

Corus Colors

# The Odyssey Arena Building

Case study





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### The Odyssey Arena building Belfast

**Architect:** MHB Design, Consarc

**Cladding contractor:** Farrans & Gilbert Ash, Prince Cladding

**System manufacturer:** ame facades, Prince Cladding, SpeedDeck, Tegral Metal Forming

**System type:** Insulated façade panels, built-up

**Profile type:** Flat panel, concealed fix

**Colorcoat® product:**

Celestia® (walls) and HPS200® (roof)



Sirius



Goosewing Grey



### The brief

Located in the Abercorn Basin in Belfast, the Odyssey centre was built to provide an iconic millennial symbol for Belfast, with the design of the whole complex reflecting Belfast's historic shipbuilding tradition. Situated on the quayside opposite the famous Harland and Wolff shipyard, the centre comprises a 10,000 seat indoor sports and concert arena, shopping centre with 12 screen multiplex, a science centre and an IMAX theatre. The architect's brief at the funding stage had been to develop a single landmark building to a stage that would secure both Millennium and matching funding. The architects developed a design for the arena that

would be complete in itself to satisfy client and funders, yet set guidelines for the future development of the site and the Queens' Island located beyond. Construction of the Odyssey centre is part of Belfast City Council's regeneration of the area. The city played a pivotal role in innovation at the turn of the last century in shipbuilding, but entered a period of decline. Today, Belfast is again regaining its confidence and seeking to create success across all communities in the City. Work on the landmark structure was started in 1999 and the arena was opened in December 2000 to mark the beginning of the new Millennium.

## The building

The specification of pre-finished steel for the cladding was important to the design of the building. The architects wanted something that would adapt to the unusual design with flexibility, moulding to the various design contours whilst making an innovative statement. Pre-finished steel was the ideal option and the colour scheme was achieved using Colorcoat Celestia® in Sirius. Each of the individual building elements is of the scale of a city block. The master plan design concept was to relate the elements to each other in a manner that produced a series of spaces, linking inside to outside and referencing the building to its unique context. Steel played a predominant role in the development with 2,100 tonnes of structural steel used

in the overall build of the massive Odyssey complex. Specifically, 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of Colorcoat Celestia and 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of Colorcoat HPS200® were used for roof and walls. It is the 1858m<sup>2</sup> Arena building that enjoys most dominance and provides the strongest visual impact. Faceted facades and prominent curved staircases evoke the sense of an ocean liner, a strong visual reminder of the area's cultural and industrial heritage. Expansive elevations are broken up by means of windows, which punch through the cladding giving the building a human scale. The Colorcoat® cladding interacts with the glazing with both reflecting the water which surrounds the building.





## Material specification

The complete roof and wall façade was engineered, fabricated and installed by Dutch contractor, Prince Cladding. “The total system integration of the acoustic roof, barrel drum cladding, aluminium facades, integrated bi-modular sandwich panel façade and five different types of curtain walling provide the optimum translations of architectural concepts,” says a spokesman for Prince Cladding.

The design is bold and challenges the flexibility of comparable building materials, but the pre-finished steel moulds itself to the shape required. The contemporary image of the arena is achieved by using *Colorcoat Celestia* in Sirius for the walls, with the shimmer effect giving the building a unique and approachable appearance. Flanked on two sides by road and the other two by the River Lagan, and with its ship-like appearance, the structure manages to create a seamless synergy between land and water. Maintenance was also a major issue and using *Colorcoat Celestia* and *HPS200* significantly reduce the period between maintenance cycles, essential in the Belfast marine environment.

The project presented an opportunity to provide a catalyst for the regeneration of the last major areas of undeveloped land within the city. The artistic use of *Colorcoat Celestia* in Sirius for the cladding enhances the effect of the Odyssey structure across the Belfast skyline, filling a previously redundant space with a modern building that manages to epitomise the history of the area through the careful use of design. The choice of Sirius as the main colour on the arena complements the design elements of the other buildings on the Odyssey site and helps the arena to stand out as a monument to creativity in the use of pre-finished steel cladding.



