

**FORMER PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLASGOW**  
**ALUMASC RAINWATER SYSTEMS**



The former Holmlea Primary School is one of Glasgow's most distinctive residential developments, comprising Alumasc's Heritage Cast Aluminium rainwater system, in a remarkable blend of conservation and new build construction.

Originally designed by Andrew Balfour and opened in 1908, the school formally closed in 2004 and the site was disused for 15 years before finally finding a new owner in Home Group. The developer purchased the site with the intention of repurposing both the original school building and the janitor's house, which is Category B Listed, for rented housing, and the all-new construction of an extension and two new blocks. In total, the redevelopment presents a total of 49 homes, in a mix of social and affordable rent.

Architects on the project Anderson Bell + Christie worked closely with Historic Environment Scotland to deliver a sympathetic restoration and addition to the existing building, to bring the building back into use and provide much needed housing to the area.

A major objective for the project was to preserve the listed status and historic features of the building, while incorporating a new extension creating design synergy between both. Nicola McGowan, area sales manager for Scotland, commented: “Alumasc’s Heritage range was especially chosen to complement this listed building, specifically with our Moulded MG3 gutter profile.



“Designed to provide all the essential architectural features appropriate to traditionally designed buildings, the Heritage range is also fully in tune with modern buildings, and can offer an ideal, timeless solution for projects such as this one, which exists between eras.”

Heritage Cast Aluminium is a comprehensive range of traditional gutter profiles, with round, square and rectangular downpipes and all associated fittings and accessories. They are available in 26 standard colours, or to match any BS or RAL colour to special order, the Heritage Cast Aluminium range is also available in a textured finish to resemble a traditional cast iron surface. Its BBA approved powder coating process ensures a long-lasting finish.

“Aluminium is a metal with exceptional characteristics,” Nicola explained, “both relating to its functional performance and sustainable credentials. It has become increasingly important in the construction industry recently as it offers a corrosion resistant, lightweight and durable material that is also highly formable and 100% recyclable. It offers a great solution to this project, allowing the building to be completed in a way that is respectful to the original history, while guaranteeing a long-lasting installation.”

The former Holmlea Primary School is also one of the finalists for the 2021 RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence.



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