BRACE FOR THE FUTURE
With the growing awareness around leaky building a requirement for the Kaplan International College new residence building in Christchurch was to provide not only a building which was cost effective but one which had increased protection against leaks into the building envelope, especially given the building is located in a high wind zone area.

The building design used Laserframe® structural timber framing on cavity construction with brick veneer cladding and incorporated a two storey atrium with a total floor area of 500m².

Building wrap was originally specified within the cavity with structural bracing provided via an internal plasterboard system.

The Ecoply® Barrier rigid air barrier system was used in place of the building wrap to create a fully drained and vented rigid air barrier around the building envelope and provided the added reassurance of protection against moisture penetration into the building envelope. The Ecoply Barrier system also delivered significant strength benefits with virtually the whole exterior envelope contributing towards the buildings structural bracing and significantly reducing the number of required internal bracing elements.

The contractor estimates up to 4 weeks in construction time was saved throughout the course of the build.

As well as creating a strong exterior shell Ecoply Barrier enabled the building contractor to begin early interior fit out prior to completion of the cladding installation allowing faster completion of the building and faster customer billing.

The contractor estimates up to 4 weeks in construction time was saved throughout the course of the build through not having to wait for completion of the exterior cladding prior to internal fit out commencing.

Since completion of the new residence building the Ecoply Barrier system has been upgraded with a new panel surface coating and a range of purpose designed sheet jointing products.