

THE GRAFTON CENTRE CAMBRIDGE

CASE STUDY

CONTRACTOR

Contractor is ISG Retail

WHEN

Spring 2017 - Summer 2018

WHAT

Corium Brick Slip system

Trespa Cladding on Nvelope

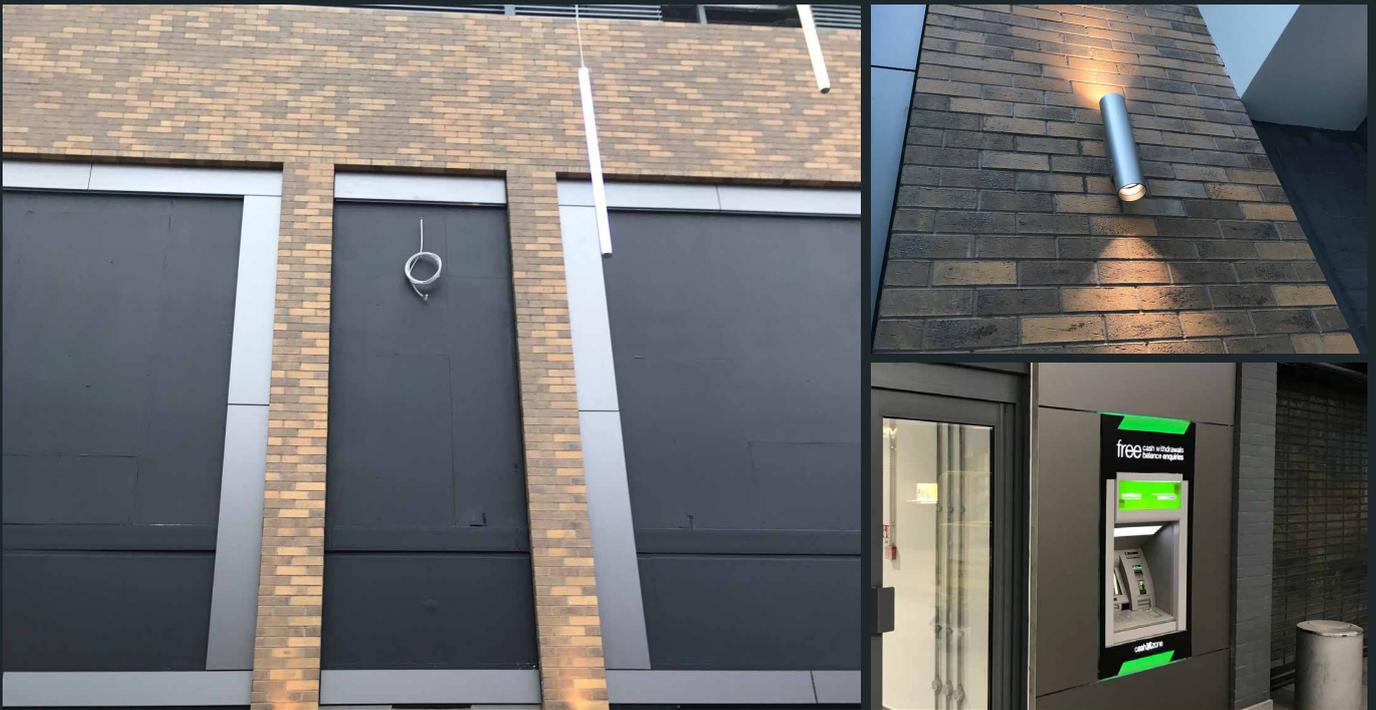
Cladding Support system

A NEW FACE FOR FASHION IN CAMBRIDGE FACING THE CHALLENGE OF A LIVE SITE

The Grafton Centre is a 500,000 sq.ft covered shopping centre in Cambridge, with an annual footfall of 9.5 million shoppers. Having been built in the 1980s the current owners wanted a refresh and so engaged with ISG to refurbish the buildings, tackling the works in phases, concluding in summer 2018. Having worked together with ISG on other projects we were pleased to be selected by the Retail division to update the building facades.

Initially we installed the specified Corium brick slip system to the external building. Corium gives a faster result than traditional brickwork as there isn't any mortar to cure. It is also simpler to work with from towers or scissor lifts. These factors drastically reduce timescales when compared with traditional brickwork yet maintain the look that the architect intended.

Secondly we installed Trespa Panels, creating a border for the bespoke signage around the shop openings, and the cladding surrounding the ATM machines.



Trespa cladding is available in a wide range of different finishes and colours which meant that the architect did not have to compromise on the final look. The finish chosen for this project was a plain grey panel, fitted using the BBA certified Nvelope support system, to frame the large advertising screens around the centre.

Creating the borders to the advertising hoardings became quite a challenge as the hoardings were not in place to measure to. In this instance we had only the technical drawings to work from. Despite this we created a border that fitted perfectly into the space and allowed the hoarding to be installed later without any issues.

Every large-scale project faces the potential of change to anticipated schedules and approaches, and this was no different. Despite the initial intention to work whilst shoppers were present, we were asked to change to working outside of shopping times. Knowing the importance of flexibility, we were able to change almost immediately and began working during the night using scissor lift machines, instead of traditional scaffolding, in order to keep our part of the project on track while still allowing the centre to remain open with minimal disruption.

We drew on our experience again to resolve a request for easy access to services which were intended to be hidden behind the cladding. We installed specially adapted panels, separated from the system, with hinges fitted to them, so that the services could be easily accessed during maintenance and in emergencies. This was something we had not done before

but is something which we will take forward and use in future where appropriate.

Our ability to react to and overcome each of these challenges shows how our experience and knowledge ensures we can be flexible to suit the needs of the project to help keep it on time and budget.



Both ISG and the end users were pleased with the outcome of the project. Stuart Tweedie, Senior Project Manager, ISG said "We decided to work with Eden Facades because the high quality of the work they have done with other divisions of ISG on similar projects. This was a complex project in a challenging environment, but Eden Facades were able to adapt, flex and innovate to help us keep the refurbishment running smoothly."

The Grafton Centre shoppers can now enjoy their new modern retail experience and, when the owners are next considering a new look, the whole process will be much easier as one of the benefits of the cladding and brick slip systems is that they are easy to change out for new products.

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