

Trent Concrete's success echoes across Sunderland



The eye catching, curved white precast exterior of City Gate in Newcastle won the attention of Mario Minchella Architects. Soon after, they specified it for their own £38 million new build, Echo 24, a high-quality apartment development in Sunderland.

Widely recognised as the North East's premier development, Echo 24 has been a key improvement in the regeneration of Sunderland's river quarter. Dominating Sunderland's skyline, Echo 24 houses resident's parking, two commercial units and 179 luxury apartments over eleven floors.

Project:	Echo 24, Sunderland
Client:	The Echo Building Ltd
Architect:	Mario Minchella Architects
Contractor:	Tolent Construction
Products:	2,200 square metres of acid-etched white reconstructed stone cladding in 260 units
Completion date:	December 2006



It's wonderful to work on a job that has resulted from an architect's recognition of a previous project of ours. Not only is it a testament to precast concrete, but it gives us all a great sense of job satisfaction too. ▮

David Walker,
Managing Director,
Trent Concrete



Not just a pretty face

It wasn't just aesthetic beauty Mario Minchella Architects wanted to achieve for this landmark building. Given the city centre location, they wanted speed of installation, acoustic insulation and durability - all traits of Trent Concrete's precast cladding. Architect, Mario Minchella himself explained: **"When we saw the product on City Gate we knew it would offer good acoustic properties because it was on a busy road. Therefore, it had the density required by us for Echo 24. It had also weathered well and maintained the right, clean appearance."**

The result was a high quality finish that also simplified integration with other materials, such as curtain walling.

Trent Concrete is securing an increasing number of upmarket urban residential projects. Precast is being recognised for its ability to guarantee a high quality finish, ensure programme certainty and minimise on-site disruption.

The Brief

Mario Minchella Architects approached Trent Concrete, having been impressed by a previous project the company worked on. They wanted to integrate the same stunning look into their unique development.

Solution

Under an £800k contract, Trent Concrete supplied 2,200 square metres of acid-etched white reconstructed stone cladding in 260 units. The wide variety of units fell into six main categories: under-window panels 7.15m long x 900mm high; spandrels incorporating balconies 7.15m long x 2.28m high; curved spandrels 2.65m long x 2.28m high; L-shaped spandrels 3.37m long x 2.28m high; flat storey height panels 3.35m long x 3.3m high and curved storey height panels 2.265m long x 3m high.

Benefits

Trent's off-site construction methods mean the finished products are ready for delivery on a just in time basis, negating the need for storage. These are then fixed to the structure directly from the trailer irrespective of all weather conditions, with the exception of high winds. This avoids the need for costly scaffolding and associated site preliminaries.

Produced in factory conditions under tight quality control processes, Trent's precast concrete assures certainty of quality and of costs-contract sums only being subject to bona-fide variations.

