

Case Study:

The Barbican Centre

Project information

Project: The Barbican Centre, London

Client: Russell Trew Ltd

Scope of project: Replica rooflights for an iconic Grade II listed building

Products: Em-Glaze bespoke rooflights



“ The rooflights integrated nicely into the overall waterproofing project and have proved successful both as a like-for-like match and in addressing longstanding issues of water ingress. ”



Case Study: The Barbican Centre



Replica rooflights for Brutalist style Grade II listed building

The challenge

The Barbican Centre is the largest arts centre in Europe, home to three cinemas, two theatres, two art galleries, two exhibition halls, a concert hall, a library and various conference rooms, shops, foyers and, unusually, a conservatory. Built in the Brutalist style and completed in 1982, it's also been the subject of staged refurbishment over the past decade and more.

While its interior now features a bold, modern new identity, as a Grade II listed building, the Barbican's existing rooflights needed replicating to strict heritage and environmental performance standards.

The solution



Whitesales undertook roof surveys to ascertain the exact requirements and analyse the exterior aesthetic of the original rooflights, following which they specified custom-built 30-degree Em-Glaze pyramid rooflights. The aluminium framework and glazing bars were chosen to match the original rooflight design, and are polyester powder-coated to RAL9010 white. The new skylights feature hermetically sealed diffused glass double glazing with SKN174 solar control coating.

With a high-profile art exhibition due imminently, directly beneath the rooflights, the Whitesales team successfully met the immovable deadline set for completion.

The benefits

- Perfect visual replicas which satisfy refurbishment requirements for listed buildings.
- Solar glazing reduces heat gain in the art galleries below.
- Diffused glazing matches existing specification and ensures privacy.
- Additional water testing to Section 9 for ultimate client reassurance.



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