

19 THE IBS PREFAB SYSTEM

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SUMMARY: After almost 40 years of the development of GRC, it is still a surprisingly little known and esoteric material that has not yet achieved widespread use in the construction industry.

There are several reasons why this is so and this paper aims to address some of the main issues that have delayed its use on a large scale in the building industry, in spite of its great capabilities as a building material.

Issues of tradition, ignorance, vested interests and the famous resilience to change in our industry and lack of vision of all parties involved in the process will be presented in detail.

In this context, as one alternative course of action, the IBS prefab system will be discussed and presented, using as an example an eight-storey residential condominium building under construction, which uses GRC for its hollow matt foundation, floors, interior and exterior walls and roof. By using this system about 75% of the building is prefabricated and made of GRC, allowing incorporation of the structural, mechanical and electrical subsystems at the manufacturing plant, which is on another island and is transported by land and sea to its final destination where it is assembled.

KEYWORDS: Building industry, condominium, GRC, manufacturing plant, prefab system.

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