

Trent brings a touch of Italian chic to Manchester



To the master architects of the Italian Renaissance, 'belvedere' was a building that was partly open to the sky, positioned so those inside could relish magnificent views of their surroundings.

It is a theme adopted by Aedas Architects and Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd to craft a unique structure at the aptly named Belvedere office complex in Manchester, which perfectly encapsulates this 400-year-old ideal. The project boasts distinctive private terraces, commanding panoramas across the modern city and now some of the finest precast concrete cladding ever produced by Trent Concrete.

Project:	Belvedere office complex
Client/Contractor:	Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd
Architect:	Aedas Architects
Products:	Reconstructed stone cladding
Completion date:	November 2007



'We wanted to create a natural stone look to Belvedere, with a consistent finish and a speed of erection that would fit our programming schedule. It was clear that Trent Concrete would be able to deliver on all of these fronts, making it the perfect choice for us.'

Daniel Lesser,
Associate,
Aedas Architects



Mixing the new with the old

The 16,000 sq ft of office space at Belvedere is spread over eight floors (including ground) and, while modern in appearance, has been skillfully designed to blend with neighbouring buildings and streets in the Half Square Mile business district.

Trent drew on all its precasting skills to create a concrete cladding solution that would meet and exceed all the architect's desires for this eye catching development.

The Brief

To give the final touch of sophistication, Trent Concrete designed, manufactured and installed a range of stunning reconstructed stone cladding at this major £20m development.

Solution

Complementing the dazzling exterior glass façade, Trent's stunning spandrel and mullion precast concrete cladding gives a sublime, natural stone-like finish around the outside of the development. The cladding has been designed in close partnership with the architect and contractor to mould the ideal bespoke solution.

Under the £434,000 contract, which began in August 2007, the company manufactured the panels specified off-site, so they were ready and waiting for installation before the end of November.

Benefits

Delivered to site on a just in time basis, every individually moulded Trent Concrete unit is carefully craned into place. Being manufactured off-site means that time on site is reduced, avoiding any unnecessary disruptions or delays - and ensuring that overall efficiency is enhanced.

Trent Concrete products offer a number of benefits over traditional stone cladding, from cost effectiveness to speed of construction and durability. The company has also undertaken a sustainability review of all aspects of its work to ensure minimum environmental impact and carbon footprint.

