

# 18 - Natural Slate for Roofing & Architecture

## SSQ UK Ltd

The SSQ Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of slate and phyllite for use by the construction industry. Formed in 1983, it has built a worldwide reputation for sourcing and marketing high-quality, natural slate products for roofing and architectural use.

The company's success can be directly attributed to its long-term partnerships with some of the world's premier slate quarries, partnerships that ensure a consistent supply of premium-quality roofing slates on an exclusive basis. In 2003, SSQ strengthened its portfolio by acquiring La Florida Quarry in Argentina, a major source of phyllite.

### Products

Forged by nature over millions of years, slate and phyllite have 'beauty-and-the-beast' characteristics that make them exceptional natural building materials. Phyllite is closely related to slate and could be considered 'super-slate' as it shares slate's essential features but surpasses its qualities being generally stronger and more resilient.

Slate and phyllite have been used as a building material for thousands of years, their properties making them ideal for roofing, cladding and flooring. SSQ offers a choice of eleven different roofing slates in a wide selection of sizes and grades. Its architectural stone products are available either in off-the-shelf sizes or to meet a unique specification.

SSQ markets its slate-based roofing products under well-known brand names that include Del Carmen®, Matacouta® and Domiz® roofing slates and its phyllite-based products as Riverstone® roofing slates and architectural stone.

### Quality

Quality is a cornerstone of SSQ's marketing philosophy, its relationships with the quarries that supply the products ensure high quality-control standards are agreed and achieved.

All SSQ roofing slates carry the CE marking and have received an 'A1-S1-T1' classification in the three key performance tests set by EN 12326. SSQ architectural stone has been tested in accordance with both EN 12057 and EN 12058 and also carries a CE marking.

A combination of appearance, availability and quality has led to a number of SSQ's roofing slates being approved for use as an alternative to indigenous slates by the UK's principal conservation agencies.

### Sustainability and Environmental Impact

Although slate and phyllite are non-renewable resources, the amount available is immeasurable and, providing they are quarried responsibly, their use as a building material makes very little impact on either total stocks or the environment.

The two most frequently used methods of comparing the environmental impact of building materials – BREEAM and the Inventory of Carbon and Energy – show the use of roofing slate has very little impact on the environment: BREEAM gives slate an 'A' rating and ICE's more objective results show it to be far less damaging than either clay or concrete tiles.

### Services

SSQ offers a comprehensive support service that includes:

- Advice on all aspects of slate roofing
- Advice about low-pitch (to 17.5°) and complex roof designs
- Advice about using slate in heritage and conservation areas
- An NBS specification service
- An installation method-statement against an individual roof-design
- A quantity take-off services direct from your drawings
- Onsite advice, support and supervision during construction
- Brochures, technical data sheets, samples and a quarterly newsletter
- A RIBA-approved CPD seminar – *An Introduction to Roofing Slate*



Strathview Terrace – SSQ Matacouta® Blue-black roofing slate



University of Bristol – SSQ Riverstone® Grey Random roofing slate



Hilton Helsinki-Vantaa Airport Hotel – SSQ Riverstone® wall cladding



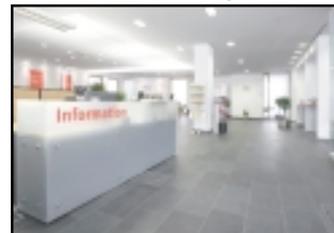
The Cowyards, Blenheim Park – SSQ Del Carmen® Blue-black roofing slate



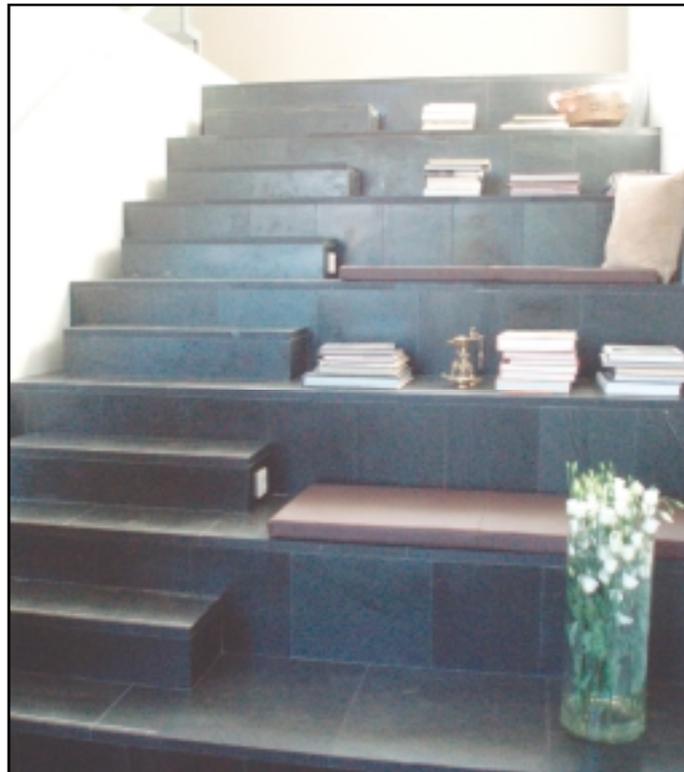
'Luxury Home', Finland – SSQ Riverstone® wall cladding



Moultsford School, Oxfordshire – SSQ Domiz® Blue-grey roofing slate



Kreissparkasse Wiedenbrück Bank – Germany SSQ Riverstone® floor tiles



'Designer Home', Oslo – SSQ Riverstone® floor and wall tiles

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