



# Weatherline Architect Case Study

Fabric Apartments, Onehunga



One of the first large scale commercial installations to use GIB Weatherline® Rigid Air Barrier Systems is well underway at FABRIC Apartments, a high-profile apartment project in Onehunga, Auckland.

Situated on a 1.29ha site, the Onehunga development when completed will comprise approximately 240 new apartments spread across five four storey buildings. Stage one is currently under construction by Kalmar Construction which consists of three four-storey apartment buildings due for completion in mid 2020.

Gordon White, Residential Market Manager at Winstone Wallboards, says that while gypsum based rigid air barrier systems may still be relatively new in New Zealand, their use has been commonplace in medium and high-rise commercial projects across North America and Europe for well over a decade.

“With over 7500 hours of research and development already committed, and with the sheets being manufactured at our local Christchurch plant, we’ve invested heavily to bring GIB Weatherline® systems to market. We have been really pleased with the level of market interest to date and will continue to work closely





with our commercial customers to further evolve the offer to meet the changing needs of our rigid air barrier customers,” he says.

Clifford Paul, Director at Ashton Mitchell Architects who are the lead designers on the project says GIB Weatherline® was selected because it met all the compliance requirements for external spread of flame and promised fast and easy installation. However, the decision to specify the product was not taken lightly and required much due diligence.

“Being the first kids on the block to use it we were naturally hesitant, however in conjunction with the Facade Engineer we did a lot of investigation to ascertain its performance overseas and spent time at test sites understanding how the taping and protection system worked, picking it apart and trying to see if it had any shortcomings – once we got to know the system, we were a lot more comfortable with it – what was reassuring was the reputation of the company behind the product,” he says.

“The support we got from Winstone Wallboards in detailing the product and the implementation on site made all the difference. We had a few areas to work through and Winstone were quick to devise solutions for some of the more tricky requirements we had. As a result of all the support we received prior to installation we had no problems with the installation itself. Anyone can come up with a new product, but what Winstone offered was backup and support to ensure we could specify it with confidence,” he says.

GIB Weatherline® sheets are fast to install compared to other commercial rigid air barrier products as they can be easily scored, snapped and screwed with no need

for power tools to cut the sheets. The score and snap process also makes it easier to get a consistent, straight cut edge making positioning and installing sheets onto the frame simple and uniform.

To reduce any potential for moisture to penetrate beyond the building envelope, board edges and penetrations are sealed using a range of GIB Weatherline® flashing and sill tape products.

Clifford says the biggest challenge was maintaining the weather tightness on the board joints and using as few boards as possible. “Because the Facade Engineer wanted every joint taped we had to be mindful that if the tape got too thick then the cavity batten going over the top can get uneven. It was therefore important to use the largest boards available to ensure we used as few joints as possible,” he says.

#### Why GIB Weatherline®

- Air barrier and secondary line of defence against water penetration into the building structure.
- Range of 30 and 60 minute fire rated options for timber and steel framing including vertical fire spread.
- 4 structural bracing options.
- A range of environmental noise options.
- BRANZ Appraised for buildings within the scope of NZS 3604.
- Specific Engineering Design (SED) information available.
- Sheet offcuts can be recycled

**For more information call the GIB® Helpline  
0800 100 442 or visit [www.gib.co.nz/weatherline](http://www.gib.co.nz/weatherline)**