SIKA AT WORK
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

ROOFING: Sika Sarnafil G410-12EL (light grey)

Sarnafil®

Sika®

SIKA SARNAFIL REFURBISHES THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF ROOFS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The University of Aberdeen has specified the use of Sika Sarnafil's single ply roofing system in the refurbishment of several of its buildings, with the campus' science building the latest project in the pair's long-standing relationship.

Originally opened as the Chemistry Building by Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry, Sir Robert Robinson, in 1952, the Meston Building is one of the largest buildings on the University's campus. It was later renamed in memory of a former University chancellor, the Rt Hon Baron Meston, extended in 1968 and refurbished in 1988.

With the passing of the years, the 1988 improvements to the Meston Building's roof became problematic. The junctions where old met new were affected by ponding water, which penetrated into the building's large lecture theatres and science students' study areas. And so, seeking a solution, the University turned to Sika Sarnafil.

SIKA SARNAFIL SOLUTIONS

Sika Sarnafil's adhered single ply membrane G410-12EL in light grey met the University's aesthetic requirements, while the system's BBA-certified life expectancy in excess of 40 years also offered the durability and longevity it was looking for.

The installation was not without its challenges. "This was quite a complicated project," recalls Richard Burke, Sika Sarnafil's roof management refurbishment surveyor for the north. "A lot of the original material couldn't be stripped off the detailing on the roof. In particular, the rectangular chimney-like structure is actually a rain screen to an open air area below that's exposed to the elements. The detailing around that was quite tricky. There were lots of things to work around, including staff and students as work was carried out during term time."

Roofing contractor A & B Buchan Roofing Ltd took the project in its stride though, stripping the 2,000sq m roof in stages and then applying a temporary waterproofing layer.

"You rarely get flat, featureless roofs in this area, so this project didn't phase us," says the company's Stephen Buchan. "The flue pipes feature was a little unusual, but the project went well."

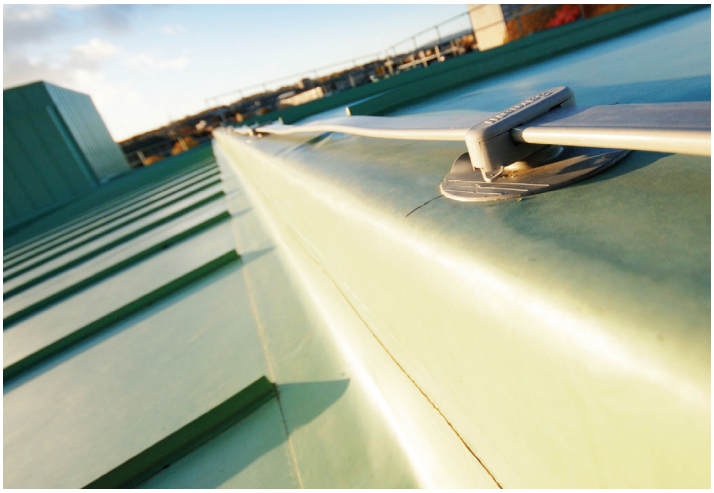
The installation of SarnaTherm tapered insulation, which enhances water drainage from a flat roof, solved the ponding water problems where the original and 1988 fitted sections of waterproofing were joined.

"This thermal upgrade also provided a significant reduction in the building's CO2 emissions," says Richard. The bitumen membrane used in the application of the temporary layer was compatible with the Sarnafil system, expediting the final stages of installation.

"This avoids any issues with compatibility," adds Richard. "The SarnaTherm insulation board was then applied to the bitumen vapour control layer and the Sarnafil membrane adhered using Sarnacol 2170 adhesive."

Richard is pleased with the results of the Meston Building refurbishment, saying: "The project was completed to a very high standard. Sarnafil has an ongoing relationship with the University and works to meet its specifications and aesthetic requirements."

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN



"THE UNIVERSITY HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SEVERAL LARGE REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS USING THE SIKA SARNAFIL SINGLE PLY ROOFING SYSTEM AND IS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE END PRODUCT."

Other University of Aberdeen buildings featuring Sika Sarnafil roofing systems include The Hub, a recently refurbished £8million dining, leisure and social facility, the School of Education's MacRobert Building, which underwent £9million of refurbishment in 2005, and the 1997 refurbishment of the Cruickshank Building for the Department of Plant & Soil Sciences. The Polwarth Building, home to the University's original Medical School, also features a Sarnafil roof that complements the building's 1930's aesthetics. The refurbishment of the University's two libraries is also testament to the trust placed in Sarnafil.

The Book Stack houses many historic books, including some dating back to Medieval times, and so it was paramount that work to the roof did not put these precious manuscripts at risk. "The curator was concerned about the possibility of fire or water leaks," Richard recalls. "But Sika Sarnafil had just introduced its Sarnacol 2162 polyurethane insulation adhesive, which meant there was no need for bitumen and hot works, perfect for this project. He was anxious for the project to go smoothly and thankfully it did."

The Queen Mother Library's roof was also successfully refurbished, safeguarding its one million books and manuscripts. "I hope Sarnafil's positive working relationship with the University will continue long into the future," Richard concludes.

A spokesperson for the University Estates Section adds: "The University has successfully completed several large refurbishment projects using the Sika Sarnafil single ply roofing system and is very satisfied with the end product."

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS
Product: Sika Sarnafil G410-12EL (light grey)
Size: 2000m^2

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