

High performance columns for top Audi showroom

STARTS

The brand new Audi showroom at Cameron Motors in Perth is the first of its kind in the whole Audi dealer network across Europe, being on two stories with cars displayed at each level.

An integral feature of a truly stunning design concept is the four columns that support the mezzanine floor in the main showroom area. These had to be properly fire protected. Interact Fire Solutions, a company specializing in producing tailor-made fire protection solutions to the construction industry, used their own epoxy intumescent castings to do the job successfully.

Local architects—McLaren, Murdock and Hamilton—were originally appointed to come up with a look that not only reflected the style and status of the Audi marque but also had a point of difference to underscore the technological superiority of the cars. When it came to the central columns, they knew these needed to provide 2 hours fire protection but didn't want the selected system to detract from the overall design effect.

Although thin-film intumescent had been deployed in the rest of the building, this was unsuitable for the columns. Secondary cladding would not have met the design criteria – and it was too late to consider concrete filling. Interact's answer was to use their very latest meshless version of cast epoxy intumescent - a superior product that could be installed at no greater cost than these other alternatives.

As Bill Miller, a partner at the architects, commented: *"We had to make absolutely sure that the requirement to have a sufficient period of fire protection in no way compromised the aesthetic appeal of the structure. The help Interact gave us meant this was never in doubt."*

Interact's MD, Tony Tiernan, proud to be associated with such a prestigious development, added: *"The beauty of our product is that columns can remain slim and elegant with the smoothest possible finish—vital for this kind of situation where maximum visibility and the greatest use of floor space is paramount."*

Perfectionists in Passive Fire Protection

Clachan Construction Limited, again from Perth, was the main contractor on the project. They chose to bring Interact in at quite a late stage. However, this did not interfere with the construction schedule as the very essence of Interact's new meshless system meant it could be installed very late on, especially as no spraying was required.

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For further information, please contact Tony Tiernan directly on 01694 751394

High resolution photos are available at www.interactfire.co.uk/press