

MCA Consulting Engineers celebrating 40 years!

Established in 1977, initially as Michael Cade Associates, MCA Consulting Engineers has enjoyed a successful and long-standing history in the building services consulting engineering sector.

Rebecca Rose

Client Relationship Manager at MCA

"Good engineering is about having an open mind for each project undertaken and coming up with the right solution for the right building." Says Michael Cade, founder and former director of MCA.

Tailored engineering and excellence in customer service are objectives and principles that the business was founded on, and forty years on, this continues to be the vision for MCA.

As we enter our 40th year of consultancy, we reflect on our history and some of the key projects that have made us what we are today.

"When I started out everything was done on tracing paper; we didn't have computers, let alone the internet, so everything was managed via post – processes took months; now schematics can be drawn up and amended in hours!"

In the mid-1980's, Michael began to establish good, ongoing relationships with a number of regional and national housebuilders. Our first project was for George Wimpey – now Taylor Wimpey – and was a regeneration project of 168 homes just off Crawley Road in Horsham.

At the turn of the millennium, with the increasing drive towards improved energy efficiency for buildings, Michael recognised both the environmental benefits and the cost incentives for the use of biomass fuels to meet the demand for heat within buildings.



Hound Lodge, Goodwood



Highwood Mill, Horsham

'As a company, we were able to advise on this way of engineering from an early stage and I became a founding director of South East Wood Fuels, as well as speaking and reporting at various UK conferences.' By 2010, MCA had undertaken over forty biomass projects, both for commercial and residential buildings.

Over the course of MCA's history, Graham Andrews and Liam Clark – both experienced consultants with exceptional mechanical and electrical engineering experience – have joined the company as Directors and employed more staff to meet the demand of our service.

Michael Cade retired in 2010 and when asked what he felt the legacy of MCA to be he said "Our service to clients – it is as important as our technical ability. We are solution orientated and will always go the extra mile in projects. Client care is a really important part of our service – this is why the majority of our new business is referrals and existing clients as they continue to use our consultancy for new projects."

Our project portfolio boasts a diverse range of new builds and renovations; of historical importance and mass residential communities. Old barn buildings into a modern office space and Extra Care homes for the elderly.

Another recent key project was Hound Lodge – the original living quarters for the sixth Duke of Richmond's Hounds, which



The newly renovated Haybarn which is now the Mindtools Office, Pondtail Farm

later became nothing more than a glorified storage facility. The Goodwood team could see the potential for an exclusive lodge and enlisted the expertise of known historical architect Ptolemy Dean.

Jaap Roëll, then Project Manager for Hound Lodge on the Goodwood Estate says "MCA Consulting Engineers were part of the project detail from the beginning and have seen the build through to completion with pragmatism and efficiency. They made themselves available for advice all through the project and when last minute changes were made, went above and beyond to accommodate.

"As with any large scale project, there have been challenges but one constant has been the reliability and communication that MCA have shown throughout."