

The Fashion Retail Academy

Arcadia Group



Background

Professional expertise was required to equip the new inner city Academy for 16–18 year olds, specialising in fashion and retail. This was a new and exciting project sponsored by the Arcadia Group and supported by other High Street stores such as Marks & Spencer, Next, GUS and Tesco. It is also being backed by the Department for Education and Skills and the Learning and Skills Council.

Working as part of a project team consisting of building, architectural and educational and financial professionals, MTS were able to add value to the team by giving independent professional guidance on all elements of equipping a major capital development. This included the initial budget projections through to project management of equipment deliveries and placement.

Requirement

Assisting the Arcadia Group in preparing an equipment schedule on a room by room basis, sourcing suitable products and Project Management of FF+E equipment deliveries and installation.

The Academy needed to provide state of the art technology to support the students in all the practical and vocational skills required for the challenging world of fashion retail. MTS assisted in sourcing and procuring FF+E to meet this requirement.

The Solution

MTS allocated an experienced Project Manager to manage the equipment aspect of the scheme and this person became a full member of the project team.

To create an initial FF+E budget, the Project Manager prepared a full room equipment schedule for the scheme. This was made possible through the use of MTS's unique data base.

We were able to offer the expertise and experience of equipping to the educational professionals in order to identify potential reliable suppliers and products who would offer suitability and value for money.

The tender and selection process was managed by MTS and through adept negotiation resulted in further cost savings to the Academy.

As part of the management of the scheme the Project Manager



then oversaw the delivery process including agreeing delivery schedules with the Contractor and suppliers and ensuring that these were adhered to, monitoring quality of goods and placement.

Impacts

By using a professional equipment Project Manager the project was successfully delivered on time and within budget. The solution was innovative, flexible and fully compliant with the ethos of the academy.

Being part of an integrated project team ensured that equipment selection was appropriate to the exterior and interior designs. The procurement and delivery could be carefully managed to ensure a timely and co-ordinated result.

We also have experience in equipping workshops, sports facilities, labs, libraries and education centres through our work on other education projects. MTS has been involved in a great number of major capital procurements both public and privately financed.



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