

New Appointments



'Day in the Life' feature

As undergraduates head back to university this month, thoughts about their future career will no doubt be nestling in the back of their mind. Thousands of students left university this summer with many left wondering what job prospects lay in store for them in the big wide world. With such uncertainty in sight, Styles&Wood decided to launch its very own graduate recruitment programme at the end of 2009. This was aimed at nurturing young talent, and importantly, injecting fresh blood into an industry that has often been starved of it in the past.

The company's first ever graduate training programme attracted over 100 graduates from various building disciplines who vied for the exclusive 24 month contract. The scheme is combined with Styles&Wood's new partnership with John Moores University and demonstrates the company's commitment to nurturing building professionals of the future.

Michael Hardman, an MSc (Commercial Building Surveying) graduate, was one of the lucky few to be offered a place on the programme. He knows only too well the importance of securing a job in a competitive industry. "Having just completed my MSc, the next step in my career was vital," explained Michael. "I researched a number of graduate schemes from other top construction companies, but none came close to the Styles&Wood programme."

The scheme is designed to provide graduates with a well rounded experience of the entire business, preparing them for a successful career at Styles&Wood. Graduates spend four months in six key areas of the business. These include: Quantity Surveying, Project Management, Planning, Bid Management, Procurement and Building Services. There's also an opportunity to work in StorePlanning - Styles&Wood's architecture and design practice.

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Graduate Michael Hardman MSc
(Commercial Building Surveying)

‘Day in the Life’ feature continued

“The programme allows me to experience many different areas of the business rather than just focusing on one core segment,” Michael said. “The variety and opportunity to learn the business from every angle really appealed to me. It’s clear the scheme is based around developing my core skills through hands-on experience and training; there is a clear and defined path for me to succeed at Styles&Wood.”

As part of the programme, graduates are based on site and in the office. Tasks include: board presentations, costs reviews and cost comparison exercises, client and sub-contractor meetings, and comprehensive reviews of nightly contractor work.

“I feel extremely privileged to be one of the first graduates on the scheme,” explained Michael. “Every day is different; during my first four months at Styles&Wood, I have been constantly taken out of my comfort zone and challenged to take on new tasks and get actively involved, rather than being allowed to sit in the background and blend in.

“I have gone from being a normal, inexperienced graduate to working on a multi-million pound contracts. Each day I look forward to coming into work as I don’t know what challenges I will be facing!”

He added: “I think it’s vital for the future of the construction industry – especially in this challenging economic climate – that graduate schemes continue to provide young professionals like myself with real-life experience of the industry.

““ We are the future of the industry and we are the people who will be driving the industry forward in years to come. ””

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