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14 January 2009

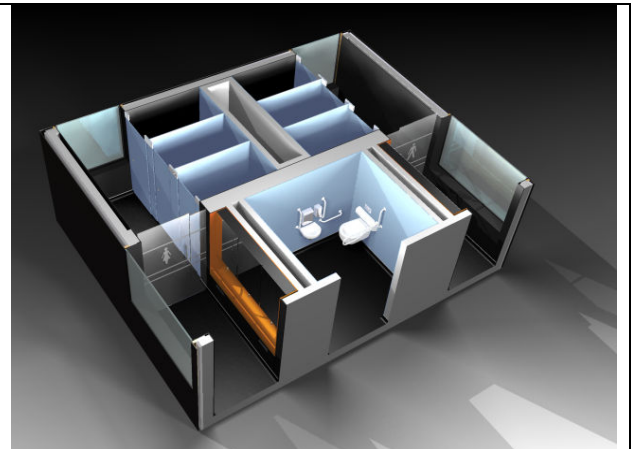
TERRAPIN LAUNCHES MODULAR TOILET BLOCK FOR SCHOOLS

Offsite construction leader Terrapin is pioneering higher standards in toilets for schools and the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Terrapin has worked with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), London Borough of Havering, and architects Walters and Cohen, to launch a new modular toilet block for schools which complies with the DCSF's Standard Specifications, Layouts and Dimensions (SSLD) for Toilets in Schools. This guidance has been written to become the standard in BSF programme documentation. The first Terrapin module, built to this new specification, has been delivered – fully fitted – to Brittons School and Technology College, in the London Borough of Havering.

Full story on next page

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High-res pics available at <http://www.terrapiin.ourpressoffice.com/project/index.html> and attached separately.

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The toilet block, built to SSLD design Type D, is a 34m² structure containing separate male and female toilets and a disabled toilet. It incorporates specific fixtures and fittings to help reduce the long standing concerns surrounding the quality, image and maintenance of school toilets. It was constructed in two sections within the Terrapin factory, where the interiors were finished to a tight specification, and all plumbing and electrical services installed. The sections were designed to be transported to site and



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hoisted into position - ready for use as soon as the external cladding, roof and breaking through the existing external wall have been completed, and the services connected.

The SSLD document was developed in part from the Bog Standard campaign for better toilets for pupils, which was launched in England in 2004 and is organised by ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence). The design examples given in SSLD have been designed around a number of standardised components, a standardised cubicle with an integral plumbing system, a wash trough and a wheelchair accessible toilet. These components can be arranged in a variety of ways, which enables the new Terrapin unit to be designed for optimum efficiency in offsite construction and transportation to site.

Current thinking is that well designed school toilets encourage responsible use and discourage anti-social behaviour, tackle poor hygiene issues, and thus help to overcome some pupils' reluctance to use toilets. It can ultimately improve general pupil welfare, morale, attendance and academic performance. Smaller toilet blocks are favoured over large central facilities, for easier access and reducing the feelings of anonymity. The SSLD says its standardised approach to toilet design is ideal for offsite construction, which "can be cost effective because of economies of scale, provide greater cost and

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delivery predictability and higher standards of assembly and finish, lower the risk of site accidents and be more sustainable in terms of reduced waste”.

Richard Macdonald, Terrapin Sales and Marketing Director, said, “The idea of offsite construction has already proved itself in a variety of educational buildings - classrooms, science blocks, theatres and canteens - in both permanent and relocatable structures. Its suitability has also been demonstrated in other areas of construction including offices, hotels, hospitals, military accommodation and prisons; so this project will further improve our offsite credentials whilst helping the DCSF’s drive to improve standards. The toilet blocks combine these strengths with the opportunity to minimise the need for finishing trades on site, reducing health and safety concerns, the number of disruptive deliveries and the amount of waste produced, all of which combine to shorten the onsite construction time significantly and reduce the level of ‘snagging’ post completion. We are confident that the Havering project will encourage specifiers in other new builds and refurbishment projects to follow the SSLD’s advice on offsite construction when looking for facilities that help change behavioural patterns and concerns.”

Terrapin is a privately owned company and is one of the UK’s leaders in offsite construction. It has been expanding the potential of Modern Methods of Construction since 1949 and now offers a range of complementary MMC technologies that can be used



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individually or combined to create bespoke building solutions for every application; panel based technology, volumetric design technology and steel framed, element build technology.

Terrapin is the first company to be accredited under Build*off*site's new supplier registration scheme operated by Lloyd's Register. The scheme standardises all aspects of the offsite process and ensures best practice, offering clients confidence in the assured levels of competence, methodology and safe working of the accredited supplier.

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Notes to editors

About the Bog Standard campaign

The Bog Standard campaign to improve pupils' access to better quality facilities in school was officially launched in England in 2004 and is organised by ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence). ERIC is a national charity that provides information and support to families and health professionals on childhood bedwetting, daytime wetting, constipation and soiling difficulties. Developed in partnership with School Councils UK, The British Toilet Association, and the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (which represents over half of



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school nurses in the UK), the campaign is also supported by a large steering group of education and health experts, and its major sponsor Armitage Shanks.

Nickie Brander, Campaigns Organiser for ERIC, has worked extensively with the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. She has also worked with Walters and Cohen on the Government SSLD Toilets in Schools guidelines and on student participation in the prototype school building projects in East London.

As a result of ERIC's campaign work on school toilets and its separate but related campaign to improve drinking water in schools (see www.wateriscoolinschool.org.uk), ERIC was overall winner of the GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Award in association with the King's Fund in 2007, and won the Children and Youth category of the national Charity Awards in 2008.

www.bog-standard.org

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About Walters and Cohen

Founded in 1994 by Cindy Walters and Michal Cohen, Walters and Cohen has since grown into a dynamic and multicultural practice of talented individuals from around the world, with an international portfolio of public, education, commercial, housing and cultural projects.

Walters and Cohen's design approach is thorough, demanding and rational. This is evident in the material quality of the buildings completed by the practice, which combine intellectual rigour with a sensual appreciation of space, light and materiality.

Walters and Cohen works closely with clients to establish an appropriate and achievable brief for every project. The work of the practice is underpinned by a passionate belief in the importance of design excellence. Detailed research into innovative building materials has resulted in an impressive range of bold, contemporary and imaginative projects.

Walters and Cohen received RIBA awards in 2005 for the visitor centre at Wakehurst Place, West Sussex, in 2006 for new teaching and administration buildings at Bedales School, Hampshire and for Redbrook Hayes School, Staffordshire, in 2007. This year the practice's new Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art at Kew Gardens opened to



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great acclaim. Current projects include the new Wembley Primary School, which will be the largest primary school in the UK, a new music building at Bedales School in Hampshire, and a feasibility study for regeneration of the southern area of Hampstead Heath, including the lido and athletics track.

In May 2005 Walters and Cohen became a limited company and currently employs 25 people including architects, architects in training, graphic designers and administrators.

www.waltersandcohen.com

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