

Link to article: <https://premierconstructionnews.com/2024/10/30/annington-secures-prestigious-ska-gold-accreditation-for-office-fit-out/>

## Annington secures prestigious SKA Gold accreditation for office fit-out



Property refurbishment company Annington has achieved a SKA Gold accreditation for the fit-out of its new office space in Hays Galleria, near London Bridge. The project was delivered by design company EchoSpace and sustainable interiors consultant and developer of the SKA rating system Grigoriou Interiors.

The SKA Rating is an environmental assessment benchmark tool for commercial fit-outs, and assesses the environmental impact of the works taken. Eight assessment categories are taken into consideration, including energy, CO2, waste, water use, pollution, transport, materials and wellbeing, each scoring a Gold, Silver or Bronze rating.

The result is a Gold accredited 6,000 sq ft open plan office space, which pays homage to Hays Galleria's history as a wharveside warehouse. Careful consideration has been taken to source fittings and furnishings from sustainably certified suppliers using an environmentally compliant supply chain. Nearly all items in the fit-out were manufactured in the UK.

**Jane Harsham, Sustainability Manager at Annington, comments:** "Office refurbishment is traditionally a very wasteful undertaking and minimising our impact was front and centre with this important project. The rationale behind the fit-out embodies Annington's ethos to refurbish, repurpose and revive and achieving a SKA Gold accreditation is very much a testament to these values. Every minute detail was considered to ensure minimum environmental impact throughout each step of the supply chain to installation – even the grouting is SKA compliant."

**Jacob Lee, Project Director at EchoSpace, adds:** "The project with Annington is the second such project that Echospace has undertaken, and it was fantastic to be able to achieve a SKA Gold accreditation. Meeting a SKA accreditation requires a very different approach to a traditional fit-out, with an incredible level of scrutiny and documentation throughout, the detailed design stage was vital in setting up a successful project delivery. We worked hard with Annington and Grigoriou Interiors to ensure that every material was sustainably sourced, fully compliant and cost efficient."

Low energy appliances have been integrated throughout. All wood was delivered with full FSC chain of custody to site, from the timber behind the walls to acoustic panelling.

The final design was voted for and approved by the Annington team, and includes a repurposed oak and iron table, and a fully circular kitchen counter top made from 100% reused yoghurt pots and table tops produced from recycled t-shirts.

**Elina Grigoriou, Design & Sustainability Director at Grigoriou Interiors, concludes:** “We developed the SKA rating system to encourage the industry to innovate and push boundaries to become more sustainable, and have worked closely with Annington at every stage to help them to achieve SKA Gold. A SKA rating is so much more than just ‘good’ design, it is about leadership in environmentally responsible practices. The result for Annington is an environmentally sustainable place to work that works within the opportunities of the existing building and is looking to the future.”

To find out more about Annington visit [www.annington.co.uk](http://www.annington.co.uk).