



Twin Sky Air units to the rescue as creativity overheats popular shared workspace

Owners of Royal Leamington Spa's 1 Mill Street soon discovered that there was real demand for the facilities on offer. They also found that the combined activity of creatives and a range of other small businesses in the new co-working site generated a lot more heat than expected.

The solution was a retrofit of two twin Sky Air conditioning systems from Daikin's R32-based Sky Air Advance range.

Businessman Nigel Shanahan and his wife Dessie acquired the former Sikh cultural centre at the corner of Mill Street and Leam Terrace to address the demand for shared space providing a stimulating atmosphere where local entrepreneurs could work – and network – among like-minded people.

The one-time church hall – originally built in 1905 for nearby All Saints Church – was acquired in 2018 and opened in 2020 after extensive internal modification to provide a range of open-plan and private work and meeting spaces to suit market needs – plus a small coffee shop.

A mezzanine floor was added to increase usable floorspace and air handling units were installed

to ventilate the building. But it soon became apparent that for much of the year, fresh air alone did not provide enough comfort for the 50 or more people using the facility on a daily basis – and up to 150 when special events were held.

The rectangular building has no windows on one of its longer sides, so cooling by cross-ventilation was out of the question.

Operations manager Maartje Oostvogels says: "The air handling units guarantee hospital grade air circulation in the building, but they don't do much for the temperature.

"We'd been trying to manage it with smaller individual units that we brought in. But it was just unbearable, especially last couple of summers. It was so hot. We really needed a permanent solution."

"It was stifling," says local Daikin installer Paul Grao, of William Austin Engineering Services, who knew some of the tenants and had attended meetings at 1 Mill Street in hot weather. "I had an initial conversation with the owners about air conditioning, but they were worried about how we could get units into the building aesthetically."

Type

- › Commercial
- › Office
- › Refurbishment

Year of installation

- › 2024

Project requirements

- › Air conditioning
- › Control

Installed systems

- › Sky Air outdoor unit
- › Compact roundflow cassette
- › Madoka remote controller



Maartje Oostvogels says: "It's a game changer. So good – we've noticed it during the winter as well. Not only does it cool the space down in 10-15 minutes, it's warming it up at the same rate. So it's been really chilly the last couple of weeks. You put it on on the heating mode, and it's just yeah, it's really nice and toasty."

"It's just been a game changer because, with the heat some people would choose to work from home because it was unbearable on 35 degree days. But now, people come in because they want to get away from the heat – or cold – and that's great: it encourages people to come in more and create the buzz that we're looking for."

But when there were murmurs of users seeking cooler working environments, pressures increased for a cooling solution that would be effective, economical and easy on the eye.

Maartje Oostvogels says: "We were under the impression that we couldn't do anything else because of building regulations and the layout of the building,

"Paul has been really good at explaining how it would work, where the ducting would go and also keeping it in line with the aesthetics of the building. So that's a big deal for us because it's a nice, open space. We needed to make sure that the indoor units would blend in. Which is, in fairness, weird because lots of people didn't even notice them when they were installed. They are substantial units and there's four of them."

The solution involved installing a pair of twin Sky Air outdoor units on the window-less rear wall. The 20kW unit serves two 10kW cassettes covering the larger part of the interior. The 14kW unit serves two 7kW cassettes with black decorative panels in the under-mezzanine area. Both systems are controlled through Daikin's Madoka controllers.

Kit List

Code	Description	No of units
RZA-D	Daikin Sky Air outdoor unit	1
FCAG-B	Compact Roundflow cassette	4
BRC1H52	Madoka controllers	2
RZAG-MV1	Daikin Sky Air outdoor unit	1



Daikin Airconditioning UK Ltd The Heights Brooklands Weybridge Surrey KT13 0NY **Tel:** 01932 879000

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