

BRICK BY BRICK

When architects were given the mammoth task of providing a new look in-keeping with the features and feel of a centuries-old building, they turned to Ketley Brick to deliver the ideal quarry tiles for the job.



The new cafeteria pavilion at Jesus College Cambridge, a constituent college of the University of Cambridge, is a popular dining area for students and visitors alike. It was designed by architectural practice Niall McLaughlin Architects as part of the wider refurbishment and extension of the Grade II listed college, which has won the practice both a 2018 RIBA National Award and the 2018 RIBA East Project Architect of the Year Award.

The architects were given the brief of refurbishing and extending the historic building whilst remaining within its original footprint. To achieve this, the team put a strong emphasis on the inventive use of building materials and qualities of light, as well as the relationship between the building and its surroundings at Jesus College.

Oak, stone, brick and quarry tiles were chosen as a consistent palette of materials throughout the project, unifying the refurbished elements with the new-build and all perfectly suiting the historical context of the site.

Tom McGlynn, the project architect, explained: "There were already old terracotta square quarry tiles in use internally in the existing circulation areas and there was considerable brick used within the building.

"Internally, we wanted to use a robust material for the floors in the circulation areas, a material that could even be external, and Ketley quarry tiles fitted this brief, whilst

also paying homage to the existing square quarries and the brick-lined walls in the new design."

Light, multi brick-sized Ketley quarry tiles were used in the new cafeteria pavilion, where they help to merge the internal and external spaces. Their natural clay tones bring a richness of colour to both the inside and outside spaces and compliment the untreated oak frames and columns.

Ketley red square quarry tiles were also used inside the main entrance building and, externally, brick-sized quarry tiles in light multi were used as they sit perfectly with the language of the adjacent listed buildings.

Known for their immense durability, Ketley quarry tiles are often specified for areas where there is a high footfall, such as shops, retail outlets, restaurants and cafeterias, as these 18mm thick tiles are resistant to acids, alkalis, oils, grease and fats, as well as offering excellent fire, frost and R11C slip resistance.

As their organic naturally burnt clay colours are produced the traditional way through careful control of the kiln atmosphere, they closely resemble many of the well-known but discontinued quarry tiles of the past – such as those once manufactured by Hawkins and Dennis Ruabon – making them suitable for both restoration and modern builds with a traditional look.

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