

Barclaycard Arena

BAM Construction | *Birmingham*



TBS Fabrications, one of the UK's leading washroom specialists, has recently finished the supply and fit of two very diverse specifications as part of the £26m redevelopment of the Barclaycard Arena, formerly the NIA, one of the busiest large scale indoor sporting and entertainment venues across the World.

Appointed by BAM Construction and working closely alongside Broadway Malyan Architects, the 18-month project, worth around £270,000 was an unusual one, with two separate project zones catering for two audiences.

 **TBS Fabrications**

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The Perfect Partner

The main arena concourse was designed with a high traffic, heavy use area in mind. Combining smart looks with the toughest of materials, the Genesis range of WC cubicles was selected. The promoted height and depth of these cubicles which come as standard, suited the area perfectly. The back panels were chosen from the Spectra range, HPL panels bonded to moisture resistant core, were factory fitted to a coated steel frame. Panels were edged in a matching impact resistant 2mm PVC. The Spectra SQ vanity units which are also moisture resistant, were fitted to a coated steel frame and finished with a solid surface white worktop, incorporating underslung basins which is both durable and easy to clean. The quality of TBS installation was shown by the complex nature of working around central columns, TBS performing all site jointing on the solid surface tops.

On the mezzanine floor levels where the Corporate VIP areas are housed, the emphasis was on providing high specification, luxury facilities without overstretching the budget. With that in mind, a bespoke Spectra cubicle was selected. John McCormack, Senior Architect at Broadway Malyan Architects, said: "Having seen examples of TBS' high standard of work, we knew they were the perfect partner. Providing two very different washroom styles in the same venue is no mean feat, but the finished works for both is exactly what we had in mind."

The range combines moisture resistant high-density particleboard with high-pressure laminate to provide effective protection against every day wear and tear. The design showcases a stunning full-height cubicle, reduced gap to underside for increased privacy and a flush overpanel façade.

Reassuring work from start to finish

The Spectra back panels on this level also included a moisture resistant core fitted to a coated steel frame, with impact resistant matching 2mm PVC. Taking full advantage of the ever popular decors from Polyrey, combining B100 and B101, these cubicles really emphasise that TBS can deliver “washrooms with style”.

The finishing touch to the washrooms came from the Spectra SQ vanity units which used a coated steel carcass and 20mm thick black pearl granite worktop, complete with moisture resistant core under panels.

“This gave the area the ‘wow factor’ it commanded”, added John Mensforth, Construction Director at BAM Construction.

John continued: “As the main contractor it’s always reassuring to work from start-to-finish with one supplier for both the manufacture and installation, which is exactly how it works with TBS, with the added knowledge that their products are of high quality and robust enough to stand the test of time. We find this is a hugely reliable way of working, and it gives us great peace of mind when we have been entrusted with a project as large as the redevelopment of the Barclaycard Arena.”

Jane O’Donnell, Managing Director, TBS, concluded: “This was an interesting project for us because of the nature of providing washrooms catering for two different audiences, but that still felt consistent with the rest of the facilities. It was a pleasure to be involved in the redevelopment of such an iconic venue and I know the team really enjoyed getting to grips with this particular job.”

