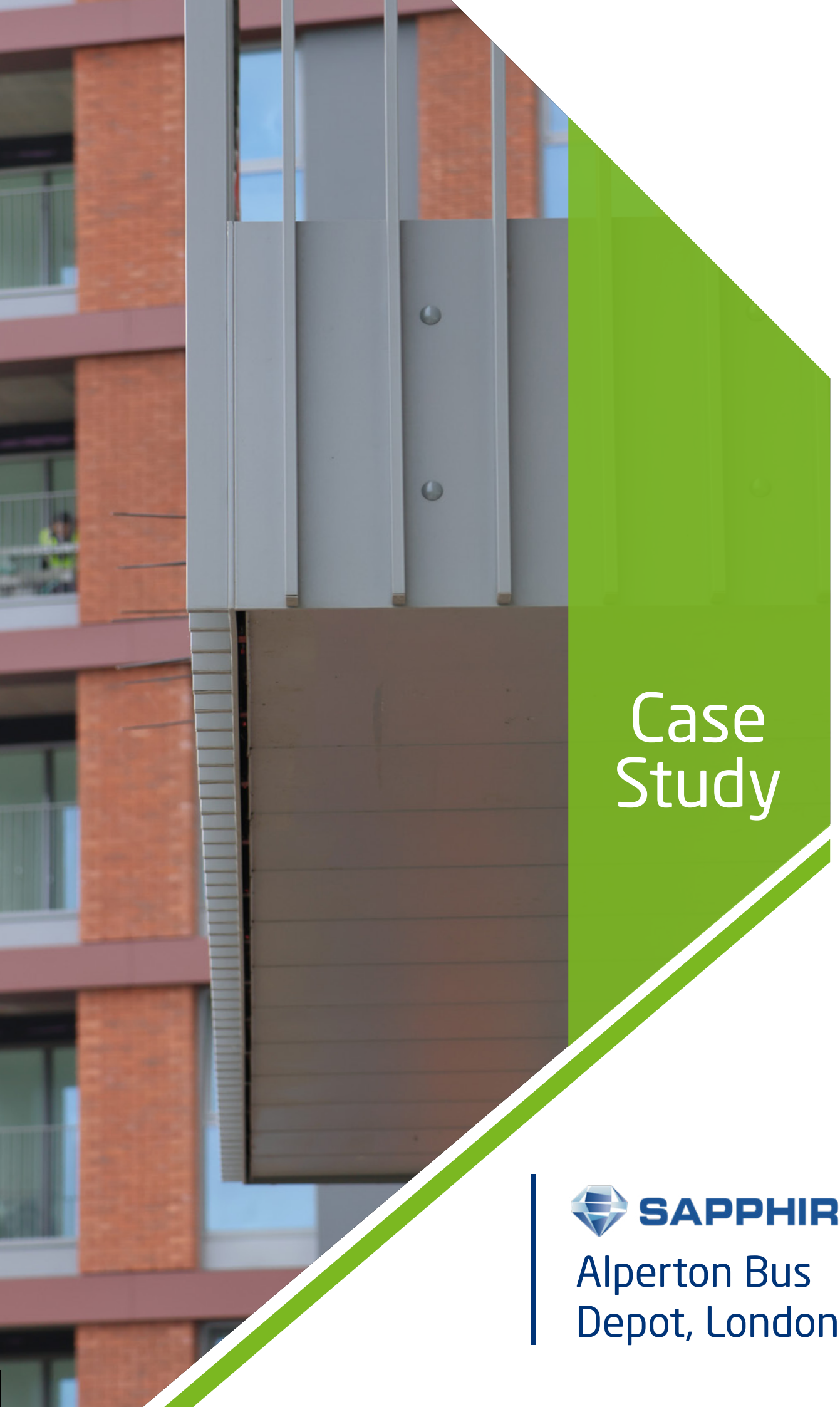


Case Study

SAPPHIRE

Alperton Bus Depot, London

Alperton Bus Depot, London

Aspiration: fast, efficient delivery via panelised construction

Led by Telford Homes, the scheme was designed by TP Bennett and comprises three residential buildings connected by a podium containing light industrial and community space. A high proportion of off-site unitised panel façade was employed alongside brick-slip and aluminium cladding, enabling both consistency and velocity in construction delivery.

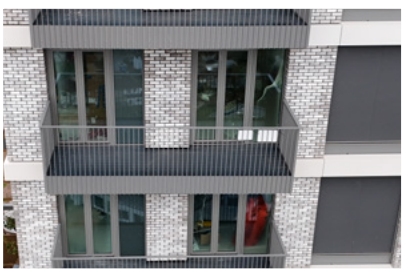
Streamlined by Sapphire

Seamless integration, logistics and architectural interface

Sapphire engineered Glide-On™ cassette balconies specifically to align with the unitised panel system:

- Cast-in brackets were embedded within the RC frame prior to panel arrival.
- Stub brackets were encapsulated with web infill plates to maintain weather resilience while panel installers sealed façades.
- The unitised panel design featured deliberate breaks at balcony doors to allow clean threshold interfaces beneath vertical panel columns—enabling neat installation without site adaptation.

This approach ensured that balcony installation ran in parallel with panel and finishing works.



Logistical flexibility through installation design

Rather than balconies interfering with mast climber sequencing, it was the balcony arms that could restrict access to upper façade zones. By housing Remote Locking Device (RLD) arms within each cassette, Sapphire removed that conflict: balconies could be fitted after mast climbers were struck, preserving maximum site access flexibility and not restricting façade progression.

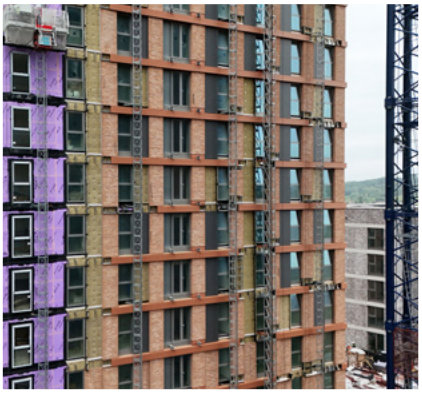
Specification highlights

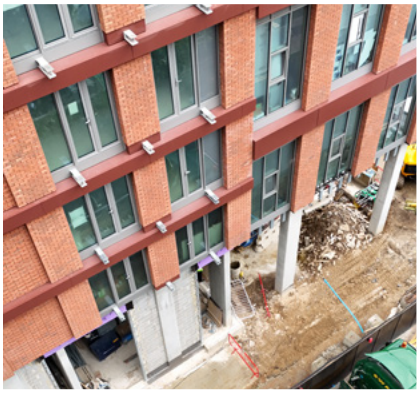
- Vertical bar balustrades with inclined handrail for accessibility.
- Controlled edge drainage to front balcony edges.
- Grey powder-coated soffits, drainage and railings for aesthetic consistency.
- Aluminium decking aligned parallel to the building façade.
- Privacy screens dividing larger balconies, especially those serving dual-access living and kitchen rooms.

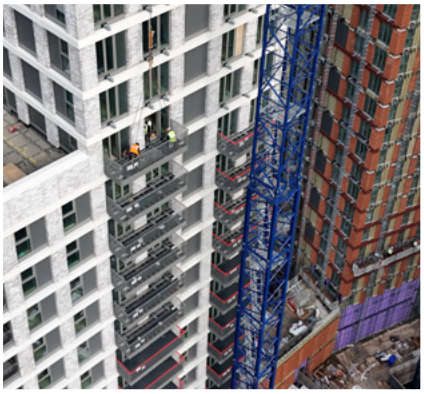
Challenges, Outcome & Value Delivered

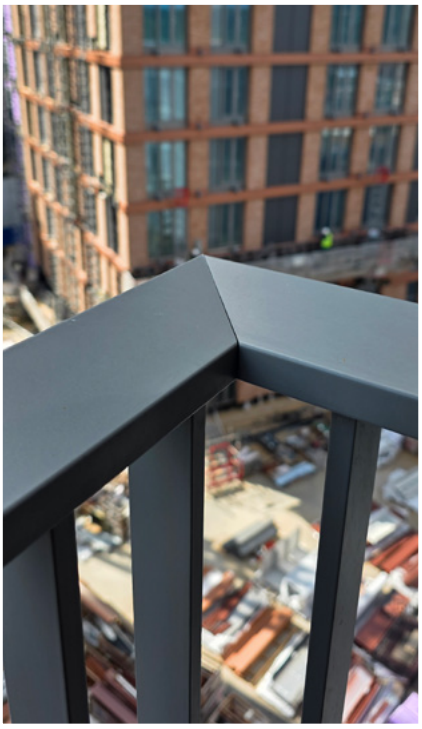
- Adaptation of balcony system to suit unitised panel sequencing without restricting façade trades.
- Minimised overlap between mast climber access and balcony installation, reducing logistical friction.
- Delivered a sleek architectural interface at door thresholds using panel stop-start lines beneath vertical columns.

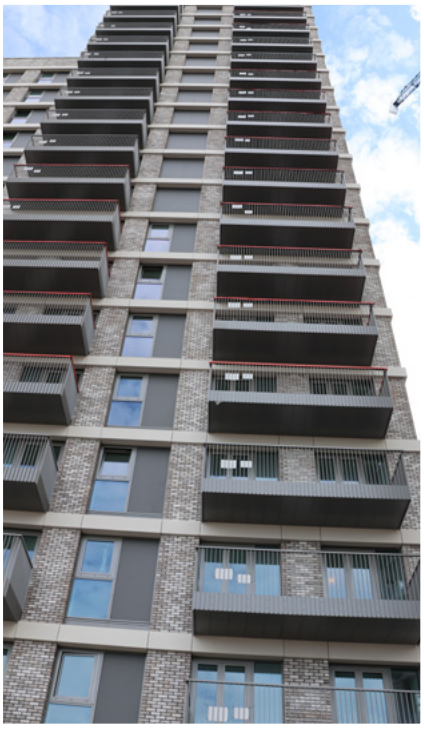
The project achieved fast-track installation with clean interfaces, high build quality and minimal coordination risk. Sapphire's system enabled effective sequencing around mast climber movements, facilitating rapid façade delivery and a smooth glide-on balcony rollout—even on the busy corner site adjacent to Piccadilly line rail infrastructure.

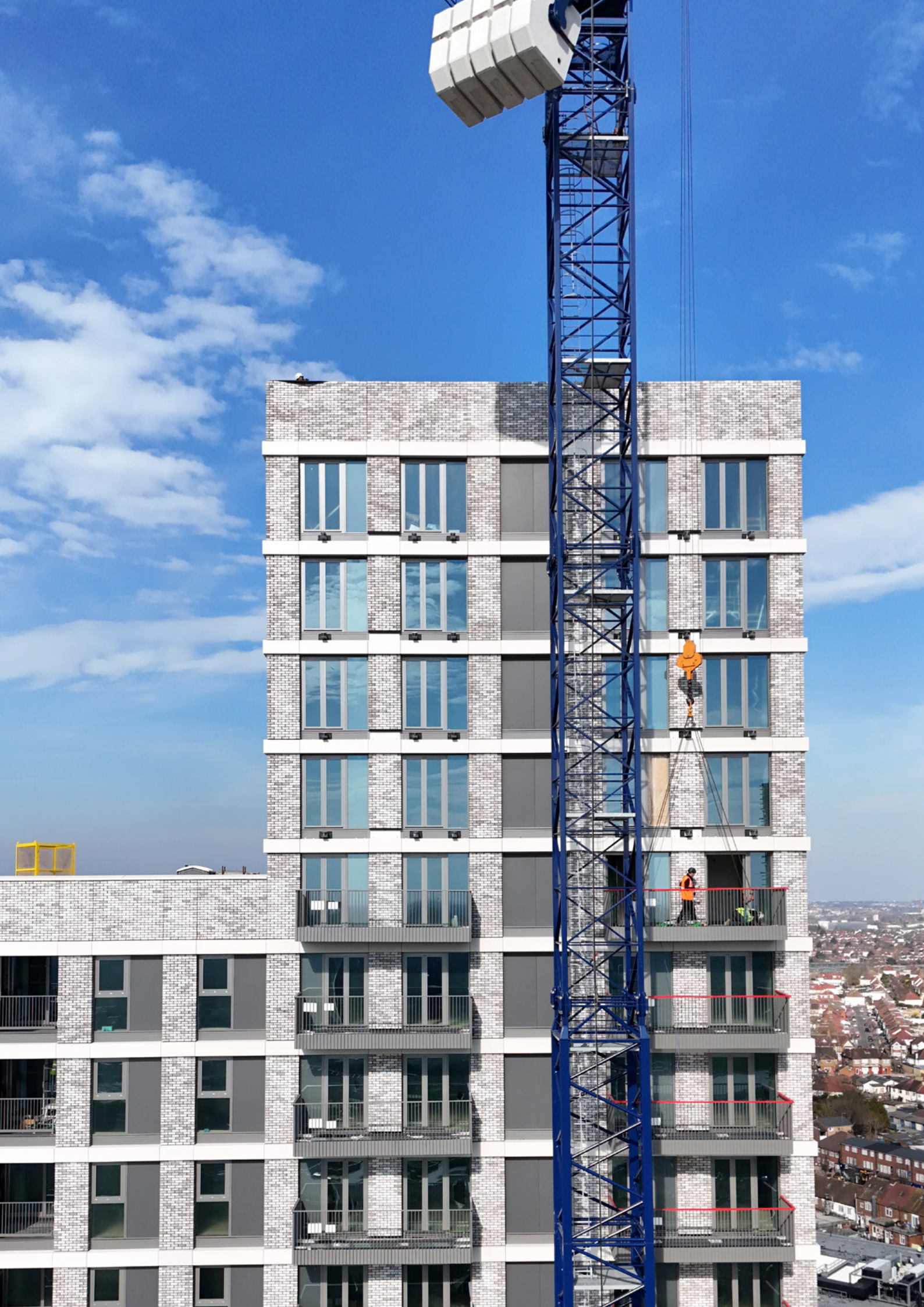


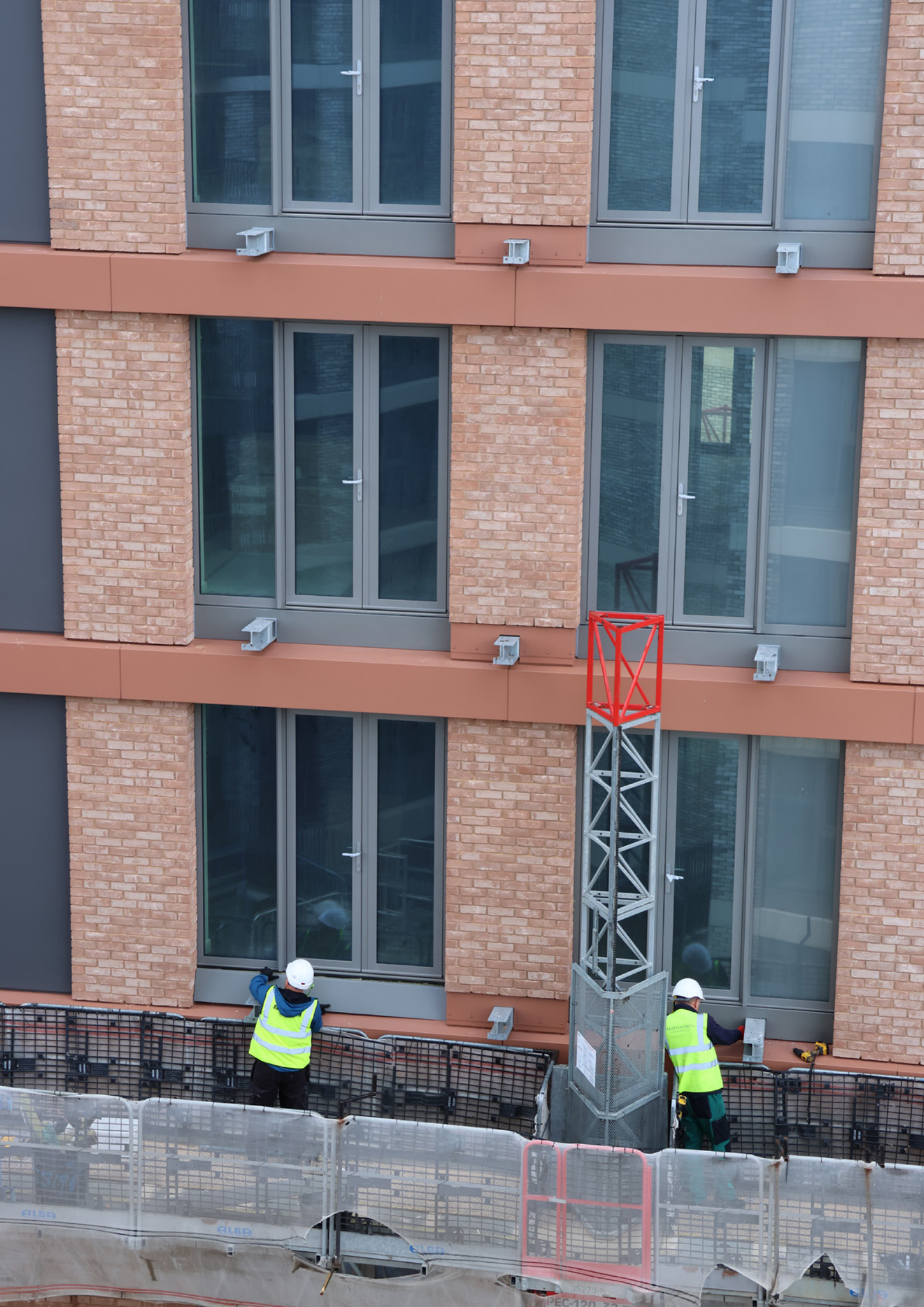












0044 844 8800 553
www.balconies.global
support@balconies.global

Sapphire Balconies
11 Arkwright Road, Reading, RG2 0LU, UK

6700 Century Ave 3rd Floor, Mississauga,
ON L5N 6A4, Canada

SAPPHIRE®