Glazing Systems by Kawneer feature on university’s new-look business school

Kawneer curtain walling, windows and doors were used on the Stenhouse Building which has linked three previously separate buildings and added a new entrance on Glasgow’s Cathedral Street and a state-of-the-art 150-seat lecture theatre at a cost of £14 million.

Building: Stenhouse Building
Location: University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
Architect: Hypostyle
Main Contractor: Balfour Beatty
Installer: Architectural Glazing Systems

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Aluminium glazing systems from Kawneer were value engineered for the redevelopment of University of Strathclyde’s business school.

Kawneer’s AA®100 SSG (Structurally Silicone Glazed) curtain walling features on a new stairwell and the ground and first floors of the new building, while its zone/mullion-drained version, also with 50mm sightlines, has been used on the roof clerestory. The stairwell units weighing 340kg had to be craned into position. The AA®100 system has also been used with AA®542 pivot window inserts on the sixth floor.

These are complemented by AA®543 tiltturn and AA®541 casement windows as fixed light windows to the office floors and by AA®545 medium-duty swing doors.

Regular Kawneer users Hypostyle architects were commissioned to provide a design service for the extension, remodelling and refurbishment of the Strathclyde business school campus, in essence to refurbish the business school for the 21st century as the campus had comprised three buildings which were all built during different decades.

The biggest challenge for the designers was to come up with a design solution to link them all with a common circulation core to give the campus a unified feeling.

A full internal and external refurbishment detailed design scheme was also developed to give the building a new dynamic presence in line with its importance and identity as an institution, and all this to a BREEAM “Very Good” rating.

The new building was constructed on a very tight city centre site over 15 months by main contractor Balfour Beatty of traditional and concrete frame with brick walls and gold coloured cladding. The Kawneer elements were installed by approved specialist sub-contractor Architectural Glazing Systems.

Ryan Young of Hypostyle, who also used Kawneer on hospital buildings at Glasgow’s Southern General Hospital, said: “The Kawneer systems were actually a cost saving proposed by Balfour Beatty. They increase daylight and solar gain to what was a dark 60s building, providing air tightness and activating the ground floor.

“And aluminium’s sustainability contributed towards the BRE Green Guide ratings and the overall BREEAM Very Good rating.”