

2018-19

**BULDINGS THAT
RESHAPE THE FUTURE**



Introduction



How we can build a better tomorrow

Reports from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) make it clear: Climate change is a serious and growing challenge to the environment as we know it, and the building sector has a central role to play in limiting its scope and impact.

From our schools and hospitals to our offices, stores and homes, buildings provide critical infrastructure. They are also the source of roughly 30 percent of global energy use and emissions.

It's a number that will only grow with the population if we don't improve how we build. According to the IPCC, the building sector has no excuse: it is where the world can get the most carbon emission savings for each dollar spent, 40% more than the next most cost-effective sector.

The best part? Most of the savings can be achieved if we do two things: require new buildings to meet the highest energy efficiency requirements like those set by the Nearly Zero-Energy Building standard and renovate existing buildings to meet the same standards.

From the built environment to horticulture and water management, the ROCKWOOL Group works relentlessly to address some of the most serious challenges facing life on Earth.

By 2025, an estimated 1.8 billion people will live in areas plagued by water scarcity (UNDP, 2006). We have horticultural solutions to help growers produce more and better food using much less water.

And where too much water is the problem, caused by more frequent and severe rainfall, we have water management systems that use sustainable stone wool. Our solutions are specially engineered to be both strong and highly absorbent, enabling excess water to be released slowly without harming valuable infrastructure.

In urban spaces, we are making life more comfortable, reducing the effects of noise pollution on residents through the acoustic capabilities of stone wool; while also protecting families and neighbourhoods from the risk of fire.

All of these efforts have one thing in common: ROCKWOOL Group's commitment to improve people's lives with our products and lower our impact on the environment.

The 7 strengths of stone work relentlessly to shape our tomorrow – reducing emissions, optimising acoustics, improving aesthetics, preventing flooding and growing more food with less water, all through the use of 100% natural, long-lasting and fully recyclable stone wool.

In these 36 case studies, you'll see the breadth of possibilities and applications of the ROCKWOOL Group's products and knowledge. We hope you find them inspiring and will join us in creating a better future for everyone.

ROCKWOOL Group at a glance

The ROCKWOOL Group was the first to start the production of stone wool in Denmark, in 1937. Since then our products have contributed to countless landmark projects around the world.

Our world is developing and ROCKWOOL is helping to shape it. We're finding ever more innovative ways to tackle big global challenges and build the cities of tomorrow – better for the environment and for the people who live in them. All this is made possible because we have released the 7 strengths of stone.

ROCKWOOL has five brands, all working together to achieve our common purpose.



We are the leading supplier of fire resilient stone wool insulation providing solutions for all major application areas, including technical and OEM.



We provide customers with a complete ceiling system offer, combining panels with suspension grid systems and accessories.



We manufacture board material mostly used in ventilated constructions, for façade cladding, roof detailing, soffits and fascias.



We develop innovative products used in a wide range of applications, including friction and water management, tracks, coatings, gaskets and fences.



We are a global leader in the supply of innovative stone wool substrate solutions for the professional horticultural based on Precision Growing principles.

The

There is something truly remarkable about the natural power of stone.

So far, we have been able to break down this natural power into 7 strengths that are inherent in the versatile properties of stone wool. And over the years we've become experts at applying these strengths to help people around the world create landmark projects and enrich modern living.

strengths of stone



Fire-resilience

Withstand temperatures above 1000°C.



Thermal properties

Save energy by maintaining optimum indoor temperature and climate.



Acoustic capabilities

Block, absorb or enhance sounds.



Robustness

Increased performance and greater stability with lower costs.



Aesthetics

Match performance with aesthetics.



Water properties

Manage our most precious resource.



Circularity

Reusable and recyclable materials.

Why Renovation?

Buildings offer a more cost-effective pathway to reducing carbon emissions than any other business or industry. In fact, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), insulation is the most cost-effective way of mitigating climate change, because it can contribute to energy savings of over 80%.

Since more than 50 percent of today's buildings will still be in use in 2050 (75-90% in OECD countries), there are approximately 207 billion square metres of building space which could be renovated, potentially reducing the CO₂ footprint by up to 70 percent. This would play a key role in keeping global temperature rise below the UN target of 1.5°C target, while meeting the EU target of renovating all buildings to nearly zero-energy performance by 2050.

A renovated building can also give you the same benefits as a new building. Renovating with stone wool insulation brings great fire resilience, soundproofing, durability and resistance to damp and mould.

We spend roughly 90% of our lives indoors. Whether it's in the home, at school or the office or in a hospital recovering, people should be able to live in buildings that are comfortable and safe.

¹ The revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2018) requires each Member State to 'establish long term renovation strategies [to transform] existing buildings into nearly zero-energy buildings'.



Hearing every word at high school

“Creating a good acoustic experience improves learning and understanding. Every student should have the same opportunity to hear and understand what is being said whether they are learning to weld in a noisy shop or reading Latin in the library.”

**Gary Madaras,
Rockfon acoustic specialist**

Better acoustics improve the learning environment

*Samamish High School, Washington, USA
2017*

Samamish High School modernised its campus over four years, adding a new three-storey state-of-the-art educational facility and a new two-storey athletic building.

The goal was to create a high school for the future with spaces for collaboration, informal learning and socialising, as well as ensuring excellent acoustics across all areas including classrooms, the gym, common areas, music rooms and offices.

The school's stakeholders focused on optimising acoustics to improve concentration and comfort for students by using Rockfon stone wool ceiling panels. The natural sound absorbing properties of stone wool give excellent noise reduction capabilities, and reduce reverberation, which again improves speech intelligibility. This makes it easier for students to hear and understand their lessons, without teachers having to shout.

As well as providing the best sound absorption, Rockfon ceilings are non-combustible and resistant to mould, bacteria and humidity. Following installation, they have delivered excellent indoor air quality, comfort and safety for school children at Samamish. The white surface of Rockfon also reflects up to 86% of available light which means a better distribution of natural light, lowering lighting requirements and increasing energy savings for the school.

Using Rockfon ceiling panels, the designers of Samamish High School have created beautiful spaces that serve nearly 1,000 students and improve collaboration and learning through better acoustic performance. In addition, the use of stone wool – which is 100% recyclable – has helped the school meet the Washington State Sustainable Schools Protocol.



ACOUSTIC CAPABILITIES

"Rockfon offered a clean, modern looking ceiling product with good NRC values at a good value. Budget is always a concern on education projects, and the Rockfon products allowed us to achieve the design aesthetic we wanted."

Ian Kilpatrick,
Architect at DLR Group

Acoustics and aesthetics improve the learning environment

Salina Central High School, Kansas, USA
2018

Originally constructed in 1952, the 55,000m² Salina Central High School required an updated facility to provide more space and modern features for its 1,000 students.

A key design requirement was improved acoustics: the school required better sound reduction so that students could clearly hear and understand their teachers.

The ceiling contributed greatly to this goal. The contractors, DLR Group, chose Rockfon Artic acoustic stone wool ceiling panels for a durable, low maintenance, high quality system. Rockfon was used throughout new expansion areas, for renovating existing spaces and provided a good Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC).

Another key requirement was a 21st century, modern design. Rockfon was chosen because of its aesthetic properties, which gave a modern, smooth white finish.

For a busy school environment, durability and low maintenance adds to the appeal of Rockfon, while safety is ensured since ROCKWOOL stone wool ceiling products meet Class A fire standards and withstand temperatures above 1000°C.

Students at Salina Central High School now concentrate on their studies in a pleasant indoor environment which benefits from excellent air quality thanks to the use of stone wool. And every word the teacher says is heard.

Acoustics help teachers be heard

Renovation



ACOUSTIC CAPABILITIES

Fine-tuning the acoustics of an exposed office ceiling

Solar Spectrum, Kansas City, USA
2015

Solar Spectrum, a distributor of solar panel systems in the US, chose new offices in a 38-year-old concrete tower in downtown Kansas City. Working with Hoefer Wysocki Architecture, the company decided to open up the space to create a modern office design with exposed steel pipes, ductwork and concrete.

This created a dual challenge for acoustic performance in the office. Firstly, Solar Spectrum wanted to reduce noise in the office without making the environment too quiet for their young salespeople, who feed off an energetic atmosphere. Secondly, the acoustic insulation had to work in an exposed and complex ceiling space.

The company harnessed the natural sound-absorbing qualities of stone wool, using Rockfon ceiling systems and acoustic islands which were supplied with short lead times. Rockfon was chosen for its smooth

appearance and positioned strategically throughout the workspace to give precise control of acoustics. The installation integrated with all existing components in the ceiling, and the lightweight, modular sizes of Rockfon panels – which are 50-75% lighter than other ceiling panels – made fitting quick and easy.

Rockfon panels and islands now reflect 86% of the light from the exterior windows into Solar Spectrum's office interior. This maximises natural daylight and minimises the need for electric lighting – helping to reduce energy costs. The boards are also non-combustible, and resist mould and bacteria to ensure cleaner, healthier indoor air.

Today, Solar Spectrum's modern offices reflect their culture of openness, interaction and energy. The sound absorption property of Rockfon has been optimised precisely to the company's needs and contributes to the distinctive design of the offices.

"As we opened up the space, we were also taking away everything that absorbs sound and showcasing all the reflective surfaces. We needed something more than a carpet to manage the acoustics. We knew of various standard acoustic ceiling clouds, but weren't satisfied in what we were finding. Then, we came across Rockfon. From our research, Rockfon acoustic islands were the best thing available to meet the acoustic design and aesthetic needs, and they included recycled content."

James Evrard,
Associate and Project Architect at Hoefer Wysocki Architecture

Pitch-perfect office acoustics

Renovation



Open and airy, yet quiet

Acoustics experts showcase noise reduction in their new office

Aercoustics Engineering, Ontario, Canada 2017

Aercoustics Engineering chose to transform a 9,000 square foot former warehouse space into a modern, comfortable and attractive office environment. As an acoustical engineering firm, they wanted to improve the office acoustics while making a design statement to demonstrate their expertise in noise and vibration control.

Since the new office is part of a larger multi-tenant building, the challenge was to create a collaborative office space while ensuring sound privacy and acoustic comfort in meeting rooms and other areas.

Aercoustics Engineering specified Rockfon panels, which optimise acoustics by absorbing sound and have a premium appearance, which suited the office design perfectly. Rockfon panels provide a wide range of options, so different products could be chosen to achieve different goals in different areas of the office.

The panels now help to block and absorb sounds while the lightly textured, white surfaces reflect up to 85% of the available light and distribute natural light, which was perfect for the ceiling system. It means lower electric lighting requirements, and will save energy in the years to come.

Since the Rockfon panel range is made entirely from stone wool, it also delivers high thermal performance, excellent fire safety, and does not encourage mould or bacterial growth – thereby improving indoor air quality in the office and ensuring a healthier working environment.

The creation of a highly efficient, sound absorbing space has been achieved without compromising on aesthetics. Aercoustics Engineering now has a dynamic office environment that matches its culture and demonstrates its technical expertise to clients and visitors.

“We love our space. Rockfon products were one important part of the whole in achieving the overall performance and premium appearance. We’re excited that our office not only serves all who work here, but also works as a showcase for our clients to experience the power of acoustically optimised and well-designed spaces.”

**Steve Titus,
President and CEO at Aercoustics Engineering**



Hard Rock Heals

Reducing noise for a hospital music room

La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain
2018

La Paz University Hospital is the largest hospital in Madrid, with more than 1,300 beds and 7,000 employees working in four hospitals. A special addition has been made to the children's hospital – a music space complete with instruments, a recording and rehearsal area, and a small stage where young patients can play music and recover.

Called The Hard Rock Café Music Room, the project was funded by the Hard Rock Heals Foundation, the ROCKWOOL Group and others to support music therapy for paediatric patients.

Rockfon acoustic ceiling tiles were donated to create an authentic music studio appearance and function. Using the natural sound absorbing properties of stone wool gives the new music room excellent noise reduction capabilities, as well as reducing reverberation. This was key to the project's success since the facility is within

the hospital itself and is now equipped with several guitars, a keyboard and drums.

The white surface of Rockfon reflects up to 86% of available light which means young patients enjoy a room full of natural light, and the hospital benefits from reduced lighting and energy costs. Rockfon panels are also non-combustible and resist mould and bacteria to ensure cleaner, healthier indoor air – another valuable benefit for a hospital environment.

The Music Room will help La Paz to continue its research into the therapeutic benefits of music, and promote more varied emotional interaction between children, their families and staff. The ROCKWOOL Group is very proud to have helped Hard Rock Heals in this ground-breaking acoustic project that will treat hundreds of patients per year with music therapy.

"We always look for opportunities to help the communities where we operate and this is an ideal project. Rockfon's products are used widely in healthcare facilities for their sound absorption, hygienic and light reflecting qualities, so the music room is a perfect fit."

**Mirella Vitale,
Senior Vice President at ROCKWOOL Group**



Warm and safe for years

Poor insulation and high energy costs were hitting the pockets of residents before refurbishment

*Lion Farm Estate, Oldbury, UK
2018 – 2019*

Originally built in the 1960's, Lion Farm Estate comprises over 200 homes in three 13-storey residential towers. In high-rise buildings like these, safety is of prime importance. Since their construction, however, all three towers have deteriorated visually and structurally through wear and tear to the building fabric, windows and doors.

In addition, the absence of efficient wall insulation and cladding mean that residents have been fighting a losing battle to keep warm in the face of increasing energy bills – especially those living in fuel poverty.

The renovation project therefore needed to focus on providing increased energy efficiency for occupants, as well as bringing the high-rise towers into the 21st century in general.

To achieve these goals, the contractor, Lovell, chose the thermal properties of RAINSCREEN DUO SLAB which is designed for use in severe weather conditions and has thermal properties which can dramatically reduce heating, cooling and ventilation costs. The solution will more than meet energy efficiency and fire safety requirements, while at the same time creating a more comfortable living environment.

For the residents at Lion Farm, one of the greatest benefits of the refurbishment will be the alleviation of fuel poverty over time. They will live in far more comfortable and affordable homes, with excellent long-term energy efficiency and fire safety.

Since Lovell chose products that are long-lasting and protective, Lion Farm will need no additional refurbishment, leaving residents comfortable and safe for years to come.

“This is a major programme of renovation work that will deliver important physical improvements for peoples’ homes as well as lasting community benefits in the area. The use of ROCKWOOL insulation and Rockpanel boards will mean low maintenance and an end to fuel poverty for the estate’s residents.”

**Carl Yale,
Regional Refurbishment Director at Lovell**





On the right track to safety and noise reduction

“With a vast number of trains and people due to travel through this station, noise reduction was a major factor for this scheme. ROCKWOOL stone wool products were able to deliver a solution that not only helps in mitigating noise, but also provides optimum fire safety performance. This project has been built to comply with exceptionally strict fire and acoustic LUL standards that will serve the needs of Farringdon for many years.”

Simon Webber,
Section Manager at BFK
(BAM, Ferrovial and Kier joint constructors)

Reducing noise pollution while protecting against fire are key priorities for this busy train station

*Farringdon Station, London, UK
2018*

Around 140 trains per hour and an estimated 90,000 passengers pass through Farringdon Station every day. It is also part of a massive new Crossrail infrastructure project, which will bring 1.5 million more people within a 45-minute commute of central London.

Crossrail's priority was to design a safe and comfortable space for commuters to pass through. Specifically, the company needed to minimise sound propagation alongside new platforms and through train tunnels to improve the commuting experience. For Farringdon Station, ROCKWOOL Rw3 insulation face slabs were chosen to meet the exceptionally strict acoustic standards of London Underground Limited (LUL).

In addition, Rw3 achieves an A1 fire classification in accordance with BS EN 13501 for non-combustibility.

Being a semi-rigid product, Rw3 also made life easier for the contractors since it was easy to cut and friction-fit alongside platforms and in tunnels.

Modern life can be stressful and busy, especially for commuters using public transport. With the support of ROCKWOOL stone wool, Crossrail has created a more comfortable environment with reduced noise pollution from trains and pedestrian traffic.

Farringdon Station has been future-proofed in terms of fire safety, which is paramount in such a busy and confined public space. In addition, the chosen solution will serve the needs of the station and improve the daily commuting experience for many thousands of passengers, for years to come.



Vanja Boyer

ROCKWOOL: The power of stone wool & the passion of our people

"ROCKWOOL allows me the opportunity to be in contact with people from different countries and to collaborate with colleagues across the globe. I'm thankful to work with such a wonderful team of people who are passionate about offering solutions that will help contribute to ROCKWOOL's future growth. I am happy to be a part of an organisation, who after all these years, is a world leader in stone wool solutions – continuously focusing on sustainability and helping our customers address many of the big issues of modern living."

*Vanja Boyer
IT People Manager and BRM
ROCKWOOL North America*

Throughout our history, ROCKWOOL employees have been doing something that looks like magic. Regardless of job title, tenure or location, they make sure that ROCKWOOL excels in transforming

an abundant, renewable natural resource into materials that bring comfort, safety and sustainability to millions of people worldwide. In every department in 39 countries, and with differing skills, backgrounds and experience, the dedication of ROCKWOOL's personnel – 11,000 strong – has shaped how the company thinks and acts.

Vanja Boyer has been happily part of the ROCKWOOL family for a long time as she reflects on how the company has grown and delivers results from around the world. She started her career with ROCKWOOL in January 2009 as part of Global IT – Digital. Vanja has been involved with the company's technological innovations, enhanced digital services, new projects and organisational changes. Most recently, her division participated in an update to create a stronger interface for delivering digital project ideas, projects and services to OPCOs and Group functions.

"I am happy to be a part of an organisation, who after all these years, is a world leader in stone wool solutions – continuously focusing on sustainability and helping our customers address many of the big issues of modern living."



Energy performance gets a facelift

“Choosing the ROCKWOOL system for this project was a quick and easy decision. It more than fulfilled Tower Hamlet Home’s requirement to improve thermal efficiency on the estate. Not only is ROCKWOOL a reputable brand, but having installed their products in the past, we were confident that installation would be easy to achieve.”

**Spencer Marshall,
Contracts Manager at Breyer Construction**

Improvements to energy efficiency put an end to fuel poverty for residents

Avebury Estate, Tower Hamlets, London, UK
2016

Dating back to the 1960’s, the Avebury Estate in Tower Hamlets fell short of modern standards for insulation and safety.

Energy costs were putting a financial strain on occupants of the development, which consists of nineteen four-storey blocks (around 300 homes). The required renovation work included the improvement of thermal performance to meet modern building regulation requirements, as well as achieving fire safety values – both essential for a high-rise building.

The challenge was to renovate in a sympathetic style to surrounding buildings, while at the same time, improving the aesthetics of the estate.

Breyer Group, the specifiers working on behalf of Tower Hamlet Homes, chose ROCKWOOL REDArt for its insulation,

climate protection and beautiful finish; plus BrickShield, the wall cladding system with a real brick finish. Together they give each building an energy efficient external envelope and A1 fire safety: future-proofing the building and providing high levels of safety for the occupants.

The finish of the rendering system also delivered the promised uplift in aesthetics for Breyer, and created a building residents are proud of.

Since proper insulation can reduce household energy needs by 70%, the occupants of Tower Hamlets now live in a more energy efficient, comfortable, safe and attractive environment. This will alleviate issues of fuel poverty over the long term and result in more affordable living for all residents. And the long-lasting technical insulation and cladding will ensure the building remains that way for many years.



Tackling tramway vibrations

“Noise during nighttime disturbs sleep and spoils the recovery phases of the human body.”

Source: Report: Noise and Health, World Health Organization (WHO) 2004, Dr Hildegard Niemann / Dr Christian Maschke

Protecting historic buildings from vibration damages in a busy city

*Tramway Line D, Bordeaux, France
2018 – 2019*

The development of a modern cable-free tramway network has improved transportation in the Bordeaux metropolitan area considerably. The third phase of the construction work continues, including Line D which will run for 9.8 kilometres and call at 15 stations.

As Line D plays a significant part in supporting Bordeaux’s development, great importance was given to protecting the city’s historic infrastructure from vibration damage, as well as ensuring comfortable living conditions for residents near the tramway.

The joint constructors, Ingérop and Systra, chose a vibration isolation system from railway technology specialists Rockdelta, part of the ROCKWOOL Group.

Rockdelta RX anti-vibration mats reduce ground-borne vibrations and noise from

floating slab track systems. And being stone wool based, not only do they protect from unwanted noise but they are exceptionally robust and have a long, maintenance-free life which will reduce costs.

Because traffic had to be stopped to allow for construction, fast installation was imperative for this project. Fortunately, Rockdelta mats are easy to handle and very quick to cut into different sizes and shapes, which helped keep this busy city moving.

Using Rockdelta mats has protected the city’s rail-side buildings from vibration damages for the long-term, and has given residents complete peace of mind. It’s an example of how the use of stone wool can overcome complex transportation challenges and contribute to a quieter and more sustainable future.



Transforming social housing using attractive façades that look like wood, yet have the power of stone

*Square Pasteur, La Madeleine, France
2017*

Square Pasteur was a refurbishment in northern France of 150 social housing units within four buildings. The aim of the project was to bring a new, more contemporary and serene identity to the buildings and inspire their residents.

The architect, Hélène Richet, believed façades with a wooden appearance would be perfect for a green urban environment. However, by its nature, wood is flammable, needs regular maintenance and has a limited life before it requires costly renewal.

The discovery of Rockpanel Woods became the inspiration for Hélène, and overcame concerns about combustibility and longevity. These boards are almost perfect replicas of wood, yet with all the long-lasting benefits inherent in a stone façade. Since they are manufactured from natural basalt, the

Rockpanel Woods boards provide high fire-resistance properties, as well as being extremely durable, weather resistant and sustainable.

Square Pasteur now meets the highest fire safety requirements available, thanks to the pleasing appearance of natural wood. Residents also live in greater comfort due to the inherent insulation properties of Rockpanel Woods which will reduce energy bills into the future. The aesthetic appeal of the buildings has been achieved with no compromise at all on performance.

Finally, the improved environment has increased the quality of life and living conditions for hundreds of residents, who now see the benefits of combining the strengths of stone with the natural warmth of wood. Simply put, it is the best of both worlds.

Just like wood. Only better

"From an architectural point of view, the aim of the project was to offer the occupants a new identity. It was necessary to infuse a new, more contemporary and serene spirit to the inhabitants as well as give the additional comfort of insulation. For these reasons, the façades have been completely rethought, as well as the development of green spaces. Now the inhabitants have a residential site with greater comfort and optimised thermal performance."

Hélène Richet,
Associate Architect at Atlante Architectes





From nursing home to impressive apartment complex

Façade cladding combines beautiful aesthetics and economy for a refurbishment

*'t Bakenshof, Horst, Netherlands
2018*

The 't Bakenshof project was the renovation of a former 1970's nursing home into an impressive apartment complex in the Netherlands.

The contractor wanted economical façade cladding while the architect's design called for a rust-coloured appearance for the building. Rockpanel offers a wide range of designs and colours making Rockpanel Stones Mineral Rust the perfect choice. The deciding factor was the very quick installation achieved by the contractor using semi-invisible nails to create a smooth aesthetic finish. This reduced both installation time and cost. In addition, Rockpanel was specified with a self-cleaning finish to lower the need for exterior maintenance.

Since 't Bakenshof was a large apartment block with many residents including elderly people, a fire safe solution was essential. With European fire Class B as standard, Rockpanel met current Dutch regulations for a high fire classification (B-s2,d0 standard).

Renovating and uplifting the old building into a modern complex has given 't Bakenshof new purpose and life, and tenants greatly enjoy their apartments and the beauty of the building.

These aesthetics are matched by long-term performance: by choosing robust low maintenance boards with a BRE-acknowledged lifetime of 60 years, this cost-effective renovation project will look fresh and beautiful for many years to come.

"The boards had to meet certain fire specifications. Rockpanel is already highly fire-resilient thanks to its core material of compressed mineral wool made from the volcanic rock basalt. Therefore, we advised the architect to use Rockpanel."

Patrick Bours,
Contractor at Van Wijnen



Water management made easier with stone wool

Reducing local flooding with an innovative stone wool solution

*Maasbracht village, Limburg, Netherlands
2018 – 2019*

In Maasbracht village, an outdated 60-year old sewer system required modernising to protect the neighbourhood against flooding, during heavy rainfall, and give greater infrastructure capacity. The project involved updating sewers in six residential streets, including their parking and green spaces.

At first, the engineers proposed an infiltration sewer; however this kind of system has a tendency to clog and requires high maintenance. Fortunately, the municipality to which Maasbracht belongs had experience of using stone wool solutions for water management in other projects, and suggested its use again.

Rockflow was chosen for its natural stone wool properties. It can absorb 95% of its volume in rainwater and then slowly discharge it through the ground or into a sewer system. Stone wool

also keeps its shape and its texture does not allow small sludge particles to clog the system, which means it's entirely maintenance-free. In Maasbracht, the Rockflow water management system was laid beneath the village's streets, resulting in no loss of urban space. Since Rockflow is made of stone it also has a high load-bearing capability, and will easily support the weight of vehicles above ground.

The Rockflow solution now buffers large volumes of rainwater quickly and effectively in Maasbracht. The robustness and natural longevity of this sustainable system will ensure that residents can enjoy village life without concerns over flooding in the future. And for the municipality, the decision to use such an innovative water management solution has been a story of success.

"By 2050, 66 percent of the world's population is projected to be urban. Innovative ROCKWOOL solutions will help to prevent a severe increase in energy consumption from buildings as well as improve water management in urban spaces."

Source: Report: World Urbanization Prospects, United Nations, 2014



The school of colour

A colourful, playful façade improves aesthetics and brightens the day for students

*Betty-Greif School, Pfarrkirchen, Bavaria
2017*

By 2017, the Betty-Greif school building in Bavaria had reached its maximum capacity of 150 pupils. The complex needed to be entirely renovated and extended by 450m².

Since the school caters for students who have special educational needs, its principals decided that a vibrant, child-friendly façade would be appropriate and appealing to students, and help to create an enjoyable learning environment. The school also wanted a solution that would not require costly long-term maintenance.

COPLAN AG, an engineering firm from Eggenfelden, chose Rockpanel boards for their wide range of colours to meet the design concept. Additional Rockpanel product benefits were board-lightness, easiness of installation and sustainability – being made from recyclable stone wool. The façade now consists of three different shades of green – fitted irregularly to create a varied, vivid and creative façade.

To meet the need for low maintenance costs, the boards were given a special protective finish which increases the 'self-cleaning' power of the boards. Even graffiti, an issue in some schools, can be easily removed with a special detergent. Safety is paramount in schools, especially protecting against the risk of fire, so Rockpanel boards were the perfect choice since they have a high fire classification. Because they are made of stone wool, they can withstand temperatures above 1000°C, and in the event of a fire, the boards do not cause the fire to spread because no combustible parts can peel or drop off.

The project has dramatically uplifted the aesthetic appearance of the building, and students are now even prouder to learn there. Since the boards are acknowledged to have a lifetime of 60 years by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the project is not only cost effective but will look fresh and beautiful for years to come.

"As the Rockpanel façade boards are available in virtually every RAL colour and are very easy to work with, the façades could be installed exactly as we planned."

**Dietmar Wöhler,
Architect at COPLAN AG, Eggenfelden**



Ann Publicover

ROCKWOOL: The power of stone wool & the passion of our people

"ROCKWOOL would not be here today without the dedication of its employees and a firm commitment to growth and quality products that customers receive every day."

*Ann Publicover
Quality Control Lead Hand
ROCKWOOL North America*

While the worldwide expansion of the ROCKWOOL Group continues, the company has flourished for 80 years for two essential reasons: we are committed to unlocking the strengths of stone to enrich modern living, and we recognize that the passion of our people makes this goal possible.

Ann Publicover began her "wonderful journey" with ROCKWOOL in 1990. She says

"I can still clearly remember my first day on the line...and oh what a day it was! Since that day, I have never looked back, and ROCKWOOL North America became not only my employer, but also like a family in the extended sense."

Ann acknowledges "It's hard to believe that once a small factory starting up in the mid 80's has turned into a profitable company that employs over 200 people and is known North America-wide!

When the company turned 80, I found some old pictures. Most employees are still a part of ROCKWOOL North America today. Some from the pictures have left this earth, but their standards and work ethics still live on today."

"Many friends have been made over the years and I can attribute those friendships to a long and interesting journey with ROCKWOOL"



Innovative vertical and horizontal fire protection for three high-rise buildings

*Intelligent Quarters, Hamburg, Germany
2017 – 2018*

Intelligent Quarters is in the middle of Hamburg's Hafencity on the banks of the river Elbe. It is comprised of a 70-metre office tower and two adjoining buildings of 46 apartments, all with restaurants, cafes and shops on ground floors.

Architects Störmer Murphy and Partners decided that the connecting element for the three structures should be an identical contemporary façade using non-combustible stone wool, as fire safety was the key requirement for a busy, mixed-use high-rise building.

Due to the height of the buildings, approximately 1,000 metres of fire barriers had to be installed horizontally on the façade and vertically around the staircase cores to meet fire regulations. Since the façade was ventilated, the architect chose Fixrock: the

innovative ROCKWOOL stone wool fire barrier system which retains air flow while giving maximum fire protection as it withstands temperatures above 1000°C.

Compared to traditional steel sheets, this solution was much easier and faster to fix: the insulation was lightweight, simple to cut and could be used to meet different fire wall thickness requirements.

Thanks to the use of A1 fire rated stone wool, the construction of the office and residential buildings of Intelligent Quarters now provides maximum safety and fire protection for workers and residents, for the lifetime of the building. Intelligent Quarters now also meets the requirements for a German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) certificate.

"The ROCKWOOL product solution is much easier to handle and assemble than the usual steel fire barrier constructions. It is also more economical than steel, since the cutting of many hundreds of metres of fire bars could be achieved more quickly."

**Klaus,
Installer at Degen + Rogowski GmbH**

High protection for high-rises





Stone wool reaches new heights

The challenge of improving fire safety at 2,950 metres called for stone wool's unique properties

*Bergstation, Zugspitze, Germany
2017*

Since 1963, the Eibsee Cable Car has taken up to 500,000 annual visitors to the summit of Germany's highest mountain, Zugspitze. However, after many years of plans to replace it, in 2017 extensive renovation and extension work for the 2,950-metre-high cable car station finally took place.

The conversion included a fire protection upgrade to existing steel construction components, and the challenge of delivering and installing materials on a mountain top made the choice of insulation crucial for Hasenauer Architekten – the architects for the project.

It quickly became clear that insulation boards made from stone wool were the natural choice since they are non-flammable, can

withstand temperatures above 1000°C and work to contain fire and its spread. What's more, they are very light to transport and can be cut easily and precisely on-site. This was an important requirement since the steel components in need of fire protection were not always consistent in size and shape.

An area of around 1,200m² has now been given excellent fire protection using Conlit Steel Protect Alu boards, which were brought in by cable car to the mountain and unloaded by cranes. The work of fixing the boards took place amongst hundreds of visitors per day, so the high speed of installation was a huge advantage. The low weight advantage made fitting boards overhead easier too.



Stone wool is often used to protect combustible elements and steel structures against fires. ROCKWOOL stone wool is a natural fire barrier.



Overcoming aircraft noise

Sound insulation is a must when you're on a flight path

*Berlin-Blankenfelde homeowners, Berlin, Germany
2017 – 2018*

With around 33.3 million passengers in 2017, Berlin is Germany's third-largest airport location. To cater for future capacity, a new international airport called Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER) is under construction.

Since the flight paths of the still unfinished airport are certain to affect local residents, many are making preparations to lower the effects of the increased noise pollution.

Four families from Berlin-Blankenfelde, which is only a few kilometres away from the runways of BER, approached a master roofer in the region, Hartmut Quappe, to explore ways to improve the sound insulation of their homes.

Soundproofing of their pitched roofs was top of the agenda. The master roofer

proposed high density insulation boards made from ROCKWOOL stone wool. These provide confirmed on-site sound insulation of up to 52 dB, and in most cases, even higher values.

With their newly insulated roofs in place, residents are now benefiting from much improved acoustic protection, which will lower aircraft noise from flights crossing just a few hundred metres overhead. In addition, the energy efficient rafter insulation system has provided excellent thermal insulation and has cut heating costs by up to 30%.

In the long term, these families have made a future-proof investment that will not only block out unwanted noise but add better energy performance, a pleasant year-round indoor climate and sustainability to their homes. And not least, they will sleep better despite living close to an airport.

"From the airport Schönefeld, or passing cars, you hear almost nothing. And I'm also very confident for the upcoming BER air traffic. In the summer, a pleasant indoor climate prevails in our bedroom even at high outside temperatures. And last winter, the interior temperature was around 16°C without heating – just right for me to sleep."

**Annelies and Joachim,
Residents at Berlin-Blankenfelde**





Jen Deelstra

ROCKWOOL: The power of stone wool & the passion of our people

"As a former Marine Engineer, I was hired by ROCKWOOL Netherlands in January 1995 as a manager in the technical department of Rockfon.

I clearly recall the instance of my first modification of machinery in the Rockfon department. I got into a collision with purchase telling me: 'You are far too expensive with your ideas and design. We think three years ahead. How long do you think this project must last?' I answered purchase that I was thinking 100,000 running hours ahead.

Eventually we settled the discussion in between – by creating quality machinery that lasts for 50,000 running hours – 'for a few pennies more' as I stated. And this promise on both sides made me stay with ROCKWOOL."

Jen Deelstra
CIT
ROCKWOOL CWE

The ROCKWOOL Group has endured for eight decades for two essential reasons: we are committed to unlocking the strengths of stone to enrich modern living, and we recognise that the passion of our people makes this goal possible. Over the years we've become experts at applying the power of stone to help people around the world create landmark projects and enrich modern living.

Jen Deelstra has spent 23 years with ROCKWOOL and is now an Engineer in the Continuous Improvement Team. He admits that "ROCKWOOL and I are still

happy with each other." He also recalls another critical event in his history with the company involving a challenging ROCKWOOL production unit.

"Ten months after my arrival at ROCKWOOL I was asked to move from Rockfon production to the Line 7/Rockfibres combination (this was a line in need of technical improvement and increased profitability). During my first working day at Line 7, a frustrated mechanic came to me and spoke the following words: 'I have had thirteen bosses in twelve years on this line. How long do you think you are going to stay here?'

I answered: 'About ten months I guess, so let's not waste any time and get started!'

I stayed a bit longer than 10 months... It took me over 18 years before handing over a totally renewed production-unit consisting of Line 7, with now Rockfibres lines 1+2. In those years, I had gained the reputation of 'The Expensive One'.

Interestingly, the mechanic who confronted me became my dearest colleague, and worked with me through all those years. A lot of machinery installed in the early years has already passed 100,000 running hours. And see how profitable the Fibres Unit is today! Now consisting of Line 7, Rockfibres 1+2, and Rockpanel, this is a unique combination of production lines and products within ROCKWOOL."



Safety first for a grand hotel

A historic building required ultimate safety and comfort

*Europejski Hotel, Warsaw, Poland
2013 – 2018*

Raffles Europejski Warsaw, commonly known as Hotel Europejski, was originally opened in 1857. It is now one of the most distinctive buildings in Poland. After five years of top to bottom renovation, its 109,000m² of space including 106 hotel rooms, 3,000m² of luxurious retail space and 7,000m² of offices have been restored to their former glory.

For SUD Architects, the focus of this huge renovation was the future safety and comfort of guests throughout the building.

ROCKWOOL Superrock, Toprock Super and Rockfon were chosen as the perfect materials for insulating the roof and ceilings of this historic building. The main reason is they are made of stone wool, which can withstand temperatures above 1000°C. This prevents fire from spreading onto subsequent floors, increasing the time available for evacuating guests while also protecting the building.

Reducing noise was also fundamental to the renovation of such a large building in a city centre location. Stone wool provides perfect insulation against interior sounds and exterior traffic noise, which increases the comfort of guests and contributes to the overall feeling of luxury in the hotel.

Hotel Europejski will also benefit from energy savings for decades to come thanks to the inherent insulation properties of ROCKWOOL products, which retain their thermal properties for at least 60 years, and have excellent dimensional stability.

While the stone wool will go unnoticed by the many thousands of guests and employees at Hotel Europejski, its presence ensures that they will be protected from the risk of fire and can relax and work in a building that's both peaceful and luxurious.

"Our goal was to restore the former glory to the icon of Warsaw, to make it a showcase of the capital and what's best in Poland for Varsovians and guests from around the world."

**Julien Barbotin-Larrieu,
President at H.E.S.A.**



A place of comfort for hospital visitors

Well-insulated, comfortable accommodation for visiting mothers

Mother's House, Bethesda Children's Hospital, Hungary 2018

For over 150 years Bethesda Children's Hospital has played an outstanding role in providing care to children in Budapest. The hospital is also concerned about mothers who need to travel long distances to the hospital and find it difficult to spend quality time with their children.

As a result, Bethesda founded the 'Mother's House' to provide beds and cooking facilities for visiting mothers whose children face long-term hospitalisation. Acting as a free of charge hotel, the Mother's House was a renovation and extension to an existing area of Bethesda Children's Hospital.

The structure required excellent thermal properties to reduce its operational costs, so the hospital chose Frontrock. This two-layer stone wool board provides excellent thermal

insulation for external façades and will lower energy costs. Since natural stone wool also 'breathes', the boards help to create an airy, comfortable indoor climate which is important to the wellbeing of tired mothers who visit the hospital.

As well as thermal insulation, Frontrock provides very high levels of fire resilience, reduces noise, and prevents the formation of mould and bacteria which is important for hygiene standards at Bethesda Children's Hospital.

Mother's House now accommodates hundreds of mothers every year in comfort, who otherwise may not have been able to afford a hotel room. Being near to their loved ones not only helps the parents, but also the children who are recovering.

"At ROCKWOOL Hungary we are proud that our products were chosen for the renovation of Mother's House. It is a really positive use of ROCKWOOL stone wool, since it helps mothers to be close to their children when they're hospitalised."

Kornél Bányai,
Country Sales Manager at ROCKWOOL Hungary

2018-19

At the ROCKWOOL Group, we're committed to enriching the lives of everyone who experiences our solutions. Our expertise is perfectly suited to tackle many of today's biggest sustainability and development challenges, from energy consumption and noise pollution, to fire-resilience, water scarcity and flooding. Our range of products reflect the diverse needs of the world, while supporting our stakeholders in reducing their own carbon footprint.

Stone wool is a versatile material and forms the basis of all our businesses. With over 11,000 passionate colleagues in 39 countries, we're the world leader in stone wool solutions, from building insulation to acoustic ceilings; external cladding systems to horticultural solutions; engineered fibres for industrial use to insulation for the process industry – as well as marine and offshore.



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