

KAWNEER SYSTEMS HELP SCHOOL WIN RIBA AWARD

When materials were being selected for the external envelope of an award-winning part of the £130 million Clacton Schools PFI there was really only one choice for the architect and contractor as far as the curtain walling and windows and doors were concerned ... and that was Kawneer.

The system company's casement windows, doors and curtain walling were the preferred specification for ACP Architects and Wates Construction for the £15 million Bishops Park College that won the RIBA Spirit of Ingenuity Architecture for Education Award 2005.



Bishops Park College is the complete new build element of Clacton Schools PFI project being managed for Essex County Council by QED, the schools PFI consortium of the Wates group. Capital value of the works is approximately £33 million with an overall contract value of more than £130 million.

The project comprises one new build secondary school for 900 students with a large SEN of 65 pupils on a greenfield site (Bishops Park) and the remodelling and extension of two existing secondary schools (Clacton County High School and Colbayns High School). In addition, interim facilities management and services were provided to the two existing schools.

The concrete and steel-framed Bishops Park combines traditional student accommodation with community facilities including a nursery, family support unit and local lending library. Wates' design and construction team was involved from the start in integrating the needs of the community user into the operation of the whole school.

ACP designed Bishops Park College to create an exciting, stimulating and unusual environment. The full range of teaching accommodation has been organised into an exciting and striking new building that is as interesting and stimulating inside as out. Traditional play and sporting facilities have been incorporated in a new two-acre landscape that reflects the character of the local area.

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Their development of it centred on the brief requirements of the formation of three learning communities, each with their team of teachers and associates, working with a dedicated cohort of 300 students in a discreet set of rooms.

Kawneer-approved installer Elliston Steady & Hawes worked with a mixture of window types to achieve ACP's ventilation requirements – the system company's thermally enhanced casement and pivot windows, designed to optimise thermal performance as recommended by Document L.

Kawneer's 190 narrow-style finger-guard door was also used with the thermally efficient 451PT framing system that was designed in conjunction with CLASP (the Consortium for Local Authority Special projects) to minimise sight lines.

Two types of Kawneer's curtain walling were also used, with slope glazing on the main entrance and custom-colour spandrel glass and multi-coloured spandrels on elements of faceted curtain walling.

Project architect Behrouz Shomali said Elliston Steady & Hawes worked closely with them to achieve the variety of RAL colours they required but regardless of the project or the installer, it was their practice to always specify Kawneer for schools projects.

"In this case we also got a steer from the contractor. We would have specified it anyway but the external envelope consultants were also firm in their choice," he said. "Wates had the maintenance of the building to worry about so they were keen to use a product that would be low maintenance and long-lasting. The systems will prove themselves over time.

"As far as we were concerned the profile and the sections and the colours that we wanted to put our stamp on it could only be provided by Kawneer. The planners weren't too keen on the colours at first but we won them over and now they are an integral part of the effect."

Eamonn Wall, operations director at Wates, added: We have historically supported Kawneer in our projects through our strong supply chain partners because we are content the system is suitably robust for the type of work we do."

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