

Trent proves concrete is a thing of beauty



Stunning, state-of-the-art architectural stone cladding, designed, manufactured off-site and installed by Trent Concrete, is taking pride of place at the new Barton Square development at Manchester's thriving £300 million Trafford Centre.

A true work of art, the bespoke precast concrete cladding is bringing the cluster of buildings at Barton Square to life - giving them a classical appearance and delivering innate strength and durability.

Barton Square, the latest phase of the development, comprises four 'L' shaped blocks that form a central square, mall and colonnade. Trent's unique reconstructed stone cladding is tailor made to the architect's and client's specifications, as part of a £6.4 million contract.



As well as delivering greater cost and speed efficiencies with off-site construction methods, we are at the cutting edge of precast concrete design and take great pride in delivering a true work of art with every project.

David Walker,
Managing Director,
Trent Concrete

Project:	Barton Square, Manchester
Client:	Peel Holdings
Architect:	Leach Rhodes Walker
Contractor:	Bovis Lend Lease
Products:	Precast buff reconstructed stone cladding
Completion date:	2007



Working together for the perfect solution

Barton Square is an inspirational example of how Trent Concrete's close working relationship with its clients creates the best possible finished product.

Providing a complete solution, from detailed design development, through skills-based manufacture, to on site erection using its own teams; Trent Concrete partners with leading developers and specifiers to ensure that their projects gain maximum benefit from prefabrication.

Trent Concrete's precast solutions make a major contribution to improved quality, certainty, sustainability, safety and efficiency in the UK construction industry today.

The Brief

Following on from its previous extensive and successful work at the Trafford Centre, Trent Concrete secured the contract for the design, detailing, manufacture and installation of the reconstructed stone cladding and features at the Barton Square development.

Part of the new expansion programme at the site, the £70 million Barton Square development will feature a variety of high quality retailers offering luxurious furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and home furnishing products.

The opulent design of the nearly 20,000 square metre Barton Square project will be in keeping with that of the centre and will be linked by an extensive bridge. Opening in 2008, Barton Square is set to reflect the UK's increasingly sophisticated tastes for home products and offers an exceptional lifestyle retail opportunity.

Solution

Working to architectural drawings, the design concept for Barton Square was easily turned into a reality by Trent Concrete. The result is a series of magnificent and commanding buff coloured pilasters, up to 8 metres high, with accompanying cornice units, band course and plinth.

Each unit, some weighing up to 24 tonnes, is handcrafted at Trent's Nottingham-based manufacturing plant. Cast in a buff reconstructed stone mix, with an acid-etched finish, the precast cladding was chosen to blend with similar stone architecture at the existing Trafford Centre - visited last year by more than 30 million shoppers.

Shop fronts inside the Barton Square mall will feature double part brick faced pilaster/cornice units and support beams, while the colonnade will be formed out of 7 metre high, tapered circular columns. The central feature in the mall will be a coliseum constructed from square, 7 metre high columns faced with granite and a curved cornice.

Benefits

At Barton Square, Trent Concrete has been able to create breathtaking, innovative designs that will take the retail experience to the next level for shoppers.

Delivered to site on a just in time basis, every concrete unit is being carefully craned into place at Barton Square. Being manufactured off-site means that time on site is reduced, avoiding any disruptions or delays - and ensuring that overall quality is enhanced.

This construction method also reduces waste and improves the sustainability of the project, with all materials stored correctly and recycled wherever possible.

Along with intrinsic fire resistance, the benefits of precast concrete for a building include good thermal efficiency and fabric energy storage, sound insulation, minimum vibration and long life.