

## Case study

# The Harbour Mental Health Hospital, Blackpool

Thistle plaster provides a safe and secure solution to deliver a hotel feel in a hospital environment

### The challenge

- To provide a safe, secure and durable build
- To deliver a building that was more like a hotel than a hospital
- Lengthen maintenance cycles to minimise future disruption to patients and staff



### Project details

The Harbour is a new £40m, 154 bed mental health hospital, which provides care and treatment for adults who cannot be safely treated at home. The hospital has single ensuite bedrooms of varying specialisms over 10 wards and a host of other areas for use by staff, patients and visitors.

### The solution

A two-coat plaster system consisting of Thistle HardWall undercoat plaster and Thistle MultiFinish finish coat plaster to internal blockwork walls.

### Reasons for specification

Solid plastering was utilised to provide a greater impact resistance and a more hard-wearing finish to the masonry construction.

This solution also helped to lengthen the repair cycles by preventing the need for regular repair work whilst assisting in achieving the required, high, levels of acoustic performance.

### Additional contractor benefits

- Creating large curved areas is easier in plaster than using dot and dabbed plasterboard
- Finishing coat can be applied on set undercoat and before it is fully dry, saving time and maximising productivity on site
- There is no danger from cracks appearing days or weeks later due to the shrinkage of the plaster

### Client

Lancashire Care  
NHS Trust

### Main Contractor

VINCI Construction UK

### Sub Contractor

Preston Drylining Client

### Architect

Gilling Dod

### Products specified

Two-coat plaster system:  
Thistle HardWall undercoat plaster  
Thistle MultiFinish finishing plaster

“Due to the nature of the building, it was vital to ensure the well-being and safety of the staff, patients and visitors at The Harbour.”

“While a key focus was on the robustness of the build, our aim for the project was to create an environment that had a hotel look, feel and layout, rather than a hospital. We created a wander loop design, which is a continuous curved wall structure from the inside out, limiting shadows and removing obstacles such as abrupt doors that can have negative impacts on a patient’s stay.”

### Mark Cowpland, Gilling Dod Architects

“The two-coat plaster solution took much less time than the dot and dab method, and was necessary due to the size of the job. The technical support and backup from British Gypsum sets them apart from other manufacturers, and alongside the right workforce, pace and cost, the products ensured we had an excellent finished project.”

### John Brown, Contracts Manager, Preston Drylining