

Quilley School of Engineering, Eastleigh

Aquarian Cladding's Gebrik comes of age as a 21st century, off-site manufactured, brick cladding solution for a 1970s prefabricated school building.

When the government last raised the school leaving age (often shortened to ROSLA) in 1972, many secondary schools in England and Wales were unable to accommodate the new fifth year students within their existing school estate. A favoured solution was to provide affected schools with a pre-fabricated building, which proved popular not only due to the low cost involved for materials and construction, but also to the speed with which these buildings could be erected.

The off-site manufactured building components were delivered to site and often assembled in a matter of days, regardless of weather conditions. Consequently, they were not intended to be a long-term solution - although some have given many more years' service than was initially planned!



The 21st century prefabricated brick cladding was chosen as the perfect solution!

In 2009, Aquarian Cladding was asked to assist Hampshire County Council with a pilot project to refurbish Quilley School of Engineering in Eastleigh. The school was a typical ROSLA building, clad in traditional brickwork and was considered both unattractive and very thermally inefficient. Gebrik was

evaluated alongside other cladding options - the rigorous process including a site visit to see the system in work elsewhere and ironically the 21st century prefabricated brick cladding was chosen as the perfect solution!

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Project details

- **Cladding:** Gebrik
- **Finish:** SR12-03 Slate Smooth Blue Brindle
- **Site Address:** Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire
- **Client:** Hampshire County Council
- **Architect:** Hampshire County Council
- **Main Contractor:** Morgan Sindall
- **Cladding Contractor:** Walltec



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A typical ROSLA building in need of aesthetic and thermal improvement.

Working closely with the council Aquarian Cladding assisted with the specification, which included the application of Gebrik with additional insulation to the lower masonry floor and to the light gauge steel frame assembled on the first floor.

Gebrik Slate Smooth Blue Brindle (Ref SR12-03) was chosen, in stack bond and finished at openings and external corners with powder-coated aluminium flashings to provide a contemporary appearance, fit for the 21st century.

Morgan Sindall was appointed main contractor in the summer of 2010 and approx 200m² of the Gebrik system was successfully installed within a matter of weeks of supply, to the delight of the council, teachers and students.

About Gebrik

Gebrik is an Insulating Brick Cladding System, invented and patented in Belgium in 1982. Since Aquarian Cladding was appointed exclusive UK distributor of the system in 2007 over 30,000m² has been used throughout the UK to refurbish ageing housing stock and schools 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 stack bond panels are produced to create approx 1m² 'sheets' which are screwed directly to a masonry, timber or steel frame substrate on site.

A range of standard corner options is 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, the Gebrik system 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

Slate smooth blue successfully installed within a matter of weeks



traditional brickwork ready for overclad

Gebrik works perfectly with powder coated flashings at reveals and corners

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