

Shoosmiths, Belfast

The 'Shoo' fits for UK law firm

Confidential

/ Project value

July 2019

/ The project commenced

October 2019

/ The project was completed

Over an 11-week programme, we delivered a contemporary office space “befitting the Shoosmiths brand” at Micro Focus House, East Bridge Street, in Belfast. The interior fit-out scheme on behalf of the major UK law firm signalled its “ambitious growth strategy” for the Northern Ireland market. Our CAT B refurbishment project, covering the entire second floor of the Belfast property, involved partitioning, decoration, floor coverings, kitchen installation, M&E additions and alterations, and bespoke joinery.

The brief

Shoosmiths appointed us to complete a modern office refurbishment scheme to facilitate its move to new premises on East Bridge Street, close to the High Court. Previously, the law firm was based in Montgomery Street. However, as part of its ambition to expand, Shoosmiths required larger offices in the heart of Belfast’s legal district.



“The firm as a whole has an ambitious growth strategy, and the Belfast office has its own role to play in delivering on that vision. This is just the tip of the iceberg and these offices will give us a springboard to attract further talent across all of our divisions.”

Jason Byrne
Shoosmiths Belfast Head of Office

“These long-awaited new premises really are a watershed moment for the Belfast teams. We have all worked tremendously hard and been extremely patient to finally have an office befitting the Shoosmiths brand, and we can’t wait to show it off to friends, clients and colleagues alike.”

Jason Byrne
Shoosmiths Belfast Head of Office

The challenges

These “long-awaited new premises” required an intensive 11-week fit-out programme that had to contend with the challenges associated with a constrained city centre site. Micro Focus House was also occupied by additional businesses during the work, which required an empathetic and considerate approach to the completion of tasks, inclusive of the implementation of noise reduction measures.

The solution

Described as a “watershed moment for the Belfast team”, this fit-out project has strengthened Shoosmiths’ reputation as a leading UK law firm. Demonstrating our commitment to the scheme, as part of the delivery proposal, we developed a gainshare mechanism on all of the accepted value engineering options to provide Shoosmiths with a best value for money solution. Located close to Belfast’s High court, the offices have provided a springboard for Shoosmiths to attract “further talent across all of our divisions”. Visitors are greeted with a stunning reception, akin to a hotel lobby, while the office area features elements of biophilic design to increase occupant connectivity to the natural environment through integrated green plants within the furniture. Exposed overhead pipes are further eye-catching installations. Vibrant collaborative and breakout areas complement a range of glazed partitions, which enhance the circulation of natural light throughout the office. And in recognition of Northern Ireland’s famous writers, twin bespoke offices, named after Seamus Heaney and C.S Lewis, provide contemporary quiet hubs for smaller meetings.

Outputs & Benefits

- / **Programme:** This project was completed on time and within budget
- / **Value engineering:** We developed a gainshare mechanism on all of the accepted value engineering options to provide Shoosmiths with a best value for money solution
- / **Unique finishes:** In recognition of Northern Ireland’s famous writers, twin bespoke offices, named after Seamus Heaney and C.S Lewis, provide contemporary quiet hubs for smaller meetings
- / **Delivering lasting impact:** The project has facilitated Shoosmiths’ growth and strengthened its ability to attract new clients



For more information on how we’re delivering lasting impact:

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