

Hillsbarton, Bristol

Four blocks of sheltered accommodation units in the south of Bristol have been transformed by **Aquarian Cladding's** Gebrik insulating brick cladding system.

The Hillsbarton development, which contains 100 units for the elderly, was originally built in the 1960s and is owned and maintained by Bristol City Council. Situated in the Bedminster area of Bristol, their refurbishment formed a significant part of a multi-million pound regeneration programme for the area.

Bristol City Council's Renewal and Investment Senior Surveyor for the programme, was Paul Jermy. Having identified the requirement for an over-cladding material, his first task was to thoroughly research alternative solutions before making a specification decision.

Paul explained: "Having overseen many cladding refurbishment projects in the past, I was aware of most of the solutions available in the UK - and I was vaguely aware of the Gebrik system. Importantly, our requirements at Hillsbarton were very

specific: naturally, we wanted a system that would improve the overall aesthetic appeal of the buildings and enhance the local area - red brick being the predominant material. However, we also required a solution that would deliver energy efficiencies, have low maintenance requirements and cause minimal disruption to our tenants during the refurbishment process.

"The project has received high praise from the tenants...."

"Gebrik was by far the best solution. Not only is it one of the most durable systems on the market, but aesthetically it provides a perfect brick façade. We decided to put Gebrik on the ground floor and apply insulated render to the first floor - with excellent results. The project has received high praise from the Council and, most importantly, the tenants."

To complement the local architecture, over 600m² of Gebrik was specified - including prefabricated corners for the door and window surrounds, a soldier course detail and bespoke detailing for the entrance lobby area. The original construction, of 100mm dense block with partially insulated 100mm cavity and 100mm brickwork, had a U value of 0.50 W/m²K. With a U value of 0.29W/m²K, the new system delivers a c.70% improvement in thermal efficiency.

Whilst Gebrik requires minimal maintenance, if required, the system can be repaired simply by removing and replacing any damaged panel sections - with no disruption.

[continued overleaf >](#)



Project details

- **Cladding:** Gebrik
- **Finish:** Vendome BA71-60
- **New U Value:** 0.29 W/m²K
- **Site Address:** Hillsbarton, Bishopsworth Rd, Bristol
- **Client:** Bristol City Council
- **Main Contractor:** Rateavon Ltd



Hillsbarton, Bristol

Fast and predictable installation

As the refurbishment programme was undertaken with the tenants remaining in their apartments, the speed and efficiency of the build programme was a key consideration in material selection.

Being lightweight and dry-fix, installation of the large format Gebrik panels provided a fast and predictable process, with the panels simply fixed to the existing structure. Once the panels and corner components are in place, the façade is completed by the straightforward application of mortar. In this case, a natural mortar colour was selected to complement the brick panels.

The whole refurbishment programme was completed in a remarkable 12 weeks.

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



"Gebrik was by far the best solution. Not only is it one of the most durable systems on the market, but aesthetically it provides a perfect brick façade."

Paul Jermy, Bristol City Council



Gebrik panels are mechanically fixed directly to the existing masonry structure



Brick slips 'stitch' the panels together to maintain stretcher bond

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