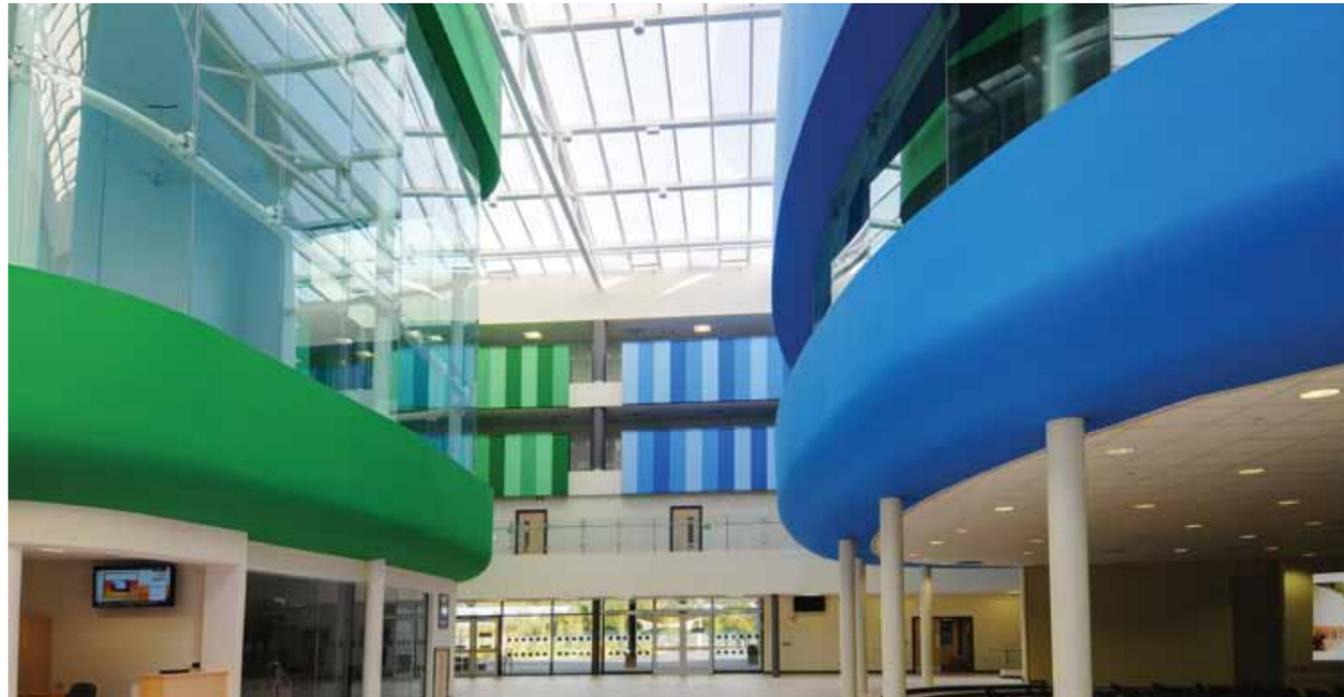


BESPOKE ROOFLIGHT SOLUTION DELIVERS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR STUDENTS AT NEW ACADEMY



Xtralite's products and services have been highlighted following its involvement in providing a bespoke rooflight solution for a new £48million academy in Hull.

Funded by the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme, the Sirius Academy required an innovative rooflight solution that could reflect its own unique, oval-shaped design. Working closely with roofing contractor Chemplas Ltd, Xtralite manufactured and installed two thermally enhanced ridgelights, measuring 33m x 28m and 24m x 28m.

Sat above the school's full-height central atrium space, the ridgelights

allow the maximum amount of daylight to illuminate the space below which houses an innovative learning environment plus a number of multi-use spaces.

Central to the success of the installation has been the close liaison between Xtralite's design team and Chemplas Ltd, who both worked together with the contractor to overcome the complex area of interface between the roof and the rooflight.

Jim Lowther, Sales Director at Xtralite, commented: "It is becoming increasingly important to ensure that schools built for the future are both sustainable and energy efficient.

"These particular ridgelights are glazed using translucent Lumira™ aerogel (formerly known as Nanogel). By using Lumira aerogel for this project, we've been able to ensure the building is flooded with high quality diffused light, reducing the glare and solar overheating that are usually associated with rooflight structures at this scale."

Sirius Academy boasts new teaching spaces, a six-court sports hall and three multi-use games areas, as well as specialist areas such as dance studios. It is anticipated that the Sirius Academy will achieve a BREEAM 'excellent' rating. If you require advice on a particular project please call us on **01670 354157**



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF EXPOSURE

Issued quarterly, Exposure has been designed to keep you up-to-date with news, products and project information from Xtralite Rooflights.

In this first issue, we'll be taking a look behind the scenes at Xtralite's Head Office, offering an insight into the internal processes we undertake in order to arrive at the ideal rooflight solution for our customers.

We'll also be discussing U Values, and the importance of being aware of the difference between centre pane and overall U Values when

specifying a larger rooflight system. As one of the UK's leading manufacturer of rooflights, it is our responsibility to help inform our customers on products that will not only provide effective daylight solutions, but will satisfy the requirements of ever changing and stringent legislation and regulations.

We also have some exciting news regarding our brand new website, as well as a round-up of exciting new projects.

We hope that you find this newsletter interesting and we welcome your feedback.



If you require any further information, do not hesitate to call us on **01670 354157** or visit us at www.xtralite.co.uk

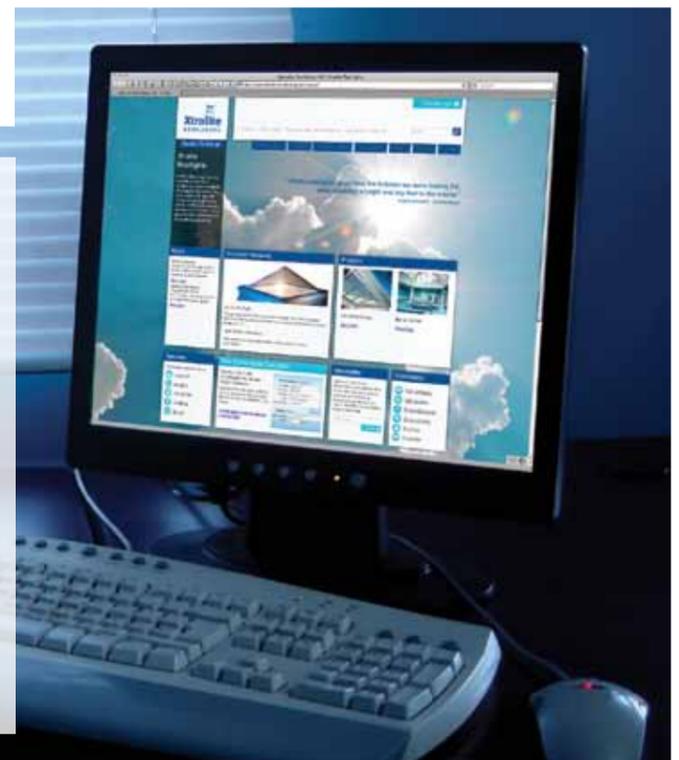
NEW XTRALITE WEBSITE

THIS MONTH SEES THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE.

At a time when our customers are increasingly looking for greater value from their rooflight supplier, we wanted our online presence to better service their needs.

The new look website makes it even easier to obtain detailed information on our wide range of products and services, ranging from our X-range and S-Line of rooflights, to our more specialist products, such as Lumira™ Glazing Technology, Structural Glazing and Vent Systems.

Information on our product range is backed up by our new Rooflight Design section, a platform within the website for us to share with customers some of our technical expertise and insight into the principles of designing a daylight solution for your project.



DO U KNOW ABOUT U VALUES?

There are many factors to take into consideration when specifying a glazing system, including the frame, the type of glazing itself, air permeability, as well as general aesthetics.

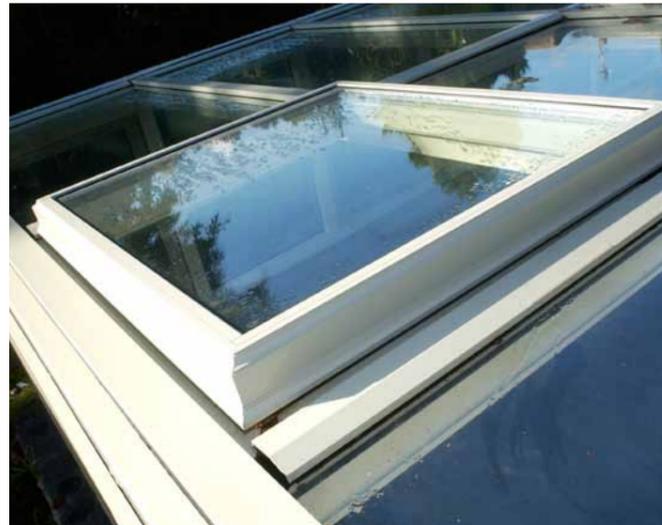
However, one of the most important factors to consider at specification stage is the thermal performance of the glazing system, otherwise known as the overall as U_d value*.

The overall U_d value performance of a glazing system is one of the most frequent misunderstandings at specification stage. This is because a glazing system, such as a ridgetlight or a mono-pitched rooflight, has two different U values - the centre pane and the overall system.

Many specifiers are simply unaware that the centre pane U value does not reflect the overall thermal efficiency of the

system. This can be detrimental in some cases, especially when a system needs to comply with the Building Regulations for thermal efficiency.

U values are representative of the thermal performance of the glass or system - the lower the U value, the more efficient the unit is. Typically, double glazed units (DGUs) can boast a U value of anything from 1.4 to 0.9, and no other factors affect the centre



pane U value of the glazing other than the type of material used to fill the gap between the glazing sheets, which is usually dry-air or gas, such as argon or krypton.

However, the overall U_d value of a system does depend on many

more factors than centre pane U values. Large ridgetlights on vertical legs that encompass many individual rooflights may be 'stitched' together using a frame, which is usually made from timber, PVCu or aluminium material.

The type of frame used can vary the overall U_d value performance of the system. For example, an aluminium frame can raise the U_d value to anything upwards of 2.0, because the material used is a conductor and not an insulator. This means that the material loses heat as opposed to retaining it, thus is not considered efficient.

Taking the time to fully understand U values will ultimately save time and confusion. Our team of experts are happy to answer any questions you may have about U values. Simply call us on 01670 354157 for more information.

*For more information on U_d values you may wish to read the NARM Technical Document NTD2 (2010)

BEHIND THE SCENES AT XTRALITE HQ

Our teams go to great lengths to ensure that customers get the best and most accurate quote for their particular project. Here is an insight into the internal processes we undertake in order to arrive at the ideal rooflight solution for each client.

In refurbishment cases, within a couple of days of Xtralite being contacted by the customer, one of our experienced area managers will generally visit the site and carry out an initial site survey. The purpose of this visit is to look in detail at the products already in situ on the roof, and any obvious external obstacles that could cause difficulties in the future.

Important considerations at this initial site survey are the roof build up, the proposed works to renovate the roof and also the internal environments, ie; the room beneath the proposed rooflight.

Through assessing factors such as whether the rooflight is overlooked and requires additional privacy, or whether it is heated or non-heated, or if the internal environment is moisture generating, eg a kitchen or bathroom, our team of experts can correctly identify which products and materials are suitable for the individual project.

Xtralite also receives enquiries relating to projects where larger glazed structures are to be replaced. In these instances, it may be in order for a member of our Technical Department to attend site to ensure any possible on-site difficulties can be designed and engineered out, effectively creating the most cost effective solution for the customer.

Where rooflights are being installed into new structures we would usually receive drawings and specifications sent direct to our offices. After logging these onto our specialist system the enquiry is checked by our technical team for feasibility of design, and again to determine the most cost effective solution, whilst maintaining the design criteria set out by the Architect. Occasionally for the more complex rooflight solutions, in order to develop an estimate, and therefore quotation, we may need to part design the installation.



Increasingly we find that the building designer makes use of our specialist skills by involving a member of our experienced team at early design stage. By working together at this stage, we can overcome some of the difficulties that may arise, and ensure that the building goes ahead as seen in the mind's eye of the designer, in the most cost effective way.

Following the design stage, our sales team put together a brief, which is passed to our engineering team to be assessed; ultimately determining which glazing bars ought to be used to meet design requirements. After this engineering process, projects are passed to our estimators for the production of a final quotation. These quotations, where appropriate, may contain 3D drawings which help to ensure that our perception of the rooflight design matches that of the customer.

For the larger structural enquiries a quotation is produced, on average, within a week of receiving the enquiry, but this can be sooner if required.

The sending of the quotation however, is not the end of our process. Depending on the size of the project and its complexity, we may become involved with the client's design team to further develop the specification through 'pre-contract' meetings. Once an order is received final dimensions are taken from either the site, or the designer's detailed drawings. Xtralite's draughtsmen then produce drawings for final approval and the rooflight structure is manufactured – a process which will be further explained in the next edition of Exposure.

Our structural glazing systems can be wide and varied. We work very closely with the client to ensure everyone is 100% satisfied before the point of manufacture, and can attend both site visits and design meetings if required.

For clients requiring a standard system,



such as Xtralite's small modular rooflights, the site survey remains the same with our team assessing the roof make-up as well as the internal environment and taking on-site dimensions.

Again, we believe in involving a specialist at an early design stage to help ensure that the project runs smoothly. Our seven regional sales representatives have in excess of 170 years' combined industry experience and will employ the same level of knowledge whether the project is educational, retail, healthcare or domestic.

Quotations for our standard systems are produced and delivered direct via email from our bespoke, state-of-the-art, software system.

Throughout this process, it is clear that one of our biggest assets is our experienced staff, many of whom have been with us since Xtralite was founded. Their industry and product knowledge ensures they ask all of the right questions to ensure that our customers receive the right specification, the right service and the right price every time.

For more information visit: www.xtralite.co.uk or call: **01670 354157**