. This, coupled with a desire to improve access to the building for disabled employees and visitors, resulted in plans to extensively modify the ground and first floors within the building.



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Before Design Engine were able to consider the interior spaces they had to solve the ambiguity of how the building is entered. Due to the constraints of this narrow site, all front and back of house facilities needed to be accessed via two existing entrances into the car park, situated to the east end of this 70m building. These entrances were also partially masked by an existing electrical substation. As the substation could not be economically re-located, Design Engine's brief was to re-configure the entrance area to provide a clear route to reception around it, and provide a service access and yard area behind it.

Design Engine's solution was to re-clad the electrical substation with a circle of vertical timber fins, designed to mask the substation and orientate visitors around its perimeter, towards a new glass riverside entrance porch. LED lights wash an internal lining behind the louvres, revealing an illuminated surface between the blades. Through its geometry the circle also creates a discrete service entrance and yard to the rear. This yard controls and leads to the back of house spaces.



riverview café





Project Details

Location
Camden Mill, Bath

Completion Date
2008

Contract Value
£1.2m

Area
644 sqm

Awards

Design Quality Award
Listed Building
2009

Project Team

Client
Buro Happold

Architect/Interior Designer
Design Engine

Structural Engineer
Buro Happold

Building Services Engineer
Buro Happold

Quantity Surveyor
Buro Happold

Fire Engineering Consultant
Buro Happold

Acoustic Consultants
Buro Happold

Furniture Consultants
RoundHere

CDMC
C M Damrel & Associates

Building Control Approved
Inspector
BNESC

Main Contractor
Emerys of Bath



blooqas
Happier

BD

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