

## Metsec fast tracks flats



Metsec's fast track light gauge steel framing system has been used to speed up construction of a six storey apartment block in Birmingham.

The Metframe panelised wall system with in-situ concrete floors forms the superstructure of the 4,830m<sup>2</sup> development of 77 apartments in Dean Street. Erected by approved Metframe installer, Gyplok, the frame was completed in just 16 weeks, with the early dry envelope allowing the internal fit out to run alongside construction of the external masonry finishes.

The structure has been designed by Metsec to satisfy Building Regulation requirements for resistance to progressive collapse. The storey height, pre-assembled Metframe wall panels were built off a first floor transfer slab housing commercial units and were bolted together on-site. Metframe wall panels also form the lift and stair walls and, since the roof

of the development has a very shallow pitch, Metsec supplied cold rolled pre-panelised roof joists. The all-dry construction method, off-site panel fabrication and the accuracy of the precision engineered steel components ensured an accurate structure, helping the build programme remain on schedule.

Metsec pioneered the development of light gauge steel framing for the UK commercial building market and there are currently over 250 Metframe buildings in the UK, including a number of high profile projects such as the Atrium apartments near Torquay and the King's Cross Travelodge in London. Growing appreciation of the advantages of the Metframe system - build speed, light weight, high strength and ability to meet higher acoustic and thermal performances - means it is increasingly being specified for multi-storey, revenue generating projects such as apartments, student accommodation, nursing homes and hotels.

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