mechanical and electrical building services design consultants

company profile
Desco is an award-winning MEP consulting engineering practice with offices in the UK, Middle East and Far East. Established in the UK in 1998 the practice has the critical mass and importantly, the calibre of people, design tools and effective support systems that allow it to compete with the very best in the industry and work on projects of all sizes.

Forming an exceptionally strong management team, the eight directors of the business each have over 20 years consultancy experience, working in the UK and international marketplace.

The business has developed an excellent reputation for delivering a high quality, professional service, and as a result, enjoys long term relationships with an established client base.
We deliver services to an international client base from our offices in the United Kingdom, Middle East and Far East.

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company profile: directors

Paul Marshall
EurIng BEng CEng
MCIBSE MIET
Managing Director
Managing director with over 30 years experience in both the UK and overseas; Paul was a founder director and takes a strategic overview relating to practice management and development.

Marco Ambelez
BSc CEng
MCIBSE
Director
Founder director with over 30 years experience in both the UK and overseas; Marco has particular expertise in sustainable design techniques and provides technical support to the project teams.

Ken Beall
IEng ACIBSE
Director
Director with 30 years experience on major projects in the UK and overseas; Ken takes responsibility for business development and also provides technical support to the project teams.

Neil Crowe
IEng MIET
Director
Director with over 20 years experience on major projects throughout the UK. Neil is responsible for running a design team in the Sunderland & Northern office.

George Gifford
BEng (Hons) CEng MCIBSE
Director
Director with over 30 years experience on major projects throughout the UK; George is responsible for running a design team in the Sunderland & Northern office and coordinating project delivery across the practice.

Kevin Hall
BEng (Hons) CEng MIET QSAS CGP
Director
Director with over 20 years experience on major projects throughout the UK and overseas; Kevin takes responsibility for the Middle East office in Qatar.

Mike Vince
Eur Ing CEng BEng (Hons) MIET
Director
Director with over 20 years experience on major projects throughout the UK; Kevin manages the Middle East office in Qatar.

David Wright
BEng (Hons) ACIBSE
Director
Director with over 25 years experience on major projects throughout the UK; David has particular expertise in sustainable design techniques and leisure and provides technical support to project teams.
Desco is an award-winning practice that is proud to have delivered a number of highly acclaimed projects.

Our business policies and practices are approved and certified to comply with internationally recognised industry standards.

We pride ourselves on having a highly skilled and qualified workforce and support membership of the professional institutions; we actively promote and encourage continued development in association with a number of these professional bodies.
Our talented team of mechanical, electrical and public health engineers work together to offer the full range of design and consultancy services from surveys and feasibility studies through to detailed design. We work on new build, refurbishment and infrastructure projects of all sizes delivering sustainable, affordable, well-designed building services across a variety of sectors.

Our engineers bring broad-ranging knowledge and experience of conventional solutions, as well as fresh thinking on alternative solutions to servicing requirements to provide comfortable, functional environments.
We utilise modern complex software packages to provide the very best means of testing and shaping the building design. At the conceptual design stage we use the software to develop a ‘model’ of the building. Our experienced engineers can then interrogate this building simulation to help evaluate alternative solutions and establish the most appropriate and energy efficient design.

Moving through the design process we employ technology to assist us in the detail design. Our team can deliver projects using traditional 2D drawings through to fully coordinated 3D building models with fly-through functions and clash detection analysis.
As MEP consulting engineers we understand the important contribution we can make in helping to achieve sustainable buildings.

We are fully conversant with a number of environmental assessment methods and are able to advise and guide clients and design team colleagues through the various processes. We can offer:

- BREEAM Accredited Professionals
- BREEAM Assessors
- Energy Performance Certificates (Levels 1 to 5)
- LEED Advice
- QSAS Green Professionals
We employ fully qualified Low Carbon Consultants and Low Carbon Energy Assessors who perform a fundamental role on projects to minimize the energy use and carbon emissions from buildings both in design and operation. Our consultants ensure that the energy performance of both new and existing buildings meet all regulatory requirements – and in most cases exceed these targets.
Desco’s skilled team of engineers and CAD technicians have been working in the 3D environment for over ten years and have considerable knowledge and the practical experience necessary to produce fully coordinated computer models, incorporating detailed mechanical and electrical services data, architectural and structural information.

The building information models we produce are used as shared knowledge resources to support decision-making about a building project from the earliest conceptual stages, through design, construction, installation and operation.
Our skilled pool filtration and water features design engineers provide a specialist service to complement leisure and pool projects, delivering fully coordinated, energy efficient solutions to ensure water is:

- Crisp and clear in appearance
- Safe, hygienic and comfortable for bathers and spectators
- Free from smells and irritants
- Chemically balanced
introduction
locations
directors
credentials

services
projects
testimonials

company profile: projects > sectors
>> The Hub - Virgin Atlantic Training Centre

A major redevelopment to transform a pharmaceutical manufacturing and process facility into a prestigious new 22,000m² training centre for global airline operator Virgin Atlantic Airways, comprising a training hall with various aircraft training rigs, emergency slides and rafts, aircraft door trainers, baggage check-in desk and cock-pit mock ups for cabin and flight crew training with a glazed feature wall to allow visitors to view the area whilst maintaining the security of the space. A feature reception area leads to a ‘town square’ with café bar, hairdressing salon, auditorium, library and retail outlets for staff use.

>> Virgin Atlantic Hangar, Gatwick International Airport

An appointment to undertake the initial acquisition survey on an existing aircraft hangar, including a conditional report and preparation of budget cost information for remedial works and the subsequent commission to undertake the design and site supervision of the fit-out works to the Virgin Atlantic Airways Engineering standards.

>> Newcastle International Airport

Desco has delivered the MEP services design on various projects at Newcastle International Airport, most recently on the £3.2m new build extension to the airport terminal building to provide 5,242ft² of additional space across three floors including additional security search accommodation extra luggage screening lanes. Our previous work at the airport includes the design for the new £3m Aviation Academy – one of the largest aviation training schools in Europe; which comprised a new three story building on the site of a former aircraft maintenance hangar to provide flexible teaching spaces and a training hangar with full aircraft mock-up facilities.
>> Citygate Phase 2

We were engaged by Hanro Developments for the final phase of their Citygate Development - a new £40m, 10,500m² commercial office scheme at the head of St James Boulevard in Newcastle with a brief to deliver a high quality office development that would attract the Government Office for the North East as an anchor tenant for the building. Rather than repeating design solutions adopted for phase 1 of the development we explored a number of options before proposing a highly energy efficient HVAC solution comprising passive chilled beams, displacement ventilation, free cooling, heat recovery and low water usage that ensured the building achieved a BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating which ultimately attracted the tenant to take the building.

>> The Tower

This fifth and largest phase of the redevelopment of a banking headquarters complex in Gosforth, Newcastle, comprised a new commercial office building with adjoining multi-storey car parking provision in replacement of the bank’s previous 1960s’ 7 storey tower block. Overall, the £40m scheme provides 15,000m² of high specification, flexible, open-plan office accommodation over ten storeys with extensive meeting and conferencing facilities including external roof-top hospitality spaces, coffee shop and restaurant facilities, a two storey link building to the existing Prudhoe Building and an adjoining multi-storey car park. Described in the media as ‘the finest building in the north’ on its completion, The Tower development has been renamed Partnership House and is now accommodated by Eaga Partnerships.

>> Northern Design Centre

The Northern Design Centre is the newest, eye-catching building on the Newcastle Gateshead landscape. The concept of the development is as a regional design hub that promotes the importance and understanding of good design - combined with a sense of innovation and fun.

Desco was appointed to deliver the design of the MEP services for this new creative ‘hub’. The 4,200m², four-storey building of two ‘wings’ and a central atrium, provides incubator units, ‘move-on’ units and general flexible spaces for new and developing businesses involved in the region’s design and technology industries. The scheme includes meeting and conferencing facilities, design studios, dark rooms and ‘The Hub’ lounge – a unique space filled with games consoles, TVs and sofas – a place to relax and reinvigorate creative ideas.
Desco is currently delivering the M&E services design and consultancy for this project which will provided a fully refurbished and extended complex of offices to British Council for Offices ‘Category A’ Standard.

The scheme is a conversion and extension to an existing building, located on the corner of Bridge Avenue and Down Place in Hammersmith, London. On completion, the building will comprise 1,460 m² of flexible office space over four floors, making it the only self-contained Grade A building of its size available in Hammersmith.

We were appointed as the client’s technical advisors to oversee the installation, testing and handover of the MEP services on the new 14,000m² headquarters building for the mapping agency, Ordnance Survey. The new development, named ‘Explorer House’, comprises a business centre, atrium, open plan offices arranged over three stories to accommodate 1,000 employees and a 400m² data centre.

The building design employs passive techniques including the optimum building orientation and massing to control thermal overheating and maximise energy efficiency, and includes ground source heat pumps and a state-of-the-art building management system which optimises energy use and thermal capture.

This project for our client Barratt Homes, part of the urban regeneration of the Great West Road Corridor in west London, comprised the redevelopment of the old Smith Kline Beecham brownfield site into a new, large mixed-use residential development.

Central to the overall development was the £15m sensitive redevelopment of the Grade II Listed 1930s art deco building Wallis House, which was the former headquarters building and factory of Smith Kline Beecham before the Glaxo takeover and subsequent move to new premises in 2002. The restoration and creative remodelling of the building has won a number of accolades including from the Architect’s Journal Retrofit Awards, New London Award for Conservation & Retrofit and the British Homes Awards for Conversation Development. The ten storey scheme features 1700m² of offices, 111 private apartments, a 1500m health club and, externally, two landscaped courtyards.
**Gateshead College Baltic Campus**

This new, purpose built 14500m² campus for Gateshead College of Further Education on the Baltic Business Park on Gateshead Quayside, which can accommodate 12000 students, comprises state-of-the-art facilities including general and specialist teaching and learning spaces, learning resource centre, ICT centres, art & design, specialist catering kitchens, fully-equipped hair and beauty areas - which replicate those found in some of the nation’s top salons and various professional-standard facilities for other vocational courses including music, theatre and performing arts subjects including recording studios and a performance theatre. The campus was built on a challenging plot of sloping land of an irregular shape. The design team embraced these site features into a vibrant, eye-catching design solution which picked up awards and commendations at the LABC Built in Quality and Constructing Excellence awards.

**Sunderland Academies**

Desco was appointed to deliver the MEP services design for three of six new education facilities in the Sunderland area as part of Sunderland’s £120m Building Schools for the Future programme. The projects involved transforming existing facilities to provide teaching and learning environments fit for the needs of the 21st century, through a combination of new build and major refurbishments.

With a particular focus on energy efficiency and sustainability issues our designs for the three academies – Academy 360, Biddick Sports College and Red House Academy, make maximum use of natural ventilation and daylighting to the teaching and learning spaces, including carbon-neutral biomass-fuelled boilers and solar thermal hot water pre-heating to minimise energy requirements.

**Durham University Framework**

Following an application through the OJEU procedure, in 2009 Desco received a four year appointment to Durham University’s Professional Services Framework Agreement.

To date we have received appointments for a range of refurbishment schemes across the university estate including conversions of listed properties, new build extensions and a site-wide heating refurbishment programme and have recently been invited to extend our appointment for an additional twelve month period.
>> Harrow School

Desco is currently providing the MEP design and consultancy services associated with the provision of a new arts facility at this historic school. Following this appointment we have received an expanded brief from the client to undertake a number of refurbishments on other buildings across their campus including the Grade II listed Headmaster’s Boarding House, West Acre Boarding House and The War Memorial, together with services improvements to the central dining hall and Grove Building. Due to the historic nature of the properties on the school campus, some of which have Grade I and II listed status, our work has required sensitive interfacing works.

>> Hull Building Schools for the Future

Desco has been delivering the M&E services design and consultancy services for three new state-of-the-art education facilities as part of this multi-million pound Government programme to improve schools across England.

The projects have comprised a combination of major redevelopment and new build of facilities on existing school sites for the new Kingswood Academy, St Mary’s Sports College and Andrew Marvell Business and Enterprise Centre.

>> St Catherine’s School

We were appointed directly by the client to deliver the MEP services design for the provision of a new ‘Sports and Performing Arts Centre’ at this independent preparatory school, senior school and sixth form, with on site boarding, in Guildford, Surrey. The project comprised the construction of two new blocks to accommodate modern arts and sports facilities including a 600 seat performance auditorium, music and drama facilities, sports hall, gym, fitness suites, classrooms and swimming pool refurbishment.

Desco continues to be employed by the school to provide overall masterplan advice to assist the school in developing an optimum services infrastructure for this large campus. Furthermore we are currently delivering the design associated with a heating upgrade project and a conversion of the school’s existing speech hall into a dedicated sixth form centre.
>> Redcar & Cleveland Primary Care Hospital

This new build integrated hospital and health centre in Redcar, Cleveland serves 100,000 people across south-east Teesside and provides 11,000m² of accommodation over two storeys. A distinctive main entrance leads to a double height atrium with working spaces, main reception, café and visitor facilities. The new hospital accommodates an inpatient ward comprising 32 individual rooms, with en-suite facilities and views onto the external landscaped areas, for patients requiring respite care, palliative care, chronic disease management and rehabilitation. Other services relocated to the new facility are an outpatient department, day theatre and endoscopy, a minor injuries unit, an x-ray and ultrasound department (including ‘docking’ facilities for other types of scanners), a physiotherapy and hydrotherapy department, a day hospital, four GP practices and a large pharmacy.

>> Roseberry Park Mental Health Hospital and Learning Campus

The multi award-winning Roseberry Park mental health hospital and learning disability campus scheme incorporates 312 inpatient beds, adult mental health services, mental health services for older people, forensic mental health services, secure accommodation and specialist therapy suites and is the largest facility of its type in the UK. The project was designed to maximise the use of off site pre-fabrication technologies for both the timber framed building construction and the modularised MEP services. Desco provided a fully co-ordinated detailed design service and made extensive use of 3D draughting, working in close conjunction with the MEP contractors and their pre-fabrication specialists.

Following the main build Desco received a number of subsequent, smaller appointments on the scheme.

>> Archie Norman House for The Children’s Trust

Run by national charity The Children’s Trust, Archie Norman House is the UK’s largest facility for the rehabilitation of children with acquired brain injuries (ABI). We were appointed to design the new two-storey facility, which provides specialised care for highly dependent children, to replace an ageing ward building, to accommodate a wide range of facilities including a hydrotherapy pool, multi-sensory bathrooms, a family apartment and 22 extra beds.

We have continued to work with the Children’s Trust on a number of projects around the Tadworth site.
**Pestana Chelsea Bridge Hotel**

A luxury 4-star hotel development on behalf of international hotel group Pestana Hotels & Resorts, this project comprised the major redevelopment on an existing building to provide high-spec accommodation. The new development incorporates the latest in-room technology such as flat screen TVs, iPod docking stations and Wi-Fi capability; selected rooms include splash-proof TVs in the bathrooms and unique fitness cycles to allow guests to enjoy private workout sessions in the comfort of their own space. Extensive leisure facilities in the hotel include a spa, gymnasium, large indoor heated swimming pool, fine dining restaurants and a bar, six events suites to cater for conferences, meetings, private dinners and cocktails up to 500+ delegates.

**Stobo Castle Hotel & Spa**

Stobo Castle is a Historic Scotland Category A-listed hotel situated in Peeblesshire in the Scottish Borders. In 2003 the luxury hotel underwent a redevelopment programme to add new state-of-art health spa facilities, recreating the castle as a five-star destination spa resort. Desco was appointed by the client for MEP and pool water filtration design services on the project. A new build extension was added sympathetic to the castle, fusing 19th century architecture with 21st century comfort, to facilities including a 25m ozone treated, level deck swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool, 40 treatment rooms, gymnasium, aerobics studio and sauna. Following the successful completion of Phase I of the extension, we received the appointment to design the second phase. Phase II involved converting the original treatment rooms into a further 7 individually designed bedrooms, and the creation of the highly luxurious Cashmere Suite, new hairdressing salon, juice bar and coffee shop.

**Crowne Plaza**

We are working with the developer Silverlink on a 90000m² multi-use scheme in Newcastle City Centre. The first phase of the development, which is currently in the design stage, comprises commercial offices, a multi-storey car park and a 260 bed hotel. We have been working closely with the hotel operator Intercontinental Hotels Group to discuss and understand their brand standards, vision and expectations for the new hotel. The hotel will be operated under IHG’s Crowne Plaza brand – their upscale brand, focused on the frequent business traveller. It will be delivered to a four-star plus standard and comprise 251 bedrooms and suites together with extensive business, hospitality and conference facilities and a leisure club with swimming pool.
>> Rolls Royce Disc Manufacturing Facility

Desco, working as part of a design and build team, delivered the M&E services design and consultancy on the recently completed new-build, multi-million pound production facility for Rolls Royce in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

The new 20,000m² facility will manufacture advanced aerospace discs for aircraft engines. When fully operational, the facility will have capacity to manufacture over 2,000 fan and turbine discs a year. Fan discs and turbine discs are at the heart of the engine, operating at high stress in extreme conditions providing the engine's thrust. They provide the power for a wide range of aircraft including the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, the Airbus A380 and the Eurofighter Typhoon.

>> Nissan Battery Production Plant

A multi-million pound 25,500m² new build facility in the UK to mass produce batteries for use in electric vehicles, created on the company’s Sunderland motor manufacturing site, houses the production process for advanced lithium-ion batteries – to be used in the manufacture of ultra low carbon, electric vehicles for both Nissan and its Alliance partner Renault. The new facility - one of the first of its type in the world - requires a very close controlled environment for the production of the battery power cells. Facilities include clean room areas operating at Class 1000 and 10000, aging ovens, charging, assembly, inspection and packing areas.

We were subsequently been appointed in an advisory capacity on two further facilities of its type in Portugal and France.

>> ‘Project Fresco’ Paint Manufacturing Plant

Project Fresco represents a major investment for AkzoNobel. It comprises a new £25m production facility that will manufacture and pack a range of solvent and water borne paints. Being built on a site in Ashington, Northumberland, the factory will incorporate the latest technology in paint manufacturing, container-filling and packing and consists of a total internal floor area of around 20000m² primarily made up of a process plant with some smaller office accommodation. There are also numerous external process areas around the site.

The project has been designed to attain an Excellent rating under the BREEAM Environmental Assessment Method.
Byker Wall Estate – District Heating Scheme

Working closely with client Your Homes Newcastle on the redevelopment of the iconic Grade II* Listed Byker Wall estate in Newcastle upon Tyne, Desco's appointment included production of design concepts for the refurbishment of the district heating system, all tender documentation including drawings and specifications and appraisal of submissions from shortlisted tenderers.

The newly refurbished district heating system reduces the overall running costs of providing heating and domestic hot water, via an innovative solution comprising CHP, biomass and gas-fired boiler plant, to 1782 properties on the estate, originally built in the 1970s, providing cheaper heating and hot water for the tenants. We also examined the feasibility of extending the district heating network to a further 300 properties as well as the nearby community leisure pool.

Barzan: On-Shore – Phase 2

Working with a team led by GCC, we are currently working on this new processing facility which will produce gas for domestic use in Qatar.

The multi-billion dollar plant, located approximately 80km north of Doha at Ras Laffan, will be operated by Ras Gas and producing 1.4 billion cubic feet of gas per day, will play a significant role in meeting Qatar's rising domestic gas demand being created by Qatar's continued social and economic development.

The design was complete in 2013.

Port of Tyne Biomass Storage

Desco was appointed directly by the client Port of Tyne to deliver the M&E design for a new fuel storage facility for storing biomass wood pellets. The facility provides a space for storing the pellets between the time of them being shipped into the port and being transferred back out by train.

The facility has been created from an existing warehouse facility building which was constructed in 2010, with an area of approximately 11,250m². We designed specific mechanical and ventilation systems to enable the facility to be used for the storage of biomass fuels with a particular focus on dust containment and minimisation of dust egress from the building. Systems included impulse fan ventilation, motorised louvres, dust extraction system and waste dust handling system, controls, electrical containment and electrical LV distribution.
North Tyneside Police Area Command Headquarters

This aim of this new headquarters complex for the North Tyneside police area command which was the first new police station to be built for Northumbria Police for ten years, was to deliver a facility which fully supports a community-focused policing strategy and set new standards for excellent policing accommodation well into the 21st century. The 9000m² state-of-the-art development, designed to meet Home Office design standards, is used as an operational facility for a police area command, accommodating approximately 300 people - including neighbourhood police teams, senior management team, CID, admin support staff, major incident unit, scientific support team and includes a 40 cell custody suite. The scheme was the first of its type to achieve the BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating; it has also achieved acclaim by various awarding bodies including the RIBA, RICS, Constructing Excellence, LABC Building Excellence and the British Council for Offices.

Durham Constabulary Headquarters

Desco is currently engaged to deliver the M&E services design and consultancy for the development of a new police command headquarters for Durham Constabulary, procured through the UK Government’s Buying Solutions Framework.

The new development will replace the existing 1960s complex and will provide approximately 4700m² of office, police investigation and support services accommodation on the site of their current headquarters at Aykley Heads in Durham.

World Heritage Site Visitor Centre

Number 7 Owengate in Durham, a Grade II Listed property, is a former almshouse dating from the early 19th century. Now owned by Durham University, the property is located at the gateway to the city’s UNESCO World Heritage Site, making it the ideal property to convert into a much needed visitor’s centre. The aim of this project was to develop it into a new facility designed specifically to attract visitors and provide a stimulating environment for information and learning; the team’s brief for the redevelopment was to provide a robust, low maintenance, sustainable design solution; the scheme involved refurbishment of the existing listed building and addition of a single storey new build extension. In addition to static and interactive displays permanently on show, the centre hosts temporary exhibitions and events.

The redevelopment project took the top award in the Tourism & Leisure category at the RICS Renaissance Awards 2012.
>> Barratt Great West Quarter

This project, part of the urban regeneration of the Great West Road Corridor in west London, comprised the redevelopment of the old Smithkline Beecham HQ brownfield site into a new, mixed-use residential development. The project, delivered over a number of phases and completed in 2010, provides in excess of 750 private and affordable residential units in 11 apartment blocks, a hotel, commercial offices, retail units, restaurants, creche and educational facilities, a landscaped piazza as well as an 8 acre underground car park. Our team was appointed to undertake detail design of the site infrastructure, car park, residential, commercial and retail areas. We provided advice on the renewable energy strategy to meet with the Mayor of London’s energy targets for the site, which comprises CHP district heating with biomass boilers, solar and geothermal water heating and photovoltaic electricity production as well as being supported from the local utility supply companies.

>> Central Link

The overall Downing Plaza development which comprises offices, a hotel, extensive retail space and a 462-bed student village known as Central Link, will ultimately form an impressive gateway to Newcastle City Council’s Science Central masterplan for the Gallowgate area of Newcastle city centre. Central Link is situated next to the new Newcastle University Business School – on which Desco also provided an overseeing role on behalf of the university. Desco was initially appointed by Downing Developments in an overseeing capacity on Phase 2 of the Downing Plaza development which comprised Block CDE of the Central Link student accommodation development. We received subsequent appointments to provide performance specification for the third phase of the development – Block F of Central Link which provides approximately 400 further student bedrooms and fourth phase – Block A providing a further 400 bedrooms.

>> Mowbray Apartments

Situated within a conservation area adjacent to the listed Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, this redevelopment scheme included retaining and adapting part of the original 1817 Mowbray Park Hotel and integrating it into a new build extension.

Overall the development provides 37 luxury open plan style studios, apartments and duplexes around a central atrium; the development also incorporates an Italian restaurant as basement level.
>> Chanel UK Headquarters

Desco delivered the M&E services design for the creation of a new flagship UK store for luxury retail brand Chanel on the prestigious New Bond Street in London.

The existing property, in the heart of the city’s luxury shopping area, was fully redeveloped to accommodate the three-storey, 20,000 square-foot flagship store which houses all of the brand’s collections, as well as the company’s UK headquarters.

>> Selfridges

We have been delivering MEP services for Selfridges on the upgrade of their famous department store on Oxford Street in London. The multiple projects include a major ‘back of house’ upgrade of the existing electrical and chilled water distribution infrastructure, provision of new rising electrical bus-bars and final circuit distribution, installation of new sprinkler mains and refurbishment/replacement of existing air handling and HVAC systems serving sales floors and administration offices.

All of the works have been carried out whilst ensuring the retail space remains fully operational, limiting any disruption to the customers’ shopping experience.

>> MetroCentre

Desco has enjoyed an ongoing involvement in the redevelopment of Europe’s largest shopping centre – the MetroCentre in Gateshead. Projects Desco have delivered include a full duties appointment for the MEP services design for the New Red Mall - a project to provide a new wing to the existing development with an additional 35,000m² of retail space incorporating a three level Debenhams department store, 28 new shops on two levels and a multi-storey car park with 1100 spaces. In addition a new state-of-the-art Public Transport Interchange was also provided.

We also delivered the M&E design associated with the remodelling of space within the existing footprint of the Yellow and Blue Quadrants. The redeveloped scheme provides a new leisure area with an Odeon cinema with IMAX theatre, a range of restaurants, family entertainment centre, bowling alley and children’s play area.
>> Eldon Square

The £150m regeneration of Eldon Square, delivered in three phases has provided some 468,000ft² of new retail space and has included the historic Old Eldon Square being regenerated by new landscaping, the provision of double height restaurants and a feature entrance to a new scheme mall overlook the square. remodelled to provide glazed elevations and terracing. A new secure and comfortable bus station, with a modern, glass-fronted waiting area, has been created at the north side of the scheme providing direct access for buses to the shopping centre. The existing shopping centre between Clayton Street and Newgate Street has been rebuilt and extended to create the new award-winning St Andrew’s Way which comprises a new anchor four storey department store and two-level modern shops along a wider mall. There are also new shops at street level.

>> Peacocks Centre

This phased refurbishment and extension to an existing town centre shopping mall in Woking, Surrey, has provided a new focal entrance, additional units for retailers including Super Dry and Café Rouge, as well as creating revenue-generating advertising and display space at first floor level.

As part of the overall regeneration of Woking town centre, Desco also undertook the MEP services design associated with the redevelopment of the town’s library, adjacent to the Peacocks Centre. The scheme included reconfiguration of the existing spaces to incorporate a new Café Rouge restaurant, within the rotunda entrance, and refurbishment of the ground floor area to accommodate a new, more modern library facility.

>> Commercial Bank of Qatar

Desco has been working in conjunction with Design Consultant Architects Qatar delivering design duties for a series of new facilities, branch refurbishments, relocations and fit-out projects for Commercial Bank of Qatar to meet their Concept VI model.

Specific branch projects include Hyatt Plaza, Hamed Medical Centre, The Pearl ATMs, Al Wakrah and Grand Hamed Street.
>> Northumbria University School of Applied Science

The project, on the university’s City Campus, included the major refurbishment of three floors within the existing building, carried out on a phased basis to provide teaching, research and development areas for applied sciences. New facilities provided included laboratories for Histology/staining, biology, synthetic organic chemistry, food technology, gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS), instrumentation, food and environmental chemistry and tissue culture.

The new facilities incorporated specialist laboratory equipment and process gases such as nitrogen, hydrogen, acetylene, natural gas were provided to the laboratories.

>> NETPark Discovery Centre

Further to our previous projects on the NETPark Science and Technology Park, Desco was appointed by County Durham Development Corporation to develop the MEP design for their NET Park Discovery Centre – a development comprising two buildings with a mixture of flexible office, laboratory and clean room space, in self-contained units to accommodate small and medium sized enterprises and research groups working in the science and technology industry. Located within NETPark’s parkland setting, the units have been designed with many sustainable credentials such as solar panels and angling the buildings away from the sun to cut down on solar gain and thus reduce the need for air conditioning and achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' rating under the current assessment methods.

>> International Centre for Life

Working for the client Newcastle University, Desco delivered MEP services design and consultancy on the major upgrade and refurbishment of laboratory areas within the International Centre for Life building to provide a new human genetics research and development facility.

The 1000m² of newly refurbished space over three floors of the four storey building, will incorporate tissue culture rooms, autoclave areas, GMP production facilities and Home Office licensed areas including cold rooms, freezer rooms and cryogenic stores.
>> Dorchester Sports Centre

Desco was appointed by the client as part of an architect-led team, to deliver the M&E services and pool water filtration design for this new leisure centre scheme for West Dorset District Council. The new community facility, on land at the fringes of the Duchy of Cornwall’s Poundbury Estate, was developed to replace the existing, outdated Thomas Hardye Leisure Centre.

The development provides various sports and swimming facilities including a 25m six lane pool with spectator gallery, learner pool, exercise studio, 60 station fitness suite, associated changing facilities, ancillary offices and reception area and incorporates a variety of sustainable design features.

>> Abbey Stadium Sports Centre

Desco provided M&E and pool water design and consultancy services on this project to refurbish and modernise the existing Abbey Stadium Sports Centre, providing a new 25m, six lane pool with tiered seating for 300 spectators, a smaller training pool and high specification changing village. The project for Redditch Borough Council also includes a new entrance and reception area, modern dry side changing facilities and a new state-of-the-art gym and dance studio.

On this scheme we implemented an exciting, innovative system which recovers heat rejected from a nearby crematorium and uses the energy beneficially which has resulted in significantly lower energy usage and exceeding of building energy targets.

>> Winsford Lifestyle Centre

This new lifestyle centre was built to replace the former leisure centre in Winsford, Cheshire. Desco’s appointment was to deliver the MEP services and pool water consultancy. The complex offers its users extensive facilities including a 25m swimming pool, a learner pool, fitness suite, dance studio, health suite, squash courts, meeting facilities and function room, multi-use hall designed as a flexible space to be used for a range of indoor sports, such as basketball, netball, five-a-side football and racquet sports or as a 500-seat entertainment auditorium including a gallery, to host both sporting and non-sporting events, cyber café, restaurant and bar.

The building was designed to achieve current Part L carbon footprint compliance, and in addition with the introduction of rainwater recovery, solar thermal panels and a CHP unit, exceeds this by achieving more than a 25% further reduction.
>> Arc Leisure

This new state-of-the-art sport and leisure facility for the community of Matlock in Derbyshire, known in its development stages as the Central Area Leisure Centre (CALC) - “the biggest single development” Derbyshire Dales District Council had undertaken, includes an eight-lane main pool with moveable floor that meets regional competition standards, a learner pool, wet play area, large, full-height sports hall to accommodate regional standard badminton courts, indoor hockey, basketball, volleyball, five a side football, cricket practice and netball, wet and dry changing areas, main reception area, a café, meeting room, spectator seating, a 50-station fitness suite, a community facility and a second sports hall, known as the ‘Studio’, to accommodate gymnastics, martial arts, aerobics, dance classes and private functions.

>> Aspire Academy

We have been appointed to deliver the MEP design for a 58000m² extension to the existing Aspire dome on the Aspire Academy Campus in Doha, Qatar, which was originally designed for the Asian Games in 2006.

The new facilities will include a state-of-the-art football performance centre arranged over four levels with range of pools including a hydrotherapy pool, hot and cold plunge pools, a swirl pool, treadmill pool, a stretching pool and three resistance jet pools, other facilities include gym and physiotherapy suites, indoor running track, bio-mechanic suite, performance analysis facilities, offices, changing areas, cinema and multi-media suites.

>> Xcel Leisure Centre

This appointment was to provide M&E services and pool water filtration consultancy for a new build facility for Coventry Sports Foundation. The scheme comprises a 25m 6 lane swimming pool with floating floor, sports hall, exercise studios, multi-use games areas, fitness and therapy suites, bar, restaurant and function rooms and was developed with a particular focus on end users with disabilities.

Design features and energy saving measures were considered in terms of capital and life cycle costs, with a number being incorporated and many being able to be retrofitted at a later date when funds became available – such as the CHP unit which was fitted after the pool had been operational for some time.

The project was shortlisted for a national award after winning the RICS (West Midlands) Renaissance 2009 Award for Regeneration. It was also shortlisted in the national SCALA Civic Building of the Year 2009.
Desco was appointed to deliver the MEP services design for the upgrade of a series of railway stations across the Transpennine Express route in Teesside and North Yorkshire.

Projects at stations in Thornaby and Northallerton included the full refurbishment of the station building, ticket office and customer waiting areas. The major refurbishment of Middlebrough’s Grade II listed station building included upgrade of the ticket office, waiting areas and the refurbishment of empty trading space to provide a new café area.

As part of the major redevelopment of the MetroCentre shopping and leisure complex in Gateshead, comprising the redevelopment and extension of the centre to provide an additional 35,000m² of retail space and a new 1100 space multi-storey car park, we completed the M&E design for a new state-of-the-art public transport interchange.

The new bright and airy interchange development, which links directly into the MetroCentre shopping area, replaces the old bus station and provides visitors with an improved, comfortable waiting environment, features electronic display boards and creates a welcoming arrival point for visitors travelling to the centre by rail or on one of the 100 buses that travel through the interchange from throughout the North East region.

Our team has a vast amount of experience in the design of large multi-storey car parking facilities from standalone, above ground car parks in busy town centre environments, including a futuristic mechanised car parking development which allows cars to be “stacked”, to undercroft car parks and those designed to link through to existing premises such as the £8m car parking facility adjoining The Tower commercial headquarters development in Gosforth in Newcastle upon Tyne and the new multi-storey car park built to compliment the redeveloped Red Mall at the MetroCentre shopping and leisure complex.
"in spite of the pressures of very challenging timescales; Desco’s proactive and innovative approach to new challenges has been particularly impressive...The input and commitment the Desco team has shown throughout the relationship with Nissan has been invaluable to the success of these projects."

Graham Bagley, Construction Manager - Nissan Europe

"The team have been known to us for many years and are competent professionals who provide an exceptional standard of service working with us to ensure delivery of complex projects with often very tight timeframes and reduced budgets. They provide us with solid advice to achieve a high standard of completed works..."

Sarah Godfrey, General Manager, Property & Facilities – Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd

I've been impressed by Desco's performance, commitment and ability to work flexibly on projects from early feasibility stages, through detailed design to project hand-over. My experience of Desco is that they are a professional team who can be depended upon to deliver a quality service..."

Paul Hopson, Asset Projects Team Leader - Durham County Council

"The Desco team have been meticulous in preparing detailed infrastructure studies in order to determine the most appropriate servicing strategy, recognising the sensitive nature of the site; they have played a vital role in the assembly of our planning application. Desco have a proactive approach to project delivery and have been instrumental in helping foster an excellent working relationship between all members of the design team..."

Ian Stewart, Development Director– Silverlink Holdings Ltd.

"I just wanted to relay my thanks for the excellent M, E and pool filtration support that Drivers Jonas has received on this project. As Project Manager, it has been really appreciated and supported my role to Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council which enabled the satisfactory conclusion to an excellent facility."

Paul Denson, Project Manager - Drivers Jonas Deloitte
"The team are highly motivated, very conscientious and have consistently delivered a high quality service to Kajima. DESCO have many strengths, which include:

> Attention to detail
> The need to work as a team
> Effective quality focus

> High regard for sustainable and efficient design
> Technically very strong
> Highly professional...“

Richard Coe, Senior Development Manager – Kajima Partnerships Ltd

"... their professionalism was complemented by a committed sense of team working, and a friendly rapport, that enabled the entire project to run smoothly."

Ian Holland, Head of Leisure and Green Spaces – Hackney Council

"their engineers are technically adept, diligent and we can always rely on the practice to deliver a high quality, professional, client-focused service, on time and to budget...”

Paul Hood, Regional Building Services Manager - Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd

"Desco represents the very best in creating unique, functional and affordable M&E design solution. They commit to building a supportive, respectful, client-centred relationship ......”

David Cheatham, Chief Executive – Gateshead College

"...it was great to hear you talk about the project to the prospective contractors ...It really is that enthusiasm for and, commitment to detail that will make this building something we will all be proud of. I have to say it’s a real pleasure working with you and your team.”

Martin Swatton, Martin Swatton Design

"The Council has been most impressed with Desco's performance, both in terms of quality and clarity. Also, Desco have been able to meet the very tight deadline... in addition, the advice from Desco on the use of renewables has been invaluable...”

Dave Brooks, Director of Planning and Development Services – Derbyshire Dales District Council