

Care Home Case Study

Resident Balcony Refurbishment for Sunrise Senior Living

Rationale

Sunrise Senior Living operate prestigious Care Homes throughout the US and UK. Many of the homes have residential balconies on the upper floors. Traditionally these balconies are constructed using timber fretwork and Perspex which do not survive well in the UK climate and often provide a restricted view. The challenge was to replace this arrangement with one that is long lasting, provides an open aspect and above all is safe for resident use.



Delivery

An external scaffold platform had to be installed in order to provide a safe working area. The existing wooden structure was removed and the steel upright posts cut down to just above the dwarf wall. A new steel ring-beam was welded onto the upright posts. The new upright chrome posts were then bolted to the ring-beam. Specialist fittings between the posts clamped and supported the laminated glass panes. The high level rails were bolted to the upright posts. Finally the hand rail was fitted to the upright posts. The project was completed in two weeks and was replicated at six sites.

Design Process

Enertec worked with Veon and Cardell Construction to design a glass and chrome structure which tied into the existing buildings steel structure. A steel ring-beam at low level supported the glass and chrome posts above. Large panes of laminated glass sat between the chrome upright posts. A hand rail runs around the face of the glass for residents to support themselves. The height of the glass was important to make the balcony safe. Four high level horizontal rails run round the top of glass and provide more interest as well as providing additional safety features. Full structural calculates were carried out and the installation was subject to Building Regulations.

