

Award Category: Most Sustainable Construction

Project: VolkerFitzpatrick Head Office, Hoddesdon

Client: VolkerFitzpatrick Ltd

Architect: Black Architecture Ltd



This new head office building, constructed from sustainably sourced materials, is built on the site of VolkerFitzpatrick's old plant yard and nestles in a clearing cut into a mature coniferous wood. As well as being aesthetically designed, in order to blend into the surrounding forest, the building exhibits a number of sustainable features, thereby reducing carbon emissions by 70%.

The building's energy usage is assisted by ground source heating and cooling, which supplies an intelligent power system to switch off non essential equipment outside of working hours. The building's internal lighting has automatic daylight saving controls. Efficient external solar shading and solar thermal water heating also help to reduce emissions.

The orientation of the building achieves maximum natural daylighting to all workstations, with VRF fan coil air supply to offices with localised control ensuring maximum comfort for workers. Water saving taps cut waste, with grey water systems harvesting rain water for toilet flushing and irrigation.

Materials and construction techniques were used where possible to achieve a green guide "A" rating. During construction all excavated materials were separated, graded and cleaned for re-use in the construction process, thereby minimising waste sent to landfill.

Judges comments:

"Bright and airy, the building has been styled to blend in perfectly among the conifer trees and makes great use of a number of sustainable technologies."