CASE STUDY

# Halls of Residence for University of Reading

**Aquarian Cladding's** Gebrik system is at home with students at the centre of excellence for innovative construction.

Aquarian Cladding's Gebrik system was specified for use at the new Mackinder and Stenton halls of residence at the University of Reading in 2009. Designed by architect Stride Treglown, at the time, this was the largest Gebrik project to be supplied in the UK, with Aquarian Cladding supplying over 8,000m² of the insulating brick cladding system in three different finishes for the 965 bed scheme.

## A restricted site, short construction programme and low U value to BREEAM 'Excellent'

As Reading University is home to an internationally renowned centre of excellence for innovative construction research, it was fitting that the construction of this new building should benefit from modern construction methods and materials such as Gebrik.

Restricted space on site amongst protected trees; a construction programme of 75 weeks and a desire to build to the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard presented the project team with a series of challenges. Normally the cheapest option would be to use traditional load-bearing masonry but this was rejected because it would have added at least five months to the programme; so for reasons such as robustness, speed of build and thermal mass, a precast concrete frame with precast concrete wall and floor panels was specified, to be clad with a 50mm layer of insulation prior to being clad with the Gebrik brick insulating system.

The internal surface was painted, which meant the overall wall construction was only 260mm, yet achieved an incredibly low U value of <0.24W/m2K.

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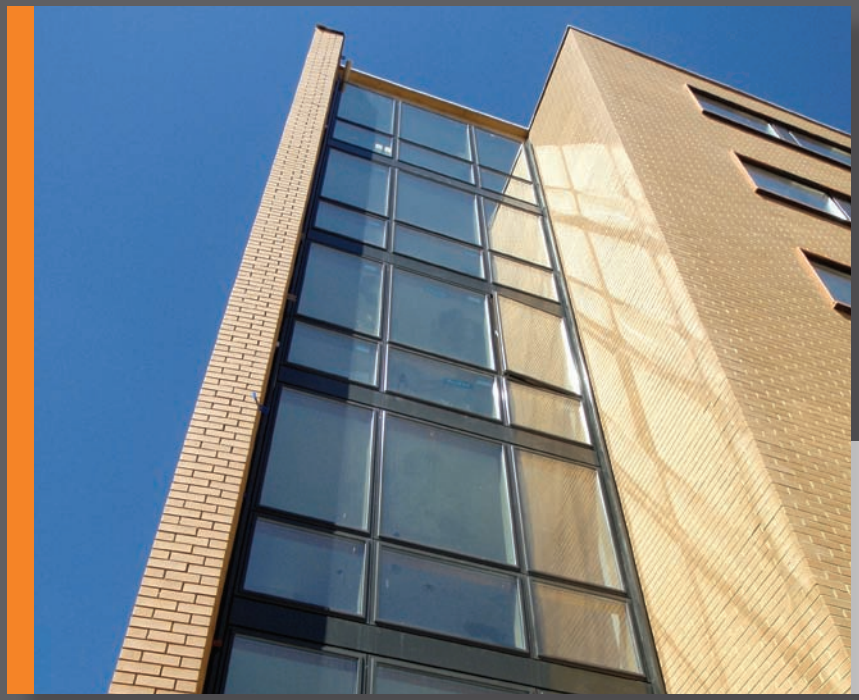
CENTRE FOR WINDOW AND CLADDING TECHNOLOGY



## Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Cladding: | Gebrik |
| Finish: | SR90-23 Amsterdam Yellow<br>CE20-61 Dark Red Sandfaced<br>SR12-03 Slate Smooth Blue Brindle |
| Site Address: | Reading University,<br>Upper Redlands Rd<br>Reading, Berkshire |
| Client: | Reading University |
| Architect: | Stride Treglown |
| Main Contractor: | Morgan Sindall |
| Cladding Contractor: | ECL Contracts Ltd |

GE BRIK by ISOSYSTEMS

AQUARIAN CLADDING SYSTEMS LTD

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# Halls of Residence for University of Reading

## Gebrik provided a robust cladding solution

Built by Morgan Sindall, their Project Director Peter Baggott said: *"Gebrik has a number of advantages – particularly that the brickwork can be put up very quickly and that we were able to continue installation through the winter."*

Gebrik was installed by specialist cladding contractor ECL Contracts Ltd. The external façades of each of the three new halls features prefabricated radius corners and external returns to suit the full buildings' six storey height and uses 3,300m² of Amsterdam Yellow (Ref SR90-23), 3,800m² of Dark Red Sandfaced (Ref CE20-61) and 1,000m² of Slate Smooth Blue Brindle (Ref SR12-03).

## 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


Gebrik being installed from mechanical access platforms

Gebrik slips to be applied and the radius corner still to be clad

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