

**THOMAS FERENS ACADEMY, KINGSTON UPON HULL**  
**ASH & LACY BUILDING SYSTEMS LIMITED**



Ash & Lacy's AshTech rainscreen cladding system has been used to absolutely stunning effect at the new state of the art Thomas Ferens Academy in Kingston upon Hull.

Built for Hull Esteem Consortium, the organisation appointed by Hull City Council to deliver the city's Building Schools for the Future programme, the £24.5 million complex is a leading-edge centre of excellence, using the most up to date knowledge and technology to inspire young people to learn and achieve. It aims to promote the development of every student as an expert learner.

The new buildings have been designed to be eco-friendly and distinctive and to create a positive and stimulating learning environment. The Academy can accommodate 1250 pupils between the ages of 11 and 16.

Visitors to Thomas Ferens are immediately struck by the tremendously innovative multi-coloured façades, made using Ash & Lacy's AshTech Freedom 1 rainscreen cladding system – a concealed-fix, baffle-jointed cassette rainscreen with a fully adjustable support system, primarily used for horizontal application on walls and for soffits.

Fixed to a lightweight steel frame, AshTech panels in dark grey and three contrasting tones of orange have been installed in occasional varying depths and a complex raking façade effect, to create even further visual interest. They also feature on the branded fin at the very front of the main entrance. The attention to detail on this project even extends to the use of AshTech on roof parapet areas.

Approximately 1000 square metres of AshTech was specified in 3mm powder-coated aluminium to a marine-grade specification to cope with the rigours of the local coastal environment, providing a 25-year system warranty.

All this was achieved through the very close collaboration throughout the project between Ash & Lacy, project architect Space Group, main contractor Sewell Group and installation contractor Halcyon Building Systems.

Commenting on the project, Karl Brennan, associate architect for Space Group said: "The service provided by Ash & Lacy was outstanding, in terms of the level of support and product development they invested in the project and achieving such a striking colour scheme.

"AshTech is a fantastic product at the top of the range of aluminium rainscreen cladding systems and the finished facades certainly reflect that status. It was a pleasure to work with Ash & Lacy. I think that between us we created a fantastic building and look forward to creating exciting new ones in the future."

The Thomas Ferens Academy took first place in the vertical cladding/rainscreen category of this year's Roofing Awards.

Architect: Space Group

Main contractor: Sewell Group

Installer: Halcyon Building Systems



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