



GEO Aggregates installs double canopy for production facility

"We just knew we had to do something. We needed a roof! And Smart-Space came up with the perfect solution."

Geo Aggregates, near Grantham, manufactures concrete masonry blocks from the bi-products in its quarry. In the last two years, customer demand for these blocks has greatly increased... but unfortunately so has the rainfall. And the constant wet weather was hampering production to unmanageable levels.

Because all production takes place outside, when it rains, you can't make blocks. On top of that, the blocks made the day before will likely all be ruined, because they need a good 24-48 hours to fully dry. And even after the rain stops, production can't begin again until the concrete floor has been swept and dried.

Geo has a reputation for quality and service, and meeting customer demand is a big priority. So an inconsistent supply of blocks was just not palatable.

In the previous year, Geo experienced two full months of lost production and many more days where the stock was lost to rain damage. That equates to £500,000 lost turnover in just one year. But more than that, it risked impacting on their customer relations.

"We just knew we had to do something" said Adrian, Geo's General Manager. "We needed a roof! And Smart-Space came up with the perfect solution."

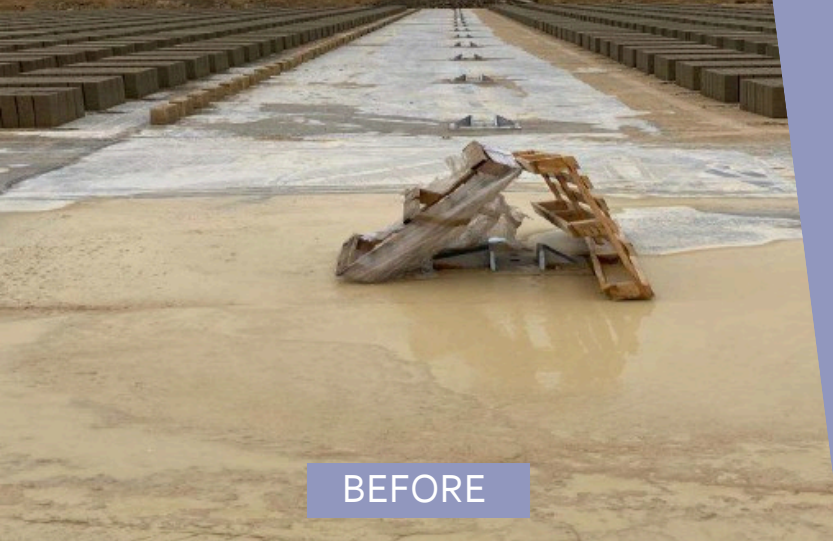
Smart-Space designed and constructed two canopies to keep the rain off the production area. Measuring 34x80x6m and 25x60x6m, the canopies give ample coverage to the whole area where the blocks are produced.



UPGRADED PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE: PROTECTING THE PRODUCT AND STAFF FROM THE ELEMENTS



THE NEW CANOPIES CAN BE USED ALL YEAR ROUND AND COLLECT RAIN WATER FOR RECYCLING



BEFORE

BEFORE - WITH THE WET GROUND AND BLOCKS

Expertly engineered, these robust canopies are built to withstand all weathers and conform to regulations ([add detail here](#)). But being temporary structures, they don't require planning permission.

There's now so much undercover space that the newly-made blocks can be left in situ for the time it takes them to dry out, while more and more blocks are made alongside them. The process simply never needs to stop.

Apprehensive at first about how long they'd have to halt production for while the canopies were being constructed, Adrian soon found he needn't have worried. "They were unbelievably quick! We didn't want to stop production and the way Smart-Space worked, a zone at a time, allowed us to keep going. There was really very little interruption.

They worked safely with us at all times and were so professional. A really great bunch of people to work with." In the end, the buildings were finished ahead of schedule, in just two weeks. And since then, there's been no looking back. Productivity has massively increased, there's less wastage, more profit, and customer demand is being met with quality products.

With a roof over the production area, the site is now reliably making 20,000 blocks a day, every day. The working area itself is permanently dry because it's undercover. The blocks are drying faster and being moved on more quickly. There's no damaged stock and no days lost to bad weather. They've also found that the blocks are of an improved and consistent standard because the roof keeps the conditions underneath pretty identical.



AFTER

AFTER - WITH THE NEW IMPROVED SMART SPACE CANOPIES

But there's yet another advantage to these structures. Where they meet, Smart-Space have installed valley guttering to collect the rainwater.

Geo prides itself on using sustainable quarrying and manufacturing methods. With the motto "Zero waste is our goal", they're always on the lookout for ways to minimise waste and maximise opportunities to reuse natural resources. The guttering will enable them to harvest 13 million litres of rainwater a year, which can then be reused in the production of the blocks, meaning they don't need to extract so much from the ground around them.

As well as being good for the environment, the buildings also provide a better environment for production staff - who, much like the blocks, prefer to be out of the rain! And of course, all of the machinery is now undercover too.

Adrian believes the structures will have paid for themselves within a year. And when the time comes to move on from that site, they'll be easy to dismantle and rebuild again somewhere else.

"Zero waste
is our goal"

FACT FILE

Client	GEO Aggregates
Project	Industrial canopies for manufacturing and production
Spec	34 x 80 x 6m - 2,720 Sq M 25 x 60 x 6m - 1,500 Sq M