CASE STUDY

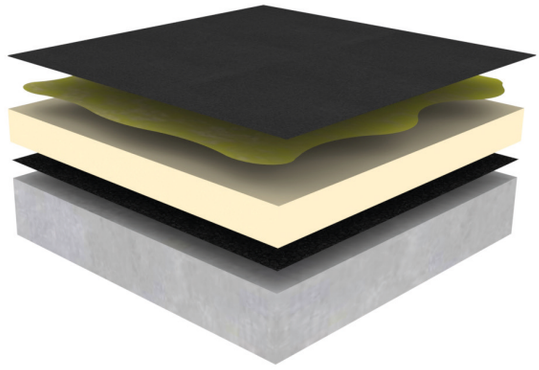
RubberGard™ EPDM

Firestone

Firestone Building Products

PROJECT DETAILS

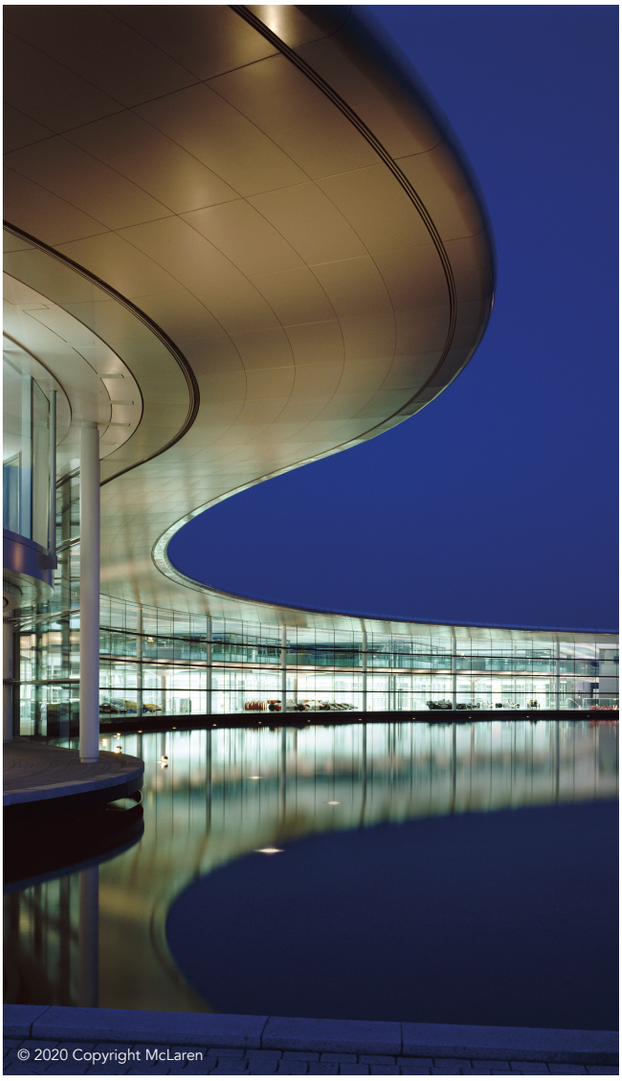
McLaren Technology Centre
Location: Woking, England
Project type: new build
Membrane: RubberGard™ EPDM 1.1 mm
System: fully adhered
Surface: 34,000 m²
Completion date: 2004



The McLaren Technology Centre, headquarters of the McLaren Group, is located on a 500,000 m² (50-hectare) site near the city of Woking, in England. The building's 57,000 m² of office space is home to approximately 1,000 employees, in an area large enough to hold nine Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

Built between 1999 and 2004 but still looking as futuristic and stunning now as at the moment of its inauguration, the Technology Centre certainly reflects McLaren's design and engineering expertise, coupled with a sustainable approach to architecture.

McLaren Technology Centre - Woking, England



The design was entrusted to renowned British architect Sir Norman Foster and his company, Foster + Partners. The main structure consists of a large, semi-circular glass-walled building. Its continuous curved glass façade overlooks an artificial lake which forms another semi-circular shape. Viewed from the sky, the building and the lake together resemble the Chinese Yin-Yang symbol.

In line with their vision to deliver a sustainable, energy efficient and inspiring workplace, Foster + Partners placed great importance in minimizing the visual impact of the project in the local landscape. Allowing as much natural light as possible inside the building was another key design consideration. In addition to the light streaming in from the curved facade overlooking the lake, the roof design included several skylights.

Firestone's RubberGard™ EPDM roofing membrane covers the building's 34,000 m² flat roof. The choice was influenced by EPDM's versatility to adapt to irregular shapes and its life expectancy of over 50 years. Rainwater is collected by means of a high-pressure syphonic drainage system and is then used to refill the artificial lake. As EPDM is an inert material which does not release toxic substances, there is no negative impact to the aquatic flora and fauna.

The design of McLaren's Technology Centre and its minimization of carbon impact have earned it several awards. The building received the "Building of the Year Award 2005" and was shortlisted for the 2005 Royal Institute of British Architects Stirling Prize, the most prestigious architecture award in the UK.