

# ABERDEEN HARBOUR'S CENTRE OF ACTIVITY



The award winning Centre is constructed of a steel frame with circular hollow section columns supporting the floor beams. Additional stability and strength is gained from the rear concrete wall section. The internal concrete walls are continuous from the pile caps to roof level and the floor slabs are concrete cast onto metal decking.

The external rear wall comprises precast concrete panels made from white Spanish dolomite aggregate, cast in large sections to the required elliptical shape.

The site at the North Breakwater has around four metres of fill material over natural sands and gravels. The foundations consist of 33 steel H-piles, driven approximately 16 metres into very dense clay and gravel.

- **Height to roof - 22 metres**
- **Height to control room floor - 18 metres, six metres higher than the Roundhouse**
- **Floor area - 800 square metres, eight times that of the Roundhouse**
- **Glass - approximately 600 square metres**
- **Work started - Spring, 2005**
- **Commissioned on schedule and budget - September, 2006**

## MAIN CONTRACTORS:

Design - **SMC Parr Architects**  
Construction - **Sir Robert McAlpine**  
VTS equipment - **Transas Group**



**Aberdeen Harbour**

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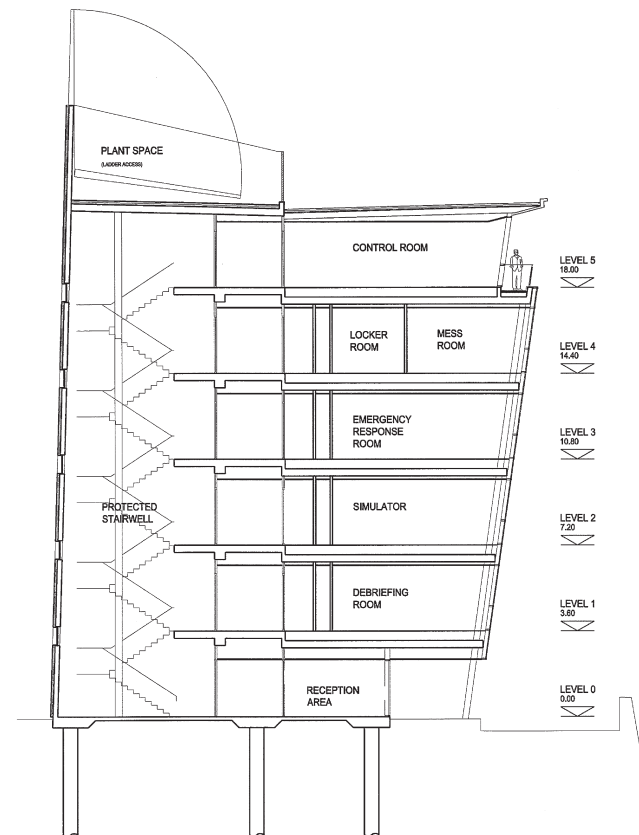


**Aberdeen Harbour**

**Aberdeen Harbour's state-of-the-art Marine Operations Centre was commissioned in 2006 to further improve the monitoring and directing of vessels at a port handling record levels of activity - around 5 million tonnes of cargo and over 20 million tonnes of shipping annually.**

The design of the £4.5 million building reflects a traditional Scottish lighthouse supporting a modern glass structure suggesting a ship's bow and bridge.

It houses the latest Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) equipment; an upgraded ship's bridge training simulator; training room; an emergency response room, and other facilities.



The VTS technology enables staff to monitor ship movements - over 25,000 annually; record vessel tracks; communicate by radio and telephone; and access tidal and meteorological data.

Used in training Harbour Board staff and third parties, the simulator has two separate vessel control stations, allowing interaction of vessels; modern thruster controls, as in many of the oil vessels calling at Aberdeen; and a wide range of scenarios, including different locations, weather conditions and time-of-day.

Providing a striking landmark for port and city, the Centre succeeded the nearby Roundhouse, in operation for more than 200 years.

