



Appearance  
and Colour

## Case study

### Old Trafford

### Manchester

**Architect:** The Miller Partnership

**Contractor:** Laing O'Rourke

**Cladding contractor:**  
FK Roofing Services Ltd.

**System manufacturer:** Corus Panels  
and Profiles

**System type:** Built-up (no insulation  
required)

**Profile reference:** Arcline® 40, R46  
and C46.

**Colorcoat® product:** HPS200® (roof),  
Colorcoat Celestia® (corner tower walls)\*



Goosewing Grey



White



Sirius



## The Brief

Old Trafford, home to Manchester United Football Club, has been extensively remodelled over the last 10 years, and the completion of the “Quadrant” project is the last piece of the jigsaw. Until 2006, the north-east and north-west corners of the stadium (the country’s largest club ground) were open and incomplete, interrupting the “flow” of the structure’s lines and reducing the crowd capacity. By building on these open corners, access could be improved and Old Trafford’s capacity could be increased by 8,000 to a total of 76,000; furthermore, extra hospitality facilities could be added, including executive boxes, dining suites and conference/event spaces.

Glasgow-based The Miller Partnership, one of the UK’s leading architects of sports arenas, was appointed to the £38 million project in 2003. Building work commenced the following year and the two quadrants were completed in August 2006 - on time and on budget.

Pre-finished steel products from Corus had already been used to great effect in the expansion of Old Trafford over the last decade, and the company has supplied material for the cladding of these new extensions.

## The building

The two steel and glass-clad “Quadrants” unify Old Trafford and provide a sleek, almost corporate, image for the stadium. Each of these curving forms are marked out by a pair of towers which flank the entrances and central circulation cores. These asymmetrical towers, each 50 metres high, are designed to echo the forms of nearby buildings and act as beacons, guiding spectators into the ground when approaching along Sir Matt Busby Way.

“We were asked to look at two things: to complete the stadium’s bowl at the upper level, and to look at how to give the stadium a continuous elevational treatment,” said Brian Johnston, partner at The Miller Partnership. “The landmark towers, which contain the main stairs to the concourses, respond to the skewed shapes of the Salford skyline, such as the Imperial War Museum of the North.”

These towers are clad in Colorcoat Celestia®, the metallic effect pre-finished steel from Corus. Johnston said Celestia® was specified for the principal iconic gesture of the project for a number of reasons: the matt metallic effect was suggestive of quality without being “too shiny”; the silver/grey Sirius colour was neutral and versatile enough to mediate between the existing colours of the ground (Colorcoat HPS200® in Terracota, Merlin Grey and Goosewing Grey).

The half-round Arcline 40 profile from Corus Panels and Profiles was used horizontally, enabling the architects to make the towers lean back towards the centre of the stadium; indeed, the nature of this profile made the curving form of these large planes a relatively simple matter.

Colorcoat HPS200® was used for the roofs of the two new quadrants, matching the profile and colours of what was already in place. Double-sided Colorcoat HPS200® was employed, ensuring maximum protection for the roof, in Goosewing Grey on the top surface, with White being used on the underside. In terms of profile, Corus Panels and Profiles’ R46 was specified for the main roof, while C46 was specified for other elements around the towers.



Importantly, the versatility of the steel cladding enabled the separate stands, which have different heights, to be joined together and unified with no obvious steps or awkward junctions. Also, the upper reaches of the towers serves to disguise the minimal amount of structural steel on the quadrant rooftops, streamlining the stadium and allowing the steel framing of the main stands to function as distinct elements of engineering.

The completion of the quadrants has increased the stadium’s hospitality space by 3000m<sup>2</sup>, allowing the number of people dining at the ground on match days to be increased by 45%. The project was completed in time for MUFC to play Seville on 12 August 2006, and meet Fulham in a Premiership opening fixture eight days later.

\*Colorcoat Celestia® has now been superseded by Colorcoat Prisma® and is no longer available.

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