

Group of Five Standard Factories

Skelmersdale, Lancashire, for the Skelmersdale Development Corporation

ARCHITECT

R. W. Colwell, Dip Arch. (Dunelm),
FRIBA, AMPTI
The Chief Architect & Planning Officer,
Skelmersdale Development Corporation

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

D. H. Garside, C Eng, MICE, FIMunE,
The Chief Engineer,
Skelmersdale Development Corporation

STEELWORK CONTRACTORS

Octavius Atkinson & Sons Ltd.

Judges' Comments

Good basic planning and structural steel space trusses have been used to obtain large floor areas uninterrupted by columns. Low-cost building and standardization essential for this particular project, but full use made of simple structural shapes in achieving a pleasing appearance.

The provision of standard factories plays an important part in attracting new industrial processes to Skelmersdale. The factories are built in advance of tenants' specific requirements, and experience has shown that units within the 10,000 to 15,000 sq ft production area range are the most suitable size for industrialists. This group of five factories each has a production area of 15,000 sq ft which may be doubled in the future if required; similarly the office space can be increased by 100 per cent. The structures provide 100ft clear spans thereby giving the maximum flexibility so necessary in the face of unknown individual requirements.

The roof consists of space frame trusses at 30ft centres and these are placed above the general level thus maintaining a clear working height throughout. The trusses are glazed on the inclined sides which results in there being a very high daylight factor. Roof construction consists of steel decking with insulation board, vapour barrier and two-layer mineral felt finish.

These buildings have been designed to minimize the amount of maintenance required and this, together with the spacial freedom, room for expansion, good car-parking facilities and good lighting should prove to have considerable attraction to industry.



*Opposite: The roof structure and lights are clearly seen in this view.
Below: General view showing four factories.*

*Above: Detail of door and fencing.
Right: Lighting is of a high level. Note the steel roof deck.*



