







## case study

Housed within the first floor rotunda, the main meeting suite provides a number of meeting rooms of various sizes and specification. Also situated overlooking the canal, and flooded with daylight, a different palette can be found in the vibrant staff restaurant. Clearly a destination away from the workstation, the Wi-Fi equipped space is used for informal team meeting rooms and team gatherings throughout the day. Rustic refectory tables by Cappellini and timeless Fritz Hansen seating provide a superb setting.

The accommodation staircase giving access to the office floors forms a central spine to the organisation. Space at the landing on each floor overlooking the building's central atrium is dedicated to communal support functions. The central location of facilities such as meeting rooms, the reading room and the morning conference room, vending areas and an 'IT Apple Store' inspired help desk ensures these spaces are easily accessible. This is vital in promoting communication across the immense floorplates, providing settings for breakout, ad hoc meetings and teamwork. Centralising common support facilities helped tp bennett provide open office space with clear uninterrupted access to daylight. A 'cellular zone' created in deep space helps define easily navigable circulation routes, well backed up by wayfinding signage elegantly designed by Cartlidge Levene.

The provision of breakout spaces and alternative work settings is key to the successful operation of the business. Moving away from individual desk ownership to a fluid and flexible desk sharing philosophy allows 1,700 staff to be fully supported by 1,500 Herman Miller Abak Environments bench desks from Workstation. With a high dependence on shared desking, Bisley lockers at the end of the workstations provide individual storage. Humanscale Freedom task chairs add their ubiquitous ergonomic qualities to the mix.

'Monolithic vending islands on each floor create a buzz,' notes Shane, 'forcing people to come out of their corners! They're really social spaces, a little alien to what GNM were used to in their old office – it's good to see staff taking advantage of them. As I said, communication is the driver, both vertically (the atrium allows you to see from floor to floor) and horizontally within each floorplate itself. The design is also egalitarian, in tune with GNM's values – there are no executive areas, the same palette is used throughout, and there is no 'downgraded' area.'

Importantly, the staircase landing on the second level is home to the morning conference room. Morning conference is held every day and is an inclusive event open to the entire business. A forum style, furniture based solution has greatly improved what Sheila describes as '...more than a tradition, it's symbolic. Alan Rusbridger talks about a topic, and anyone is allowed to express an opinion. It's now a welcoming space with good acoustics. A lot of time was spent cracking this and many more people attend – it's been a great success that underscores our democratic, transparent values.'

Preparing to depart – this is the kind of inspiring workplace you really don't want to leave – there was just time to glimpse an element of GNM's progressive digital future. The multi-media hub is a suite of high-tech recording and editing studios which makes good use of the architectural rotunda feature. Early pioneers in an area of regeneration, advocates of new working practices and ambitious future thinkers; it's good to see today's GNM demonstrating the courage so valued by CP Scott ●



►►► Knoll, B&B Italia and Vitra. This attractive use of the space further reinforces GNM's position as a forward looking company with a strong heritage. Here also is the Education Centre which offers a range of programmes giving children, students and adults the opportunity to experience a day in the life of the paper.

## essential ingredients

Client:	• Guardian News & Media
Interior Design:	• tp bennett <a href="http://www.tpbenntt.com">www.tpbenntt.com</a>
Main Contractor:	• Overbury <a href="http://www.overbury.com">www.overbury.com</a>
Project Management:	• Davis Langdon <a href="http://www.davislangdon.com">www.davislangdon.com</a>
Systems Furniture:	• Herman Miller via Workstation <a href="http://www.workstation-uk.com">www.workstation-uk.com</a>
Task Seating:	• Humanscale <a href="http://www.humanscale.com">www.humanscale.com</a>
Loose Furniture:	• B&B Italia <a href="http://www.bebitalia.it">www.bebitalia.it</a> Knoll Studio <a href="http://www.knoll-it.com">www.knoll-it.com</a> Vitra <a href="http://www.vitra.com">www.vitra.com</a> Kusch <a href="http://www.kusch.com">www.kusch.com</a> Fritz Hansen <a href="http://www.fritzhanzen.com">www.fritzhanzen.com</a>
Carpet:	• Shaw <a href="http://www.shawcontractgroup.com">www.shawcontractgroup.com</a>
Glass Partitions:	• Nordwall <a href="http://www.nordwall.com">www.nordwall.com</a>
Lighting:	• Zumtobel, Kreon, Selex, Innermost, Moooi, Karboxx, Modular