



Special mention: Architecture

Laan Van Spartaan. Amsterdam Student Housing

Stunionedots Amsterdam

Photographs: Michael Van Oosten

Building work on Laan van Spartaan in Amsterdam West started in early September, based on a brief for the construction of a single, modular 16-storey building containing 361 rooms. This student housing project was completed in just 12 months, thanks to the use of factory-produced 3D modular pods.

Porcelain sheets with a thickness of 3 mm and 5 mm, which are supplied in panels of up to 1000 x 3000 mm, were used to manufacture the walls.

A 3D hybrid modular building system was used to achieve the height required for this 16 storey tower. Each factory-produced pod comes with a self-bearing concrete structure. As a result, the rooms are delivered fully-equipped from the factory and can be directly unloaded from the lorry and piled up to form the building like pieces of LEGO.

Even the ventilated ceramic tile façade is assembled in modular pods at the factory, as traditional scaffolding cannot be set up on the building site.

Thanks to this unique modular method, based on sustainable production methods, projects of considerable heights can be assembled at the factory itself, with the corresponding savings in both time and costs, as well as reducing the inconvenience of on-site construction work.

The large size and minimum thickness of the porcelain sheets make this material an optimum solution for floors, walls and façades, as well as countless other architectural and decorative uses. Its versatility in terms of size, colour and options for combining with other materials, together with its excellent technical features including durability, hygiene and flexibility, make this a highly versatile product offering myriad applications.