HELIFIX
SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS

Case Study

Non-disruptive lintel creation on Grade II building

Client: Bristol City Council

Location: Bristol

Approved Installer: TRAC Structural

A Grade II listed building, the former Bristol North Baths, which closed in 2005, has undergone a sensitive refurbishment and conversion into a new community health centre with a library and some residential flats.

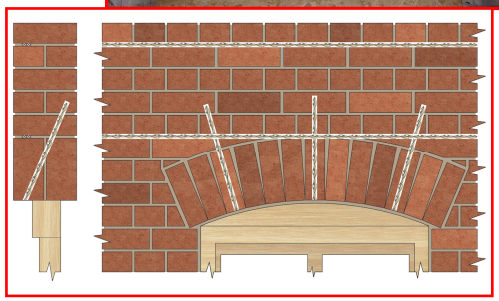
The conversion required a large number of new window and door openings to be created using a non-disruptive method that would cause minimal disturbance to the 470mm thick solid brick walls.

The Helifix solution

To save time and money and preserve the building's aesthetic appearance, the Helifix system of forming masonry beams to create lintels from the existing brickwork was specified rather than using traditional mechanical props to support the masonry while installing new concrete lintels,

- Mortar beds were channelled out five courses apart above each of the proposed openings. Pairs of stainless steel HeliBars were then bonded into the bed joints using HeliBond cementitious grout to form deep masonry beams that support the brickwork above and spread the structural loads.

- To further reinforce the masonry, grouted CemTies were installed into clearance holes drilled, on both sides of the wall, at an angle up into the beamed area.



- The contractor was then able to simply cut away the required brickwork to form the new openings, without being hindered by props, while the many newly formed masonry beams acted as permanent lintels.

The installation of the fully concealed Helifix system was quick, easy and very cost-effective and the overall appearance of the listed building was unaffected as the original brickwork was retained.

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