



Appearance
and Colour

Case study

Kings Waterfront Arena

Liverpool

Architect: Wilkinson Eyre Architects

Main contractor: Bovis Lend Lease

Cladding contractor: Waagner Biro

System manufacturer: Pflaum & Söhne
GmbH Bausysteme

System type: Composite

Profile reference: Flat Panel PO/O

Colorcoat® product: HPS200®



Orion (wall and roof)



An aesthetic choice for Kings Waterfront

Kings Waterfront extends to approximately 36.06 acres and has a prime waterfront location alongside the river Mersey, immediately to the south of the world renowned Albert Dock complex in Liverpool. Part of the site lies within the World Heritage Site. It was assembled in 1985-86 by dredging and infilling three redundant branch docks and demolishing derelict dockside buildings on the former quaysides which date back to around 1907. The original masonry wall structures remain in situ.



The building

Wilkinson Eyre Architects were chosen by Liverpool City Council and English Partnerships to transform Kings Waterfront following an international design competition. It will be the focal point of the city's European Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008. The new civic buildings provide a 10,000 seat multi-purpose arena, a conference centre incorporating a 1,350-seat auditorium and a 7,500m² exhibition facility supported by a major new public piazza, a 1,600 space multi-storey car park and 96 residential units.

The brief for this high profile project demanded architectural design of the highest quality because of its setting next to the historic Albert Dock and its proximity to the World Heritage Site on the Mersey riverfront. The development when complete will have iconic status, defining Liverpool's regenerated waterfront with a landmark structure.

According to Wilkinson Eyre, the team has created an architecture that will express the development's varied functions as a series of visually unified forms, relating to a series of exciting new public spaces rich in art and activity. The overall project architect for Wilkinson Eyre is Sam Wright, the Project Architect is Erick Ramelow and the site architect is Dave Tigg.

Liverpool City Council appointed Bovis Lend Lease to build the 'civic' element of the overall development which is being funded from four sources: European Union Objective One (£50 million), English Partnerships (£67 million), Northwest Development Agency (£14 million), and Liverpool City Council (£11 million). The council agreed a fixed cost Design and Build Contract with Bovis Lend Lease.

The arena and convention centre will be the corner stone of Kings Waterfront and is due for completion early 2008. According to Dave Inglis, QS for Bovis Lend Lease, the project is progressing on time and within budget. "We had a topping-out ceremony in May and already the building looks really striking with its silver cladding, filling a gap between the Albert Dock and the customs and revenue building. There is a large component of glazing which was completed before the cladding to make the construction weatherproof. With the addition of the cladding the building really took shape and we have had really positive feedback about it".

According to Project Architect Erick Ramelow, although the longevity of cladding panels (25 - 50 years), and cost, were taken into account by the architects when specifying Colorcoat HPS200® pre-finished steel from Corus for the Pflaum cladding system, these were not the only deciding factors.

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"The cladding was also chosen for aesthetic reasons. We used Colorcoat HPS200® in Orion on 120mm type façade panels and 60mm internal backing panels in Goosewing Grey. External elements are fixed back to the steel sub-frame and installed with suckers similar to those used for the glazing installation," Erick Ramelow explains.

"One of our concerns was life expectancy under a marine environment - hence the decision to use Colorcoat HPS200® pre-finished steel on both the roof and the lower walls of the building. The product is the most durable around and, with Confidex, has the best guarantee."

Erik Ramelow, Project Architect.

Colorcoat HPS200® in Orion was also used on the roof. "We used lengths of up to 14 metres which is unusual. There is also a secondary layer fixed by Prater, a leading building envelope specialist." The flat panels used are composite, pre-cut and assembled in the Pflaum factory. "Once on site they are simply hooked up using a tongue and groove system with no site modifications required," he said.

Wilkinson Eyre Architects are also involved in a number of waterfront developments: the National Waterfront at Swansea, Brighton Marina where they have designed a forty-storey tower, the spectacular Gardens by the Bay in Singapore and the 400-metre twin towers in Guangzhou in China. However the Kings Waterfront project in Liverpool is currently the practice's largest project in the UK and promises to enhance Liverpool's architectural prowess further still.

