Project: Plymouth College of Art

Task: Painting to front façade

Products used:
- Carbolastex WB Plus

Client: Plymouth College of Art

Background

Plymouth College of Art is an independent specialist arts college located in the busy central area of Plymouth. The college’s main campus is a 5-storey building situated opposite Drake Circus shopping centre and has seen significant investment in extending and upgrading the campus over the past few years.

The College was undergoing specialist cleaning to the building’s front façade when Ian Williams were approached to undertake painting once the clean had been completed. We liaised with the college over a number of options before agreeing on an anti-carbonation and anti-fungal paint, due to the high levels of carbon dioxide caused from the busy city centre location.

In order to carry out the works we engaged with Giraffe Access to supply us with Suspended Access Platforms to be installed to the front of the building. Our operatives applied the first coat from top to bottom of each section of the building before repeating this sequence for the remaining coats of paint. This approach minimised disruption and was the most efficient way of accessing all areas of the 5-storey building. We were able to complete the project within 1 month.

The success of the project has resulted in the College enquiring with us about carrying out the same painting works to the back and sides of the building due to the contrast with these untouched areas compared to the high-quality finish of the front of the building.
Key challenges in this project included:

- The main challenge for the project was how to carry out the work to this 5-storey building, safely working at height whilst also minimising disruption to the college. We agreed with the College that suspended access platforms would be the safest and least disruptive method. Once installed the platforms and system were inspected and signed off by the specialist supplier, Giraffe Access, and our own external health and safety consultants, 4See Risk, who both undertook further inspections throughout the project. Operatives received training from Giraffe Access on correct usage of the equipment and work was not carried out if the wind speed was deemed dangerous.

- Another challenge was the restrictive nature of the site and its continued usage. The building is located in a busy central location and remained operational whilst work was carried out. Due to this location there is always a lot a pedestrian and vehicular traffic around the building and we therefore had to ensure that no spray or dripping occurred that could contaminate pedestrians, staff or vehicles in the area. Materials and equipment were secured at all times and were not left on site overnight.
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