

Case Study: Cripps Court Student Accommodation

Description: 200 Room Student residential Development

ThermaSkirt Profile: Deco PR, Cricket White

Client: Selwyn College, The University of Cambridge



The Challenge:

Cripps Court is one of the oldest purpose built student accommodation blocks at Cambridge University constructed originally in the 1960's. In need of total refurbishment, the project was given to Architects Purcell Miller Triton, with a brief to improve the accommodation to 21st century standards, and to provide a clean, comfortable and above all energy efficient place for the 200+ students to study and sleep.

The initial brief called for radiators, but with space at a premium there simply wasn't sufficient wall space available without restricting the desk and study area to an unacceptable level. There was also concern that there had been a high number of repairs to damaged radiators installed in other parts of the campus as a result of 'high spirits' or plain clumsiness on the part of the students. Under floor heating was considered, but with the floors being solid concrete, and carpets the final floor finish, UFH just didn't make commercial or practical sense. The M & E Consultants set about to find a 'radiator alternative'.

The Solution:

Zoe Skellding from Purcell Miller Triton identified the ThermaSkirt product as a possible solution having first seen it on the BBC's Dragons Den some years earlier. They asked the M&E contractors WSP Group to evaluate the product as an alternative to the proposed panel radiators. Despite some initial scepticism, WSP quickly spotted the technical and installation advantages that ThermaSkirt could offer the main contractor Morgan Sindall, as well as the energy & space saving improvements that the Architects and client were looking for.

Combining the skirting board and radiators in one, ThermaSkirt could be installed pre-finished in less time than traditional skirting, and *save over 2.4 Km of pipework* required to connect to radiators under the window from the service risers.

With ThermaSkirt being a smooth, low profile, any health and safety as well as hygiene issues were completely addressed, and being securely fixed the wall at low level, the system is completely resilient to student 'over exuberance'.



The Result

With a days on-site training, contractors Munro Building Services were soon up to speed with the product, and amazed at how quickly they could install the system, often completing 12 rooms a day with a 4 man team.

With simplified and shortened pipe runs from the service risers to the ThermaSkirt, nearly £4,000 in copper pipework and joints alone was saved. With no need to paint the skirting once installed, each room was completed on average of 4 hours quicker than a skirting-and-rads solution, more than compensating for the slightly initial higher capital cost.

With 2 more phase to complete in 2013, Munro, Morgan Sindall, WSP Group and Architects and client are all thoroughly delighted with the ThermaSkirt product and its promise of more useable space for the student reduced maintenance costs & and lower fuel bills for the College.

Project Value: >£40million

Contractor: Morgan Sindall

Architect: Purcell Miller Triton LLP, Cambridge

Engineer: WSP Group, Cambridge

Sub-contractor: Munro Building Services Ltd