

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000

www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833

www.cemex.co.uk

Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779

www.cornishlime.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090

www.euromix.com

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515

www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067

(Liverpool)

Marshall Watts Mix 01262 675383

www.wattsmix.com

Premier Mortars 0345 3013030

www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441

www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Tarmac 03701 116 116

www.tarmac.com

More power to the Guild of Bricklayers

For the fourth consecutive year, the Mortar Industry Association is sponsoring the Guild of Bricklayers annual skills competition for industry trainees.

It does so by supplying mortar through its producer members for all competition stages.

The guild runs ten regional competitions for brick laying trainees studying at accredited colleges. Students compete in junior and senior categories. Juniors are given up to five hours to construct a brickwork model from drawings supplied, while seniors are allowed six. Industry judges mark the work and winning competitors from each heat go forward to compete in the national finals to be held on 27 June 2018 at Brooklands College, Weybridge, Surrey.

By the end of April, five heats had been completed covering Wales, West Midlands, Northern, North-West and Southern.

MIA manager, Mick Russell, said:

"We are determined to support youngsters learning their trade to become the skilled bricklayers of the future. We need them to enable us achieve the volume of new home building we so badly need in the UK. More power to the Guild of Bricklayers in its efforts to maintain the highest standards."

EMO holds congress in London

EMO - the European Mortar Industry Organisation - has held its annual general assembly in London in May.

Founded in 1991, the association is the professional organisation for European mortar producers whose technical committees deal with the harmonisation of testing and performance specifications.

The UK is represented by Steve Large of CEMEX UK who is chairman of MIA.



Winner of the senior section of the West Midlands regional heat of the Guild of Bricklayers 2018 competition, Sam Yeomans, standing with his trophies and winning brickwork model



Life member of the Guild of Bricklayers, Gareth Evans, presents the winner of the senior section of the Wales heat of the Guild of Bricklayers 2018 competition, Lewis Griffiths, with his trophy

White mortar from RTU for University of Ulster

Newtonabbey-based RTU has supplied white mortar for the brick fascia of the York Street building within the new University of Ulster Belfast campus.

Development of the inner city site makes it one of the largest higher education capital builds in Europe, offering modern, state-of-the-art facilities for the extended learning, teaching, innovation and research activities undertaken.

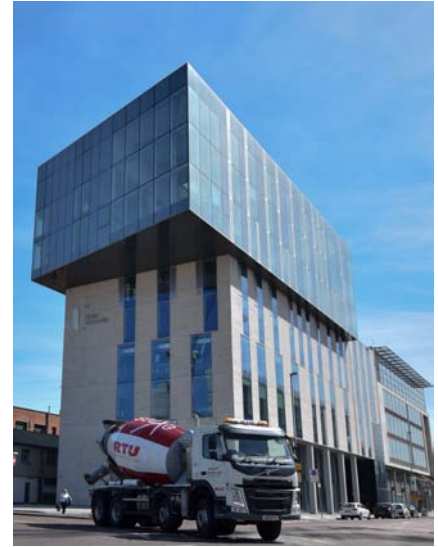
The York Street building was designed by lead architects Feilden Clegg Bradley, with local architect partner McAdam Design.

RTU supplied 110m³ of M4 White Mortar for the brick façade, which is overlooked by a large glass atrium, dramatically jutting out

to form the top levels of the building. White mortar was used to enhance the aesthetics of the building and the overall appearance of the white brickwork.

The M4 White Mortar was manufactured in RTU's computerised coloured mortar plant in compliance with BS EN 998-2, ensuring the supply of a consistent colour throughout the project. Only the highest quality pigments were used, ensuring the colour will not fade over time, and the mortar was specifically designed to work with the high suction properties of the brick selected.

With around 20% of the surface area of a brick wall made up of mortar joints, the colour of mortar is now a prime consideration for architects.



York Street Building, University of Ulster, Belfast

What influences new build home buyers?



Property buyers are choosing new-build homes because they meet a range of priorities, which go well beyond the traditional focus on location, new research shows.

Beyond location, location, location: priorities of new-home buyers, a collaborative report produced by the NHBC Foundation and Savills, found that while location remains a key influencer, buyers of new-build homes also placed high importance on a series of other features, such as the design of living space, off-street parking, a new home

warranty, low maintenance and increased energy efficiency.

The report, based on the views of more than 5,400 people who have bought new-build homes in the last four years, identifies seven core priorities, which influence property choice. It found that although the proximity of amenities, such as schools, NHS services and local transport hubs were important considerations, they did not drive a house purchase decision as much as the appeal of key features of the home itself.

Priorities of different purchaser types – first-time buyers, upsizers, relocators and downsizers – are also explored in the report but it was found that the same top priorities were very consistently selected across the categories. In order of importance these are:

- Minimum maintenance
- Off-street parking
- Location
- New home warranty
- Size and design of living space
- Quality of the neighbourhood
- Energy efficiency.

Commenting on the report NHBC's head of standards, innovation and research, Neil Smith, said:

'Buyers are becoming more discriminating and make complex choices based on a number of factors when purchasing a new-

build property. These include the lower levels of maintenance compared with older homes, size and design of living space, new home warranties, energy efficiency and the quality of the neighbourhood, as well as proximity to amenities and services.'

Copies of the report can be obtained by going to <https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/publication/beyond-location-location-location-priorities-of-new-home-buyers>.



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MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.