

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000

www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833

www.cemex.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090

www.euromix.com

Hanson 0845 845 6699

www.hanson.biz

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515

www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067

(Liverpool)

Premier Mortars 0845 603 3406

www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441

www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200

www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

Roadstone Dublin Ltd 00 35 31 4041200

www.roadstone.ie (Dublin)

Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177

www.smithsconcrete.co.uk (Oxfordshire)

Tarmac Building Products 08701 116116

www.tarmac.co.uk

House building levels continue to fall



House building levels continue to fall according to the latest year-to-date home registration figures published by NHBC.

In August 2012, the number of new homes registered with NHBC dropped to 9,553, 4 per cent below August last year (9,978). This takes overall year to date totals for 2012 to 72,740 applications; a 15 per cent decrease on the same period in 2011 (85,120).

Private sector registrations in June to August decreased by 11% (21,594), compared with the same period in 2011 (24,315). Public sector registrations also decreased over the same period, this time by 33% (7,678) when compared with the same period a year ago (11,538).

The total number of registrations for the period was 29,272, an 18% decrease on last year (35,854).

NHBC commercial director, Richard Tamayo, said: 'Viewing new home registration figures in absolute terms, year to date, underlines the real scale of the challenge facing the whole house building industry at the moment.'

'Just this month the Government announced a series of measures aimed at supporting the house building industry, in

its capacity as a key driver for economic growth. These measures are certainly needed but their success will only be realised through a concerted effort by the industry and government to ensure they are taken forward. The continued undersupply of new housing means that the UK is missing out on a potential source of much needed economic growth; this obviously needs to be addressed.'

Full regional breakdown of total new homes registered June - August 2012 by region/country:

Region June- August	2012	2011
England - Regions		
North East	1,172	974
North West	2,316	2,254
Yorkshire & the Humber	1,692	1,932
West Midlands	2,149	2,507
East Midlands	2,311	2,132
Eastern	2,858	4,031
South West	3,737	3,480
Greater London	4,084	7,778
South East	5,319	6,190
Totals for England	25,638	31,278
Scotland - Councils	2,085	2,977
Wales - Unitary Authorities	1,108	1,065
Northern Ireland - Counties	422	528
Isle of Man	19	6
Totals for UK	29,272	35,854

A wide range of data sheets covering mortar mixes and applications are available, free of charge, at the MIA website.

Go to www.mortar.org.uk/resources

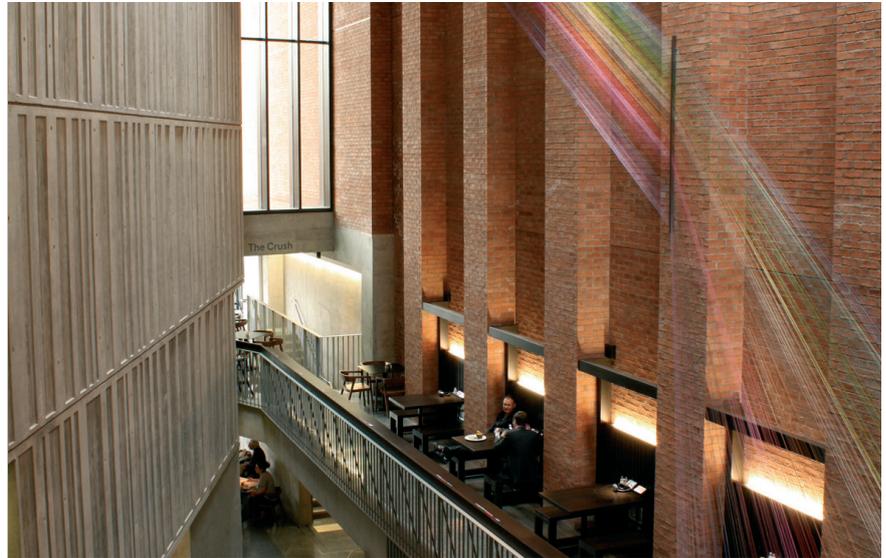
RTU tub mortar adds aesthetic appeal at Belfast Arts Centre

An award-winning building in Belfast City Centre represents the extent to which modern building design in the city has shifted from the drab utilitarianism of past decades. Belfast's reclaimed status as a modern city of culture and ambition is mirrored in the recent construction of numerous landmark buildings of character and sustainable appeal.

The Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC) was completed in February 2012 and stands proudly in the centre of the Saint Anne's Square development as an iconic symbol of the vibrant, confident city that Belfast has become. The £17.9m project provides two theatres, three art galleries, a rehearsal space, dance studio, three education and workshop rooms, four offices for resident art groups, a cafe and bar and an artist in residence studio.

Belfast based Hackett Hall McKnight Architects wished to approach exterior design in a manner evocative of the preceding Victorian merchant city, which consisted of large scale tough, brick buildings. This robust construction specification lent itself to the selection of RTU tub mortar. RTU was chosen to ensure quality, consistent mortar complying with BS EN 998-2, the current European Standard.

RTU tub mortar has become an instinctive choice for most reputable builders in Greater Belfast and further afield. The RTU name is synonymous with



A view of the Belfast Metropolitan Arts Centre

consistency in product quality and service, offering flexible solutions to daily site requirements. RTU mortar is compliant with the most stringent specification in strength requirements whereas traditional methods offer no such assurance or consistency.

Stephen Lee, site manager for Bowen Mascott JV, commented: "The MAC building features large areas of brick both internally and externally, so the aesthetic appeal of a quality mortar was an important factor. The high specification for this building meant that we could not afford to compromise on an element as critical as mortar.

Using a quality factory produced mortar made the day-to-day management of the site much easier. The mortar was there when we needed it and the human element was eliminated by avoiding site mixing and provided us with a consistent product every time. RTU delivered on providing a quality product with excellent service".

The team at RTU was delighted to be selected as the mortar supplier to this prestigious project. The success and quality of the end result is a testimony to the benefits available to users of factory produced mortar.

Design guidance for low carbon homes

A guidance report for the cost effective design specification for low carbon homes has been produced following a joint study between The Concrete Centre and A2Dominion.

'Zero carbon performance – Cost-effective concrete and masonry homes', shows how concrete and masonry construction can meet the demands of mainstream zero carbon homes. By adopting one of its existing designs for a three-bedroom, five-person house, A2Dominion set out to reduce design risk by building on existing knowledge, minimising additional costs, using local skills and materials and enabling design to reflect local vernacular.

The result is a design that is conventional in appearance, can be built as a mid- or end-terrace and can be faced with brick or rendered concrete blockwork.

The design makes full use of the thermal efficiency of concrete and masonry construction. The homes have a high level of insulation and air tightness, with triple-glazed windows and brick and block, full-fill cavity walls.

Copies of the study's findings, 'Zero carbon performance – Cost-effective concrete and masonry homes', can be downloaded from www.concretecentre.com/publications



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