

Lloyd's of London



Place/Date
London, England 1978 - 1986

Client
Lloyd's of London

Cost
£75 million

Area
55,000 m²

Architect
Richard Rogers Partnership

Structural Engineer
Ove Arup & Partners

Services Engineer
Ove Arup & Partners

Quantity Surveyor
Monk Dunstone Associates

Planning Consultant
Montagu Evans

Acoustic Consultant
Sandy Brown Associates

Lighting Consultant
Friedrich Wagner of Lichttechnische Planung

Facade Consultant
Main Cladding & External Works - Stephen Le Roith with Graham Fairley, Ivan Harbour, Elizabeth Post, Niki van Oosten

Facade Consultant
Service Tower Cladding - Frank Peacock with Amarjit Kalsi, Peter St. John, Clare Strasser

Main Contractor
Bovis Construction Ltd

Placing the service cores outside frees the building of all internal obstructions, and makes lifts and servicing more accessible for maintenance and future upgrades.



Lloyd's of London is the world's greatest insurance market – a market where insurance, rather than tangible goods, is traded. The competition for a new building was won on the basis not of an architectural proposal but of a strategy for the future of this key City institution.

Lloyd's had moved its dealing room twice in 50 years and wanted a building that would provide for its needs well into the next century. It was also imperative that Lloyd's could continue their operations unhindered during the rebuilding operation, which almost inevitably involved the demolition of the existing 1928 building.

Richard Rogers Partnership (RRP) proposed a building where the dealing room could expand or contract, according to the needs of the market, by means of a series of galleries around a central space, with escalators and lifts providing access between floors. To maximise space, services are banished to the perimeter. As the architectural form of the building

evolved, particular attention was paid to its impact on the surrounding area, especially on the listed 19th century Leadenhall Market. As a result, Lloyd's became a complex grouping of towers, almost Gothic in feeling – an effect enhanced by the height of the plant-room towers.

A failure of nerve on the part of Lloyd's management led to some compromises in the internal fit-out – the Lloyd's chairman presides from a pseudo-Georgian office – but the 'boxes' where the insurance business is conducted are a reworking of the traditional arrangement. Lloyd's is one of the great architectural achievements of the 1980s, one of the buildings which confirmed Rogers' position in the front rank of international architects. It has emerged as one of the greatest modern British buildings, one which balances technical efficiency with architectural expressiveness to produce an effect which must be called highly romantic and judged a very positive addition to the London skyline.

Awards

RIBA Regional Award
1988

PA Award for Innovation in Building Design and Construction
1988

Eternit 8th International Prize for Architecture (Special Mention)
1988

Financial Times 'Architecture at Work' Award
1987

Civic Trust Award
1987

Concrete Society Commendation
1987

