





magic number

It's probably safe to say that mathematics has never been our strong point. We can work out the complexities of scoring a game of darts, but that's about it. Our hosts here, however, know a thing or two about sums.

Last year the Numerical Algorithms Group (NAG) undertook a major redesign of its corporate headquarters in Oxford, reducing the space it occupied previously through the introduction of open plan offices for all but a few staff.

The notion of working in open plan offices represented a major step change for the staff, many of whom come from academia and expect to work in a cellular office. That this concept has been accepted is evidence of how the company puts into practice its core values of 'a profound respect for the individual' and 'integrity in our dealings with customers, employees, members, partners and others'.

The Numerical Algorithms Group (NAG) is a not-for-profit company which specialises in the provision of software for the solution of mathematical, statistical and data mining problems.





►►►►► Founded in 1970 as a collaborative venture combining the talents of many globally renowned mathematicians, a year later, NAG developed the first mathematical software library which has evolved to become the largest commercially available collection of high quality mathematical and statistical algorithms. This library, known as

the Fortran Library, is used worldwide for applications in diverse areas such as finance, pharmaceuticals, engineering, telecommunications, energy, aerospace, research and education.

In mid-1973, the central office of the project moved from Nottingham to Oxford University, where the corporate

headquarters of the company are now based. Offices are also maintained in the USA and Japan. In recent years the company has become more commercially driven, without losing any of its technical excellence, and slimmed down its operations.

Susan Shayler, Chief Operating Officer at the corporate offices in Oxford, says: 'We constantly review our operations to ensure we maintain high quality standards and produce commercially relevant computational software and services for commerce and research. Two years ago, when we reviewed our office accommodation in Oxford, we decided we should rationalise the space we occupied and eventually concluded we needed a major refurbishment and redesign.'

Previously Group Financial Controller and Divisional Manager of Company Services, Susan Shayler took over as COO in Oxford in July 2007. At that time NAG occupied both floors of a 1980's office building, Wilkinson House, in Jordan Hill, Oxford, having previously sub-let another adjacent building on the same site. Most of the offices were cellular and some of the space was under-utilised. The company decided that it would sub-let the first floor ►►►►►





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- Area Sales Manager - North/M62 Corridor
- Area Sales Manager - London & Southern Counties
- A & D Sales - London

The Sales Manager roles will concentrate primarily on selling the Logic product, whilst the A&D Sales position will focus on our Staverton brand. Three years experience is required for each of these roles along with a passion to succeed in the competitive world of sales. You must be a confident self-starter with a first rate network of client contacts, matched with a strong design led outlook. Your ability to identify opportunities, take responsibility and manage total projects will be key. In return, we'll offer you an excellent basic salary, innovative commission scheme and car allowance.

To be considered for any of these roles, please email your CV and covering letter to Logic's Managing Director Roy Pelham at roy.pelham@logic-office.co.uk



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including the customer support staff. Each wing has its own breakout/quiet room and kitchen. The larger wing (for the commercial functions) includes a training room (which also serves as a boardroom) and enclosed meeting room, as well as the secure comms rooms.

During the design and planning stage, staff comment was invited on the workstation/desk configurations, the height and shape of screens, the other furniture required as well as the carpeting and air conditioning. Insight produced 3D elevations so that NAG employees could understand more clearly what was being proposed, and also (as previously noted) brought a selection of screens into the offices. Susan and Kartrina Jenkins, Project Co-ordinator, visited the Assmann factory in Germany to see the workstations and decide on the range they wanted, choosing RondASS, with its round, height-adjustable legs, and simple, classic design.

The work to the offices was phased over an eight week period, with Insight completing the ground floor refurbishment, a wing at a time, and finally, over two weeks, fitting out the reception.

Whilst the work was being carried out, NAG staff were moved around so that Insight could completely gut the building, stripping out the old partitioning and ceilings, and then installing air conditioning, electrical and data cabling, new suspended ceilings and lighting, partitioning for breakout areas, kitchens, meeting rooms and the few cellular offices. The offices were redecorated throughout, floors were carpeted in most areas, or had plank flooring in the kitchens and reception. Once the furniture was installed, staff could move in.

Insight specified all furniture and furnishings, with the final choice made in collaboration with Susan Shayler and Katrina Jenkins, who also took into account any staff preferences.

The company decided to retain their own storage units for certain areas, and also their own seating, although some new seating was supplied by Pledge.

Assmann supplied the workstation furniture, as well as storage wall units and tables for the training room, all in maple laminate finish. 'Assmann furniture is well-priced and good quality,' says John Taylor of

Insight, 'and the company provides an excellent service.'

And, we're guessing, at the end of the day all the numbers added up perfectly ●

essential ingredients

Client:	• NAG
Design & Planning:	• Insight Workplaces 01788 510008
Systems Furniture & Storage:	• Assmann +49 (0) 54 22 70 62 29
Task Seating:	• Pledge 01525 376181
Screens:	• Sven Christiansen 01384 400120
Partitioning:	• MHR Designs 01638 583900
Carpets:	• Milliken 020 7336 7290
Lighting:	• Artemide 020 7291 3853
Hard Flooring:	• Armstrong 01235 554848