Somerstown Community Hub: iconic!

The new Somerstown Community Hub in Portsmouth, completed by BAM Construct UK this summer, is iconic. BAM Design designed a tubular structure that spans the bridge across Winston Churchill Avenue. This means that people living on both sides of the road will have equal access to the Hub. It enabled BAM to keep as much green space as possible and to preserve trees. There are attractive piazza areas at each end of the building. The three storey hub includes a community centre, a youth centre, a primary care trust and dental surgery as well as the local housing office, an indoor sports hall and a café. The Hub has obtained an Excellent BREEAM certificate, the second highest level of sustainability accreditation for buildings.

Fantastic achievement

An enormous green and orange cake was obviously one of the essentials when the last prefab element was poured at the BAM International precast yard in Indonesia for the Wheatstone project in Australia. ‘Working 24/7, we have produced 442 precast elements in seven-and-a-half months, including T-beams and cover plates. That is a fantastic achievement when you consider that we started six months later than planned, and have still managed to deliver on time’, said project manager Nuno Teixeira to the concrete factory employees.

From the Board

The Supervisory Board has announced that Nico de Vries will hand over the chair of the Executive Board to Rob van Wingerden. De Vries (63) will retire after a career of 38 years with the Group.

Nico de Vries: ‘I have taken the decision to retire from the Executive Board with effect from 1 October. This will allow my successor Rob van Wingerden to take complete responsibility for the actions to improve performance and lead the next phase in BAM’s development. Currently, we are preparing and implementing several programmes to improve BAM’s financial and operational results.’

Also the Supervisory Board has announced that Martin Rogers (58) will be relinquishing his Executive Board responsibilities on 1 October 2014, following 40 years’ experience of the construction industry, 35 years being with BAM, to pursue other interests outside the company. Martin Rogers joined the company as an Engineer in 1979 and was appointed to the Executive Board in 2009. The Supervisory Board would like to thank Martin Rogers for his long service and dedication to the company.

Rob van Wingerden (53) joined the Group in 1988 and subsequently worked in various management roles in the Netherlands and abroad. Rob van Wingerden has been a member of the Executive Board of Royal BAM Group since 2008.

With effect from 1 October 2014 the Executive Board will be composed of Rob van Wingerden (chairman), Thessa Menssen (CFO) and Erik Bax (COO).

The project consists of the design and construction of a 1.2-kilometre long jetty with a platform for the transshipment of LNG, near Onslow (Western Australia). The BAM Clough joint venture will complete the project – including all the piping – by late 2016.
Group News

Safety Day 2014 tackles five risks

On Worldwide Safety day on 21 October, all colleagues in BAM are being asked to focus on the five greatest safety risks. These are the issues we need to tackle to improve the safety and wellbeing of everyone in BAM and those who work with us.

1. Working at heights;
2. Working with moving equipment;
3. Lifting and hoisting operations;
4. Electrical installations, cables or pipes that are live or situated in unknown or unexpected locations;
5. Working near risk zones, such as water and traffic.

The on-line safari game that was previously announced has been cancelled in line to assist with the major programme to cut costs. Nevertheless, the most important focus of the day remains: mapping these five risks and the actions we need to take to avoid them causing injury. Like previous years all managers are expected to address their team to discuss on continuous safety improvement, while focussing on ‘The Big Five’, prevention and evaluation.

www.bamsafety.eu

The Netherlands

Timeless apartments

Designed by AM and built by BAM Woningbouw, the OpZuid apartment complex in Amsterdam is a picture! All 46 apartments in the complex have been sold, as have the 58 spaces in the car park beneath it. ‘A very successful project’, says AM developer Sjaak van Berkel, proudly. ‘This is the first project in this office area that has the look and feel of a residential building, thanks mostly to the large patios, which are truly unique. The three metre storey height is also a strong feature. This gives the apartments a timeless feel.’

‘Shipbuilding’ in Arnhem

For the superstructure of the new railway station, consortium OV Terminal Arnhem – consisting of BAM Utiliteitsbouw and Ballast Nedam – have called on the services of shipbuilder CSC. The futuristic design by the UNStudio firm of architects was difficult to build using concrete, according to Jan Huisman, construction manager of BAM Utiliteitsbouw.

‘Apart from the unusual design, the distribution of the load in particular would cause major problems. Instead BAM is working in steel and using 3D modelling. The logic of a normal building process, if such a thing exists, is entirely lacking. Everything interlocks.’

Jan Huisman (left), together with site agents (from the left) Roland Meeuwissen, Rolf Berkhout and Martijn de Wit.

Ireland

Sport for students

BAM Contractors has, for some years, been actively involved in construction works at the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, near Dublin. ‘We have completed many mid-sized projects here, most recently an extension to the IT block, which includes four state of the art lecture theatres’, says Pat Walsh, contracts manager at BAM Specialist Works (on the right of the photo with site agent Chris Miller). ‘We are currently building a sports pavilion. The two-storey facility will provide, a gymnasium, offices, and changing rooms for internal activities and the external synthetic sports fields. It is a green building that includes water harvesting. And while it will be used by students, it will also be possible for sports clubs in the local community to rent it. The project, with a value of €1 million euros, will be completed shortly. The second phase, an extension to the accommodation, is due to start soon.’

Belgium

‘Floating’ hospital

During the construction of the new AZ Zeno hospital at Knokke-Heist, CEI-De Meyer has found itself continuously in the clouds. The building’s four wings float above the landscape. ‘The patients will have a clear view of the surrounding greenery – studies show that this has a positive impact on the healing process’, says project manager Dieter Dobbelaere. The company started work in mid-2013. The hospital consists of a central section surrounded by four wings, three of which are to be used by the nursing wards. The fourth will house eight operating theatres. Dobbelaere: ‘The clouds, as we call these floating wings on account of their circular shape, are each supported by three pile clusters. Because of the large spans – forty metres – the concrete supporting beams between the pile clusters are being given post-tensioning reinforcements.’

Germany

Neu-Ulm shopping centre

BAM Deutschland is building the Glacis-Galerie shopping centre in Neu-Ulm, near Munich. The three buildings have a total floor surface area of 76,000 m². In order to build a bridge between two buildings, the operating company recently put in place 23-metre long prefab beams. The project will be completed in the spring of 2015.
United Kingdom

Innovation Award for BAM Nuttall and BAM Ritchies

The £10 million Hooley Cutting project delivered as joint venture between BAM Nuttall and BAM Ritchies won the Innovation Award at the Construction News Awards 2014. Innovative throughout in its approach, the team jointly proposed new methods of working that virtually eliminated the need for any Railway possessions, finally bringing to a close the instability of the cutting which has been problematic for Network Rail for many years. The judges focused on the innovative use of sprayed concrete in the ground beams that were constructed on the fifty degree side slopes above the operational Brighton Main Line Railway. Fantastic award, well done to all of those involved!

Worldwide

Green and orange in Red Sea

BAM International, together with BAM Contractors and its Jordanian joint-venture partner MAG Engineering & Contracting Co., has successfully driven the first pile at the LNG jetty in Aqaba, Jordan. BAM International was awarded the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of the LNG jetty in November 2013. BAM Infraconsul is designing the civil works. The scope of work includes a 100-metre trestle on steel piles, a concrete off-loading platform, four mooring dolphins and two breasting dolphins. The development of the terminal area with roads and two buildings are also part of the contract. The hand-over of the project to Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC) is expected in April 2015.

People

Bax and BAM: old acquaintances

Erik Bax (57) joined the Executive Board recently. Bax and BAM are already well acquainted. When at CRH, an international market leader specialising in the production and distribution of construction materials, Bax took part in the multi-stakeholder dialogue. This annual meeting sees BAM employees exchange ideas on aspects of sustainability with clients, suppliers and subcontractors.

‘I consider BAM to be among the most innovative and sustainable construction companies. BAM looks at the building process from a different perspective and is emphatically committed to co-operating with other parties in the chain’, says Bax.

Bax values the no-nonsense mentality at BAM. ‘It is a down-to-earth, flat organisation in which the business is key. It promotes enterprise, and also offers opportunities. Where is the power of the Group and how can you improve and exploit co-operation? It is precisely in the area of co-operation – internal and external – that I have been able to achieve so much with CRH. I look forward to making my contribution in that respect at BAM as well.’

PPP

Transformation Dutch government office

BAM PPP’s consortium PoortCentraal bv signed a €267 million contract for the renewal and operation of Rijnstraat 8 in The Hague, formerly the office of the VROM Ministry (Transport, Spatial Planning and Environment). This new flexible office accommodation will house approximately 6,000 staff from several Dutch government departments including the ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the CAO (central organisation for the reception of asylum seekers). The scope of services includes maintenance of the building and installations, catering, cleaning, waste management, energy and ICT services. The contract also includes the commercial exploitation of a parking garage, shops and a commercial restaurant/food court. Construction will be completed late 2016 and the concession will run until 2042.

‘Good is not good enough’

The Scottish government is investing large sums in upgrading and renewing the railway infrastructure. One priority is the electrification of Scotland’s railways. To that end, BAM Nuttall is undertaking major route clearance works to accommodate the future electrification schemes. One such scheme is the Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvements Programme (EGIP), which includes the £55 million reconstruction of over forty ‘foul’ bridges to provide additional clearance for the overhead wires.

Jerry Dickson, rail operations manager at BAM Nuttall: ‘Due to the challenging timescales at the start of the three year project, we concentrated mostly on the quick hit bridges in rural areas that required less enabling works prior to demolition in planned disruptive possessions. Things are different in the urban areas, especially at the stations. We have to make temporary provision for utility diversions and road diversions, whilst maintaining pedestrian access for passengers and the public.’

Dickson explains: ‘It is precisely in these situations that we offer added value. On one hand to our customer by applying lean techniques and value engineering, to keep costs down, and on the other to the surroundings by minimising disruption and other inconvenience to add value. Winning Rail Supplier of the Year for two years in a row is recognition of our achievements.’
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As well as making design and construction processes more efficient, BAM Construct UK has proved that Building Information Modelling (BIM) can also help to create a building that is easier and more efficient to maintain over its lifetime. Essentially, Facility Management (FM) considerations are factored in at design and construction stage including all of the maintenance and asset data. The data captured in the BIM model is then pulled through to FM systems to assist with everything from planning optimum cleaning rosters through to preventative maintenance.

BAM FM is successfully piloting BIM for FM at UCL Camden, in London, (which was built by BAM Construction) and the early trials are showing impressive results with a 45 per cent improvement in service quality in the first four months of use, compared to the four months before BIM for FM was introduced.

The innovation, which has involved all businesses in BAM Construct UK working together, has also won many awards including a Technology in FM Award 2014, where leading FM industry experts described the BAM innovation as ‘transformational with the potential to change the entire FM industry’.

Cycling to support people with cancer

In eight legs, over eight days, 79 BAM Construct UK colleagues cycled around the country on our very own ‘tour de Britain’. It was all to raise funds for leading British charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, which was chosen by colleagues as the company’s national charity partner. In 2013, BAM Construct UK staff raised £96,000 for the charity which enabled 3,500 hours of nursing support to people with cancer. We hope to achieve a similar, or better, result in 2014 from the proceeds of the bike ride and many other fund raising activities.

BIM means better buildings

Bradford College delivered early

The BAM site team at Bradford College handed over the new David Hockney Building two weeks ahead of schedule. The new campus, named after famous Bradford College alumnus and internationally acclaimed artist, David Hockney, has been tailor-made for interactive and innovative ways of learning.

BAM applied lean construction principles to the project and Jason Pink, BAM’s construction manager said: ‘The project has been a great example of collaborative working between BAM, their consultants and the College team and means that the building is complete ahead of time and on budget.’

Michele Sutton, chief executive of Bradford College commented: ‘This is a culmination of seven years of planning and two years of building. It is a fabulous state-of-the-art facility.’

Recently the BAM team won also the contract to build a new Advanced Technology Centre.

Property market perks up

The commercial property market is improving in the UK and BAM Properties has achieved a number of letting and sales of its speculatively developed portfolio, helping to keep Royal BAM Group’s divestment strategy on target. So far, this year, it has achieved three major lettings and sold two developments:

Glory Park in the South of England to F&C for £6.7 million and the FORE Business Park in the Midlands to IM Properties for £21 million. BAM development director for the South of England, Clwyd Roberts says: ‘We are seeing encouraging levels of demand. The way we combine our expertise in BAM on property development, design, construction and sustainability, and facilities management results in buildings that are attractive to occupiers and create value for investors.’

Cycling to support people with cancer

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