



Colorcoat Prisma®

Aesthetics that Last

Aldershot Centre for Health Aldershot, Hampshire

Client: Wilky Property Holdings

Architect: SR Architects

Main contractor: Alfred McAlpine

Sub-contractor: S. D. Samuels Ltd.

System Manufacturer: Trimo

System: Composite Panel

Profile: TrimoRaster bi-modular, flat/v-profile

Colorcoat® product:
Colorcoat Prisma® (Walls)

Colour: Silver Metallic

The project

Sustainability was the key to the design of the new Aldershot Health Centre, according to Chris Allen of SR Architects. The high thermal insulation of the fabric means that the predicted energy consumption will be well below government set targets. This is achieved by the specification of high frequency low energy lighting throughout the building, heat recovery on all mechanical ventilation systems, electric motors inverter driven to ensure maximum efficiency and heating controls weather compensated.

“This is a contemporary pre-finished steel panel product which offers a clean crisp finish using concealed fixings but providing good thermal insulation characteristics and is a cost effective solution,” said architect Chris Allen.



The installations are controlled and monitored by an intelligent Building Management System. A major contributor to the sustainability of the building was the specification of a TrimoRaster composite cladding system for the prominent façade areas.

The construction

He explains that the choice of pre-finished steel panel from Tata Steel in Colorcoat Prisma® was to reinforce the contemporary aesthetic of the building. "But it was also to contrast and complement the strong Berkshire red brick which is used at low level to the ground floor plinth and to feature stair towers as a reference to existing adjoining historical buildings in the immediate context."

A scurved roof with standing seams in warm grey was selected to reflect the ribbed domes of Dorrien Smith House opposite. The curved form was also chosen to soften and visually reduce the expanse of the roof. Entrance canopies are in contrasting metallic grey pre-finished steel supports with planar glazing to complete the modern aesthetic.

The building was procured by a third party developer and for that reason the materials and finishes specified had to be durable, low maintenance and of a quality commensurate with long life expectancy.

Response to the building has been very positive. "It is a fantastic facility and I am confident that the local community will be impressed with what they see when they visit the Centre for Health for the first time," said Inger Hebden, Director of Capital Planning. What could have been a utilitarian solution to a complex brief is, in reality, an elegant building with a lightness of touch. In spite of financial constraints and problems presented by a largely sloping site, Aldershot Health Centre is a success story which is reflected in Inger Hebden's comment.

Practical completion of the 13,000 square metre building took place in May 2008 at a cost of £38m. The building meets the needs of 28 end users.

Setting the four storey building in context was a major challenge for the architects. However, the sloping site is used to maximum advantage. The building is cut into the site to create a main entrance at first floor level, thereby reducing the height and scale of the building and at the same time helping people to find their way. Visitors can progress up or down by only one level to find the necessary clinical department. A large roof lantern in the centre of the building allows natural daylight to flood the main waiting hall at the entrance level. This light is directed to filter through to the lowest level of the building through glass walls and open floor voids.

"Creating a community-centred facility on such a large scale has been a challenge," said Chris Allen. "The slope of the site allowed for a series of strategically located car park decks to be largely hidden from view and incorporated into the tiered landscape."

Clinical accommodation is located in the first three storeys with office and administration on the top floor where a ring of clerestory glazing commands outstanding views of the town and adjacent army land.



"The building has been likened to a hilltop town, its profile matching and enhancing the landscape," said Chris Allen.

Aldershot is dominated by the 5,000 military service personnel from the British Army's Aldershot Garrison. Aldershot Health Centre will be home to the medical teams serving the needs of the army, to the three individual GP practices serving the local community, two dental practices and a variety of associated clinical and community-based services provided by Hampshire Primary Care Trust and other local hospital trusts. Because of its size Aldershot Health Centre can support a range of diagnostic, treatment and therapeutic services, including X-ray and CT scanning.

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