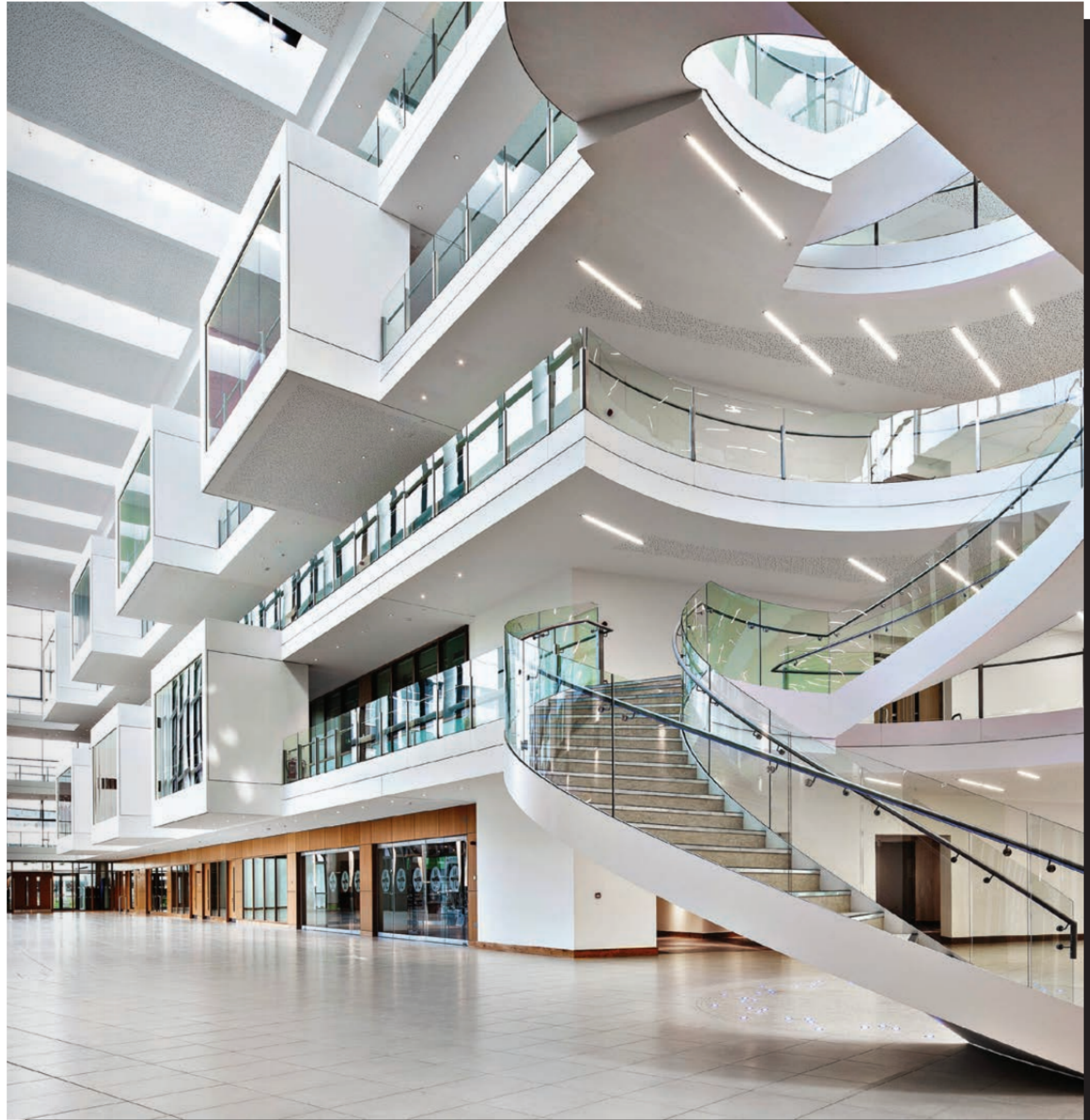




FINISHES & INTERIORS SECTOR

BEST PRACTICE GUIDE
**INSTALLATION
OF DRYLINING**

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This guide has been developed by FIS to promote best practice in the installation of drylining.

Drywall partitions are an integral part of many fit outs, offering fire, acoustic and structural performance, as well as making a major contribution to the overall appearance and quality of the finished space. However, for the completed drywall to meet the legitimate expectations of the building owner, occupier, design professionals and construction team, the selection and installation process must be carefully considered and understood by all parties.

Drylining is a finishing trade and requires installation by specialist contractors. The specialist contractor will provide the high levels of management, operative skills and resources essential to delivering a high-quality product. Their considerable experience on similar projects will be of significant assistance to the construction team.

System manufacturers design and produce drywall systems, which are then tested to meet the requirements for various environmental and performance levels. The provision of a whole range of design solutions is part of the responsibilities taken by manufacturers, who have a key role to play in drywall design.

FIS has grown over the past 50 years to become the leading trade association for the finishes and interiors sector of the construction industry, representing companies involved in the manufacture, supply and installation of all aspects of finishes, interior fit out and refurbishment. Its members can provide optimum solutions for installing interior elements.

This FIS best practice guide to the installation of drylining is not intended as a definitive technical manual, as the manufacturers' recommendations must always be followed, but as a guide to the construction team of best practice. FIS encourages all its members to follow the principles set out in this guide.

This guide is primarily concerned with the design and installation of internal, non-loadbearing drylining constructions using gypsum plasterboard on rigid metal framework. However, it also includes descriptions of other non-plasterboard, such as calcium silicate board, which are also used in drylined systems. This guide includes drylined partitions, linings and fire protection. Drylined ceilings are covered in the FIS Best Practice Guide – Installation of Suspended Ceilings.

Drylining systems are able to provide high levels of fire protection, fire resistance, sound insulation and thermal insulation. The correct design and installation are essential to ensure these performances are achieved.

The relative weight of drylined systems compared with blockwork, the speed of erection, fire, acoustic and thermal performance and the versatility of the systems make drylining a popular choice in all sectors of the industry. As such, they are used in all sectors, including residential, commercial, retail, medical and educational building types.

This guide provides useful information on a variety of disciplines involved in the design, management and installation of drylining systems, such as architects, engineers, main contractors, subcontract supervision and operatives.

The installation and design of the proprietary drylined systems will vary from one manufacturer to another, so reference should always be made to the manufacturer's technical literature for current methods of installation.

2.1 SCOPE

This best practice guide provides guidance for the design, selection and installation of non-loadbearing systems only, which comprise a rigid metal frame enclosed by boards that are not subjected to loading from the structure in which it is installed. Drylining systems can be subjected to an imposed load, such as tiling or mounted TVs. Full guidance should be obtained from the relevant manufacturer regarding the maximum loads drylined systems can facilitate.

Loadbearing constructions such as structural framing systems (SFS) or structural timber frame may use the same boards as for the non-loadbearing systems. Guidance for these systems should be sought from the relevant manufacturers.