



Dublin's National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) is the only facility that provides specialist, accredited in-patient and out-patient rehabilitation in the Republic of Ireland. Its re-development centred around an extension to the original 20th century hospital that would enhance the patients' experience.

The new building includes four different façade designs, each with its own aesthetic and practical goals. Patient wards are organised around two large and two smaller courtyards which, along with the varied façade characteristics, provide orientation for patients navigating the hospital.

Schüco products were specified for the façade with Alucraft as the specialist contractor and O'Connell Mahon Architects designing the re-development.

Kevin Larkin, associate director at O'Connell Mahon Architects, says: "The specification was to a very high standard and Schüco was chosen not only for its high-quality systems and products, but also because the company was readily able to produce test certificates for the product specification assessments."

The Schüco FW 50+ SG curtain walling gives the façade a light, clean feel and the design incorporates different coloured panels, giving the building a more

playful look. FWS 50 curtain walling, with deep nosing caps and floating aluminium box sections on the north façade, gives privacy to patients using the hospital's main corridor while still allowing for views of Dublin Bay in the distance.

The building also benefits from Schüco sliding doors with flush thresholds, a necessity in a facility where over 80% of the patients use wheelchairs.

Large full height Schüco bedroom windows provide patients with unobstructed views of the Dublin Hills. Empowering patients in their own spaces was key, so ventilation in the bedrooms needed to be controlled by the patients themselves. The use of Schüco products enabled windows to have large opening sections that were also safe and ergonomic to use.

Specialist contractor, Alucraft, installed the cladding on the Schüco curtain wall system. Shane Hall, technical director at Alucraft says: "The Schüco system used in the façade allowed the architect's design to be carried out seamlessly, without alteration." Larkin agreed, saying: "Schüco is one of the only system suppliers that could have achieved the NRH project without tweaking the design." □

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In a major reorganisation at its Harlow, Essex factory Ashton Industrial is relocating all staff operations to re-planned office suites at first floor level, freeing up the entire ground floor area which is being converted to additional machine manufacturing space.

Steve Ashton says: "Demand for our heavy duty professional arripping machines and automatic arripping and batching lines, many of which are for jumbo or near-jumbo glass sizes, means we can always use more production space. There are usually three lines in

various stages of completion being worked on simultaneously as well as standalone, semi-automatic and manually operated machines. The newly freed-up space will accommodate building of a large part of the latter, and of sub-assemblies and electrical control panels."

High speed handling projects which include tilting, rotating, slot-racking, protective film laminators and mirror backing applicators are becoming increasingly popular. Three high performance jumbo tilting conveyors have recently been commissioned in Argentina.



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