



SHEILA BIRD STUDIO

Atul Bansal, Founder & Co-Owner

I remember the first time we said no to a project – it was in 2008. It was a massive project but it just didn't feel right – the brief was just wrong. It was just after my partner, Geoff, died and I was totally consumed with questions like 'what's life all about and what is really important?'. So we said no and walked away from it. It felt great and liberating. That day changed everything. Being honest about what you feel is something really important – and to this day it drives everything we do.



tp bennett

Richard Beastall, Principal

While tp bennett is almost 100 years old, in 2018 we celebrated 20 years of our interiors team. From a single Principal leading interiors to six Principals working across the UK from offices in London, Manchester and Leeds, as well as globally through 80 partner firms, we are now the largest interiors practice in the UK – a truly multicultural, diverse team and the most successful design firm in the history of the Mixology awards.

We're proud to have been entrusted by businesses in a wide range of sectors, from TMT to financial and professional services. We recently designed Schrodgers 1 London Wall Place workspace, which has just won Best Workplace Design for Business Culture at the Business Culture Awards. We are working with PayPal across its portfolio,

most recently revamping its San Jose campus, ranked the second coolest office in the US by Glassdoor. With an emphasis on working smarter, in London we are in the final stages of delivering a new UK headquarters for Societe Generale in Canary Wharf and for Investec at Gresham Street. We are also currently working with Spotify.

Two stand-out moments for our projects in this decade have been winning two BCO Test of Time Awards – in 2014, for the new Guardian headquarters at Kings Place in London, which has supported the business as it has evolved, and this year for PwC's One Embankment Place, which has enabled a positive cultural shift.

These are our moments, and we look forward to many more over the next 20 years.



SQUIRE & PARTNERS

Maria Cheung, Director

Two defining moments for the practice in the past 20 years have been about relocation – from South Kensington to King's Cross in 2001, and then to Brixton in 2017. Each move came at a time when the practice had grown in size but, more significantly, experience and confidence. Relocating offers up an opportunity to redefine who we want to be and how we want to work.

Back in 2001, moving from a South Kensington townhouse to a derelict 1930s former printworks on a cobbled backstreet was a bold move, preceding the large regeneration projects north and east of King's Cross station. The practice had grown to 70 people, and we wanted to show a confident and contemporary face to our growing client base, which included fashion house Reiss, The British Council and Derwent London. The new location allowed us to add different facets to the office, including a model shop, computer generated imaging department and a dedicated team for interior design.

In seeking a new location for the practice in 2015, now with over 200 people, we searched many areas before settling on a derelict department store building in Brixton. The extraordinary narrative of the building, and the development of our approach to collaboration and craft, offered the chance to create an array of spaces for the various design disciplines within the practice – which had grown to include illustration, branding and products – as well as retail, event and social spaces for the local community. The move to Brixton has redefined the practice for a new era, and created a showcase of our multi-faceted approach to design for our staff, clients, collaborators and friends to enjoy. ♦