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Eco

June/July 2013



Q. When is a bi-fold door not a bi-fold door?



A. When it's a folding sliding door
(When it has more than two panels)

Why do so called Specialist bi-fold companies sell doors with more than two panels?

Q. If you have three shoes is it still a pair?

Bi-fold door (noun) An interior door (a door that closes off rooms within a building)

Meronyms (parts of "bi-fold door"): flexible joint; hinge
(a joint that holds two parts together so that one can swing relative to the other)

bifold /bi'föld/ (adjective) 1. Twofold

bi /bi-/ or sometimes before a vowel (prefix) Two, twice, double



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Pauline Kelly, chair of the British Woodworking Federation (BWF) Stair Scheme, looks at the safety issues of timber stairs in new homes and offers tips for housebuilders



Permitted paving

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Taking a responsible approach to drainage is essential to reduce flooding and pollution from paving and hard landscaping. Government has recognised this issue with important changes to permitted development rules and other recent legislation requiring sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), as Chris Hodson, RIBA consultant to the trade body Interpave, explains



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Eco

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Masterplan for China's woodcarving city, Dongyang

Atkins has completed the masterplan for Dongyang, Zhejiang Province. The masterplan (pictured left) will create a cultural-commercial-tourist destination which reflects the rich local culture of woodcarving and host the workshops of woodcarving Masters and artisans. The masterplan covers a total area of 876,000 sq m, divided into three interlinked blocks hosting a museum, an exhibition and convention centre, a trading centre, a hotel, offices, apartments and a riverside park.

Lea Xu, design director at Atkins' Shanghai office, said: "Our design is a contemporary interpretation of the local Chinese culture with the woodcarving theme conveyed throughout the whole project. The clarity and simplicity of the overall layout and the refinement in architecture and space design reflect the subtlety of Chinese culture and make our design stand out."

Toyo Ito of Japan is the 2013 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate

Toyo Ito, a 71 year old architect whose architectural practice is based in Tokyo, Japan, will be the recipient of the 2013 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

The formal ceremony, for what has come to be known throughout the world as architecture's highest honor, will be at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, Massachusetts on Wednesday, May 29. This marks the first time the ceremony has been held in Boston, and the location has particular significance since it was designed by another Pritzker Laureate, Ieoh Ming Pei who received the prize in 1983.

Pritzker Prize jury chairman, The Lord Palumbo, spoke from his home in the UK, quoting from the jury citation that focuses on the reasons for this year's choice: "Throughout his career, Toyo Ito has been able to produce a body of work that combines conceptual innovation with superbly executed buildings. Creating outstanding architecture for more than 40 years, he has successfully undertaken libraries, houses, parks, theaters, shops, office buildings and pavilions, each time seeking to extend the possibilities of architecture. A professional of unique talent, he is dedicated to the process of discovery

'I will never fix my architectural style and never be satisfied with my works'

Toyo Ito



that comes from seeing the opportunities that lie in each commission and each site."

Toyo Ito has received numerous international awards, including in 2010, the 22nd Praemium Imperiale in Honor of Prince Takamatsu; and in 2006, The Royal Institute of British Architects' Royal Gold Medal; and in 2002, the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement for the 8th Venice Biennale International Exhibition. Calling him a "creator of timeless buildings," the Pritzker Jury cites Ito for "infusing his designs with a spiritual dimension and for the poetics that transcend all his works."

Toyo Ito made this comment in reaction to winning the prize: "Architecture is bound by various social constraints. I have been designing architecture bearing in mind that it would be possible to realize more comfortable spaces if we are freed from all the restrictions even for a little bit. However, when one building is completed, I become painfully aware of my own inadequacy, and it turns into energy to challenge the next project. Probably this process must keep repeating itself in the future.

"Therefore, I will never fix my architectural style and never be satisfied with my works," he concluded.

He calls the Sendai Mediatheque, completed in 2001 in Sendai City, Miyagi, Japan, one of the high points of his career. In the Phaidon book, Toyo Ito, he explains: "The Mediatheque differs from



conventional public buildings in many ways. While the building principally functions as a library and art gallery, the administration has actively worked to relax divisions between diverse programmes, removing fixed barriers between various media to progressively evoke an image of how cultural facilities should be from now on."

The jury commented on this project in their citation, saying, "Ito has said that he strives for architecture that is fluid and not confined by what he considers to be the limitations of modern architecture. In the Sendai Mediatheque he achieved this by structural tubes, which permitted new interior spatial qualities."



Keppie and Morrison handover new sustainable school in Orkney

Keppie Design and Morrison Construction have completed and handed over Stromness Primary School in Orkney as part of the Orkney Islands Schools Investment Programme.

Designed by Keppie and built by Morrison Construction, Stromness Primary School will provide modern and sustainable learning facilities for 200 pupils and also includes a 30-pupil nursery and community resource.

The school's appearance is intended to be a contemporary interpretation of the traditional Stromness vernacular and is achieved by arranging a series of gable ends facing towards Hamnavoe. The project team were also able to use locally sourced materials in a nod to the school's roots and to ensure an 'Orkney feel' was created.

The new school, which extends to 2,460 sq m, achieved an Excellent BREEAM rating, accomplished through incorporating renewable energy, natural ventilation, natural daylight, a reduced solar glare, improved bio-diversity and green travel arrangements for staff and pupils. It is located on a



brown-field site to the north of Stromness with outstanding views over Hamnavoe.

Peter Moran, director at Keppie Design, which also provided landscape and interior design services for the project, commented: "One of the main design features of the new facility is the physical linking of the nursery to the primary school and the incorporation of internal breakout spaces that can be utilised by surrounding classrooms, increasing their flexibility.

"We designed the break-out spaces and activity areas to maximise movement and allow for varying sizes of activities. The teaching clusters, nursery and administrative areas were carefully planned so they can be closed off from the multi-purpose hall, dining and associated facilities to provide an independent community use facility in the evenings.

"Both the project team, and more importantly the school's pupils and staff, were very pleased with the finished result."

"Together we have created an environment where pupils can thrive both inside and outside the classroom"

Ronnie Bruce, Morrison Construction's project director, Orkney Schools

Unsung design heroes of London 2012 come forward

The Design Council is urging designers involved with London 2012 to apply for a Supplier Recognition Scheme licence. This new licence allows them to promote the massive contribution design and architecture played in delivering the most successful Olympic and Paralympic Games yet.

The licencing scheme is the first of its kind and the first time businesses that supplied goods and services for the successful staging of the Games have been able to promote their involvement for the purpose of future business development.

The relaxing of the Games marketing restriction provides a unique opportunity for the UK to talk about its cutting edge design and architecture that was crucial to making London 2012 memorable, for all the right reasons. Without iconic designs such as Heatherwick's Cauldron and Hopkins Architects' Velodrome, and key design features such as the bold way-finding in the park from Surface Architects, it might have been a different story. Without a licence however, busi-

nesses may not officially promote their involvement in London 2012.

Olympic Torch designers, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby commented: "The story of our Olympic Torch enabled us to benefit from an incredible global platform provided by London 2012. Due to the embargo this wasn't the case for many other creative practices involved in London 2012. It's great news that the BOA have launched the Supplier Recognition Scheme. Design and architecture's massive contribution to the success of the Games can finally be celebrated. We encourage designers and architects to apply for the licence, tell their own stories and put our design and architecture industry on the world stage."

Jim Eyre of Wilkinson Eyre Architects – architects of the Basketball Arena – and Design Council Trustee remarked: "This is a great opportunity for architects and designers to tell the world about their contribution to the phenomenally successful London 2012 games."

Design Council will be hosting an event this

summer to profile and thank the designers involved in London 2012. From graphics and architecture to the cauldron and practically everything in between.

John Mathers, chief executive at the Design Council comments: "The London 2012 Olympic Games was delivered 'On time. On budget. Looking Good.' This has promised to set a benchmark for all future Games. We're looking at a huge export opportunity for London 2012 suppliers and some are already winning contracts based on their contribution, such as Aecom who have won the master plan competition for Rio 2012. We urge designers to celebrate this opportunity with us and sign up now."

"We're proud of our industry and want to shout about it to both UK and international audiences, including Rio, to grow sales and exports of British design. Please visit the Supplier Recognition Scheme website to apply for the licence and join us in celebrating our world-leading design and architecture industry."



The British Homes Awards challenge architects to design “Britain’s Future Home”

Win the competition and we’ll turn your design into reality!



Championing design excellence

The British Homes Awards have been pivotal in providing a catalyst for change in the creation of our new homes. The entries for the Home for the Future design competition in 2007 demonstrated that zero carbon housing is not only achievable but can also be aspirational. Voted the competition winner, the Gaunt Francis Architects’ designed Green House was built by Barratt Developments as the first Code Level 6 home from a major house builder with the potential for mass production that would qualify for stamp duty exemption.

Building on this successful legacy and drawing inspiration from the classic Georgian and Regency terraces of the 18th and 19th century, the 2011 competition invited architects to challenge conventional thinking and design Tomorrow’s Townhouse with interiors that allow occupants to maintain a 21st century lifestyle as they grow older. Santiago, designed by father and son team Alex and Edward King, was voted the winner from a shortlist of five schemes and was one of the three Show Houses within the 2012 Ideal Home Show Village at Earls Court.

Last year’s competition – Tomorrow’s Smart:Home – challenged architects to design integrated, inter-operable solutions that demonstrate the application of digital monitoring and intelligent control systems in the home. From a shortlist of six exemplary schemes the readers of The Sunday Times voted Pentan Partnership’s SML Home as their winning design. This will now be displayed as the unique Show House exhibit at Grand Designs Live Birmingham, presenting tomorrow’s technologies and future home systems.



“Britain’s Future Home”

Published last October the Future Homes Commission report “Building the Homes and Communities Britain Needs” recommended that government must ensure that its review of local housing standards sets minimum national standards for space, storage, noise insulation and natural light. It emphasised that these standards are essential for residents’ quality of life and should be incorporated into Building Regulations so that they apply to all housing, of all tenures, across the UK.

It also recommended “that in the future, the layout of homes should reflect the growing need for flexibility and adaptability and called for a design competition for a flexible home that meets consumer needs and can be replicated at scale.”

This year’s British Homes Awards competition, sponsored by Homebase and in partnership with BRE, The New Homes Marketing Board and Premier Guarantee challenges architects to rethink the design and construction of “affordable” homes, with a focus on the inspirational use of both internal and external space, considering requirements of privacy, light and amenity.

The winning design will present a new model for multiple life-stage living. It should have the flexibility to adapt to different stages of life – the student house, the family dwelling, a home to grow older in. It will be beautiful, environmentally smart and offer a healthy

environment for a population that lives longer and spends more time at home.

It is planned that up to 15 units of the winning design will be built by an award winning developer on an exclusive estate within Britain to stand as an exemplar of best design practice.

The submission should include:

- a first and second stage occupancy scenario for the proposed residents, such as family home that can be converted to homes for students or retirees with minimal intervention
- new ways in which the interior and garden space provide flexibility to allow aesthetic and practical change (stirring the nation out of inertia in style and design inspiration)
- a Life-Cycle Assessment to help identify a new benchmark for modern residential construction against which other developments can be measured
- an assessment of the quality of health and wellbeing for people living in the house, embracing issues such as daylight, air quality and integration of the natural environment
- a Consumption calculation or diagram to illustrate how the house will efficiently use resources e.g. energy, water, and food, or where waste from one process becomes a resource for another e.g. Plastic waste from food packaging becomes a material for manufacturing furniture
- an indication of construction cost
- a demonstration of how the dwelling would work as a volume development of multiple units, either in semi-detached form or as a terrace.

Type of house

- An architecturally distinguished detached house: Footprint dimensions: max 80m²
- Maximum height: Three storeys (option to increase space with a room in the roof)

The competition design brief can be found at www.britishhomesawards.co.uk/2013/designbrief
Closing date for submissions is June 28th

For further information on the design competition or the Awards please email the Awards director Mike Gazzard Hon FRIBA at mg@britishhomesawards.com or call 01483 225221

- Maximum size: 250m²
- Parking: inclusion of parking for a standard car (an integral garage is optional but basements are to be excluded from the design submission)

Eligibility

The competition is open to all UK registered architects. Individual or team entries are encouraged and the participation of recently qualified architects is particularly welcomed. No member or employee of the promoting body nor the assessors nor any partner, associate or employee of them shall be eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

Read all about it!

This August, within the Home section, The Sunday Times will publish an exclusive eight page Awards supplement featuring the shortlisted designs, inviting readers to vote for their favourite scheme.

The competition winner will be announced at the 2013 British Homes Awards luncheon at The London Marriott, Grosvenor Square on Friday 18 October; and the following Sunday all winning and commended schemes will be presented within a 12 page Awards supplement within Home.



The impact of the latest new Planning Reforms



"The fundamental idea of the planning system is that property owners should be able to do some things if they want to without asking anyone," said Planning Minister Nick Boles to a recent gathering of property developers. To back up this statement, new planning regulations are set to come into force at the end of May, which will allow more freedom for house extension developments and conversion of offices to residential use. The government hopes these most recent changes will help act as a catalyst for increased demand for construction contractors and service suppliers throughout the UK. What could be the likely impact of these changes?

House extensions

There are in the region of 10,000 new planning applications for private residential work that involve significant construction work (i.e. significant extensions, loft conversions and conservatories) every month across the UK.

The cost of gaining planning approval is estimated to be in the region of £1,200 for a householder application. With the average cost of a house extension at £35,000, any future increase in demand for house extensions must therefore be set in the context of this potential 3 per cent - 4 per cent price cut.

DCLG estimate that these changes will increase (on a like-for-like basis) house extension building by 15-20 per cent by bringing construction work forward and stimulating demand and increasing new extension starts.

Residential conversions

There were just under 3,000 new plans submitted to UK local authorities for residential conversions during the first quarter of 2013 – around 1,000 per month. Approximately three-quarters of these applications propose a single residential unit.

Planning costs associated with residential conversions are on average higher – hence the savings for this category of developments are likely to be proportionately smaller. Even DCLG admit the impact on greater office to residential conversions is likely to be minimal.

So will these changes make a real difference? The strength of the opposition to the plans reveals a widespread opinion that the impact will be both significant and detrimental. The opposing arguments of the House of Lords were powerful enough for the government to grant all local authorities an opt-out in the loosening of house extension rules. The Federation of Small Businesses were among those who lobbied hard to ensure there would be no relaxation in the regulations regarding office to residential conversions in at least 17 local authorities, so far.

Many commentators are much more circumspect. They point out that the complexity of local regulations mean little difference in costs between permitted development and full planning approval – and hence little impact. They argue that the risk of tearing an extension down will, at least for some time to come, inflate pre-application consulting

costs. And ultimately, the power and individuality of local authorities in planning decisions mean that implementation of changes will remain at the mercy of local opinions.

Acting as a balance on both sides are perception and sentiment – which may in fact trump any logical impact analysis. The acute sensitivity to new development creates a background of conservatism and negativity. Revealingly, the government's own consultation on these proposals in November 2012 showed nearly 70 per cent opposed the full commercial proposals and 85 per cent objected to the relaxation of house extension regulations. Despite the negative consultation, the changes have nevertheless been introduced.

The realists within government may privately acknowledge that the actual numbers of new developments directly encouraged by these changes may well be small. However as one more perceived "victory for developers" the changes may contribute to a wider picture of growing confidence. Taken together with more sure-footed statements from some of the UK's leading housebuilders, this further drip feed of measures may well help a more positive overall environment for the UK construction industry.

Paul Graham is managing director of Planning Pipe (www.planningpipe.co.uk), online provider of bespoke construction sales leads and planning updates on new construction projects throughout the UK.

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CPD focus

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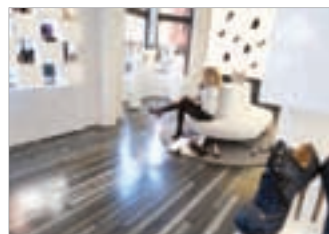
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01908 525 150
www.bona.com

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Open plan homes are popular and make good use of space, but fire safety and building control approval problems have caused many architects to avoid them. Automist from **Plumis** now allows many open plan layouts in flats and three storey houses to comply with building regulations without recourse to a sprinkler system, and is covered by an LABC Registered Detail. *Enabling open plan homes* with Automist explains its design, testing and the route to approval, and discusses possible layouts.

020 7871 3899
www.plumis.co.uk

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01622 872 432
www.leadsheet.co.uk

LRWA CPD SEMINAR



The LRWA (Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association) has announced the launch of its RIBA approved CPD, available online for specifiers, architects, and surveyors. "Continuing Professional Development is crucial for anyone working in the construction industry" commented Terry Wain, LRWA technical secretary. The CPD itself should take around 25 minutes to complete and includes information on the history of liquids and the various ways in which the LRWA aims to promote best practice within the industry.

0207 448 3859
www.lrwa.org.uk

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SOLAR SHADING SOLUTIONS CPD



Faber Blinds is passing on its expertise in the form of a RIBA-approved CPD. Senior specification manager for Faber Blinds, Simon Barratt, explained that the Solar Shading Solutions CPD highlights the importance of sustainability and the challenges of designing, manufacturing and installing products to meet the exacting standards of such projects. It also provides an overview of current EU regulation and the requirements of LEED and BREEAM.

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UK must tackle housing shortfall to cater for ageing population

Comment from Gary Day, land & planning director for McCarthy & Stone, Britain's leading builder of retirement apartments

A report by the House of Lords Committee on Public Service & Demographic Change recently highlighted the woeful lack of specialist housing in the UK and called for a reform of the planning system.

The 'Ready for Ageing?' report found that only about two per cent of older owner occupiers in the UK currently live in specialist accommodation, compared to 17 per cent in the USA and 13 per cent in New Zealand and Australia.

But would older people in the UK take advantage of this type of accommodation if it was available? Data from Shelter indicates that one in three people over 55 in the UK would do so.

And research from McCarthy & Stone and the University of Reading suggests that delivering even a small increase in this type of housing would deliver huge benefits in terms of improved well-being for older people as well as reduced health and care costs.

The research shows that 64 per cent of our residents actually experienced an improvement in their health and well-being following their move, despite the fact that the average age of our residents is around 78 in our Later Living schemes and 83 in our Assisted Living schemes.

Housing is a key determinant of health. For instance, better, community-based housing can help with loneliness, which has been rated as a similar health risk to lifelong smoking. Loneliness also has strong links to degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's; an illness that costs the NHS an estimated £20 billion a year. According to Age UK, over a third of people aged 65+ in the UK feel lonely.

A review of the National Planning Policy Framework would encourage the housing market for older people, and we are pleased to be working with the HBF and other providers to make the case for more specialist accommodation.



One key recommendation is supporting local authorities to encourage this type of housing via their local plans and housing assessments.

Suitable housing helps to preserve independence with well-designed and warm homes reducing the need for social health care. With just 500,000 specialist dwellings of this type in the UK and four fifths in the rental sector, older people should have more choice and options for later life.

Minister challenges councils to find land for self-builders

Councils were challenged to step-up to help boost housebuilding by finding land for local people to build their 'grand design' by Planning Minister, Nick Boles recently.

The minister said he was determined to help families who aspire to self-build and create their dream home.

Speaking at Grand Designs Live during National Self-build week, the minister praised councils such as Bristol Council, who have already taken significant steps to identify suitable pieces of land for self-builders in the city.

The government is already making it easier for people to build their own home by exempting self-builders from paying thousands of pounds on a levy charge that must be paid for all new buildings over a certain size. See related story on page 6.

The UK has the lowest level of self-build homes in Europe, where more than 80 per cent of homes are self-build in Austria and more than 50 per cent are in Scandinavia, Germany and Belgium.

Nick Boles said: "We urgently need to build more homes and now is the time for councils to act and earmark areas that encourage people to buy a plot of land and get a builder to build them a home.

"We are determined to help families fulfil their dream of building their own home and are keen to work with the industry to showcase those councils leading the way in making specific sites available for self build, so aspiring homeowners can turn their plans into a reality."

The self-build industry turns over approximately £3.6 billion a year, protects and creates thousands of new construction jobs and boosts local economies.

The following local authorities are a few which are leading the way on identifying specific sites for self-build:

- Bristol City Council – Bristol have pledged to make public land available for self build and called for architects to come up with ideas on how self build could improve housing supply in the city.
- Cornwall – Local organisations are helping self-build groups bring forward schemes in the county.
- Cherwell – The council have established the 'Build!' initiative, which will provide 250 homes across the district.
- Newcastle – The council's Fairer Housing Unit is exploring options for using an element of the Council's £25 million Future Homes Fund to assist the delivery of self build and co-operative housing across the city.
- Cambridgeshire – Self-build is being brought forward as part of the first phase of the new town of Northstowe, located just north east of Cambridge. The current proposals indicate plans for 150 self build units. 'K1 Cohousing Project' at Orchard Park, will also provide around 40 new self-build homes for local families.
- Teignbridge – The council is taking action to support self-build by requiring a proportion of self-build plots to be provided in all large developments, supporting Neighbourhood Plans seeking to deliver multiple self-build plots and working with affordable housing providers to provide affordable eco-friendly self build plots for local people in housing need.
- Shropshire – Shropshire has adopted 'Build Your Own Affordable Home' policies, where people in need of housing are able to apply to build a house. The policy has created 10 per cent of the affordable housing in the area.



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Avonside Group Services' stand at Ecobuild featured Lightway light tubes, installed by Avonside Daylight on the award-winning RoofSpace I-Roof™ system. Avonside Daylight has an exclusive deal to install the crystal light tubes, which capture natural daylight to brighten dark rooms – reducing the need for electric lighting – in domestic

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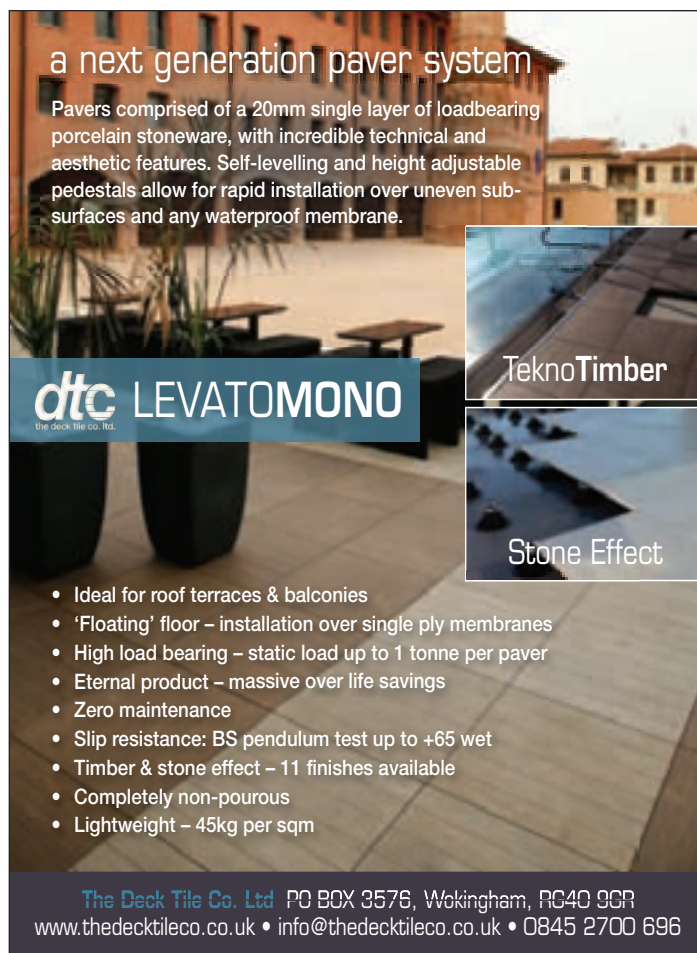
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BREEAM excellent student accommodation



3,000 metres of Ancon brick support angle and over 800 Ancon windposts have been supplied to the construction of new student accommodation at the University of Liverpool's Chatham Street campus.

The project comprises an east and west block of six and nine storeys respectively and has been designed, by Stride Treglown, to be BREEAM Excellent. The concrete frame with traditional brick cladding provides the buildings with thermal mass, which will moderate temperature fluctuations and minimise heating and cooling costs during occupancy. The scheme provides a range of dwelling types including single bedrooms, studio flats and two-bed apartments, as well as high specification catering and conferencing facilities.

0114 275 5224 www.ancon.co.uk

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The first range of hygienic wall and ceiling panels to meet stringent European fire safety standards is now available in the UK. Beplas Hygienic Walls and Ceilings Ltd has signed an exclusive stock holding deal with US manufacturer Panolam Industries Inc, to market its range of Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) in the UK. It is the only hygienic cladding material in the UK to achieve B,S2,d0 to EN13501 certification and has been proven

to be more fire resistant than traditional PVC-based panels, giving off significantly less smoke and with lower smoke toxicity. Panolam FRP is widely used in the USA in the food manufacturing industry as well as hospitals, restaurants, fast food outlets, schools and care homes, where public safety and good hygiene are of paramount importance.

Dallmer drainage products at KBB



Dallmer Ltd now celebrating its centenary and still owned and run by the Dallmer family, showcased several new products at the KBB exhibition at Excel during 19-21 May 2013. As acknowledged leaders in wet-room drainage, Dallmer exhibited the latest variations on CeraLine channels. Now available with 'Flex' and 'Pronto' connectors, these make quick, reliable installation even easier in solid, beam and block or timber floors. The Tisto brand is also extended, an even larger range used for complete security when waterproofing a level access shower. TistoStone allows the floor finish to be incorporated in the surface over the drain, but without the restriction of flow.

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Durable solution at secondary school



A school in the West Midlands now exceeds building regulations for thermal performance thanks to the installation of a new Stratex warm roof from **Kemper System**. Water ingress in some areas of the roofs led to a decision to refurbish and upgrade them, comprising a combined area

of around 900m². Roofing contractor, Cooper Roofing, was brought in to carry out the work and specified Kempertherm insulation board from Kemper System along with the roofing specialist's Kemperol V210 cold liquid-applied waterproofing membrane. Thanks to the 20-year warranty offered by Kemper System, the School can also be confident that the new roofing membrane will provide a long service life.

019 254 45532 www.kempersystem.co.uk

Kemper System rolls out the red carpet

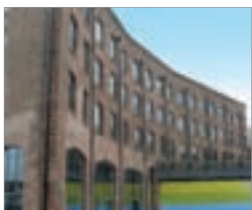


A major multinational medical devices, pharmaceutical manufacturer was able to remain operational at its UK headquarters throughout an extensive roof refurbishment project thanks to the solvent-free Kemperol 2K-PUR waterproofing membrane from **Kemper System**.

The original inverted roof design was upgraded to a warm roof, improving the thermal performance. Kemper's Kempertherm FR insulation board was selected due to its dense closed cell structure and interlocking tongue and groove joints. The joints reduce cold bridging and give a rigid base creating a smooth, flat surface with stable joints.

019 254 45532 www.kempersystem.co.uk

Helifix in tune with conversion requirements



To meet strict Building Regulations governing its change of use, from a former carpet warehouse to a modern city academy, the Grade II listed Piano Building in Kidderminster required 1,500 linear metres of stainless steel HeliBar from **Helifix** to reinforce and secure brick panels on all elevations. The contract to undertake the work

was won in open tender by Eden Group of Birmingham, an Approved Installer of Helifix's proven repair and reinforcement systems. The fully concealed Helifix system provides non-disruptive masonry reinforcement while still being flexible enough to accommodate normal building movement, leaving a fully restored façade with no visible disturbance.

Now you can do it in the wet with Geo-Fix



Geo-Fix is already the trade's favourite paving jointing compound but now it is even better as **Everbuild Building Products** announce the arrival of Geo-Fix All Weather – same quality that you would expect from the Geo-Fix brand but with a new rain compatible formula! We all know that the great British weather is unpredictable, which can often make planning an outdoor job difficult. With

Geo-Fix All Weather there is now no need to worry about losing out because of wet weather forecasts, because Geo-Fix All Weather is guaranteed to do just as good of a job come rain or shine!

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Intelligent membrane for maritime museum

Cutting edge building membrane technology is helping to preserve a chapter of naval history for future generations. The Mary Rose Museum, based at Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard – a £35 million purpose built structure to house the world-famous Tudor warship – is set to open to the public in spring. With a 450 year-old hull and some 19,000 artifacts from the historic ship to preserve inside the museum, the construction firm, Warings turned to leading protective membrane manufacturer **Industrial Textiles & Plastics Ltd (ITP)**. Working to designs drawn up by Wilkinson Eyre Architects – whose previous credits include the iconic Tyne Millennium Bridge – it was down to Portsmouth-based Warings to deliver the vision of a building styled to resemble a finely crafted, wooden jewellery box with black timber planks, reflecting the structure of the original Mary Rose. Powerlon UV is a range of poly-acrylic and co-polymer breathable membranes engineered to provide long-term protection to buildings. Designed for exposed installations behind wooden façades, Powerlon UV blended seamlessly with the museum's timber cladding to provide exceptional resistance to Ultra Violet degradation and superior durability compared to conventional breather membranes.

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RigiSystems provides new look



RigiSystems Alubond rainscreen panels have been chosen for the façade of the marketing suite for one of London's most prestigious new developments – Greenwich Square. This exciting development in the heart of Greenwich combines residential with a new public square

including leisure facilities and a range of retail amenities. Each block of the development is designed to be unique in order to offer different experiences while walking through the site. This is reinforced through the quality and diversification of materials and finishes, exemplified on the marketing suite with the rainscreen panels.

01905 750500 www.rigisystems.org

Pioneering Cotsworld Collection



Northcot Brick is offering builders and architects the best of all worlds with the innovative 'Cotsworld Collection' – the first of a new generation of machine made bricks, which has many of the qualities and characteristics of traditional handmade products. Made from finest Cotswold clay, this unique collection

is coal-fired to create an attractive natural appearance, with distinctive warm tones and a variable textured surface, which will add value to a wide range of new build and renovation projects, enabling builders and architects to create a stunning design feature. Available in three distinctive pastel shades – red, blend and orange – the range is hand blended to create a consistent mix of bricks within each pack.

SipBuild UK school extension in five weeks



SipBuild UK manufactured and built a new classroom and series of extensions at Meadowside CP School in North Yorkshire, in just five weeks using Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs). Meadowside needed to increase the capacity of its classrooms to meet the

demand for places created by the credit crunch baby-boom without disrupting term-time activities. SipBuild UK MD Chris Duckworth said: "This was an ideal project for SIPs and the results have been amazing. We were on-site within five weeks and built an entirely new classroom within five days. This allowed other contractors to get on-site and complete the roofing, rendering, wiring and plumbing without disrupting the school calendar."

0845 689 1974 www.sipbuilduk.co.uk

Kingspan TEK® shelters flock



The structure of Manchester's new 'Pop-up Cathedral' has been erected on budget and in just 11 days using the high performance Kingspan TEK® Building System. The 220m² building has space for up to 300 people and will be used to hold services over the next 18 months while the city's

historic Cathedral is closed for repairs. The requirements made the Kingspan TEK® Building System an ideal solution for the project. The System is constructed from highly insulated timber panels known as Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), which are engineered and cut to size offsite, allowing efficient installations with little or no site waste.

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Marmoleum helps to create a healthy environment at Salford Royal

Marmoleum's inherent bacteriostatic properties, superior environmental credentials, ease of cleaning and contemporary appearance made it the ideal flooring for two state-of-the-art facilities built as part of the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust's £200 million redevelopment scheme. Main contractor Balfour Beatty specified over 20,000 sq m of **Forbo Flooring Systems'** Marmoleum Real for the Hope Building – housing a new A&E department, critical care unit and 242 beds – selecting Dove Grey and contrasting blocks of Fresco Blue and Hyacinth to mark out receptions, seating areas and bed bays. Marmoleum's fiery Bleeckerstreet was installed in the Mayo Building, a training centre equipped with mock-up wards, simulated operating theatre and restaurant. Anne Symons, Balfour Beatty design manager, said: "Resistant to MRSA and other bacteria – as well as being sustainable, durable, easy to clean and available in an impressive variety of colours – Forbo's Marmoleum was the obvious choice."



Call for Brick Awards 2013

Once again, the search is underway to find the best brickwork in action for the 2013 Brick Awards, organised by the **Brick Development Association**. The Awards are one of the top design and construction awards in the country and show just what brick – the UK's most popular cladding material – can achieve. Entrants are judged on a wide range of architectural design factors including demonstrating the building fabric's sustainability credentials and the aesthetical choice, blend and bond of brick. The Awards are open to anyone, whether they are architects/designers, building owners, developers, housebuilders, contractors or brick manufacturers. The only stipulation is that the project – unless it's featured in the Worldwide category – must feature clay bricks or pavers made by BDA members. The 2013 Brick Awards will be presented at the Marriott Grosvenor Square Hotel in London on 14 November.

020 7323 7030 www.brick.org.uk/2013-entry-form



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‘Haute Couture’ in residential construction

Aesthetics are key to stylish residential building

Roermond / Hannover – “The List” is the most highly populated district of Hannover, in the view of many, it is also the city’s most culturally diverse quarter. This is the area where the residential building co-operative Gartenheim eG this year renovated a multi-family residence, which is home to a total of 18 tenants. Originally built in 1957, in the 1980’s this house was insulated with an external composite thermal insulation system (ETICS) and rendered in a light beige colour. Described as “dreary, uninspired and as boring as a hundred other houses in the surrounding area” by Dr Günter Haese, director of the residential building co-operative Gartenheim eG, who developed, together with the architect Larisa Kozjak, the idea of renovating the façade in a way that would turn the building into a modern jewel.

Their concept to envelope the building with an uplifting colour scheme and at the same time creating the image of a warm ‘scarf’ around the building led to the development of a ‘knitted design’ for the façade. ROCKPANEL façade panels in six carefully-chosen RAL colours were ‘knitted’ into a stimulating, alternating light and dark coloured pattern all around the building. ‘Haute Couture’ is what the ambitious director named his modernisation project, which for several weeks now has invigorated the image of Isernhagener Straße in Hannover with its charm and striking style. “Here we’ve implemented for the first time a transformation from unappealing insulating covering to noble designer envelope”, says Dr Günter Haese, who has already set his sights on developing more buildings for Gartenheim eG that will soon be given a non-combustible and vapour-permeable stone wool façade insulation along with an attractively designed façade using ROCKPANEL cladding boards.

Aesthetically successful knitting pattern

The architect Dipl.-Ing. Larisa Kozjak remains intrigued by the creative possibilities that have been opened up by the use of the ROCKPANEL Rockclad façade panels: “We’ve replaced a purely functional yet unattractive surface with a highly expressive web structure that surrounds the building like a custom-made suit, so it becomes a feast for the senses instead of being a boring monochrome façade.” However, nothing was left to chance when planning the 700m² façade: the deployment of each of the six colours was precisely planned in order to ensure a successful overall aesthetic look. “When using so many and such strong colours, one must be very careful to avoid giving the impression of a thrown-together, muddled mess”, notes Larisa Kozjak.

Good processing characteristics create a compelling look

Together with the installation company Voss Bedachungen and ROCKPANEL Larisa Kozjak planned the implementation of the entire façade construction in minute detail. 180 mm-thick ‘Fixrock’ stone wool insulation slabs from ROCKWOOL were mechanically fastened, without joints, onto the façade creating a fire safe insulated envelope. The Voss employees built an aluminium profile sub-structure onto which the ROCKPANEL façade panels were attached with rivets. The boards were, in line with the design plan, first cut in the workshop into strips of 2,250 mm in width and 3,050 mm in length and then mounted in a staggered pattern. “We adjusted the lengths on-site with standard wood processing tools”, explains installation company owner Bernd Voss, who had first worked with ROCKPANEL façade panels two years earlier. “It’s a construction material that I personally value very highly, thanks to its fantastic design on the one hand, but also for its processing characteristics. As a building professional, with ROCKPANEL you can deliver reliably first-class work, which gets both owners and planners quite excited – and of course that’s good both for the builder’s reputation and for securing new orders.” Bernd Voss also had all of the fastening rivets lacquered and delivered by the manufacturer to match the RAL-colours of the façade panels.



Sustainable makes for better living

“We also made a point of explaining the quality of the processed materials to our tenants”, explains Dr Haese. “Both the insulation from ROCKWOOL and the façade cladding from ROCKPANEL are building materials which are recognised in sustainable construction. This means that their eco-balance is good and they are recyclable.” ROCKPANEL façade panels are weather- and UV-resistant and colourfast, can be cleaned if desired. “This guarantees the façade to look good for decades to come, which isn’t always the case for plastered surfaces. In addition, by replacing the existing ETICS systems based on polystyrene insulating materials with stone wool insulation, we have improved the façade’s fire performance thereby increasing the safety of our tenants.”

The Managing Director is already planning the next façade renovation with the same products, this time in Hannover-Herrenhausen, a district that is renowned for its parks and green spaces. “The design idea is implemented together with our planning and construction partners. With our new ‘designer collection’ on the façades, we are not only eliminating dullness from the residential building, but also setting high standards with regard to technology, material and manual processing”, as Dr Haese puts it in describing his philosophy. “We want to position ourselves as an exceptional provider of unique but affordable living space. Naturally, ‘Haute Couture’ has its price, but it also always remains unique and distinctive: quite simply something of enduring value.”

For more information on this project, visit the ROCKPANEL website or request a reference card of this case study via www.rockpanel.co.uk/contact



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Design sustainability into the building fabric



Ian Clarke, technical application manager at Tata Steel Colorcoat® discusses the important role that the building envelope can play in helping architects to meet sustainability targets

The building fabric is a valuable tool for architects in designing buildings that will withstand the internal and external conditions that they are subject to, as well as adding to their aesthetic appeal. However a recent survey carried out by Tata Steel found that many architects are undervaluing the envelope's potential to improve the overall environmental performance of the building.

Sustainability remains a key issue in the design and construction of buildings and both government and clients are looking to architects to play a leading role. The government is committed to ambitious carbon reduction targets, including an obligation for all UK commercial new builds to be zero carbon by 2019. As well as this, a number of changes to building regulations Part L, set for autumn this year, are likely to put even more focus on building sustainably.

And it is not just the government that is driving sustainability forwards. Research published in September 2012 by Cushman & Wakefield found that the number of investors and fund managers implementing minimum sustainability performance standards for their property portfolios has more than doubled from the previous year.

Of the 56 architects surveyed by Tata Steel, only 40 per cent of respondents believe that design teams are making the best of the building envelope for improving environmental performance. The building fabric presents a number of opportunities to enhance the sustainability credentials, from improving the energy efficiency to incorporating active renewable energy systems and responsible sourcing. About 94 per cent of survey respondents agreed that those who do not utilise the building envelope in this way are missing a trick.

So how can architects make sure they aren't missing out? To meet government targets and client requirements, architects must consider sustainability across the whole life cycle of the building and not just during the construction phase and consider the role of the building fabric at an early design phase in order to fully take advantage of the opportunities that it can offer.

A large majority of respondents to the Tata Steel survey are already making use of the building envelope to provide efficiencies through air tightness (95 per cent) and insulation (85 per cent), but only



'By incorporating renewable energy systems into the fabric of the building, the role of the building envelope can be transformed from passive to active, efficient and affordable energy generation'

30 per cent are using it to incorporate renewable energy generation technologies such as solar air heating systems and photovoltaics.

By incorporating renewable energy systems into the fabric of the building, the role of the building envelope can be transformed from passive to active, efficient and affordable energy generation, reducing emissions as well as operating costs. There are a number of systems both on the market now and in development that aim to make renewable energy a fully incorporated part of the building envelope.

For example, through solar air heating systems, it is possible to capture heat from the sun and draw it into the building through a micro perforated pre-finished steel collector installed as an external skin on the exterior of the building. The pre heated air can then be distributed directly into the

building as ventilation or ducted into the main heating system to reduce the energy load. Such systems can reduce a building's heating requirements by up to 50 per cent as well as providing fresh ventilation air for a healthy and comfortable internal environment.

Aside from heating, the lighting and cooling of a building rely largely on electricity. The inclusion of electricity generating renewable technology into a building design can have a significant impact on reducing the building's emission rates as well as ongoing operating costs and traditional energy consumption.

Photovoltaic systems, which convert solar radiation into electrical current, can be easily incorporated into the envelope material to generate supplementary energy to power the building. With system developments meaning that installation costs are falling, this is an increasingly viable option for generating renewable energy and helping design teams towards the goal of zero carbon buildings.

The building envelope represents a quick and effective way that architects can incorporate sustainability into their projects, as well as providing long term cost benefits. Those that do not take advantage of these benefits are truly missing a trick.

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Axis installs seven automatic doors at new Trioscape Garden Centre

Architectural Technologist Angela Wadley of local company Total Design Ltd wanted the new Trioscape Garden Centre, near Newent in Gloucestershire, to be as environmentally friendly as possible and it features many energy saving products. Angela chose **Axis Automatic Entrance Systems** of Northampton to supply and install all the aluminium glazing and the tilt and turn windows as well as a total of 7 Stanley Dura-Glide automatic doors and a number of manual doors too. Axis MD Rob Brunero said: "Stanley Dura-Glide door operators combine state-of-the-art microprocessor technology with advanced engineering to provide the safest, most dependable and highest performance door systems in the industry – perfect for high traffic retail locations. We were delighted to work with Angela and Trioscape and, like them, think the results are stunning."

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Manchester United canteen extension



The first-floor canteen at Manchester United's prestigious Carrington Road training ground HQ has been modernised and significantly extended thanks to a large 'Clearline' aluminium sliding/folding door installation designed and installed by Kent-based, glazing construction specialists

Frameless Glass Curtains Ltd. The 'Clearline' installation consists of two sets of sliding/folding insulated glazed curtains forming a newly enclosed extension to the Premier League Club's canteen. The second set of doors opens from this area – which has been equipped with offices down each side – onto a balcony overlooking the training ground.

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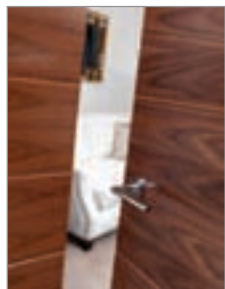
Timber door canopies by George Woods



George Woods UK manufacture a large range of door canopies, all hand made in timber from sustainable forestry. The company always holds a large stock of its standard size canopies, which enables it to offer a next day delivery service. A bespoke design service is provided for both timber door canopies and barge boards, which can be crafted from your own design. Beautifully crafted porch canopies are

available in soft wood and include an extensive range of barge boards (fascia boards), all of which are manufactured on site by hand in the company's workshop. Having a canopy prolongs the life of your front door and extends the time between maintenance and adds value and a greater visual appeal to your home.

JB Kind increases range of certified doors



'Environmentally conscious' is how James Cadman, **JB Kind's** managing director, describes the UK's attitude towards the purchase of new doors. With current figures pointing to an expected fourfold increase in the annual sales of FSC certified doors during 2013, JB Kind has increased the number of FSC certified doors by 86 per cent to 79 door designs across 11 ranges. The best news is that JB Kind hasn't made these products cost prohibitive. If you take a look at

the price of any of the FSC certified door designs, you'll see JB Kind's trademark balance of product quality and value for money.

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Levolux helps Tesco make savings

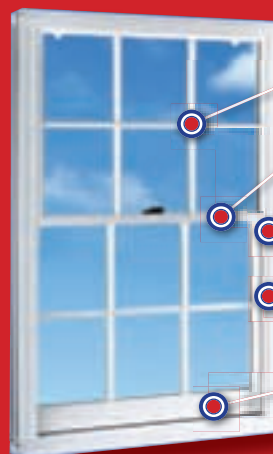


Following a multi-million pound investment, Highams Park in north-east London has been transformed, with an exciting new mixed-use development, featuring an attractive Timber Fin Solar Shading solution from **Levolux**. This was required to control solar heat gain through glazed openings, to enhance the external aesthetic of the development and to create a privacy screen for residential units. To complete the installation, Levolux incorporated its Timber Fins into a series of sliding screens fitted to the south-facing elevation of an adjoining terrace of three-storey town houses. Screens were installed at first and second floor levels, across a total of 14 full-height glazed openings. Each Screen, measuring 1.3 metres in width by up to 2.6 metres in height, is suspended from a concealed track.

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Litchfield Group: Sheerframe Bi-fold door



The Litchfield Group, a market-leading manufacturer of PVC windows and external doors, has launched a pioneering bi-fold door system with a $0.8W/m^2K$ U-Value. The Sheerframe Bi-fold door achieves industry leading thermal performance and energy efficiency

thanks to a unique four-seal design. This promotes unbeatable air and water tightness, for lasting durability and weather resistance. The high performance system also features Sheerframe's five-chambered PVC profile, which improves strength while minimising heat loss. Ideal for use in both commercial and domestic settings.

Stunning new Apeer-ance



One of the most exciting developments to happen to composite doors in a decade has been launched by Apeer with 12 cutting edge new designs. The Modern Door (MODO) collection from Apeer is a design-led portfolio of contemporary new doors, developed and fully manufactured at Apeer's state-of-the-art production facility at Ballymena in

Northern Ireland. The launch comes 10 years on from production of the company's first composite doorset in 2003. In the decade since then, Apeer has become widely regarded as the most advanced door entrance system on the market. The new range is being made to the same high spec as all Apeer 70 doors and comes with the usual 10-year structural guarantee.

028 2563 2200 www.appeer.co.uk



Modular grille system is a versatile performer

Neaco's Techdek modular aluminium grille system is gaining a reputation as one of the most versatile products on the market following its specification for a wide variety of uses in recent years, encompassing everything from solar shading to roof access walkways. A broad range of development projects have variously utilised its unique aluminium open grille profiles in applications such as decking, screening, ventilation, bridge cycle and pedestrian ways, cladding, flooring, staging, balustrade infills and stair treads. Lightweight yet strong and durable, the system has a patented swage-locked construction between bars which enables high structural efficiency. Neaco's national sales manager, Richard Richardson-Derry, comments: "Techdek was conceived primarily as a decking application, but its versatile modular design and the natural attributes of aluminium make it suitable for much broader use. Techdek can adapt to a huge range of angles and unusual curvatures while certain profiles greatly reduce net heat gain of sunlight striking a clear or tinted window."

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Latham's cladding range is second to none



Timber and panel products specialist, **James Latham** is now offering a wide range of timber cladding directly available from stock. Latham's entire timber cladding range is either FSC or PEFC certified and has been carefully selected to ensure that it meets the highest standards of quality. Western Red Cedar is a popular choice among architects and builders due to its superior dimensional stability. As well as shrinking and swelling much less than other timber, it stays flat and straight and resists checking, making it the ideal material for both internal and external cladding projects. Plus, it has a rich colour, meaning that projects using Cedar, if properly maintained, will look fantastic year after year. Latham's timber manager, Danny Jones commented, "Aside from its aesthetic appeal, this remarkable wood has outstanding physical characteristics. Western Red Cedar contains natural preservative oils making it highly resistant to decay. It's also lightweight and easy to cut and handle, reducing installation time." Danny added, "As well as Western Red Cedar, we also offer Siberian, Larch, Thermo-wood and Accoya directly from stock. In addition, we offer bespoke machining on request as well as treatments such as Tanalith and Aquavac plus a full range of fire retardant treatments. We also offer a staining and lacquering service for all depots."

0116 257 3415 www.lathamtimber.co.uk

Keep it safe with Securistyle



Walsall Manor Hospital was recently fined £80,000 after a patient suffered a fatal fall from a first floor window. A full investigation found the trust at fault for not having fitted restrictors to the window. More recently was the tragic case of four year old Caleb Wallace who fell from the third storey window of a block of flats in Glasgow in early March.

Securistyle prides itself on offering expertise and technical knowledge. In addition to friction hinges with built in restriction, the company offers a range of purpose designed individual restrictors. The Defender Cavity Fit Restrictor, for example, is ideal for domestic installations where there is a danger of falls. It is made from austenitic 304* stainless steel for enhanced corrosion resistance and tested to BS 6375-2:2009 – load bearing capacity of safety devices. It is compatible with all Securistyle domestic hinges and is available with a 10-year guarantee.

The Detachable Restrictor is ideally suited for more heavy duty applications such as schools or hospitals. This key release restrictor stay can withstand a force in excess of 1,000N when opened at the restricted position and is compatible with all Securistyle commercial hinges.

01242 221 200 www.securistyle.co.uk

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RMIG provides elegant solar shading for French château

An extensive decorative sunscreen, using precision perforations from RMIG, is forming part of a major refurbishment of a historic château in Saint-Avertin, France, which is being converted into a 'mediatheque' library designed by Tours based architects Dominique Blondel Architecte.

Château de Cangé stands on the site of an original castle built in the 13th Century, which was gradually modified and developed by a succession of owners into the current design.

While the château's individual architecture and external appearance has been preserved throughout the restoration, the interior of the building has been sensitively extended, modified and re-purposed for its new role as an events centre and 'mediatheque' library, which revisits one of its former uses.

With the extension of the château's library and the creation of large public areas within the building, the architects incorporated an extensive sunscreen design to help provide shade and ensure thermal gain is reduced and the public areas maintain a comfortable temperature.

RMIG France worked closely with the architects to create, prototype and develop the final perforated and laser cut patterns within the 130m² of decorative

solar shading panels, which are secured to the exterior of the building in front of the large windows, which allows natural light to enter due to the 'netting' effect.

Once the final pattern was agreed, RMIG produced the design using a complex array of 15mm diameter round perforations and special laser cut shapes within 2mm thick 'Corten' alloy steel. The architects chose Corten as it is designed to 'rust' when weathered, which was ideal for the design as it enhanced the aged and historic architecture.

However, although the exterior might appear to look like rust, the oxide produced actually protects the material's substrate from further deterioration and constantly regenerates the protection under further weathering.

"The use of tasteful contemporary design alongside the château's traditional architecture reflects the building's new use as a multi media library for film, visual arts, books and documents," said RMIG's project manager, Sylvain Dandois. "The selection of the material, which quickly weathers to provide an aged patina also adds further character to the historic building as well as providing a practical and elegant solar shading solution."



01925 839 600
info.uk@rmig.com
www.rmig.com

NVELOPE keeps student housing watertight



NVELOPE has supplied a new £19 million student housing development in Plymouth with its NV6 system including brackets and NVELOPE carriers to provide secure installation of a façade, which needs to withstand tough weathering conditions. The brief

required a modern and innovative structure which, while being practical and durable, is also capable of withstanding harsh coastal environment. A crucial criterion for the project was that the cladding had to be particularly watertight. Eight thousand NVELOPE NV6 brackets will connect approximately 2,500m² of zinc cladding and 600m² of stainless steel façade, to the substrate, which is composed of 18mm WBP plywood and Kingspan K15 rigid insulation board.

Flat pan – high profile



RigiSystems Ziplok has been used in a flat pan format to create a traditional yet contemporary feel at Addenbrooke's Children's Hospital in Cambridge. Removing the miniribs from the standard Ziplok profiles creates the pleasing aesthetic of the structure. Use of a triple skin, fully supported insulation system

ensures that the roof sheets maintain their shape while also catering for the acoustic and thermal requirements of the building. Penetrations such as wind catchers and rooflights are welded into place to preserve the integrity of the roof while maintaining the clean lines and aesthetic appeal.

01905 750500 www.rigisystems.org

Shackerley helps Hotel La Tour to establish new identity



Shackerley's ceramic granite façades have helped to create a unique and striking brand identity for Hotel La Tour Ltd, perfectly complementing the ultra modern design of the company's £24 million flagship hotel in Birmingham. PHP Architects of Northampton specified Sureclad ceramic granite ventilated cladding to provide a dramatic outer envelope for this landmark building, the first of five UK city centre 4-star hotels that Hotel La Tour is hoping to open. Over 4,300m² of prefabricated ceramic granite has been installed in conjunction with a Sureclad Access System, with gleaming white façades in natural travertine effect finish providing a striking counterpoint to the highly polished black ceramic granite elevations. Shackerley's ceramic granite was specified for its attractive premium quality appearance, strength and hardness, durability and low maintenance properties. It has the aesthetic appeal of naturally hewn stone but is an engineered material with none of the flaws and weaknesses of granite or marble. Fully vitrified and impermeable, it is unaffected by climatic extremes, impervious to airborne pollutants and algae growth and resistant to acids and alkalis. Even graffiti can be removed with ease. Because of its through-body colouring, patterning and graining, the appearance of the façade panels will not fade over time, even in the most intense UV light.



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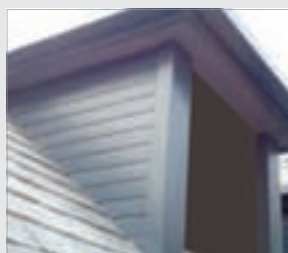
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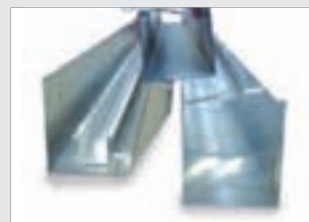
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Kooltherm stars in Channel 4 restoration



Kingspan Insulation's Kooltherm and Therma ranges of products have taken a role in Channel 4's *Restoration Man* series, installed as part of a project to convert a Grade II listed church into a holiday home. The uninsulated roof and solid stone walls offered little protection against the

cold. Over 600m² of Kingspan Insulation's premium performance Kooltherm products were installed. To insulate the church's roof, 50mm thick Kingspan Kooltherm K7 pitched roof boards were fitted over a sarking board, with a further 70mm installed underneath it. For the wall build-up, 42.5mm of Kingspan Kooltherm K18 insulated plasterboard was installed above the wall cill, with 62.5mm below it.

01544 387 384 www.kingspaninsulation.co.uk

Sound insulation from Hush Acoustics



Hush Acoustics manufactures sound reducing products and systems for residential buildings including, holiday dwellings, hostels, hotels and universities halls of residence, to name a few. All Hush products and systems are sourced responsibly from sustainable and recycled raw materials and exceed

the requirements of UK Building Regulations including Robust Details, BB93 and the Code for Sustainable Homes. UK Building Regulations require that airborne, impact and flanking transmission sound are controlled – practical guidance is given within Approved Document E. Established for over 25 years, Hush Acoustics are one of the longest established acoustic specialists in the United Kingdom.

Swish windows and doors impress



Residents of Redrow's prestigious new housing development in Lytham St Annes are enjoying attractive and warm homes, thanks to **Swish Window and Door Systems**. Swish's 'A' rated casement windows were used for the family homes and villas in the development, while curtain walling was also used for the

villas, plus the apartments. Beck Brown coloured foils were utilised for the curtain wall and windows, in order to create a modern, aesthetically appealing finish. Some of the larger properties on the development also feature sliding patio doors, which adhere to Secured by Design specifications.

0808 178 3040 www.swishwindows.co.uk

S&A Developments with VEKA



VEKA customer S&A Developments has been busy completing a number of commercial contracts lately, all while promoting the benefits of recycled PVC-U. The Darwen-based company has manufactured 1,000 windows, using VEKA's renowned Infinity recycled profile system, which have been fitted into two different social housing projects in Wigan. S&A Developments has worked with Baas Construction to upgrade the social housing offering on Knowsley

Avenue in Wigan. The intention was to make the properties more energy efficient and VEKA's Infinity profile system was chosen for the replacement of all 500 windows.

01282 716611 www.vekauk.com

TROX launches new online design tool



TROX has launched Version 2 of its extremely popular design tool – Easy Product Finder – which is faster and easier to use, and includes additional product ranges. Easy Product Finder has become a vital tool in the building services industry, helping system designers and specifiers to identify system

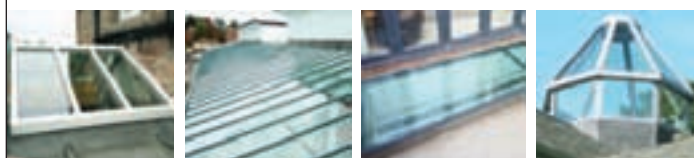
components and collate all the necessary costings and technical material. TROX has now announced the arrival of Version 2, which features a new intuitive design concept. This latest generation of the product selection tool enables users to design and configure the workspace in the way that best suits them. In addition, keyboard entries and shortcuts can be set up to enable users to work faster.

Certification with UNILIN roof panels



UNILIN Structural Insulated Roof Panels provide developers and architects with highly efficient roof constructions that are fully compliant with all UK building regulations. Factory manufactured to exacting tolerances, UNILIN roof panels achieve BBA approval (No. 02/3897), ensuring compliance with The Building Regulations for England (2010), Wales (2010), Scotland (2004) and Northern Ireland (2000). The BBA approval has considered the strength and stability, fire behaviour, weather-tightness, condensation, thermal performance, airtightness and durability, finding Unilin roof panels as fit for their intended use.

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Survey reveals poor acoustics affecting office productivity



Working in a shared or open-plan office is considered the norm, yet a survey of 2,000 workers commissioned by Ecophon, part of leading international materials company Saint-Gobain, has revealed that a lack of acoustic treatment in these spaces is having a negative impact on employee productivity. Almost 80 per cent of those surveyed work in open plan or shared offices. When asked what they thought about the current acoustic environment in their office, more than half of respondents (54 per cent) said working in an open-plan workspace sometimes makes it difficult for them to concentrate and do their job. Two thirds (61 per cent) of those surveyed are also bothered by the lack of privacy that open-plan offices provide, with a further 42 per cent of respondents claiming that they don't have access to private or quiet rooms at all. With more than half of respondents (52 per cent) spending more than 40 per cent of their time on concentrated tasks, 51 per cent also say that they get disturbed by other teams. Ecophon is calling for architects and designers to consider acoustic treatment and other factors such as temperature and air quality, alongside other challenges such as changing technology, environmental issues and facilitating flexible working practices as a holistic approach to modern office design.

01256 850977 www.ecophon.com/uk

A fresh solution from SE Controls for Birmingham City Council offices



Birmingham City Council's award winning office development at Woodcock Street is using an advanced natural ventilation solution from SE Controls to create a comfortable environment for staff and visitors, while enhancing the building's sustainability credentials by reducing energy consumption. Designed by Associated Architects, the £38 million five-storey building provides a flexible working environment for around 3,000 employees and forms part of the local authority's plans to rationalise its office portfolio. In addition to rainwater harvesting, a 'brown roof' wildlife habitat and photovoltaic panels, SE Controls' natural ventilation solution also played an essential role in helping achieve the energy reduction targets. SE Controls supplied, installed and commissioned the extensive natural ventilation system, which involved 562 TGCO chain and tandem type actuators together with 101 OS2 type 22 controllers to ensure the precise operation of automatically opening windows and vents within the workspace and four atria, which are managed by the building's integrated BMS. The natural ventilation system's operation is also enhanced by the construction methods used with the building. Using steel framed construction and steel floor beams with 200mm thick hollow cellular core concrete floor planks, the design optimises the building's thermal mass to enable the temperature to be managed without additional external cooling.

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Aspire Defence uses BWT's AQA Total

BWT UK was asked by Aspire Defence to resolve the issue of having to de-scale a hot water system on a quarterly basis in a diner within an Army camp, which is maintained under the MOD's Project Allenby /Connaught.

The hot water system uses two direct fired Andrew water heaters MAXXflo 60/300 installed on an unvented hot water system, fed by a cold water booster set to provide hot water to the kitchen areas. The hot water heaters are installed on a hard water mains system of approximately 360ppm hardness. Every three months, because of the high hardness levels in the mains water, the water heaters needed a full de-scale. This high hardness level also caused reliability problems with the boilers as the scale build-up reduced the heat transfer and the de-scale introduced down time for the units.

In September 2012, BWT UK offered Aspire Defence, its patented technology of an AQA Total. This unit uses nano water technology to change the water characteristics and stop the hardness forming in the heat exchangers as scale, protecting the water boilers and ensuring that they run at their correct efficiencies.

An AQA Total 8400 was installed and a trial period of three months was set to see whether AQA Total could cope with the taxing conditions that the diner's installation demanded.

Heat differential readings were taken by the manufacturer on the newly

de-scaled boilers and the AQA Total was commissioned. Between October and December 2012, readings were again taken on a monthly basis by the water heater manufacturers and BWT, as well as water usage readings for the system. These readings showed that no efficiency had been lost and so no scale had formed in the boilers, and for the first time since the boilers were installed there was no need for a quarterly de-scale. In the three month trial period, over 357m³ of water had been used, that is a potential 129 Kilos of hard water scale that did not build up!

Aspire Defence's estates technical director was impressed: "The AQA Total unit has performed beyond our expectations on a very problematic site, keeping the boilers scale free. Another plus is that since fitting the AQA Total there have been zero breakdowns on the water heaters."

Aspire Defence's interface manager added: "With continued performance like this, the AQA Total will be an effective scale prevention device to add to all our hot water installations."



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PaySmart™ debt free energy billing

Historically, many landlords and housing associations who manage housing schemes with communal heating have been required to maintain a debt fund to cover any shortfall in energy payments. This is used in circumstances where residents fail to pay for the energy they have consumed and often leads to an increase in the tariff rate for all residents of the scheme to cover the debt fund. Evinox can eliminate the requirement for a debt fund by providing a system where residents pay for energy in advance, which keeps the tariff rate down due to less administration and less debt management service being required. The PaySmart™ debt free metering solution enables residents to be in control of their own energy bills by paying for energy in advance and therefore removing any burden of building up unpaid bills or debt. This system also takes away the collection of money by the managing agent or housing association and provides residents with flexibility and choice over how they pay for their heating and hot water. Unlike traditional pre-payment systems, the process of adding energy credit to the PaySmart™ system is automated so there is no requirement for the resident to insert a card for activation.

01372 722277 www.evinox.co.uk



Design and innovation from Aarrow

Arada is proud to announce the launch of its new and improved Aarrow i Series range of stoves. These new models offer sleek and contemporary designs combined with the latest Aarrow technology.

The i Series models were first seen in the heating industry over a year ago but there have since been aesthetic improvements and extensions to the range with the introduction of the largest inset convector stove ever manufactured by Arada.

The improvements include, a new polished silver handle, which is easier to operate than on previous models, a new, straight, fuel retainer and the optional extra of an internal flue damper to allow the flue draw to be reduced if necessary.

With five models available ranging from only 400mm wide to an impressive 610mm wide, with outputs from as low as 4kW up to 8kW, there is a perfect partner for any contemporary home.

01297 35700 www.arada.uk.com

Heating with high efficiency pumps

Richard Harden, sales director – building services at Wilo UK discusses new reasons for heating your home with pumps



When you're thinking about heating for your home, the circulating pump may not leap out as the most important component. But without one, the heat will not circulate around the radiators or underfloor heating. When choosing the pump you use, you should consider a number of things, not just the purchase price. Think about the life cycle costs of that pump – remember that if you don't have a modern high efficiency pump, at least 90 per cent of the costs associated with the pump over say, the next fifteen years, will be energy costs – on your annual electricity bill.

Having addressed the issues relating to the energy efficiency of boilers through Building Regulations resulting in all boilers sold today being around about 90 per cent efficient, and begun the process of encouraging the introduction of renewables on a wider scale, the government has had to turn its attention to other components of the heating system to find other sources of savings that will make a contribution to the totals required to make a dent in the targets with which it's faced.

One of the key components of a heating or cooling system that currently uses too much energy – although quite small in size and overlooked by many as a key user of electricity – is the pump.

The new efficiency requirements are practically impossible to achieve without using high-efficiency pumps with EC motor technology

The total electricity consumption of all glandless circulating pumps operated in the European Union for heating and air conditioning – the normal small circulating pumps – has to be halved by 2020. This is the objective of an EU ordinance under the European ErP (Eco-Design) Directive, which regulates the energy efficiency of this type of pump, and has done since 1 January 2013, with a further tightening of requirements planned for 1 August 2015. Overall, these changes are thought to be likely to provide an energy saving of 23 terawatt hours for the EU as a whole. This corresponds to the electricity generated by about six medium-sized coal-fired power stations, or a reduction in EU-wide carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of about 11 million tonnes per year.

In order to achieve this goal set by the European Commission, the EU ordinance



The old, uncontrolled pumps that are still operating on millions of domestic and small commercial heating systems in this country are responsible for much higher energy bills

compared to electronically controlled pumps with conventional drives.

The important new yardstick for determining which pump models can continue to be used in future is referred to as the energy efficiency index (EEI). Since January 2013, the limit EEI value of glandless circulating pumps installed outside the heat generator – external pumps – not those incorporated in combi or system boilers at this stage – has been defined as 0.27. From August 2015, the EEI limit value will be reduced to 0.23. This will also apply to glandless circulation pumps, designed to operate in newly installed heat generators or solar thermal systems (integrated pumps). In the last implementation stage, the regulations starting from 2020 will also apply to the replacement of integrated pumps in existing heat generators.

Because there are still many heating and air conditioning systems which are equipped with pumps that have no speed control, an unnecessarily high amount of electricity is consumed – up to 10 times more than the newest pump generation requires. Models with extremely low electricity consumption are available. These not only benefit the environment but also clearly offer significant benefits

to the homeowner because of lower electricity bills, while making no concessions in terms of comfort and performance.

It still comes as a surprise to many that the energy consumed by small circulating pumps on heating systems across the UK can 'guzzle' so much electricity. The reality is that the old, uncontrolled pumps that are still operating on millions of domestic and small commercial heating systems in this country are responsible for much higher energy bills, far higher CO₂ emissions and far higher energy usage than is necessary today. By replacing an elderly uncontrolled pump it's possible to make an annual electricity saving of around £100, which over an average fifteen year life span of a pump is responsible for around £1,500 of savings on the electricity bill. It'll pay for itself in two, or at worst, three years.

The EU Commission estimates that inefficient circulators are responsible for about a 20 per cent share of household energy bills and removing them and replacing them with intelligent circulators could save as much as €2.2 billion by 2020 across the 27 European member states – equivalent to the total annual electricity consumption of Ireland!

prohibits the sale of technically outmoded, inefficient pump models from 2013 onwards. This will mean a ban on sales of about 90 per cent of the glandless circulating pumps that were on the market in 2009. The reality is that the new efficiency requirements are practically impossible to achieve without using high-efficiency pumps with EC – electronically commutated – motor technology. These make it possible to double the efficiency

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Exclusive smoke ventilation solution from SE Controls for London's Marconi House

London's new Marconi House apartments and an adjacent hotel development, are using advanced SHEVTEC® smoke and heat exhaust ventilation systems from SE Controls to provide smoke free escape routes for residents and staff in the event of a fire.

Located on The Strand, the Marconi Wing apartment building has a long and varied history, originally housing the Gaiety Theatre's restaurant before being redeveloped as the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company HQ.

The latest phase in its evolution, which has been designed by Foster & Partners, includes the construction of an exclusive development of 86 apartments behind the original stone façade that still bears the Marconi name. Alongside this, the five star hotel development provides 157 bedrooms, which is served by a separate and completely independent SHEVTEC smoke ventilation system.

As each building has different layouts and specifications, SE Controls worked closely with Lloret Fire and Security on the hotel development and



Nomico on the apartments to create separate smoke ventilation solutions dedicated to the apartment building and hotel while integrating fully with their fire alarm systems.

SE Controls was responsible for the supply, fitting and commissioning of the north and south stair smoke shaft control systems, involving the installation of SHEVTEC automatically opening smoke shaft door actuators on each of the apartment block's eight levels, primarily to provide pressure relief to the stair core pressurisation systems and passive smoke extraction to the communal lobbies when activated by the fire alarm.

SE Controls' extensive solution incorporates SHEVTEC automatic multi-blade dampers on each floor, including basement levels, together with 28 OS2 Type 21 controllers, 31 fire service tamper proof MCPs and reset points two repeater panels to provide full status monitoring. All systems used within the SE Controls system are CE marked and conform to the latest legislation requirements for performance, fire safety and operation.

Further information on SE Controls' products, solutions and projects can be obtained by visiting www.secontrols.com or calling 01543 443060



Double win at National Heat Pump Awards

The 3rd National Heat Pump Awards held at the ICC Birmingham, on Thursday 16 May proved to be a crowning-moment for **Space Air Solutions**. Under the category, Product Innovation – Ancillary Product; Space Air's unique Daikin Altherma Accessory Kits won the main award. Space Air has been designing and manufacturing ancillary components, to fully optimise the efficiency of Daikin systems, for over 32 years. Double winner, Space Air was also presented with the special 'Recognised for Excellence' Award for 'Energy Monitoring'. Neil Afram, MD Space Air, commented: "Every Space Air supplied Daikin Altherma system comes complete with a consumer watt meter to monitor the system's energy consumption and provide readings, which are also taken at time of annual maintenance. As each system is also provided with the Daikin Altherma accessory kit, the actual readings when compared to the original predictions are often outperformed."

01483 252 252 www.spacealtherma.co.uk



Specflue sustains Mother Earth

The **Specflue** group was educating and implementing environmental issues long before it was 'good to be green' which is reflected in having a specialist environmental manager – Graham Hawkins – who attributes the success of the company to numerous diverse themes and products underlined by the diverse ethos of Specflue now being suppliers and designers of prefabricated flue and chimney systems, renewable energy sources, hot water systems and training providers for the sector at large. "We are always looking to learn and participate in positive themes for the benefit of customers and the planet alike and continually implementing best practice and technology" says Graham. In technical product terms The Specflue range starts with the Danish range of TermaTech wood burning stoves, which manage to be attractive and strong at the same time while giving some four times the efficiency of open fires. All of the stoves are easy to use and come in attractive colours.



Reduce noise, reduce stress

Your home is your haven, a place to relax and enjoy life with family and friends. However many homes across the UK have an unwelcome visitor... NOISE!!

Road traffic noise, rail noise, noisy neighbours, built-up areas and noise from commercial operations can all penetrate our haven and disturb our lives – this can lead to serious health issues. Numerous studies show that living in a noisy house can be extremely stressful. It can have a damaging effect on quality of life and have an impact on the educational achievements of children.

To dramatically reduce noise transfer via through-wall ventilators Rytons has developed a fantastic new range of Super Acoustic LookRyt® AirCores® which provide exceptional air flows and the best sound proofing possible. The company's new Super Acoustic range combines the revolutionary design of Rytons LookRyt® AirCore® with advancements in acoustic foam technology for a range of retro-fitted core ventilators that are the latest in style and performance.

Keep ventilation to habitable rooms comfortable with Rytons New Super Acoustic Background Ventilators. With amazing soundproofing up to 50 dB (Dn,e,w), these controllable background room ventilators allow fresh air to dilute odours and prevent condensation whilst minimising the transfer of outside noise.

Permanent ventilation need not mean permanent noise with Rytons New Super Acoustic Boiler, Stove and Fire Ventilators. Quiet and efficient, these ventilators have impressive equivalent areas, reduce noise transfer by up to 45 dB (Dn,e,w) and are also HETAS approved for use with solid fuel appliances.

Rytons New Super Acoustic LookRyt® AirCores® feature Rytons unique LookRyt® panels. Angled openings around the rear of the face plate reduce draughts by allowing multi-directional air flow to disperse evenly into the room. The face plate is suitable for wallpapering or painting any colour allowing the panel to co-ordinate with the room décor for a discreet appearance.

Rytons Super Acoustic LookRyt® AirCores®, helping achieve a quiet life.



01536 511874
admin@rytons.com
www.vents.co.uk

SE Controls' smoke ventilation provides safe environment at flagship research laboratory



The Medical Research Council's new £200 million Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) is using an advanced smoke ventilation systems specialist, SE Controls, to provide smoke free escape routes for scientists, staff and visitors at the recently completed facility in Cambridge.

Designed by RMJM architects and constructed by BAM construction the LMB provides 27,000 sq m of usable space and is located adjacent to Addenbrookes Hospital as part of the expanding Cambridge Biomedical Campus, a renowned global centre for excellence in biomedical research.

Within its construction, the LMB uses a number

of energy saving technologies and innovative solutions to provide heating, ventilation and solar shading as well as cooling through a deep bore closed loop geothermal system to meet the laboratory's 1,600kW peak cooling demand.

Within the extensive smoke ventilation system, SE Controls supplied 197 chain actuators with a 603mm stroke length to operate smoke vents located throughout the building together with controls for eight staircase smoke hatches. The system included five SE Controls' 60 Amp power supply unit (PSU) panels as well as eight OS2 Type 21 controllers and manual control points (MCP's). As it was essential that the system complied with latest legislation, all actuators

are CE marked and were tested to the stringent EN12101-2 standard.

SE Controls not only supplied, installed and commissioned the smoke control system, but also the building's automatic venetian blind solar shading, which are part of the LMB's energy efficient operation strategy and are operated by solar radiation sensors located on the roof.

SE Controls' project manager David Sawyer said: "The LMB not only houses some of the world's most advanced biomedical research facilities, but it also contains some cutting edge technologies as part of its energy efficient design, and safety systems including the smoke ventilation and solar shading solutions with which we were delighted to be involved."

SE Controls specialises in the design, project management and installation of advanced smoke ventilation and natural ventilation solutions.

01543 443060
info@secontrols.com
www.secontrols.com

Energy efficient wood pellet boilers from Grant

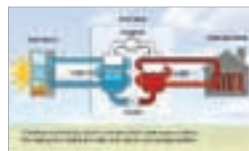


Grant UK has been designing and manufacturing reliable, high quality, easy to install heating products for more than 35 years. Perhaps best known for its award winning oil fired condensing boilers, Grant UK has expanded its business very successfully into the new world of renewable heating technologies, offering the most efficient air source heat pumps, a sector leading eco efficient solar thermal system as

well as the Spira Wood Pellet boilers – all in a range of sizes that would complement virtually any UK residence. The MCS approved Grant Spira Condensing Wood Pellet boilers are available in outputs of 6kW up to 72kW and deliver efficiencies up to 97.4 per cent.

01380 736 920 www.grantuk.com

The Renewable Design Company

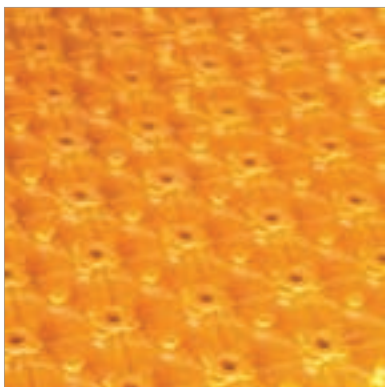


The Renewable Design Company is a new name but with years of experience in the renewable energy industry. Launched in 2012 with the key objective of ensuring that the 'design' element of renewable installations is at the forefront and with the aim to

demystify the different technologies and their combinations. Design is crucial to getting the most out of any renewable installation. Too often short cuts by builders, plumbers and heating engineers at the design phase lead to underperforming systems and underwhelmed clients. RDCo navigate customers through the alternatives in plain English plus provide a free quotation and estimate of savings and paybacks.

01242 698410 www.therenewabledesigncompany.com

Schlüter-BEKOTEC-THERM heats historic barn conversion



The owner of a derelict farm building in Derbyshire who converted it into a luxury family home has chosen the Schlüter®-BEKOTEC-THERM underfloor heating system to heat it. Robert Clifford, a company director, purchased the 120-year old brick and stone constructed Redferns Barn in 2010 and over the past year has overseen its conversion to a family home. This included the installation of the Schlüter®-BEKOTEC-THERM underfloor heating system throughout the ground floor of the 3,000 sq ft 'U'-shaped building, encompassing its large kitchen and dining room, lounge, office, cinema room and bedrooms. Robert comments, "My wife and I lived in a smaller barn conversion in a nearby town and always had the idea of looking at a larger project in the future. We spotted this building by chance in an estate agency window and went on to purchase it. "I first came across the Schlüter®-BEKOTEC-THERM system when visiting the Schlüter-Systems stand at a self-build exhibition. Having picked up a brochure I was particularly drawn to the system's innovative features so selected it for our project." Benefits of Schlüter®-BEKOTEC-THERM include a 30 per cent thinner screed, which helps to distribute heat much faster, therefore using less energy and helping to reduce heating bills.

01530 813396 www.schluter.co.uk

Solus & Duo from Ellis Furniture



Solus and Duo from **Ellis Furniture** are available in four widths, 17 different door options spanning three competitive price bands, 16 diverse carcass choices and a variety of 17 handles. The wide range of high gloss colours and beautiful natural wood grains mean you can mix and match door

and carcass colours and finishes for a truly individual design. Solus and Duo are available with the Ellis minimo push to open technology. Use the free Bathroom Styler App or go to www.bathroomstyler.co.uk and experiment with a wide choice of unit sizes, doors, carcass options, handles and splashbacks to create life-like, on screen images.

01484 514212 www.ellisbathrooms.co.uk

Cementone floor levelling compounds



Cempolay floor levelling compounds from **Cementone** offer excellent performance and a selection of products for a range of different flooring jobs. The range includes Cempolay Deep, which has been specially formulated for the direct laying of vinyl, ceramics and textiles at depths of up to 50mm. It is a high strength, fast setting deep self levelling compound, which can be used for raising floor levels and levelling uneven sub-floors in light to heavy duty internal applications. What's more, it will dry to accept foot traffic in just 1.5 hours. Also available

is Cempolay Ultra – Cementone's strongest self-levelling and resurfacing compound. Cempolay Ultra is ready for foot traffic after two hours.

Clearly the best!



Clear Fix, by **Everbuild**, is a clear hybrid polymer grab adhesive that has the ability to bond just about everything in both interior and exterior applications. It is a versatile product that can be used in almost every application imaginable – particularly for jobs that require an invisible finish – even when immersed in water! Clear Fix comes in a completely clear cartridge, which illustrates the true clarity of the product and offers something unique to the industry. Quick curing, resistant to temperature extremes, over paintable and totally water and weatherproof, Clear Fix has been specially formulated with added UV stabilisers to ensure the product doesn't yellow over time.

0113 240 2424 www.everbuild.co.uk

Presenting a new one-stop catalogue



Decorative electrical wiring accessories specialist, and audio and lighting control systems manufacturer **Hamilton Litestat** has launched a new catalogue for architects, designers and specifiers, which is the first of its kind for the company. A4 sized and perfect bound, the catalogue features information on all Hamilton products in one place for the first time, replacing Hamilton's previous literature, which comprised separate inserts. Each colour-coded chapter contains information on a particular Hamilton range, including wiring accessories collections as well as audio and lighting controls. Details include product images and diagrams, product codes, technical specifications and case studies.

01747 860088 www.hamilton-litestat.com

Stylish column casings from Encasement for Salford's Media City



Stylish column casings from **Encasement's** Circa range are being used to conceal structural columns and provide an integrated contemporary finish within the Pie Factory building at the innovative Media City development at Salford Quays. Media City is one of Europe's most dynamic mixed use developments combining workspace, residential and retail, as well as one of the world's most advanced HD broadcast studios and multi-media and production facilities, which are used extensively by the BBC and ITV. To meet the demands for a contemporary design and high quality finish that integrates with the building's décor, Encasement was chosen by the interior designers to supply and install a series of unique circular column casings, which are finished in durable polar white Formica laminate. Each 750mm diameter column casing stands 3,000mm high and is made up from 16 separate 'quartered' segments, which are secured to the structural column and connected by brushed stainless steel laminate feature joints. Matching brushed stainless steel header and skirting collars have also been installed. Encasement's managing director, Martin Taylor, explained: "Media City is an outstanding development and although we have supplied and installed casing solutions to a diverse range of other prestigious projects, the meticulous finish and attention to detail demanded for these columns is particularly satisfying when they're viewed as an integral part of the finished Pie Factory offices."

Neaco's bespoke balustrade featured at iconic community project



Neaco has supplied a bespoke balustrade specification at The Street, a £6.5 million world-class youth and community facility in the heart of Scarborough. Designed by Seven Architecture and built by Willmott Dixon, the 3,000sq m, four-storey building provides a wide range of education, leisure and community support services and features Neaco's Spectrum balustrade in powder coated aluminium in stairwells and an atrium where the balustrade has been extended to twice the standard height to meet design requirements.

Neaco's national sales manager Richard Richardson-Derry said: "Neaco are delighted to have contributed towards this outstanding community project with our Spectrum system forming part of its highly impressive design scheme. At Neaco we pride ourselves on our design flexibility and The Street is the latest of numerous projects in which our technical team has developed a bespoke solution outside of our standard specification."

Requiring no welding for assembly, Spectrum's versatile modular system has the capacity to meet virtually any design permutation or installation requirement. The system is also available in satin polished stainless steel or an aluminium/stainless steel combination.

JIS Europe at KBB 19-21 May 2013



JIS Europe will be displaying its extensive Sussex range of stainless steel heated towel rails at the KBB Exhibition on stand number D5. All towel rails are manufactured to exacting standards in 100 per cent stainless steel in an extended range of sizes and are available in brushed satin or polished finish making these radiators durable and hygienic and they come with a 25 year guarantee. JIS Europe, suppliers of modern styled radiators and towel rails, point out that stainless steel does not corrode, chip, flake or bubble. It is durable, easy to clean and totally hygienic and it retains a high quality appearance throughout a long life.

01444 831200 www.sussexrange.co.uk

Mapei celebrates BBA certification



Mapei is delighted to announce that they have been awarded British Board of Agreement (BBA) certification for their Mapetherm EPS External Wall Insulated System. The Mapetherm System is an external wall insulation system that utilises EPS sustainable alternatives to conventional insulation materials.

Consisting of adhesive, insulation, base coat, mesh, primer and thin coat render finish, it aims to limit heat loss and guarantees significant energy savings, and is already achieving great success in very demanding climatic conditions worldwide.

0121 5086970 www.mapei.co.uk

New Aspect™ accessible bathroom design service for architects and specifiers



Gainsborough Specialist Bathing, one of Europe's leading choices for the design, installation and after-sales support of assistive powered baths, has introduced the new Aspect™ accessible bathroom design service for all architects, building specifiers and developers. With over 25 years of specialist knowledge, Gainsborough delivers the optimum accessible bathing solution for all specifiers engaged with projects associated with long term care, acute care and local authority housing. It's new Aspect™ design service now provides enhanced visualisation and specification capabilities during accessible bathroom planning and survey stages. The Aspect™ design programme has been specifically developed so that Gainsborough can deliver highly accurate scaled drawings, photo-realistic 3D renderings and bespoke plans of each bath in-situ. These are combined with all quotation information and a breakdown of pricing in one concise document for quick and easy reference. This ensures projected end results can be visualised more effectively during the planning of all accessible bathroom installations. When actual fitting begins, installers are able to deliver greater efficiency and ultimately assisted bathing needs are met more precisely through Aspect™ from Gainsborough Specialist Bathing.

0800 542 9194 www.gainsboroughbaths.com



True scale from Axiom® by Formica Group

Formica Group, a worldwide leader in the decorative laminate market, introduces True Scale, one of the most exciting design additions to its Axiom® kitchen worktop range. Developed by Formica Group, True Scale captures the subtle variations inherent in natural materials such as stone or wood. With no repetition across the full width of the laminate sheet, patterns can be unveiled in their full-size beauty, whether it is on kitchen worktops, breakfast bars or splashbacks. Architects, designers and specifiers can choose from nine Axiom® True Scale decors, which provide a variety of looks and colours to coordinate with any kitchen interior. Black storm, black sequoia, slate sequoia, breccia marrone and breccia pacifica capture the uniqueness of natural stone, the large scale veining and fine detail such as character markings, providing a stunning feature and a focal point for any kitchen.

0191 259 3478 www.axiomworktops.com



SOLOLIFT2 – a rewarding experience

The SOLOLIFT2 range of macerators from Grundfos really is a cut above the rest. Not only does the family comprise of just five models but, through the flexibility of their design, their adaptability and performance, they provide the solution to handling wastewater for any combination of WC, bidet, sink, bath, shower and washing machine. So whether the application demands an extra bathroom, a basement installation, or is for extra facilities in hotels and guest houses; or perhaps where facilities are needed for the elderly or the disabled, or is part of a commercial building renovation – Grundfos has the answer. Additionally, the modular design of the new Grundfos SOLOLIFT2 means that servicing can normally be achieved in situ without the need to drain down the system. Importantly these new SOLOLIFT2 models are not only suitable for new installations but also for replacing any existing macerator unit. As a thank you Grundfos is offering an added bonus, simply purchase any SOLOLIFT2 model before 30 June 2013 and you will qualify for £20 Love2Shop vouchers. Find out more by visiting the website:

01525 850000 www.grundfos.co.uk/sololift2

A step by step guide to safer stairs for housebuilders

Pauline Kelly, chair of the British Woodworking Federation (BWF) Stair Scheme, looks at the safety issues of timber stairs in new homes and offers tips for housebuilders

A step by step guide to safer stairs

The humble staircase is one of the most common areas for accidents in a UK home. Shockingly, more than 300,000 people injure themselves by falling down stairs each year.

Unfortunately much of the problem can come from poor design and manufacturing defects. However, currently the standards for manufacturing stairs are not consistent enough and there has been little signposting of quality manufacturers to the housebuilding industry. This is the purpose of the BWF Stair Scheme, which is now estimated to cover 60-70 per cent of the market and requires manufacturers to ensure all stairs comply with current building regulations and meet relevant performance requirements such as load carrying capacity and fire resistance.

Of course, it isn't just the stair manufacturers who have struggled with the historic lack of standards; Building Control professionals face a complicated journey to verify the standards of the manufacture and installation of staircases. There is currently no British Standard to work towards; meaning an integral part of a house is potentially being built to poor or even unsatisfactory standards. And as timber stairs are increasingly being chosen for multi-occupancy buildings, the consequences of a staircase failing in an evacuation situation would be devastating. A stair that has been manufactured to meet the standards of an accredited scheme makes inspections a more manageable process for site managers and building control professionals.

From this April, the new Approved Document K: Protection from falling, collision and impact, comes into play. This document provides thorough guidance on issues such as the rise and going, construction of steps, headroom, width and length of a flight of stairs, landing areas, handrails and guarding. It is imperative that housebuilders become more familiar with these requirements to ensure the successful installation of stairs.

For most houses, the staircase is a simple structure needing only to provide access from the ground floor to the first floor. As there is a possibility of the house being occupied by a child under the



Image courtesy of Yoxall Joinery Ltd

'From this April, the new Approved Document K: Protection from falling, collision and impact, comes into play'

age of five there are many considerations to take into account to ensure their safety too. Steps should be of an equal going and rise and be accompanied by a solid banister where the guarding would prevent a child being held fast and where a 100mm sphere could not pass through. Children should also be unable to climb the guarding.

These precautions are extended to multi-occupancy dwellings and should also consider stair users under the age of five. For buildings such as these, gangways need to be considered as well as the width and length of flights of stairs. As these buildings are multi-level and stairs are providing access for many occupants, consideration must also be given to landing spaces. It is also recommended there is a change of direction for every 36 steps. This creates greater design constraints and housebuilders must be aware of the complications they may face.



Image courtesy of Yoxall Joinery Ltd

Continued overleaf...

What to look for

Timber stairs can make a great visual statement in a home. Stairs certainly don't have to be dangerous. By paying greater detail to the design, manufacturing and installation process a solid and safe staircase can be constructed. Here are four things for every housebuilder to look out for:

- **Handrail** – Many stair users neglect to use a handrail, until they're about to fall. Then it's the first part of the structure that they reach for. Therefore the design of a handrail should take into account the distance between the going of the step and the average height of the user. The handrail must also be able to withstand the weight of the user and the sudden pressure someone may put on it. Timber stairs with solid spindles are by far the easiest part of a stair for a falling person to grab.
- **Over-stepping and under-stepping** – The most common accidents on stairs are caused by users over-stepping or under-stepping, basically misinterpreting where they should place their foot. If a stair is designed to have an equal going then the chances of under-stepping or over-stepping is greatly reduced and will minimise the risk of a fall.
- **Finish** – One major consideration for timber stairs is the finish that is applied. A staircase

that is overly varnished greatly increases the risk of a user falling, particularly if the going is less than 300mm. To avoid the issue of 'slippy' stairs, carpet can be added to give greater friction.

- **Badge of accreditation** – Housebuilders should consider the source of the staircase and the standards that have been followed to ensure it will stand the test of time when installed. The safest staircases are those that are part of an accreditation scheme, so look out for the BWF Stair Scheme badge. You'll usually find it in a 3mm deep recess on the lower newel post immediately under the handrail, or on the top left hand corner of the lowest riser.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Riser** – the vertical component of a step
- Going** – the horizontal distance between the nosings of consecutive steps
- Tread** – the horizontal surface of a step
- Nosing** – the front edge of a tread (that may overhang the riser)
- Newel Post** – the post into which a string or handrail is affixed
- Handrail** – a handhold to support safe use of the stair
- Balustrade** – guarding formed by a series of balusters, which are usually fixed between the handrail and the string or landing
- String** – the structural component into which the treads and risers are fixed
- Winder flight** – a flight formed by tapered treads allowing a change of direction in the staircase

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Wet room wonders from Schlüter-Systems

Schlüter-Systems' extensive range of wet room products offers simplicity, reliability and easy installation within the home. Incorporating the very latest innovations for floor-level showers and wet rooms, Schlüter-Systems provides a fully integrated product suite, including top of the range waterproofing sets, drainage systems, and uncoupling and waterproofing membranes for tiling the walls and floors. Products including Schlüter®-KERDI-LINE are linear drain channel systems, which are perfect for the construction of floor level showers and offer a particularly low assembly height. The Schlüter®-KERDI-SHOWER range are pre-sloped shower bases making tiling straightforward and there are a number of different sizes and dimensions available, providing an ideal substrate for an excellent finish with tile or natural stone.

01530 813396 www.schluter.co.uk

Marmox Multiboard warms Rutland Cottage



During the purchase of a delightful cottage in a rural location in Rutland the new owner noticed that the property seemed extremely cold. He decided to line the floor and walls with some form of insulation that was effective yet quick and simple to install. After considering the options available he decided that

Marmox Multiboard fitted the bill on both counts. Multiboard is manufactured from extruded polystyrene with both faces of the board covered with close woven fibreglass mesh embedded in a cement polymer mortar. This Marmox product is also simple to fix to solid or stud walls being easy to handle due to its light weight.

01634 835290 www.marmox.co.uk

New sink range for commercial applications



Reginox has launched a brand new range of sinks, taps and worksurfaces aimed specifically at the commercial market. The Regi-Commercial Hygienic range has been purpose-designed to meet the needs of commercial, public or retail areas where, due to high frequency usage, hygienic stainless steel

products are often a prerequisite. The range includes stainless steel sinks available with or without overflow and stainless steel worksurfaces that can include integrated sinks or washroom vanity bowls. A range of taps from leading supplier Pegler, including lever action options for the less mobile, also form part of the offer.

01260 280033 www.reginox.co.uk

Kinedo Moonlight from Saniflo



Saniflo offers a range of effective and stylish showering solutions for housebuilders. With its understated elegance and neutral styling, the Moonlight, from the prestigious Kinedo brand, will blend into any setting, whether classic or contemporary. Great for those who want the convenience of fitting a shower cubicle but still want the freedom to influence the look of their bathroom, it allows you to accommodate the choice of your own shower control. The

brushed aluminium effect panel can be easily drilled for any fixings. Moonlight is perfect for those who want flexibility as well as great functionality. Easy to install and maintain and available in three sizes.

020 8842 0033 www.saniflo.co.uk

Scolmore leads the way with SMD technology



Having last year launched one of the most efficient replacements for the 60W incandescent with its Energetic SMD LED 11W A60 lamp, **Scolmore** has continued to develop its SMD technology and latest advancements means the

company is now able to offer new dimmable options. There are now SMD LED dimmable versions of the 60W and 40W replacement lamps and the company promises there are more to come. The new 60W replacement dimmable option offers 806 lumens with a 12W lamp and the 40W replacement dimmable lamp offers 470 lumens with a 7.5 lamp. Scolmore has also added a 4.5W dimmable version of the existing 4W SMD LED – 35W replacement.

01827 63454 www.scolmore.com

Individuality from Mereway



With today's consumer household owning an average of 100 cosmetic and cleaning products, it's easy to see why all bathroom designs should include storage, and why **Mereway Bathrooms'** collection of iconic fitted and modular furniture has real style flare and individuality – a 'must have' in any bathroom space. Offering stunning finishes and hundreds of cabinet designs, not to mention reduced depth and ultra

slim options – there's a storage solution for every taste and budget.

0800 028 4466 www.merewaybathrooms.co.uk

Premium wood protection from Remmers



Whether skin or wood – protection is important and what counts is the sun protection factor. **Remmers** has developed a new product called Long Time Stain UV, which provides considerably better and longer lasting protection from UV-Rays that destroy wood. Whether fences, façades, windows and

shutters, doors or garden furniture, the solvent based, medium solid, translucent coating is designed for universal use on wood outdoors and is a joy to apply. It is drip inhibited and therefore makes overhead work a lot easier. The silk gloss finish repels soil, is easy to maintain and, as the name indicates, the coating protects for a long time.

0845 373 0103 www.remmers.co.uk

Sapphire Balustrades regenerates housing



New style Aluma aluminium balustrades from **Sapphire** are part of the regeneration of two housing estates in Lewisham, south London. Sapphire's relaunched Aluma system, featuring semi-frameless fixing for glass infill panels, strikes the perfect balance between durability and visual

appeal for residential balconies in four new tower blocks on the Heathside and Lethbridge estates. In addition to aluminium and glass balcony balustrades, Sapphire also supplied polished stainless steel handrails with coated steel uprights and vertical bar infills to give function and style to internal communal stairways.

Scolmore adds new media modules



As ownership of portable electronic devices continues to increase, so too does the number of leads and adaptors required to keep these devices charged. **Scolmore Group** has come up with a simple and neat solution with its new USB Charging

Module, which negates the need for a myriad of charging leads and means just one USB cable is required to charge all devices. It is designed for easy installation into a 25mm back box and has a charging capacity of 1000mA. An ideal retrofit product, the application potential is enormous with homes, offices, schools, hotels, education, leisure outlets and transport interchanges all set to benefit.

01827 63454 www.scolmore.com

Dickies sponsors Tog Studio



Dickies, the internationally renowned workwear brand, have joined forces with Tog Studio who host live-build projects that teach practical construction skills, by donating clothing essential for safety on-site. Tog Studio gives practical hands-on skills to people who wouldn't normally

get involved with the act of making so they can help deliver contemporary architecture and engineering projects. The project that Dickies donated to involved building a 'sitooterie' (an outdoor seating area) with service users of a Salvation Army Lifehouse in Edinburgh. The team built a crisp rectangular pavilion over the course of a weekend.

01761 419419 www.dickieseurope.com

Teardrop range makes a splash



Solus Ceramics introduces the sophisticated Teardrop range, which is a unique and elegant series of wall tiles inspired by traditional oriental flowing shapes and curved lines. The 'scale-like' tiles are available in six lavish colours including a deep turquoise and a regal red, and can be selected in both a matt and glossy finish. The tiles, which measure

115 x 195mm create dramatic patterns when laid together resembling the textures of exquisitely woven fabric. To add further design options, complementary joining pieces can be selected in a variety of colours to add even more luxury. Most recently the tiles have been featured in the brand new Hard Rock Café in Barcelona and were backlit to exciting effect.

0121 753 0777 www.solusceramics.com

Trespa adds colour to affordable housing



The urban jungle has a new landmark development courtesy of an innovative design by Glas Architects and the bespoke façade solutions created by Trespa. Making use of Trespa's Meteor panels, the £2.1 million affordable housing scheme in Elephant and Castle, London, for housing association Family Mosaic includes latticed façades inspired by ivy vines. Meteor panels offer the large degree of design flexibility and adaptability that Glas Architects required for

the development to create the distinctive and striking façade. The panels are also vandal resistant, tough, easy to keep clean and retain their appearance over a long period of time.

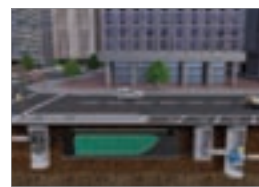
01952 290707 www.trespa.co.uk

Changing Places made easy



New Building Regulations are causing confusion for many specifiers, which can be clarified with new guidance from Clos-o-Mat. Under Building Regulations Approved Document M 2013 Access To & Use of Buildings, toilet accommodation needs to be suitable not only for disabled people, but for all people who use the building. Further, it is 'desirable' to include an enlarged unisex toilet incorporating an adult sized changing bench – a hygiene room or Changing Places toilet. To help ensure compliance, Clos-o-Mat, a leading UK supplier of disabled toileting solutions, has produced an informative white paper: *Considerations & Specification of Changing Places Accessible Toilets*. "Judging from the emails and telephone calls we are receiving, a huge number of people aren't fully aware of what these new requirements/desires are, and how they should be implemented," elaborates Clos-o-Mat marketing manager Robin Tuffley. "They are turning to us for help, knowing we have been involved in the large proportion of hygiene rooms/Changing Places toilets already successfully installed. We have pooled that knowledge into the white paper, to give them a valuable, easy-to-access resource, to make their job easier." The white paper covers all requirements for compliance in one place, and can be downloaded direct from Clos-o-Mat's website.

SuDS toolbox for surface water treatment



Hydro International is launching The Hydro StormTrain™ series, a comprehensive toolbox of surface water treatment devices in anticipation of the growing need to remove silts, sediments and other pollutants from stormwater runoff. Through the Hydro StormTrain™ series, Hydro is providing an unrivalled range of performance-verified and internationally-

recognised technologies for surface water treatment to meet current and expected water quality regulations in the UK. Four products, First Defense®, Downstream Defender®, The Up-Flo™ Filter and Hydro Filterra™ are Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

01275 337977 www.hydro-int.com

Lanes completes first chute reline



Lanes Group has used its innovative drainage technology to carry out the first ever reline repair of a refuse chute in a residential tower block in England. Its engineers reached for the skies instead of going underground to refurbish two chutes at the 13-storey Devonshire Tower in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. The technique, pioneered by Lanes' Scottish drainage operation, Castlebrae, is also used to reline drain stacks on listed buildings. Paul Matthews, area development manager for Lanes for Drains in Tyne and Wear, said: "Relining waste chutes, rather than replacing them, takes less time, is less disruptive, is more cost-effective and creates a robust, long-term repair."

0161 788 2261 www.lanesfordrains.co.uk

Solving your CO₂ and insulation problems



Did you know a paint reduces up to 26 per cent heat loss from school buildings? Thermilate Insulating Paint works by creating a thermal barrier. Draw on the confidence of a decade of experience from the original innovator of insulating paint products; through continued innovation. UKAS approved, it eliminates condensation and mould problems too. This odourless (Min VOC), low-cost insulation solution is water-based and immediately reduces carbon emissions. Thermilate is an insulating paint that can reduce the heating (and cooling) bills of any building by up to 26 per cent.

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Permitted paving

Taking a responsible approach to drainage is essential to reduce flooding and pollution from paving and hard landscaping. Government has recognised this issue with important changes to permitted development rules and other recent legislation requiring sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), as Chris Hodson, RIBA consultant to the trade body Interpave, explains

Following a year of unprecedented rainfall in 2012, action is urgently needed to avoid yet more flooding around the UK. And it is well recognised – including by government – that a sustainable approach to surface water drainage using SuDS must play a key role. When it takes effect, Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will effectively make SuDS mandatory. It will apply to any construction work that affects the ability of land to absorb rainwater, including access roads, parking areas, hard-standings and other paving around commercial and industrial buildings. Projects of all types will have to comply, including any alterations that have drainage implications.

‘Many planning authorities are already embracing SuDS and have incorporated requirements for them in local policies’

Chris Hodson

Slowing down and cleaning up

The SuDS philosophy is based on a management train made up of a series of techniques such as concrete block per-meable paving and ‘soft’ landscape techniques including swales and ponds. Where ground conditions preclude complete infiltration, concrete block permeable paving and other SuDS techniques play an essential role in slowing down and cleaning up runoff before discharge into conventional drain systems or watercourses, so improving water quality and reducing downstream flood risks.

So, what changes should we expect? Draft National Standards for SuDS have already been published and consulted upon, and government plans to engage with stakeholders in developing additional guidance for interpretation shortly. According to the draft National Standards, to comply, a drainage system will need to be designed so that surface water runoff is managed at its source and on the surface. Concrete block permeable paving is ideally suited to this and is set to play an important role in the future. Importantly, the

existing right to connect surface water drainage systems to public sewers (under Section 106 of the 1991 Water Industry Act) will be limited to those approved under the Act: in other words, only SuDS.

The Act’s wide-ranging measures cannot, however, be strictly applied until publication and implementation of the long-awaited National Standards – now estimated to be in April 2014. So, what action has been taken in the meantime?

Embracing SuDS

Many planning authorities are already embracing SuDS and have incorporated requirements for them in local policies being implemented now. This stance is supported by The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which came into force in March 2012, and previous national policies, such as PPS 25 (now withdrawn). SuDS are also an important part of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM 2011.

In addition, recent planning Permitted Development rule changes aim to apply SuDS techniques to new or replacement paving around existing homes and various non-domestic buildings. Before the changes, paving anywhere in a garden related to a house or bungalow, or within various non-residential properties (industrial, warehouse, office and shop premises), with any materials was considered to be ‘permitted development’ – effectively an automatic planning permission without needing a planning application. But not any more.

Guidance

For domestic properties, the changes take away permitted development rights from new or replacement drives or other paving between a house and the street, unless it is permeable paving or drains water onto a ‘rain garden’ area within the property. In England, these measures took effect in October 2008 and apply to paving over 5m² and in the front garden only. In Scotland, similar measures apply to work initiated after 6 February 2012 and apply to paving of any size between the house and any street – therefore not just front gardens. Both English and Scottish governments refer to a



guide on permeable paving from the Department of Communities and Local Government and this, in turn, refers to the Interpave website and guidance documents for more information.

For industrial, warehouse, office and shop premises, similar changes take away permitted development rights from new or replacement paving on a property, unless it is permeable paving or drains water onto a permeable area within the curtilage of the property. Otherwise planning permission will be needed. In England, these measures took effect in April 2010 and in Scotland, similar measures are being considered now.

DML bags itself a deal at new designer outlet

Façades and shopfront specialist DML Group has won a £2.5 million project at London Designer Outlet, currently under construction as part of the major development at Wembley after main contractor John Sisk & Son shopped around for a supplier.

The 350,000 sq ft, must-visit outlet shopping



destination, which is being developed by Quintain Estates and Developments PLC and designed by Leslie Jones architects, is one of two large-scale retail developments – the other being Trinity Leeds, to which DML has been appointed.

The Leeds-based firm will design, manufacture, supply, install and test common area curtain walling, shop front cladding and metal pilasters.

When it opens its doors to shoppers, London Designer Outlet will feature retailers including L.K. Bennett, Superdry, Guess, Nike, Gap, Clarks and Marks & Spencer, a new nine-screen Cineworld and a strong line-up of restaurants including Prezzo, Handmade Burger Co, Las Iguanas and TGI Fridays. Located adjacent to Wembley Stadium and Arena, plus a new four star Hilton, the centre has the largest catchment of any UK shopping centre with 10.4 million residents within a 60 minute radius.

Chris Murray, sales and marketing director of DML Group, said: "DML has considerable experience in delivering large projects like London Designer Outlet and we are proud to be appointed to this prestigious and high-profile scheme by John

Sisk & Son, which will give an exciting new look to the retail landscape in the south-east."

The DML Group has two divisions: Drawn Metal, which provides bespoke metalwork and shopfronts and whose clients include some of the world's leading brands; and DML Architectural Systems, which specialises in external aluminium façades, cladding, windows, unitised and curtain walling and is a preferred supplier for several of the UK's largest main contractors.

The company offers a total capability façade solution from design and build to bespoke entrances, whether clients are seeking a specialised, one-off requirement or a comprehensive, conception-to-completion, full turn-key provision.

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New five-in-one water aeration system

Brand new from water-quality management specialist Otterbine is the 'Fractional' five-in-one aerating fountain and mixer system. Not only is this 0.5hp unit more efficient and cost effective to run, but its spray can also be quickly and easily switched between four different patterns and into a horizontal mixer system for maximum value and versatility. This means that those with ponds and water features of around half an acre or 2,000 square metres or less can ring the changes with four attractive spray patterns. And simply by adjusting the discharge angle, the Fractional unit is transformed into a horizontal mixer, further improving water aeration and flow in operating depths as shallow as 16in/14cm. Ideal for small-to medium-sized bodies of water, the Fractional unit is a versatile and cost-effective way to keeping algae blooms, stagnation, foul odours and even fish deaths at bay.

01480 226848 www.otterbine.com

Galvanised coatings of distinction

Powdertech (Corby) Ltd is entering the prestigious Galvanizers Association Galvanizing Awards (GAGA 2012) with two notable projects in the Duplex Category for projects that feature galvanised steel with an organic coating.

"This year is the 20th anniversary of the competition," explained Powdertech sales director, Richard Besant.

"So I think it is about time we stood up to be counted among our peers. We are particularly proud of our work at Gresham Mill in Berkshire, where we coated architectural galvanised metal on the exterior of the carefully restored Victorian façade. At Heron Quays on Canary Wharf the approach was entirely contemporary: we galvanised and powder coated the perimeter balustrade around a pontoon. Entering and attending an awards ceremony like this is inspiring; we appreciate the aesthetic and performance qualities of projects we have worked on and we have the opportunity to admire the work of others in the same field."

The winning projects will be announced at the Awards ceremony on 27 June 2013 at the Royal Aeronautical Society in the West End of London.

The Galvanizers Association is the source of free information and advice about the hot dip galvanising process and the galvanising industry. For further information on Powdertech (Corby) Ltd and the benefits of powder coating please call today.



Heron Quays



01536 400890

richard.b@powdertech.co.uk

www.powdertechcorby.co.uk

A&G Group leads in carbon reduction



Acheson & Glover (A&G) Group leaps ahead in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) 2011-2012 Performance League Table, achieving a new position in the top 5 per cent of companies. The CRC Performance League Table ranks 2,097 of the UK's biggest organisations on their carbon emissions from energy use. A&G was previously ranked in the top 25 per cent. The leap to the top 5 per cent puts A&G ahead of its major rivals in hard landscaping and precast concrete manufacturing. The latest results from the CRC emphasises A&G's continuous efforts to improve its carbon performance.

0845 601 5207 www.acheson-glover.com

Thermally efficient wall tie for 150mm cavities

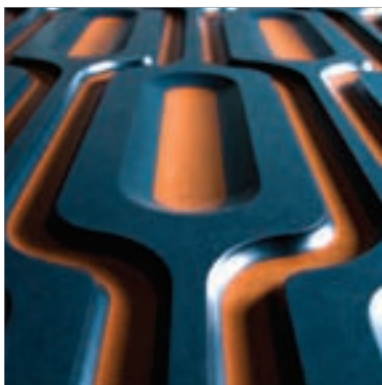


Ancon has become the first UK wall tie manufacturer to offer a Type 2 stainless steel wire tie for insulated cavities up to 150mm wide. The new 'Staifix RT2 275mm' wall tie has been designed to meet the growing demand for wider insulated wall cavities in multi-storey housing and commercial buildings, as

thermal performance requirements continue to increase. It is currently the only Type 2 wire wall tie available for cavity widths between 126mm and 150mm, suitable for buildings up to 15 metres high as standard and taller structures subject to calculation. Ancon's stainless steel wire ties form part of the company's low thermal conductivity product range.

0114 275 5224 www.ancon.co.uk

The evolution of MDF



Timber and panel products distributor **James Latham**, is now stocking Valchromat, an innovative and award winning material, which offers almost limitless decorative applications. Valchromat is a coloured engineered fibreboard, which is completely unique with the colour running throughout the entire board. This highly effective and impactful result is achieved by adding organic dyes and a specially formulated resin to the wood fibre before pressing. With eight vibrant colours in the range, Valchromat is certain to be popular within the UK shop fitting and furniture manufacturing sectors where bold and impactful colours are part of the specification. Plus, Valchromat has also been approved by the British Standards Association as safe to use in the manufacture of children's toys. Andrew Wright, director of James Latham commented: "We have a history and expertise in bringing new and innovative products to the UK market and Valchromat ticks all the boxes for us. I'm sure it will have a big impact in the UK market, not only within the shop fitting and furniture making sectors but also within hospitality and commercial interiors as well as for exhibitions. In addition to its unique appearance, Valchromat boasts a number of time and cost saving features and benefits; It's easy and quick to finish and the possibilities for use are endless.

0116 257 3415 www.lathamtimber.co.uk



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