

Business Unit: Concrete

Date Of Issue: October 2011

Sika Enables Living Underground in Kensington.

The use of Sika® Watertight Concrete has enabled A.P.Arcon Construction to construct an exciting new, partly subterranean mansion, on a strip of previously vacant land between two existing buildings in Kensington.

The main bedrooms, entrance and garage space are built above ground, but the main living, entertainment and swimming pool areas are underground, so total water-tightness was an essential requirement on the project. For this reason, A P Arcon chose Sika® Watertight Concrete to construct the below ground shell of the building.

Close to 1,000 cubic metres of Sika® Watertight Concrete were supplied by Hanson Concrete to create a watertight structure that conforms to BS8102 Grade 3 for habitable space. Around 1,200 skips of soil weighing around 10 tons each had to be excavated to create the working space. With access being extremely limited, virtually the whole site had to be excavated by hand. Main piles up to 30 metres with soft piles up to seven metres in length had to be constructed on the project before excavation could begin. Particular care had to be taken to stabilise the adjoining properties as excavation progressed. Sika® Watertight Concrete is a high performance, cost effective solution, saving time at both the design and construction stages, and it also delivers the maximum usable area to the developer, as the overdig requirement is much reduced. This is an important feature on projects such as this in cities where space is at a premium.

Arek Palka, Director at A.P.Arcon commented: "We chose Sika® Watertight Concrete for a number of reasons, including a 50 year track record, a competitive price and warranty. Importantly, Sika supplied good technical back up throughout which gave us added reassurance on such a complex and difficult project".

The project is now complete, with a two-car garage and three main bedrooms with en-suite facilities above ground, together with living areas, guest bedroom, swimming pool, cinema and various other rooms below.



Press Release

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Note to Editors:

Sika Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sika AG, a global company located in Baar, Switzerland, supplying specialty chemicals markets. It is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures in construction and industry. Sika is committed to quality, service, safety and environmental care and has subsidiaries in more than 73 countries worldwide with 12 900 employees generating annual sales of CHF 4.6 billion.



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Photographs attached:



The swimming Pool

