

CIRCLE SQUARE, MANCHESTER

Design collaboration brings architect's 3D vision to reality on city centre hotel and car park

LOCATION

Manchester

PROJECT

3D diamond texture on architectural façade

DATE

Summer 2020

CONTRACTORS

Russell WBHO

ARCHITECTS

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (Concept), Leach Rhodes Walker (Delivery)

VERDICT

“The best thing I can say about the project is that it looks exactly the same in real life as it did on the original CGI. The installation was second to none. It's something that could have been really nerve-racking for us. But it was flawless.”

Senior Project Manager, Bruntwood

DESIGN

- Folded aluminium panels fit together precisely to create diamond texture
- 3D façade design catches sunlight from different angles
- Close collaboration between architects, contractors and Maple technical design team from Day One
- Full-scale mock-ups in prototype area of Maple's factory brought architect's vision to life

MANUFACTURE

- Complex design made up of standard triangular panels to ensure manufacturing efficiencies
- Aluminium panels perforated to achieve maximum strength at minimum weight
- Final manufacturing specification refined to prevent wind noise on high, exposed site
- Panels powder-coated in grey-white for protection and visual impact – appear to change colour throughout the day

INSTALLATION

- Façade cloaks top half of 16-storey hotel and car park
- Bespoke fittings achieve precise alignment between panels to achieve design intent
- Interface between façade and hotel windows refined by Maple design team and tested on full-size prototypes
- Installation carefully project-managed to minimise time spent working at height, and reduce risk

DID YOU KNOW?

The 3D architectural façade is one of the most striking landmarks of a £750m development in Manchester city centre that's been described as 'a million miles from ordinary' – but began life just nine miles away in Maple's factory.



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MAPLE

