

Case Study

Healthcare

Ulster Hospital



Facts about the project

Ulster Hospital, Northern Ireland

Architect: Avanti Architects, London with Kennedy, Fitzgerald and Associates, Belfast

Design: GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership

Main contractor: Graham Construction

Ceiling Contractor - Oakleaf Contracts

Products: Hygiene Meditec™ E, Hygiene Clinic™ E,



The initial preparation work carried out by Saint-Gobain Ecophon on this latest Ulster Hospital project paid dividends in the end. The company is already well known for its ability to meet the specific demands of healthcare projects and has completed projects at the Ulster Hospital, including the South Eastern Trust's Quality, Improvement and Innovation Centre (QIIC).

The impressive Inpatient Ward Block is a beacon for new healthcare provision in Northern Ireland and has been constructed by the GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership. It incorporates 288 single bedrooms, each with an en suite bathroom; a new day surgery department including four state-of-the-art operating theatres and an endoscopy suite; and support services, including a new pharmacy department and café.

The technical team from Saint-Gobain Ecophon worked closely with the GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership and the installation company, Oakleaf Contracts, at the design stages of the project to create an effective, bespoke solution for the new hospital. "This is a major healthcare development and we are delighted to be associated with it," explained Alan Crompton, Regional Sales Manager Ireland for Saint-Gobain Ecophon. "We have worked on this project, on and off, for the last two years, so it is great to see it finally completed. There was a very specific brief and we had to prove how our solutions would work effectively.

"Stephen Young, Design Manager at GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership, praised the work of Ecophon on the project. "Working with manufacturers at the design stage is vital to the success of any project," he said. "Ecophon's team was extremely helpful and their input at the design stage was useful, as it allowed us to finalise all the details with the design team. They also provided all the samples that we required to create a mock-up suite for approval by the client. Work progressed well on site and this initial design work certainly helped this."

Saint-Gobain supplied a wide range of solutions for this project, including a number of specialist tiles that were made to order. Andrew Acheson, Saint-Gobain Ecophon's Area Manager for Northern Ireland, added, "Our ability to design and manufacture solutions is a major advantage to customers, and it proved essential to meet the specific requirements of this project. "We also had a strict delivery deadline to meet on the bespoke sized tiles and, again, having our own dedicated manufacturing facilities played an important part in being able to meet this deadline." Saint-Gobain Ecophon supplied Hygiene Meditec E for the bedrooms and corridors of the new hospital and Hygiene Clinic E in the bedrooms, corridors and other areas within the new healthcare facility. Ecophon Hygiene Meditec E is a wall-to-wall, sound-absorbing ceiling system and, as it is intended for environments

where disinfection and cleaning is required on a regular basis, it was the perfect choice for the Ulster Hospital. The system is classified B1 and B5 for zone 4 according to standard NF S 90-351 and clean room classified according to standard ISO 5. Complementing this range was the Ecophon Hygiene Clinic E. Like the Hygiene Meditec E range, Clinic E is also a wall-to-wall, sound-absorbing ceiling system intended for healthcare applications where a standard suspended ceiling system is required, but where strict functional requirements are stipulated.

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