

## MEDITE SMARTPLY brings new Waterford City landmark to life



MEDITE SMARTPLY is playing a central role in the development of a dramatic contemporary roof feature above Waterford City's historic apple market. The striking new canopy combines stainless steel, glass and a mirror-like underbelly which reflects the animation of the street below.

To create the central mirrored section, which is the visual focus of the canopy design, MEDITE SMARTPLY worked with their partner, Decorative Panels, to develop a solution to deliver the client's requirements.

A reflective laminate was bonded to panels of the high-performance wood-based panel MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME. Having been fabricated and cut to size off-site, the panels were then fixed to the supporting structure which was constructed from SMARTPLY OSB, itself manufactured in Waterford at the MEDITE SMARTPLY factory.

MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME was specified for the application due to its unique combination of light weight, durability in external environments - particularly its resistance to water and fungal decay - and the ease with which it can be handled and cut. It's guarantee of 50 years also made it a perfect choice for a project of such prominence.

Lead architect, Máire Henry, of dhb Architects commented: "We needed an external weatherproof soffit to which we could fix a reflective surface. We found that a mirrored laminate bonded to MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME gave the effect we wanted without the weight of glass or stainless steel whilst still

remaining within budget. The panel's resistance to water and harsh external conditions made it ideal for the task."

Part of wider redevelopment work going on in Ireland's oldest city, the Apple Market will provide a flexible outdoor covered space that can be used for a variety of purposes. It is designed to help drive footfall to the area and re-energise the entrance to the retail spine of Waterford City.

While creating a dynamic contemporary feature, the design of the new structure is also sympathetic to the landmark's rich history.

"The design had to respect the historical context of the site but the solution had to be contemporary," continues Máire. "The reflective surface allows citizens to become actors on the stage of the Apple Market and is already becoming a popular area for taking selfies."

Product Manager for MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME, Peter Clifton, said: "We're delighted to be contributing to the re-vitalisation of this space, which is of such importance to Waterford. The mirror-like reflective surface of the canopy is a fantastic feature for the area and is helping to create a buzz of excitement among locals and visitors to the area.

"Most importantly, MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME will not rot when exposed to the elements and expands minimally in length and width, even when in contact with water."