



PJMear

At PJ Mear we have over four decades of experience within the construction industry.

We are accredited installers of External Wall Insulation (EWI) and specialist render systems, working with the foremost system manufacturers.

PJ Mear are accomplished in all forms of concrete repair having completed a wide variety of projects on a diverse range of structures.

WINNER of the INCA Awards 2022 in the REFURBISHMENT

EWI - Render / Traditional Finish: LOW RISE category for THE HIDES.



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A MOTTO TO LIVE BY

PJ MEAR'S PROMISE TO ITS CLIENTS IS 'ALWAYS PART OF YOUR SOLUTION, NEVER PART OF YOUR PROBLEM'. THIS ETHOS CERTAINLY CAME TO THE FORE DURING ITS RECENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE HIDES DEVELOPMENT IN HARLOW, ESSEX, WHICH CAUGHT THE EYE OF THE JUDGES OF THE INCA AWARDS 2022, WHO NAMED IT WINNER IN THE REFURBISHMENT EWI - RENDER/TRADITIONAL FINISH: LOW RISE CATEGORY.

“The latest accolade shows that we're a serious installer in this field, as getting nominated for awards of this nature is highly prestigious,” explains Mark Turley, Managing Director. “It's not the first award we've won and the leading reputation we've been able to build has stemmed from the relationships we've developed with clients and suppliers alike.”

In terms of the background behind the award-winning project, Harlow Council approached contractor Durkan to refurbish 30 flats within The Hides development, which was originally built in the 1950s. The council wanted to provide more energy efficient homes for its residents, while also refreshing the local area in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour. The brief was to extend the life of the original building by using

products that would improve its thermal performance and provide a more pleasant place for people to live.

PJ Mear was appointed by Durkan to install Saint-Gobain Weber's webertherm XM EWI system, which was specified because it is a high-performance EWI system and fulfilled the criteria for the scheme. The system has all the required testing certification for fire, as well as BBA approval.

Steve Page, Director of Refurbishment at Durkan, said: “We chose PJ Mear as we have used them regularly over the years as external repair specialists. For such an important scheme, where the intricacies of fine detailing regarding finish was required, we had no hesitation in selecting them as our preferred contractor.”

From a design perspective, the council wanted to add a

modern twist to the flats by using geometric colour blocks on the gable ends, road and courtyard facing elevations.

To complete the system, a textured silicone render finish webersil TF in Winter White was chosen to give the buildings a crisp and clean aesthetic. The finish is highly weather resistant, vapour permeable and is UV stable, helping to protect

the building fabric, reducing the need for maintenance and improving durability.

PJ Mear used webersil TF in a range of colours – including Silver Grey, Frosted Fern and Hurricane Skies – to create the geometric design on the gable ends and front elevations. This required careful consideration and it was critical for Weber to approve the use of tape joints





where different colours abutted to ensure the EWI system was not compromised in any way.

Brady Burdett, Estimating Director at PJ Mear, added: “The dated nature of the building prior to the refurbishment works meant

that radical change was required to bring the building to a modern, revitalised look. The plan for the flank walls to feature a multicoloured render pattern was an instant attraction to us and we knew that this was something that

we would relish if given the opportunity to be involved. Having finished this project, we feel as though it was a huge success and has really given The Hides a new lease of life and is something to really be proud of and to live in.”

A combination of original build methods meant that the PJ Mear team worked closely with Weber application managers to address this and ensure a safe, compliant EWI system was installed. Prior to the works commencing in



August 2021, Weber carried out a series of toolbox talks to the contractor's site management team so they fully understood the system specification required for the project, which was completed in February 2022.

In addition to the INCA triumph, The Hides project also received a Special Commendation at the National Energy Efficiency Awards 2022, further underlining the quality of the scheme. As it looks to build on the success of the development, PJ Mear is now looking to make the most of the opportunities that are currently available in the marketplace.

“The market has been quite buoyant, but there are a lot of design considerations, regulations and approval requirements to be met prior to schemes going ahead

onsite” outlines Michael Lyon, Operations Director. “PJ Mear are in good position to facilitate their clients' needs having had a well-established EWI division whom are now very strong in the fire-remediation sector to assist pre-construction ensuring the transition to installation is as smooth as possible.

“This is something that is being experienced across the market, it's not just us. Due to the Grenfell tragedy there's been a surge in fire safety work. Coupled with the government increasing funding for environmental projects to reduce the nation's carbon footprint, there's a significant amount of work planned, so it's just a question of whether the market can bear it.”

Hopefully the pipeline of projects will begin to flow

more easily in 2023, allowing PJ Mear to continue along the upward trajectory it has seen in recent years, as Mr Turley outlines: “The aim for the next 12 months is to carry on with the formula that we've developed and to continue to grow by increasing our level of business. We're definitely becoming more part of the EWI sector and want to maintain a professional reputation in that area because we envisage a lot of work for the next ten years, so it will be a major element of what we do. Having said that, we also want to maintain our historical work of concrete repairs, as it's something that we're familiar with. We want to keep progressing in the way we have been in the last five or six years, growing year-on-year and increasing both our turnover and our profitability.

“The overall message is that we are a serious player in this arena. It can be a challenging sector to get involved in and there's quite a number of qualifications and badges that are required to even get your foot in the door. However, we have achieved these and have gone on to develop a clear track record that demonstrates our capabilities and our consistency. We're also one of the select few companies to be members of SWIGA, the Solid Wall Insulation Guarantee Agency, which again underlines our commitment to excellence.

With such strong foundations in place, PJ Mear looks well set to capitalise further on the strong marketplace as new contracts become available. What's more, further award recognition can't be ruled out either.