Case Study:
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

082/Feb17

Kawneer systems feature on the new extension at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Architectural aluminium curtain walling and door systems by Kawneer were specified for a new auditorium, as part of the £18.6 million extension to Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, for their flexibility and performance characteristics.

Building: Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
Location: Glasgow
Architect: Glasgow City Council
Main Contractor: Carillion
Installer: Architectural Glazing Systems

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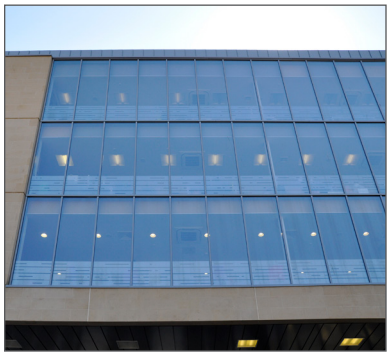
Kawneer glazing hits a high note in Glasgow

Kawneer's AA®100 zone/mullion-drained curtain walling with feature caps and specially machined stainless steel bolts was structurally hung from a steel bream for the main façade and entrance screen of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall extension. The system with 50mm sightlines was specified alongside Kawneer's series 350 heavy-duty commercial entrance doors by Glasgow City Council's project management and design team.

Kawneer's curtain walling forms a picture window in the sandstone cladding which provides a snapshot into the public spaces and allows a glimpse into the new office and VIP spaces. When the concert hall is used, the façade glows, allowing passers-by a glimpse of the lively atmosphere inside the 1,260m^2 building. A council spokesman said: "The Kawneer AA®100 system was flexible to incorporate the needed components to achieve the overall aesthetic curtain walling configuration and achieve the façade design."



The 2.5-year project was a joint proposal between the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council, for the enhancement of the existing Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (GRCH) and the development of the new rehearsal and performance wing. The principal rationale was to facilitate the relocation of the RSNO from its previous home at Henry Wood Hall and to create a more sustainable business plan for GRCH. The site of the extension was previously the city council's north-facing service yard located between GRCH and John Lewis on Killermont Street. Given the size, volume, orientation and adjacency to the existing support spaces in the concert hall, it was an ideal location for the creation of the new wing which was built by main contractor Carillion, with Architectural Glazing Systems the specialist sub-contractor for the Kawneer elements. The building is formed in traditional steel frame, reinforced concrete slab and walls, all supported by bespoke acoustic isolating columns with spring connections. It required the formation of specialist foundations through the existing basement shopping mall of Buchanan galleries, the formation of a concrete structure to the auditorium. The façade is formed in a mixture of stone clad precast concrete panelling, the Kawneer curtain walling and zinc cladding.

The operational objectives of the project were to create a new rehearsal and 600-seat performance venue through the construction of a new wing at GRCH to improve the quality of all performances and increase audience satisfaction, allowing the RSNO and Glasgow Life to retain and attract a broader range of talent through permanent staff and touring artists/conductors. Overall, the project contributed in supporting city centre regeneration by generating greater economic, social and environmental benefits for Glasgow through increased audience figures and to create a high-quality venue to support Glasgow's offering of cultural attraction and activities.

The massing and elevation of the new wing was developed to take account of the aspirations of the RSNO but also to respond to the building's context and relationship with the existing GRCH. The height was designed to match that of the existing buildings. The original concept of having three elements - one solid, one opaque and one transparent - has been maintained, with the elements formed as a series of interlocking geometric shapes.

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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