The Building Envelope Authority

Metal In Action

## COLLABORATIVE TEACHING LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
## SOTECH LIMITED

Some 1,400 square metres of the unique Sotech Optima Shingle System have been used on the Collaborative Teaching Laboratory at the University of Birmingham. The shingles were anodised Regency Gold 2, 2.5 and 3 and the finish was selected to create a scaled texture as can be seen in the images.

This stunning façade had to flexible enough to accommodate the practical demands of a modern building.

Due to a requirement to ventilate the high-level plant room, the shingles in this area were perforated and fixed to a bespoke support grid which integrates seamlessly with the surrounding cladding.

To ensure the outcome met the brief, and to ensure 100% accuracy on site, Sotech manufactured mock-ups and specific lay direction simulations to test formed corners.

The new purpose-built facility represents an investment of over £40 million in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the STEM subjects) at the University.

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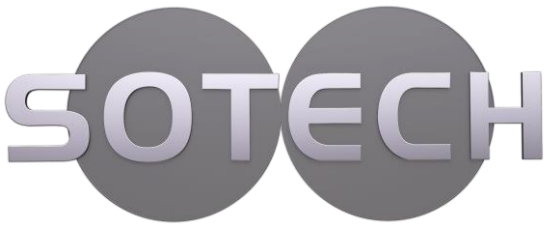
|---|---|
| Architect | Sheppard Robson Architects |
| Main contractor | Morgan Sindall |
| Installer | MAC Roofing & Cladding |
| System | Optima Shingle |
| Material | Anodised Regency Gold |
| Location | Birmingham |

**Benefits of anodising:**

- Colours, textures and patterns can be incorporated in the anodic film, enhancing the natural metallic appearance without affecting the total UV resistance of the rainscreen cladding.
- Anodising enhances the natural qualities of aluminium further; it permits a strongly contemporary finish with incomparable corrosion and abrasion resistance.
- Aluminium is exceptionally recyclable, requires minimal maintenance and has proven lifetime performance.




**www.sotech-optima.co.uk**