

Case Study:

# Elim Church, Jamaica Street, Bristol.



*An unusual scenario for fire protection, but a fine demonstration of the versatility of cast epoxy intumescent—and the benefits of installing Interactive Columns.*



### Fire Protection Requirement

A basic requirement of 30 minutes fire protection for the two columns was made more complex with a number of other, highly practical considerations. These narrowed down the available options open to the architect.

Firstly, the church needed a flexible seating arrangement to cater for the different kinds of service and function running through a normal week. Stackable, metal-supported plastic chairs are used and these come into very close proximity to the two feature columns. Daily moving of the chairs results in the columns taking many knocks and scrapes.



### The Interact Solution

The combination of fire protection, usage and aesthetics led the architect to consider *Interactive Columns*—and soon realise only this product could meet all his requirements. While *Interactive Columns* would offer up to two hours fire protection, it was the robustness of the cast epoxy intumescent they are formed from—and the ease with which the surface could be repaired without trace—that was the main attraction.

The superior, slim and stylish appearance of the columns was a welcome bonus.



# An attractive solution with the advantage of durability and low cost maintenance



## Repair and Refurbishment

Previous experience with thin-film intumescent was disappointing as the top seal was always getting scratched and chipped, requiring frequent repair. Although the remedial work to the thin film was carried out correctly, like all repair work to intumescent, the aesthetic result became increasingly compromised. The 'orange peel' texture, not particularly attractive at the best of times, was made distinctly unattractive by the shiny patches left by the repair work.

## The Interact Benefits

As the basic requirement was for only 30 minutes fire protection, there would never be a need to re-instate the system. A simple, easily sourced, two-pack filler could be used to fill any chips (followed by a roller-applied application of the decorative top seal). This is a job any good decorator, or maintenance person, could accomplish in an hour.

*With thin-film intumescent, frequent repairs are required when columns are subject to knocks and scrapes—and these are difficult to cover up. This is never the case with Interactive Columns.*

## Epoxy Intumescent Castings—Perfection in Fire Protection

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