

# BBC Scotland HQ Pacific Quay, Glasgow, Scotland



## Project

BBC Scotland's new, five storey digital broadcast centre

## Location

Glasgow, UK

## Commencement on site

July 2004

## Completion

August 2006

## Client

Land Securities Trillium (Media Services)  
PQ Limited



## Project partners

Architect: David Chipperfield Architects  
(Executive), Keppie Design Ltd  
(Implementation)  
Structural Engineers: Faber Maunsell / Jane  
Wernick Associates  
Acoustics Engineer: Arup Acoustics  
Services Engineer: Arup Scotland  
Fire Engineering Consultant: Jeremy  
Gardner Associates  
Planning Supervisor: Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Cost Consultant: Gardiner & Theobald

## Value

£78 million

## Bovis Lend Lease role

Two stage design and build lump sum

## Awards

RIBA National Award Winner 2008  
Considerate Contractor Gold 2007  
Green Apple Bronze 2005

BBC Scotland's new, five storey digital broadcast centre is a landmark project delivered within budget and on time. Bovis Lend Lease leadership of the team and ability to work with multiple client groups made this success possible.

The expertise needed to deliver this award winning scheme centred on strong leadership, team working, valuing people, training and the understanding of the importance of social responsibility. The BBC was a 'multi-headed' client with eleven communities inputting into the design and approval process, this required careful control to meet their needs whilst the overall integrity of the project was maintained.

This BBC headquarters houses all the facilities for the organisation in Scotland in a single broadcast centre on the River Clyde. It integrates studios, offices and technical spaces. At the heart of the new building is 'The Street' - a large, internal stepping volume joining the studios and other facilities together. It is the main circulation route through the building with stairs linking the entrance, the public ground floor areas, the food court on the fifth floor and various floors of BBC accommodation.

## Construction Challenges and Innovation

The acoustic demands from the project were the biggest design hurdle. This was the first time the BBC had decided to house all its facilities in one building. To guarantee the highest levels of acoustic integrity a series of 'test booths' were designed and constructed to ensure that the contractors were able to meet the BBC demands satisfactorily.

## Leadership in Sustainability

The BBC project has a number of sustainability initiatives setting it apart from other developments. It achieved a 'very good' BREEAM rating for environmental performance and received a Considerate Contractor Gold award and a Green Apple award for environmental best practice. The team embraced best practice for waste segregation and recycling including signing up to the British Gypsum plasterboard recycling service. Only certified timber from sustainable sources was used on site.

## Leadership in Safety

### Health and Wellbeing

Bovis Lend Lease introduced an award winning Health and Safety Pilot Scheme titled: 'Healthy Working Lives' during this project. It led to the development of a best practice model for providing services promoting healthy working conditions to the workforce. Such was the success of the MOT service – which checks blood pressure and cholesterol, for example – that it has now been taken up by other sites in Scotland.

## Project scope

### The Street

The Street is covered by a roof structure composed of strips of opaque and transparent metal and glass panels. This means the Street and adjoining spaces are naturally lit without additional shading elements. A slot along the length of the atrium separates the studios and the main structural frame bringing daylight to the audience handling area and giving visitors a view up into the main atrium.

*Below: The Street, seen from the entrance*



### Façade

The main building is clad entirely in glass. A triple skin glass façade with an externally ventilated cavity has been used for all office areas (with the exception of the ground floor). For solid parts, such as the cores and Studio A, a rain screen was developed. A 4.3m façade parapet shields roof plant from view.

### Internal layout

The floors are broken up in the following way:

- Ground floor – ‘front of house’ support functions, Studios A, B and Radio Studio 1, and studio related ‘back of house’ functions.
- The mezzanine floor (between the ground and first floors) – the Artistes Areas, which has a direct connection to a lobby between Studios A and B.
- First floor is a technical floor and accommodates the Post Production and Graphics Community and the Galleries for Studios A and B.
- Second floor accommodates the CTA Community, the Information and Archive Unit and some office areas.
- Third floor – the major part of the Production/ Administration Community.
- Fourth floor is a technical floor and accommodates the News & Sports Community, and the Presentation and Transmission Community, the ‘Radio Nest’ (Radio Studios) and some production office areas.
- Fifth floor – the Conference Suite and Food Court.