Trent concrete

Case Study 7

Trent provides the Rock behind Gibraltar's luxury living

Standing imposingly over Gibraltar's largest marina, Taylor Woodrow's new Tradewinds residential development sets a stunning white backdrop to the glistening Mediterranean Sea.

The 81 luxury apartments are located in the prime commercial and tourist area of Marina Bay with sunset views towards Spain and the Bay of Algeciras.

By night, the reconstructed stone façades, cast and supplied by Trent Concrete, are lit to reflect a breathtaking emerald shimmer onto the warm water and bustling social areas below.

"This project represents a fantastic opportunity for us to expand into Europe. Our success in Gibraltar perfectly demonstrates our capabilities and has already led to a number of high profile sales leads."

David Walker,
Managing Director,
Trent Concrete

Project:	Tradewinds Marina, Gibraltar
Client:	Taylor Woodrow
Architect:	McCusker Storey McIntosh
Contractor:	PCG Group
Products:	External cladding panels, produced in sparkling white, acid etched, reconstructed stone.
Completion date:	Autumn 2006

Sailing into new territories

The Tradewinds development, named after the prevailing winds so important to navigators in the days of cargo carrying sailing ships, has steered Trent Concrete into Europe for the first time.

From the beginning of the multi-million pound project, Trent worked in close partnership with McCusker Storey McIntosh Architects, Developer Taylor Woodrow and General Contractor the PCG Group to create the ideal bespoke solution.

The project has also given Trent the opportunity to enhance its production techniques by using architectural self-compacting concrete (SCC). Through the addition of a superplasticiser/ accelerator and a stabiliser, SCC is self-levelling and produces a more consistent fill and better compaction than that achieved with traditional methods.

The Brief

To provide visual weight and a tangible quality to the façades, reflecting the developer's bold vision and surrounding natural beauty. The tight marina site also required a fast construction period, using just in time deliveries to a pre-determined and agreed sequence.

Solution

Nearly 3,000 square metres of precast cladding, produced in sparkling white, acid etched, reconstructed stone. In total, 520 individual units were produced to a storey height of 2.995 metres, in varying lengths between 2.13 and 2.47 metres.

Designed in close partnership with the project's architects and engineers, the panels comprise eight basic generic types. These range from plain flat flank wall panels to 'C' shaped window panels and slab fascia units.

The cladding features extensively across all elevations and delivers a sublime finish that replicates the look and texture of natural stone, while complementing the area's unmistakeable beauty.

Benefits

By manufacturing each panel offsite and delivering on a just in time basis, time spent on the restricted marina site is minimised. This avoids any unnecessary disruptions or delays and improves efficiency through Trent Concrete's close cooperation with interfacing trades.

Trent's thorough quality control schedule, which covers every stage, from mould manufacture to delivery, ensured a stunning finish that easily meets the standards expected by the apartments' discerning new owners.

Traditionally popular within the commercial sector, precast concrete provides a certainty of quality, programme and cost that is quickly catching the attention of other markets, including developers of prestigious high-rise developments.

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