



'Watertight by Design'



## Aviva Studios, Manchester (Factory International)

# Case Study

Aviva Studios is the new home of Factory International and a landmark new cultural space, built on the old Granada Studios site. It provides multi-use space in buildings that can adapt and host any kind of performance from intimate theatre shows and exhibitions, to huge multimedia performances and warehouse-scale gigs for major artists. Ellen van Loon, partner in OMA (Office of Modern Architecture), in her first 'public' project in the UK, has created this eclectic environment, housed within striking exposed concrete and corrugated metal façades.

The design of the structural movement joints in the external façade and walls, as well as in some of the floor slabs, had to accommodate not only the significant movement (+/-50% or more), whilst maintaining watertightness, but they also had to be CE certified fire resistant for at least 2 hours. It was obviously also essential to maintain the high acoustic soundproofing and thermal insulation of the building internally and across the façades.

Emshield-DFR/WFR-2 from NCC Movement Joints Limited was the ideal solution, quickly installed as a complete system that could meet all the specified requirements in a single solution, with no mechanical fixings, and without disrupting other trades. Emshield-DFR/WFR-2 is a bonded system that gives a high STC (Sound Transmission Class), and effectively blocks sound transmission through the facility walls and facade cladding systems.

The Emshield system was installed by acoustic and firestopping specialists, TECL (Thermal Engineering Contracts Ltd), as well as by the specialist façade manufacturers, Lindner Prater.

**Client:**  
Factory International  
**Architect**  
Office of Modern Architecture  
**Specialist Contractor**  
Thermal Engineering Contracts Ltd  
Lindner Prater

**Main Products Used:**  
Emshield DFR/WFR-2

**For More Information:**  
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