

Case Study

New brick cladding partnership for the UK

In December 2012, Aquarian Cladding Systems and Michelmersh Brick Holdings (MBH) sealed a partnership agreement for the supply of UK stock bricks for Aquarian's Gebrik Insulating Brick Cladding System.



About Aquarian Cladding

Formed in 2007, Aquarian Cladding Systems Ltd is the sole UK distributor of the Gebrik Insulating Brick Cladding System and aspires to be a leading supplier of rainscreen cladding systems in the UK. With a wealth of experience working with developers, architects, contractors and specialist cladding contractors, the company is continually developing solutions to meet the needs of its clients for both new build and refurbishment applications.

About Gebrik

Gebrik has been used in the UK since 2003 to refurbish ageing housing stock and school estates, in addition to cladding new buildings, such as leisure centres, academies, student accommodation and of course, new housing. Aquarian has also worked with off-site volumetric building manufacturers and unitised curtain walling specialists to use the Gebrik system to its full potential.

About Michelmersh Brick Holdings

Michelmersh Brick Holdings was established in November 1997 to enable the acquisition of brick manufacturers Michelmersh Brick & Tile and Dunton Brothers. Charnwood, a company with an excellent reputation for high quality handmade bricks for building & restoration projects was soon acquired, as was Blockleys, a producer of durable wirecut bricks & clay pavers, and Freshfield Lane Brickworks, the leading manufacturer of clamp-fired stock bricks & pavers, to help MBH become one of the UK's largest brick suppliers.

A Perfect Partnership

The partnership brings a new range of brick finishes to the Gebrik system, all carefully selected for their superior quality, appearance and tolerance. The extensive choice of finishes now includes First Quality, Selected Dark and Danehill Yellow Stock bricks from Freshfield Lane, and Hampshire Red, Sussex Red and Victorian Red Handmade bricks from Charnwood.

Paul Richards, Managing Director, Aquarian Cladding: *"The inclusion of MBH's superior brick finishes in the Gebrik System, will deliver a traditional, high quality brick facade using a lightweight cladding system that is simple and fast to install, providing excellent energy efficiency".*

Frank Hanna, Group Commercial Director, MBH: *"We felt the quality and calibre of the Gebrik cladding system was something we wanted to be closely aligned with. There are great synergies with our high end products and the Gebrik system – both are premium products with premium finishes".*



Project Study

Henley Homes, Isabella Court, London

Located in the heart of London, the refurbishment of Isabella Court, by award-winning developer Henley Homes called for a brick facade that would harmonise with adjoining buildings, both of which were clad in traditional London Yellow stock bricks.

Gebrik provided the perfect solution, delivering fast construction, enhanced insulation and a traditional brick finish. The addition of the Freshfield Lane Danehill Yellow Stock to the Gebrik range completed the story, perfectly complementing the surrounding architecture, matching the brickwork of the adjacent buildings.

Henley Homes has completed a wide range of high quality new-build and refurbishment developments across London and the south east. The company's Lumiere Apartment development in Clapham Junction won two prestigious International Property Awards in 2010, including one for Best Redevelopment/Renovation, as well as being commended in the British Homes Awards the previous year.

Having now used Gebrik on four projects in London, Henley Homes intend to use the Gebrik system on at least two further projects in 2013.



Kashif Usmani, Director Henley Homes:
“As fuel costs rise, home owners are increasingly interested in the thermal performance of their properties. In London, much of the existing housing stock is old and has very poor U-values, so whether we are building new or refurbishing, Gebrik provides the perfect brick solution. The addition of traditional Stock and Handmade bricks to the range gives Gebrik the ideal facade for London's housing market.”

More About Gebrik

Gebrik, invented in Belgium in 1982, is a proven brick cladding solution for either over-cladding existing buildings to improve their appearance, thermal performance and durability, or for use on new buildings to improve build programme, reduce site storage and scaffold requirements and to minimise construction costs associated with supporting brickwork at height.

Available in a range of brick sizes, brick slips are cast in polyurethane under factory-controlled conditions to create approx 1m² prefabricated, composite sheets, which can be mechanically fixed to masonry, timber or steel frame substrates on site.

Gebrik is BBA certified and has been successfully tested to stringent CWCT and BRE standards, ensuring it satisfies building insurers and local building control officers alike.

Gebrik will:

- Improve build quality
- Reduce a traditional brickwork programme
- Reduce wall thickness
- Improve thermal performance
- Reduce the facade loadings on foundations and frames
- Minimise site storage and deliveries
- Eliminate the requirement for scaffold
- Reduce the dependence on good weather

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