



Concrete Finishing

The ability to produce fine finishing whether that be off form with cast concrete or from flatwork finishing with a trowel will not only determine the final appearance but will also influence the longevity of the material itself and the degree of maintenance required. In order to fully encompass the key finishing processes GreyMatter concrete are able to assist by supplying a small independent team of specialist hand trowel finishers for bespoke works or flatwork finishing to walls, upstands and furniture.

Additionally we can also assist the contractor on site with pro-active consultation of placement and compaction of concrete for cast works as well as advising on power trowelled polished concrete techniques and timings.

The success of any finishing processes is subject to thorough preparation in terms of formwork construction, using the correct concrete mix design and executing placement, compaction and aftercare procedures with care. Please see the checklist download in the consultancy section at www.greymatterconcrete.co.uk for further information.

Fine hand trowelled finishing

GreyMatter concrete have a wealth of experience in hand finishing site batched and ready mixed concrete. Hard steel trowelling by hand produces an aesthetic quality of finish that is second to none. Through our Architectural concrete repair work, we have identified that it is surprisingly common for formed works of Architectural concrete to focus on compaction but not on the quality of finished top surfaces. When struck this detail becomes all too evident and the finish will appear unconsidered, out of level or line to adjacent finishes and consequently compromise all the hard work and effort invested. Often these surfaces require grinding thus exposing aggregates or replaced with a bonded topping. Intervention of this nature is disruptive to the schedule, costly, and never as good as the original material.

For flatwork finishing of walls, upstands and furniture with ready mixed concrete or site batched material GreyMatter will ensure a quality, durable well finished surface.

Factors to consider when dealing with trowelled surfaces as described above are as follows:

- The concrete must be delivered as early as possible in the day.
- Details of admixtures and their likely affect on surface moisture, setting times and cement content must be considered.
- Any CEM I Portland Cement replacement will be influential in surface finishing and durability.

For truly individual small works of single pours up to 2.5m² GreyMatter concrete is able to produce unique, individual bespoke finishes to walls and floors using designed site batched material from selected cement, aggregates, fines and pigments. For examples of this work please download the images in the finishing section at www.greymatterconcrete.co.uk.

Site based active finishing consultancy comprises of:

- Assistance in planning pour schedules.
- Collaborative on site sample production.
- Ensuring sympathetic and controlled concrete placement.
- Thorough compaction of cast or screeded concrete.
- Advice on timing, floating, finishing, polishing and sealing power trowelled polished concrete floors.