

Case study: Haymarket Metro, Newcastle



PROJECT DATA

Project:	Haymarket Metro, Newcastle
Project outline:	Refurbishment of underground station and construction of new surface building
Value:	£20 million
Client:	Nexus
Architect:	Reid Jubb Brown
Main contractor:	Tolent Construction
Sub-contractor:	Ornate Interiors
Products:	Knauf MP75 Projection Plaster
Distributor:	CCF, Leeds
Summary:	Knauf MP75 applied to multiple-curved metal lathing, forming the vaulted ceiling of the new surface building, wins industry award for sub-contractors

Haymarket Metro, Newcastle

Multiple curves in the vaulted ceilings of Newcastle's rebuilt Haymarket Metro station provided a tough new challenge for Knauf MP75 machine-applied plaster. Specialist plastering contractor Ornate Interiors successfully took one-coat MP75 to new heights, applying it to curved lathing of expanded metal – and won an industry award for the result. Knauf MP75 is normally used for a high quality finish on masonry walls, where it is up to three times faster than conventional hand-applied two-coat plasters.

£20m redevelopment

Haymarket is Tyne and Wear Metro's deepest underground station, and the second busiest on the 48 mile network, with more than six million passengers a year. After nearly 30 years' use, the station has been refurbished below ground and the original circular surface building of 1980 has been replaced by an eye-catching four storey steel and glass building which provides better facilities for passengers and creates additional retail, leisure and office space on its upper floors. The two-year, £20 million redevelopment is the first stage in Metro's £300m modernisation programme led by Nexus, which owns and manages the entire system.

Flowing curves

The 1,300m² vaulted ceiling at the top of the new Haymarket building



includes 3.9m radius curves up to the rooflights and reverse curves which flow into the 'eyebrows' – dramatic round-topped detailing in the glass façade. Ornate Interiors Contracts Manager Jim Dodd says with the ceiling curving in two directions over most of its surface, the plastering team had to use custom-made curved 'straight edges' to smooth the MP75. He says: "Considering the team sprayed 18 tons of MP75 – mostly overhead – the end result is exceptionally good. Everyone involved with the project is very pleased."

Ornate Interiors' workmanship with Knauf MP75 attracted the attention of judges in the plastering industry's national awards, winning the prestigious Humber Salver for Plastering in the Plaisterers Awards

for 2009. The judges said: "A very spectacular contract that not many companies would dare take on. The finish they achieved is one of the best we have seen using this product and is a credit to the company and the five or six plasterers on this job."

Pudsey-based Ornate Interiors is an award winning plastering contractor, specialising in fibrous plaster mouldings and solid plaster for new build and restoration projects, as well as traditional lime plastering, rendering and modern techniques such as machine application. Jim Dodd says: "We had previously applied MP75 to masonry walls, and after discussing the Haymarket requirement with Knauf Drywall and the main contractor, Tolent Construction, we felt it was the best system for the job. Through overcoming the challenges of the curves, the overhead work and the expanded metal lathing, we have set a new benchmark for MP75."

A firm, white finish

Knauf MP75 is a bagged dry plaster which is machine-mixed with water and pumped to a spray nozzle for application to masonry walls. It is sprayed on to masonry in overlapping bands, then simply ruled flat with a steel straight edge. Minimal trowelling is required during the drying process to achieve a firm, white finish that is ideal for final decoration. Already the first choice of many plasterers in Europe, time-saving one-coat Knauf MP75 is fast becoming a major solution in the UK market.

