



Design & Display GRP Structures

case study: Newcastle City Campus East Development



Design & Display Structures scores top marks on campus

Tailor made GRP columns crafted by Design & Display Structures helped a major educational project scoop the prestigious North East Landmark of the Year.

When the Newcastle City Campus East won the accolade in October, judges heaped praise on the modern and sustainable design.

Brief

Industry experts Design & Display Structures were commissioned to create around 130 prefabricated, totally bespoke columns for the striking, multi-million Newcastle City Campus East development at Northumbria University. All of these were volume produced using the company's offsite system, bringing massive labour and material savings for the client.

Solution

Under its almost £200,000 contract, Design & Display Structures delivered a six month design, supply and install package for Main Contractor Sir Robert McAlpine – utilising the latest ultra eco friendly GRP manufacturing techniques.

Providing both a decorative and durable finish (perfect for busy student buildings), Design & Display Structures' nearly 2.7m tall and 2.5m girth columns add an extra touch of quality throughout the two building, five storey campus.

The shaped columns were made to encase exposed structural steel columns, located in

the corridors and open spaces between the new Design, Law & Business classrooms.

Benefits

The company's modular offsite manufacturing offered a number of key benefits to the creators of Newcastle City Campus East.

As well as being cost effective, each column was pre-finished to the client's exact BS/RAL colour and texture, and boasts a tough wear resistant finish that is ideal for high traffic areas.

Furthermore, the GRP moulding process meant recesses could easily be formed at the top and bottom of each column in the campus.

Attractive metal skirting was then added at the base, followed by Design & Display Structures' adjustable GRP 'collars' at the top. These ensure that any ceiling level variations likely to occur on large expanses are overcome and the columns will fit completely flush for a perfect finish.

Thermal and acoustic insulation was also installed for the columns, helping prevent excess noise traveling between both the corridors and the classrooms.



Client/Main Contractor:

Sir Robert McAlpine

Architect:

Atkins

Project:

Newcastle City Campus East development

Products:

Bespoke shaped GRP columns

Project Duration:

6 months

"By using our acclaimed one-stop-shop design, supply and install solution, Sir Robert McAlpine and Northumbria University saved a lot of time and money. Our GRP columns are a high quality product, ensuring this campus will look stunning for decades to come."

Managing Director Allan Curtis