



## Refurb specialist completes work for banking giant

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has offices in all major cities across the United Kingdom and operates across a global network, delivering world class banking and financial services.

The bank employed ISG on one of their most recent contracts which has involved work at the Royal Bank of Scotland Building at 135 Bishopsgate in central London. On this project the company installed reconstituted technical limestone to the floors of the reception, café and the lift lobby areas. The lift lobby walls were Travertine engineered natural stone (DENS 107, 400x400 polished). Reconstituted technical limestone was also used in the toilets within the building. The finish on the floors was honed matt, and the walls polished.

White glass tiles were used to finish the executive shower walls and red & yellow coloured glass tiles were used on the first floor café walls.

London Architect Sheppard Robson and contractor ISG designed and managed the interior fit out of twelve floors of the London Bishopsgate building using glass and drywall partitions from Optima. The works in this building were spread over two distinct phases over a period of one year. Phase one consisted of the fitting out of the Executive area situated on the first floor. This floor had to

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exactly replicate the Executive area at RBS’s Gogarburn Headquarters in Edinburgh. This was an extremely tight programme with high specification finishes.

The product installation during phase one consisted of Revolution 69 mullion-free double glazing, flush double glazed doors and single glazed doors on rails. Glass to partitions and doors was fully ink backed to mimic the Gogarburn scheme, and glass modules featured Optima’s patented Nebula™ invisible dry joint.

Phase two was a combination of many smaller projects spread across all of the office floors from level one to level twelve. This was a very demanding project as the work had to take place within an occupied RBS building and the successful completion of each floor affected the move of RBS staff to release another floor. The product installation in phase two consisted of a mixture of Optima 97 Advanced System drywall, kinetic sliding doors, flush double glazed doors, Revolution 69 mullion-free double glazing, Optima 117 single glazing and Forster fire rated lobby screens.



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Bishopsgate is a road and ward in the east part of the City of London, extending north from Gracechurch Street to Norton Folgate. It is named after one of the original seven gates in London Wall. The site of this gate is marked by a stone Bishop's Mitre, fixed high on a building, at the junction of Wormwood Street and Camomile Street with Bishopsgate. The ward is bounded by Worship Street in the north, where the edge of the City meets the London Boroughs of Islington and Hackney and London Wall to the south. It neighbours Portsoken ward and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in the east. The western boundary is formed by Old Broad Street, where the ward meets Broad Street ward.

In 2005 the Royal Bank of Scotland's new global headquarters was officially opened in Gogarburn, near Edinburgh. The then first Minister Jack McConnell said, "Building world-class Scottish companies that are competitive across global markets is a central part of our strategy for developing a modern and prosperous Scottish economy. The Royal Bank of Scotland is a perfect realisation of that ambition."

"Their commitment to a headquarters in Scotland confirms that we are creating the right business environment to attract and retain the headquarters of globally successful companies."

"The state of the art offices here in Gogarburn are a fitting home for RBS and a real tribute to the

quality and skills of their Scottish workforce."

The Gogarburn site was bought by RBS in June 2001. Proposed designs for the development of a campus - style global HQ were unveiled in February 2002, and in September 2002 planning permission was granted. Site work began almost immediately. The two-year building project has involved a workforce of more than 7,000 people. The building was completed in Spring 2005, ahead of schedule, enabling the first staff to move into their new offices.

The campus's main building is designed around a central indoor "street" providing services and facilities for the 3,000 staff (max 3,250 capacity) who work at Gogarburn. Supporting buildings in the surrounding grounds include the Grade B listed Gogarburn House, now converted into a leisure club for staff. The house's stable block, also listed, has become a nursery, while the original garden wall behind it now encloses modern sports pitches. Nearby, a newly - built conference centre has been equipped to cater for up to 300 delegates.

Staff who are based at Gogarburn are mainly from the existing HQ at St Andrews Square, Edinburgh and other RBS offices around Edinburgh will remain operational. RBS will maintain its traditional branch at St Andrews Square.

Sheppard Robson, on behalf of Delancey, has received planning consent to redevelop York

House into a glistening crystallised 18 storey office building on the Southbank of the River Thames.

The 345,000 sq ft steel and glass structure will bring a new landmark feature to Central London; highly visible from Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge, acting as a gateway to the Southbank.

The development will comprise basement, lower ground, ground, and fifteen upper floors with fully flexible floor plates of approximately 23,000 sq ft and an internal atria. The preeminent feature of the design is a 10,000 sq ft roof terrace offering panoramic views of the Thames and the Houses of Parliament.

The central London location, large floor plates and innovative design is designed to attract attention from leading media organisations - potential tenants who could draw upon the inspirational surroundings to enhance their creative output.

The fully glazed façade is divided into two skins which create an environmental buffer between the inside and the outside, whilst also reflecting and refracting light. The outer skin is a deformed grid that pulls against diagonal fins to create a series of small pyramids contributing to the jewel concept. This gives crystalline reflections and animates the façade as the sun moves around it. Dichroic glass fins add changing colour to the building façade throughout the day.



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