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National winner Fit-out  
Regional winner: London

# Norton Rose

Client meeting rooms, breakout spaces and terraces all make the most of the spectacular views over the Thames cityscape

Extensive use of glass and flying walkways across the atrium maintain communication across the whole firm

Lawyers face fierce competition in London to attract the best staff. This was partly why Norton Rose decided on the move to better premises with spectacular views over the Thames. The fit-out built on this transition to a high-quality building by creating outstanding facilities and workspaces.

This impressive fit-out within a new building demonstrates the unusual dynamic influences and design strategies that go into tailoring space to a specific tenant's demands.

Security and privacy were key issues. The building was adapted to give taxis a dedicated entrance for visitors and staff working at night. Visitors do not need to collect badges but have their own reception desk in advance of staff turnstiles and a dedicated lift, which whisks them to a

whole floor given over to client care. This floor has meeting rooms and breakout spaces for individual privacy and a client terrace overlooking the riverside public piazza and the Thames cityscape.

Unlike some previous award winners, who used relocation to promote a cultural change from cellular space to open plan, Norton Rose insisted on sticking with "what we know works". This moved beyond traditional cells to combine the best of old and new.

Lawyers are grouped according to the industry they support rather than skill specialisation, with two lawyers sharing each private office around the perimeter. Organisation by team also provides flexibility to expand or shrink when that may be required.

As expected when so much thought went into the needs of staff and clients, good use has been made of terraces and river views for breakout spaces. However, the national judges thought it a pity that support staff missed out on the benefit of views in some areas. Another disappointment was the lack of focus on sustainability in the fit-out brief, such as specification of materials, particularly as the base build boasted a BREEAM rating.

Overall, the end result achieved what the client asked, reflecting good collaboration in an unusual consortium of base build designer Foster + Partners, strategist KKS and fit-out architect MCM. This is a bright and well organised new home for a legal practice of which it can be rightly proud.

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KKS Strategy  
**Architect**  
Foster + Partners  
**Interior designer**  
MCM Architecture  
**M&E engineer**  
Norman Disney Young  
**Structural engineer**  
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