

# Unique slate finish only possible with Trent



When the creators of a landmark mixed-use redevelopment scheme in the heart of Birmingham decided they wanted to give the complex a one of a kind, riven slate finish, it sounded like a very tall order.

Yet, by working closely with precast cladding experts Trent Concrete, Fairhursts Architects will be turning its design dreams into a stunning reality - certain to be a centrepiece of the dramatic, 3.65 acre Snowhill redevelopment in Birmingham.

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| <b>Project:</b>    | Snowhill, Birmingham   |
| <b>Client:</b>     | Ballymore Properties   |
| <b>Architect:</b>  | Fairhursts Architects  |
| <b>Contractor:</b> | Kier Group plc   |
| <b>Products:</b>   | 1,500 square metres of specialised precast concrete, including riven slate to the stairwell/core ends of the building and a polished concrete finish to the external columns |

**Completion date:** Summer 2008



▮ We have used a slate finish successfully in the past but, like all our bespoke works, this project presents its own unique challenges. Fortunately, our years of experience in the sector and state of the art precasting techniques will guarantee a fantastic end product that will impress anyone who visits Snowhill. ▮

David Walker,  
Managing Director,  
Trent Concrete



## Changing the face of Birmingham

Ballymore's Snowhill redevelopment scheme is set to become one of the UK's largest city centre redevelopment schemes outside London.

Once complete, it will create a whole new district in Birmingham. Among its many features are a 44 storey luxury residential tower - the tallest in Birmingham - the city's finest five star hotel and two office buildings, which combine to provide over 600,000 square feet of Grade A office space. These will all be serviced by a selection of restaurants, bars and shops.

### The Brief

The main challenge for Trent to overcome on this project came from the steel frame, which had already been constructed. This meant the cladding needed to be meticulously detailed to fit the existing structure - with highly accurate tolerances.

### Solution

In total, Trent Concrete has supplied 1,500 square metres of bespoke cladding. This includes green and black riven slate - supplied by Cerig and cast onto the face of Trent's precast concrete panels - to the stairwell/core ends of the building and a polished concrete finish to the external columns.

### Benefits

With the existing steel structure already in place, plus the need to buy in the riven slate, the certainty of Trent's manufacturing methods offered numerous benefits. It meant Trent could work to very precise margins, producing a product that fitted perfectly on site, while keeping waste to an absolute minimum.

It also meant all deliveries could be scheduled on a just in time basis, with the finished products lifted directly from the delivery lorries, using site cranes, and fixed to the structure. While reducing unnecessary scaffolding costs, it also frees up valuable site storage space and avoids any on site damage to the high quality products.

It is a comprehensive turnkey package that offers designers true creative freedom, combined with all the benefits of an affordable and highly durable product.

