In 2018 we celebrated SAS International’s 50th anniversary and started the process which would see our Reading Head Office move into a newly constructed building. We’re very proud to now invite developers, architects, contractors and international customers to meet us and see our products and services in our new facility.

Our motivation to create a new building wasn’t the condition of our old offices, even though we’d been in them 40 years. We wanted to create a workspace which reflected the quality and aesthetics of the products we design, manufacture and sell. We wanted our employees to be comfortable and safe, and to be able to concentrate on their work in a light environment with great acoustics.

Our new building isn’t just the Head Office for SAS; it’s the central hub of our international business. As a logistics hub we have a warehouse here where we consolidate products from our factories to be delivered to site. In addition, our proximity to London and Heathrow makes travel for our international employees and their customers much easier. When they arrive, we have excellent meeting facilities and space to install both low and high-level mock-ups.

To ensure we continue to offer the best solutions and support in delivering on the most complex projects, we need to invest in the future. In this building, in our people, but most importantly, in the next generation.

An investment we’ve made recently is a partnership with the Blue Building Institute to ultimately upskill our teams to support the International WELL Building Institute. We’re working closely with the BBI to carry out research, develop our knowledge of the WELL standards and of how we can apply this to our products.

With the population more concerned about their health and wellbeing than ever before, the acoustic success of a workplace environment has never been more important. We are ensuring we’re able to support designers in delivering not just effective control of noise, but a positive impact on the productivity and wellbeing of the building users through doing so.

The partnership we’re building with the BBI and IWBI is opening many doors for us and is feeding our teams with knowledge, fuelling their creativity and will ultimately generate more collaborations.

We’ve always been open-minded, that’s how Eddie McElhinney developed the business from very small beginnings; by being inclusive, by listening, by collaborating.

We look forward to working with you all on future projects and embracing change together.

Todd Altman,
Chief Executive
SAS International is delighted to announce that it is to be the first UK supporting partner for the Blue Building Institute (BBI). The Netherlands-based organisation exists to spread understanding and adoption of the WELL Building Standard.

The WELL Building Standard itself originated in the US in 2013 and is the first ever building standard to focus exclusively on human health and wellness. It is perhaps not surprising that issues such as air quality, light, acoustic comfort and fitness will make a huge contribution to the wellbeing of building occupants. The people-centric WELL Standard lays out how buildings should be designed to address specific performance criteria.

Importantly, every aspect of the environment, including interior fittings and furniture, are included, with potentially huge implications for both building designers and product manufacturers.

BBI was formed by two passionate advocates of WELL who vowed to bring the standard to Holland and convince the developers, investment houses and property owners of the commercial advantages to doing the right thing.

Five years on and a concentrated programme of networking and information sharing has resulted in approaching 60 projects in the Netherlands being built to the WELL Standard. “We have had a demonstrable impact in Holland,” summarises BBI Strategy Director Ian Davies. “The next stage is to spread out into other countries across Europe.”

A not-for-profit organisation, BBI relies upon sponsorship and financial support from WELL advocates. SAS International, always keen to support initiatives that improve the built environment, is just such an advocate.

“We are pleased to have the support of a high-profile product manufacturer,” continues Ian Davies. “The WELL Standard places an unprecedented responsibility on product manufacturers so we are delighted that our first UK partner comes from that sector.”

BBI, with the support of SAS, will be promoting WELL in the UK through a series of events and promotional activity. Interested building professionals will be able to find out more through the training and research functions.
Reacting to growing customer demand, SAS International is actively promoting its Open Grid ceiling systems, uncovering a whole new world of creative ceiling design.

For decades, the most common design approach for commercial ceilings has been white space: unobtrusive backdrops for the action happening below. While this remains the most popular solution for commercial environments, SAS is also recognising an increasing trend for ceilings that demand attention in their own right, and responding with typical design innovation.

One popular design solution is to expose the structure of the building and SAS has designed many projects with an open grid arrangement. The resulting industrial aesthetic, enhanced sensation of height, and increased flexibility for the workspace provide compelling design opportunities.

“We regularly create bespoke solutions based on our standard product ranges,” observes R&D Manager Matthew Butchard. “But as this particular design trend is proving to be increasingly popular, we are responding by developing standard modular solutions. The standardisation makes it easier for designers to specify exactly the result they are looking for without needing a fully bespoke solution.”

The result is Open Grid, effectively a kit of standard parts that can be built up to create a wide range of flexible, contemporary and arresting ceilings. It’s an ideal mid-point between an entirely open soffit and a closed suspended ceiling. A completely open space, while maximising the industrial aesthetic, creates significant practical issues. Compartmentalising private spaces, providing adequate lighting solutions and fixing power and communications cabling all become detailing problems.

An open grid, on the other hand, retains the sense of height and visual interest, while creating a framework on which to build. Most workspace will need some compartmentalising and the grid allows for partitions to create private spaces. Lay-on tiles, integrated lights, pendants, rafts and other features can easily be included or added at a later date. The result is a blank canvas for creative design.

For building owners, the added advantage is the potential for customisation. Individual occupants do not have to compromise – they can design their own unique workspaces based on the standard grid system.

Naturally the Open Grid Systems from SAS come with the back-up of a whole technical team to help with detailing, acoustic engineering and fire safety advice. It may be a standard system but it’s designed to create ceilings that are anything but.
SPONSORING THE RESTORATION OF SARON CHAPEL

The Bridgend factory team continue to work closely with the local residents of Treoes, ensuring the impact our manufacturing facility has on the neighbouring village is a positive one. Through engagement with the local community we show that it is important to SAS to support the areas where our sites are located, and to have good relationships with them.

SAS are proud to have sponsored the ‘Friends of Saron and Treoes’ community website which promoted the restoration of their Grade II listed chapel which was originally built in 1831. Alongside Paula Wilson - leader of the restoration group, Ian Richards, Factory Manager and Ian Finylas, Plant Manager from SAS Bridgend, were invited to the re-opening of the chapel, which is looking stunning!

The UK’s Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our economy.

Simon Penney, in his role as HM Trade Commissioner for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan has a key role in championing and growing UK business interests in the region and building stronger and deeper trading relationships. During Simon’s recent visit to our Bridgend factory, we were proud to give him an insight into SAS, our products, and the projects we are currently involved in through demonstrations and mock-ups.

POLYNODE CATCHES EYES AT SADEER DAY

Great success for SAS at the 12th edition of Sadeer Day. David Booth and Shaun Brecher were in attendance promoting the SAS stand which exhibited an array of ceiling products. The SAS130 and SAS150 clip in and lay in ceiling displayed a mesh and also a sublimated timber effect option. Other products on display included ceilings from the SAS500 acoustic baffle and SAS700 ceiling ranges featuring a brightened aluminium and PPC optional paint finish. Both linear ceilings showcased fully integrated lights i.e. SAS500i and SAS750i.

The show piece for this years’ exhibition was the SAS900 Polynode ceiling installed in a multi-faceted arrangement in PPC Anodic Gold Pear finish as being supplied to a large scale infrastructure project in Dubai.

The stand featured imagery of transport and commercial projects including Bloomberg HQ, specified by Fosters + Partners who are the lead consultant on the new Kuwait airport which SAS have won a metal ceiling package for. With much interest shown to the SAS products on display a particular interest was taken to the fully integrated lighting systems and their ease of installation. The SAS900 Polynode ceiling was also a great hit with requests for the ceiling to be specified in upcoming commercial projects to client’s personal villas.

Overall the exhibition was a great success with the Sadeer team making a fantastic effort in ensuring the event ran smoothly with a large footfall of clients, main contractors, architects and consultants.

SIMON PENNEY VISITS SAS BRIDGEND

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SAS’ THREE NEW OFFICES

Both SAS Australia and SAS Ireland have recently moved offices, providing space for growth within the team, as well as having ample storage for samples. Both offices showcase SAS standard product and bespoke design features.

We are also very excited to announce the opening of an office in New York. Located on 5th Avenue, the office will provide a base for our North American resource. This new site marks the sixth international office for us, in addition to Dublin, Paris, Dubai, Hong Kong and Sydney. The New York based team is led by Paul Aubrey, formerly Divisional Director for the UK market.

Paul Aubrey, Divisional Director for the United States said, “The market in the US is changing. The demand from clients is increasingly complex and more demanding in terms of performance, form and function of product. We embrace these additional challenges as we have the range of products and knowledge to thrive in this evolving marketplace.”

“We are also keen to expand and develop our relationships across the market and its supply chain, including developers, investors, architects and contractors, with whom we work with globally, but also have a presence in North America.”

RE-USE AND RECYCLING OF PPC

SAS International is fully committed to improving the sustainability of the built environment. We continually look for new, innovative ways to recycle manufacturing and on-site waste.

SAS’ most recent endeavour to lower carbon footprint in the built environment is our new partnership with Nelco, a Belgium based company with over 10 years of experience in the recycling of powder coatings.

This initiative is in place to re-use or recycle overspray and waste fines received from the paint line. The powder fines will be sent to Nelco who will repurpose this into new material, helping to minimise landfill waste and safeguard the health and future of the environment.

An addition to our many recycling activities, this venture is a proactive contribution to maximising sustainability efforts.
**EUSTON STATION**

In advance of the new Euston HS2 terminus project commencing, Network Rail are upgrading the existing station asset. SAS Special Projects have been working on a range of ceilings, glazed cladding and metal wall cladding packages for Skanska. The design team consisting of 3DReid and Atkins worked closely with the SP team to deliver an upgrade that will eventually complement the new HS2 terminus.

**BANK STATION**

The LUL station upgrade which is due to complete in 2021, will increase commuter capacity by 45%. SAS Special Projects team have been working closely with architects Wilkinson Eyre, main-contractor Dragados and consultants Mott McDonald and Aecom. SAS will manufacture and install the curved lighting rafts designed to a gull-wing profile throughout the station passageways and platforms, and also clad the walls in curved vitreous enamel and perforated steel acoustic lining systems.

**ST MARY’S SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Designed by Wood Bagot Architects and being built by Beard Construction, the new library at St Mary’s School in Wiltshire is a long-awaited new resource for the school campus. The feature timber ceiling, designed as triangular coffers, will add a unique dimension to the library building and will support students who use the space by having a Class A acoustic rating.
ANGEL SHOPPING CENTRE

SAS Special Projects team have secured an order for the Haskoll designed Angel Shopping Centre in Islington, North London. Client Parkfield are to transform the centre providing a vibrant retail area, a cinema and a food and drink destination. The upgrade will feature a bespoke range of perforated triangular ceiling and cladding tiles and also polycarbonate light boxes. Due for completion by the end of 2020, the refurbished centre will lift the surrounding urban realm.
WEST KOWLOON RAILWAY

Recognised as the ‘gateway into Hong Kong’, West Kowloon Station is one of the world’s finest examples of architectural design and engineering innovation. Connecting Hong Kong to 44 destinations including the Chinese capital, Beijing, the station was designed to transform the passenger experience, setting a new benchmark for railway transportation.

This high-speed Rail terminus is one of the largest projects undertaken by SAS International to date. SAS is proud to have been chosen as the bespoke architectural metalwork and ceiling specialist.

Architects Aedas and AECOM formed a Joint Venture for this prestigious project, working closely on the engineering and architectural design. Collaborating with both architects and contractor Leighton-Gammon, SAS employed its resident Hong Kong team to ensure the project was delivered efficiently.

To encourage the organic flow of light, glass panels and white pillars form a high-arched interior structure, creating an airy and spacious void. To ensure this void was seamlessly interconnected to the rest of the station, 130,000 m² of bespoke SAS ceiling systems and bulkheads were designed.

Bulkheads have been used to conceal mechanical services, provide a durable, versatile design solution while maintaining continuity with the ceiling. Due to the sheer scale of West Kowloon Station’s interior, bulkheads were a crucial architectural solution.

Driven by delivering durable products with superior performance, SAS constructed a factory mock-up that tested each of eight bespoke systems to ensure optimum performance and finish were achieved.

This enormous project has 15 underground tracks – nine long-haul trains and six short haul. Transport hubs that were traditionally designed to be functional are now being developed to become important areas for travellers to utilise before, during and after their selected journey. It was crucial to provide secluded areas for visitors to indulge in retail therapy. In these shopping zones, 900 linear metres of shopfront cladding and 202 shopfront signs were designed and fitted by SAS International.

The world’s largest underground rail terminal has a footprint of 180,000m² over six floors. Due to the size and prestige of this project, SAS International had a team of 260 workers during the installation stage.

As the construction is largely underground, it was crucial to streamline the excavation process without compromising the building’s final design. However, due to the size and nature of West Kowloon Station, this posed a challenge when it came to integrating the extensive M&E services.

The vertical depth had to be developed to the absolute minimum, which inevitably caused the M&E void above the ceiling system to be extremely congested. To overcome this, SAS International’s Hong Kong team worked directly with the client and contractors to assure each M&E component was allocated perfectly within the ceiling system framework.

Without a doubt, West Kowloon Station is an industry-defining project setting the standards and trends for others to follow. A symbol of architectural ingenuity within the sustainable West Kowloon Cultural District, it is a truly striking addition to Hong Kong’s classic panorama.
LOGMEIN

Leading provider of cloud-based connectivity software LogMeIn opened their new international headquarters in the heart of Dublin’s Silicon Docks earlier this year. The 40,000sqft facility will support the company’s objective to increase employment both in Ireland and worldwide over the next 5 years.

Working with an initial design concept from FKM architects, SAS International developed a hybrid ceiling based on their existing SAS500 offering. This tailor-made system was formed to incorporate the intricate design pattern while maintaining the systems stability.

Occupying the east wing of the reflector building, LogMeIn’s new home epitomises modern architecture and design. With expansive open space, semi-exposed soffits and shared working areas, this new office promotes a modern working environment.

Without the appropriate acoustic treatment, offices can become uncomfortably noisy and diverting, this in turn affects productivity. Sound absorption is an important factor to consider when selecting materials for your ceiling. A combination of perforated metal panels and acoustic pads effectively absorb any unwanted sound. The baffles installed in LogMeIn are perforated with a 1522 perforation, incorporate an acoustic backing pad and are finished in a Calm White RAL 9003 shade. Chosen for its superb acoustic properties, this bespoke baffle solution offers an eye-catching and unique ceiling.

The bold designs envisioned by the architects posed a challenge for the design team within SAS to find a suitable system that could achieve this standout design aesthetic while remaining functional.

While working in collaboration with architects FKM and contractors Streamline Partitions and Ceilings Ltd, SAS realised the design brief and delivered an outstanding project. The bespoke linear system is a unique feature of the office and lends itself to SAS’ design and manufacturing capability to take on complex and challenging designs.

NETWORK RAIL
MERIDIAN WATER STATION

Leading Engineering and Construction company VolkerFitzpatrick awarded SAS’s Special Projects division the contract to design, manufacture and install the feature ceiling at Network Rail’s new Meridian Water Station in Enfield.

The station is part of a £170m plan to upgrade the transport route around North London. The new station will transfer up to 4 million passengers per year and is designed to accommodate long term plans for Crossrail 2.

Working closely with concept architect Karakusevic Carson Architects, project delivery architect Acanthus and consulting engineer Arup, SAS undertook the contract for the anodised Regency Gold triangular coffered soffit.

The bespoke geometric system is a unique feature of the station and lends itself to SAS Special Project’s ability to take on complex and challenging design intent and work seamlessly as part of VolkerFitzpatrick’s delivery team on this signature project.
10 years since Westfield Shepherd’s Bush first opened in 2008, a new £600m extension has created Europe’s largest shopping and leisure destination. SAS International (SAS) designed and installed bespoke suspended metal ceilings, vertical bulkheads and also mirrored stainless-steel panels to compliment the feature geodesic roof. The design introduced dramatic architectural features that add to the welcoming and ambient environment.

Covering 241,500m2 due to the addition of a new four-story John Lewis department store and increased retail area for existing and new tenants, the extension makes Westfield Shepherd’s Bush an attraction for visitors globally. Following previous successful projects for client Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield Group at locations in Stratford and Bradford, SAS Special Projects were approached by the client Westfield to lend their expertise to the delivery of the extension.

Working with the design concept by UNStudio, the Westfield extension brief called for an aesthetically vivid metal ceiling that integrated feature lighting, acoustics and accessibility.

The design intent from the architect was bold: to feature bespoke diamond-shaped ceilings in the lower ground atria and lobbies, and to seamlessly integrate LED lighting in rhomboid housings. The ceilings were designed to be fully demountable for service maintenance, benefitting the client’s operations and maintenance team.

Fabricating 1500m2 of the bespoke SAS200, SAS created apertures within the tiles to integrate mini-diamond-shaped LED lights and crisp bevelled-edge chrome effect inserts. Once again, the SAS200 perforated panels provide Class A/B sound absorption, achieved with a layers of fleece separated by an air gap, optimized using numerical analysis.

Overall, the ceilings contribute to the elegance of the new space whilst providing ambient lighting and acoustic treatment. These features lend themselves to an engaging and enjoyable shopping experience.

Spanning 330m, SAS’s bespoke bulkheads sweep through the mall following the design language of the feature ribbon roof. SAS collaborated with delivery architects Sheppard Robson, to design and manufacture bulkhead panels which intricately echoed the undulating roof. Three different perforation patterns of varying diameters were specified to accentuate the wavelike theme of the feature roof and bulkheads.

Popular destination where footfall is high requires a wide range of services such as wifi, public address, CCTV and safety features. SAS were mindful of the requirement to access these services which were housed at a high level. Therefore, the design of these bulkheads which conceal service containment is designed to be fully accessible.

Finished in PPC RAL 9003 Signal White, the 4m high bulkheads extend in horizontal runs, utilising a variety of modules and raking panels to achieve the design intent. Located above the shopfronts and seamlessly integrating with the roof, the bulkheads lend themselves to the flowing arrangement of the shopping mall.

In addition, the UNStudio design brief called for an enhancement to the glass roof structure throughout the extension. SAS developed a unique design using mirror finish stainless steel triangular panels as infill plates to decorate the roof.

Featuring a 3D rippled surface with laser cut perforations, the SAS triangular plates are both light yet structurally rigid. Randomly populating the glass roof, the panels were retro-fitted thus leading to an interesting, vibrant and illuminating feature for visitors.
FIDELITY – 4 CANNON ST

4 Cannon Street is a new type of premium office environment. Workers in the eight-storey, 98,500m² building have some of the best views in London, being directly opposite St Paul’s Cathedral. But if it is not the view out that makes this building notable, this is one of the first buildings in the UK to be designed to achieve WELL Gold Certification and SAS ceilings made an important contribution.

Masterminded to comply with the WELL Standard by architect Aedas for global investment manager Fidelity International, the design of the office interior puts people centre stage. Everything, from the quality of light to the type of paint used must be designed to enhance the health and wellbeing of the occupants.

A key element of WELL is maximising occupants’ exposure to daylight for visual, mental and biological health. 4 Cannon Street features high performance floor-to-ceiling glazing. This both allows daylight to flood in. To reflect daylight deep into the office floors would be to use a highly perforated metal ceiling tile backed with a sound-absorbent mineral wool pad. The problem with this solution, however, is that large perforations reduce the ability of the tiles to reflect daylight.

SAS’s solution for 4 Cannon Street was to supply its SAS330 metal ceiling tile with much smaller $1003 ultra micro perforations. The tile’s perforations are so small as to be almost invisible, preserving the high reflectivity of the surface. SAS backed the tile with an ultra-high performance acoustic layer. This innovative solution ensured the ceiling had a light reflectance value of over 80%, whilst achieving a Class A acoustic absorption rating.

The project also features SAS International’s SAS740 linear profile system in break-out areas and the reception. To enable access above the linear profiles in areas where long runs were installed, SAS developed a bespoke solution to enable operatives to slide the slats along the profile’s carrier channel. To demonstrate the effectiveness of this novel solution, a mock-up was built at the company’s Reading test centre.

In addition to the office fit-out, SAS International’s suspended metal ceilings were also used for the building’s shell and core under a separate, earlier fit-out contract.

Phil Taylor, London Portfolio Manager for SAS International comments: “SAS International is committed to ensuring environmental best practice, to that end we fully support clients and projects which look to achieve the WELL Standard”.

BBC HQ WALES

Less a ceiling, more a perforated backdrop: that was the design intention behind the high-performance ceiling system designed by SAS in partnership with Sheppard Robson for BBC Wales’ new facility in Cardiff.

Over 5000m² of SAS International’s acoustic metal hybrid raft ceiling systems provide a distinctive aesthetic suited to a 21st century digital broadcast environment.

The 26,000m² broadcast centre and HQ houses 1,000 production and support staff. It is an exemplar; BREEAM Outstanding building, setting new standards for innovative, flexible and cost-effective workplaces.

ID SR, the internal design arm of architect Sheppard Robson was commissioned to design the interior of this Foster + Partners building. Teams from BBC workplace and SAS International contributed to the design of a solution that combines high acoustic performance with stunning modern aesthetic.

Hybrid metal acoustic rafts, made up of varying sized panels supported on a concealed grid with bespoke upstands, are suspended between the rows of chilled beams that supply cooling to the office floors. Light fittings in a distinctive cruciform arrangement are suspended beneath the ceiling.

Curved seating areas are accommodated with disc-shaped rafts combined with a bespoke edge detail forming a distinctive feature area on each floor. Different areas of this multi-purpose workspace are defined by colours – with the SAS ceiling components specified to complement the shades of the chilled beams and other design features.

Sound is managed with perforated panels combined with acoustic insulation throughout the office space and production booths. The TV studios, with exceptional acoustic requirements, are lined with SAS International’s WP10 metal acoustic wall panel system.

A wide range of SAS International products were specified around the facility, bringing the designer’s vision to life. Mesh metal ceilings provide texture around the building entrances and lobby areas while acoustic baffles in the main walkway give effective sound absorption without compromising the open ceiling design.

The ability of SAS International to work in collaboration with the architect to develop a bespoke solution was the critical factor in ensuring the success of the ceiling installation.
KPMG, EDINBURGH

Based in the financial services district, KPMG’s Edinburgh office has been transformed to provide sophisticated, Grade A workspaces. Approached by Michael Laird Architects, SAS International supplied a range of metal ceiling products to meet the design brief of capturing the Old and New town characteristics of the city.

To achieve the brief, the existing floor plan was divided into two. One side was designed to encompass attributes of new town and the other side, the ‘old town’. The ceiling design played a crucial role in reinforcing these two distinct spaces. The design for the ‘new side’ was based on a semi-exposed soffit featuring bespoke SAS330 floating rafts. Fitted in the office areas by DV McColl Ltd, the rafts were installed with unique odd leg C-profiles surrounding the perimeter of each raft. Finished in crisps white RAL9003, the system flawlessly complimented the semi-exposed soffit.

SAS330 was also placed in the two corridors bridging the link between the ‘old’ and the ‘new’ zones as well as breakout areas, meeting rooms. One corridor was painted in an unadorned telegrey shade, creating a slight contrast to the office area. The other corridor was finished in jet black to enrich the gold-coloured plates on the corridor’s walls.

The design of the old side included SAS130 and exposed waffle slabs. In meeting rooms, the suspended ceiling system was manufactured with apertures for lighting and service integration. Large SAS130 tile was also fitted on Alugrid installed in the back of house and cafeteria areas. Finished in RAL9010 white, the tiles produced a classic aesthetic the client wanted to achieve.

For one of the meeting rooms, the architect’s design included a bespoke lighting panel. As the details of how the panel would be supported had not been developed, SAS proposed forming a grid using an angled TCA0637 trim to achieve the desired look.

In the reception area, where the two sides intersect, a mixture of SAS740 and wooden material were chosen to further accentuate the ‘old’ and ‘new’ design. The linear ceiling system was installed using a bespoke coach bolt bracket and fitted directly to the soffit, producing a concealed grid aesthetic. SAS740 was further installed on a rigid grid at 210mm centres in the entrance area above the main door. This created a polished, striking appearance and presented aesthetic continuity in the welcoming area.

Producing a perfect synthesis between tradition and modernity in the space, KPMG Edinburgh is a fine example of an intelligent office design which articulates all the sophistication and vibrancy the Scottish capital has to offer. With site-works completed in December 2018, this unique refurbishment has since been shortlisted for Fit Out of Workplace for Scotland’s BCO Awards 2019 and is targeting a BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating.