

DAME CLARE MARX BUILDING

COLCHESTER

CONTRACTOR

MTX

WHEN

Autumn 2023 – Winter 2024

PRODUCTS

A1-rated Y-Wall, Metsec SFS, Wetherby insulated brick slip system, Insulated render system

CATEGORIES

Brick Slip System

Rainscreen Cladding

Project Description

The £64 million Essex & Suffolk Elective Orthopaedic Centre, a significant addition to Colchester Hospital, is a state-of-the-art, four-storey modular block designed to cater to over 10,000 patients annually.

The Dame Clare Marx Building, an NHS facility, will serve as a surgery-only unit, providing new operating theatres, wards and a plant room for patients with conditions affecting bones, joints and muscles in Colchester, Suffolk and Essex. The build is a hybrid design combining Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and traditional building techniques. MTX appointed Eden Facades to supply and install the façade of this new build.

Our scope

Our scope for this project included installing a brick-slip system on the lower levels, rainscreen cladding on the upper elevations, louvre screens, insulation and fire barriers.

The client opted for the Wetherby external wall system because it provides a traditional aesthetic with modern thermal performance. The system features brick-slip cladding on the lower levels, enhancing the building's visual appeal. The Cladline system supports an FC Architectural 3 mm white discrete-fix cassette rainscreen cladding, made from aluminium, which was installed on the upper elevations.

Fire safety was a top priority, leading the client to select Ursapan Black 35 insulation and Siderise RH/RV fire barriers due to their non-combustible properties, which have a Euroclass A1 fire classification.



A solutions-focused approach ensures seamless delivery

Delivering a high-performance façade system for a modular healthcare building always requires precision. Throughout the construction, Eden Facades worked closely with the main contractor, MTX, to overcome logistical, structural and design challenges, ensuring the building's external envelope was delivered to the highest quality, safety and aesthetics standards.

Navigating the logistics of a live site

The new building was constructed on a live hospital site away from the main hospital, which meant minimal disruption. However, deliveries required careful planning.

All materials had to pass through the main service routes of an active hospital campus. Therefore, deliveries were scheduled outside peak periods, ensuring public access remained unaffected.

Late design changes

One of our most significant challenges was when a new link building was added to the orthopaedic centre. Whilst the link building wasn't under our scope, this required urgent reconfiguration of the façade design to accommodate the structural tie-in without compromising performance or aesthetics. Engaging with MTX, the panels were adapted quickly to allow for a seamless installation of the added section of the building.

Precision against time constraints

Typically, with any construction project, there are time constraints. The client opted for modular construction to

accelerate the build's speed and efficiency.

Once the modular blocks were installed, one window was not precisely aligned with the original panels. This required a full re-check and re-measure of the project to ensure window and panel joints aligned across all elevations, all of which were resolved quickly by the team.

Ventilation louvres and cladding to match

On the top floor is a designated plant room that requires ventilation. The client specified Kingfisher architectural louvres, which needed carefully matched cladding. 2 mm aluminium cladding was fabricated to align perfectly with the louvre blades, which was carefully installed by the team, so the system blended seamlessly.

Working with MTX every step of the way

We collaborated strongly with MTX throughout the project, addressing concerns and providing solutions. MTX was delighted with the result, a testament to our effective partnership.

"It's been a fantastic project from start to finish. As with every project, there were challenges to overcome, and we worked collaboratively to ensure the project was delivered on time and within budget."

Matt Green, Operations Manager at Eden Facades

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