London’s City Hall

SikaMembran® Universal 06 seals 7300 square meters of glass curtain wall. The membrane is adhered with SikaBond®-TF plus system adhesives.

Seal, but do not wall off: Buildings housing administrative agencies should be transparent, open, readily accessible to the public. These are the hallmarks of modern government. The times for secretive civil-servant dealings have long since passed. More than ever citizens want to take part in the process and decisions. That requires information and disclosure. How well that succeeds is demonstrated by the Lord Mayor of London and his administration, the London Assembly and Greater London Authority. Whatever transpires in the administrative bodies is recorded down to the last detail in the Internet (www.london.gov.uk). City Hall itself incorporates more symbols of the administration’s openness. This striking-looking structure, a highly transparent office building with modern contours, is flooded with light. Located on the banks of the Thames this prestige building, 10 stories high, 45 meters tall, was ceremoniously inaugurated by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Foster and Partners, a leading British architectural firm, was in charge of the planning and realization of the project. For its construction the builders relied on Sika. SikaMembran® Universal 06 seals the 7300 square meters glass facade securely. The synthetic rubber membrane, 0.6 mm thin, seals inside and outside joints between the pre-manufactured glass elements and the building structure. These membranes deliver the required diffusion resistance, resist ageing and withstand wind and rain long-term. The film is adhered on both sides with SikaBond® TF plus. These products are also proving their mettle in the striking looking Swiss Re-building in London (see cover page), a structure which on account of its form acquired the whimsical moniker, the “erotic gherkin”. Following the acquisition of Wacker Silicones’ glass curtain wall sealant business, Sika will be even more committed to matters of transparency. And when it comes to administrative buildings, London’s City Hall serves as a signpost to the future. At the ceremonies marking the opening of the building Ken Livingston, the Lord Mayor of London, lauded the edifice as “a new landmark for the capital city”, but also expressed his conviction that City Hall will be a site where “a new generation of civil servants” will master the challenges of the future. There should be no lack of transparency – thanks to the glass curtain wall made possible by Sika.