BEACON BUILDING, STOKE ON TRENT

ASH & LACY BUILDING SYSTEMS LIMITED

The new £5.5 million state-of-the-art Beacon Building was created as part of a £40 million investment in Staffordshire University's City campus in Stoke-on-Trent. A three storey, metal-clad building, it features innovative learning and social spaces. These include 12 timetabled teaching areas and general teaching rooms, flexible, multi-sized space for lectures, IT labs, seminar spaces, and The Pavilion Café which offers a street-food style menu.

The Beacon building features an SFS secondary frame on a steel frame primary structure to ensure light weight construction. Ash & Lacy assisted with the design of the infill SFS system to ensure that the proposed cladding worked in harmony with the primary steel structure.

The inter-floor steel pattressing was carefully designed to provide efficient connection and interface detailing to the structural rainscreen support system required for the external façade

Aluminium rainscreen cladding systems are lightweight, durable, cost-effective, offer a wide range of colour choices, are suitable for both new build and refurbishment schemes, and have a design life in excess of 40 years. Ash & Lacy offers a 25-year system warranty utilising high-quality engineered products and finishes, to give our customers confidence in our ability to deliver long-lasting system solutions.

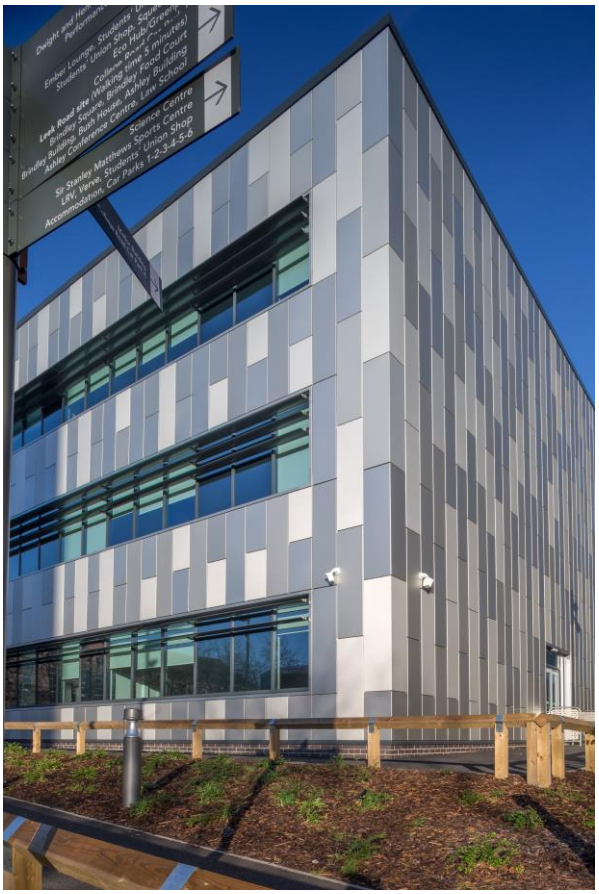
In order to create the three textures in a natural anodized finish, a United Anodisers Unatex product was specified by the architect - brushed, polished and etched finishes. Careful sampling of the anodised aluminium with the design team prior to project commencement, ensured that high-quality, consistent aesthetics were achieved across the building face.

Specific project challenges

- Maintaining the critical system interface details from the SFS installer to the rainscreen cladding installer.
- Ensuring colour continuity from one anodised aluminium batch to another.

Unique project features

- A bespoke natural anodised plank system, designed to seamlessly facilitate linear vertical modules.
- New anodising finishing techniques, featuring etched, brushed and polished finishes.
- A fully designed and warrantied through–wall solution from a single manufacturer.



Project details

Client	Staffordshire University
Main contractor	Thomas Vale Construction
Installer	Midland Steel Erection
Products/systems supplied	SFS/rainscreen support system Rainscreen panel
System accreditations	CE Marked SFS system BBA support system

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