

Press release

20 April 1999

Design Council Announces 201 New Millennium Products

Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers unveiled 201 new Millennium Products, once again demonstrating that Britain is at the cutting edge of innovation.

The products, selected by the Design Council, range from Foster and Partner's International Passenger Terminal for the new Hong Kong airport to the Ford Focus.

'All these products, produced within the last five years of the millennium, show how Britain is preparing for the new millennium, in an exceptionally creative and innovative way,' said Mr Byers.

'I am delighted to announce this latest tranche from the Design Council. These products vary. Some have earned millions of pounds for UK companies, others provide solutions to world problems like land mines. It is a truly varied list which reflects the talent and innovation in Britain.'

This is the third tranche of Millennium Products to have been announced since the initiative was launched by Prime Minister Tony Blair in September 1997 and brings the total number selected so far to 634.

Press Statement

Millennium Product status awarded to Hong Kong's airport terminal - designed by the Mott Consortium and built by the BCJ Joint Venture

Secretary for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, announced that Hong Kong's new airport terminal has been awarded Millennium Product status under the Design Council's Government-backed initiative to identify, encourage and promote British innovation. The 1.2 billion terminal was designed by the Mott Consortium - led by Mott MacDonald's Hong Kong company and Foster and Partners with BAA plc - and built by the BCJ Joint Venture, led by UK contractors AMEC and Balfour Beatty.

One of the few manmade structures visible from space, the 1.3 km long terminal is the largest enclosed public space ever created, equalling ten Wembley Stadiums. Taking just five years from masterplan to reality, the terminal sets new benchmarks in design techniques, construction logistics and quality management. Environmentally responsible design makes it one of Hong Kong's most energy efficient buildings and even extends to treating air-conditioning condensate for use in site irrigation. The terminal design combines maximum operational flexibility for airlines and operators with maximum travel comfort for passengers. Technological innovations include the first ever airport information network enabling all occupants to share common information.

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Nine times the size of the former Kai Tak facility, the new terminal solves congestion problems and - with half the world's population within five hours flying time - greatly expands business and tourism potential. For locals it creates employment and relieves 300,000 people of chronic noise pollution.

The huge task of designing every aspect of the terminal - from its foundations and structure to information systems and building furniture - required a 230-strong multi-disciplinary team. Building it then called for a round-the-clock workforce of 9000 and multitudes of suppliers from 21 countries.

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