



Quality of light, cost savings and sustainability benefits make Solatube a no brainer

Arup is a professional services company with a global team of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists. Patrick Elsdale is one of Arup's Senior Lighting Designers. He has had a relationship with Solatube for around 7 years and now uses tubular daylighting systems whenever he can.

When it was decided to refurbish Arup's Edinburgh office Patrick wanted to make it as energy efficient as possible. Indeed, his aim was to produce the most sustainable office that had been built up to that point. Much of this was achieved by installing 84 Solatube TDD's so that the entire general office is lit by daylight with electrical lighting only used for about 10% of the day.

Patrick says: "The Solatubes give us the blend of energy saving and quality of light we need and our office has won several major awards for sustainability."

Arup wanted to reduce electrical power usage for lighting in their office as much as possible and current consumption is about 3 watts per m² in the summer time and around 6 watts per m² in the winter.

While the Solatubes don't produce quite as much light in the winter, overall the saving in power is enormous. Many visitors to Arup's office comment on the high quality of light, which was their primary reason for installing the Solatubes, with sustainability and cost factors coming after this requirement. Patrick continues: "It's a no brainer. Why would you not want something that improves the quality of light, saves you money and is good for the environment?"

Arup have used Solatubes in many other jobs. A particularly beneficial example is in an acute mental health centre where the entire facility has been daylit which not only resulted in it immediately being in the top 2% of National Health properties for sustainability nationwide but also brought other benefits.

Patrick says: "We've had lots of feedback from people who mentor the patients. They say that the general atmosphere and feeling of the place is a delight compared to the old unit so they and we are very pleased."



For more information on this application and other daylight-related office improvements please email daylight@solatube.co.uk