



Sector	Discipline	Materials	Location
Commercial Office	Interior & Wayfinding Signage	Anodic Bronze Aluminium, Acrylic, Dusted Vinyl	8 Bishopsgate, London

The Client.

xsign worked with fit-out contractor BW Interiors to deliver the complete interior signage and graphics scheme for a leading international law firm's London office at 8 Bishopsgate, occupying around 60,000 sq ft across four floors of WilkinsonEyre's 50-storey City tower.

The scheme is held together by a single anodic bronze matt finish, carried across router cut aluminium projecting signs, ceramic etched discs and panels, and acrylic sprayed to read as solid metal. Room signage uses the xsign Folio system, with 3D printed door numbers and a side loading acetate insert so that occupant names can be changed by hand as the firm moves people around.

Glazing manifestations, joinery marking for every teapoint and staff lounge island, and a statutory layer produced to the same standard complete the scheme. A further floor was later delivered to identical details, so that new and original work are indistinguishable.



The Challenge.

A law firm's office is not a building you can treat as a blank canvas. The scheme had to be fitted around confidential working space, in an occupied tower, with everything arriving through a booked goods lift more than twenty floors up. Access windows were short and the finished surfaces were already in place, so almost nothing could be drilled.

The design intent was a single bronze running through the whole floorplate, and that is harder than it sounds. The same colour had to read identically on 10mm router cut aluminium, on 1mm discs the size of a coin, on 30mm acrylic sprayed to look like solid metal, and against oak veneer, stone, glass and plain plaster. A bronze that looks right on a large projecting sign can look flat and grey at 50mm across.

Room signage was the other problem. In a firm of this kind, who sits where changes constantly, so a bonded sign with a printed name would be out of date within weeks. Whatever went on the doors had to be updatable by the firm's own team, in seconds, without tools, and without losing the braille or the crispness of the detail.

The scheme also had to be repeatable. When a further floor was taken on later, the new signage had to match work already installed rather than merely resemble it.



The Solution.

One bronze, everywhere. The whole scheme is finished in a single anodic bronze matt powder coat, carried across every element and every substrate. Projecting pictogram signs are router cut from 10mm aluminium and fixed on nylon plugs with countersunk fixings. Push and pull discs, teapoint and joinery markers are 1mm aluminium with the text and pictograms ceramic etched into the face rather than printed onto it, so the marking is part of the surface and will not wear off a door that is used a hundred times a day. The identity itself is router cut from 30mm acrylic block, wet sprayed on the face and partial returns to match the same bronze, and halo illuminated in a warm 3000K so it reads as metal by day and floats off the stone at night.

Room signage that stays current. Every room sign is an xsign **Folio™** unit: a 3mm acrylic face in a soft neutral over a 2mm aluminium base coated to match a warm off-white, with the door number 3D printed rather than applied. Behind the face sits an acetate insert carrying the occupant names, printed by the firm and loaded from the side, so a change of room is a slide of a sheet rather than a new sign. The braille is printed in clear, which means the sign meets its accessibility duty without a raised grey block interrupting a very controlled piece of design. Where signs land on glass they are taped rather than drilled, with a white vinyl backer behind to mask the fixings.

The quieter layers. Glazing manifestations are digitally printed onto dusted film with environmentally friendly inks and profile cut, giving the glazed offices and meeting rooms their privacy and their safety marking in one move. Statutory signage sits on 0.9mm stainless steel discs with direct UV print, and there are more than sixty of those alone. Every teapoint and staff lounge island is marked with etched discs and panels for waste, recycling, coffee cups, glassware and dishwashers, because a floor this well finished should not end up with printed labels stuck to the joinery.



The Installation.

Installation ran to the BW Interiors programme in tight windows around a working office, with deliveries staged by goods lift and each area handed over as the fit-out released it. Almost everything is fixed with high bond tape onto finished surfaces, so the setting out had to be right first time: there is no second chance on a stone wall or an oak veneered door. The projecting signs are the exception, and their fixing positions were surveyed on site rather than taken from drawings.

When the firm later took an additional floor, xsign returned and built it to the same specification: the same bronze, the same typeface, the same Folio™ units, so the new floor is indistinguishable from the original. The result is a scheme that does its work quietly. In a building whose best feature is the view out of the window, the signage was never going to be the thing people talk about, and that is exactly the point.

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“Everything on this floor is finished to a standard where a sign in the wrong place, or a bronze that is half a shade out, would be the first thing you noticed. Holding one colour across acrylic, aluminium, stainless steel and printed film, and then matching it again two years later on a new floor, is the part of this job that does not show. If we have done it properly, you walk through and simply find the room you are looking for.”

Matt Bush, Sales Manager, xsign

Placeholder quote, replace or approve

Project Detail.



Room signage uses the xsign Folio system: a 3mm acrylic face over a 2mm aluminium base coated to a warm off-white, with the door number 3D printed rather than applied. The braille is printed in clear so the sign meets its accessibility duty without interrupting the design, and an acetate insert carrying occupant names loads in from the side.



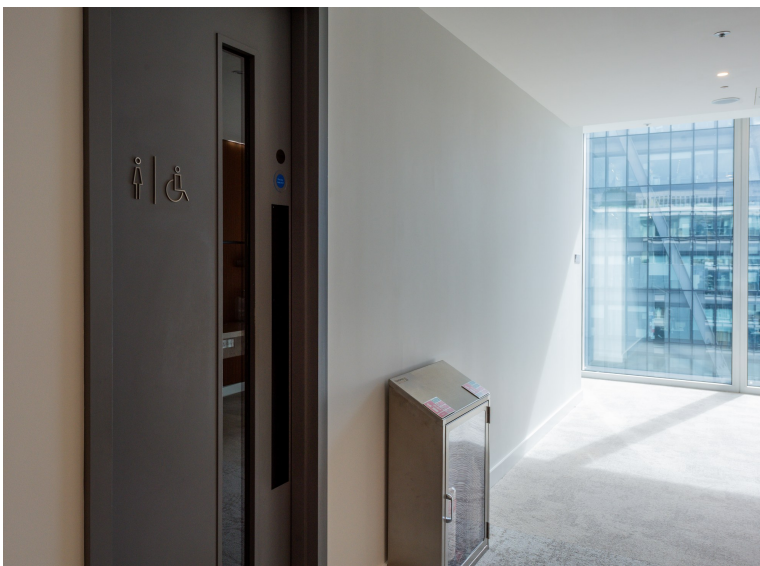
Signs land on glass and on plaster throughout the floorplate, taped rather than drilled, with a white vinyl backer behind to mask the fixings. Set against the City skyline, the bronze face reads as a solid metal block.



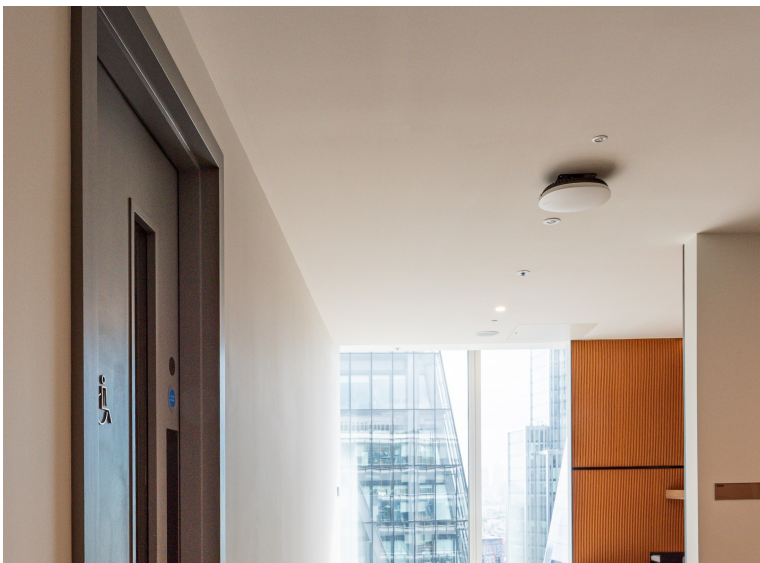
Projecting pictogram signs are router cut from 10mm aluminium and finished in the same anodic bronze matt as the rest of the scheme, fixed on nylon plugs with countersunk fixings. Hung from the soffit line, they are legible the full length of a glazed corridor.



Glazing manifestations are digitally printed onto dusted film with environmentally friendly inks and profile cut, giving the glazed offices and meeting rooms privacy and safety marking in a single element.



Facilities pictograms are cut from the same 10mm aluminium and set out against stone, glass and plaster in turn. Holding one bronze across every substrate on the floor was the discipline the whole scheme depends on.



At the lift core the signage steps back and lets the building do the talking. Pictograms sit on the door line at a consistent height, with the tower's double skin facade and the City beyond framing the view out.