

Camden, London

Aquarian Cladding unites with UK's largest student accommodation provider to simplify city living development.

A new apartment building, designed by architect Stride Treglown for Unite's new 'Livocity' brand, has been clad in Aquarian Cladding's Gebrik Insulating Brick Cladding System.

As pioneers of a new style of urban living, Unite launched its Livocity concept in London, specifically designed to provide graduates and young professionals with a range of affordable, fully furnished, contemporary accommodation to rent. One of a number of planned sites across the city, the company completed its first Livocity building in Camden in March 09. Built using off-site, volumetric, modular construction methods, the development provides 38 high-specification studio apartments.

Associate at Stride Treglown, Marco Oliveira, chose Gebrik in response to a very specific brief: *"The client gave us an ambitious*

brief to develop, build and complete a scheme within eight months from commencement of enabling works on the site. This was to be achieved by aiming for 80% of the total constructed building to be from offsite prefabrication methods. Gebrik provided a perfect solution for the challenging timeline outlined in the brief.

"Upon reviewing previous installation examples of Gebrik within Europe and the UK, it was clear to us that the product was a near perfect alternative to traditional brickwork, with the system's speed and flexibility key criteria to meet our intense building programme".

The scheme was developed using a series of prefabricated, modular studio apartment pods, which were erected and stacked one on top of the other to form the main structure; this provided a blank canvas for the Gebrik cladding to envelop the

structure with a brick skin. The wide range of brick slips available meant that a satisfactory brick match to the adjacent buildings was easily achieved. The Gebrik system provided many critical enhancements to the scheme. The speed of erection delivered cost savings, whilst the flexibility of fixing the panels meant that reduced structural support was required for the large openings, windows and doors.

Even though the construction phase coincided with the start of the winter months, the adverse weather conditions did not affect the cladding erection programme - as would probably have been the case with traditional brickwork.

[continued overleaf >](#)



Project details

• Cladding:	Gebrik
• Finish:	FE297 Camden Yellow
• Site Address:	376-380 Camden Road, London
• Client:	Unite
• Architect:	Stride Treglown
• Main Contractor:	R G Group
• Installation Contractor:	E J Horrocks Ltd

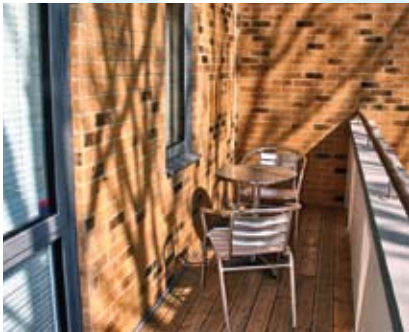


Camden, London

Installed in just eight weeks

The build programme allowed for a period of just eight weeks, during which the cladding material could be installed. The first load of Gebrik was delivered mid December 2008, with the building completed on time for client occupation by the end of February 2009.

Marco concluded: *"This was my first project using the Gebrik product. I was very impressed with the ease, effectiveness and flexibility of the system to such a degree that we are currently re-specifying the system on a number of other projects".*



About Gebrik

Gebrik is an Insulating Brick Cladding System, invented and patented in Belgium in 1982. Since Aquarian Cladding were appointed UK exclusive distributor of the system in 2007 over 25,000m² has been used throughout the UK to refurbish ageing housing stock and to clad new-build schemes such as flats developments, schools as part of the BSF programme, supermarkets, student accommodation and off-site volumetric buildings.

The system consists of approx three hundred different natural clay brick finishes. Available in a wide range of sizes, the units are cast in polyurethane under factory controlled conditions. Stretcher or stackbond panels are produced to create approx 1m² composite 'sheets' which are screwed directly to a masonry, timber or steel frame substrate on site.

A range of standard corner options are available to suit external corners, surrounds to window or door openings or any other abutments.

The insulating properties of the system help to significantly improve a building's thermal performance and a BREEAM credit is achieved due to its excellent GWP/ODP rating. Where components abut, foam is injected to ensure the façade remains impervious to water, whilst still allowing the wall to breathe.

Gebrik is an excellent solution for over-cladding existing buildings - improving their appearance, thermal performance and durability. A Modern Method of Construction, Gebrik will:

- improve overall build quality
- improve the accuracy, certainty and speed of the build programme
- reduce wall thickness, whilst improving thermal performance
- reduce the facade loadings on foundations and frame
- minimise storage, scaffolding and delivery requirements
- reduce dependency on good weather conditions

"It was clear to us that Gebrik was a near perfect alternative to traditional brickwork, with the system's speed and flexibility key criteria to meet our intense building programme".

**Marco Oliveira,
Stride Treglown**



Materials require minimal storage and are easy to handle

Gebrik can be installed from mechanical access to minimise scaffold requirements



Aquarian Cladding Systems Ltd

Lower Ground Floor, 14 Marine Parade
Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7QS

Telephone & Fax +44 (0)1275 543812

Email info@aquariancladding.co.uk

Web www.aquariancladding.co.uk