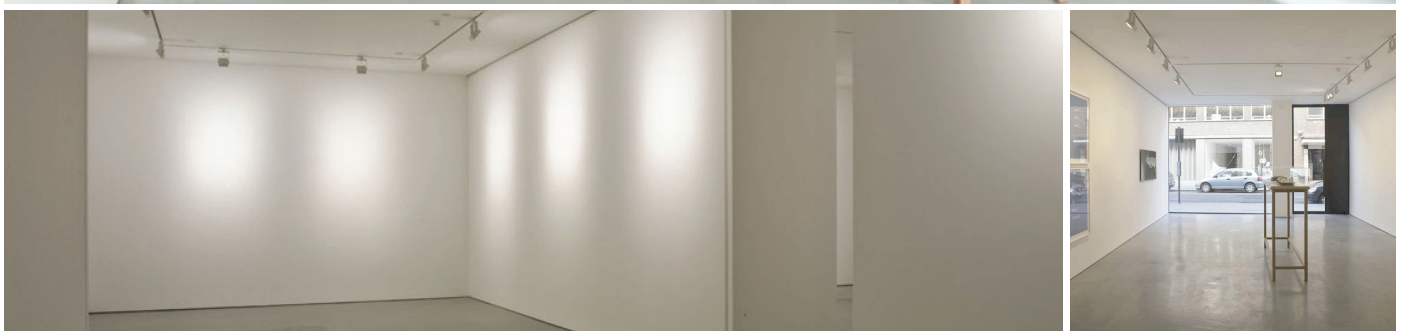


Fermacell used in Art Gallery in London



6 The project took six months to complete and 1000 square metres of **Fermacell** was specified. 9



A WORK OF ART

For a contemporary minimalist environment such as an Art Gallery, finding a dry-lining board that compliments the space can be a difficult and time consuming task. Its load-carrying capabilities, ease of use and quality of finish must all be considered, and be as equally deliverable and effective.

Fermacell's gypsum fibre dry-lining board enabled London's Carroll / Fletcher Gallery to meet these objectives, after being specified by Gallery Manger, Matt Nightingale and Allsop Gollings Architects. The brief for the project was to source a board that could carry varying loads of weight without cracking, which so often happens in galleries and museums. It also needed to be flexible to the needs of the gallery, as new exhibitions call for new layouts and fixings as frequently as every other month.

Matt Nightingale said: "Having previously worked at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery, I knew Fermacell worked well in this kind of environment. Fermacell is extremely flexible, easy to work with and ideal for installing artwork. Its finishing treatment also gives the walls a super sharp look that compliments

the artwork and keeps the space looking fresh. Each exhibition lasts around six weeks so the room is redesigned frequently as directed by the artists' work or simply to vary the visitor experience when visiting the gallery. We therefore needed a board that could allow us to complete this quickly and efficiently without causing the gallery to close for extended periods of time or substituting the finish of the boards."

David Prout, Fermacell's marketing manager, commented:

"Fermacell's dry-lining board combines the load-bearing performance properties of solid blockwork with the speed and flexibility of conventional drywall construction."

"This means that the turnaround time of a commercial project like this will be greatly enhanced because installers don't have to think about secondary support. Unlike other dry-lining alternatives, such as plasterboard, Fermacell eliminates the need for patressing because it can support up to 30kg from a single screw and up to 50kg from a cavity plug fitting with no additional fixings. This

therefore gives a project, such as an art gallery, the flexibility to change the room's usage and layout on a regular basis and the reassurance that it is safe to do so.

"Because Fermacell is installed and finished with a unique Fine Surface Treatment (FST) and there is no need to wet plaster skim, plugging holes created by the artwork can be easily done. Patching the board is a simple process that supports the art galleries need to detach, plug and move fixings on a regular basis quickly and efficiently."

Michael Gollings, Director at Allsop Gollings Architects, specified Fermacell for this project and said: "The loading capabilities of Fermacell's gypsum fibre board were ideal for this project and primarily the reason why we specified the product for the walls and ceiling. In an environment where the board's main purpose is to hang and withstand constant and varying loads of weight, a strong dry-lining board is absolutely necessary."

"It is important your contractor understands the nature of Fermacell boards and their installation and does not simply treat it like plasterboard, both when boarding and finishing. Due to the lack of need for a plaster skim coat there are also timescale benefits in using the Fermacell system over traditional plasterboard dry lining."

Yogesh Patel, project manager of main contractor Delcon Construction Ltd, said:

"Fermacell was a useful product for the nature of a project which involved a single, large open space. Its robustness and strength allowed us to deliver a material that didn't detract from the simplicity of the room."

Frank McBride, contracts manager with sub-contractor Rossguill Developments, said: "The dry-lining board was extremely easy to use in its application and ongoing maintenance. In a space where boards need to be taken down and re-built, as well as patched, quite frequently, a board is needed to deliver flawless finishing, quickly and cost-effectively."

David concluded: "The load-carrying and rapid finishing performance benefits of Fermacell's dry-lining board really shine through during a project of this type, which is great to see. Fermacell is a multi-purpose board type that allows designers to use radical solutions in internal space planning across a wide range of projects and commercial sectors."