



Project Overview

After involvement in the early phases with VINCI Construction, Bennett Architectural were commissioned to refurbish Arkwright House in Manchester's Parsonage Gardens, a Grade II listed building.

The historic building was originally commissioned for the English Sewing & Cotton Company in 1929, designed by the local architect Harry S. Fairhurst, and opened in 1937.

Harry S. Fairhurst was an Edwardian Architect that also designed other prominent buildings across Manchester, including Lancaster House, Blackfriars House and Ship Canal House.

Collaborating with Sheppard Robson Architects and project manager Gardiner and Theobald, the refurbishment included part of the ground floor and the subsequent six floors above.

In addition to this, an extension to the upper floors at the rear of the 98,500 sq. ft. office building required the extension and infilling of three lightwells.

Bennett Architectural used Kawneer's AA110 curtain walling system with a 175mm extended face cap around the perimeter of each of the 3 lightwell screens to ensure that they had maximised the amount of light allowed in by the lightwells and merged their appearance with the rooftop extension façade.

Each of the lightwells we installed also includes a pressed metal feature band around the screens which creates a picture frame effect in a differing colour to the stickwork.

The Pre-Construction Director at Bennett Architectural, Rob Bennett, commented, "The challenge was to provide a system that was aesthetically pleasing whilst accommodating the required amount of movement in the building, hence using the AA110 system over the AA100. Access was also challenging at Arkwright House given that it is situated in quite a busy area at the centre of Manchester."

Client:

QREA Ireland Limited

Main Contractor:

VINCI Construction

Architect:

Sheppard Robson Architects

Programme Dates:

May 2016 – July 2017

Bennett Architectural Team:

Rob Bennett

Dave Wilshaw

Dave Edwards

Chris Everitt

Form of Contract:

Vinci UKCL form of subcontract