

## THE SHOPPING CENTRE BOOM

The last few years have seen an amazing number of shopping centres developed throughout the UK and Hills have been involved with a number of them including Cabot Circus in Bristol, Drake Circus in Plymouth, Princesshay in Exeter, Leicester High Cross, Cambridge Royal Arcade and Manchester's Trafford Centre.



Hills' involvement in these developments reads like a roll call of high street retailers and includes shops such as New Look, Debenhams, Topshop and Topman, Burton, Wallis, Dorothy Perkins, H&M and Miss Selfridge. Their involvement has either been supervision of the fit-out, cost management of the fit-out or CDM coordination. At the Trafford Centre part of the old British Home Stores has been divided up to provide space for Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge and Dorothy Perkins will be moved into the old Topshop unit.

## A ROYAL OPENING

HRH Princess Anne was welcomed to Training For Life Downside, Bermondsey in July to open the modernised facilities which included a Jamie Oliver style training kitchen and a radio recording studio.

Hills acted as quantity surveyors and planning supervisors for a £1.6 million refurbishment of the Club which helps local people to improve their lives through fitness and well being activities. With a particular focus on tackling the problems of obesity and poor diet, the Community Kitchen will run a series of cookery lessons and other health eating related activities for different sections of the local community. HRH Princess Anne watched a cookery demonstration given by celebrity chef Anton Mossimon and then sampled the meal.



## THE CDM GIRLS

Hills' London and Milton Keynes offices have a very special resource in the form of Joanne Lilley and Rebecca Williams - the Health and Safety Team.



Joanne has been operating in the field of Health and Safety for more than ten years. She gained a Bachelor of Health degree back home in Australia and when she came to the UK four years ago she became a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. She spends a great deal of her time travelling all over the UK and Ireland acting as CDM Coordinator on new build, refurbishments and fit-out projects for Hills' retail clients. She finds that there is more legislation in the UK than in Australia but she loves the job and gets great satisfaction from the interaction on site, preparing Preconstruction Information Plans and reviewing contractors' Construction Phase Plans. She lives in West Ealing, sharing a house with seven other Antipodians.

Rebecca Williams is Joanne's CDM administrator back in the office. She arranges all Joanne's travel to design and site meetings, assists in the issue of Pre-Construction Information Plans to contractors and notifications to local authorities. Rebecca prepares the Health and Safety File at the end of each project to issue to the client. She too finds her work very rewarding.



## RING THE CHANGES

Signet Group plc, the world's largest speciality retail jeweller, has appointed Hills to oversee the cost management of their building and construction programme during 2008. Signet owns 581 stores in the UK which include the well known high street names of H. Samuel and Ernest Jones as well as top of the range retailer Leslie Davis.

Hills are responsible for the cost management of the Ernest Jones rollout programme as well as the H. Samuel refurbishment and new build programme and tenders have already been obtained for the Ernest Jones projects. The successful contractors have been allocated work in stores throughout the country.

In addition Pete Lightfoot from Hills' Milton Keynes office is spending two days a week as Signet's in-house cost manager. A number of clients use Hills in this capacity, either on an interim basis or when the role does not warrant the employment of a full time member of staff.

Hills are pleased to include Signet on their growing list of retail clients.

## WHEN IS THE WOOLWICH NOT THE WOOLWICH?

When it is the Halifax!

Woolwich House in Croydon where Hills have their London office is a well known landmark in the town on the corner of two main streets but the Woolwich have moved out of the ground floor and the Halifax have moved in. Needless to say a change of name for the building would be very confusing for locals so it remains Woolwich House and Hills welcome their new neighbours, the Halifax.

## Northern Ireland's rich history displayed

Work at Ulster Museum continues. The construction phase will last 15 months, with the whole scheme costing £14.7 million. Northern Ireland's Department for culture, Arts and Leisure is providing up to £9.2 million of this, and the Heritage Lottery Fund £4.5 million. This investment will provide a modern museum with a dramatic ground floor display, titled the World of Wonders, showcasing some of the museum's iconic objects. There will be increased gallery space and new interactive discovery areas for art, history and science subjects.

Hills are working as cost consultants and project managers for the fitting out of the galleries which have been designed by Haley Sharpe Design. This part of the project has been tendered and the exhibition works commence in October with the grand opening of the museum planned for mid-June 2009. Northern Ireland Culture Minister Edwin Poots, who was present at the launch of the building work, said "The reinvented museum will meet the demands of an increasingly diverse and sophisticated museum audience, I hope the museum will become a centre for sharing knowledge about Northern Ireland's rich history and I look forward to its completion."

## Woodhorn Awards

Woodhorn Mining Museum, another museum project carried out with Haley Sharpe Design in 2006, has won a number of awards including the NE England Tourism Award 2007, a Civic Trust Commendation and a Design Effectiveness Award for the fit-out. Hills' experience of museum fit-out work with the same designer includes the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada and Jamestown Island Visitors' Centre on the east coast of North America.

## Meadowhall

Hills keep going back to Meadowhall! They were the cost consultants for the modernisation of Debenhams and the relocation of Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge which have just completed. They are now employed as lead consultant incorporating project management, quantity surveying and CDMC for a New Look Brand Flag store which commenced on site in September

## New Look goes big in Ireland

Donegal Place in Belfast is a street full of beautiful old buildings as can be seen from the 1900s photograph below. Hills have just completed the conversion of one of the larger Grade 1 listed buildings to provide New Look's largest store in Ireland. The 26,000 sq ft trading area covers four floors - a first for New Look.



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