

NATURAL STONE AWARDS



SLATE AWARD

**25 Gresham Street
London**

Architect/designer
Nicholas Grimshaw &
Partners

Owner/client
Asticus (UK) Ltd

Construction manager
Exterior International plc

Principal stone contractor
Gig Fassadendau

Stone suppliers
Burlington, Hanson Bath
& Portland Stone, George
Farrar (Quarries) Ltd

Stone used
Broughton Moor
(Burlington), Portland
Coombeheld Whitbed
(Bath & Portland),
Shirehill York Stone
(Farrar).



Curtain walls, floors and vanity units in this speculative office building in the City of London use Broughton Moor slate from Cumbria.

Much attention has been given to the fine grain of architectural detail. The basic unit of solid cladding within these facades is a 30mm thick panel of flame-textured Broughton Moor slate 1420mm wide and 400mm high.

These units are overlapped horizontally in a way that refers to the stepped, planted terraces of the atrium. Each panel is fixed to the vertical stainless steel fins with purpose-designed cast stainless steel brackets.

The green colour of the slate is emphasised by the use of green tinted anti-sun glass for the offices, which contrasts with the clear glass of the atrium and ground floor.

To carry the theme into the interiors, the toilet pods use the same mixture of aluminium, glass and slate finishes and honed Broughton Moor slate is used for flooring and vanity tops throughout these areas.

At ground level, traditional York stone paving surrounds the building and continues past the full-height glazing to form the reception area floor. There is a

series of Portland stone dividing walls, placed parallel to each other, separating the different uses of doorways along the ground floor facade. The York and Portland stone was installed by Stoneguard.

The 15,000m² building is at the west end of Gresham Street, north-east of St Paul's Cathedral and south-east of the Museum of London, sharing an island site with the churchyard of St John Zachary.

The new building's relationship with St John Zachary churchyard is the key architectural idea behind the design.

The extended southern office perimeter, the linear, cloister-like entrance lobby, the glazed scenic lift bridges and the location of the basement restaurant have all been informed by the desire to allow the maximum number of the building's occupants to enjoy the churchyard.



Judges' comments

Slate has been used in an innovative way as part of a large palette of carefully chosen materials. While this building will remain crisp and sharp, the slate will mature with time. The technical design showed a clear understanding of the way slate behaves.

