Project focus

The Silk District, Whitechapel, London Mount Anvil/URSA Collaboration

The Silk District scheme in Whitechapel, London comprises three residential blocks around a landscaped piazza, with modern apartments above commercial space on the ground floor.

The project involved 25,000m² of specialist insulation materials, with URSA also providing guidance on materials and compliance, as well as thermal models, U-value calculations and condensation risk analysis.

Issue:

Needed insulation for the specified brick clad rainscreen system for thermal and acoustic comfort, and reduce the impact of construction products on the environment.

Building type:

Housing/Residential

Requirements:

A readily available, BBA-certified solution to achieve compliance with Building Regulations and Expert technical support with thermal models, U-value calculations and condensation risk analysis.

The scheme

The Silk District is located close to Whitechapel Station, within walking distance of the City of London. It consists of three residential blocks set around a piazza with private landscaped gardens, with new commercial space on the ground floor for restaurants, cafes, bars and shops. Whitechapel is an important area of regeneration for London with neighbouring Shoreditch, Brick Lane, Spitalfields Market and Bethnal Green all less than a 10-minute walk from the development.

Work with Mount Anvil, the property development company leading the scheme, began in November 2018, with URSA providing advice and guidance not just on the correct choice of materials, but also with numerous thermal models, U-value calculations and condensation risk analysis, and the company even helped with external wall construction and the design of the brick-clad rainscreen system.

Collaborating with the client at such an early stage meant they were able to select a product that was entirely right for their primary and secondary needs; planning was critical within the design and roll out, and meticulous attention to detail was applied throughout the project.

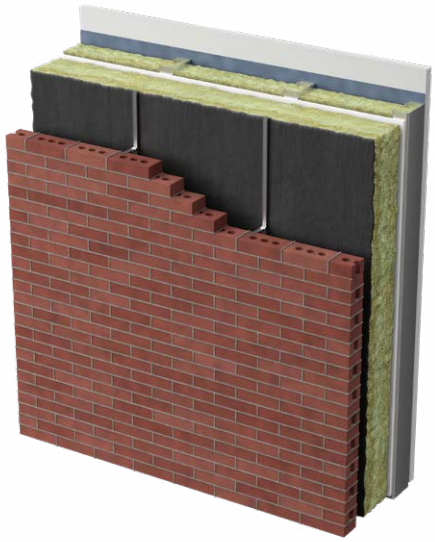
Following a delay due to the 2020 pandemic, the project was finally completed in early 2021 and contains 12,000m² of **URSA's CAVITY BATT 32** and **WALLTEC BLACK 32**, and 13,000m² of **URSA ACOUSTIC ROLL.** These materials were chosen for their fire classification of Euroclass A1 when tested to EN 13501-1:2018 Reaction to Fire, and being manufactured with a recycled glass content of up to 73%. The black glass fleece tissue facing on **URSA WALLTEC BLACK 32** also meant it could be used behind open joint cladding without being seen, giving a clean, seamless appearance.

Mark Guest, Regional Sales Manager for URSA, said:

"There were several over-arching factors to consider within this scheme, including the sheer size and scale of the site and its location in a packed city centre. The nature of both products meant that they could be compressed, therefore saving time and money on transport, effectively halving the number of journeys needed. This meant that more products could be delivered to site and stored in an area where space was at a premium."

Ian Claydon, Technical Manager for URSA UK, added:

"It's fantastic to see three of our core products specified at this major residential development. We have enjoyed a collaborative, partnering approach with the client throughout, who has been eager to select products readily available on the market, and we've been proud to support them from the design phase through to installation."



Etex UK Insulation Limited. Thistle Industrial Estate, Kerse Road, Stirling, Scotland FK7 7QQ **ursa-uk.co.uk**

Technical: T. **0808 1645 134** | E. **technicalursa.uk@etexgroup.com** | Customer Services: T. **01786 451170** | E. **customerservice.stirling@etexgroup.com**