

Alexandra Works, Plymouth



The redevelopment of a redundant builders yard and offices to the north of the city centre, this 246 bedroom building is planned around an internal courtyard. The building steps from six storeys at the rear of the site to four storeys at the front, reflecting the massing of the surrounding buildings. Arranged in 50 cluster flats, the accommodation is designed to help meet the demand for much needed student and key worker accommodation in the city.

Architect Stride Treglown, designed the streetscape frontage which is characterised through the use of vertically hung slate, to reflect the local vernacular. Elsewhere coloured render and glazing is used in a variety of ways to reduce the apparent scale and mass of the building.

The fully finished en-suite modules, complete with all fixtures, fittings and furniture are supported at ground floor level on a power floated piled flat slab. A first floor platform across the entrance to the site was designed as a brace structure providing a grillage of steel beams to support a power floated slab and the line loads from the modules above.

Plymouth based engineer Airey & Coles, designed braced steel frame stair towers that support steel stair flights and landings as freestanding towers in their temporary

condition. Simple bracket fixings between these frames and the adjacent modules provide structural continuity and contribute to the whole building stability.

Constructed by UNITE's in-house construction division within a 45 week construction programme, the 246 bedrooms and 50 kitchen dining room modules were installed in just 33 days.

Anthony Pearce, Business Development Manager at UNITE said "We see off-site manufacturing processes playing an integral role in helping to manage the challenges of containing build cost inflation, improving quality and speeding up delivery times."



The £6 million building will be managed by UNITE Accommodation Services and directly let to students and key workers in Plymouth.

Project Data

Client:

The UNITE Group

Architect:

Stride Treglown

Structural Engineer:

Airey & Coles

Contractor:

UNITE Construction Solutions

Modular Manufacturer:

UNITE Modular Solutions

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