

Sbi Prototype

Wavendon Tower, Wavendon, near Bletchley,
Bucks, for Milton Keynes Development
Corporation

ARCHITECTS

Department of Architecture and Planning,
Milton Keynes Development Corporation
(Chief Architect and Planning Officer:
Derek Walker, DipArch, FRIBA)

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Anthony Hunt Associates in association with
Department of Engineering, Milton Keynes
Development Corporation (Chief Engineer:
Ernest Pye, MEng, FICE, FIMunE, MTPI)

STEELWORK CONTRACTORS

Bromwich Structures Ltd

Buildings section

Judges' Comments

A single-storey building, with austere and pleasing proportions, making use of standardized bays to achieve speed of erection and economy. Good use has been made of coloured plastic-coated steel panels which add interest to the appearance.



During 1971 the Corporation and its consultants were developing the Sbi system and office space was needed. For economy and speed the prototype factory was built for this purpose. Nine bays of the standard 12m x 12m x 5.5m clear height structure provide 1,296m² of ground floor with toilets, storage and print room in a central mechanically ventilated block with reserve office space above. The steel frame is designed to accommodate all services in the roof space except drainage and incoming mains. Cladding is from plastic-coated insulated steel panels fixed directly by gaskets into a prefabricated hot-rolled steel channel and angle frame.

Glazing is confined to one elevation to reduce solar heat gain, but trees afford shade in the summer.

Costs ruled out cooling systems but a combination of extract fans and the facility of opening a series of secondary doors has proved itself in practice. Site work began in July 1971 and the building was completed in December. Inclusive of all site works and car parking the cost was £70.96/m².



