

CASE STUDY

ALEXANDRA ROAD

Europe's longest roof gets a state-of-the-art renovation



Widely recognised as one of the UK's most ambitious estates, Alexandra Road Housing Complex is a 16 acre housing scheme in the London Borough of Camden.

Designed by Neave Brown of Camden Architects' Department in 1968 and built between 1972 and 1978, it is Europe's largest housing development and accommodates 1660 people in 520 dwellings. Its dramatic tiered structures became Grade II listed in 1993 and since 1996 the development has also formed part of a wider conservation area.

The complex had a 10 year old single ply roofing system which had failed and required complete replacement. The year-long project to renovate the roof began in early 2004 and a cost-effective yet robust roofing system was needed. As with all re-roofing specifications, this system also had to integrate with the existing structure, a consideration that was especially important in the light of Alexandra Road's Grade II listed status.

With these key criteria in mind, Architects Levitt Burnstein specified products from Permanite Engineered Roofing Systems because of the toughness and improved performance which mastic asphalt offers.

Permanite produced a Permaphalt roofing system that incorporated an inverted roof design and extruded polystyrene insulation boards.

Project Sector: Social housing redevelopment

System: Mastic Asphalt Inverted Flat Roof with Extruded Polystyrene Insulation Boards Finished with Paving Slabs and Pebbles

Products Used: Permaphalt Mastic Asphalt

Architect: Levitt Burnstein

Completed: 2005

Size: 15,000m²

The 15,000m² roof, the longest in Europe, was finished with paving slabs and pebbles to provide a pleasant outdoor roof terrace for residents

Permaphalt has gained unique accreditation from the primary insurance approval body, the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB). As a result, the roof at Alexandra Road was provided with a 20-year insurance-backed guarantee for the design, materials and installation work. In addition, the product has been independently assessed by the Building Research Establishment, and was the first grade of mastic asphalt to achieve BBA accreditation.

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