



Dovercourt Design!

Citywide Properties, Dovercourt, Essex

When John Cocker, the Construction Manager for Citywide Property, first saw that **HardiePlank™** siding had been specified for the company's newest development of eight apartments at Dovercourt in Essex he was initially apprehensive.

"I had never used a fiber cement siding product before and was pretty nervous about the whole thing. I wasn't too sure about the construction process and was worried that it would prove a nightmare to install. I was also concerned about how the building would look when it was finished!"

Fortunately for John he needn't have worried!

"We found the product pretty straightforward to install even though we had never used it before. It was no harder to install than traditional shiplap and featheredge weatherboarding. **HardiePlank™** siding is heavier so it does need two people to handle it safely, especially when three storeys up on scaffolding, but in general it's a lot easier to manage and you don't have to worry about splinters."

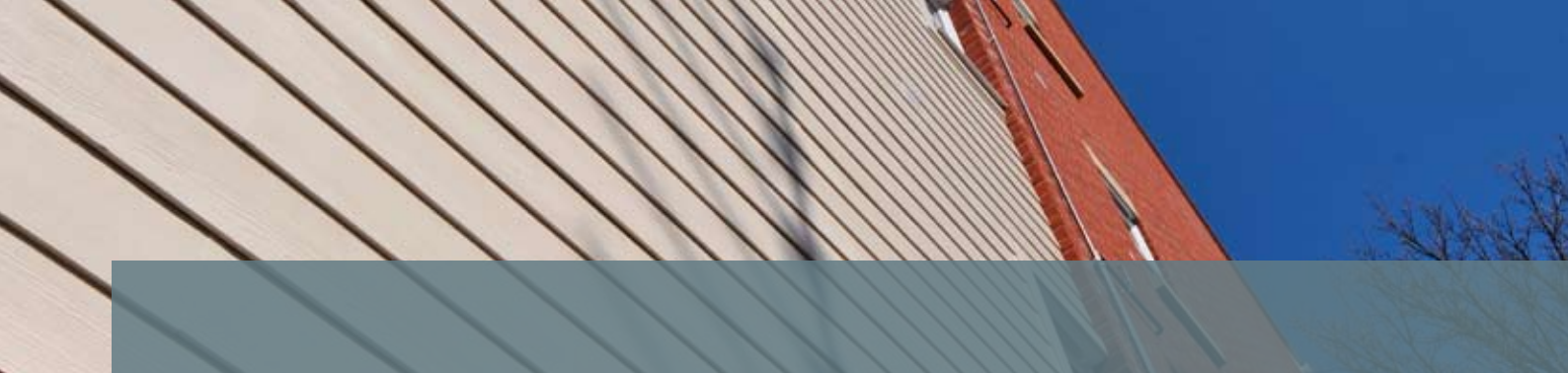
Another key benefit from John's point of view was the fact that **HardiePlank™** siding requires no additional treatment either before or after installation. "You can fit it and walk away," said John.

John also enjoyed good support from James Hardie with Craig Whiting, the company's regional representative, spending a day on site with John and his workers, providing advice and guidance to ease the installation process. "I was very impressed by the help we got from James Hardie. Craig was a top guy and he gave us some useful tips," said John.

Chris Morris, of Chris Morris Design, was the architect that specified the James Hardie siding for the Dovercourt development.

He commented, "I have specified **HardiePlank™** siding at a number of local schemes so am well aware of its benefits. We did initially consider rendering this scheme but the client suggested we go for the weatherboard look and the planners were also happy with it. In my mind the key advantage of **HardiePlank™** siding





is the fact that it requires no ongoing maintenance, which is a key consideration for apartment buildings where the residents will end up paying for the maintenance through their service charge. Its fire safety aspects are also an important consideration.”

While the building is not yet finished, Citywide has already been receiving positive feedback on the design of the Dovercourt scheme.

“It really makes the development stand out in a positive sense, said John. “We went for the natural linen colour, complemented with white windows, and it really looks clean and sleek. We invited the main local estate agent in to take a look and his response was ‘Wow that’s nice’, so we are confident that potential purchasers will like it too!”

John concluded, “We found the whole experience enjoyable and worthwhile and the end result is very, very pleasing. We will certainly be confident about using **HardiePlank™** siding on some of our future developments.”



To find out how **HardiePlank™** siding could improve your developments visit our website at: www.jameshardie.co.uk