

# Case Study: Ashington Leisure Centre

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## Elements from all of Kawneer's architectural glazing ranges feature on a new leisure centre

Architectural aluminium glazing systems by Kawneer have been extensively used for their aesthetics and technical capabilities on the RIBA award-winning Ashington Leisure Centre in Northumberland.

**Building:** Ashington Leisure Centre

**Location:** Ashington

**Architect:** Ryder Architecture

**Main Contractor:** Carillion

**Installer:** SG Aluminium

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## Kawneer helps lick a new leisure centre into shape

Two types of Kawneer curtain walling - AA®100 zone-drained and AA®110 mullion-drained SSG (Structurally Silicone Glazed) with 50mm and 65mm sightlines respectively - alongside AA®541 top- and side-hung casement windows and series 190 heavy-duty commercial entrance doors feature on the £16 million redeveloped Ashington Leisure Centre in Northumberland. Designed by frequent Kawneer specifiers Ryder Architecture for Northumberland County Council, the 6,400m<sup>2</sup> integrated leisure and community facility was briefed in as the centrepiece for Ashington town centre's strategic regeneration.

The brief was also to design a high-quality facility to replace old leisure centre and library buildings, which would make a real difference in terms of skills, health and work opportunities, acting as a catalyst for economic growth, social improvement and enhanced wellbeing.

The dry leisure accommodation provides sporting facilities within a flexible six-court sports hall designed to accommodate an array of sports including cricket, badminton, football and gymnastics. In addition, there are two multi-purpose studios, a spinning studio, a new fitness gym, a library and a soft play area. Wet leisure accommodation includes a 25m six-lane swimming pool with spectator seating, a studio pool and a beauty treatment spa. The building has significant glazed elements to the atrium, including clerestory glazing along its full length and full Kawneer curtain walling facades on the east and west elevations. The pool hall has a fully-glazed Kawneer façade to the west elevation and sits behind a series of feature concrete fins which frame the elevation, while the fitness gym is articulated as a feature projecting glass box.

The glazed elements create strong visual connections, provide a sense of activity, and flood the building with natural daylight. This is in stark contrast to the old leisure centre and library buildings which provided very little transparency and natural daylight. Overall, the glazing helps to create a welcoming environment which attracts users into the building and ultimately encourages them to stay for extended periods of time. Operated by Active Northumberland, the new building by Carillion on the 1.4-hectare site of a former supermarket is of steel frame with prefabricated concrete façade, zinc rainscreen and the Kawneer curtain walling which was installed, along with the Kawneer windows and doors, by approved specialist sub-contractor SG Aluminium. Inside, the palette of materials is equally varied, with laminated timber joists within the swimming pool hall, feature timber ceiling, glass balustrades and plywood and stone cladding.

Ryder Architecture, who had to design to Sport England, ASA and Cricket ECB requirements, undertook a detailed engagement process with the client stakeholder group to develop the brief. This necessitated a process of concurrent engineering to develop multiple designs which were gradually refined to the final solution.

Associate Patrick McMahon said: "As an organisation we are very familiar with the Kawneer range of products and we have used Kawneer on several projects over recent years. In this particular scenario Kawneer was suggested by the contractor as a value engineering option which would achieve the desired quality whilst offering the client a saving."

Ashington Leisure Centre won a RIBA North East Award 2016 and was shortlisted in the RCIS Tourism and Leisure awards.

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

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