



Pilot Head Office

Cosham, Portsmouth, for IBM United Kingdom Ltd

ARCHITECTS
Foster Associates

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
Anthony Hunt Associates

STEELWORK CONTRACTORS
Metal Sections Ltd

Buildings section

Judges' Comments

An economical, functional and attractive single-storey building comprising light latticed roof construction supported on hollow section columns borne on a single power-floated concrete slab. This structure was designed, built and occupied in eleven months at a price comparable with mass-produced building systems of equal area.



This building accommodates one of the largest computer installations in Europe together with associated facilities. It is the first phase of the company relocating from London. Because amortization was seen to be only five years the building had to be designed within tight cost limits based on the price of proprietary systems of temporary structures. Altogether only eleven months elapsed between the brief and first occupation.

The deep plan single-storey design was chosen as it could include all activities while being flexible to permit change and growth. The resulting compact building allowed for an abnormally high parking requirement and preserved the existing tree line. The structure was assembled from components for quality control and fast erection. All services and telephone distribution are carried in the roof umbrella.

The designers made extensive use of performance specifications to achieve optimum value-for-money. This resulted in a lightweight steel lattice frame designed to eliminate foundation pads. Maintenance-free materials were used throughout such as wipe-down metal ceilings and walls, glass and neoprene exterior. Solar heat gain is controlled by the use of bronze tinted glass, by the perimeter being a circulation area and by the air being extracted from this zone.

