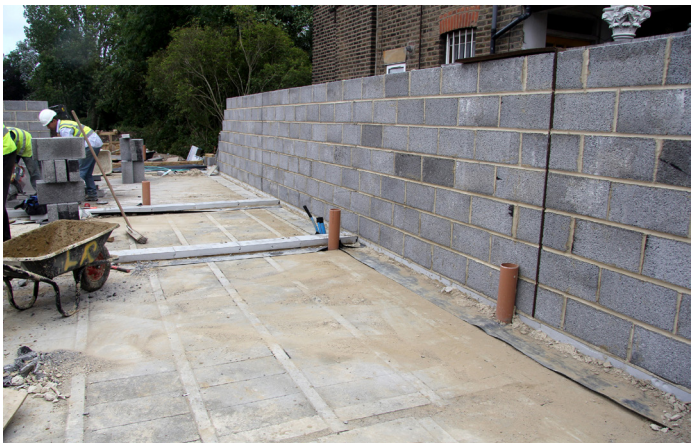
Thermoblock Protects Floor Junction in Low Energy Flat Development

A private development of highly energy efficient apartments in one of South-East London's most popular districts is employing two different widths of Thermoblock – manufactured by Marmox Limited – to minimize heat loss at the floor junctions of the external and internal loadbearing walls. Tyson Road in Forest Hill is the prime location for an eco-development of 71 one, two and three bedroom flats across a total of nine separate blocks, rising to three storeys, where Wicklow Projects is the design and build contractor, employing London based Bryden Wood, an integrated architecture and engineering consultancy.



Marmox is supplying hundreds of its 140 mm and 215 mm wide Thermoblocks for the build process with the wider units being used to subtend medium density (10.5N) concrete blockwork of similar width, which will form the stair cores and other internal load-bearing walls. Then the 140 mm wide versions are installed at DPC level to carry the inner leaf of the exterior wall behind a partially filled 120 mm cavity. Together with triple glazed Velfac windows, this construction will help achieve commendably low rates of heat loss as well as very affordable energy costs for prospective tenants of the privately rented developments. In particular, the Thermoblocks tackle issue of linear heat losses at the building perimeter and the other vulnerable floor-wall junctions where cold bridges frequently cause problems. The Site manager, Tommy Webster, commented: "We are building the Tyson Road apartments to achieve very high fabric energy efficiency standards and installing PV panels to generate electricity for the communal areas to the properties. The Thermoblocks have proved very simple to install and easy to cut when necessary and will help us achieve the very high energy efficiency targets."

The project architect at Bryden Wood confirmed: "We were concerned about the issue of cold bridging from the beam and block and the walls around the properties and as we are using the services of an approved inspector for Building Control matters, we wanted to employ a detail he was happy with. The Marmox Thermoblock is recognised under Robust Details and will therefore counter any risk of thermal bridging or condensation problems. Neither ourselves or the builder had used Thermoblock before, but found them very effective and something we feel the industry should adopt."

The 600 mm long units incorporate mini columns of high strength concrete to support the load of the wall above while the low lambda value insulation effectively lengthens the path for cold-bridging. They are laid using the special Marmox Multibond sealant adhesive to secure the stepped joints while an integral layer of mesh on the upper and lower surfaces offers a good mortar bond for block-laying to continue in the conventional manner.

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