



ALUMINIUM FINISHING ASSOCIATION

The Benefits of Ensuring Quality

High quality aluminium finishes are of proven benefit to buildings and their occupants. The benefits are two-fold:- firstly they enable the architect to specify from a wide range of colours, thus increasing the opportunities for enhancing the appearance of the project, and secondly the finishes improve the durability of the aluminium components and reduce maintenance requirements.

These benefits will accrue only as the consequence of correct selection, correct specification, correct application and rigorous quality control.

Correct selection will ensure that the aluminium finish is appropriate to the building and its location. The choice of finishing process and colour is governed largely by the aesthetic considerations and the requirements for durability. Nevertheless the specifier must ensure that the choice is suitable for the components used and their place of installation.

Correct specification is the key step in ensuring quality. Adherence to the specification will determine whether or not the finish performs as the client believes it should. Properly specified architectural aluminium finishes, if applied correctly will last in excess of 30 years. They will reduce maintenance schedules and most importantly will not need expensive remedial work.

Correct application and rigorous quality control ensure that the finish is applied consistently and correctly. This gives the architect and client assurance that the finish is as specified and will perform as required.

Poor Quality Means Catastrophe

The consequences of poor selection, poor application and lack of quality control, can be catastrophic.

Poor selection may result in a finish that is unsuitable for its location, whether in colour or durability or both. Aluminium finishing has been developed to be integral with, or to adhere well to the metal. This means that it is difficult to satisfactorily remove an inappropriate finish and the costs of remedial work will be high.

Poor specification may result in a finish that does not meet the client's expectations. If the specification is ambiguous or incomplete, correct selection, correct application

and rigorous quality control will not correct it. The result will be a finish that fails. The costs of repair will be high.

Poor application is likely to result in failure that can happen within months of a building being completed, rather than the decades that the client would reasonably expect. A failed aluminium finish is costly to repair and as poor finishers tend to go out of business, the demands for reparation will devolve to the specifier.

Lack of rigorous quality control frequently leads to poor workmanship, switching of materials and other examples of specification breaking. Correct selection and specification will prove to be worthless if the finishing process is not properly controlled and regularly checked.

Poor performance in any one of selection, specification, application and quality control can lead to failure of an architectural aluminium finish. The four elements must be used together to ensure the finish performs as it should.