

Name of Project

Glasgow Science Centre

Client

The Glasgow Science Centre Ltd

Architect

Building Design Partnership

Engineer

WA Fairhurst & Partners
Buro Happold (Tower)

Services Engineer

Cundall Johnston & Partners
Buro Happold (Tower)

Quantity Surveyor

Doig & Smith

Overall Scheme Cost

£75 million

Contract Period

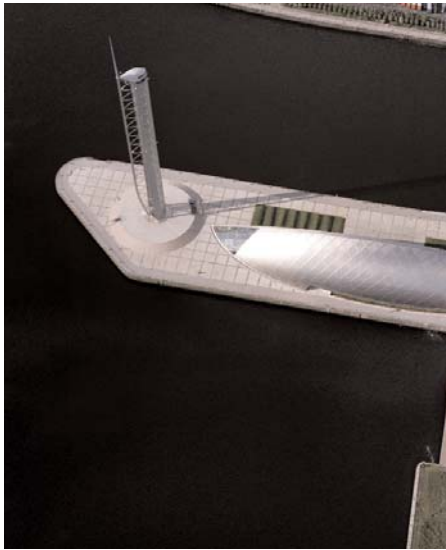
March 1999 - July 2001

Main Contractor

Carillion Building

Contract Type

GC Works



Construction of three individual buildings to form a 3D IMAX cinema, an 'exploratorium', and the world's first revolving tower. Standing on a restricted site on the banks of the River Clyde, each of the three unique buildings house a huge range of science and technology exhibits.

We delivered

- The IMAX cinema and exploratorium were the first buildings in the UK to be clad in Titanium
- The 3D cinema provides 350 seats and has a floor area of approximately 2250m² split between three floors.
- The exploratorium has a floor area of approximately 12,000m² split between five floors. It contains workshops and fabrication spaces, a main entrance hall, a children's reception, a shop, offices, function rooms, a café, a science theatre and exhibition space, together with electronic and teaching theatres

At 125m above ground the tower is Scotland's tallest free-standing structure and incorporates an underground turning mechanism and bearings housed in a cylindrical concrete root chamber. The unique feature of the tower is its ability to respond to changing wind direction by turning the entire structure to present an efficient aerodynamic profile.

A key aspiration of the client was quality and this was satisfied through consistently rigorous quality management. With so much fabrication carried out away from Glasgow, off-site quality checks became a key feature. The processes adopted for conducting these checks have since been employed as best practice throughout Carillion.

It is difficult to categorise the achievements made at the Glasgow Science Centre. To refer to it simply as a construction project fails to reflect the sheer innovation, teamwork and pride behind a development that has captured the imagination of the people of Clydesdale like no other. The project was also a shining example of community involvement - public interest was phenomenal and everyone worked hard to make it as accessible as possible.