

# Case study



03/10/2018

For immediate release

## **Schöck meets steel frame challenge at Oxford Brookes University**

Oxford Brookes University is one of the UK's top modern universities. It has a local, national and international reputation for teaching and research excellence and traces its roots to 1865 when it began as the Oxford School of Art. Recent significant investment in the estate has already resulted in multi award-winning facilities and this development is continuing with a ten-year, £220 million estate investment plan. One recently completed facility has seen the former Main Hall demolished and replaced with the Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall, an elegant building, designed by BGS Architects. It is a tribute to one of the most influential figures in the University's history; and creates a multi-use space for teaching and other key university events, including graduation ceremonies, where it can accommodate over 600 guests.

### **Steel frame and cladding mean high thermal conductivity**

Steel has a high thermal conductivity compared with many other construction materials and this means that both the structural steel frame and steel cladding system must be designed to minimise any unwanted heat flows. Steel elements must not be continuous through the cladding system. With the Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall, support for the external cladding was provided by cantilever connections to the universal columns and it was critical to provide a structural thermal break at strategic connectivity points. The Schöck Isokorb for steel-to-steel connectivity was the ideal solution. By thermally separating the exterior steel structure from the interior steel structure, these modular thermal insulation elements with their stainless steel components and Neopor® insulation, reliably mitigate the risk of condensation, mould formation and corrosion. The units are also able to withstand extremely demanding loads and are effective against both bending moment and shear force.

## **Totally verifiable performance**

The product type used at Oxford Brookes is for steel-to-steel, but the comprehensive Isokorb range from Schöck also offers solutions for concrete-to-concrete, concrete-to-steel and – and even a maintenance free alternative to wrapped parapets. When any Isokorb product type is incorporated into residential buildings or public buildings, the required fRsi value – the temperature factor used to indicate condensation risk that must be equal to or greater than 0.75 – is always comfortably met. The range also complies with the Government Standard Assessment Procedure, SAP 2012, concerning CO2 emissions from buildings and respectively heat losses through non-repeating thermal bridges. Products meet full compliance with the relevant UK building regulations, have NHBC approval and offer LABC Registration. There is also the security of independent BBA Certification.

- Ends –

***Contact Schöck on 01865 290 890; or visit the website at [www.schoeck.co.uk](http://www.schoeck.co.uk) for a free copy of the Schöck Thermal Bridging Guide; the Schöck Specifiers Guide and to view the full range of downloadable software.***

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## Notes to the editor

### A leading European supplier

Schöck has grown to become Europe's leading supplier of innovative structural load bearing insulation products. The main product is the Schöck Isokorb – a thermal break for various types of cantilever constructions in new buildings and for renovation. Its headquarters are at Baden-Baden in southern Germany and there are subsidiary companies in Great Britain, France, Austria, Switzerland, Italy the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Japan, Canada and the USA. Sales teams and partners operate in many other European countries and also Australia and South Korea. Schöck is committed to providing the highest level of technical back up and comprehensive customer service to the construction industry.

## Images and Captions

[Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall 1.jpg]



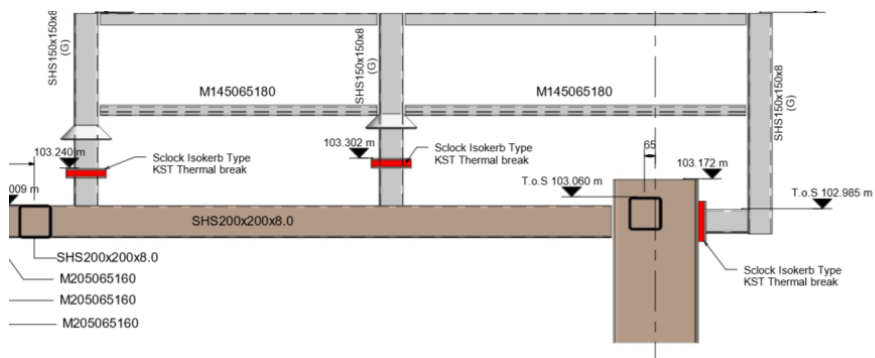
*The elegant new Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall designed by BGS Architects. Schöck Ltd, royalty free.*

[Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall 2.jpg]



Support for the external cladding is provided by cantilever connections to the universal columns. Schöck Ltd, royalty free.

[Isokorb position.jpg]



Schöck Isokorb structural thermal breaks at strategic connectivity points. Schöck Ltd, royalty free.