

Overbury Convene case study



American dream space launches in London

Convene's project was one of a kind – less office building, more hospitality space – and a first for the UK. Our job was to migrate this US business to its new London launchpad. The brief? Value, quality, timeliness...and a little touch of home.



Bold design details add warmth and personality to a versatile 'library' space

Inspirational and inviting

Convene was successful in the US with their niche offering – “inspiring spaces, premium hospitality and hybrid technology” – and wanted to bring this to the UK.

Aboard the British flagship were architect and design team Woods Bagot, along with independent construction consultancy Gardiner & Theobald. Thanks to strong relationships with both these and our client partners, we were able to lead the charge – and go off piste when needed.



Soft seating invites guests to take in the city scape

A towering challenge or two

With 62 floors to its frame, 22 Bishopsgate is tall – and demand for lifts is respectively high. Factor in multiple other contractors juggling their own deliveries, and we had to bump up our allotted slots to keep up with the flow of materials.

Building height also posed an issue when it came to fitting louvres, as these had to be lowered from the roof to fourth floor. For the cradle to operate safely, this could only be done during times of low wind, so we had to keep an eye on the weather and work with the landlord to close off ground level.



The client loved our choice of marble, which we bonded into a beautiful one-piece bar

Proactively seeking products

It was a volatile time for the building industry, with soaring material costs and elusive lead times, but we were determined to make things happen, always scouting the wider market for the best value, highest quality products. We sourced superior samples of floor, carpet and ceiling tiles, as well as five different bar top marbles, and the client loved our selections every time.

The beautiful grey tiles chosen for the library were to cover three-quarters of the floor. Usually, we'd lay these at the end of a refit to protect them from damage but, given the project timescale, it wasn't possible to wait. Instead, we adopted a phased approach – working in zones, moving anti-clockwise, snagging as we went.



Fireplaces and timber 'baton' details give a homely Victorian feel

Lost and found in translation

Many of the design elements were based on Convene's US model, but these weren't always compatible with UK products or standards. For example, the kitchen and bar plans had to be translated to UK requirements (who knew that an American bar top was so deep?).

Other design features were more straightforward, and the client team knew exactly how they wanted to bring the space to life. An eclectic mix of vases, plants and books not only added warmth and visual interest but made the different areas more versatile.



We reconfigured and sprayed exposed ceiling services for a more aesthetic look

Guided tours? All part of the service

Being new to the UK market, Convene wanted to showcase their space to prospective occupants, and this meant physically showing them around. The challenge was to help people see through a dusty construction site and visualise the finished product with colour and furniture. We did this using wallpaper-scale graphics and our very own project manager acting as tour guide. The client appreciated our efforts and appointed us this role every time they got a call.

There'll be more calls to come, as this is just the first of five projects bringing Convene to the UK, and we're happy to say we'll be answering them all.