

Equipping The Fashion Retail Academy

Arcadia Group
July 2006



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 Arcadia Group in preparing a room equipment schedule, sourcing suitable products, and project management of equipment deliveries.

The Academy is to provide state of the art technology to support the students in all the practical and vocational skills needed for the challenging world of fashion retail. MTS were able to assist in sourcing and procuring equipment 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 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 building 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 to time and budget and the solution was innovative and flexible and fully compatible 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 and 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 its work in health projects. MTS has been involved in a great number of major capital procurements both public and privately financed in the NHS.



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