

ALTERNATIVE LIGHT WEIGHT INTERIOR WALLING

Illovo Central, Johannesburg, South Africa

PROJECT TYPE: Alternative light weight interior walling

CLIENT:

Illovo Central

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Concor Buildings has applied when constructing inner walls has been the use of autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) blocks. This lightweight building block has a number of benefits for modern buildings. The lighter load on the concrete slabs means that these slabs can be designed slightly thinner and with less reinforcing bar. While a typical brick and mortar wall is about 350 kg/m², an AAC block wall load is closer to 90 kg/m².

The uniform surface of an AAC wall also allows for a thinner skim coat finish, rather than the usual 12 mm of mortar required for a normal brick wall. This has positive material and logistical implications as less water; sand and cement need to be transported to and around the site. There is also mixing of mortar on site, which makes for a generally cleaner site, with less dust.

The inclusion of AAC blocks has allowed Concor Buildings to demonstrate its building expertise and precision, while also further developing the skills of its subcontractors. With the benefits of these lightweight blocks come the demands of accuracy and attention to detail. Added skill is required in the block laying, as well as in the plastering.

As part of Concor Buildings' development programme, Concor worked with the block supplier to train and mentor subcontractors in working smarter and enhancing their skill levels with new techniques. This delivered the exact tolerances demanded to closely match the building's structure with the blockwork and the glazing.

