

**MERO**<sup>®</sup>  
MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC



**SCHMIDLIN**

UK Vision



## INTRODUCTION

### USING TEAMWORK TO ACHIEVE YOUR VISION

Whilst the football world cup may seem to have slipped into the dim and distant past, it did provide us with a great example of teamwork.

Whilst the Neymar's, Messi's, Ronaldo's & Suarez's were the stars expected to power their sides to victory, the trophy was lifted by a true team who all worked for each other. With resolute efficiency that could only be German, everyone pooled their specialist skills to reach their ultimate goal. The UK Construction sector has embraced these teamwork values over recent years with partnering whereby the use of specialist contractors coming on board at the earliest stages, including design, has enhanced the whole project team.

MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC are one of the finest examples of specialist contractors and being a member of the TSK Group, can also offer that German efficiency. With the major primary contractors seeking to secure more prestigious projects and architects designing more challenging buildings, these demands are now being met by 'Super Sub Contractors' like MERO-SCHMIDLIN. Whilst there remains hundreds of 'ordinary' building projects throughout the UK, the need has arisen for specialists who are able to convert these more demanding architectural visions into real buildings.

When dealing with bespoke projects any 'Grey Areas' are the clients worst nightmare. With made to measure materials any mistakes or oversights can produce protracted lead times and costly delays on site. With the blame being passed from architects to contractor to supplier nobody wins, least of all the client.

MERO-SCHMIDLIN are superbly equipped to deal with these types of conundrums, by offering in-house design at their Camberley office, fully backed up by the TSK Group with specialist design teams in other parts of the globe. The Design-Supply-Install facility offers a myriad of benefits for the Contractor and Architect.

The designers are completely independent so can select the most appropriate materials from all over Europe. As installers, rather than manufacturers, they have first hand experience of working on the most diverse projects from The Scottish Parliament Building to the Eden Project and realise that a good design creates a more efficient installation. The specially sourced combination of bespoke and standard products by a company that understands the complexities of installation can offer value engineering on site and achieve all of the architects aspirations without compromise.

Several of Mero's projects have involved the structure being pre-assembled offsite to make sure the eventual site installation can go ahead without a hitch.

In this edition of 'UK Vision' we reflect on glass structures and why MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC should be on your team. With Achilles and Constructionline accreditation getting the specialist bespoke glazing contractors on your side should be straightforward (with no need to worry about the transfer window).

The magazine also looks into Atriums and the many reasons for their popularity, plus we examine why the traditional specification route is changing for architects.

If you would like MERO-SCHMIDLIN on your design team or to be a link in your supply chain why not contact us at [info@mero-schmidlin.com](mailto:info@mero-schmidlin.com) or call us on +44 1276 41 42 43.

For detailed Case Studies on many of MERO-SCHMIDLIN's projects visit the MSUK Website [www.mero-schmidlin.com](http://www.mero-schmidlin.com)



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# WHAT MORE IS IN STORE AT KINGS CROSS FOR MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC

The multi award winning Kings Cross Regeneration Scheme continues with Victorian buildings being revitalised next to cutting edge mixed use developments from some of the UK's leading architects. Some of the most challenging projects have been the conversion of the 160 year old Lewis Cubitt designed railway buildings which MERO-SCHMIDLIN have brought into the 21st century. Starting with internal and external specialist glazing packages at the Granary Building now housing Central St Martin's College of Art & Design and The Grain Store one of the UK's leading restaurants.

With packages totalling well over £12m under their belt to date, MERO-SCHMIDLIN have been an overriding presence in both the internal and external conversion of these iconic buildings including the Eastern & Western Transit Sheds. Their initial work with BAM and Stanton Williams even included assigning one of the MSUK designers to work with the development team providing unrivalled expertise and design input. One of the primary benefits of using MERO-SCHMIDLIN was their ability to design, procure and install a complex blend of bespoke and standard components to fill in the railway shed arches which contrary to popular belief showed the Victorian brickwork to be off plumb by 75mm, or should that be 3 inches in BOTH planes. With one specialist contractor offering the design element along with procurement and installation the main contractor and client were saved from a lot of possibly contentious issues. In fact with MERO-SCHMIDLIN now working on another building for Kier, the clients, Argent Group plc, have been very influential in the continuity issue. The very experienced supply chain which MSUK bring to the project has also enhanced the eventual outcome not least in providing a completely bespoke metal colour and gloss level which has enabled a consistent finish to both the aluminium and steel exterior elements linking all of the various building facades together.

The new £18m project is The 6,000 sq m Midlands Goods Shed and West Handyside Canopy. These areas involve renovation of the existing brick building with its cast iron windows alongside a huge steel and aluminium glazed canopy as part of a mixed development housing a Waitrose Supermarket and a contemporary public media venue for the Guardian Group, on the far left of the building. The main contractors are Kier with the design being lead by Bennetts Associates Architects for the client, Argent Group plc. The contract will again provide MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC with the opportunity to showcase their unrivalled design and installation expertise as a valued contributor to another contemporary project in the capital.



## MAKING AN ENTRANCE THE RISE OF THE ATRIUM



Whilst the Atrium itself goes back to Roman architecture, albeit open roofed, the modern equivalent has now become almost a pre-requisite in any commercial building especially workplace and educational structures.

There are many technical reasons for their popularity, not least the advances in glazing which have led to far better insulation qualities and ventilation, which have reduced the 'conservatory effect'. The use of controlled opening roof vents has allowed a more 'natural' ventilation to take place drawing warm air out of the building and cooler air in, usually via under-floor plenums. Such a feature not only saves on air conditioning and its environmental impact but can also greatly assist in meeting the most challenging BREEAM targets. MERO-SCHMIDLIN have worked on what might be considered one of the most technically demanding conservatories, The Eden Project, construction which is the largest geodesic conservatory in the world to form a global garden the size of 30 football pitches. The Atriums constructed since then have been more modest but have featured in Railway Stations, Education Facilities and in private homes.

MSUK have a large portfolio of projects involving Steel, Aluminium, Timber, Glulam, Glass and ETFE, sourced from all over mainland Europe. The fact that MSUK are not linked to a particular manufacturer allows the design to encompass the most appropriate standard or bespoke components to meet your architectural aspirations. In many cases bespoke parts are specifically designed to enable more cost effective standard components to be widely used, controlling the budget on the most innovative structures.

With a well proven supply chain of manufacturers, suppliers and contractors behind them, if a product isn't available to meet the requirement, MSUK will develop one.

The Atrium has many social benefits allowing staff, students or customers to use a more sociable space to meet up. UNISON HQ in Euston was a typical example where the cafe in the new Atrium resulted in staff who had worked in the same building for many years meeting each other for the first time. Many laboratories and education facilities use the structures for people to meet socially and discuss ideas so 'The Hub' with its fresh air and natural lighting has both a social and commercial benefit.

With its specialist understanding of materials and roof engineering MSUK are able to offer greater spans, slimmer beams and a whole raft of sustainable features to achieve greater BREEAM accreditation.

Most value engineering can be achieved at design stage so MERO-SCHMIDLIN are not only a great attribute as a specialist contractor but more importantly as a design partner for the architects.

MERO-SCHMIDLIN's ethos is that they are able to tackle the projects that are beyond the scope of their competitors, put them to the test.



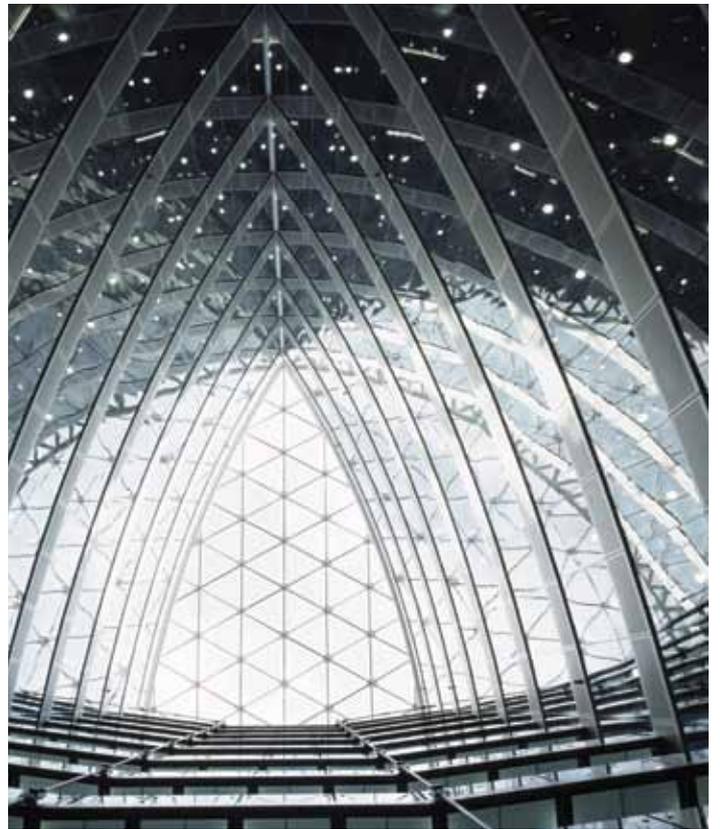
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*“The building has since become a great success with the campus system resulting in staff who have worked for the union for many years ‘meeting each other’ for the first time in the atrium and adjoining cafe area.”*

UNISON

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**MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC** are able to undertake a range of diverse bespoke glazing and cladding packages offering a comprehensive Design-Supply -Install option thus avoiding any potential grey areas.

## WHY A SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR CAN OFFER COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY TO ARCHITECTS LOOKING FOR BESPOKE ATRIUMS AND CANOPIES



Despite CAD and BIM, Construction may seem very traditional to those outside the industry. However as many architects strive to push the boundaries even further into the 21st century, help in meeting the new challenges is being more readily accepted by the architects and designers. The pressure from clients to construct aspirational buildings within a more restricted budget and timeframe has necessitated significant changes in the design route and supply chain.

As with projects like the Shard, clients are expecting large numbers of very challenging projects to be constructed within very limited ground space leaving absolutely no margins in either the building plot or indeed the build programme itself. The increased use of BIM has allowed the pre-construction of a 'virtual' building but in the real world of construction there are now additional options for getting it right first time.



The traditional approach on specification of packages has been to work with one manufacturer who are of course only too happy to assist in the hope of securing a sizeable order for their products. As with many traditions this practise is being viewed with new eyes and the specialist contractors are taking advantage of being, on the most part, impartial in their choice of materials.

MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC are a great example, as indeed are their parent company the €230m turnover TSK Group, in being able to offer a completely new dimension to these challenges. With the backing of a supply chain drawn from most of mainland Europe and a worldwide portfolio of construction projects, as installers MERO-SCHMIDLIN can offer a whole raft of benefits for any Atrium or Canopy. Indeed they pride themselves on being able to tackle projects which would be beyond the scope of many of their competitors.

With a combination of UK based Design and Installation Teams their design

assistance offers a combination of standard and bespoke products drawn from across Europe to meet the most complex challenges.

The fact that they can look at the project from a manufacturing AND installation perspective allows for any possible complications in assembly, lead times and site conditions to be accounted for. Not many companies have the facilities to construct a very complicated geometric roof (UNISON Building) in Germany before taking it apart and installing it in central London. A company with a diverse award winning portfolio that includes The Eden Project, The Scottish Parliament Building and Coventry University Computer Faculty Building has already proved that they can do 'complex' and as with their Kings Cross Regeneration projects, they can also do refurbishment.

MERO-SCHMIDLIN (UK) PLC are one of a new band of specialist contractors making architects life a little less stressful. If you are contemplating a particularly complicated project then MERO's may well have covered it before.

If you would like MERO-SCHMIDLIN on your design team contact their Camberley office on 01276 41 42 43 or email [info@mero-schmidlin.com](mailto:info@mero-schmidlin.com).

Put us to the test!!







### BBC Broadcasting House

*"The installation was very tricky hanging the glazing element seven storeys off the ground to an existing structure. There were issues with a cantilever bracket which Mero-Schmidlin overcame using the workshop facilities we had available to them on site. Mero-Schmidlin site and design teams were very pro-active throughout the whole process and this is an ethos not shared by all the facade contractors we are involved with. What Mero-Schmidlin brought to the table was that if they had any issues they would come to us first rather than create any complications. This enabled the whole installation process to run very smoothly."*

**Neesha Gopal, Facade Design Director - Ramboll Whitby Bird**



### Coventry University

*"Mero-Schmidlin UK have helped greatly to achieve a project that is both dynamic and apparently effortless, this is a hallmark of good design and coordination."*

**Sean Macintosh, Arup Associates**



### Kings Cross

*"Mero Schmidlin (UK) PLC provided a seamless service over several phases of the Granary Building project, including the last phase of the Eastern Goods Yard Arches. Their collaborative working methods and proactive approach to both design and installation allowed us to overcome a number of complex technical challenges, including working within a historic building fabric. Mock ups and benchmarks constructed before works began ensured aspirations for careful detailed interfaces and junctions were successfully realised throughout the project."*

**Richard Wardle, Project Architect, Stanton Williams Architects**



### Farnborough Airport

*"MERO-SCHMIDLIN are on our tender list and get the opportunity to quote for any project we feel that requires their specialist bespoke facade services. As architects it is always reassuring to know there are companies such as MSUK who have the technical ability to assist architects like 3D Reid so that our design vision can be realised without compromise."*

**Paul Green, Divisional Director, 3D Reid Architects - [www.3dreid.com](http://www.3dreid.com)**



### Paddington Crossrail

*"I was very impressed with their office set up on site and found their management approachable, knowledgeable and professional who always brought ideas and solutions to issues with on site installation." They dealt swiftly and professionally with any installation / technical challenges and were willing to take advice from the whole MSUK team and myself. Finally I would gladly recommend any member of the MSUK team at PIP272 for any similar role and would hope to work with them again in some capacity in the future."*

**John Semeniuk, Package Manager PIP272 - Carillion Projects**



### Winter Gardens

*"The fears from the UK manufacturers included a sagging roof, due to lack of internal support, and wholesale water ingress were completely unfounded. Of course with any bespoke project there are bound to be complications and this project had its fair share along its course but the 'can-do' attitude of the whole MERO team enabled a very exacting client to be completely happy with his project and it certainly meets the 'Significant Architectural Interest' remit."*

**Aaron Terry, Director - Roberts Limbrick Architects**