

The V&A Museum Dundee



GLASSOLUTIONS overcame a unique set of design and installation challenges, including water pressure and wave loading, to install the flagship VS-1 curtain walling system at an iconic new addition to the Dundee waterfront: The V&A Museum on the banks of the River Tay.

Designing and installing a VS-1 system with the sufficient structural strength capable of withstanding a significant wave load enabled GLASSOLUTIONS to secure a significant contract as part of the £80.11 million construction of the new V&A Museum of Design Dundee.

With a slatted, multi-layered external appearance, as well as its distinctive 'prow'-shaped facade which juts out directly over the Tay, the complex geometry of V&A Dundee's design presented several unique challenges for specifying and installing its component parts.

GLASSOLUTIONS was tasked with creating a flush mullion profile which would provide uniformity and consistency across all the building's elevations, as well as being capable of withstanding the marine environment next to the River Tay.

The V&A Museum Dundee

Client:

Dundee City Council, in partnership with
the Scottish Government and the Heritage
Lottery Fund

Main contractor:

BAM Construction

Architect:

Kengo Kuma & Associates

Project type:

New build office space

Completed:

November 2017

As part of the striking new construction, GLASSOLUTIONS was awarded the contract to manufacture and install a building envelope comprising the Contracting sector's flagship VS-1 curtain walling system; due to the building's waterfront location, this was required to be capable of withstanding a considerable wave load, as high as 32,000 pascals. GLASSOLUTIONS developed a bespoke mullion profile which could be utilised on all screens and would be able to accommodate the water pressure.

A further challenge of the installation project was ensuring that the building's complex external structure would be able to accommodate the specified glazing profile. Surveying all of the window and majority of screen



openings ensured that GLASSOLUTIONS' fully fabricated duplex stainless-steel perimeter frames could be seamlessly installed, with no compromises required to create the architect's desired vision.

Factoring in the building's proximity to the River Tay, the internal paint finish of the VS-1 system was installed by GLASSOLUTIONS to a very high marine grade. All external

works were anodised or of duplex stainless-steel composition. To enable installation of the south wall structure incorporating Glassolutions VS-1 triangulated screens and punched windows, BAM constructed an in-filled cofferdam into the River Tay.

GLASSOLUTIONS incorporated a shadow box detail to each of the building's terrace screens to conceal the parapet roof build-up. This allowed the blind and fixing brackets to be concealed from external view, while the soffit detail concealed them from the inside.

For more information, and to discuss the most suitable solution for your needs, contact GLASSOLUTIONS today on 0844 892 2690 or visit www.glassolutions.co.uk/contracting

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