

Style and substance

The fundamental role of glass in the built environment is to allow light into spaces while keeping the elements out. But it often also plays a defining aesthetic role too, giving buildings their form and setting them apart as a piece of design work

That was the case with the glazing installation at the newly refurbished Elmhurst Library in Queens, New York. Two structurally glazed ‘jewel boxes’ now dominate the street-facing part of the building, enticing visitors to enter the space.

The refurbishment of the historic building – originally constructed in 1906 – was a significant project for Queens, doubling the floor-space of the building and modernising facilities to meet the needs of today’s library users. The newly opened facility is expected to attract more than 1.2 million visitors per year, making it one of the busiest libraries in the USA.

Engineers from Pilkington Architectural and Pilkington Planar partner installer W&W Glass worked closely with the architect during the design process to specify a system that would deliver maximum transparency, as well as high levels of structural strength.



required mechanical strength.

The glass walls are supported by cantilevered Pilkington Optiwhite low-iron SentryGlas laminated glass fins, which lend high levels of structural support without significantly reducing the transparency of the system.

Phil Savage, commercial contracts manager at Pilkington United Kingdom, says: “This is another prestigious project that showcases the market-leading capabilities of the Pilkington Planar system to deliver spectacular architectural features that really define a building’s appearance.”

Jeff Haber, managing partner at W&W Glass says: “We have worked with Pilkington for more than 20 years, and the Pilkington Planar system was the best choice for this project to achieve the design intent.”

“The quality of the system itself and the excellent service and engineering support that comes along with it, makes Pilkington the go-to choice for structural glazing. The results achieved on this building are testament to that.”

The Elmhurst Library houses more than 75,000 books and multimedia for adults and children in English, and 36,000 books and multimedia in nine different languages, along with a wide range of IT resources available to users. □

www.pilkington.co.uk



The boxes are constructed from heavy-duty Pilkington Optiwhite true low-iron insulating glass units with a low-coating, which reduces heat-loss from the space by reducing the amount of radiation of energy outwards from the building. Adding to the visual impact of the glazing, as well as helping reduce excessive heating and glare from the sun, is a white, silk-screened frit of vertical lines.

For the roof, Pilkington Optiwhite toughened and heat-strengthened laminated glass was used to deliver the

Glory restored

Back in the late 1960's, architect Richard Rogers designed and completed 22 Parkside with his then wife Su Brumwell. He considers this residential project to be one of the best examples of his early work. He links it to a far more spectacular and famous building, the Pompidou Centre in Paris, which he had just begun work on at the time with Renzo Piano. Four years ago, 22 Parkside was granted Grade II listing and is now widely regarded as one of Lord Rogers, best examples of his early postmodern architecture



Lord Rogers donated the building to the Harvard Graduate School of Design which appointed architect Philip Gumuchdjan and his practice to refurbish the property whilst maintaining the appearance of this iconic structure. One of projects' features was its design as a kit of parts that could be quickly assembled on site, something that was quite radical at the time.

During the refurbishment, one of the main criteria was the replacement of all 36 wall panels. These were the original two inch thick aluminium-faced Alcoa wall panels, complete with a rigid Asbestolux lining and polyurethane insulated core. With the safe removal of the asbestos-filled wall panels, the original aluminium framed doors, windows and ventilators were removed from the panels and refurbished.

With the assistance of Aluprof UK, new panels were designed around the company's high-performance MB-59S system which were of 75mm thickness and incorporated a rigid polyurethane insulation and fireboard covered with a 2mm powder-coated aluminum skin to both sides. The new panels were designed to match

the original Alcoa panels and consisted of a new jointing 'zip' gasket, again to match existing, extruded from EPDM. The original aluminium – framed doors, windows and ventilators were then refitted into the new panels with new EPDM gaskets. The newly installed panels now have a U value of just 0.4 W/m²K

Aluprof has said it was delighted to have been involved with the grade II listed project which typifies the company's flexible and bespoke approach to all construction projects, either new or of a complex refurbishment arrangement such as this.

A spokesman for Aluprof says that the company's range of systems, which include unitised curtain walling, sliding folding doors and a wide range of window systems, are increasingly being specified on a variety of residential and commercial projects across the UK. All Aluprof systems are designed and installed by selected, specially trained companies to ensure each product meets the company's exacting standards. □

www.aluprof.co.uk

Light up the showrooms

Atlas Glazed Roof Solutions has reported one of its busiest quarters for the flat rooflight since it was launched at the FIT Show last year. Demand for the flat rooflight has risen sharply and Atlas is now fabricating at least 50 rooflights a week. 60 Atlas customers currently have an Atlas Flat Rooflight display in their showroom and latest Atlas figures show that these installers are selling a third more rooflights because of it.

Gareth Thomas, sales and marketing director at Atlas Glazed Roof Solutions, says: "It's been an incredible first half of the year for the flat rooflight with sales rising sharply, particularly for those installers who have a flat rooflight display in their showrooms. We do encourage our customers to invest in their showrooms because we know it pays off. There really is no better way to show off the contemporary look and minimalistic design of the rooflight. When homeowners see how good the display looks, it makes an easy sale for the installer.

"It's not just the look of the product that makes the flat rooflight popular among installers though. They're also attracted by its competitive price, our fast five-day lead time on stock sizes and the comprehensive marketing support we provide. The main draw for them however is just how quick and easy this product is to fit. Time is money and this product really does help installers to boost their output and enhance their profits."

The flat rooflight displays are just one element of the comprehensive Atlas marketing support package, which



has been developed to give installers the resources they need to create a professional appearance and successfully promote and sell to customers. It includes brochures, which can be personalised with the installer's logo and company details, digital marketing support, direct mail and advertising templates, retail leaflets and showroom display graphics. The experienced marketing team at Customade Group is also on hand to guide installers through their marketing and to develop a tailored programme to help them sell the range of Atlas products. □

www.atlasroofsolutions.co.uk

Uni-blinds integral blinds manufacturer Morley Glass & Glazing has developed SmartMotion, an interface that helps installers quickly and easily incorporate its motorised integral blinds into home automation systems.

Ian Short, managing director of Morley Glass & Glazing says: "The global home automation market was valued at \$4.41 billion in 2014 and is set to grow by 26.3% by 2020. Home automation systems integrate various domestic applications such as lighting, heating, safety and security, energy management, entertainment systems – and motorised integral blinds – and are growing in popularity in the UK, as the concept of "smart" homes takes off.

"An increasing number of our customers are being asked to incorporate our motorised Uni-blinds integral blinds into electric-powered home automation systems – and in the past it has been a daunting and a complex task that could cause damage to the wiring of the blinds or the home automation system.

"This inspired us to commission the development of a unique interface called the SmartMotion which makes the process so simple it's child's play. In one easy step the operation of the blinds is smoothly integrated into the whole home automation system so that they can be controlled at the touch of a button, even when you're not at home."



www.morleyglass.co.uk

Contract for convention

Aluminium fabricator Dudley's Aluminium has secured a new contract, with Sisk Contractors, to help support the construction of the new International Convention Centre Wales (ICC Wales).

The new £83m convention centre will attract major events from across the world, and is part of a joint venture by the Celtic Manor Resort and the Welsh Government, who will both take a 50% stake in the project.

As part of its £1m contract at the site, Dudley's engineers will install Kawneer AA110 capped curtain walling, which will include sloped roof glazing, as well as automatic sliding and manual entrance doors for the venue.

The centre will be situated at the Celtic Manor Resort and will include a state-of-the-art 1,500 seat auditorium and a main exhibition hall that is able to hold 2,400 people and will be the largest pillar-free ballroom in Europe.

The centre is the largest facility of its kind in Wales and is predicted to bring £70m a year to the local city region economy.

Dudley's work at the site will start in November 2017 and the ICC Wales is due to open in June 2019.

Dudley's managing director Colin Shorney says: "We are delighted to be back in Newport to work on the new ICC Wales project. Having worked closely at the Friars Walk retail centre, we appreciate how important projects like these are to the local economy, and look forward to starting at the site."



"In the last 36-months we have worked on a number of landmark projects in South Wales, including the BBC Cymru Wales HQ, CUBRIC and Friars Walk and we can't wait to add the ICC Wales to our portfolio." □

www.dudleys.uk.com



Sealed unit manufacturer, Topline Glass and Glazing, now sources its warm edge spacer bars directly from Swisspacer. Having used Swisspacer since 2008, Topline has since invested in a coding system to print licence details within their sealed unit production process.

Graham Churchill, managing director of Topline, says: "We buy black, grey and white Swisspacer bars in sizes from 6mm to 20mm directly from Swisspacer. It makes good business sense, as it eliminates a step in the supply chain and we benefit from better packaging, improved stock control and a cleaner product. Buying directly also keeps us right up-to-date with information on the latest developments. Overall, it's been a very positive move." □

www.toplineglazing.co.uk