



The Building Envelope Authority

Metal In Action

MAGGIE'S CENTRE, CARDIFF ARCHITECTURAL PROFILES LIMITED



The warm brown chestnut colouration of Cor-ten steel specified at the new Maggie's Centre in Cardiff gives Cor-ten a comfortable and 'welcoming' appeal and in this award-winning project, a welcoming visual interaction of the building with its users was a fundamental requirement. Established across the United Kingdom, the Maggie's Centres provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends.

The aim for the centre was to respond both to the domesticity of the neighbouring streets, and to the mountains that surround the building. A series of pitched roofs at 45 degrees to the triangular plan provide an uneven and undulating collection of pitches that look both like a bunching of houses and the local landscape.

Both the roof and walls are clad in Cor-ten weathering steel roll formed by Architectural Profiles Limited (APL). The vibrant warm brown chestnut colouration of the steel recalls the bracken which is a strong characteristic of the neighbouring hills in the autumn.

Inside, the pitches of the roof are exposed and give character to the different spaces as they rise and fall across the plan. The internal spaces are subdivided by Douglas fir elements which define the main spaces and are used like giant pieces of furniture within the landscape of the building. In between these pieces, the spaces open up and connect to each other. The timber brings a warmth and softness, and contrasts with the sleek polished concrete floor.

Alun Jones of Dow Jones Architects says, "The design of the Maggie's Centre was conceived to reflect the surrounding terrain. Cor-ten faced steel oxidises with the weather at a rate which will depend on the environment and the surroundings thereby blending in with its situation...which was exactly what we were aiming to achieve with the design of Maggie's Centre."

The walls and roof at the Maggie's Centre were roll formed by APL at their factory in Flint, north Wales as were the unique, bespoke, water shutes that can be seen protruding from the roofs of the Maggie's project.

Architectural Profiles Limited has long been a champion of Cor-ten steel as a beautiful material for cladding the building envelope, for both roofs and walls. Indeed, APL was probably the first to make Cor-ten available through much of its Profiles portfolio.



www.archprof.com