

# Sustainability Award

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★ **Winner:** Cundall, *Fora Bankside*

**Blue Fin is a striking building, home to many high-end tenants and next to the Tate Modern. The previous tenant had left most of their fit-out intact, which included timber perforated ceilings throughout and glass block partitions, in addition to timber flooring and some very bizarre rotating bench seating!**

Although the finishes were of good quality, the previous fit-out was not in line with the client's usual brand and portfolio, so the consultants had to come up with innovative ideas for re-using and re-purposing the finishes in a way that reflected the particular needs of the potential end users, client brand and architect's vision. Rather than instruct a strip-out contractor to gut the floors, they were asked to demount and de-construct key finishes and store them safely. The consultants then worked with the architect to re-use and re-purpose the previous finishes.

The former ceiling panels were turned into acoustically efficient suspended rafts, by introducing them into smaller modules that complimented the structural grid, fitted with a new matching timber up-stand edging and non-fibrous melamine sound absorption panels above. The glass blocks were re-purposed into an opaque partition dividing the upper floor meeting rooms from the open plan office area.

This was the standout entry for this award. Acoustic performance and reuse of existing products are key to the project and there were good solutions throughout delivering what the client needed. The judges valued the details provided of the savings achieved in terms of embodied carbon and waste recycled. There was excellent collaboration with the client, design and latterly contractor teams.

The client Head of Design said: "a wonderful opportunity to hit two birds with one stone: circularity and lower carbon impact on one hand and improved acoustic performance on the other. With specialist acoustic advice ..., we retained and reused the entirety of the Gustafs microperforated wood panelling on the soffit to re-form new, acoustic rafts. The result is visually beautiful, performs very well in controlling reverberation and is a wonderful example of circularity."

## ACOUSTIC AWARDS 2024

These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.