



SFS – ON TREND FOR STYLISH CITY LIVING

With the UK seeing a rapid increase in the number of offsite manufactured buildings - Steel Framing Systems have gained traction across many sectors including residential, with many housing developers now taking advantage of its numerous benefits. Steve Thompson, Managing Director of EOS Facades, considers why steel framing systems are trending for stylish city living.



Aiming High

In densely populated cities, where space is limited, and land comes at a premium, many housing developers are looking for structural solutions to rapidly maximise their return on investment. Steel framing systems (SFS) provide a robust yet lighter weight structural solution, which can have a significant positive impact on reducing the complexity and cost of the foundation design. In prime urban locations reducing the foundations saves costs on the ground and increasing the height of the development, mitigates the issue of higher land prices.

Adding Value

For cities such as London, with complex underground infrastructures, there is an important financial equation - lighter equals taller. Where loading restrictions apply, the use of SFS as the core structural solution, can permit more storeys than when building in concrete and masonry.

SFS plays a massive role in tackling issues such as the current UK housing crisis, by providing high volumes of quality, energy efficient homes at a rapid rate. Steel solutions are perfectly positioned to meet construction industry demands - the systems are future proof and future ready. As an advanced high performance offsite solution - steel is not susceptible to shrinkage, warping, cracking, rot infestation or moisture absorption.

Increasing a development upwards has become popular in big cities to utilise all available space. Due to the lightweight nature of SFS, developers are now taking this a step further and installing extra storeys or penthouses on the top of existing buildings. Lightweight, structurally efficient steel frames make construction on top of existing buildings viable. Steel offers significant improvements in design capability and as an offsite manufactured solution,

it is not adversely affected by severe weather – delivering both cost and programme certainty.

Luxury penthouse apartments are popular in central London and are a cost-effective measure because they offer more value per square metre, as panoramic views of the capital command a premium. Penthouse additions can also uplift the value of the other apartments due to the enhanced mix within the scheme. The inherent benefits of steel construction are why this innovative material is dominant in shaping our city skylines.

Lasting Benefits

Traditional building methods can often lead to increased disruption from noise, litter and dust - this is a sizable problem in urban areas. Taking the construction process offsite, can go some way to alleviating this issue. Increasing the speed of construction in a densely populated environment will also lessen the impact of construction traffic, along with the reduction in noise and waste that can be achieved through the use of offsite technologies.

After water, steel is the most recycled product on our planet, with research showing that 99% of structural steelwork is reused or recycled. EOS Facades is committed to promoting sustainability within construction - our steel is highly recyclable, providing little onsite waste. EOS Facades constantly strive to improve the way we work, and the resulting benefits are passed onto our customers.

Products and Services

EOS Facades are running a CPD accredited factory tour at their facility in County Durham on the 20th September 2018. Hosted by the EOS technical team together with the Siniat specification team - the event is completely free to attend.

For more information on EOS Facades' products, services and factory tours go to: www.eos-facades.co.uk