



Corus Panels and Profiles Case Study

Unite Student Accommodation, Loughborough

The £5 million Unite student accommodation development is located within close proximity to Loughborough town centre and easy walking distance to the University of Loughborough's main campus.



Project details

Client:	Unite
Architect:	Studio 1 Architects
Main contractor:	Watkin Jones & Sons Ltd
Installer:	Lester Fabrications
Corus system:	Trisomet® 333 System
Colorcoat® product	Colorcoat Verso® in Merlin Grey



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The site on Greenclose Lane is part of the building known as the Schofield Building which had associations with the early development of the college and university institutions in the town.

Care has been taken to ensure that the character of this building of local historic and architectural interest is preserved and enhanced. The Corus Trisomet[®] 333 System from Corus Panels and Profiles lends itself to the requirements of such a project as it is a high performance robust building envelope solution that eliminates the risk of interstitial condensation, ensures thermal performance, low air permeability and is suitable for roof pitches down to 4 degrees.

The external sheet of the Trisomet[®] 333 System applied on the roof is finished in a unique coating formulation, Colorcoat Verso[®] in Merlin Grey. This coating improves durability at a competitive price and is available with a 30-year guarantee to ensure peace of mind. The overall appearance of the roof is architecturally complimentary, due to its unique design and select colour pallet.

The present design has evolved through considerable discussion. This has been aimed at protecting the character of the building, recognising the prominence of the upward extension in the immediate area and protecting the amenities of nearby residents.

The building originally contained a “north light” in the roof, which had to be removed as part of the proposal and replaced with a tiered upward extension for an additional three floors. The roof slopes are a prominent feature of this part of the building, although they do not extend over the adjacent portion of the building, which appears to have had a flat-roofed extension in the past, care and attention to detail is reflected in its selection of materials and form.

The Corus Trisomet[®] 333 System, applied to the roof of this development offers optimum performance for water drainage, due to the wide trough design in the external trapezoidal skin and a fire rated covering that has been approved by the Loss Prevention Council Board (LPCB). These are just some of the reasons this expertly engineered system was recommended for this project, explains the cladding installer Steve Lester, “When embarking on such a challenging project which entails working at heights and also may cause considerable disruption to

neighbouring areas, the quicker we can get the roof laid down the better. The insulated Trisomet[®] 333 System from Corus was ideal for this application as it enabled us to do just that. The quick and easy single component assembly feature of the Corus Trisomet[®] 333 System is excellent for fast track building.”

The Corus Trisomet[®] 333 System also has unbeatable sustainable credentials, including a PIR insulation foam core, which has zero ozone depletion potential (ODP) and a extremely low global warming potential (GWP) of less than 5. Both these factors are contributory to achieving a high BREEAM rating. In addition to this the system also reduces air permeability, which reduces energy costs and reduces carbon emission. Steve Lester, “The speed of installation achieved by this system also allows us to reduce the amount of time on a project which also has an added economic benefit from our point of view and also the clients point of view.”

The surrounding area of this development comprises a myriad of building types, forms, styles, designs, sizes and ages. It is, therefore, difficult to argue that the development is unsympathetic to the character and appearance of the area. Indeed, its simple contemporary style would sit comfortably next to some of the more elaborately styled buildings. However whilst there is a marked change in appearance, the changes do not harm the building but add a new dimension to it. The detail has been carefully considered to do this and is a blend of the old and the new with visual references between them for continuity.

This development promotes sustainable patterns of development that is in scale with its surroundings, the conservation of features of the built environment that are valued, the beneficial use of vacant and underused land, the sustaining of the town centre and its vitality and viability and to provide for the housing needs of the community. In its way, the development does all these things.

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