



British Library Completion Phase

THE TASK

The New British Library is one of the largest civil projects undertaken in the UK. Responsibility for managing the project was taken over by Schal for the final 'completion phase' of the ambitious scheme. This phase proved to be highly successful and was delivered on time and within budget. The focus of this phase was the successful completion of the Library which involved bringing the two phases together and addressing the key issues of building services, complex structure and high quality finishes.

The completion phase consisted of around 30% of the Library's total floor area, and included the reading rooms, Kings Library, entrance hall, catering and restaurant facilities, office accommodation, book storage areas, car park and landscaped areas. The library's unique collection will now be conserved and preserved in a carefully controlled environment and housed in a building which provides modern facilities in a dramatic setting. The design of the internal spaces, attention to detail and the standard of workmanship achieved are all of the highest standard.

At the outset of the works Schal revised the budget and programme for completion and successfully achieved both. The out-turn cost was £125m against an initial budget set in 1991 of £150m.

Public opening of the first completion, the Reading Room, took place in November 1997 and the official opening by the Queen in July 1998. In years to come the New British Library will take its place as one of the UK's major buildings.

PROJECT PROFILE



CLIENT

Department of National Heritage

PROJECT VALUE

£125m

SERVICES

○ Project management

TYPE

New Build (Integration with existing 1st phase)

START DATE

1993

COMPLETION DATE

1998

ARCHITECTS

Colin St. John Wilson & Partners