



Products and Services

Case study

M1 Dundalk Business Park, Retail Unit

Drogheda,
Republic of Ireland

Architect: McClean Architects

Main contractor: PJ Walls Ltd

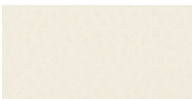
Cladding contractor:
Gleeson Roofing

System manufacturer:
Euroclad (Ireland)

System type: Built-up

Profile reference: Concealed fix

Colorcoat® product: HPS200® (walls and roof)



Hamlet



Retail therapy

The size of out-of-town retail parks are curtailed by law in the Republic of Ireland, in an attempt to limit the impact of these developments on the countryside and preserve the vitality of town centres.

This collection of retail units, located near the M1 motorway in County Louth, has been designed to be large, but low key. Designed by Dublin-based McClean Architects, this pair of buildings incorporates a range of complimentary colours and textures to reduce their impact on the site.



The building

The pair of two-storey retail buildings, completed in September 2005, has already been occupied by some of the major names in Irish retailing, including: toy retailer Smyths, Woody's DIY and Tile Market. A third building - a car showroom - is due for completion later in 2006. The two retail buildings, north of Dublin near Drogheda, have been designed with strong horizontal lines, reducing the visual impact of their height, emphasised by a 5m wide timber canopy. The buildings sit on a robust 3m high "plinth" of blue engineering bricks, topped with a 6m high strip clad in Corus Colorcoat HPS200® pre-finished steel. The roofscape, clad using the same pre-finished steel, is hidden by a parapet and the rise of the canopy.

Out-of-town retail developments in the Republic of Ireland are restricted to a maximum area of 15,000 m², and these two buildings (totalling 13,846 m²) fit comfortably within that limit.

Although McClean Architects is a multi-skilled practice with experience in wide variety of building types, the firm does not have a background in large retail, warehousing or logistics centres. The practice, therefore, relied on the advice of specialist consultants and opted for well-established materials for the construction of these buildings. The Confidex® Guarantee from Corus, supplied to ensure peace of mind for up to 30 years for its Colorcoat® products, was an important consideration when choosing the cladding materials, said project architect Hilary Wright. Furthermore, she added, Colorcoat HPS200® is supported by the leading cladding manufacturers in Ireland. Wright eventually specified Colorcoat HPS200® as part of a highly insulated, built-up cladding system designed and manufactured by Euroclad (Ireland).

Supplied in "Hamlet", a cream shade of white (equivalent to RAL 9002), the completed buildings have what Wright described as a "complimentary" palette of colours which should weather well.

Also, although tests show that Colorcoat HPS200® is resistant to the corrosive effects of pollution, Wright judged that "Hamlet" would retain its the colour under pollution residue from the nearby M1 motorway better than pure white. The cladding system is secured to the steel frame of the buildings via a concealed fix mechanism, to ensure a flush surface.



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