

## V3 wins users' hearts and minds



**Back in 1997 the planning and development began for the six-storey building in the heart of Sheffield that will provide the inhabitants with a highly impressive resource: the housing of all council services from social work, education, housing and benefits, all under one roof with offices for 700 employees.**



The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) has been managed from start to finish by Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.

Being a brand new building, Sheffield City Council and Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd knew that it was important for the interior to have a very contemporary look and feel. They decided to run a two-month pilot scheme that would showcase office furniture from five of the UK's leading manufacturers. The idea behind the scheme was that the staff would be able to test out the furniture and give feedback. Both the Council and Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd realised the importance of the users having the biggest say.

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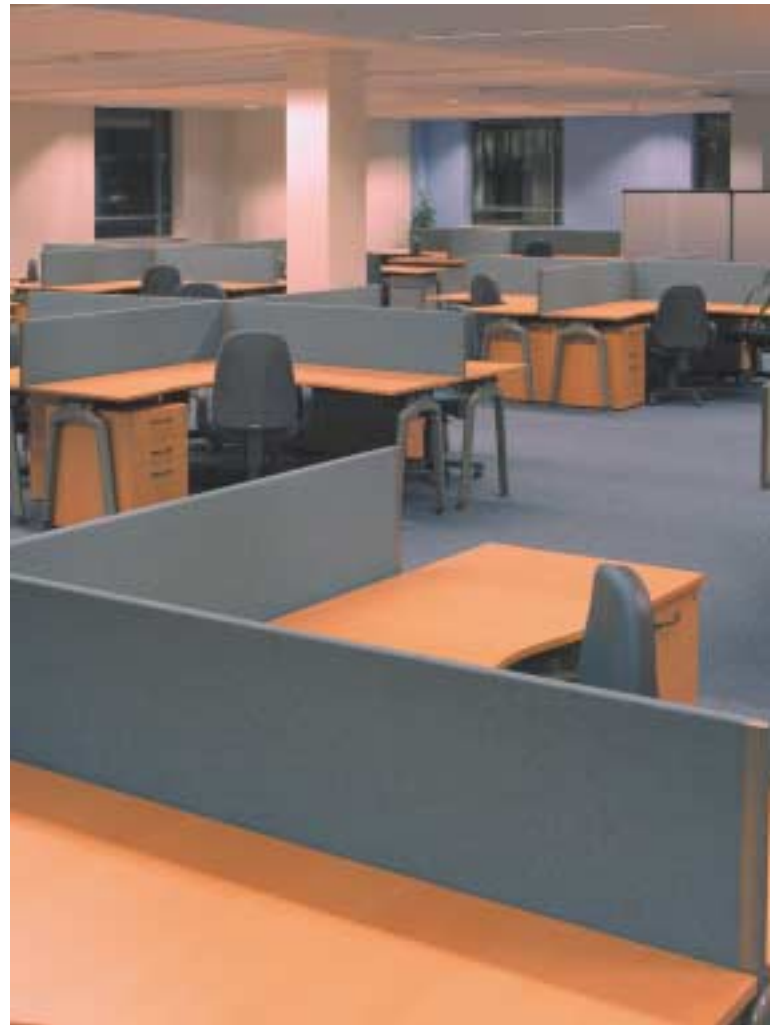
Arenson Group was one of the five office furniture manufacturers invited to take part. First of all they assessed and space-planned the building, taking into account the Council's desktop space requirements, and then they put together an exact specification for the job.

After the showcase the Council employees voted V3 head and shoulders above the competing brands.

*"It was immensely satisfying for us to win such a competitive contract by being voted for by the very people who are going to use the furniture day-in and day-out,"* commented Tom McGregor of Arenson Group.

The value of the Sheffield installation is just under a £1 million. It is a total turnkey project for which Arenson Group specified, supplied, fitted and installed the furniture.

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Commented Stuart Cunliffe-Jones, Project Manager, Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd: *"The execution of the contract was totally trouble free. The Arenson Group project team kept us informed on a daily basis with any potentially problematic issues and dealt with them in an efficient manner. We are delighted with the furniture and with V3's durability, variety and versatility the choice has proved good value for money."*

Ray Boyd, Head of Civic Accommodation at Sheffield City Council, said of the project: *"Our staff voted V3 as their number one choice, and fortunately it was a very clear majority so the decision to go*

*with V3 was easy. The work here at Howden House has run smoothly from start to finish, and the interaction between the Arenson Group and City Council space planners has been proactive and efficient. We are very pleased with the result, and are extending the relationship with Arenson Group to include other core premises."*