

The Octagon Birmingham

LOCATION
Birmingham

CLIENT
MEPC

SECTOR
Residential

PROJECT TYPE
New Build



Accredited Installer
McMullen Facades Limited

Architect
Howells Architects

Redefining Birmingham's Skyline

The Octagon is reshaping Birmingham's skyline as the world's first purely octagonal high-rise residential building. Designed by Howells Architects, the striking 49-storey tower rises to 155 metres and delivers spacious, light-filled apartments with panoramic views across the city and beyond. Axter is proud to be part of this project, supplying high-performance waterproofing solutions and design and technical support throughout the build.

"Being involved in a project of this scale and complexity is a real testament to the quality and reliability of Axter's systems," said Joe Mogg, Technical Sales Manager at Axter. "It is not just about supplying products – it is about working closely with the whole project team to ensure everything performs exactly as it should, especially on a building with such a unique design."

Overcoming design challenges

Axter joined the project early in the design phase, working with Howells Architects, Midgard Ltd (the main contractor), and McMullen Facades Limited (the roofing installer). Over three years of detailed coordination and technical problem-solving have gone into addressing the project's complexities, particularly around façade and waterproofing junctions.

Axter's technical sales team serves as an extension of an architect's design process, offering expert consultation from concept to completion, ensuring that roofing and waterproofing specifications align with project goals, while maintaining compliance and durability.

[Learn more about how Axter supports architects from concept to completion, ensuring project success.](#)



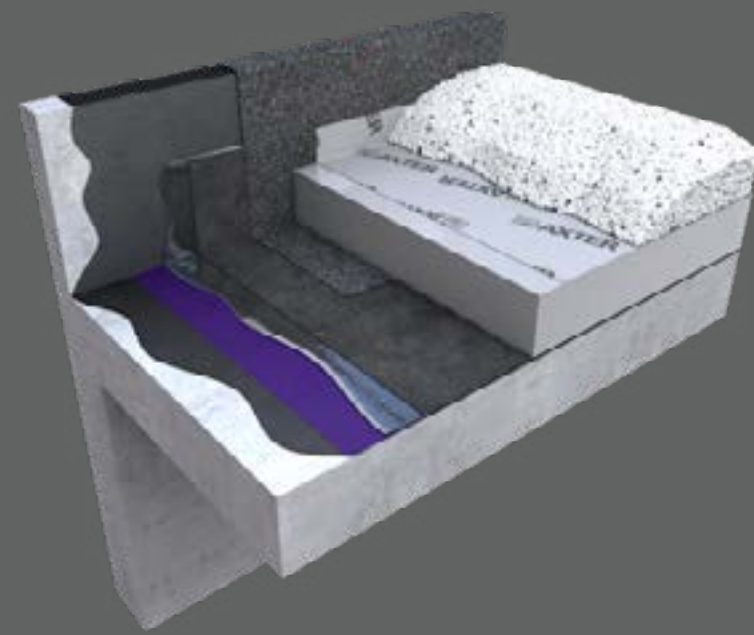
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“This has been a demanding project, especially in terms of integrating our waterproofing system with the building’s unique façade geometry, we have worked closely with the façade manufacturers and roofing subcontractors to ensure watertight integrity and performance.”

Joe Mogg

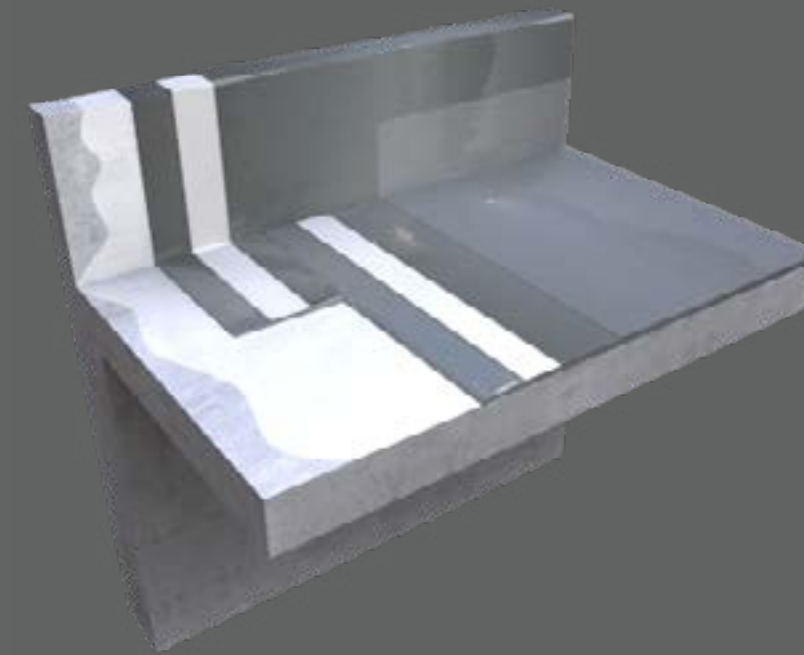
Technical Sales Manager at Axter

Systems in use



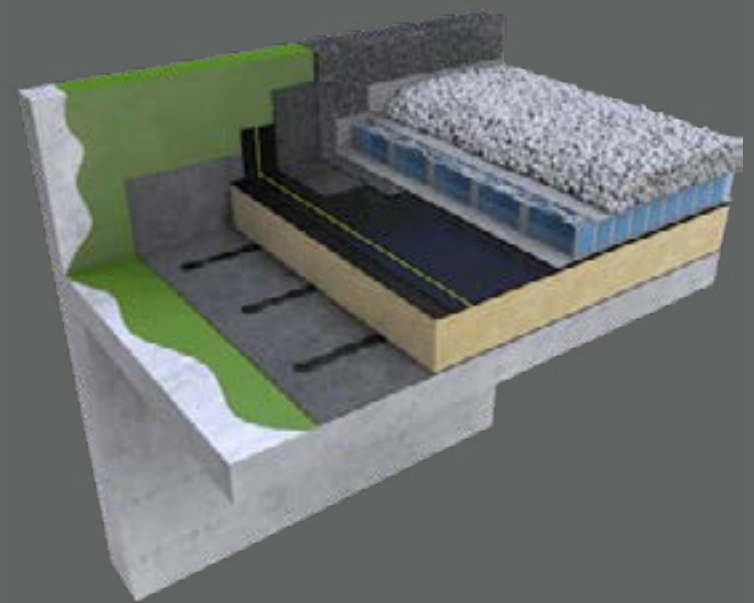
Wilotekt®-Plus

The original and industry renowned second generation hot melt system. Unique structural waterproofing designed and manufactured for use on all inverted roofs, podium decks, living roofs, blue roofs and car park decks.



Starcoat® PMMA

A flame free and rapid cure, two component polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) resin waterproofing system that provides a fully adhered waterproofing layer.



Aquamodul®

The Aquamodul blue roof sustainable drainage system is designed to attenuate, control and manage rainwater at source, providing attenuation capacity within the flat roof or podium deck construction of a development that can be combined with living roof, Solar PV and multi-functional mixed amenity finishes.

Trusted Systems for demanding build

Axter provided the [Wilotekt®-Plus](#) hot melt system for the main roof level and the engine house — a proven system known for simplicity, robustness, and over two decades of reliable performance, backed by a 35-year guarantee.

[Starcoat PMMA](#) liquid-applied waterproofing was used for intricate and tight junction areas, providing reliable waterproofing in difficult spots where standard solutions would not have been sufficient.

To support the site's drainage needs, an [Aquamodul® blue roof](#) system will also be installed at ground level, designed to attenuate rainwater runoff from the main roof and contribute to sustainable drainage.

“Our Wilotekt®-Plus system has proven itself over decades, and it was the right choice for a project like this where performance and reliability are critical,” said Joe. “From early design meetings through to installation, our approach has been about providing clear, robust solutions. Clients trust us because we respond to challenges thoughtfully, making sure quality and compliance are built in at every stage. The addition of the blue roof system will support sustainable drainage strategies as part of the overall building design.”

[Learn more about why a multifunctional blue roof solution offers a fantastic opportunity for delivering projects' regulatory requirements and supporting other sustainability goals.](#)



Delivered to the highest standards

All installations were carried out by Axter-accredited contractor McMullen Facades Limited. Axter's accredited installer network ensures projects are completed to the highest standards, on time, and with the long-term reliability that our customers expect.

Choosing an Axter-accredited installer means you can trust that the work has been completed by vetted professionals, with full system guarantees providing peace of mind.

[Learn more about the importance of working with an accredited installer.](#)

The Axter Approach

Quality, reliability, and expert support are at the heart of everything we do. We provide high-quality materials, a dedicated technical team, an accredited installer network, and comprehensive guarantees — ensuring every project is completed with lasting results.

[Learn more about why Axter stands out as a trusted leader in flat roofing solutions.](#)



For more information, get in touch with **our experts:**

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