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fermacell Project & Solution

AZ Groeninge, Kortrijk, Belgium

- Belgium's second biggest hospital
- Project completion 2013
- **fermacell** Gypsum Fibreboard (150,000 m²)

AZ Groeninge, Kortrijk, Belgium

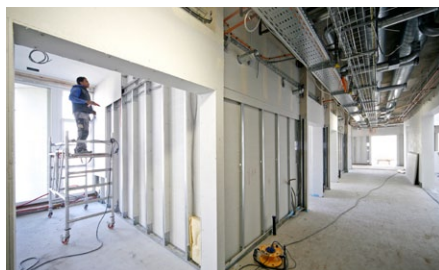
The project

AZ Groeninge is a major, supraregional private hospital in the Belgian city of Kortrijk which was the result of a merger of four hospitals in Kortrijk.

In terms of bed numbers, the AZ is Belgium's fourth-biggest hospital and, as soon as the new building on the President Kennedylaan is completed in 2013, will be second biggest in Belgium measured by the number of beds at the location.

There are 150,000 m² of **fermacell** Gypsum Fibreboards in the new building.

This enormous complex will provide space for 1,000 beds. A hospital requires use of environmentally friendly, fire-resistant, sustainable and high-quality materials.



All the above criteria are met by fermacell. "But the high acoustic performance is what played an important role in our choice of material. Our demands were high. For the interior walls, our goal was to achieve an acoustic insulation value of 60 dB. The fermacell partition construction achieved 58 dB this was the closest and highest performing dry lining construction", says Paul Merlevede, technical advisor and safety coordinator for design and construction of the new building at AZ Groeninge.

Project Requirement

The wall construction consists of two layers of Gypsum Fibreboard of 12.5 mm, without insulating material between them. Extra insulating material was applied only at the power sockets, because there was a potential of a noise leak here.

The price per wall built in this construction was better than that of the classic system consisting of two single separated walls of fermacell with an insulating layer between them.

We tested the impact performance by pushing a bed with a person lying on it against various wall constructions, to emulate real life impact. The bed went straight through a single plasterboard. A double plasterboard dented. A single 12.5 mm Gypsum Fibreboard did so too, but with a double Gypsum Fibreboard nothing happened at all," says Paul Merlevede.

Solution

The material composition of the Gypsum Fibreboard also makes it possible to hang up equipment with no problem, such as a television or various systems. Extra reinforcement was installed only for attaching the toilets, and other live loads especially for seriously overweight patients. The interior walls are finished based on the most stringent finishing level Q3, so that they can be painted. "Here too, we're going for high quality". The electrical cabling, connections for TV, mains sockets and lines for medical gases are built into the walls.

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Project details	
Project type	Hospital
Client	AZ Groeninge, Kortrijk
Architect	OSAR (the former FDA), Antwerp, and B&E Baumschlager & Eberle, Liechtenstein
Main contractor	Van Hout BVBA, Hamont-Achel
Outfitting	Building Group Jansen, Meeuwen-Gruitrode
Delivery	2009 – 2013

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