

URSA storey's high with new Whitechapel development



Global insulation manufacturer, URSA, has seen some 25,000 m² of its specialist insulation materials specified and installed at one of the capital's largest residential development projects in recent years. Ian Claydon, Technical Manager for URSA UK, describes the specification through to installation journey:

"The Silk District is a new development located close to Whitechapel Station and within walking distance to the City of London. The Whitechapel based scheme comprises three residential blocks set around a piazza with private landscaped gardens.

"Our work with the client, Mount Anvil, began in November 2018. We provided advice and guidance on making the correct choice of materials, achieving compliance with Building Regulations (thermal

performance, fire resistance requirements and resistance to rain penetration) and compliance with the NHBC Standards. We also provided numerous thermal models, U-value calculations and associated condensation risk analysis. The Mount Anvil team were undoubtedly impressed with the speed and quality of URSA Technical Services.

"We were involved with external wall construction as well as the design of a brick clad rainscreen system and continued to work extensively on the scheme throughout 2019 as the design developed further. Work was delayed at the beginning of 2020 due to Covid and re-started in July 2020.

"Collaborating with the client in these very early phases ensured that they were able to select a product that is entirely right for each and every one of their primary and secondary needs. Planning was critical within the design and roll out and meticulous attention to detail was applied during these initial phases and throughout.

Key products installed included URSA's Cavity Batt 32 & Walltec 32 – 12,000m² and URSA Acoustic Roll - 13,000m².

URSA Walltec 32 is a lightweight, non-combustible, semi-rigid glass mineral wool slab treated with silicon based water repellent. It is faced with a black glass tissue on one side and are ideal for use behind rainscreen cladding systems in both new build and refurbishment projects.

URSA Cavity Batt is a lightweight, semi rigid glass mineral wool slab treated with silicon based water repellent. It is suitable for use in both fully and partially layed masonry

cavity walls up to 25m high.

Ian continued: "URSA Walltec proved to be the ideal choice due to its outstanding fire performance qualities, with a Euroclass rating of 'A1' making it totally non-combustible and the ultimate in safety specification for behind cladding systems. URSA glass mineral wool is manufactured from an abundant, sustainable resource and utilises at least 50% glass waste. From an installation perspective, the black glass fleece tissue facing means that the product could be used behind open joint cladding without being seen.

"The Cavity Batt is available in a wide range of thicknesses, ensuring the client was able to meet all appropriate Building Regulations and standards. Our new generation URSA TERRA mineral wool has a 'soft touch' feel making it easier to handle and install whilst still maintaining its excellent mechanical properties.

"There were several other over-arching factors to consider within this scheme and those included the sheer size and scale of the site and its location in a packed city centre. The lightweight nature of both products meant that they could be compressed therefore saving time and money on transport, effectively halving the number of journeys needed. This meant that more products could be delivered to site and stored in an area where space was at a premium.

Our distributor partner, Encon Insulation in Dagenham, worked closely alongside us during the project".

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