

Industrial



Genzyme Staircases, Haverhill, Cambridgeshire

This project involved the detailing of two staircases within a newly constructed industrial chemical plant. Both stairs required full detailing including timber treads, floor plates and handrails.

The first was a prestigious design, located on the main aspect of the Genzyme building. It is visible from the outside through full height curtain walling with the aim of making it a feature. This is appreciated especially at night with the aid of architectural lighting. Attached to the rectangular section stringers are welded triangular plate assemblies on which sit 50mm thick hardwood treads. The most intricate part of this staircase was the handrailing. The intermediate bars join and pass through machined 'T' shape sleeves. These in turn are welded to the stainless steel uprights. The bars are discreetly grub screwed at these positions. The top rail is supported off 'L' shape brackets and again, grub screwed to make a secure fixing.

The second stair was destined for a different part of the building. It was in an area that is only used by staff and was out of the general public's view so did not require such architectural attention to detail, It used the same rectangular hollow section stringers and supports but had chequer plate treads and landing plates. It also had a proprietary handrailing system that was cost effective and simple to erect.