



Lancaster House

Structherm

INCA Awards 2019 Finalist

Category: The Heritage Award



Structherm provided the external wall insulation for Lancaster House in 2009-2010. The tower, owned by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council is a concrete frame building constructed with brick infill. This build type provided poor thermal efficiency with a U value of $1.61\text{W}/\text{m}^2\text{K}$. The client, Sandwell MBC in the West Midlands, had three main requirements with this project. The regeneration needed to be cost-effective, and avoid the removal of tenants during the works.

The design life of the building was a key concern, as this would affect whole life value of the project. The final concern was an aesthetic one. Before the start of the project, the building was known as an unattractive impression of the community as it could clearly be seen from the M5, so the council were keen to turn this image around.

Working with the client, the Structherm system was able to reduce the U value to $0.3\text{W}/\text{m}^2\text{K}$ – the industry standard at the time. Working in excess of this would have been against the client's requirements for the project.

Lancaster House was once called a blot on the landscape, and improving the appearance of the building included a cream and terracotta render finish to the bulk of the building, while a brick effect render was applied to the ground floor for extra protection as this part of the building would have more foot traffic and daily contact.

This was not only successful from an aesthetic point of view, but also helped to give a new sense of pride to the tenants, with print articles praising the refurbishment was published in The Express and Star, a local paper, and Local councillors at the time commented on the project during the refurbishment.

