

CASE STUDY

Brown Zinc Townhouses, Church Walk, Stoke Newington



The houses in Church Walk are carefully designed to offer variety and rhythm in the façade and amenity within and without

Project: Church Walk, Stoke Newington

Client: [Bluecroft](#) / [Hanover Housing Association](#)

Architect: [CH Architects LLP](#)

Roofing and Cladding Contractor: [Metal Roof Ltd](#)

Material: [elZinc Rainbow Brown](#) and [elZinc Rainbow Brown Advance](#)

Six large townhouses have been developed by Bluecroft and Hanover Housing Association to help meet the need for larger houses in the area. The use of elZinc Rainbow Brown zinc for roofing and cladding met the planning requirements and gives the houses a crafted, highly detailed feel.

About the project

The range of houses flanks Church Walk in Stoke Newington, producing a new two storey frontage,

maintaining the intimate scale of the street and providing additional green space on either side. There are a number of listed buildings in the area and the houses are massed to respond to this surrounding urban context, echoing the perceived profile of the listed buildings fronting Newington Green.

Choice of materials was very important in this context and the architects CH Architects have chosen Staffordshire blue brick for the lower parts of the elevation, with dark metal upper storeys. These have been executed in elZinc Rainbow Brown, a naturally pigmented zinc product from the elZinc Rainbow range. elZinc Rainbow Brown has a similar colour to some types of dark, evenly patinated copper alloy, but offers a particularly cost effective alternative when value is particularly important, without losing any of the quality of the material and its appearance.

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Why use elZinc Rainbow Brown zinc?

The choice of elZinc Rainbow Brown was ultimately made due to lead times – an earlier specification for the metal preferred an alternative product but this was not available within the 8-week lead time available. Specialist installers Metal Roof Ltd made some enquiries and with the help of SIG Zinc & Copper were able to provide the architect with samples.

The houses in Church Walk are carefully designed to offer variety and rhythm in the façade and amenity within and without. This is articulated using horizontal banding in the zinc cladding, and several additional zinc features including balconies, porch canopies of the front doors, projecting box windows and visible rainwater goods. In the gardens, small patio walls are topped with the zinc and a half capping is applied to the end of the terrace where it adjoins a neighbouring property. The design and execution of these details are essential to the quality of the finished result.

Executing a flawless zinc project

Andy Grant, MD of Metal Roof Ltd describes the project as a challenging one. “It was necessary for the horizontal bands to track right round the terrace front and back,” he says, “so this required careful planning.” With so many details on the project it was important the installer was confident about working with the material. “This is the first time we have used elZinc but we would use it again – it is comparable to the other zinc products on the market.” says Andy

Andy has some advice for architects wanting to use zinc on their projects. “Talk to a specialist when you are planning the project. We can probably recommend a detail which will work better and give you the result you want. Talk to your subcontractors early, and make sure your designs are properly detailed with good ventilation. Zinc is a tough product, it looks very smart and put on properly it will last for decades.”



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More information

SIG Design & Technology has put together an 8-step guide to identify the challenges and ensure that a roof's design meets a buildings requirement. Called “#Perfect Roof”, the eight steps follow the process from product selection and design expertise through to full guarantees and planned maintenance. This know-how is just part of the service that is provided free to customers.

- Visit the elZinc product pages and downloads <http://www.sigzincandcopper.co.uk/rainbow-pigmented-pre-weathered-zinc-sheets-and-zinc-shingles/>
- Learn more about the 8 steps to the #PerfectRoof: <http://www.singleply.co.uk/perfectroof/>
- Thinking about specifying coloured zinc? Talk to an expert. SIG Zinc & Copper on 0330 123 1820 or contact us through the website. www.sigzincandcopper.co.uk
- Photographs: Terence Smith