

Case Study: Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

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Kawneer's value engineering credentials amply demonstrated at university campus

Kawneer and Charles Henshaw & Sons of Edinburgh have completed a complex £2 million façade and roofing contract for Robert Gordon University's new Faculty of Health & Social Care.

Building: Robert Gordon University

Location: Aberdeen

Architect: Halliday Fraser Munro

Main Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease

Installer: Charles Henshaw & Sons

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Kawneer provides complex solutions at university

The faculty building is the second phase of the Aberdeen-based University's campus redevelopment programme and features Kawneer's 1202 curtain walling, 1203 slope glazing and 501 casement windows.

Designed by Halliday Fraser Munro, the building provides approximately 13,500 square metres of teaching, learning and office space, including laboratories and a training ward. It is home to the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Applied Social Studies, and Health Sciences, as well as the Aberdeen Business School and the School of Hotel, Tourism and Retail Management.

Henshaw and Kawneer won the contract because their value engineered solution not only provided the necessary technical and performance capabilities, but also represented value for money, which was a key requirement of the client, RGU Properties Ltd.

Built on the side of a hill, the seven-storey building has a dramatic curved roof that sweeps down to second floor level.

The design and installation of the Kawneer slope glazing by Henshaw was highly complex because of the size of the roof (approximately 9 metres wide by 60 metres long) and the large dimensions of the faceted radius.

Doug Harley, Henshaw's contracts director, explains, "The unusually large roof radius meant that we had to allow for expansion. To achieve this we developed a special aluminium gutter detail, which had to be carefully interfaced with the sloped glazing.

"The roof installation process was also challenging and required complex scaffolding, including a birdcage scaffold underneath the roof and an external scaffold following the roof curve."

There were two other technically interesting aspects of the contract for Henshaw. The first related to the interfacing and fixing of galvanised steel walkways/brise soleil to the structural steel work, which required complex design detailing to facilitate penetration of the curtain walling whilst maintaining the weathering.

The second involved the provision of a 'backup wall' at the top of the building where a plant room is located. The 'back up wall' was created by fixing banks of louvres into Kawneer's curtain walling.

The Kawneer systems have been fitted with clear double glazed units and are finished in a light grey polyester powder paint. The management contractor was Bovis Lend Lease.



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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