

Lucent, London

PROJECT TEAM

Architect: **Fletcher Priest Architects**
Structural Engineer: **Waterman Group**
Steelwork Contractor: **Severfield**
Main Contractor: **Wates Group**
Client: **Landsec**



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Located in one of London's most famous spots, Lucent is a striking eight-storey example of innovative design and structural ingenuity. It comprises of around 10,300m² CAT A commercial space, approximately 2,800m² of retail space, and seven new residential units in west London, situated directly behind the Piccadilly Lights.

This project embodies a fusion of planning, sustainable practices, and cutting-edge structural engineering. From inception to completion, Lucent has been engineered to meet the client's expectations while minimising environmental impact and maximising efficiency. Remarkably, this was achieved while maintaining the operation of the iconic Piccadilly Lights, one of the most visited attractions in London, featuring 800m² of LED lights. The area behind the lights had been vacant since the 1950s.

The architectural and structural design was required to maintain the surrounding existing structures, such as the Piccadilly Lights, and listed façades, while concurrently enhancing the public surroundings. The construction faced challenges due to the confined site plan, its location above Piccadilly Circus tube, and the continued operation of the three retail units sitting below the structure.

The flexibility of steel construction allowed the Lucent project to maintain the use of Piccadilly Lights. This was accomplished through a series of temporary restraints to

the rear of the retained façade, enabling the new steelwork frame to be fed through.

Lucent's commitment to sustainability extends beyond its architectural design. Rigorous carbon measurement and reduction strategies were implemented throughout the project's lifecycle, from construction to occupancy. Innovative initiatives such as energy-efficient systems, green roofs, and renewable energy sources significantly minimise environmental impact, contributing to all three pillars of sustainability. As a result, it achieved BRE AAM 'Outstanding' and is pending a WELL 'Gold' accreditation.

The efficiency and effectiveness of fire and corrosion protection measures at Lucent adhere to rigorous safety protocols. Advanced fire suppression systems and corrosion-resistant materials ensure the highest standards. Since the building is behind the famous Piccadilly Lights, traditional installation methods could not be used on the fire boarding.

Lucent stands as a testament to the power of visionary planning, sustainable practices, and cutting-edge engineering in shaping the urban landscape of tomorrow. With its iconic silhouette, innovative design, and unwavering commitment to excellence, Lucent transcends mere architecture to become a symbol of inspiration, innovation, and enduring legacy in the heart of London's vibrant skyline.

Judges' comment

Located on Piccadilly Circus, Lucent stands as a striking eight-storey example of innovative design and structural ingenuity comprising a complex restructuring of space for commercial and retail use, and seven new residential units, within an almost complete city block of several period buildings. This was all achieved while maintaining the operation of the iconic Piccadilly Lights.