

# FOAMGLAS®

CELLULAR GLASS INSULATION

## NEWS RELEASE

### **LONDON'S MOST DRAMATIC ROOF-SCAPE GETS NEW FOAMGLAS® ROOF SYSTEM**

When the Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington was built in the early 60's its imaginative roof design was well ahead of its time. FOAMGLAS® cellular glass insulation from Pittsburgh Corning has now been used for a total refurbishment.

The "peaks and valleys" of this unusual roof were originally constructed from woodwool slab, vermiculite screed with timber battens and a copper sheet over a separating layer. The design of the roof itself creates areas of high wind loading and over the years the copper sheets had been damaged due to the method of through-fixing, resulting in leaks.

After 18 months of consultation and development with Pittsburgh Corning's technical department, a FOAMGLAS® standing seam roof was specified by architects Avery Associates of London SW1. The existing copper outer skin and underlay were removed and a bitumen membrane applied to the surface of the deck. FOAMGLAS® Readyboard, 70mm thick, was adhered to the membrane using PC11 cold adhesive, pump applied strips. Due to the steepness of some of the roof slopes, different adhesion techniques were used in some areas.

NDM of London W3, the roofing contractor, worked with Pittsburgh Corning to develop a fixing method to cope with the need for varying cover widths of the copper outer sheet due to the "wave" form of the roof. A specially designed 600mm serrated metal plate was pushed into the FOAMGLAS® Readyboard surfaced and torch bonded.

A high performance bitumen membrane was then torched direct to the surface of the Readyboard over the metal plates. The new copper sheet, manufactured by KME Copper of Worcester, was fixed through the membrane directly to the metal plate.

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The whole renovation took place to a short timescale and despite heavy rainfall during the contract, water ingress to the building was prevented. FOAMGLAS® is totally impervious to the effects of moisture vapour, as soon as it is in place.

Cold-bridging has been totally eliminated due to the special FOAMGLAS® standing seam fixing plates, resistance to wind uplift far exceeds the original construction and the roof system will provide long maintenance-free life equal to that of the copper outer sheet.

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