

AUSTRALIA HOUSE



Site:

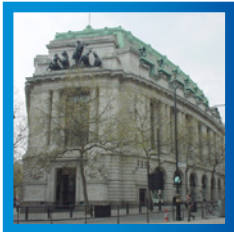
Australia House, The Strand, London.

Australia House is the oldest Australian diplomatic mission and it is the longest continuously occupied foreign mission in London.



King George V laid the building's first foundation stone in 1913 but it was not until August 1918 that he officially opened the completed building.

The interior is extremely grand with marble floors and walls and chandeliers plus historic carvings and pictures.



There are obviously high levels of security that need to be adhered to and in order to stand a chance of winning the contract we underwent an interview process in which we had to show our expertise in the field and outline our proposals.

The Problem:

The existing air conditioning within the main exhibition hall was not satisfactory as it was conditioned by undersized and noisy heat pump units which were also clearly visible and clashed aesthetically with the grand surroundings and elegance of the hall décor.

Similarly, on the first floor in the Downer room where they hold a large number of meetings and presentations, there was no air conditioning installed and the area suffered from over heating. The works also had to be started and completed in 8 weeks.

The Brief:

To install new air conditioning to both The Exhibition Hall and The Downer Room which would be both efficient and blend in with the existing grandeur.

The Solution:

In the Exhibition Hall Westway proposed to install a Mitsubishi VRF System. There were a number of alcoves around the perimeter of the hall which contained large cast iron radiators which were responsible for heating the large area of the exhibition Hall. The equipment we proposed would be capable of supplying both heating and cooling via the same system so our idea was to remove the existing radiators and install 16 floor standing fan coil units which would be piped to external condensing units located at roof level. The fan coil units would then be encased in purpose built wooden cabinets with good access for maintenance but decorated in such a way that the units would look like they had been there since 1918!

The Downer Room provided a different problem as the existing heating was installed within large wooden cupboards around the perimeter of the room. Westway proposed to remove the heating system and install 4 fan coil units which were capable of delivering both heating and cooling and would also be piped to external condensing units.

CASE STUDY



Easy Then?

No! Firstly, we had to be able to work around both areas whilst in use and we also had to remove the existing systems which had been installed for 100 years and no one knew where the pipes went or where they were isolated from. The site staff were brilliant in their assistance with this but we had many days in the very dusty conditions in the recesses above and below these rooms. However we drained down all of the existing systems without affecting the day to day operation of the building and also managed to install our new copper pipe work within the tight confines of these areas so that not one bit of the pipe work could be seen and therefore did not affect the décor in any way.

We used diamond drills to get through the marble floor and even used absailers to install the cables between the roof and ground floor levels.

The large condensers were craned on to the roof one Saturday morning and the installation was near completion.

We also installed a central controller to the Exhibition Hall which has touch screen operation and controls each of the 16 fan coil units in separate groups. This enables the client to time the units on and off on any day of the week or to turn them on manually as and when they wish the air conditioning to operate and at what temperature they desire, of course this can not be seen as we hid it in old existing electrical enclosure.

Project management was vital ensuring all working schedules were adhered to and that everybody we needed to be on site had their security clearance and that they were booked in when we needed them on site. Material deliveries had to be timed as security had to witness all deliveries.

Happy Customer:

Westway completed the project on time even though additional cabling works were required and the client was extremely happy with the finished product. The big test, 200 guests in the Exhibition Hall and every thing stayed within the set parameters of the central controller.

Westway are also happy as we received the 3 year maintenance contract on the back of the installation and look forward to working in the High Commission for years to come.