BRENT CIVIC CENTRE





Visual Concrete Example Project Sheet









Project Address:	Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley Park, Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Client:	Brent Borough Council
Architect:	Hopkins
Structural Engineer:	URS
Project Manager:	Turner & Townsend
Quantity Surveyor:	Turner & Townsend
M&E Engineer:	URS
Principal Contractor:	Skanska
Concrete Contractor:	Mitchellson
Concrete Producer:	London Concrete

Date of completion:	2013
Building type:	Civic office &
	library
Form of Specification:	Unknown
As-built surface finish	Special **
classification in	
accordance with NSCS 5	
Construction type:	Hybrid

^{**} Design specification was for "C - fine smooth" in accordance with BS 8110 which was relevant at the time of this project. "C - Fine smooth" is equivalent to NSCS v5 "Special"

Summary Project Introduction:	The Brent Civic Centre is located next to Wembley Stadium and Wembley Arena. The building houses the Brent Council's administrative offices and a significant community space. The project was awarded BREEAM outstanding certification, the first project in its category to have achieved this at the time in the UK. 90% of the final structure is exposed concrete, maximising the operational energy saving potential of the concrete's thermal mass. The building's spaces are arranged around a foyer and atrium space which house a large staircase and public amphitheatre.
Visual concrete overview:	This is a newbuild cast in situ frame with areas of post tensioned slabs for large spans and precast concrete stairs. The visual concrete elements include: • Flat slabs • Round columns • Stairs • Core walls
Additional project specific features / notes :	Expressed regular board pattern. Cast in light fittings. Radius formwork in civic dome and library spaces. Recessed fillet features. The surface finish was described as "C - fine smooth finish" with respect to BS 8110 pt 1 which is equivalent to a "Special" finish in the NSCS v5.
Further reading:	Concrete Quarterly Spring 2014 . AJ 1 st August 2013
Visitor Access:	The majority of this building is open to the public

Issued: 03/07/25 Page 1 of 3

BRENT CIVIC CENTRE





Visual Concrete Example Project Sheet

Further detailed information on specific finishes:

Finish 01	
Location: Slabs & Soffits	

NSCS 5 surface finish classification:	Special **
Construction method:	Cast in situ post tensioned
Placement method:	Pumped

Concrete Mix and Materials:	
Cement content	Unknown
Water / Cement Ratio	Unknown
Cement type / addition %	40-50% GGBS
Strength	C40/50
Admixtures	Unknown
Other Additions	Unknown
Release agent	Vegetable based release agent
Sealant	Dust sealer applied

Visual criteria	
Colour	Natural grey
Blemishes	Unknown
Extent of blowholes	Unknown
Formwork	MDO ply - double boarded
Layout & joints	Regular plyboard pattern
Tie bolts	n/a
Flatness / Surface regularity	Smooth
Surface texture	Smooth
Surface reflectance	Unknown
Post finishing	Unknown

Additional information

25% stent recycled aggregate used throughout. Many mock ups produced to try to match colour and sheen of precast and cast in situ elements. Example panels helped manage client and architect expectations of tolerances. No abrupt changes above 1mm requested in the specification. Greater than 1mm changes agreed as acceptable.

Finish 02	
Location: Walls	

NSCS 5 surface finish classification:	Special**
Construction method:	Cast in situ
Placement method:	Pumped

Concrete Mix and Materials:	
Cement content	Unknown
Water / Cement Ratio	Unknown

Issued: 03/07/25 Page 2 of 3

BRENT CIVIC CENTRE





Visual Concrete Example Project Sheet

Cement type / addition %	40-50% GGBS
Strength	C40/50
Admixtures	Unknown
Other Additions	Unknown
Release agent	Lard used to dull finish of steel faced formwork before
	casting
Sealant	Dust sealer applied

Visual criteria	
Colour	Natural grey
Blemishes	Unknown
Extent of blowholes	Unknown
Formwork	Steel
Layout & joints	Unknown
Tie bolts	Flush filled
Flatness / Surface regularity	Smooth
Surface texture	Smooth
Surface reflectance	Unknown
Post finishing	Unknown

Additional information

25% stent recycled aggregate used throughout. Many mock ups produced to try to match colour and sheen of precast and cast in situ elements. Example panels helped manage client and architect expectations of tolerances. No abrupt changes above 1mm requested in the specification. Greater than 1mm changes agreed as acceptable.

Important Note: The information provided in these project sheets have been gathered in discussion with project teams and is to the best of The Concrete Centre's knowledge. All advice or information from MPA The Concrete Centre is intended only for use in the UK by those who will evaluate the significance and limitations of its contents and take responsibility for its use and application. No liability (including that for negligence) for any loss resulting from such advice or information is accepted by Mineral Products Association or its subcontractors, suppliers or advisors. Readers should note that any information from MPA The Concrete Centre is subject to revision from time to time and should therefore ensure that they are in possession of the latest version of this document, which is available from www.concretecentre.com.

Issued: 03/07/25 Page 3 of 3