## ears of the centre: mk

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

## thecentre:mk evolving hand in hand with Milton Keynes

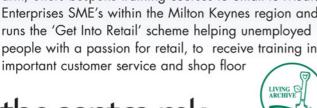


The 2009 Winners of thecentre:mk's Serious Service Awards with Robert Goodman (right), centre director of thecentre:mk

In 1967 Milton Keynes was a town with a population of 60,000; today it has a projected population of 257,700 by 2016 and, over the past 30 years, thecentre:mk has thrived under the challenge of servicing this exciting new city.

The centre has evolved to offer over 1.3 million sq foot of net internal area, housing key retail brands from the longstanding lettings to John Lewis and House of Fraser, to the recent lettings to Kurt Geiger and Phase Eight in the new Premium Retail Quarter.

However the centre is not just about shopping. It's about local employment and the local community as well. Alongside the retail offering, skillscentre:mk, its training arm, offers bespoke training courses to Small to Medium Enterprises SME's within the Milton Keynes region and runs the 'Get Into Retail' scheme helping unemployed people with a passion for retail, to receive training in





New Technology Infopods

skills and to gain vital experience in the industry. This year the skillscentre:mk was announced as a founder member of the National Skills Academy for Retail; a Government backed network of training centres designed to increase productivity in the sector.

The new state of the art touch screen information pods you will see around the centre not only help with wayfinding and alerting shoppers to special offers and events, but publicise job vacancies within the centre, and, unlike many other centres around the country, thecentre:mk makes shop units available to local interest groups such as the Discover MK.

In 1979 thecentre:mk dominated the centre of Milton Keynes and over the past 30 years it has continued to evolve as the city itself has grown, creating a shopping destination which provides entertainment, shopping, employment and training for the city and the surrounding region.





the centre:mk