

Sustainable **FM**

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Unilever, one of the world's leading suppliers of fast moving consumer goods and a portfolio which includes some of the world's best known and most loved brands like Flora, Wall's, Dove, Lynx, Persil, Domestos and Marmite, appointed KI to provide office storage solutions for their newly refurbished London Headquarters.

The 1930's building was completely gutted and the interior was demolished leaving the grand, curved Façade of the building. KPF Architects were commissioned to create an impressive, spacious, free flowing atrium with walkways and suspended platforms - 'flying carpets' - across the higher floors, giving a visual contact across and down the floors and bringing a heightened sense of activity into the building. The office gives an interesting spatial experience with elements



KI CLEAN UP UNILEV

of the building's 1930s exterior - such as the column heads - reflected in the interior.

In Unilever's previous building, 80% of the staff were in cellular offices. Now, in their new building 80% of the staff are in open plan offices with all staff able to mix freely to create social interaction.

The open plan office floors are very bright with glass perimeters all around - either looking over the atrium or over London's City skyline. These amazing views, especially from the top-floor restaurant and meeting room area and the marvellous landscaped roof gardens, can't help but

have a big impression on staff and visitors alike. Large, fresh images from Unilever's advertising campaigns, which can be changed regularly, are used on partition walls within the office to bring in colour and vitality - reflecting Unilever's mission; to 'add vitality to life.' The lime green colour used on the stair treads and columns is from Unilever's palette for vitality.

500 of KI's 3 drawer, 1079mm high, 700 Series lateral storage systems, in Oyster White, have been installed throughout to define the areas and corridors, all with suspension and footscap filing. The storage





has 10mm low iron, satin etched, toughened glass tops and is somewhere informal to discuss matters with colleagues.

KI's 700 Series tailor made, lockable recycling units are used in each department,

ER'S OFFICES

with either 2 drawer printer cabinets or 1 drawer printer cabinets, to provide Unilever with secure storage of confidential documents awaiting shredding and disposal. The units keep the offices clean and tidy, which supports the employees' 'éclean desk policy,' and are configured to allow for easy bin or bag removal. There are screens on the sides of the cabinet so that the printer doesn't rise above the datum.

KI 700 Series Lockers with 4 individually lockable compartments are located near the workstations of the staff and integrated with the open plan office. These are also in Oyster White with 10mm low iron, satin etched, toughened glass tops and are 1079mm high to match the height of the KI 700 Series storage and recycling units.

As explained by Etain Fitzpatrick of KPF (Kohn Pedersen Fox Architects): 'KI provided a unified storage solution that worked in harmony with the office workstation layout. The layouts of the workstations and storage are dictated by the module of the building structure, the sweeping curve of the elevation, as well as individual department requirements. A horizontal datum is maintained throughout with the height of the storage and workstation screens. The palette of the interior is predominately warm and more residential in feel and we selected the KI storage in Oyster White, RAL 1013, to complement this.'

KI's 700 Series lateral filing & storage cabinets and bookcases are compatible with all finishes and furnishings, reconfigure easily and promote user control. KI offer pre-figured or tailored solutions for any office storage situation.

No filing and storage system offers more flexibility, more options, more choice or more colour and finishes than 700 Series from KI.

KI'S 900 & 700 SERIES CABINETS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Conserving the planet's resources is a shared mission at KI. The KI 900 and 700 Series cabinets provide the perfect example of KI's commitment to preserve the environment

Design – KI is the only filing manufacturer that refuses to braise and fettle corner seams. Whilst some consider the aesthetic impact of the cabinet to be enhanced by this process, KI has looked at the environmental impact and has rejected the process as being unnecessarily damaging to the environment. KI chooses instead to use enhanced design techniques and single piece construction to achieve seamless backs and a high quality aesthetic finish.

Manufacturing – KI 900 and 700 Series cabinets are manufactured in Ontario, Canada in the Pembroke factory based near the Great Lakes, a region blessed with an abundance of large rivers. Their energy has been harnessed through the construction of numerous hydroelectric power stations that meant that KI's factory receives electricity that is 100% carbon free.

Transport – KI carbon offsets 100% of the carbon emissions created in the transport of its cabinets from the factory to the customer. This includes the road freight to port in Montreal, the transatlantic sea freight and the road freight to the client in the UK. Working with Carbon Footprint Ltd, KI plants trees in the UK that not only offset their carbon emissions but also serve to protect wildlife habitats.

Paint – KI's Pembroke storage facility has changed its painting facilities to all powdercoating process lines. These use water based cleaning systems prior to powder painting to clean parts as opposed to solvent based cleaning systems. Powdercoatings contain negligible Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) contents.

Packaging – KI institutes the reduce, reuse, recycle philosophy. To reduce the use of packaging materials, KI has found alternative methods to safely ship and receive products to and from suppliers, end-users and other manufacturing locations. Utilisation of reusable plastic totes, shrink-wrapping, blanket wrapping and racking of products has helped alleviate the amount of 'ébox' materials used in the shipping process. To reduce waste sent to landfills, KI rescues materials such as wood pallets wherever possible and has partnered with suppliers to create new product transfer methods such as

injection moulded plastic skids (made from recycled plastic!) which can be reused over and over again.

Training – KI determined that all employees need to contribute to environmental compliance at the facilities. In KI's Pembroke filing manufacturing facility, certain key individuals serve as focal points for the gathering and distribution of information.

The combination of these positive measures means that KI 900 and 700 series cabinets have been manufactured and supplied in an environmentally friendly way consistent with KI's commitment to the environment. This states: 'KI is committed to our community by being environmentally conscious and striving to ensure the continued availability of natural resources for current and future generations. As part of the Vision/Mission, we recognise our responsibility to protect human health, the environment and natural resources and to continually strive to improve the environmental quality of our operations.'

DURABILITY

Although the manufacturing process of Item A may have a greater environmental impact than that of item B, this does not mean that Item B is 'ébetter'. It is important to factor in the longevity of each item. For instance, concrete is noted as being a construction technique with a high environmental impact. However, consider the Pantheon. This was constructed 2,000 years ago in Rome out of concrete and is still standing today. Can such a durable building be thought of as environmentally unfriendly?

KI has decided to put durability at the heart of its commitment to the environment. They believe that there is no better way to contribute to society's drive to preserve the natural environment than by providing customers with products that will give maintenance free service for decades. By focusing on this KI have been able to offer a 25-Year Warranty on KI 900 and 700 series filing cabinets. This sets a new benchmark for the entire industry and is only possible due to the excellence in design and manufacturing which are embodied in this products. The exceptional durability of KI 900 and 700 Series cabinets should make them a first choice, whether assessing it on the basis of financial or environmental measures.

For more details see www.ki.com