





The group of 26 buildings provides uses ranging from multi-storey living accommodation and recreational buildings to a vehicle instruction workshop 248ft long and with a clear span of 50ft. With a few exceptions for special purposes the structural principles and cladding are the same for each building. The overall consistency of construction and the extensive use of prefabricated steel components progressively reduced the contract periods for successive phases of construction and markedly improved the record of completion on time.

The majority of the buildings have floor and roof structures from 4ft square steel pyramids forming space decks. The suspended sub-floors are made from 2in thick precast concrete 'biscuits' dropped into the pyramids. Where required, ceilings are 2ft square steel trays with finish and acoustic backing according to function. Columns are generally from RHS with conventional sections for two long-span buildings. Spacing is varied according to need and is up to 72ft in each direction by using the two-way spanning capacity of the space frame. Fire protection is given by asbestos board casings. Wall cladding is protected steel sheet in a heavy profile (Galbestos) backed by vapour barrier and thermal insulation.

All services including extensive ventilation ducting are carried within the depth of the space frames. The group of buildings demonstrates the advantage of using a strictly limited range of materials in achieving unity of design. The sage/brown colour of the heavily profiled cladding combines with the crisp rectilinear form of the buildings to provide a contrast which yet harmonises with the heathland landscape around Poole Harbour.

Amphibious Training Unit Royal Marines

Poole Dorset for the Department of the Environment

ARCHITECTS

**Renton Howard Wood Partnership
in association with the
Department of the Environment**

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

John Bolton and Partners

STEELWORK CONTRACTORS

Space Decks Ltd

Judges Comments

Provision is made for a wide variety of requirements by the use of steel space frames for suspended floors and roofs thus giving flexibility for future needs. Extensive use is made of prefabricated steel components and a variety of claddings including coated steel sheet has colour and form which harmonise well with the surroundings.