

PermaRock Products Ltd - High-Rise Housing

Various Tower Blocks, Glasgow

Client: Glasgow Housing Association
Specifier: Wates Living Space
Substrate: Various Non-Traditional Substrates
System: PermaRock Mineral Fibre External Wall Insulation System
System Finish: PermaRock Acrylic K1.5mm Finish

The Project: A recent example of the how PermaRock external wall insulation has brought an improvement in energy efficiency and a complete transformation in aesthetics to multi-storey high rise homes is demonstrated by the refurbishment programme being undertaken by Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) in conjunction with Wates Living Space.

To date over 20 blocks are either on site or completed, with further blocks due to commence in the near future, transforming what were typical rectangular concrete towers into an exciting new skyline. This works constitutes one of the UK's largest ever refurbishment programmes on multi-story blocks, with 100 high-rise blocks being given a facelift over the coming years.

In putting together a performance specification for the over-cladding systems for its multi-storey residential blocks, GHA gave careful consideration not only to the thermal performance requirements, in terms of improvements in the building envelope U-value, but also to fire resistance, resistance to impact, resistance to water penetration and wind suction forces, and also to how the system installation could best be undertaken alongside a concurrent window replacement program.

The results to date at Glasgow have met with approval from all quarters, and already the occupants of the blocks have noticed an improvement in internal comfort levels, as well as being delighted with the improvements in the appearance of their homes. GHA's architects have made full use of the design flexibility available with insulated render systems, and have given these multi-storey blocks a stunning new appearance, with each set of towers being given a unique identity with their own bold designs.

Ian Morrison, of Whiteinch & Scotstoun HA (part of Glasgow HA), comments 'With no investment in the external fabric of the buildings since they were erected, tenants were delighted with the new windows and external cladding (PermaRock external wall insulation) works carried out. Tenants have generally expressed their relief that the buildings are now warm and can be heated more cost-effectively, while the outward appearance of the block is now considered to be attractive. All at Whiteinch LHO were glad that working with our colleagues in the GHA could see these important improvements delivered to tenants'.

The regeneration of the Glasgow high rise tower blocks clearly demonstrates how social housing can utilise the full capabilities of EWI. Not only are the basic technical requirements of structural

protection and heat energy saving achieved, but the innovative use of bold colourful design indicates a level of excellence in a social housing refurbishment.

