

Case Study: Glasgow Harbour

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Kawneer curtain walling helps with the regeneration of Glasgow Harbour

Curtain walling from Kawneer is helping with the regeneration of Glasgow harbour by giving the architects an aesthetic product that can withstand the extreme environment and the apartment residents light-filled homes with stunning views over the River Clyde.

Building: Glasgow Harbour

Location: Glasgow

Architect: Cooper Cromar

Main Contractor: Taylor Woodrow

Installer: Charles Henshaw & Sons

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Kawneer lifts the curtains on a regenerated Glasgow

Kawneer's curtain walling, windows and doors have been used for Bryant Homes' £45million residential development - part of Glasgow Harbour's riverside transformation of approximately 120 acres of derelict land into mixed use, creating a vibrant place to live and work as part of Glasgow's West End.

The new-build project comprises five blocks of apartments and townhouses ranging from six to 20 storeys to provide a total of 321 units. With Taylor Woodrow Construction as main contractor, the design and build project started on site in January 2003 with a completion date set for the end of 2006. Face capped and bull nose curtain walling, together with slope glazing, AA®603 tiltturn windows and AA®603 tilt slide doors were performance-specified by award-winning architects for the project Cooper Cromar, and specified and installed by Kawneer-approved installer Charles Henshaw & Sons.

The bull nose curtain walling has been used on glazing boxes that act as landmark feature lanterns on the top three storeys of the two tallest towers that feign a lighthouse affect on the 9,500m² Bryant site – a former granary on the north bank of the Clyde. Cooper Cromar wanted a stunning contemporary look for the individually designed apartments that feature extensive areas of glazing - not just to give the elevations the look they wanted but also to create space that was light filled for the residents.

Nevertheless, the glazing system had to be robust to stand up to the extreme exposure and weather conditions for which a wind study analysis was commissioned to establish the performance criteria.

The glazing is complemented by sliding internal wall panels that can be moved easily to create an extra bedroom, home/office or big party area for the residents who range from young professionals and retired people to celebrities. Cooper Cromar's brief was to provide 100% private housing with 100% car parking. Single-storey basement car parking determined overall numbers, while a mixture of medium and high-rise blocks maximised the river view, orientation and requirements of the harbour masterplan.

Steel-framed with concrete floors at prices between £220,000 for a two-bedroomed apartment and £495,000 for a penthouse, reflect their position at the centre of one of the most impressive development projects currently underway in the UK.

Graeme Greenock, associate project architect with Cooper Cromar, said: "Kawneer's curtain walling was an important part of the build because the choice of glazing system played such a large part in the appearance of the elevations as well as satisfying the technical requirements of our performance specification. The curtain walling gives the elevations the look we wanted but also creates internal spaces that are light filled for the residents."

Charles Henshaw & Sons were awarded the contract to design, supply and install the curtain walling, windows and doors for Bryant Homes at Glasgow harbour, which at £7million worth of Kawneer systems, represents their largest single project to date, and at four years, one of their longest.

Charles Henshaw's managing director Tom Lamb said: "Having installed more than £150million worth of Kawneer products throughout the UK over the past 15 to 20 years, we specified Kawneer for Taylor Woodrow at Glasgow Harbour as a product that would meet the required specification at a competitive price."

Please contact our Architectural Services Team if you have a project you would like to discuss: Tel: 01928 502604 / Email: kawneerAST@arconic.com

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