

Nickel-containing stainless steel makes light work of brick soffits



HAWORTH TOMPKINS ARCHITECTS AND KEITH HUNTER

Behind a beautiful façade, a significant contribution is made by fixings and fasteners. Innovations in nickel-containing stainless steel fixing products are helping to accelerate the rate of construction and reduce build costs.

Brick soffits and reveals (the area of cladding that extends out from, for example, recessed windows) are an increasingly popular design feature on buildings adding an extra dimension to the masonry façade. Now stainless steel prefabricated units are removing the need to build complicated, time-consuming masonry soffits on-site and creating the desired look for a new building quickly and easily.

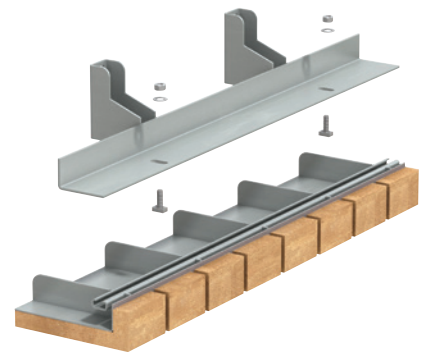
Fixing products provide critical connections within a building or structure, and are permanently under load. They are invisible once installed, and inspection, maintenance or replacement is often impossible due to inaccessibility or impractical due to the substantial costs and inconvenience it would involve. Therefore, nickel-containing stainless steel provides a long-lasting solution over carbon or galvanised steels in these structural applications.

Ancon Building Products, headquartered in Sheffield, UK, designs and manufactures a wide range of stainless steel fixings for brick and concrete construction. They have come up with an innovation in partnership with cut-brick specialist Istock Kevington to produce a quick and simple solution to creating flawless brick soffits for masonry

building façades. “The advanced lightweight modular design makes it quicker to create brick soffits and achieve perfect alignment with the main brickwork façade,” explains Ancon’s Divisional Manager, Lisa Kilby.

The Nexus® system combines a stainless-steel-backed brick-faced building module with a Type 304 (UNS S30400) stainless steel support angle. The lightweight stainless steel backing to the brick-faced unit offers considerable benefits over the more traditional cast concrete alternative. The new Nexus soffit system has about half the weight of concrete, which in most cases will allow the units to be installed without specialist lifting equipment. This offers significant savings in installation time, making it particularly appropriate for today’s fast-track construction. **Ni**

△ The new Nexus system has been used extensively in reveals on the Silchester Estate redevelopment, in Kensington and Chelsea, London, UK.



ANCON BUILDING PRODUCTS

△ The Nexus system combines a Type 304 (UNS S30400) stainless-steel-backed brick-faced building module with a stainless steel support angle. Individual units are prefabricated and made to measure off-site. They are simply offered up by hand to the pre-fixed and pre-drilled support angle and then bolted into position. This simple two-part design allows units to be installed and adjusted easily, creating perfect alignment, and once in position the brick slips are simply pointed to match the main brickwork façade.