

SIX STARS FOR TERRAPIN MODULAR CLASSROOMS

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Terrapin, one of the UK's leading offsite specialists, has supplied five double and one single classroom unit that were built with its renowned Unitrex system for Hillingdon Borough Council in London.

The six units were supplied to Heathrow Primary, Glebe Primary, William Byrd School in Harlington, Rabbsfarm School in Yiewsley, Brookside School and Pinkwell School in Hayes over a 12 month period.

The council was looking for high quality single storey double and single classrooms that could cater for the continued expansion of the schools. At several schools, site access was restricted, this meant that traditional volumetric offsite units could not be transported to site without specialist lifting equipment, which would have added significantly to the cost.

The first project was at Glebe Primary School in 2009, which came about as a result of a competitive tender. Both the school and local authority were delighted with the new building and Terrapin was then successful in completing the rigorous tendering process for the other school buildings within the catchment area.

Terrapin's Unitrex system was able to provide the perfect solution because it uses standardised system components that are delivered to site in a flat-pack configuration, which have been fabricated in a quality-assured factory to create permanent or temporary low-rise buildings. The Unitrex panels are particularly well suited to projects where there is restricted site access, whilst still enabling the creation of a weathertight seal to the permanent building within three days.

The buildings featured a suspended timber floor, plus solid timber laminated beams and supporting timber roof joints, plus warm roof decking and thermal insulation. Additional sound insulation



was provided in the form of mineral wool and aluminium windows with an integral security blind, were also specified, for added protection. Each classroom also features WC facilities, with all services installed by Terrapin. All units were supplied with Strata Board cladding to the exterior, which provides a stone aggregate finish that complements its surroundings.

Terrapin was chosen for this project as the company provides a complete turnkey service, which includes concept and design, manufacturing, groundworks, landscaping, drainage, gas installation and IT right through to project managing to final handover, providing a simple 'one stop shop' solution to the client.

Graham Davies from Hillingdon Borough Council, said: "We are delighted with the new classroom buildings supplied by Terrapin, which are an affordable way of supplying extra capacity for the schools. We have been impressed with both the design of the buildings and the build schedule that Terrapin have worked to. The classrooms feature a high specification and will provide all the schools with a modern, energy efficient learning environment."

Adrian Day, Managing Director of Terrapin, explains: "We have extensive experience in supplying this type of construction to schools across the country. The end result is a series of classroom buildings that meet with performance, aesthetic and budgetary requirements. We are delighted to have been able to work with these schools using our highly sophisticated Unitrex solution that we have developed over many years. One of the benefits is that green technologies, like heat pumps can also be incorporated into the design, and this is an area where we are seeing a growth in demand."

Unitrex features a unique lightweight construction, which is a fundamental part of Terrapin's approach. It means fewer deliveries to site and reduced traffic in the local area to minimise disruption to residents. Once the ground floor steelwork is erected, the Terrapin site team can fix the panels onto the framework to create the weathertight seal within days and therefore enable the internal fit-out to be completed on schedule.

Terrapin's expertise in projects of this type, as well as the adaptability of the Unitrex panellised system, often provides bespoke solutions, which utilize common factory manufactured components.

Insulation to walls, floors and roof meets the latest requirements of Approved Document L of building regulations. A ramped approach and low threshold entrance door provides for disabled access in accordance with Document M.

Following the competitive tender process, Hillingdon Borough Council chose to work with Terrapin for this project because the company had extensive experience in offsite construction for schools and could meet its requirements for building specification and service delivery within its timeframe and budget.

Terrapin operates to ISO90001 quality standards and is renowned for its right first time approach. This means that every component is checked before leaving the factory – ensuring clients of the highest quality build on site.

Terrapin is one of the UK's leaders in offsite construction. The company has pioneered Modern Methods of Construction since 1949 and is renowned in the construction industry for its bespoke service, its complete project management and its flexible and individual approach to each project.

For more information on Terrapin, telephone 01908 270900 or email: info@terrapin-ltd.co.uk or visit the website www.terrapin-ltd.co.uk.

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