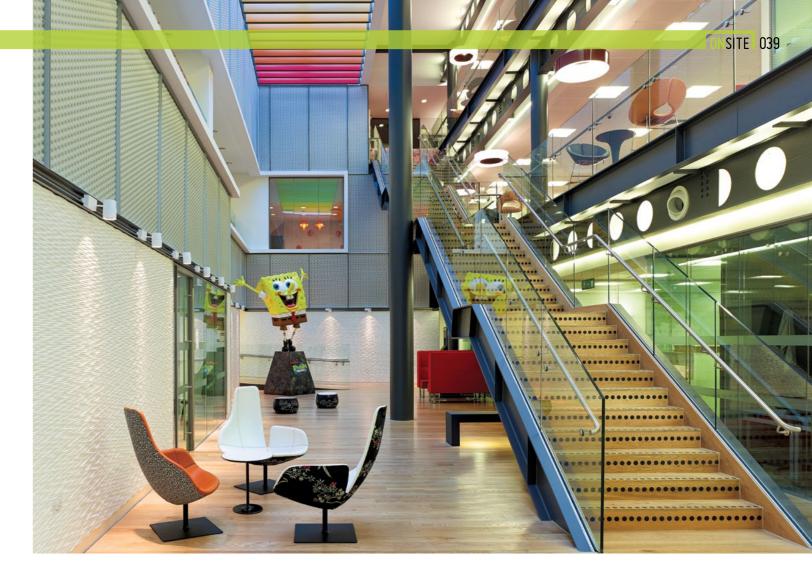


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side, moving all those black boxes into the middle - it's a deep building – and opened up the sides, bringing in much more daylight." Now, this area is filled with open-plan workstations and breakout areas to the sides, peppered with a few glazed meeting rooms and private offices, and the terrace is open for staff to enjoy when the sun comes out.

In the centre of the building are two large atriums. The north atrium, currently overlooked by two astronauts (part of a rotating art programme, a collaboration with local colleges) has a cafe and a large, open, flexible space for dining, whole-company meetings and sometimes gigs (this is the home of MTV, don't forget.) Past the cafe are some of the 'dark functions', like the production control room, where dozens of screens show the company's current output. This presented one of Jacobs Webber's trickiest challenges with the refurb, as it had to stay fully operational and uninterrupted during the build, so the project was planned in several phases.

The south atrium within the new building is more public facing. Studio audiences will often congregate here before being herded into a television studio, hence the placement of a cheery Spongebob Squarepants statue to greet them. It is also, however, bordered by three storeys of workspace and meeting rooms. This animates the space and makes for a lively working environment, but also called for some serious acoustic control, so walls are covered in metal mesh hiding sound absorbent panels. Above, the gradient of colour from the facade is continued in the skylight.

In Nickelodeon's workspace, departments are easily identified by the sheer amount of themed paraphernalia on the desks, from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to Spongebob. Meeting rooms are themed with more characters, including a particularly memorable purple



room entirely covered in Dora the Explorer imagery, and a boardroom named the Boredroom. Downstairs at MTV, things are only slightly more grown-up, and we poke our heads into a top-secret corridor with red cube-like editing suites for the music studios, another example of the variety of work carried out here. "There are a lot of different environments and creative teams, so we wanted [the project] to be a catalyst for all these activities coming together," says Jacobs.

From the ground-floor desk areas, one can see the functional aspect of the colourful facade fins. They not only provide sun shading, but also give a level of privacy to the workers inside - the colourful fascia apparently instills plenty of curiosity in passers-by. And with such exciting goings-on inside, who can blame them?

Above Metal mesh screens conceal acoustic panels. Spongebob seems to approve

Top In the second atrium, the skylights echo the graduated colour of the facade's fins