



Press release

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Composite builds multi-storey car park for Carmarthen retail development

Design and build contractor Composite has completed construction of a precast concrete, two-level, clear span car park at St Catherine's Walk, Carmarthen, west Wales. This new retail and leisure centre is being developed on the site of the town's old market by Simons Developments and Carmarthenshire County Council.

Measuring 165m long x 57m wide, with a suspended area of 15,400m², Composite was responsible for the car park's propped frame, floors, screeds, precast walls to lift area, three external steel stairs, asphalt waterproofing and feature panels. It will provide 957 spaces for shoppers and cinema-goers when the 275,000 sq ft development is completed in Spring 2010.

Kevin Lake, Project Director of main contractor Simons Construction, said: "We chose Composite as our construction partner at St Catherine's for several reasons – they approach their projects with a positive, can-do attitude, the quality of their workmanship is first class, and we always work very well together. Not only are we impressed with the result, but Simons Developments and Carmarthen County Council are too."

Roy Nield-Dumper, Managing Director, Composite added: "We have been particularly busy in South Wales this year. In addition to this project, we have just completed a precast concrete, multi-storey car park at Bridgend Hospital for ABM University NHS Trust, for which we recently began work on another, at Morriston Hospital, Swansea.

"These projects clearly demonstrate the many benefits of offsite construction. Only recently - and not for the first time in our history - we successfully demonstrated to a client, in the education sector, that an offsite solution was more cost-effective, and in other ways more advantageous, than the in situ solution first proposed."

Ends

Photo caption

Composite's multi-storey storey car park during construction at St Catherine's Walk, Carmarthen, showing its precast concrete feature panels and steel staircase.

Notes to editors

Composite is a leading design and build contractor, specialising in the construction of precast concrete frames and modular buildings. Offering a high quality structure, combined with fast on-site erection times, it has been involved in more than 400 projects throughout the UK for the health, education, retail, rail, commercial and custodial sectors.

Composite and Tarmac are joint partners in Precast Cellular Structures Ltd, a supply partner to contractors forming the Ministry of Justice's Strategic Alliance for Prison Building.

Recent, current and future projects include a teaching block for Tipton Academy in the West Midlands, multi-storey car parks for hospitals in Bournemouth, Bridgend and Swansea, and houseblocks for HM Prisons in Worcestershire, Nottingham and Kent.

Founded in 1983, it has achieved its industry-leading position through highly skilled project management, expertise in design solutions and offsite construction expertise.

As well as speed, offsite construction means fewer personnel and trades onsite, and a reduction in deliveries and site storage, all of which can help minimise health and safety risks. By lowering levels of waste, noise and dust, it also makes less of an impact on the environment. These benefits contribute to making offsite construction a practical and cost-effective option.

Simons is a privately owned property solutions company operating from its Lincoln Head Office and offices in Leeds, London, Stansted, Bristol and Wakefield.

Simons delivers quality services to many high-street brands and household names in the private and public sector. This includes retail, distribution, healthcare and mixed-use development schemes. Its customers include Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Boots, House of Fraser, Vodafone, Debenhams and other key relationships including UK NHS Trusts.

Its business is based on a high level of professional project management expertise, capable of unlocking space to create schemes where it can use its own design and construction services. It is unique in being able to offer a fully integrated service while still being able to provide individual development, design, construction or maintenance solutions, depending on the needs of its customers and partners.

Simons is a relationship-led business that brings together customers, providers and partners to deliver innovative schemes. Its aim is to enable its customers to succeed in their aims.

Simons has most recently received the award for Best Carbon Saving Programme for energy-saving initiatives at its Head Office, under the CIBSE 100 Hours Campaign. The company has received numerous Green Apple Awards, most recently for the sustainable initiatives and methods used in the construction of B&Q Halifax. The CECOP (Construction Emissions Community of Practice) initiated by Simons was also recognised by RIBA's Special Project Award in October 2008. The construction team won four health and safety awards in April/May 2008: RoSPA Gold Medal Award, CCS Bronze Award, International Safety Award and the CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) Gold Standard. Simons was named 2007 *Building* Contractor of the Year and the developments team was shortlisted as *Estates Gazette* Property Company of the Year (Midlands). Simons ranked twelfth in The Sunday Times Profit Track 100 in 2007, which ranks Britain's fastest-growing medium-sized private companies by profit growth. In 2006 Simons Group appeared in The Sunday Times HSBC Top Track 250 league table, ranking 128 in Britain's biggest middle-market companies, based on sales in latest accounts.

Simons is recognised as an Investor in People and an Investor in Education

