

# WHAT TO SPECIFY CLADDING

Whether you're looking for beauty, ruggedness, environment-friendliness or a combination of all three, this week's selection of cladding materials will sort you out nicely



## ALUMINIUM FACADE PANELS

Almost 5,000 separate anodised aluminium rainscreen panels from Hunter Douglas were used on this residential complex on Southwark Bridge Road in south-east London.

Designed by Glas Architects, the scheme uses the firm's Multiple Panel Facade (MPF) system, which was specified in part because it can easily be cranked and curved and the fact that almost any dimension can be ordered. Numerous non-standard sizes of the silver-grey

panels were specified, giving the development a random look. The single-skinned was also cranked around the window reveals, resulting in a seamless flow of the panel into the window jam, avoiding the need for flashings.

The scheme represents the largest-ever MPF order in anodised aluminium from Hunter Douglas in the UK.

**Hunter Douglas**  
[www.hunterdouglas.co.uk](http://www.hunterdouglas.co.uk)

## MOVERS AND MAKERS

■ Aliva UK, maker of ventilated facades and cladding systems, has launched a website called [www.alivauk.com](http://www.alivauk.com). The site provides details of the company's range of backing structures, facade systems and renders, including technical specifications and drawings.

■ The Tile Association has published an advisory note on travertine in response to the high volume of the product available on the UK market. Travertine, although often sold as a marble, is actually a limestone. The advisory note addresses what travertine is, its natural characteristics and its performance in use, as well as offering pointers on how to establish its quality.

■ The Timber Trade Federation has published a comprehensive guide to panel products on its website. The guide gives a complete overview of veneer and core plywoods, particleboard, oriented strand board and fibreboard, as well as guidance on the use of panels in construction, storage, handling, environmental aspects, as well as health and safety.

■ Ibstock has launched a "brick selector" to simplify the process of brick matching and brick selection for its range of clay facing-bricks. The guide takes customers through the brick selection process and also contains creative ideas for the use of brick.

■ The National Access and Scaffolding Confederation has launched a 24-page brochure designed to explain to clients and main contractors why adopting a policy to use only regulated scaffolding firms can help them meet their requirements under the CDM 2007 regulations for competence.



## SLIDING GLASS FACADE WITH PV

Austrian firm M-systems has launched the EV3000, an aluminium framed glass sliding panel designed to provide solar shading on facades and which also incorporates thin film photovoltaics for power generation.

The panels can be used for a number of applications, from the floor-to-ceiling glazing of balconies to a complete second skin. They are suitable for applications where a height of more than 2.8m between floors is required or where there are high wind loadings. The system can accommodate laminated glass panels with a thickness of up to 24mm and a weight of up to 21.0kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The panels can be easily slid along rails or they can be provided with a motor. The integrated PV provides homogeneous shading and helps control solar gains and glare inside the building.

**M-systems**

[www.m-systems](http://www.m-systems)

## Marble cladding

Stonespec has introduced Agglotech to the UK. This is a reconstituted stone product made from marble chips, Portland cement and water, and it can be used for a range of applications, including cladding, window sills, floors and even worktops.

The panels are made to order and can be fabricated from a large range and combination of marble colours, which are combined with different binders to provide a complementary or contrasting finish. The size of the marble chips can be varied depending on the desired look, and finishes such as brushed or bush hammered can be specified to give a textured feel. The process normally takes up to two months.

Agglotech is manufactured in large blocks which are cut and worked like natural stone to the desired size and shape. Unlike materials such as Terrazzo, the marble chips are densely packed throughout the depth of the panels and provide hard and durable edges.

The mix is produced using TX Active cement. This has photocatalytic properties which, when exposed to daylight, form oxidising reagents that decompose substances that can cause discolouration, such as soot and algae. It also reacts with airborne pollutants such as volatile organic compounds, nitrous oxides and sulphuric oxides, which are significant factors in smog, and breaks them down into more benign substances.

**Stonespec**

[www.agglotech.com](http://www.agglotech.com)

## Integrated solar thermal panels

Luvata has developed Nordic Solar, which discreetly incorporates renewables into a building by integrating a patinated copper facade with a solar thermal system.

The system is compatible with all of the company's prefabricated copper panels, profiles

and cassettes and is available in a variety of colours, from patinated green copper to blue and brown shades. According to Luvata, patination on copper significantly increases its solar energy capture when compared with natural copper and this, combined with its good thermal conductivity and corrosion resistance, makes it a good renewable choice.

The Nordic Solar system is tailor-made to meet the specifications of a building and benefits from a high degree of prefabrication for quick and easy installation.

**Luvata**

[www.luvata.com](http://www.luvata.com)

## Terracotta-look solar shading

Sotech has supplied a bespoke extruded aluminium baguette sunscreen system that replicates the appearance of traditional terracotta for a multistorey car park at the Almondvale shopping

centre near Edinburgh. The car park is clad in terracotta tiles with baguette screens between each floor to provide natural ventilation and daylight.

Sotech worked with contractor Lakesmere to create the baguette system using its Optima range, combining the aluminium screens with a five-component polyester powder coating finish that gives the look and feel of terracotta.

The sunscreen is fully recyclable and modules measuring 2.7 x 1.8m and weighing 40kg can be factory-assembled to save installation time and reduce costs.

Sotech's highly flexible baguette system is available in three textured paint finishes, from dark and light shades of traditional terracotta to anthracite grey, while more conventional finishes are also available.

**Sotech**

[www.sotech-optima.co.uk](http://www.sotech-optima.co.uk)

## STEEL CLADDING

SAS International's bespoke cladding system was installed at the lower areas of Waterloo station, where they cover 3.5m thick Victorian brick arches. The result is a sleek modern environment for a previously disused and damp space.

**SAS International**

[www.sasint.co.uk](http://www.sasint.co.uk)

