

## METAL CEILING SOLUTIONS

## SAS INTERNATIONAL

A regional and national winner in the recent BCO Awards, Skyways House near Liverpool, is a converted World War II aircraft hangar. It is now the centerpiece of a campus of buildings which forms the striking head office complex for Littlewoods Shop Direct Group. Three levels surrounding a central atrium have been inserted into the Grade II\* listed building. Architects CDA (Comprehensive Design Architects) rose to the challenge the structure provided, and employed some clever metal ceiling solutions from SAS International.

SAS International's System 205 was specified for the main office space and underside of the galleried walkways. Allowing access to services, System 205 is normally specified for use in corridors; it proved the ideal solution with panels manufactured to fit between the exposed structural steelwork. Manufactured in lengths up to 3000mm, System 205 can be installed quickly and efficiently, a serious consideration for the project team.

Providing excellent acoustic performance, a key issue in the open hangar, System 205 and SAS System 150 (used in other areas of the project) met the specification requirements. The decorative perforation patterns on the tiles assist acoustic absorption in conjunction with acoustic pads.

In addition, SAS International worked with Siteco on four custom-designed high-level lighting rafts. Suspended from the curved roofs, the rafts run the full length of the hangar providing lighting to the second floor. The BCO judges particularly like the way a 'controlled palate'

of steel, glass and timber has been used to bind unpretentious industrial utility to modern new office floors, creating a 21st century working environment. No apology is made for the building's origins. In fact, the exposed roof structure, ties and beams celebrate that history.

Close collaboration between architects and engineers has created a building within a building. Light floods through the huge space across three floors, a daunting challenge in itself when the roof was sacrosanct; achieved by glazing both ends of the building, the original roof lights and windows have been upgraded for solar control.

Construction was successfully completed to a tight timescale and budget and the result is a remarkably distinctive highly efficient building according to the BCO. Littlewoods Shop Direct Group is certainly satisfied, saying the new HQ has 'radically improved' its business.

*E-mail enquiries@sasint.co.uk or visit www.sasint.co.uk for more information.*



## LAMINATED GLASS

## SAINT GOBAIN

Since the end of March 2007, the Skywalk, the spectacular viewing platform in the Grand Canyon, has been open to all interested visitors. The platform, which extends out over the void offers a unique, previously impossible view into the Grand Canyon West. At the official opening by the Hualapai Indians in March 2007, the Astronaut Buzz Aldrin was one of the first to walk over the Skywalk. The relaxed stroll was guaranteed by two Saint-Gobain Deutsche Glas companies: the

glass floor was produced by KINON Porz from Cologne, the glazed balustrade by Glas Döring Berlin.

The floor of the steel-glass construction consists of a total of 46 glass elements of laminated glass (VSG), 20 rectangular and 26 wedge-shaped. The total of 147 square metres of VSG made

of SGG STADIP LITE FLOOR SPECIAL are bonded with a special film and satisfy the highest safety standards.

"We are proud to have been awarded this order and to have developed the special design in two years of research and development work", said Ulrich Hermens, Project Manager from KINON Porz.

Tests prove that the plates, even in the event of destruction retain their residual bearing capacity and are still capable of bearing several people. Even earthquakes up to strength 7 and wind speeds up to 160 km/h cannot affect them. The platform, which extends 21 metres over the void, can hold up to 120 persons simultaneously. The idea of a glazed viewing platform was realised by the businessman David Jin from Las Vegas in cooperation with the Hualapai Indians, who are the owners of the land. The architect is Mark Johnson of JRJ Architects.

*For more information, visit www.saint-gobain.de.*

