

18 - Natural Slate for Roofing & Architecture

SSQ UK Ltd

The SSQ Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of slate and phyllite and has built an enviable reputation for sourcing and marketing 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': it shares slate's essential characteristics but surpasses its qualities being generally stronger and more resilient.

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

Quality is a cornerstone of SSQ's marketing philosophy and its partnerships with the quarries ensure high levels of quality control are attained. 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 also carries a CE marking having been tested in accordance with both EN 12057 and EN 12058.

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 & Environmental Impact

Although slate and phyllite are non-renewable, 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 to have very little impact on the environment: BREEAM gives slate an 'A' rating, 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 & complex roof designs
- Advice about using slate in conservation areas
- An NBS specification service
- A quantity take-off & costing service
- 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 – SSQ Riverstone® Grey Wall Cladding



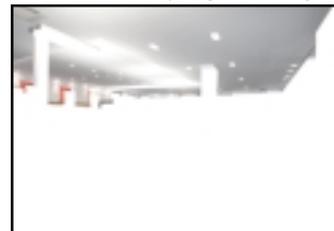
The Cowyards, Blenheim Park – SSQ Del Carmen® Blue-black Roofing Slate



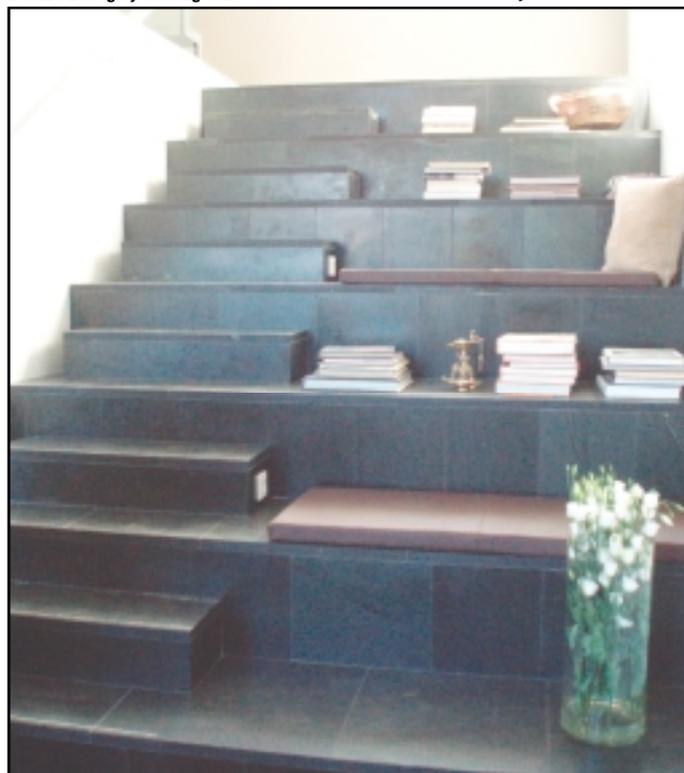
Private Dwelling, Finland – SSQ Riverstone® Grey Irregular Cladding



Moultsford School, Oxfordshire – SSQ Domiz® Blue-grey Roofing Slate



Kreissparkasse Wiedenbrück – Germany SSQ Riverstone® Grey Floor Tiles



'Designer Home', Oslo – SSQ Riverstone® Grey Floor & Wall Tiles

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