



RSHP Studio The Leadenhall Building

London, UK





Place
London, UK

Date
2015

Cost
£2.3 million

Area
1620m²

Structural Engineer
Arup

Service Engineer
Arup

Lighting Design
Speirs Major

Main Contractor
Ruddy Joinery and Fit Out

M&E Contractor
BPI

Landscape design
Dan Pearson Studio

IT Consultants
Modern Networks /
Cordless



The Studio has become a well-coordinated New York loft where the backdrop is neutral but offset by fantastic splashes of colour and activity. It projects a surprising level of humanity within a great super-studio space.

Graham Stirk, RSHP

After 30 years based at Thames Wharf in Hammersmith, West London, RSHP relocated to The Leadenhall Building in 2015. The studio, on Level 14 of the 48-storey building, enables it to accommodate all its 180 staff on one floor, strengthening communication and collaborative working, and bringing a distinctive ethos and culture to a new London landmark.

The fit-out of the studio reinterprets the practice's design philosophy as flexible, legible space which will be conducive to a collaborative approach to design.

The building's completely open floorplate gives sight lines across the whole studio, and beyond to St Paul's Cathedral, Canary Wharf and Lloyd's of London. Desks are arranged in three groups aligned to each of the facades, giving the best aspect for all staff. Generous circulation space and a large kitchen give opportunities for chance encounters and informal conversations and the central meeting area, open on two sides and visible to all, provides flexible space capable of hosting small meetings, lectures and events for up to 200 people.

The fit-out takes full advantage of the shell and core design of the building. By exposing the soffit and services, rather than putting in a suspended ceiling as other tenants in the building have done, the full height of the space is revealed. Lighting design by Speirs Major is closely aligned to natural circadian rhythms, changing in tone through the day to mimic circadian patterns.

The Modelshop and server room are located within the main studio space, open to view as integral parts of the life of the practice.

There are no 'corner offices' at RSHP, reflecting the democratic philosophy of the practice. Instead, the corners are given over to quiet space, for meetings, reflection and relaxation.