

CoreNet
Property Week
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CoreNet Global summer party **ANALYSIS**

CoreNet president sets out to prove industry is no dinosaur

New president elect laid out the vision for his tenure. **Felicity Francis** attended the party

At the summer party of CoreNet Global's UK Chapter, James Maddock (pictured) took up his role of president elect to the applause of one of the chapter's largest audiences to date for the annual event.

As international director and head of the EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) global corporate services team at DTZ, Maddock will hold his new office for a year, taking over from Neil Austin, the Royal Bank of Scotland's head of asset management for the UK, EMEA, Asia and India and head of property services for UK retail.

"I take this role on in what is appearing to be an exciting year for the corporate occupier community," said Maddock.

"The economy is showing real signs of recovery from a six-year downturn and we're seeing a whole new generation, powered by technology, which is placing an undefinable requirement on our industry in the way they want to work."

The new president's next words tied in with one of the main focuses of Property Week's Open Plan campaign, to raise the profile of the industry among today's children.



Maddock: 'We need to further introduce the industry to universities to attract talent'



"My role over the next year will not only be to build on the excellent work Neil has done – ensuring we continue to provide members with high-quality real estate knowledge, professional development and an effective and enjoyable networking forum – but to develop further the chapter's themes, making it more relevant to the challenges of business, the industry and the future, with a particular aim towards the next generation and ensuring graduates and undergraduates are better educated in the requirements of our industry."

"We're sitting on a five-year talent gap because of the recession so we need to further introduce the industry to universities to attract talent."

Maddock's words rang out in a grand setting: the main atrium of the Natural History Museum, home to a 26-metre diplodocus skeleton in one of London's most beautiful buildings, created by architect Alfred Waterhouse as we found out in the evening's quiz. Lively entertainment from comedian Hal Cruttenden followed on from an elegant dinner and "heads and tails", which was led by Joanna Averley of LandAid; guests were encouraged to donate to LandAid during the meal.

A band finished off the evening, which overall provided excellent entertainment to rival the opening of the FIFA World Cup. ■



A grand design: with its magnificent architecture, the Natural History Museum was the ideal setting for the celebration