Students in safe hands with eurofox

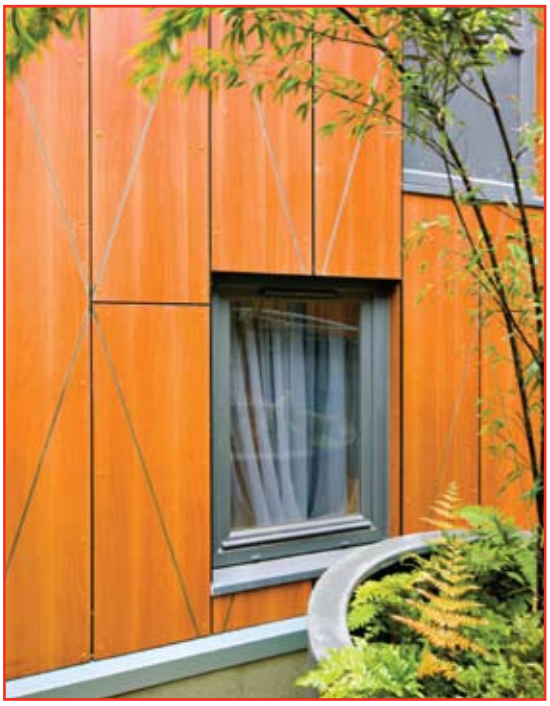
Eurofox Engineering's leading cladding support systems have ensured the modern cladding façade on London's major new student accommodation, Opal 1, remains securely in place for decades to come.

Delivered for Opal Property Group, Opal 1 is a multi-million scheme that will provide accommodation for over 500 students. Fronting a busy street in central London, it was essential that the building provided impact, so to achieve this 2,300m2 of Trespa Meteon rainscreen cladding panels were specified. As well as maintaining the building's decorative aesthetic, it was also of paramount importance that these heavy panels were securely fixed for total safety. This was no problem for Eurofox Engineering's tried and tested aluminium Macfox vertical cladding bracket and rail system.

A versatile, robust, yet simple to install system, it provides the necessary support system for a variety of cladding products. Constructed from BS EN 755 – the European Standard for aluminium and aluminium-alloys – compliant aluminium, Eurofox Engineering's solution, guaranteed a high standard system.

Not only does the lightweight, high strength metal create a strong and safe support mechanism, but it also provides longevity. This is down to aluminium's interaction with the air which produces an oxide layer on its surface to provide a natural, high level of corrosion protection.

Project:	Opal 1
Location:	Islington, London
Developer:	Opal Property Group
Product:	Macfox vertical cladding bracket & rail system



For specialist contractor Paneltec Ltd, working for main contractor HG Construction, the Eurofox Engineering system was easy to install, making the challenging cladding aesthetic easier to produce. The Macfox system was secured to the building's main reinforced concrete structure and once in place, the Trespa cladding panels were swiftly fixed.

"The Eurofox Engineering system is tried and tested and simple to install," commented Neal Clark, Project Director of Paneltec. "We used standard rainscreen build methods and the utilisation of the Eurofox Engineering system to provide the support for the cladding, enabled us to focus on producing a high quality façade."

The Eurofox Engineering system comprises a series of standard, off the shelf components. Each bracket is punched to allow simple primary fixing to the exterior substrate, and features elongated holes and slots to allow for dead load and dynamic wind load. Particularly helpful for the installation of the profiles is the integrated, continuous 'clipping tongue' on Macfox helping hand brackets which allow profile alignment adjustment on each bracket.

The Macfox system is just one of the innovative ventilated cladding support systems available from Eurofox Engineering. Offering a package of design and installation tools and support for its wide range of systems, Eurofox Engineering's products are designed with the installer in mind.

With the cladding at Opal 1 now being held firmly in place, the students can rest assured that their accommodation block will look stunning for decades to come.

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