

A totally new concept in flexible office design



IG created the concept of financial spread betting, enabling clients to deal on the price of gold as an index rather than trading the commodity itself. It now has over 152,600 clients worldwide, making millions of transactions per month.

At its office in London, Style was approached by IG Group's architects' Sheppard Robson who were working with BW Interiors to create flexible, collaborative office space.

The requirement was challenging as it hadn't been done before, leaving no previous template to work from. Quite simply, IG Group was seeking informal meeting spaces where anything from 2 to 20 people could gather.

Based in an open plan area, employees would meet to discuss ideas or share information, with the ability to screen themselves off and use the walls as magnetic writeable white boards.

But the spec didn't end there. Quite often teams would be gathered in small breakout units but working on the same project as others in the area. They therefore needed to share their ideas with those around them, creating an additional requirement to spin the panels round so that colleagues could see what was on the white boards – effectively bringing them into the discussion.

Julian Sargent, Style's group managing director explains the challenge this posed.

"We really had to put a lot of thought into this. Not only was it something never done before, we also didn't have a product that met this very unique and innovative requirement.

"We therefore had to design and manufacturer the panels from scratch. Our technical teams also had to devise the best way to enable them to move freely, yet be secure when still and rotate when necessary.

"The final solution, however, is so ingenious that we're already seeing orders for the same system from other major PLCs who can see what a difference this will make to how their staff work together during informal breakout sessions and meetings."

