

Name of Project
Hilton Hotel

Client
TBI

Architect
Powell Dobson Partnership

Structural Engineer
Bay Associated

Services Engineer
WSP

Quantity Surveyor
Tweeds

Project Description
Alteration, extension, adaptation and fit-out to provide a turnkey luxury five-star hotel

Contract Value
£23 million

Contract Period
October 1997 - August 1999

Main Contractor
Carillion Building

Contract Form
JCT 1981 (D&B)



This project comprised the conversion of the former Prudential Assurance Building in the centre of Cardiff and included the demolition and rebuild of the rear of the building. The client's main objective was to be open on time for the Rugby World Cup which was held in Cardiff in 1999.

The client and tenant wanted to create a five star quality hotel in the centre of Cardiff. Two floors were added to the existing structure to make it one of the highest hotels in the Welsh capital. A presidential suite and executive rooms were planned for the top floor, which gave fantastic views into the grounds of Cardiff Castle, with Caerphilly Castle in the background.

The main challenge was in transforming the original Prudential Assurance Building into a suitable layout for a hotel. The many columns and walls did not lend themselves readily to the repetitive room sizes required by a hotel. We worked innovatively around this problem by designing each bathroom individually to allow for columns and non-standard room sizes.

It was a turnkey project, which meant each section was occupied as soon as we had finished it. Our works had to be carefully integrated with the client's furniture fit-out, which began whilst we were still working on the upper floors.

We completed the hotel to a timescale agreed by the client, and met their main driver of opening on time for the 1999 Rugby World Cup.

The hotel is a modern landmark building boasting 197 rooms, the largest ballroom in Cardiff, a business centre and leisure facilities. It is a flagship hotel for the Hilton chain, very popular and prestigious and accommodates many high-profile guests.