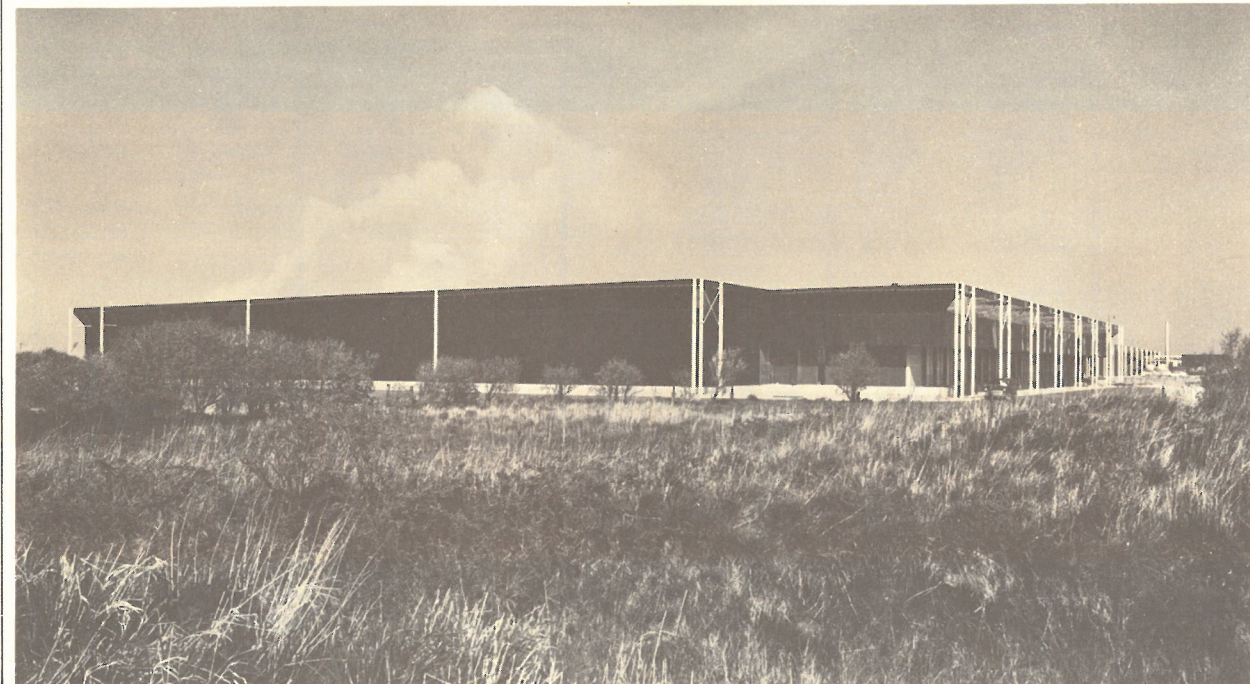


Project 431—Astmoor Industrial Estate—Runcorn

Given the nature of the activities required within the building it was decided that these could best be met with three clear spans of 30m. In considering the roof cladding with the roof structure, a choice was made of a sheet which would span 3.75m. This span plus the need for down shop services at roof level, led to the concept of triangulated lattice girders 3.75m on base, at 7.5m centres. At these centres, the top booms of the girders support the sheets at 3.75m, obviating the need for secondary and tertiary steel in the roof. Column centres at 7.5m were functionally unacceptable, so by supporting alternate triangular girders on twin columns 3.75m on

centre, a spacing of 11.25m was achieved. It was necessary to give a great deal of consideration to how the "mass" of such a large building (390m x 97.50m x 9m high) was to be treated. It was decided to separate visually the major elements – the roof, the wall cladding and the structure. The roof is isolated from the massive elevation by a line of glazing at eaves level, through which the roof structure is visible. The external columns are reflected in the inclined glazing behind, lending movement to the whole elevation. The use of tubular steel and RHS produced a structure which proved to be most economic.



ARCHITECTS

Runcorn Development Corporation

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Runcorn Development Corporation

STEELWORK CONTRACTOR

Tubeworkers Ltd (Tubular Structures)

Judges Comments

A virtually all steel building. Steel frame, steel cladding, steel roof decking, which is immense in scale and handled with great aplomb and skill. The black, profiled, plastic covered, sheet steel cladding is set back from the bright orange structural column by a 45° angle peripheral eaves level glazing. The glazing is dark brown and apart from the orange columns marching down the long facade the only other colour is delivery bay buffers of bright yellow. At ground level there is a cool perimeter strip of grey granite gravel.

An assured demonstration of architecture in steel.