

case-study
st ambrose college
hale barns, altrincham

easy **TM**



st ambrose college
altrincham

successful
build & a
delighted
client



/research

St Ambrose College, in the leafy, upmarket village of Hale Barns in Greater Manchester, is a Catholic boys' grammar school, founded in 1946, and currently undergoing a transformation into a modern maths and computing college.

Taylor Maxwell was approached in 2009 to deliver the facade materials for the £24million buildings that would be sited on the school's sports area.

The building was to be shaped in the form of a Celtic cross - in keeping with the school's Catholic traditions - so a solution that allowed for a smooth finish on curved walls was essential.

While a traditional brick option was provided, the **corium** cladding system was eventually agreed upon - providing cost benefits, design solutions and, crucially, complying with the contractor's 'zero-harm' policy on scaffolding.

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"**TM** got involved in 2009/10 through the architects Sheppard Robson," explains **TM**'s Chris Taylor. "Initially, they were looking at a traditional brick build and had looked at other projects we had been involved in.

"We gave them brick options, but at the time we had just started getting involved with **corium**, and we made them aware of the advantages this could bring for them.

"We were particularly keen to impress on contractors Balfour Beatty of the excellent health and safety rating of using **corium**, which does not require scaffolding to install. The lightweight and easy-to-install nature of **corium** allows installation to take place from scissor lifts.

The contractors, architects and council looked at both options and ultimately decided to go with **corium**. We were then heavily involved with the architect to identify the correct blend of tiles.

"Sheppard Robson were particularly keen on a blend of colours we had provided for a project in central Manchester. It was a challenge to replicate this, but we went to great lengths to ensure we were able to deliver what was required."

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CORIUM™

key features

- Unique, innovative system
- Real brick aesthetics
- Saves time and money
- Flexible, functional and imaginative
- Limitless colour range
- Extensive texture range
- Industry tested and BRE certified





invaluable
approach in
achieving
the right
aesthetic



/provide

The new school building is due to open for pupils in September 2012, and **TM's** contribution has been highly praised by the architects charged with designing the new school.

Jonathan Davis, from Sheppard Robson, says: "The **corium** brick system was suggested as a means to avoid scaffolding and get the building water-tight rapidly. Sheppard Robson worked closely with **TM** to review previous projects that had used the system, and to carefully select the right blend of finishes for the new school.

"**TM's** proactive approach was invaluable in achieving the right aesthetic, and in convincing the client body and planning authority to use the system. The end result speaks for itself - subtly curving brick facades, with variegated finishes that change with the light - contributing to a successful build, and a delighted client."

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