





## Opportunity

When multinational professional services company, PwC, moved its 920 staff into the No 1 Spinningfields development in the centre of Manchester, their brief to the design team was to create an open plan space deliberately designed to challenge hierarchies and to break down barriers and physical separations between teams. Flexibility and a choice of work settings were an essential to reflect the way the company works now and will work in the future. Designed by local firm Ian Simpson Architects, this 19 floor, 260,000 sq.ft building is the highest commercial property built in Manchester in the last 50 years and PwC have secured 67,000 sq.ft.

## Solution

Rooms by Connection was selected to create not only a statement piece in the centre of the open plan space, but also to create semi-private meeting/social areas that encourage collaboration and coworking. Visual privacy is created by clever use of the Oak Venetian trellis giving the space a sense of homeliness and calm without shutting out the rest of the building. Meetings can be held without secrecy and the addition of curtain walls gave the ability to close off the area should a little greater privacy be needed – all in the spirit of trust and openness – a key factor in the attraction and retention of talent. Rooms ability to remain freestanding and easily reconfigurable means that, as the needs of the business changes, so can Rooms (a major cost consideration when compared to a bespoke solution) and all this without effecting HVAC or lighting. In this case three sections were conjoined to create a larger space and the Oak cladding worked with the oak framed soft seating to create a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing workspace. A truly inspired and inspirational setting and a challenge to conventional thought – just as the client requested.

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