

Woodland Court, Unite

Aquarian Cladding takes the new Gebrik Metropolitan to market, cladding volumetric pods and demonstrating the benefits of modern methods of construction.



Completed in time for the autumn student intake, the summer of 2010 saw the opening of Woodland Court, a stunning new student accommodation building in Islington, which was clad with 2,400m² of Aquarian Cladding's Gebrik Insulating Brick Cladding System.

Built by RG Group for specialist student accommodation provider Unite, and designed by architect Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson, the new seven storey Woodland Court development provides 580 student

bedrooms for London Metropolitan University, as well as 1,000 square feet of commercial space.

Unite Modular Solutions (UMS) produced fully furnished volumetric pods in their Gloucestershire factory which were stacked on site to create the seven storey development. Once assembled, the pods were clad in less than six months with approximately 4,000m² of various rainscreen finishes, including the Gebrik Metropolitan Multi (Ref VS71-24), by specialist contractor Metclad.

The design team were faced with a series of challenges for the project: a short build programme; minimal site storage; difficult access; bricks to match the surrounding area and brickwork support from the first floor to the sixth.

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Having successfully worked with both Unite and RG Group at Camden in 2009, Aquarian Cladding was approached to provide design assistance in fixing to the UMS pods at height and detailing around windows.

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Project details

- **Cladding:** Gebrik
- **Finish:** VS71-24 Metropolitan Multi
- **Site Address:** 32-34 Market Road, Islington, London
- **Client:** Unite
- **Architect:** Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson
- **Main Contractor:** RG Group
- **Cladding Contractor:** Metclad Ltd



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Once assembled the pods were clad in less than six months

But the biggest problem was finding a suitable brick finish within the standard Gebrik range. Photos and samples were sent to Aquarian Cladding's suppliers in Belgium, resulting in the development of the Metropolitan Multi specifically for this project - the finish now being included in the company's standard range.

Gebrik proved to be the ideal solution for Woodland Court, providing a lightweight, cost-effective solution within an extremely tight programme. And not only was it a perfect modern method of construction, but the building also delivered on aesthetics - the new brick finish perfectly matching the surrounding traditional London yellow stock bricks!

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

A perfect modern method of construction



Gebrik being installed from a cherry-picker

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