



A unique access solution for a unique building



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One Blackfriars is a 52-storey mixed-use skyscraper. Due to its unique shape, it is known informally as The Vase or The Boomerang.

The main contractor for the construction was Multiplex, with whom PTSG has a track record of successful collaboration on projects including Principal Pace, One St George Wharf and Marble Arch Place.

At One Blackfriars, a bespoke access solution was required for the cleaning and maintenance of its vast glass façade, made up of 5,476 glass panels, most of which were bent into shape as they were installed. Furthermore, a storage solution was required enabling the access equipment to be stored away out of sight to preserve the aesthetic of the building.

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The unique shape of One Blackfriars presented challenges for everyone involved in the construction of the building. As the construction teams worked their way up the 52 storeys, they were hidden by a giant climbing perimeter screen wrapped around the top of the building.

“Technically, designing the screen to accommodate the curvature and shape of the building was one of the hardest things we’ve engineered on this project,” explained Ian Pratt, project director for Multiplex.

The shape was also a challenge for PTSG in designing a completely bespoke access system comprising three BMUs and housing to conceal them effectively when not in use. PTSG has formed collaborative partnerships with a large number of first tier contractors and also with a number of clients it works with directly on projects.



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PTSG has long had a strong working relationship with Multiplex, having successfully collaborated on a large number of significant projects over the last few years. This success has largely been based on a shared commitment to excellence; adding value to projects with unrivalled levels of expertise, care and quality. The result for both companies is the ability to deliver advanced and complex sites and systems for end clients, creating world-class structures for some of the world's most respected companies and institutions.

3D modelling

PTSG offers unique state of the art 3D modelling software. The Group's technical project team takes an initial concept and turns it into a practical and efficient working system for accessing the most complex building facades. Utilising a trusted network of suppliers and manufacturers, the team's designs are brought to life, meeting the quality and programme requirements of even the most complex and demanding sites.

Its BMU products are more expensive than the industry average but are of higher quality and payback is achieved through longer design and service life – a 12-year design life and up to 20 years' service life with good maintenance.

3D modelling allowed the team to fully understand the space and reduce the size of the BMU to a more compact unit. One Blackfriars tower has been described as a magnificent addition to the London skyline, creating a unique and luxurious base for its residents. PTSG is proud of the part it has played in its creation, the value of which was maximised by the successful working relationship with all stakeholders.

