

Project Profile



Manchester Town Hall & Central Library Transformation

Client: Manchester City Council
Architects: Ian Simpson Architects
Ryder Architecture
Contractor: Laing O'Rourke
On-site Period: April 2011 - March 2014
Value: £1.0m

Stone: Baycliff Lord Slate
Kirkby Slate
Moleanos Limestone
Portland Limestone: Bowers Whitbed &
Coombefield Shelley Whitbed
Stanton Moor Sandstone
Stoke Hall Sandstone

Our role:
Restoration to the external and internal facades,
paving to the colonnades, together with new build
flooring.



Vetter UK has successfully completed their works on the £93.5m transformation of the Grade II* listed Manchester Town Hall & Central Library.

This challenging scheme consisted of both new build and refurbishment/restoration work to transform these 1930's buildings to an open multi functional facility for all. As part of the substantial changes to the Central Library building, a feature stairs and lift core was introduced between each of the five floors. This encompassed design from the company's BIM team and included glazed lift shafts and radiating steel staircases to which Vetter UK supplied and fixed UK sourced limestone treads, risers and landings together with feature flooring to each of the floor levels. The restoration of significant heritage spaces (such as Rates Hall) together with the buildings now being connected for the first time, has created a more accessible, multifunctional public facility for use as an extended lending library, new civic Customer Service Centre, public cafe and multimedia library.

For Vetter UK works included restoration to the external and internal facades, paving to the colonnades, together with new build flooring. To the parapets of the Mount Street elevation, an arrangement of embedded steel supports had corroded to such an extent that masonry had fallen off and was of continuing risk to those using the pavements below. VUK took down these parapets exposing as much of the steel as practically possible to allow treatment of the steel before then re-erecting the parapet, incorporating a new "Stanton Moor" sandstone string course. As with all works to listed buildings, the proposed works required a series of hold points to agree methods and materials with Heritage representatives.

The entrance on St Peters Square now provides access to the Library over a newly laid entrance foyer floor. Vetter UK supplied and fixed Portuguese limestone to the floor area to replicate the original floor pattern layout, which had been lost over the years through extensive damage and the overlaying of floor coverings to hide it.



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