



Royal College of Pathologists

Contractor: Oliver Connell & Son

CONSTRUCT Awards 2019 Winner

**Category: Projects under £2.5m
Award**



OLIVER CONNELL & SON LTD

Groundworks, Concrete Reinforcement
& Formwork Contractors



This project was a seven-storey building with basement. To create the impressive imprint, 75 mm sawn boards were nailed to the standard formwork system. The casting process was extremely complex due to the coffered design, and wide-spanning reinforced concrete beams were installed.

Where the sawn timber board marked walls tie in exactly with the adjoining courses of bricks is of particular testament to the expertise of the concreting team.

To create the imprint, the team nailed 75 mm sawn boards to the standard PERI formwork systems it used. Even the board nails and sawn joints were painstakingly lined up.

The result is a superb example of reinforced concrete architecture. The team used London Concrete to supply its material and visited the batching plant to make sure its staff understood the importance of using the same aggregate source throughout the project.

Void formers were used to grant a reduction in the overall weight of the beam, without any loss in structural performance. Concrete pours of more than 200 cubic metres were able to maintain a crisp and clean casting that would be expected from a controlled precasting environment, rather than the challenging conditions of a London building site.

The building's walls are a mixture of exposed concrete and brickwork. The concrete walls feature a sawn timber marking finish formed by the 75 mm-thick boards that line the formwork. These tie in exactly with the brick courses where the two facings meet.

Use of ribbed floor slabs kept the structure lighter, reducing the amount of concrete used, and thus CO2 produced, which optimised the surface area to gain the benefit of thermal mass.

