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Case Study

Wimbledon No. 1 Court, London

Client

The All England Lawn Tennis Club

Project

Wimbledon No. 1 Court

Requirement

Walkway cladding for iconic stadium

Design and Installation

KSS Group/Grimshaw/Sir Robert McAlpine

Millboard products used

Approximately 3000m² of Enhanced Grain
Golden Oak

A new space inspired by the quintessential English Country Garden

2019 will mark the culmination of the 'Wimbledon Master Plan' - an ambitious project to significantly improve the Club, its grounds and facilities. The project includes a £70m renovation of No. 1 Court led by main contractors Sir Robert McAlpine, who previously managed the build of London's Olympic Stadium.

The project's architects, KSS, drew up a cutting-edge design for No. 1 Court that centred around a one-of-a-kind retractable roof. This key component is flanked by two new tiers containing 900 seats – taking the stadium's capacity to 12,400. KSS also added a two-level public plaza to take the place of Court 19, alongside upgraded seating, concessions and catering.

⬇ This cutaway image shows the distinctive curve between the wall and roof, finished with Millboard Enhanced Grain, Golden Oak



Image: Grimshaw

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Premium aesthetics

The Enhanced Grain boards provide an authentic wood look, achieving the calming and relaxing country garden aesthetics that the AELTC desired.

Millboard supplied approximately 3000m² of Golden Oak. These boards were selected for the open-sided terraces to provide a naturalistic but resilient exterior. The boards were sent to an Austrian factory where they were each cut down to shorter lengths of 60mm wide. These smaller pieces were then fitted to aluminium mesh backing panels before being shipped back to London to be installed by Austrian façade contractor, Seele. This equates to an unbelievable 32 kilometres of 60mm wide pieces of Millboard Enhanced Grain Golden Oak!

A series of distinctive character areas within an enhanced historic setting.

Over 400 people worked through 2018 and early 2019 to bring the project over the line in time for the No. 1 Court Celebration on 19th May. The event was broadcast live on BBC One and featured three tennis matches alongside appearances from tennis legends, Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe.

2.2 million hours were worked to bring the Court to life and materials totalled 2,300 tons of steel, 130km of electrical cable and 40 miles of scaffolding. Building supplies were considered on their 'traditional and innovative' merits and sourced from all over the world.



Material uniqueness

The unique distinct character of every single board truly represents the product's natural appearance. This can be clearly seen over the whole area.

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“Many different options were considered and discussed with the Club for the No.1 Court façade, but Millboard's Golden Oak fitted the fundamental criteria of wood-look alike with minimal maintenance requirements. The realism of the boards is impressive and you can really see the variation in grain and colour as you would with real timber. Finally, the engineered boards offered material stability which was important to the setting, the quality and the design.”

Garo Davidian

Technical Director, KSS Group



Long-term maintenance

With Millboard being entirely timber-free, the long-term maintenance would be very minimal, unlike real timber. With a very low fade rate, the façade will continue looking naturally beautiful for years to come.

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