

## MARINE AGGREGATES IN CONSTRUCTION

### THE DARWIN CENTRE



Source: Natural History Museum

### BACKGROUND

Situated in The Natural History Museum, the Darwin Centre includes a Cocoon building, opened to the public in 2009.

The Darwin Centre is a state-of-the-art science and collections facility. Within the Cocoon are hundreds of specimens, interactive activities and the opportunity to observe scientists at work naming, analysing and preserving species.

At the core of the cocoon are the museum's vital plant and insect collections that go back 400 years to the Museum's origins.

The eight storey cocoon is the largest sprayed concrete, curved structure in Europe. The building is designed to high sustainability standards, including thermal insulation for the collections.

### CONSTRUCTION NOTES

The building took 25 months to complete. The cocoon's surface is 3,500 square metres of hand polished plaster, bound in steel channels resembling silk threads.

#### CONSTRUCTION CATEGORY

Structural concrete, sprayed concrete

#### END USE CATEGORY

Built environment, education, leisure

## CASE STUDY 18