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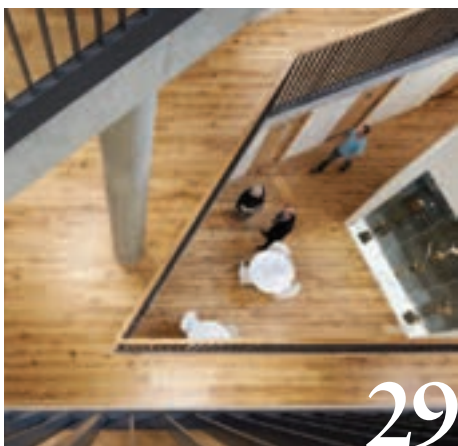
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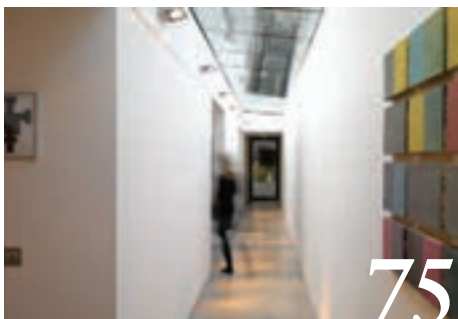
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FROM THE EDITOR



Feeling confident? If one is to believe “sentiment” surveys (and many do, as evidenced by the attention paid to the Purchasing Managers Index), then generally, architects are feeling a bit less confident than they were a couple of months ago. The RIBA’s monthly Future Trends ‘workload index’ dipped in June, falling by 13 points on May figures. This is closely connected with the inconclusive General Election in June, leaving so many unanswered questions including many to do with Brexit.

Saying this drop was “significant,” the RIBA admitted that it was likely to be more to do with concern about “macro-economic uncertainties which appear to have been intensified by the election outcome and the start of Brexit negotiations, rather than a dramatic change in workloads or the level of project enquiries.” Perhaps more surprising is that practices in the north of England continue to have a more positive outlook about future work prospects than those in London since the EU referendum. London firms have slipped into negative territory in June’s figures, which is somewhat worrying but again only an indication perhaps of their change in sentiment rather than an actual slump.

This sustained lull in London over recent months may be to do with the proportionally bigger impact that a substantial change in freedom of movement will have in the capital. It may also be attributable to the relatively higher level of work in the capital – leading to a bigger drop in work resulting from clients withholding investment decisions based on Brexit. There’s no surprise that bigger practices are more confident, and as we will explore in the next issue of ADF, there is a wide gulf between the income sole principals can expect from focusing on things like home extensions, and principals in 50+ employee firms.

While equity of pay based on gender is thankfully in the spotlight, the question of how financially struggling architects can make ends meet if poor confidence figures turn into genuine economic downturn – likely if GDP figures continue downwards – will be rearing its head. Private housing forecasts have seen a drop in the RIBA survey, and yet the picture is mixed, with the Construction Products Association in its national Q2 report recording no ‘coldspots’ for housing in London.

The RIBA’s Adrian Dobson qualified its findings, saying that the private housing sector remains “buoyed,” partly by “ongoing strength in the bespoke homes and domestic extension market.” The bitter pill to swallow from this is that one of the planks sustaining architects’ performance is a sector which is supporting many architects on hard-to-sustain levels of pay.

Despite the uncertainty, 84 per cent of practices expect permanent staffing levels to remain the same or increase in the next quarter. Whether or not this is practices presenting a confident face to the world (and their own staff) will only be borne out by events, but we are certainly seeing a good number of appointments coming through, many of whom make it onto our New Arrivals page (see page 17 for who’s on the move).

James Parker
Editor



ON THE COVER...

The University of Durham’s new cosmology centre, by Studio Libeskind – for full report, go to page 29

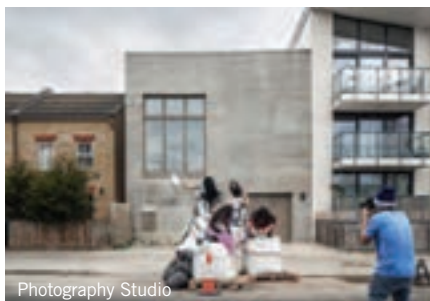
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STIRLING PRIZE

Six buildings in running for the big prize



Command of the Oceans



Photography Studio



City Campus for the City of Glasgow College

Six “exceptionally creative” buildings have been shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize.

The shortlisted buildings are Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners’ partially subterranean British Museum World Conservation & Exhibition Centre (WCEC); Baynes and Mitchell Architects’ Command of the Oceans galleries at Chatham’s Historic Dockyard; Groupwork + Amin Taha’s Barrett’s Grove, a pitched brick building with basket-like cantilevered balconies; Reiach & Hall and Michael Laird’s ‘super college’, the City Campus for the City of Glasgow College; dRMM’s restoration of the fire-stricken Hastings Pier; and 6a architects’ minimalist photography studio for Juergen Teller.

Three of the schemes – the WCEC, the Hastings Pier and Command of the Oceans – are visitor destinations, while the other three were described as ‘intelligent responses to challenging urban sites’ by RIBA President Jane Duncan, who added: “This year’s shortlisted schemes show exceptionally creative, beautifully considered and carefully detailed buildings that have made every single penny count. Commissioned at the end of the recession,

they are an accolade to a creative profession at the top of its game. Each of these outstanding projects has transformed their local area and delights those who are lucky enough to visit, live, study or work in them.”

The shortlist features projects by previous winners Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, while Reiach & Hall and Michael Laird are on the shortlist together for the second year running following their 2016 nomination for the City of Glasgow College Riverside Campus. Reiach & Hall were on the 2015 shortlist and dRMM were shortlisted in 2010 and 2016. Groupwork + Amin Taha and Baynes & Mitchell are nominated for the first time.

Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners’ WCEC extends the British Museum with spaces that can house objects of a larger size and height than previously possible. Formed of five vertically linked pavilions, one of which is entirely underground, the scheme realised “an extremely complicated brief” in an “elegant and simple way,” said RIBA.

Baynes and Mitchell Architects’ Command of the Oceans galleries project features a contrasting black zinc entrance

set among white pitched buildings, with judges calling the project “a champion for progressive conservation, inventive re-use and adaptation of existing fabric”.

Groupwork + Amin Taha’s Barrett’s Grove in north west London was described as “a house built with the fairy-tale materials of brick, wood and straw”, with each “wicker basket balcony...a salute to passers-by.”

Reiach & Hall and Michael Laird’s City Campus unites six City of Glasgow College faculties previously spread across 11 buildings into one structure of “immense scale”.

dRMM’s CLT visitors centre is at the heart of the community-led restoration of Hastings Pier and delivers “a structurally and socially sustainable project” that offers adaptable space while providing uninterrupted views of the surroundings.

6a architects were praised for the ‘exquisite’ detailing and fabric-first approach for their light-filled Photography Studio, for which the practice used a minimal material palette comprising mostly concrete.

The 2017 RIBA Stirling Award winner will be announced on 31 October.



Barrett's Grove



Hastings Pier



British Museum World Conservation & Exhibition Centre

EVENTS

SEMINARS

Fees: How to best calculate, negotiate and monitor

05 September, London

www.architecture.com/whats-on

CDM 2015: Is your project in line with the current regulations?

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FESTIVALS

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SCHOOL

Architecture school's first birthday

The School of Architecture at the University of Reading marked its first anniversary with an end of year public exhibition.

The school accommodates the University's School of Construction Management and Engineering, the Department of Art and the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication.

Professor Lorraine Farrelly, head of school and foundation professor of architecture, said: "As a brand new school, we needed to identify ourselves alongside already well-established institutions. This has been a challenge but I think we have created a distinctive, positive choice for students looking to enter this field of study."

The School opened last September with

43 students and during this first year of its existence, an industry and practice working group has been established to inform and comment on the curriculum and also develop new collaborations between the school and industry.

Many of these companies, including Hawkins\Brown, Broadway Malyan and Barton Wilmore, offer work experience to students as part of a structured programme for the second year of the BSc Architecture degree.

Hawkins\Brown transformed the school's Grade II listed 1970s 'Lego building' in 2016 creating an open-plan internal layout, and a variety of modern collaborative working spaces.



LOCAL HERO

Oastler on course for top gong

An AHR-designed university campus was named Best Education Building at the West Yorkshire Local Authority Building Control (LABC) awards.

The Oastler Building, which received a royal opening by the Duke of York in April, will now compete for a top spot in the LABC Grand Finals to be held in London in November.

The £28m building for the University of Huddersfield, which has achieved BREEAM Excellent, houses the University's Law School and Humanities department, providing facilities such as



four 300-seat lecture theatres, a mock law court, tutorial spaces, and language labs and offices.

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WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

WAF 2017 awards shortlist: from a 'seashell' museum to a modular shelter

Floating student accommodation in Copenhagen, a futuristic pharmacy in Japan and an automotive museum in Los Angeles are among the projects that have been shortlisted for the World Architecture Festival (WAF) awards 2017 – claimed to be the world's biggest architectural awards programme.

The World Architecture Festival celebrates its tenth edition in Berlin in November, with the 2017 awards programme said to have received more entries than ever before. The 2017 awards shortlist is a truly international collection, extending to include architectural practices from 51 different nations and projects based across 68 countries.

All types and sizes of architectural projects are represented on the 434-strong shortlist, ranging from small family homes, to schools, stations, museums, large infrastructure and landscape projects.

Architects from the UK are most widely represented on the shortlist, closely

followed by practices in the US, Australia and Turkey. With a significant rise in residential submissions this year, organisers have introduced a new Villa category that includes entries from Brazil, New Zealand and India.

The architectural practices behind each project will battle it out in live judging sessions to be held at the World Architecture Festival from 15-17 November in Berlin. Each will be hoping to win their category and go on to compete for the accolades of World Building of the Year, Future Project of the Year and Landscape of the Year.

Major world architects shortlisted include Zaha Hadid Architects, BIG, Neri & Hu, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, AL_A, Nikken Sekkei, Rafael Vinoly Architects, Grimshaw, and Heatherwick Studio. Many smaller practices will also take part to pitch against the big names.

Paul Finch, WAF programme director, said: "This year's shortlist has a hugely

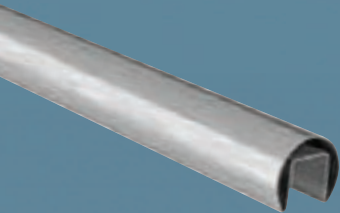
diverse geographic range. The use of water has been striking and there is evidence of real interest in climate modifications using novel techniques. Colourful architecture makes a strong showing and many of the smaller projects we have shortlisted will punch above their weight. We look forward to welcoming shortlisted architects to our tenth edition in Berlin this November."

Presentations of shortlisted designs will be made to more than 100 international judges. The 2017 Completed Buildings 'Super Jury', which will decide the best of 18 category winners, will be headed by Robert Ivy, chief executive officer of the American Institute of Architects and former editor of Architectural Record; Nathalie de Vries, Director & Co-founder of Dutch practice MVRDV; Ian Ritchie, founder of London-based Ian Ritchie Architects; Christoph Ingenhoven, founder of German practice Ingenhoven Architects; and Wong Mun Summ, founding director of Singapore practice WOHA.



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BOOK

Examining the effect of good interior design on patients

A new book, 'Designing the Patient Room', is claimed by its publishers Birkhauser to offer a "detailed insight into the future of inpatient care."

The author Sylvia Leydecker, who is director of German interior design practice 100% Interior, looks at how design elements can aid recovery and how a pleasant atmosphere can be combined with quality, functionality and economic considerations. She commented: "Hospitals are not only places for treating illness, they are also institutions for promoting health."

Featuring extensive imagery and drawings including 14 case studies such as the UK's Maggie's Centres, the book reveals how a carefully considered interior design concept can improve the quality of a stay and help speed recovery. It is claimed to provide a comprehensive insight into 'healing architecture,' a complex issue as the quality of a hospital stay is influenced by a wide range of factors.

Different design components such as material, colour, light and surface finish are tackled by Leydecker alongside hygiene issues, specific challenges brought about by demographic change, digitisation, workflow issues and economic efficiency.



RESTORATION

Lights go up on Margate's Dreamland once again

One of Britain's oldest theme parks has been given a new lease of life after years in disrepair.

The cinema complex part of Margate's 1920s amusement park in Kent received £1.89m backing from the Coastal Communities' Fund and has been restored by the Thanet District Council and local contractor Coombs (Canterbury).

The refurbishment of the art deco-influenced Grade II listed landmark on the town's seafront involved major structural works relating to the corroded steel frame and cracked porous brickwork, which required extensive rebuilding. The council and the contractor also restored the interiors, fixed leaking roofs and carried out asbestos removal.

Iron specialists Newton Forge repaired the cast iron outer frames of the windows and manufactured new steel sections to upgrade the inner frames that can now take double-glazed units.

Work was also carried out to create an accurate replica of the bronze doors and fanlights to the entrance foyer. The original doors, which were removed in 1970, were recreated by historical metal work specialists Bassett and Findley.

Other repairs to the building included restoration of the famous neon lighting on the building's 'fin', which now lights up the sky again. This was possible after advanced colourisation specialists used an algorithm to dissect colour shades from black and white night photographs of the original signage. To ensure accuracy, the results were then cross checked with descriptions of the lights from that era. A full-size model of some of the neon lettering was made to test colours and lighting intensity, and the scheme was developed in consultation with Historic England.

Artist Tracy Emin switched on the lights of the restored cinema a few days after the town was named host of the Turner Prize.



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BOOK

Taking a fresh look at concrete's contribution to architecture

Published by Phaidon



'Concrete' is the latest addition to Phaidon's architecture series, the publisher calling it a "celebration of the world's "most versatile and abundant building material."

Through a selection of concrete structures, this book highlights the beauty of the material. Author William Hall explores the material's "sheer endurance and unexpected delicacy", urging readers to "reconsider concrete's momentous contribution to architecture". With what is claimed to be "extraordinary and insightful content" from the original edition, 'Concrete' is a key read for fans of the material and designers generally.

Including fascinating and beautiful buildings by some of the most celebrated architects of the last century, the book features familiar works by Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright alongside projects from some of the leading lights

of contemporary architecture, including Zaha Hadid and Herzog & de Meuron, and many lesser-known newcomers. Carefully curated to encourage comparison and discussion, the projects take the reader on "a global tour of inspiring and intriguing structures".

Featuring some stunning photography, the book groups projects thematically by chapter; these include Form, Texture, Light and Mass. Each entry is accompanied by key information alongside engaging extended captions, which provide insightful commentary. This wide-ranging survey of concrete buildings also features an essay by Leonard Koren, author of the best-selling 'Wabi-Sabi for Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers', which offers an evocative and perceptive view of concrete from his experience of studying architecture in California and living in Tokyo.

CONCERT HALL

Heavyweight list for new London music venue

Six leading international architecture firms have been selected to compete for the commission to design the Centre for Music, a landmark concert hall in London's Square Mile.

The shortlist has been praised by competition organisers the Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra and Guildhall School of Music & Drama for its "calibre and expertise". The six teams invited to tender are AL_A (UK) and Diamond Schmitt Architects (Canada); Diller Scofidio + Renfro (USA) with Sheppard Robson (UK); Foster + Partners (UK); Gehry Partners, LLP (USA) with Arup Associates (UK); Renzo Piano Building Workshop (France); and Snøhetta (Norway).

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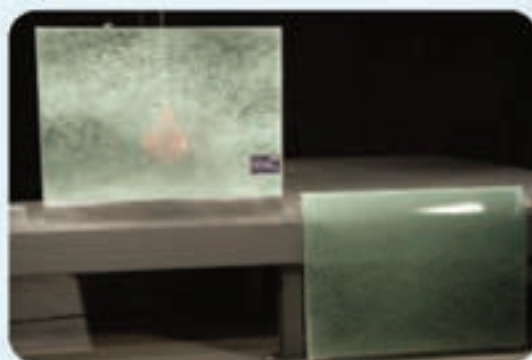
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SELF-BUILD

Life of Walter Segal celebrated at book launch

The life of self-build pioneer and architect Walter Segal and one of his most renowned pieces of work were celebrated at a panel discussion held in London to coincide with the launch of a new book on Segal.

Walters Way & Segal Close, written by journalist Alice Grahame and photographer Taran Wilkhu, tells the story of how Segal's self-build community in Lewisham, south east London, came to be. Having built a temporary house in his garden in Highgate, north London for his family to live in while they renovated their home, he saw an increasing amount of commissions to design and build this type of home around the UK.

His 'Little House in the Garden', as it became known, was constructed with basic cladding materials and paving slabs as foundations, cost less than £900 to build, and took less than two weeks to complete.

The Lewisham development Walters Way comprises 20 timber-frame homes built with the same paving slab foundations and a timber frame. They were simply designed so they could be easily constructed in a do-it-yourself manner by the residents themselves.

It was his pioneering approach to building and creating communities that was the topic of discussion at the event. The panel included Grahame and Wilkhu along with architect Jon Broome, Segal biographer John McKean, TV presenter and designer Tom Dyckhoff, RUSS founder Kareem Dayes and Segal self-builder Pauline Kennedy.

The speakers at the event said this type of build method, and self-build as a whole, had the potential to go some way towards solving the current housing crisis. "There have to be some changes," Kennedy told the audience. "It's an absolutely crucial time for people to get the movement going for self-build again and for empowering young people to provide places for themselves."

Dayes' Rural Urban Synthesis Society (RUSS) is currently working towards launching a similar community-led scheme, inspired by Segal's work. However, as Broome commented, "getting the necessary political and financial support behind it is not easy." RUSS is currently running crowdfunding campaign in order to raise the money to support its proposed scheme.

For this reason, among others, the panel emphasised the importance of people backing self-build schemes like this. Concluding the discussion, Dayes said: "As a community we need to get more organised and demand better options for housing, and this is definitely something that should be part of the mix."

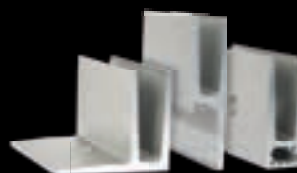
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Atkins has appointed Declan O'Carroll as its UK director for architecture, masterplanning and urban design. In his new role, Declan will lead a team of 400 staff, developing Atkins' national architectural masterplanning and urban design business and enhancing design and delivery capability for clients in the company's core markets. Declan joins Atkins from Arup, where he held several leadership positions, including global architecture leader and UKMEA regional business leader. With over 25 years' professional experience and a portfolio spread across the UK, Europe, Middle East, China and East Asia, Declan has led a number high profile and award winning projects, across a diverse range of sectors.



NOEL STREET 3DREID

3DReid has appointed Noel Street as director to its Birmingham studio to develop strategic business partnerships and build upon the firm's reputation for design and delivery excellence. Noel joins 3DReid from Stephen George + Partners where he was a director based in their Leicester office and prior to this, he was Studio director for AHR Architects in Birmingham. He has successfully controlled and delivered large scale, complex projects and frameworks across the public and private sectors in the UK including office, leisure, education, healthcare, industrial, transport, retail, residential and the MOD. Noel is actively involved in a number of professional organisations and industrial committees.

DAVID MINNIS COLLADOCOLLINS

London architectural practice ColladoCollins has appointed David Minnis as director. He will work alongside founder Roy Collado and Jonathan Collins, supporting the practice's continued success in the residential and public sectors. Previously having worked at HLM, David's career spans 17 years to date, with a portfolio comprising work on high profile developments of up to £400m across commercial, education, defence, justice and healthcare sectors. Minnis directed the Ministry of Defence's Project Wellesley scheme, which relocated armed services across various UK training sites to a new location in Hampshire.



KUMAR MUNIANDY & PETER BROWN STEPHEN GEORGE + PARTNERS

Stephen George + Partners has appointed two new directors as it continues the expansion of its residential practice. Peter Brown joins from Nicol Thomas where he spent 10 years as the company's director of architecture. Peter has extensive experience delivering major residential and retail projects throughout the UK, from bespoke small developments to major 1,200+ unit sites. In his new role at Stephen George + Partners' Leicester office, Peter will take a hands-on role including: managing the design team, developing relationships with new and existing clients, preparing and leading presentations to local authorities, and solving technical issues onsite.

Kumar Muniandy joins the company from MKguru Architect, where he was managing director. Kumar brings a quarter of a century of experience to the role, with particular expertise in housing strategy, community engagement, zero carbon housing, and specialist care centre design. With his roots in the West Midlands, one of his key responsibilities will be to strengthen Stephen George + Partners' presence and relationships in the region, operating from the company's Birmingham office.



SARAH JOHNSON LAURENCE ASSOCIATES

Cornwall-based Laurence Associates has appointed its first RIBA-accredited architect. Sarah Johnson brings more than five years' experience to the planning-led architectural practice. Passionate about creating top quality designs, Sarah has worked at practices in London and Australia, attracting commissions on a range of projects, from high-end residential developments to luxury coastal properties and individually-designed homes.

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL, AUSTRALIA ZAHA HADID ARCHITECTS

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group has signed a management contract for a new signature hotel and branded residences to be developed in Melbourne, Australia. The project is expected to open in 2023, and is the hotel group's first announced property in Australia. The hotel and residences will be located on Collins Street, in the mixed-use 185-metre tower designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, and will play a part in the ongoing regeneration of the city's central business district. The Mandarin Oriental, Melbourne will feature 196 spacious guest rooms and suites designed to reflect local culture, together with features inspired by Mandarin Oriental's heritage. It will also feature an all-day dining restaurant and a bar with a landscaped roof terrace. There will also be a variety of meeting spaces and an executive club lounge.

Ref: 49025



LOCHAL, NETHERLANDS CIVIC ARCHITECTS

In the Tilburg 'railway zone', the construction of the LocHal has started. Within the outline of an industrial locomotive hangar, the LocHal will accommodate a public hall with big square, work spaces, conference areas, exposition units, a library, a music hall and a restaurant. The design of the new architecture relates to the existing structure in size and material: smooth blue steel planes versus the existing patina of the compiled columns and crane tracks, moving textiles follow the crane rails and the wooden stairs refer to the industrial crosscut wood. The city balcony is suspended above the entrance. On this new structure, the glass facade and roof have been designed as a contemporary interpretation of the existing hall.

Ref: 91052



AURORA EVENT CENTER, USA TRAHAN ARCHITECTS

Set on the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, the Aurora Event Center is envisioned as a year-round event space accommodating weddings and events for up to 250 guests. The primary design intent of the project is to create a strong connection to the lake and frame its picturesque views. The building is purposefully designed to minimise its impact on the site and to maintain a seamless integration with the surrounding landscape while providing protection from inclement weather.

Ref: 23596



LANE 189, CHINA UNSTUDIO

Lane 189, located in the Putuo district in central Shanghai, is designed to provide a lifestyle destination for Shanghai's young professionals. It combines retail, restaurant and office spaces in an organisation that rearranges the typical mall into a vertical city centre. The design incorporates elements of 'old Shanghai' through geometry, pattern and materialisation and combines these with a contemporary urban experience. The facade is designed to support the overall design concept of a "programmed facade" and to create depth for the building envelope. The use of multi-layered components enables a variety of views towards the surroundings, whilst also providing functional transparency in specifically located areas.

Ref: 85306



LA CITÉ DU VIN, FRANCE XTU ARCHITECTS

La Cité du Vin in Bordeaux stands out with its bold curves and shape. An iconic building, this golden frame hosts a 'Cité within the city', a living space with experiences to discover, say the architects. The initial aim of the building's architecture was to create a genuine link between La Cité du Vin and the spaces surrounding it through "perpetual movement". Architects from XTU Anouk Legendre and Nicolas Desmazières designed a space "shaped by symbols of identity: gnarled vine stock, wine swirling in a glass, eddies on the Garonne". The architects commented further: "Every detail of the architecture evokes wine's soul and liquid nature: seamless roundness, intangible and sensual". This roundness transcribed in the building's exterior can also be felt in its indoor spaces, materials and scale. The facade is made up of silk-screen printed glass panels and perforated, iridescent, lacquered aluminium panels. The building's two entrances on either side create an impression of movement, ebb and flow between inside and outside. One entrance faces the city and the other faces the river. Higher up, the viewing tower enables visitors to discover the illuminated city and the surrounding land, like a watchtower.

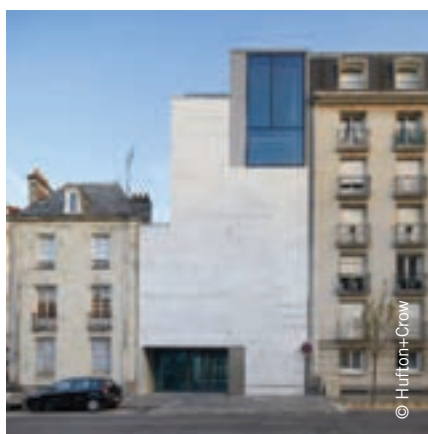
Ref: 33832



ALJABRI MOSQUE, SAUDI ARABIA SCHIATTARELLA ASSOCIATI

Schiattarella Associati will sign the project for the new Aljabri Mosque in the city of Ha'il, Saudi Arabia. With an area of 22,500 m², the building will be able to host about 3000 worshippers. The project is based on the Saudi cultural identity values of Najd architecture. The mosque, despite its dimensions, apparently seems to float on the water surrounding it. The diagonal cut at the centre of the stone-made facade marks the symbolic passage from outside to inside, the doorstep between civilian and religious areas, promising and allowing what the architects describe as the "owed purge/purification".

Ref: 50282



MUSÉE D'ARTS DE NANTES, FRANCE STANTON WILLIAMS

The Musée d'arts de Nantes has opened to the public after a major transformation by British-based architecture practice Stanton Williams. The Musée d'arts de Nantes incorporates several key extension buildings to the original 19th Century 'Palais' and 17th Century Oratory Chapel, where a multi-channel video installation by artist Bill Viola has been rehoused. The addition of 4,000 m² space will allow the Musée to exhibit its growing contemporary collection of artworks. An auditorium, library, new educational facilities, archive, and external sculpture court have also been created. The new 'Cube' extension is gallery spanning the Cours Dupré. It boasts contemporary galleries on four floors, which are linked by wide gaps that allow natural light to enter the building and connect the galleries visually.

Ref: 16339



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PRACTICE PROFILE

Wilson Associates

James Parker reports on an established and growing international practice which is renowned for its luxury interior architectural design

Wilson Associates, founded in 1971, now has a truly global reach with eight offices across six continents, its success built on a reputation for creating sumptuous interiors in the hospitality sector. With over 300 design and architecture professionals often working on an inter-office basis to produce the goods for its demanding clients, the firm says it aims to “create new definitions of luxury for an era that’s increasingly well-travelled, connected and culturally diverse.”

The company prides itself on its “dynamic talent” and “collaborative spirit” which it uses to “inspire and engage” its clients. This involves a painstaking approach to getting the details exactly right in order to achieve results which are not only cool, but also culturally appropriate for the setting. Across its offices in Dallas, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Los Angeles, New York, Paris, Shanghai and Singapore, the firm offers a “full range of design services.”

Wilson Associates was founded by Dallas-based interior architectural design specialist Trisha Wilson and has its headquarters in the city. Wilson got her start in the interior design field in 1971 when she designed a train-themed restaurant, which was a “smashing success” according to Maud Capet, senior designer in the Dubai office. Having found her calling, Wilson went on to design a number of restaurants in the brand-new Hilton Anatole hotel in Dallas. Their popularity led a South African businessman,

Sol Kerzner, to commission Wilson to design a resort just outside Johannesburg.

Since its humble beginnings Wilson Associates has grown organically with the simple goal of creating great design. This was despite the fact that Trisha Wilson “never planned to have the company expand the way it has,” according to Maud Capet.

Since the 1990s, Wilson Associates has designed some of the world’s most iconic addresses. Ranging from royal palaces and Michelin-starred restaurants to a designer hotel inside the world’s tallest building (the “opulently minimal” Armani Hotel in the Burj Khalifa), they are all the product of Wilson’s personal mantra: “It can be done.”

Beyond design flair, social responsibility has been another key objective for Wilson and remains a fundamental part of the firm’s operations. Long before the term Corporate Social Responsibility was coined, she instilled the approach into her associates, and even established her own non-profit in 1997. The Wilson Foundation continues to help young people in the Limpopo province in South Africa through health and education initiatives.

EMBEDDING INTERIOR DESIGN

Getting aesthetics right in luxury hospitality interiors is often about respecting the structural aspects in order to achieve holistic design. To this end, when the opportunity arises, the firm will consult the project architect to ensure the interior design theme harmonises with the overall structural approach. According to Capet, this is best achieved “when there is an existing relationship with the client.”

She explains: “In order to ensure a project will be built as per the design intent, it is crucial to involve the interior design process at an early stage of the architectural design. For example, often it is [then] easier to make a request to the structural engineers or the architects to change the structure to accommodate better space.” Capet gives the example of where the architectural “grid lines” between load-bearing walls might be too tight, and “we won’t be able to meet the requirements for the standard guest rooms.”

“In other cases,” she continues, “such as creating a main feature in an entrance lobby, we may need to coordinate with the architect to realise the possibility of creating a double-height volume.” Generally, says Capet, the sooner the interior designer is involved, the better the design is likely to be.

Wilson Associates creates 3D visuals of interiors to examine factors such as the limitations of the structural beams/columns, but also the services such as AC grilles. “We reflect on all aspects in the 3D renderings to make sure it looks as close as possible to the final interior.”



RESORTING TO LUXURY

Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah resort, UAE – Speciality Thai Restaurant



GRAND ENTRANCE

Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah resort, UAE – entry lobby

HOLISTIC LICENCE

According to Capet, the practice is keenly focused on achieving a holistic, textural feel for interiors – but the firm is also conscious of the need to avoid being too clinical in the effort to be ‘modern’ – while addressing the durability needs of high-traffic environments. “The modern era has become too sleek, too clean, too perfect,” she says. “It is the smartphone generation: the lines are straight, the finishes are very smooth, very cold. There is no texture, we are losing the human aspect.”

She continues: “There is a palpable trend in the design industry to come back to the simple human aspects in the use of materials and colour schemes. Instead of using polished stainless steel and aluminium panels, interior designers are tending to choose finishes that one can touch and feel, and which elicit emotions when entering a space.” She gives the examples of using reclaimed wood, and textured concrete panels as key trends, and warmer, natural colours such as forest green.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Wilson Associates places a high value on a meticulous approach, but the firm is aware of practicalities when it comes to realising a project. “Design is like a piece of art, you can always improve it,” says Capet. “But to make the projects a reality, we need to draw a line and decide when to stop creating and when to start detailing.” She says it’s important that a project is “well documented,” in order to “make sure it will be built as per the design intent.” This includes “following up with the fit-out contractor on site, until the project opens its doors to the public.” She asserts: “This is the only way to assure the final quality of the project.”

Part of creating a truly notable interior design is challenging clients’ expectations or approaches, says Capet. “It is essential to listen to the client and answer their expectations. But it is our role as designers to show the client another vision of things, and to challenge the original approach and brief in order to create a ‘never seen before’ interior.”

She gives the example of a “luxurious residential tower,” where the client wanted a crystal chandelier in the middle of the space, as a main feature – what she says is a very traditional approach. “We try to break from the expected norms of interiors and to propose new ideas, new shapes. So we convinced the client to have a struc-

It is our role as designers to show the client another vision of things, and to challenge the original approach and brief

tural element in the centre of the space instead.” Modelled as a floor-to-ceiling light sculpture, the result looks more like a piece of art than a traditional chandelier. “By changing the approach completely, we have created a surprise when entering the lobby,” Capet notes.

CULTURE

When working in a variety of international settings, getting an interior’s ‘culture’ right to suit not just the client, but also a diverse array of customers, is paramount. However, could designers’ attempts at cultural appropriateness backfire?

Maud Capet admits that dealing with cultural aspects “is very delicate.” She gives the example of a recent hotel project: Anantara Ras Al Khaimah in United Arab Emirates. “Despite the fact the hotel was located in an Arab country, Anantara is an Asian brand, and the client wanted to create an interior inspired by Thai culture. While they agreed that we could use a little Arabic inspiration, it was to be very discreet and blended.”

Capet explains: “It was very challenging, since depending on how you detail a panel, for example, it could be ‘too Asian’ or ‘too Arabic’. For example, in Arabic culture it is not appropriate to include animal representations, but in Asian culture they are very common. The answer was to be very meticulous in our choice of pattern and finish.” She concludes: “There is a very thin line between a well balanced, successful design, and one which is too themed.”

CONNECTIVITY

Always focused on customer needs, Wilson Associates is increasingly creating flexible spaces that let them stay ‘connected’. However, is enabling customers to be on the internet at all times sometimes at odds with the creation of unified and elegant design?

Capet notes that a successful interior should provide “easy connectivity,” adding that “nowadays clients expect spaces to be more flexible to their different needs; you are less likely to see a dedicated area for working and a dedicated area for relaxing. People tend to work with their laptop on their knees a lot more often than on an actual desk.”

She says that while this means offering various type of different seating arrangements with well-integrated USB and power outlets, interior designers can foster connectivity by “providing it in a discreet way, integrating it within the joinery of the interiors in an elegant manner, so it doesn’t change the aspect of the interior.”

The firm itself is making connections to help it grow further. In March 2014, it joined forces with ArcPlus, the parent company of the East China Architectural Design & Research Institute (ECADI), to create a “dominant new force in the design industry.”

Based in Shanghai, ArcPlus is one of China’s largest and most influential architectural and engineering design firms, providing a full spectrum of services. Over the past 60 years, it has grown into an integrated architecture, design, planning and consulting group, incorporating more than 15 professional subsidiary companies.

The future certainly looks bright, and Capet says that the firm’s biggest challenge now is to continue to exceed client expectations and remain a leading interior design player, able to offer design services to any size and complexity, anywhere in the world. ■

FUTURE WATCH

When the smoke has cleared

Teodora Lyubomirova looks at the likely impact of the Grenfell Tower investigation on the building industry, and what it means for the future of refurbishment

If the Ronan Point explosion dealt the blow that transformed building codes in the early 1970s, Grenfell Tower will likely force another sea change in the industry's approach to large-scale tower refurbishments. The deadly blaze exposed such a wide array of issues that it could be years until all questions raised in the aftermath of the disaster are adequately answered.

However, along with the socio-political rift dividing the country, it's the design and construction practices employed during the tower's 2016 refurbishment that have recently begun to come under national scrutiny. While the scope of the public inquiry is yet to be fully defined – and any formal conclusions many months away – industry professionals are asking valid questions about the fitness for purpose of regulations, specification practices and workmanship for future regeneration schemes.

Guidance & deregulation

Among the fevered political controversy and array of questions hanging over the industry, some of the most uncomfortable and yet crucial for future schemes are the issues around accountability (or lack of it), together with the vagueness of the current regulatory framework and a concurrent variance in interpretation.

One thing that is now widely known is that Grenfell's cladding comprised Reynobond aluminium composite material (ACM) panels with a flammable polyethylene (PE) core to give rigidity, while combustible Celotex RS5000 insulation boards (now withdrawn from sale by Saint-Gobain on buildings over 18 metres) were fixed on the external concrete facade. The choice of this combination may have raised eyebrows outside the industry, but so has the revelation of the complex web of subcontractors typically commissioned on such projects and how it might have the potential to obscure accountability in building design.

Co-founder of campaigning architectural practice Architects for Social Housing (ASH) Simon Elmer suggests that in the era of PFI and design and build contracts, the industry should treat the disaster as a wake up call. "What we are concerned about is that [in the past] you would have an architect to oversee a refurbishment like this from the beginning to the end. What's happened through privatisation is there's no single person or organisation that is responsible for overseeing the whole thing – the architects have no contractual authority over those who are carrying out the work." He adds: "The people who are actually making the final decision about fire safety or materials used are not professionals, but it's the client, who has no professional expertise at all."

The sandwich panels found on Grenfell – and subsequently on hundreds other towers following the Government's somewhat knee-jerk response of mass testing of samples – have since been ruled unsuitable for use on tall buildings because of that

Elmer suggests that in the era of PFI and design and build contracts, the industry should treat the disaster as a wake up call



FATAL FIRE

Over 80 people are likely to have died in Grenfell Tower

combustible PE filler. The bigger issue however is how guidance has been interpreted with regards to such products. As structural engineer Arnold Tarling, an associate director of Hindwoods Chartered Surveyors and a member of the Association for Specialist Fire Protection, gave a stark revelation to ITV in June: "The Building Regulations are not fit for purpose with regards to

this form of cladding. All that you require to meet the standards is that the outside surface shouldn't allow the spread of flames. What is going on behind the metal or the other surface is entirely irrelevant to Building Regulations."

In essence, the loose (and potentially loosely interpreted) recommendations within the Regs meant that manufacturers could see their products legitimately specified on Class 0 surface spread of flame criteria, because a metal skin encased the flammable PE filler. However, in the wake of Grenfell the Government issued an 'Explanatory Note' as an attempt to provide some clarity on interpreting the guidance, saying the whole of an external cladding product had to pass its 'limited combustibility' criteria – fillers as well as skin.

This conclusion was backed up by the 100 per cent fail rate of cladding samples, which were sent by landlords to the testing facilities at the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in the immediate aftermath of the fire.

However, following criticism from the expert advisory panel chaired by former London Fire Commissioner Sir Ken Knight, BRE has since tested the insulation alongside the cladding panels to establish how it performs as one system – and so far at least 82 tower blocks have failed under the new testing. What's more, according to evidence released by BRE, it took just over seven minutes for the fire to reach the top of the nine-metre test wall (clad in a combination of ACM with a PE filler, and PIR foam insulation) via the ventilation gap, bypassing the stone wool cavity barriers and forcing the researchers to terminate the test long before the required minimum duration of 40 minutes.

A review of Building Regulations has now been commissioned by DCLG, headed by former Health and Safety Executive chair Judith Hackitt, who is currently chair of the Engineering Employers Federation. It will examine the "regulatory system around the design, construction and ongoing management of buildings in relation to fire safety," as well as "related compliance and enforcement issues" It will report "no later than spring 2018."

Minding the gaps

Analysis of initial design plans for Grenfell have raised questions about the design decisions taken, notwithstanding confusion over product specification. According to ASH's 'The Truth about Grenfell' report, a reconfiguration of the windows as part of the 2016 refurbishment 'pulled' windows forwards out of their original frames and fixed them with metal brackets to the external concrete facade, the resulting 'interface gap' and the 'material fillings' being the only barrier that could stop a fire bursting out of a flat and reaching the external cladding.

Former architect Ian Abley, a technical designer at Audacity, has examined how the ventilation gap between the external insulation and the cladding could have created the 'chimney effect' that potentially helped the rapid fire spread upwards and sideways. Abley is quoted in the report: "Once inside the rainscreen, having bypassed the window, the fire could spread via variously combustible products. Fire would bypass any cavity fire barriers installed...fire in the cladding and involving the insulation might be able to break back into flats at every level through the same interface gap around the window frames, filled with several other materials." It is unclear how these gaps were detailed and filled in the event, however images of the overclad tower are thought to show even wider gaps between the cladding and the tower's concrete columns that could have aided the rapid spread of flames towards the upper storeys.

Holistic approach

While it is a matter for the police and the public inquiry to provide official conclusions on the case, it is clear that the refurbishment and how it affected the safety of the tower will be of paramount importance. At a public meeting organised by Architects for Social Housing in a bid to provide expert advice to the Justice 4 Grenfell community group on various aspects of the refurbishment, co-founder of ASH, architect Geraldine Denning said: "When you change one aspect of the building, you need to change the way you think about it holistically. That's absolutely crucial for people to understand – when altering a building, they change how it operates as a system."

The inquiry is very likely to look at not only the 2016 refurbishment, but also into past alterations of the building and the role of various bodies responsible for the upkeep of the tower. It has become evident that 'improvements' for residents scarcely justified the label – the alleged unlawful additions of unenclosed gas pipes on the walls of the escape routes and the lack of adequate lighting on the main stairwell are just two examples. It is not widely known that the tower had been earmarked for demolition back in 2009 when plans for the Lancaster West Estate regeneration were being set out. While these intentions were never realised, the tower's appearance remained a key concern which the subsequent overcladding was meant to address. It is also worth noting that a 2010 lift lobby fire at Grenfell Tower was contained, with the compartmentation performing as intended.

The report by the ASH architects questions whether the motives behind many regeneration projects are more about increasing asset value than resident benefit, but also expresses worries that politicians might decide to scrap the regeneration of existing buildings following Grenfell, and issue a 'demolition decree' that will see estates torn down. Elmer comments: "We are very concerned that the council and Government might use this disaster and state the estate regeneration and refurbishments are not viable or safe and use this to actually demolish the rest of the Lancaster West Estate."

He added: "We are concerned that politicians are going to say that 1960s and 1970s estates cannot be refurbished and must therefore be demolished and redeveloped in what is already a very cynical programme to promote estate demolition." Elmer concludes: "That's why we've gone to such length to show that the cause of this fire was not the design of this building or its built quality – what was wrong was the refurbishment." ■

LIKELY SCOPE OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

- How the fire started and how it spread, and why so many died
- The construction of the building and its modification over the years
- The relevant building and fire regulations
- The involvement of the local authority and TMO (tenant management organisation)
- The role of the architects, contractors and manufacturers
- The fire safety measures taken over the years
- The warnings voiced by the residents about the fire risks, and responses by the council and TMO
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PLAYING WITH FIRE



Actionair's CPD aims to provide essential education on fire and smoke dampers. CE marking requirements will be explained and how this influences the installation of dampers, along with the importance of testing and accurate installation in accordance with DW145 and the implications of the overall design to installation process. Possible legal implications of incorrect installation will be discussed along with potential personal liability prosecutions. 'Playing with Fire' will demonstrate how a legally compliant damper installation will prevent the need for costly post-installation approval.

01227 276100

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RENOLIT LAUNCHES NEW RIBA APPROVED SURFACE DESIGN CPD



RENOLIT has launched a new CPD seminar on the flexibility and uses of thermoformable PVC as a decorative surface which illustrates the benefits of PVC films over other decorative surface materials. The seminar provides architects with an understanding about PVC and its common uses within interior construction projects. It informs how to recognize different types of surfaces films, their applications and raises awareness of some specialist applications.

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In two RIBA assessed seminars, Comar outlines: *Stand & Deliver: a Study of curtain Walling* – the design of curtain walling, it's properties and how it is used by specifiers. This seminar aims to offer an understanding of the points of Hll in the NBS specification system, and how best to make use of it. *Designing functions & reliability into entrances* – the issues that influence the function of main entrance design and technology. This seminar aims to offer an understanding of how user expectation influences door design and links this with hardware selection, entrance configuration and floor finishes.

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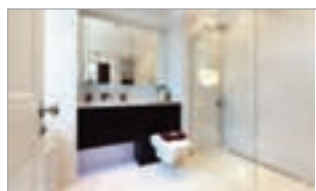


Flue Liner Solutions are offering a RIBA approved CPD presentation entitled *Chimney design and restoration of flues and ducts*. This seminar will give an overview of chimneys, factors to take into account when designing buildings and an awareness of common problems. It will help architects to understand the following topics: chimney design and sizing; flue lining systems and suitability for different appliances and fuel types; remedial works to existing chimneys; maintenance requirements for chimneys as well as understanding chimney terminals and chimney fans.

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- A system is only as good as the ducting. The do's and don'ts of installing a duct system.
- Sign off by Building Control is mandatory. How to comply.
- The aspects of poor indoor air that can effect occupant health and degrade the fabric of a building.
- Explain the principle of operation of a Mechanical Ventilation with heat recovery system and where it will provide the most suitable ventilation solution.
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New director of specification sales



Graham Hurrell has joined Wicona as Director of Specification Sales. Primarily responsible for increasing Wicona's visibility as a high-specification, architectural product brand, Graham will be working across Wicona's core markets to develop engineered solutions, and further elevate the brand's presence in its sector.

Graham first started working for the Sapa Group and progressed to Director of Specification Sales for Sapa Building System, followed by a three-year assignment on international business development. After being away from Sapa, Graham is thrilled to return to the Group.

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Polyflor showcases green credentials



Polyflor has recently published its 12th annual Sustainability Report which outlines the UK manufacturer's environmental performance over the past year. Key achievements for 2016 include HGVs within the fleet being replaced with modern Euro VI engines resulting in much lower emissions and an increase in backhaul operations.

Polyflor is the first flooring manufacturer to obtain the BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing standard with a Very Good rating. Polyflor's products also contain up to 85 per cent sustainable material and up to 40 per cent recycled material.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

Gerflor scoop CFJ/CFA Product of The Year!



International flooring and interiors specialists Gerflor have won the 2017 CFJ/CFA Product of The Year category with their Creation LVT range. In a hard fought selection process Gerflor have come out on top. The three award-winning ranges include; Creation 70, 55 and the new Creation 30. Creation 70 will inspire and enhance any interior space. It's extremely tough and durable. Designed for medium traffic areas for light commercial use is their Creation 55 range. The final product is Creation 30 which is a brand-new luxury vinyl tile flooring perfect for a myriad of residential and housing applications.

01926 622 600 www.gerflor.co.uk

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A must-read White Paper from Reynaers highlights latest trends

One of the UK's leading aluminium systems company Reynaers has surveyed more than 100 architectural professionals to gain a view of technology's impact on work practices, client relationships and building design.

The pace of innovative design technologies in architecture and specification has never been faster. To get a barometer of how things are progressing, Reynaers has invested in a brand new research project, which takes an in-depth look at what the future of architecture will be like.

The white paper is called *The View – Design Transformed* and is available for free from Reynaers' website.

Marketing manager Rebecca Cope said: "We are invested in the future of building design, whether it's our ongoing commitment to cutting-edge design in our glazing solutions or keeping ahead of the game with technological advancement



in the industry.

"Technology for technology's sake is useless if it doesn't benefit those using it, but we at Reynaers are paving the way for

those who can really capitalise on the positive impact of new and emerging innovations.

"Covering all the latest trends in Virtual Reality, the future of BIM and changing attitudes to the role of technology in architecture, *The View – Design Transformed* is not to be missed."

Download *The View* for free at bit.ly/ReynaersWhitePaper and learn more about how Reynaers is embracing Virtual Reality on its website.

For more than 50 years, Reynaers Aluminium has been designing cutting edge glazing solutions for some of the most iconic buildings in the world. Engineered without compromise, its range of aluminium windows, doors and curtain wall systems have been specified time and again by the world's leading architects and construction companies. For more information please call or visit the website.

0121 421 1999 www.reynaers.co.uk

Aspen Pumps is Triple finalist



Aspen Pumps, one of the UK's market leader in condensate removal pumps and accessories, is thrilled to announce that it has been shortlisted three times in the prestigious RAC Cooling Industry Awards. The company's revolutionary Green XL range from Storm Chemicals – has

been shortlisted in the Air Conditioning Innovation – VRFs, Heat Pumps, Fan Coils and Peripherals category and the Air Conditioning Product of the Year – Components and peripherals category. Offering a step change for the air conditioning sector Green XL is the first probiotic cleaning technology for the sector on the market.

01323 848842 www.aspenpumps.com

GEZE celebrates Scottish architecture



Image © Malcolm Cochrane

GEZE UK sponsored the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland Awards Dinner, which demonstrated a host of architectural achievements – and presented one of its prestigious awards. The black-tie event took place at the Murrayfield

Stadium, where a range of architectural achievements were showcased. Altogether, 12 winners were announced – chosen from a range of eclectic projects that included the City of Glasgow College, the Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries and Rockvilla.

01543 443000 www.geze.co.uk

Luxury brands boost sales at hardware specialist



Hardware specialist SDS London is celebrating a successful quarter one following the roll-out of several new premium product lines. In its latest financial figures, the company has seen an eight per cent increase in turnover in quarter one, compared to the same period last year. The growth comes off the back of SDS teaming up with three luxury brands this year – Oliver Knights, Rocky Mountain and Groël – to supply their hardware to the retail and trade sectors, including architects, designers and specifiers. The latest additions bring a mix of traditional and contemporary hardware aimed at high-end projects in the residential and commercial markets. SDS offers a wide range of hardware, which now encompasses a clutch of market leading brands and more than 10,000 products lines. With the majority of its products manufactured in the UK, SDS have become the go-to supplier for architects keen to champion the 'best of British' in their work. SDS London recently supplied hardware for a development of a historic office building, which was once used by the Suffragettes as a base for its movement for political and social change.

020 7228 1185 www.sdslondon.co.uk

Boon Edam announces online platform



Boon Edam, a global market leader in entry solutions has announced the launch of the 'Inspiration Centre', its new online platform. The Inspiration Centre, which can be accessed via the

entry expert's UK website, has been created to ignite an architect's passion and demonstrate the design possibilities available when considering entry space concepts. The user-friendly online platform provides informative, inspirational content regarding Boon Edam's key areas of expertise; revolving doors and security barriers.

01233 505900 www.service.boonedam.co.uk/your-entry-experts

Lancaster strengthens GEZE sales force



GEZE UK's expansion continues with the appointment of Stephen Lancaster who takes up the role of sales manager within window technology supply and installation, covering the Northern region. Stephen will be primarily responsible for the supply and installation sales of GEZE's wide range of window technology products for smoke extraction and natural ventilation. With wide experience as an architectural technologist for a number of practices across Harrogate and Leeds, Stephen is ideally placed to ensure that fabricators are aware of both the latest regulations and the comprehensive range of GEZE products available.

01543 443000 www.geze.co.uk

New Managing Director at Hueck UK



Leon Friend has been appointed Managing Director of the UK arm of Eduard Hueck GmbH & Co. KG. In a new role, Leon will focus on business expansion and the launch of new products to the UK market – as part of a wider initiative to establish a senior team to drive growth over the coming months. He has been working in the industry since the early 2000s and has been employed at Hueck UK for more than six years, where he joined as Business Development Manager before rising through the ranks. Leon comments: "Hueck is a true innovator in aluminium systems and this is underpinned by a dedication to quality and exceeding customer expectations. Our aim is to identify new opportunities and to bring products to the UK that will not only satisfy these market conditions but meet future requirements for buildings. It's an exciting time to step into the role; we have recently launched several new products to market that are game changer for the industry and we are on track for another record year." Hueck is one of Europe's largest manufacturers and suppliers of aluminium window, door and facade solutions, specialising in both standard systems as well as bespoke applications.

01217 671344 www.hueck.com

Country house wins Schueco Award



On 22 June, a superb private residence was announced as the winner of both the Overall Schueco Excellence Award and the Individual House category in this year's Schueco Excellence Awards for Design and Innovation. The winning entry, set in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside was designed by Richard Meier & Partners Architects LLP. One of the first domestic commission in the UK for this modernist, the property offers a whole new take on the traditional country house. The glazed elements create a fantastic sculptural piece with transparency and audacity.

01908 282111 www.schueco.co.uk

Panasonic sponsor RAC Cooling Awards



Panasonic UK is delighted to announce that it will be the category sponsor for RAC Contractor of the Year at the 2017 RAC Cooling Awards. The RAC Cooling Industry Awards have been one of the largest and most respected awards for the past 13 years. Panasonic will be sponsoring the Award for RAC Contractor of the Year. This category rewards the firms that provide exemplary service and outstanding performance throughout the year. The Award is open to all refrigeration and air conditioning contractors and installers, large or small. All winners will be announced on 27th September 2017.

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OGDEN CENTRE FOR FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS
DURHAM

Libeskind's cosmic conundrum

The University of Durham's new cosmology centre aims to deliver an environment conducive to deep thought and collaboration. Stephen Cousins reports



Students and staff at the Institute for Computational Cosmology, at the University of Durham, take questions about the nature of existence and reality very seriously. Their pioneering research aims to bring clarity to such rarefied subjects as how galaxies form, the identity of the first objects in the Universe, the nature of dark matter and dark energy, and the ultimate fate of the Universe.

The institute's charismatic director, Professor Carlos Frenk, is a fellow of the Royal Society and one of the originators of Cold Dark Matter theory, which is the

current standard paradigm for the formation and evolution of all galaxies and cosmic structure.

With those impressive credentials at play, it was always going to be a tough challenge to design an iconic new home for this elite cohort, in the form of the £11.5m Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics.

Carla Swickerath, principal for the project at New-York-based architects Studio Libeskind, tells ADF: "The challenge was why we were so drawn to the project to begin with. We wanted to make sure professors and students had a building that would foster inspiration and

The larch-clad facility was conceived as a series of continuous, stacked and interlocking forms, and is instantly recognisable as the work of Libeskind



creativity because what they do requires so much imagination and precision.”

The project even had a personal dimension, for practice founder Daniel Libeskind, whose astrophysicist son, Roam, did his PhD under Frenk in the same department.

The three-storey building houses the Institute for Computational Cosmology, the Centre for Extragalactic Astronomy, and the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation, and was funded by the Peter Ogden Trust, a philanthropic organisation founded by Durham alumnus and businessman Peter Ogden.

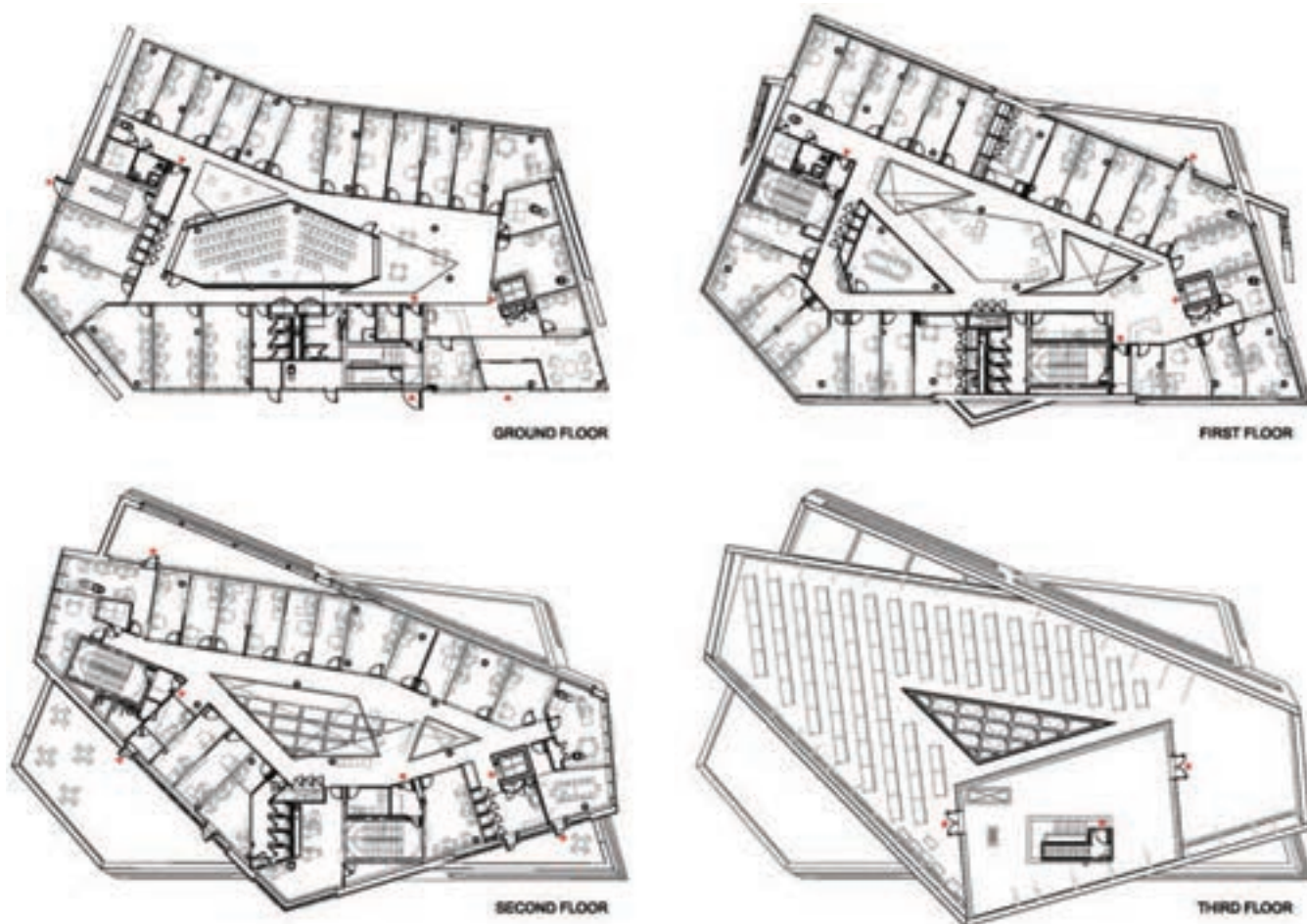
It stands on the unglamorous site of a former car park south of the city centre, next to the school’s Department of Physics, in the middle of Lower Mountjoy, an area of the university established in the postwar era where its first science faculties were constructed in the 1950s.

The larch-clad facility was conceived as a series of continuous, stacked and interlocking forms and is instantly recognisable as

the work of Libeskind, whose unflinching architectural style is characterised by angular forms, intersecting planes, and the frequent use of diagonally-sliced windows.

The Polish-American architect is the brains behind some of the most provocative and distinctive buildings in the world, including the Jewish Museum Berlin, completed in 1999, the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester, completed in 2002, and the World Trade Center Master Plan, completed in 2014.

With a gross internal area of just 2,500 m², the centre is much smaller than these cultural landmarks, which raised the stakes in terms of budget and time constraints. Swickerath comments: “When you are designing a smaller project, trying to achieve some of the geometry can be harder and you have to be extremely conscious of the budget, programme and buildability, compared to, for example, a high rise tower where orders of magnitude are much greater.”



We had to balance the opposing forces of silence and concentration with community and collaboration

Carla Swickerath, Studio Libeskind

Smart with space

The brief required the inclusion of some 80 offices for professors, lecturers and doctoral students, which given the compact footprint, might have resulted in a very uniform and repetitive spatial layout.

However, the spiral plan made it possible to “break out” the programme and distribute offices along the perimeter, on the ground, first and second floors, to create a variety of room shapes with different orientations and external views.

“We had to provide staff and students with the privacy and quiet they need to

concentrate on their work, but, simultaneously, we had to make sure it didn’t feel like a sterile office building that can feel relentless, with long corridors etc.” says Swickerath.

The spiral plan offsets floorplates on successive levels to form two voids that run through the centre of the building, covered by a massive central skylight, and a series of external balconies that step back from the facade and a roof terrace. The angled facades also helped break down the building’s mass to add visual interest.

A key requirement was to engender a sense of connection and community, and the multi-story interior circulation space is configured to provide public gathering spaces where staff and students can break away and chat.

Swickerath comments: “We had to balance the opposing forces of silence and concentration, on the one hand, and community and collaboration, on the other, because so much of their work is also dependent on sharing ideas.”

COMPACT FOOTPRINT

The brief required the inclusion of some 80 offices for professors, lecturers and students



VARIETY

The spiral plan made it possible to “break out” the programme and distribute offices along the perimeter to create a variety of room shapes with different views. All photos © Hufton+Crow

Distributing the offices around the perimeter helped boost levels of natural light and ventilation

Distributing the offices around the perimeter helped boost levels of natural light and ventilation, glazed doors and screens further transmit light into the interior and the central atrium.

Libeskind’s architecture has received criticism in the past for failing to respond to the local context, but here the rich historic

vernacular of Durham was key inspiration. The canted curtain walls on the north and south elevations provide spectacular views of the city and Durham Cathedral, one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in Europe. Libeskind spun a Fibonacci spiral from the central tower of the Cathedral back to the site as part of efforts to root the building within the landscape.

The immediate surroundings include important 20th century buildings, including the listed Kingsgate Bridge, a concrete footbridge across the Wear gorge designed by Ove Arup, and Dunelm House, a brutalist student union building by Richard Raine of Architects Co-Partnership.

“We really tried to give the Ogden Centre

a presence, to counter the fact it is on the site of a former car park on the road out of town, as well as to connect it to the other buildings,” says Swickerath.

Sensitive material choice

The dynamic facade is clad in a ventilated timber rain screen, which is punched through on the flanks with linear bands of operable double glazed strip windows and a series of wedge-shaped outdoor terraces. The responsibly-sourced Scottish larch was supplied and installed by North Yorkshire-based Woodtech Joinery.

The timber is intended to create a warm, welcoming, non-institutional environment for professors, scientists and specialists who will spend such long periods of time inside.

The cladding will silver in colour over time, and in doing so, merge deeper into the landscape, while retaining its texture and material qualities. Other wood finishes, including oak floors, are employed in the interiors, and form part of a natural palette of exposed grey concrete columns and ceilings and frosted glass partitions.

Swickerath describes the reinforced frame as a “pretty straightforward” arrangement of slabs and columns, most of which are vertical, a few sloping. “As a practice, we always try to balance the excitement of architectural expression with the realities of budgets and construction,” she says.

Bold environmental vision

The specification of timber and concrete forms part of an ambitious environmental strategy for the centre, which is certified BREEAM ‘Excellent’ and targets net zero energy consumption.

Renewable energy is drawn from a ground-source heat pump and a rooftop photovoltaic array. The thermal mass of the exposed concrete ceilings and structural frame are harnessed to reduce heating and cooling requirements.

The building includes rainwater harvesting, LED lighting, bicycle commuting infrastructure, and extensive recyclable and locally-sourced materials. “A lot of energy was spent trying to reduce energy,” quips Swickerath.

From the client side, the Ogden Centre project was masterminded by Professor Frenk, who from the outset took an active role in the design process. This is not a new preoccupation for the Mexican-American scientist, who persuaded the University to build the original Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics which opened in 2002.



Time will tell if this inspirational work environment helps them delve even deeper into the mysteries of the Universe



Swickerath comments: “Carlos is one of the most spectacular people – every time I speak to him I get inspired about the universe we live in. As an architect you get to work with all kinds of specialists in different fields; this was a particularly inspiring group of people because they deal with the big questions.”

Frenk has compared the design of the

Centre to the mathematical work carried out by space scientists who will walk its corridors, specifically the use of geometric lines and shapes, and the focus on light, including the skylight that can be used to study the cosmos. Time will tell if this inspirational work environment helps them delve even deeper into the mysteries of the Universe. ■

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Award-winning Altro XpressLay™ safety flooring has been used throughout a £25 million secondary 'super school' – Rhyl High School accommodates 1,200 students. Altro XpressLay, Altro Whiterock™ White walling and Altro Stronghold™ 30 safety flooring were installed in the school kitchen.

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Firestone's EPDM goes back to School



Firestone's RubberGard™ EPDM roofing membrane has been used to provide a robust waterproofing solution for two new build extensions at an eco-focused primary school in Cheshire. Designed

Roof Systems began by applying a vapour control layer to the timber deck of the 75m² hall extension and 350m² classroom extension, followed by 130mm PIR insulation board. The RubberGard™ EPDM membrane was then installed as a fully adhered system using Firestone's bonding adhesive. Firestone's Quickseam™ Splice Tape and Quickseam™ FormFlash were then used to seal any joints.

01606 552026 www.firestonebpe.co.uk

KI seating takes pride of place



KI's award-winning range of educational seating has been chosen to take pride of place in Scotland's City of Glasgow College. The new City Campus in the heart of Glasgow's high tech Learning Quarter completes the twin site super college development designed for 40,000

students. It has been furnished with over 6,000 chairs from KI's portfolio. KI's reputation as one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of furniture, specifically created to best meet the needs of learning environments, made KI the clear choice.

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Senior gets technical with college contracts

With an already impressive portfolio of projects in the education sector, leading fenestration manufacturer Senior Architectural Systems has seen a significant increase in specification of its SF52 aluminium curtain walling system for use on several University Technical Colleges (UTC) projects across the UK.

Providing attractive slim sightlines to maximise the flow of daylight, Senior SF52 aluminium curtain walling system and SPW600 aluminium windows were the ideal choice for specialist glazing contractor Dortech Architectural Systems Ltd to create the glazed facade of the new state of the art Scarborough University Technical College. Designed by architects Faulkner Brown, the new facility has been constructed by main contractor Willmott Dixon.

A further appointment by main contractor Willmott Dixon has seen Senior supply the fenestration package for UTC South Durham, a key feature of which is a triple-height engineering hall. Here, specialist contractor Chemplas has installed the SF52 aluminium curtain walling to create

a bright and welcoming entrance with Senior's SPW600 aluminium windows flooding the interior of the three-storey building with natural light.

The aesthetic appeal and design flexibility of Senior SF52 curtain walling system has also been put to the test at the new University Technical College in Leeds. Unusually, rather than a new build, this UTC has been created following the restoration of a Grade II industrial factory building. Fabricated and installed by Granada Glazing Ltd for main contractor BAM Construct UK, the slim sightlines of the SF52 curtain walling perfectly complement the industrial heritage of the building that has been given a new lease of life as a UTC by Race Cottam architects. The Leeds' project also features Senior's robust SD automatic doors.

The enhanced thermal performance of Senior's SF52 curtain walling makes it ideally suited for applications where daylighting and energy-efficiency are key requirements and as such, has been used to great effect at the new UTC Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park. A repeat business opportunity with both



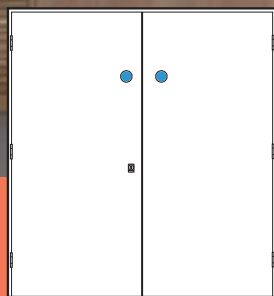
Granada Glazing Ltd and BAM Construct UK, Senior's SF52 curtain walling and SD automatic doors have been used to create the dramatic, double-height glazed entrance to Bond Bryan architects' designed building. For more information, please visit the Senior website.

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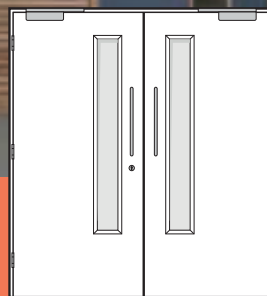
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Luceco lights The Pines Special School

Luceco has recently supplied a complete LED lighting solution for new buildings at The Pines Special School in Birmingham. The Pines is a primary school facility educating pupils with communication issues, providing the foundations for future learning. Facility and maintenance contractors, Air Cool Engineering Midlands were responsible for the luminaire installation at The Pines using square and circular LuxPanels as well as Academy luminaires. Fixed output and dimmable LuxPanels were used in classrooms offering up to 50,000 hours of energy saving, maintenance free life. Circular LuxPanels were used in corridors with IP65 versions being fitted in cloakrooms and WC's. Academy is designed to be an ideal replacement for linear fluorescent fittings, particularly in classrooms, offices, circulation areas and corridors. Selected Academy luminaires installed were fitted with an integral microwave sensor to further reduce energy consumption.

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A real 'page turner' for Gerflor



In 2016 the Scottish Government allocated £450,000 to support Scottish libraries. The Denny Library would see a benefit from a recent regeneration project which would be a perfect fit for international flooring and interiors specialist **Gerflor**. When the architect was looking for robustness, continuity and visual appearance in the flooring he specified Gerflor products. The project would use a mixture of Gerflor's Tarasafe Standard, Taralay Impression Comfort and their award-winning Creation range for their library, the back of house WC area and stores.

01926 622 600 www.gerflor.co.uk

Ceiling solutions for work, rest and play



Weaponness Park in Scarborough has been transformed into a £15 million development comprising an improved community leisure centre, a new stadium, a University Technical College and a satellite campus for Coventry University. **Rockfon** worked successfully to establish a fully compliant range of acoustic ceiling solutions that meet or exceed performance specifications in all three buildings. Made from non-combustible stone wool, most Rockfon products have the highest reaction to fire classification and do not contribute to the development or spread of fire, which is paramount for protecting occupants in public buildings.

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Heradesign – a study in red



AXO Student Living provides high quality student residences in the UK. To satisfy increasing demand in the Midlands area, AXO commissioned a new purpose built construction. Heradesign ceilings from **Knauf AMF** are fitted in the acoustically-demanding areas to help create an environment that's conducive for study and relaxation. Heradesign was specified in red and neutral colours to help define the verticals and horizontals in the circulation areas. Heradesign was fitted in the corridors using the Knauf AMF free-span system to give these areas a visually-open feel.

0191 518 8600 www.amfceilings.co.uk

Curved Space from Metal Technology



The Space, the performing art, technology and innovation centre for the South Eastern Regional College in Bangor, Northern Ireland benefits from an iconic curved facade constructed using **Metal Technology** architectural aluminium systems. The building's glass atrium features System 17 curtain walling in capped and silicone pointed variants, as well as Systems 5-20 and 4-20 windows. System 17 offered the design flexibility to create the curved aesthetic together with high performance thermal efficiency and weathering.

028 9448 7777 www.metaltechnology.com

Pendock give school that 'just so' look



The encasement solutions produced by **Pendock** are widely used across the commercial and public sectors. The Rudyard Kipling School, located in Brighton, has been the subject of a year-long contract for locally based SMS Southern Ltd., with Pendock having supplied pipe boxing specified by Brighton and Hove Council. The scope of the scheme was to disguise visually intrusive and potentially hazardous pipework in the school and its washroom spaces, which will also ensure that cleaning is made easier with no place for germs to linger.

01952 580 590 www.pendock.co.uk

Innovative use of Technal Systems



In answer to a daylight, ventilation and health and safety conundrum, the design team for a new 21st century academy in Sheffield has used **Technal's** aluminium systems to create an innovative, multipurpose architectural highlight that features across the Academy's stunning facade. An elongated, non-standard size, brick slip system creates the basic building envelope and is dominated by Technal-glazed features using 1,500m² of the company's MX visible grid curtain walling, FXi 65 windows and CD commercial doors, maximising natural daylight throughout the Academy buildings.

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Levolux delivers top class solution



The award-winning, £42 million Vijay Patel Building at De Montfort University in Leicester, combines several structural elements, each distinguished by a contrasting, yet highly effective external solar shading and screening solution, courtesy of Levolux. The Vijay Patel building, designed by CPMG architects, becomes home to the DMU's faculty of Arts. Levolux has an impressive track record working on projects at the DMU campus. This continues with the delivery of a custom solar shading and screening solution for the Vijay Patel Building. The solution includes a diverse range of products, including curved Aerofoil Fins, faux terracotta Fins, PV integrated Glass Fins and plant screening louvres. These have been applied differently on the building's three structures. In total, Levolux provided 156 Glass PV Fins for the Arts Tower, each measuring up to 763mm wide and up to 3.3 metres in length. The Fins have been divided into two sections. 81 Fins have been fixed horizontally in a vertical stack on the tower's south-facing elevation. The remainder are fixed vertically, secured with angled brackets to the south-west facing elevation.

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Kalwall® translucent cladding has been extensively used for the impressive refurbishment of the main teaching block at Featherstone High School in Southall. The original concrete framed building was failing due to ingress of water and needed structural stabilisation. DSP Architecture were appointed to repair and encapsulate the frame, resulting in a stunning transformation into a very modern teaching block. The renovation required removal of the old concrete spandrel panels, repairs to the concrete structure and then over-cladding with Kalwall panels supported on a new steel frame which was added to extend the floor space. The two fully replaced elevations are a perfect example of how Kalwall can be used for the refurbishment of old and failing cladding and for aged buildings. The new facades allow floor to ceiling diffused and healthy daylight to flood the interior while providing privacy for students and removing any distractions. An integrated row of clerestory windows provides ventilation and limited views to the outside. Kalwall eliminates all shadows and glare and the stark contrasts of light and shade which not only reduces eye fatigue but also enhances concentration.

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**BUILDING
PROJECTS**

**24-26 WHITE POST LANE
LONDON**

Making spaces work for a living

How to create a robust mixed-use scheme that nurtures rather than neuters the special character of an area which was the catalyst for development? That was the challenge facing architect Hawkins\Brown in Hackney, north east London as James Parker reports



Hackney Wick together with its conjoined district of Fish Island, is as the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) local plan correctly states, a “special place.” Sandwiched between Victoria Park and the Olympic Park, over recent decades its former industrial buildings have been colonised by artists and creative and light industries keen to benefit from their generous proportions and robust design, as well as the proximity to central London and the area’s more affordable rates compared to Spitalfields or Hoxton.

The word ‘vibrant’ is thrown around a lot, but the area genuinely deserves that term: it’s undeniably a cultural quarter, with over 600 studios and workspaces, plus galleries, cafes and small shops.

Hackney Wick and Fish Island (HWFI) is thought to have the densest concentration of artists’ studios in Europe, and is also home to many established companies, serving London with everything from food to printing.

The rich industrial legacy is combined with something of an island character due to the area being somewhat cut off by canals, railway lines and major roads, and many artists and commercial users demonstrate a collective approach to organising factory units. The streets are filled with small, attractive factory buildings and delineated by tree-lined waterways including the canalised River Lee.

However with it being such an increasingly popular and fashionable area, growth in residential development as well as regen-

LIVING & WORKING

The development combines galleried residential levels with ground floor commercial units



A TIGHT SPOT

Hawkins\Brown's scheme comprises the four buildings in the south-west corner of the urban block, grouped around an irregularly-shaped courtyard (bottom left of drawing), plus a new adjacent public route to the east



We had to maximise the footprint while creating decent streetscapes, a decent yard width and a geometry that made sense

Phil Catcheside, Hawkins\Brown

eration and conversion of industrial spaces caused Hackney Council to point to scarcity of future commercial space to support much-needed employment and maintain the area's character. The council's 2008 masterplan looked to control this "incremental shift from industry to residential-led mixed use," especially on the desirable canal-side, which it said "has made it difficult to maintain employment uses." In addition, the LLDC local plan also wanted to create more connected and legible places, in contrast to the currently rather confusing and ad hoc pattern of development.

As part of maintaining that persuasive-sounding combination of a "lively, diverse and well-connected urban quarter on the edge of the Olympic Park" that Hackney Council sought, architect Hawkins\Brown was engaged by developer Aitch Group and Design & Build contractor Aitch Construction to create a mixed-use scheme which would put commercial units at the core and help maintain the important sense of vitality that characterises the area.

Key to this was the LLDC's vision of the area not being a "dormitory suburb characterised by blocks of flats," but "a place of creative production and adaption rather than simply consumption."

Site constraints & masterplan

The problem with such interesting and diverse sites is that they tend to contain irregular-shaped development plots, which can force interesting solutions but not without applying some architectural sweat and rigour. And there are other constraints too, particularly the six-storey height restriction, combined with getting the necessary density the client requires.

The historical street pattern of the site somewhat dictates its unusual shape, rather squeezed and with a 'bullnose' to the south west as Rothbury Road curves eastwards away from the major A12 road, cutting off what might have otherwise been a neat square corner. Hawkins\Brown's project partner Phil Catcheside tells ADF: "A lot of sites in HWFI are dealing with similar issues," citing the Wickside mixed use scheme and Peabody's Fish Island Village social housing scheme. He says that in addition to these constraints, there are "historically interesting buildings, most of which are listed."

The stated goal of the LLDC (which replaced the Olympic Park Legacy Company in 2012), includes "developing a dynamic new heart for east London, creating opportunities for local people." As Catcheside says, its planning policy, enshrined within its Local Plan for HWFI recognises the unique strengths of the area as a diverse collection of working units: "The Local Plan identified what was successful about the area at the moment, and aspired to retain the light industrial all square metreage of employment use on a quantum basis."

Over recent years the concept of 'live-work' – residential units combined with



workspace – has seen increasing traction. However, while many developments have been planned on this basis, they haven't always seen a successful mix in practice. As a result, 'live-work' was not the driver for this development, says Catcheside, adding that the model has "failed in many places because it's essentially not been managed and the asset has fallen back into a residential use."

The mix here is a more delineated one of commercial spaces with high ceilings (up to 3.7 metres) located at ground floor, with residential above as well as being located in a stand-alone five-storey commercial building. Separate mixed-tenure residential floors are located as street level maisonettes and above some of the ground floor commercial units, but both residential and commercial users enjoying the vibrancy provided by the visual and social mix. The 24-26 White Post Lane development (which only forms half of the overall new urban block) is four buildings grouped around an irregularly shaped courtyard – the key to the scheme's character. Three six-storey, brick-clad residential buildings adjacent to White Post Lane and the western perimeter of the site, Rothbury Road, provide 103 homes including maisonettes, with commercial units at ground floor apart from where those maisonettes are located.

Two of the buildings contain 85 units for private sale, and another adjacent building has 18 units for affordable rent. There is an additional five-storey commercial building to the south-west of the site, completing a rough circle. This forms an elbow-shaped stand-alone corner which will be in contrasting dark slate grey brick (the other buildings also make extensive use of brick

facades). Catcheside comments: "It's slightly different, we had done something similar on a previous scheme and the LLDC were encouraging of it here."

The last part of the puzzle is a new residential scheme to the south east corner of the plot along Rothbury Road. On the site of a recently demolished bagel factory will be an L-shaped medium-rise flexible mixed-use building designed by HWO Architects and separated from Hawkins\Brown's scheme by a new street that winds its way through the urban block.

Geometry exam

Phil Catcheside comments on how the curved site challenged the designers: "If the geometry of the curve had been slightly straighter we could perhaps have made a purer response to it – three or four buildings that were essentially rectangular. However, we had to maximise the footprint while creating decent streetscapes, a decent yard width and buildings with a geometry that made sense."

As he says, the architectural solution to this constrained site meant that achieving the right geometry was a "major part of the puzzle," adding that the firm made drawings of "many models done as a study of various geometries, trying to get them to work for all parts of the building and the streetscape." He says that this scheme "qualifies as one of the most difficult the practice has worked on, in terms of having to deliver a certain quantum of developable area."

Working through the geometries led to a solution, as Catcheside puts it, of the four buildings on the site "chasing themselves, in a sort of knot," however he admits that as the designers looked at options, sometimes

MIXED TENURE

Two of the buildings contain 85 units for private sale and another has 18 for affordable rent



WAREHOUSE AESTHETIC

The whole scheme makes extensive use of brick cladding in elevations, tying in with the area's pre-existing industrial buildings

this would mean hitting a “crunch point” where it didn’t work so well.

Project architect Matthew Ruddy explains further: “We rationalised the curve of Rothbury Road through a series of cranks in the buildings’ footprints. This had multiple benefits including protecting the mature trees to the west, increasing the public realm by stepping back from the site boundary, and introducing straight lines to better space plan the commercial and residential plans.” Catcheside adds: “Cranking the commercial building meant

we could push it almost to the perimeter so we would have greater footprint.”

Yards & permeability

The Creative Factories research into the special character of the HWFI area published in 2013 was a big influence on the design. It states that “studio yards” (i.e. spaces between workspaces are “probably the single defining characteristic of studio life in Hackney Wick and Fish Island.” It adds: “As a shared space, the yard plays a crucial role. They are the main arteries for those coming and going, and provide an intimate point of contact between residents that encourages conviviality.” These “collectively negotiated” spaces are the glue that binds the community together, supporting not only work – such as deliveries – but also leisure activity and events.

Hawkins\Brown used the yard heritage as a focus of its scheme, as Catcheside explains: “On White Post Lane itself but also in the larger urban block, there are a number of non-standard yards with the commercial tenants sharing the space. It’s semi-private, can be gated or left open for more permeable ground floor use.”

The residential upper floors of the scheme overlooking the yard “visually share the sense of activity and co-location,” he says, adding that part of the attraction of living in such a development is this close and highly visible proximity of residential and commercial rubbing along together. Catcheside adds that serving this desire is not always easy in London residential developments: “It’s often not encouraged by many boroughs, one overlooking the other. Actually it’s fundamental to this area, and we think that the co-location enlivens both experiences, although it’s not for everyone.”

Gallery deck

An A-shaped building producing an irregular-shaped courtyard with a tight angle at one end not only creates issues space planning internally (with the circulation core at the apex) but also externally in the courtyard, with residents potentially overlooking each other. Hawkins\Brown addressed this using a gallery deck access concept it has applied successfully in other similar projects. Front doors therefore open to the internal courtyard and kitchen windows face into it, helping to protect residents’ privacy.

Phil Catcheside: “When designed well, it can be an attractive and popular arrangement.” It can be used for “incidental” social interaction, although as he says there will

be specifically designed landscaped terrace areas with furniture to provide more extended social space for residents. This is in addition to the winter gardens being created to the western edge to protect users against the barrage of A12 traffic.

But as Catcheside says, the courtyard “is where neighbourhoods come together – you start to get to know people, seeing them every day.”

Victorian secrets

It emerged that a Victorian sewer ran under the site. However, it was actually snaking rather than running straight across, which created a challenge. The main issue was that Thames Water placed a ‘no building zone’ planning restriction on it.

Hawkins\Brown turned this obstacle into a benefit, seeing an opportunity to introduce a second covered route through the site, cantilevered over the sewer, allowing views of the working yard and streets beyond. Made possible by the cranking of the commercial building, this also enables double-height entrances further round the street into the commercial yard, “giving more permeability” as Catcheside puts it.

Instead of the initial design idea to create a new public route through the site following the sewer, a separate street has been created from White Post Lane to Rothbury Road, bisecting the block in dog-leg fashion and crossing a new public square between Hawkins\Brown and HWO’s buildings. This created amenity but also views across the site. Catcheside notes: “Once that was unlocked, it was much easier to conceive this new public space as doing the primary place-making and streetscape job.”

After much hard work to flex around the constraints, the scheme has a strong logic to it, insists Catcheside: “I think after coming through a certain number of iterations we got to a point where we had a design logic which freed us to embrace one or two things in terms of where the cores go, and how the buildings relate to each other.”

Brick details

The elevations make use of the potential of brick to provide interesting details, while also tying in with the vernacular of many of the old warehouse buildings in the area. Phil Catcheside explains: “A lot of the local buildings of merit are essentially brick warehouses, and the irony is that commercial buildings of the past have been repurposed into what is now many people’s ideal – loft living.”

He adds that there are also “good architectural reasons” for working with brick, “it’s a good material, and we can have fun with it – we can have small, medium and large scale motifs in the same material – it remains a rich source of architectural expression.”

Catcheside describes how using brick helps to give each building a distinct identity, tying in with warehouses of the past: “We’ve taken on a well-used warehouse type of idiom but have tried to think of things which are genuinely novel in some of our fluted detailing.” He adds: “Many of the area’s buildings were almost out of a pattern book, functionally driven with doors and windows of a certain size, but each time you find a little detail which is different from surrounding buildings.”

Matthew Ruddy explains how the detailing challenged the contractor and bricklayers: “The detailing included dogtooth brickwork columns and staggered ‘soldier course’ banding above windows, which were originally envisioned as being precast elements. We worked with the contractor and bricklayer to recreate the same design through traditional masonry.”

A rich mix

The future should be bright for this attractively robust development, now under construction, with a range of possible occupiers wishing to snap up units – from microbreweries to architects. The distinctive benefit of sharing commercial yards to the rear of their homes would be a key benefit for all, according to the architects. Phil Catcheside comments that “residents attracted to the area understand that they might be part of the blend and the balance,” and they are “self-selecting.”

He admits there is “a delicate balance to strike” between light industrial and residential space, but when it comes to commercial areas, there’s a clear driver. “Architects and creative collectives tend to need large floor to ceiling heights, more robust finishes and more flexible units.”

At the end of the day, this development is for people who want this particular, lively mix: “Modern craft-based companies attracted to the area and to the spaces, because it already has a sort of gravity about it. It has attracted people already and will continue to.” He admits however that with architects being one key target market, “the temptation is always to imagine yourself here; you have to force yourself out of that mindset sometimes.” ■



PERMEABLE

A new pedestrian access was created through the urban block

PROJECT FACTFILE

Location: Hackney Wick

Client: Aitch Group

Contractor: Aitch Construction

Architect: Hawkins\Brown

Value: £26m

Units: 110

Tenure: Private, shared ownership, social rent

Granted planning permission: December 2016

Contract type: Design & Build

Two brothers

In 2012, Aberdeen airport published its draft Master Plan outlining its 30 year vision for the future. The four star Crowne Plaza is situated in a prime location, a mere 100m from Aberdeen International Airport terminal, the gateway to Europe's energy capital and operating the world's busiest commercial heliport. Direct connections are available to key locations such London, Amsterdam, Geneva, Paris, Stavanger and Frankfurt to name but a few. Just aside there is the three star Holiday Inn Express Hotel. The three star Holiday Inn Express features 193 bedrooms, one meeting room and a 150 seat restaurant, whilst the four star Crowne Plaza features 165 bedrooms, seven meeting rooms, two banqueting suites and a 220 seat restaurant. The schemes designed by architects Urban Innovations and Dexter Moren deliver a restful stay and a comfortable working environment for business and leisure guests alike. The 15 month construction phase began in March 2014, with the hotels scheduled to open in June and September of 2015.

The external envelopes of the hotels have been developed as an architectural family. Both buildings compliment each other but also retain their own identities. The Holiday Inn Express is a white rendered box. A simple rhythm of bedroom windows weaves across the elevations reflecting a standardised room layout and the internal use.



The Crowne Plaza is considered the 'bigger brother'. The concept of a box on a plinth has been developed however the materials used vary. The front entrance elevation emphasises this hotel as a luxury destination whilst projecting ALUCOBOND® cassettes offer a unique prismatic effect to the upper levels. Again, a simple rhythm of bedroom windows weaves across the main elevation. Due to the variation in site levels the buildings have been embedded in the landscape to reduce the impact on the surroundings.

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Construction Type: Cassettes – Special construction

Planning (Architect): Urban Innovations

Fabricator/Installer: FGF/KTD Facades Ltd

Year of construction: 2015

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Cheshire Mansion, Elmwood Cranage



BAL has provided a full tiling solution for the renovation of a six bedroom country house in Cheshire tiled by Mark Isherwood from Artisan Tiling. Featuring intricate brick slips, porcelain plank tiles and polished porcelain, the stunning redevelopment also features an external water feature tiled with split face stone. As the kitchen and hallway floors weren't flat, Mark used BAL LEVEL MAX levelling compound to create a smooth and level surface to tile onto. The four bathrooms were all tiled in a linear pattern. The main family bathroom at the property is tiled in dark brown Aalto Toanna, again in a linear pattern on the floor and walls. The ground floor cloakroom is tiled in Aalto Cerreto also in a linear pattern. Aalto is a colour-bodied porcelain tile inspired by the hills of central Italy. The warm, organic colours vary markedly within each tile, reflecting a natural landscape. All floor tiles were fixed with BAL SUPERCOVER RAPID-FLEX adhesive and grouted with BAL MICROMAX2 Smoke, while all wall tiles were fixed using BAL SINGLE PART FLEXIBLE in white or grey and grouted using BAL MICROMAX2 grout in varying colours, all primed with BAL PRIME APD first.

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Optimise share of £14 billion market



Enabling all people to go to the toilet will help tourist attractions take a bigger share of the £14 billion spent in the UK a year by parties that include a disabled person. To help them, one of the leading disabled toileting solutions provider Closomat has published a white paper: *Provision of Accessible Toilets in the Tourism Industry*. It clarifies what is needed under the latest Building Regulations, plus the Equality Act

and BS8300:2009, to enable visitors with a visible or invisible disability to access appropriate toilets.

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Kaldewei Cayonoplan Shower Surface



Kaldewei's new Cayonoplan offers the perfect answer when it comes to designing a nearly flat shower solution. The enamelled Cayonoplan shower surface adapts to many different structural requirements.

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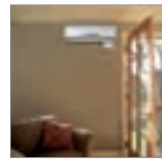
Taplanes Ltd provide pre-fabricated Shower cubicle and bathroom pod solutions to a variety of end users throughout the UK. With a strong client base including Universities, Schools, Housing Associations and Hotels, Taplanes pre-formed shower enclosures overcome the inherent problems associated with conventional bathroom areas. The pre-fabricated structure provides many advantages over traditional building methods.



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Saniflo keeps pace with climate change



As Britain basked in the hottest June in 40 years, the heat is on to keep the nation cool. The sale of air conditioning units in the UK has been growing steadily the past few years. **Saniflo** is predicting a continued upturn in the air conditioning market for commercial and domestic markets, and advises people to ensure efficient condensate removal. The Saniflo range of air conditioning pumps comprising the Sanicondens® Clim Pack, the Sanicondens® Clim Mini and the Sanicondens® Clim Deco are specifically designed to expel the condensate from air conditioning units in a quiet and efficient manner.

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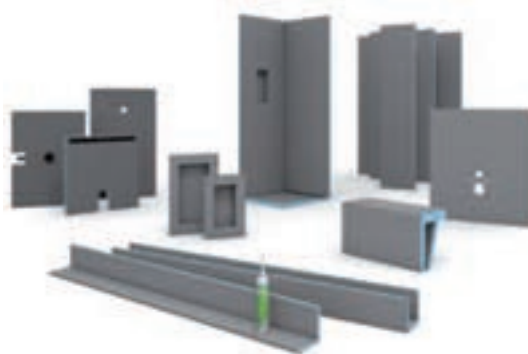
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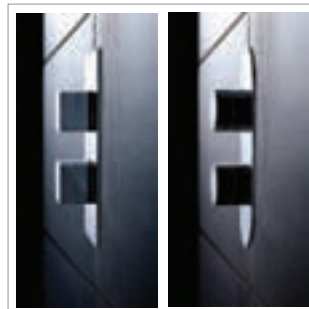
Success for Evolved by JT as it expands size range



One of the leading UK shower tray manufacturers, JT, has announced three new sizes for the Evolved range following its excellent first six months in the market. The award-winning product that fuses both tray and wet room concepts is now available as a 1400 x 900, 1500 x 800 and 1600 x 800. Over nearly three decades, JT has led product design in the shower industry, from the first tray on legs to the launch of the revolutionary JT40 and market-leading JTFusion, the low profile tray that took the market by storm. The next generation Evolved was launched last summer and at just 25mm deep, it's designed to incorporate the simplicity of installing a shower tray with the stunning look of a modern wet room. The feedback to the launch has been phenomenal, with the five stunning colours of Sage Green, Mistral Grey, Malbec Red, Pastel Blue and Astro Black getting encouraging reviews. Paul Crossley, Managing Director of JT, said: "Evolved by JT has been our most popular product launch to date and it's only sensible to expand the size range. Showrooms across the country have been supportive of the product since day one, so hopefully this size expansion gives them more flexibility to offer their customers."

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Pressalit Care awarded for its work in UK



Pressalit Care, a leading supplier of accessible bathroom solutions, has been honoured for its work in the UK. Headquartered in Denmark, Pressalit Care has been awarded His Royal Highness Prince Henrik of Denmark's Medal of Honour in recognition of the

firm's rapidly growing reputation in the UK within the accessible bathrooms industry. It is awarded to individuals in recognition of their unique efforts, and was presented to Andrew Lowndes, who commented: "It is a real honour and a great privilege".

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Norcros relaunches 4 into 1 grout range



Norcros Adhesives is relaunching its successful 4 into 1 grout range with new improved formulations, new colours, new packaging and marketing support. The Norcros 4 into 1 Grouts & Sealants range has established itself in recent years as one of the leading ranges on the market, known for technical excellence and ease of use, so the relaunch will be of considerable interest both

to fixers and distributors. The new range has been considerably expanded and now includes a total of 15 colours. The products have been reformulated to be efflorescence-resistant and water-repellant.

01782 524140 www.norcros-adhesives.co.uk

Offsite Solutions £5m investment



Offsite Solutions, one of the UK's leading bathroom pod manufacturer, has announced a £5m investment programme to expand its production facilities in Somerset to meet the growing demand for its factory built bathrooms. This will be the

biggest expansion programme in the history of the company. Planning approval has now been granted for a £1m facility to increase storage space at Offsite Solutions' UK headquarters and production centre to accommodate up to 3,500 completed bathroom pods, before the units are delivered to building sites across the country.

info@offsitesolutions.com

Cycle centre receives washroom makeover



Washroom Washroom, has created an iconic new cycle centre for a central London office. Washroom worked closely with interior design and fit-out company Elev8 Interiors Ltd. The company's Forza lockers, which were manufactured from 12mm solid laminate with

aluminum bodies, were installed and come complete with digital code access locks. The cycle centre also features Washroom's highly engineered Marcato toilet and shower cubicles. Its flush fronted design and rebated finish ensures division panels and doors meet edge to edge for maximum privacy.

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Accessible design in public places

Accessible washrooms are not known for their aesthetics. To comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (2005), function often takes precedence over form. However, DELABIE, the leading European manufacturer for water controls and sanitary ware, has launched a range of grab bars and shower seats with design at its core.

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The clean lines of DELABIE's Be-Line® grab bars and shower seats provide a new aesthetic, replacing the institutional aspect of adapted washrooms. Concealed fixings and an ergonomic design heighten the impression of comfort and provide a necessary level of discretion. The facilities can be used by any user, at any life stage and regardless of their level of independence, promoting a sense of well-being. This makes the shared use of sanitary spaces more agreeable for everyone.



Safe

Public facilities accommodate all users, so DELABIE tests its grab bars and seats to over 200kg, guaranteeing stability and safety for all. Made from extruded and injection-moulded aluminium, the Be-line® range is durable and can withstand intensive use. The



smooth, homogenous surface is also easy to clean and the lack of joints minimises niches where bacteria proliferate.

Ergonomic

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Fostering collaboration

Unifying technical data may be BIM's most celebrated feature for some, but for Tim Checketts of Assa Abloy its major benefit is interdisciplinary collaboration

Digital technology has become instrumental to maximising productivity in the construction industry, but often the focus is placed firmly on the technological advancements rather than the resultant benefits of the cross-sector collaboration. For instance, Building Information Modelling, or BIM, is a process that reduces waste and chance of error and facilitates the sharing of detailed information throughout the various phases of a project.

Unlike traditional methodologies, which require submission of numerous deliverables in different formats, BIM streamlines this process and minimises the risk of mistakes or missing information.

BIM also enables architects and contractors to be continually involved in the decision-making, particularly when design and performance information is shared with operational managers, thus helping to avoid any as-designed and as-built performance gaps.

Improved access to information

BIM fosters collaboration, which is essential to designing the correct performance of each building element throughout its life cycle.

For example, by using BIM-ready tools architects and specifiers can create solutions that complement aesthetics, increase energy efficiency and optimise security. Each BIM object has comprehensive information on everything from a U-values, material specifications and dimensions through to pricing and quantities.

Contractors can then view all this information to assess precise quantities, pricing and supplier options as well as installation instructions. In addition, contractors can also track the status of installations across the project much more effectively.

Such tools ensure that post-construction processes, such as environmental accreditations and handovers to facilities managers, are managed effectively. Moreover, the ongoing performance and



maintenance of the building may also be monitored.

BIM in practice

One example of a company which uses BIM to streamline processes is One Creative. Located in Worcester, this integrated building design business features a multi-disciplinary team comprising architects, masterplanners, structural and civil engineers, building services specialists and interior designers. Taking a collaborative approach and working in partnership with its clients, the firm's architects are at the forefront of BIM.

As early adopters of BIM, they operate within a fully integrated BIM workflow, resulting in a unified approach to building design.

Projects of every size can be completed within a BIM workflow, allowing for interdisciplinary working to BIM Level 2. All elements of the design and build process operate within the same protocols and software, avoiding model ownership issues and contributing to a streamlined project delivery.

One Creative believes that full BIM integration is the future of intelligent building design, and this drives their creative output. Previously, the company

BIM also enables architects and contractors to be continually involved with decision-making



BIM ensures that post-construction processes, such as environmental accreditations and handovers to facilities managers, are managed effectively

complete doorsets that meet projects' needs.

Jason Whittall, director at One Creative, explains: "Once [information] has been shared, other specialists can instantly feed back on a project's development and respond with updates and suggestions. This collaborative approach makes the whole process far more transparent and productive."

BIM fosters collaboration, and tools that can be utilised across the supply chain, add considerable value to any project and encourage investment, innovation and growth throughout the industry.

Tim Checketts is specification director at Assa Abloy UK

used their own in-house models to detail specialist areas such as door and window scheduling or ironmongery, in 2D. However, they are now using a BIM-enabled product specification software suite that streamlines collaboration and information sharing.

The software ensures all stakeholders have real-time access to doors and ironmongery specification data, providing




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- The centres of the joist frame and thickness of decking boards
- Overall height from deck to upper surface

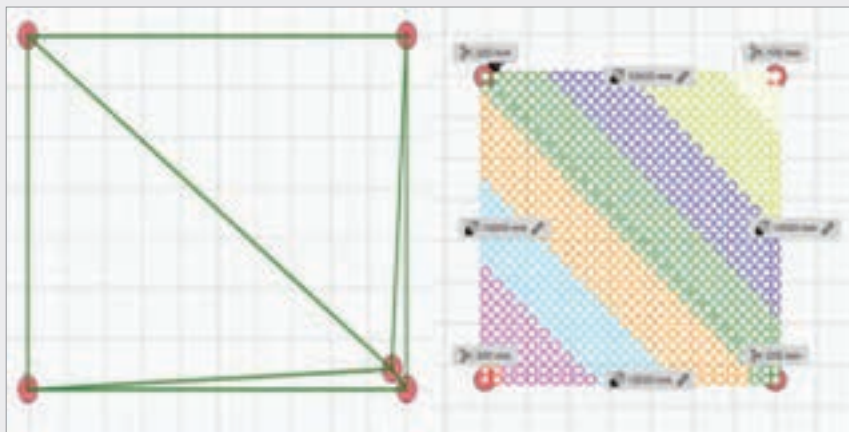
The software then calculates the distances and area, which can be edited if needed, and then generates the drawing and schedule.

The Megapro tool calculates the exact number, height and product code of each

pedestal required. It separates them by height and code creating a drawing of the exact layout. It colour-codes each pedestal type, creating an installer-friendly drawing that indicates exactly where to place each pedestal. It then creates a schedule listing each product so that the estimator/buyer can cost the project accurately, mitigating against over/under-ordering.

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Realistic rainwater storage

Ian Crickmore of Polypipe Terrain explains how adopting rainwater harvesting systems can provide sustainable drainage solutions in space-constrained urban areas



HARVESTER

Ian Crickmore, technical director at Polypipe Terrain

Storing rainwater at roof and podium levels saves potable water, and allows it to be harvested and reused within the building

Obsessing over rain is something of a national pastime, but capturing rainwater could help meet sites' increased drainage demands, particularly in dense urban areas.

Average rainfall in the UK stands at 33.7 inches per year, and potable water can be retained through roof top attenuation systems. Using these solutions, rainwater can be harvested and utilised in non-potable applications, providing a valuable resource.

In urban areas however, limited ground space prevents rainwater from draining away naturally, placing immense strain on surface water drainage and creating flooding risks, which architects should try to mitigate in their design.

Addressing space constraints

Attenuation can occur on many levels, from ground level to podium decks and rooftops. Storm water is typically stored at ground level, but in dense urban areas this is often not feasible, as it would require the use of premium priced land, carrying out expensive excavation or even removing underground facilities.

A more cost-effective solution is to place the water management and source control systems above ground level, on roofs and podium decks. This way architects can overcome the space constraints while providing an efficient solution to cope with a site's drainage demands.

Adding green roofs or 'blue' roofs to a development can also provide numerous benefits, whether to capture and control the flow of water into drainage systems, or to store and utilise rainwater as a resource for the building.

Sustainable alternatives

Green roofs, incorporating building drainage and irrigation, can be planted over a waterproof membrane to store and attenuate rainfall before dispelling it to the drainage system at a controlled rate. Whether partially or fully covered in

vegetation, green roofs can reduce air pollution and help fight respiratory disease, while also adding to the visual appeal of a building.

Storing rainwater at roof and podium levels saves potable water, and allows it to be harvested and reused within the building. When required, captured water can also be treated and reused for the irrigation of green roofs.

Besides preventing flooding caused by excess rainfall in urban areas, green roofs also boost bio-diversity by providing a habitat for wildlife, birds and insects.

An alternative to green roofs is the blue roof. It retains water and dispels it into sewer systems at a rate agreed between the property developer and the relevant water companies.

Using the same waterproof membrane as the green roof, the blue roof is explicitly designed to store and control water at rooftop and podium level. Using flow control outlets, the blue roof retains as much or as little water as is needed to avoid overwhelming drainage and sewer systems.

A solution for any level

At our company, we use an attenuation system to produce effective blue and green roof solutions. This engineered geocellular system is suitable for use at any level and uses interlocking modular cells to create an exceptionally strong structural raft with a high resistance to bending. The system's strength makes it ideal for creating horizontal structural rafts.

It can also be combined in layers using interlocking shear connectors and the proprietary jointing system, which increases in depth by 85 mm or 150 mm increments, making it useful in infiltration systems. This not only allows for flexibility when balancing the soil permeability and infiltration area of the units, but also in the level of residual water.

When used within car parks, or in any other heavily trafficked areas in an urban setting where rainwater could be polluted



with oils and hydrocarbons, a SuDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) geotextile is used to treat storm water before it is dispersed back to the watercourse. Non-woven and needle punched, these filters contain specific treatment properties that remove oils from the water and provide hydrocarbon pollution treatment in SuDS applications.

With growing population densities placing increased pressures on surface water drainage systems, it is now more

imperative than ever that architects design sustainable drainage solutions to capture and manage rainwater via systems that can be seamlessly incorporated into a city's existing infrastructure.

In addition, specifying blue and green roofs can provide drainage in dense urban areas while also delivering cost and environmental benefits.

Ian Crickmore is technical director at Polypipe Terrain

Adding green or blue roofs can help control the flow of water into the drainage, or store it for non-potable use



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Bringing light home

Chris Chaney of Sunsquare explains how rooflights can improve daylighting, boost wellbeing and minimise a building's energy consumption

Spiralling property prices plus a lack of appropriate accommodation to move into have led to many homeowners preferring to carry out significant improvements to their existing properties. Creating additional space and drawing more light into a home are key priorities during home upgrades – in fact, in terms of preferences, building a space-constrained conservatory is starting to take second place to the more practical and versatile flat roof extension.

One reason for that shift is the opportunity to bring more light into the premises – rooflights allow light to be directed and controlled in such a way that they can become a stunning design feature.

Design flexibilities

In recent years, rooflights have evolved to provide much more than just daylight. Opening rooflights, for example, offer high thermal efficiency combined with ease of use, as they can be operated at the touch of a button.

These solutions can be manufactured in bespoke sizes and shapes to satisfy less conventional designs while remaining true to purpose – boosting daylighting and ventilation and improving access to areas that would otherwise be difficult to light.

Two common issues with rooflights exist however – overheating and sun damage to the interior – but these can be addressed from the outset. To prevent systems from getting too hot, solar control glazing can be specified for large glazed areas, while laminated glass would help reduce the premature fading of interior furnishings.

Rooflights also open a variety of design possibilities – beyond the traditional application in residential dwellings, it is now possible to create giant skylights for commercial buildings or build entire landings from 'walk-on' glass.

Daylighting techniques

Glass has been instrumental to the evolution of building design over the years,

shaping architects' vision and ambition and providing much greater scope for aesthetic experimentation.

Balancing innovative design with the health benefits of daylighting is increasingly encouraged, with academic research indicating that light bolsters wellbeing. This has led to the creation of the WELL building standard, which promotes the implementation of wellbeing solutions into building design, focusing on seven performance categories: air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind.

While the WELL standard has predominantly applied to commercial buildings rather than residential, it reinforces the idea that designs should be introducing as much natural light as is possible into all our buildings.

Performance in practice

Exposure to natural light positively influences a person's circadian rhythm and improves wellbeing. However, daylighting has other positive aspects, such as helping to minimise energy consumption and bills. On average, it has been discovered that lighting accounts for 40 per cent of a building's total energy consumption, so significant savings can be made by bringing more natural light into the premises while controlling both light and heat.

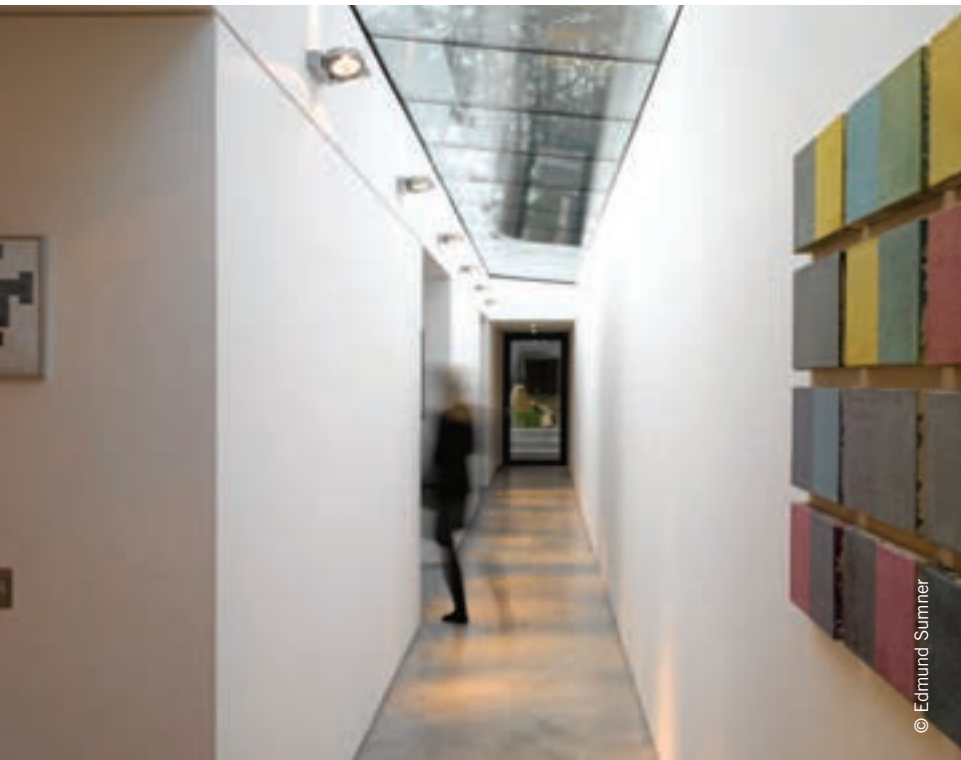
Potential issues, such as glare, overheating, variability and privacy, must be considered; however, rooflights can offer the option of controlled diffusion of natural light, thus overcoming some of these challenges and creating an aesthetically pleasing environment.

The National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers (NARM) has revealed that rooflights provide three times more light than the same area of vertical glazing. These solutions can also provide a much more even distribution of light, particularly in larger structures.

By comparison, in areas with vertical



According to the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers, rooflights provide three times more light than the same area of vertical glazing



© Edmund Sumner

glazing, the effective area which can be lit by natural lighting is only that within 6 metres of the wall with glazing in it.

Spotlight on the advantages

While drawing daylight into a building is a key design priority, the benefits of this natural resource extend beyond aesthetics and reduced energy consumption to promoting health, wellbeing and productivity.

Rooflights can maximise light in dark spaces, allow for sensitive changes in a conservation area, help mitigate tricky planning permission rules, and provide a solution if you are unable to have a traditional window due to the wall forming the boundary of the property. Also, for deep plan buildings with vertical windows, additional natural light is required from above.

Rooflights can be a useful contemporary addition to a home, providing functionally and aesthetics all in one.

Chris Chaney is managing director of Sunsquare

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Bold brass

Road and rail tunnels are not often associated with inspirational design but this tunnel portal building in Austria, defined by perforated Nordic Brass copper alloy from Aurubis, takes a particularly bold approach.

The 5.5km long Bosruck Tunnel passes through the Ennstal Alps, connecting Upper Austria with Styria. The original, two-way traffic tunnel has been renovated and a second, new tunnel built alongside. Now part of the A9 Pyhrn motorway, it is used by around 18,000 vehicles each day. This impressive engineering feat is announced by new portal structures at both ends of the tunnel.

The highly architectonic approach taken is unusual for projects of this kind, suggesting a new building typology celebrating transport infrastructure. A series of screens – made up of perforated Nordic Brass cassettes, profiled and arranged to reflect the verticality of the surroundings – partially conceal buildings and equipment essential to the tunnel's operation and safety. The rhythms of the screens highlight the experience of travellers



as they approach and drive straight through the building, via the dramatic 'flying roof' entrance and exit galleries, acting as transition spaces between inside and out.

Nordic Brass was chosen for its long-life and durability, including resistance to road salt, following trials simulating the exposure of the material over 30 years. Along with three other Aurubis copper or copper alloy clad projects, Bosruck Tunnel has been shortlisted for the 2017 European Copper in

Architecture Awards. All four shortlisted projects will also be featured on the Aurubis stand at the '100% Design' event in London Olympia, 20-23 September.

Nordic Brass – also available with a pre-weathered finish – is produced by Aurubis, part of the world's leading integrated copper group and largest copper recycler. Other copper alloys include Nordic Bronze and the innovative Nordic Royal, an alloy of copper with aluminium and zinc, giving it a rich golden through-colour and making it very stable.

The Aurubis architectural range also includes Nordic Standard 'mill finish' and Nordic Brown pre-oxidised copper, offering lighter or darker shades of brown determined by the thickness of the oxide layer. Various Nordic Green, Nordic Blue and Nordic Turquoise factory-applied patinas have also been developed with properties and colours based on the same brochantite mineralogy found in natural patinas all over the world.

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is the ventilation; as a result, internal airflow throughout is controlled via Gilberts' linear slot diffusers and extract valves; integrated into the facade are, Gilberts' external louvres. Gilberts advised its GSL slot diffusers were used in meeting rooms and offices; GX extract valves provide air changes in open spaces- reception, the restaurant.

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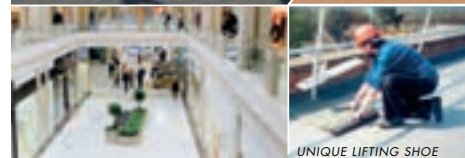
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Sioux Wood Protection AB | Tel: +44(0)7785 542859 | E: siouxuk@icloud.com | www.siox.co.uk

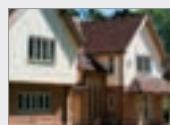
Sto brings Viennese landmark to life



The completion of an apartment block refurbishment project in Austria has shone the spotlight on the range of design possibilities by the StoVentec Glass system. The architects used StoVentec glass panels to create an unusual and dramatic new appearance for the building, and transform it into a focal point for the Central 7th district in Vienna. The StoVentec glass system can be used as an external rainscreen cladding system, or as an internal decorative option. It is manufactured with bespoke sizes and panel shapes to meet the specific requirements of each individual project.

0141 892 8000 www.sto.co.uk

The spectrum of design possibilities



Eurocell has expanded its standard colours range to include new 'on-trend' finishes; popular colours such as Cream, Rosewood and Anthracite Grey are all available from stock. New made to order colours include a taupe, Windsor, and the greys Kensington, Balmoral and Buckingham. The colours have been added to selected items within the Eurocell range, such as Modus and Eurologik window profiles, roofline and finishing trims. Eurocell range of external cills and end caps, which are available in three sizes and are colour matched to a wide range of window systems within the industry.

0300 333 6525 www.eurocell.co.uk

A compact choice for safety



A new compact safety sensor for automatic swing doors has been added to GEZE's suite of activation devices and sensor systems. The GC 342 sensor is a presence detector with a clean and modern line

which is aesthetically pleasing while enhancing safe operation. The compact sensor, which comes in left and right versions, can be used with all GEZE automatic swing door operators, on door leaves with a width of up to 1600mm. It offers reliable detection, even when installed at a height of 3850mm and provides greater protection particularly in front of or behind the door leaf when the door closes.

01543 443000 www.geze.co.uk

Hands-free operation



Schueco BlueCon is an access control module that uses Bluetooth wireless technology to enable a Smartphone to communicate directly with the door, causing the latter to open at the approach of an authorised user. The Smartphone app will activate the door lock as soon as the user comes within four

metres of the door. The convenience of this in everyday life – for example when a person is laden down with shopping – means Schueco UK expects BlueCon to prove very popular with end-users. If the Smartphone is lost, unauthorised access can be prevented.

01908 282111 www.schueco.com/web2/uk

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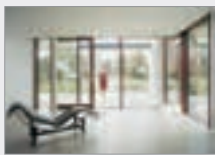
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www.ubbink.co.uk

VEKA Imagine door lifts expectations



Debuted at the FIT Show 2017, VEKA Group's brand new Imagine Lift & Slide Patio Door is the latest addition to its luxurious, innovative, technically advanced Imagine suite of doors. Designed to 'let nature into your living space', the system can incorporate between two and

four sashes; any and all of which can be configured to 'lift and slide' depending on the user's requirements. Thanks to its safe and secure construction the Imagine Lift & Slide Patio Door is strong enough to easily handle both residential and commercial applications.

01282 716 611 www.vekauk.com

Innovative steel door system



Aspex, one of the UK's leading architectural ironmongery and door companies, has strengthened its presence in the market with the addition of an innovative steel door system to its existing Novista Riser range. The Novista Steel Riser is suitable in locations, which require either a very high

fire or acoustic rating. The steel risers are fire rated to FD120 and acoustic rated to 40dB. Aspex has developed a simple installation process, which is intuitive and requires no special skills. Riser doors can be used for: ducts, cupboards, and access to bathroom pods.

0116 278 3506 www.aspex-uk.co.uk

A luxurious prospect at Whitby Hotel



New York City's newest boutique luxury hotel makes a bold statement in upper midtown Manhattan, thanks in no small part to the extensive use of Crittall steel windows, doors and internal screens and partitions. Located on West 56th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, The Whitby is just two blocks from Central Park. Its location informed the specific choice of glazing. The Whitby's position

called for high acoustic attenuation and so Crittall MW40 fenestration was selected. These windows can accept up to 30mm thick glazing providing excellent acoustic as well as thermal performance.

01376 530800 www.crittall-windows.co.uk

SteelSeal makes a 'complex' difference



Within a short gallop of Chester's famous racecourse is the Quadrant which is a self-contained detached office building. The Quadrant development in Chester would suit AkzoNobel's SteelSeal 4VC Primer and SteelSeal

Topcoat 5VF perfectly. The SteelSeal system enables longer periods between repainting. AkzoNobel has led the development and supply of organic coatings to the major cladding producers for over 25 years. SteelSeal is specially formulated for application to architectural cladding materials including coil coated finished.

01254 687950 www.sikkens-wood-coatings.co.uk

The sound of silence



Research has shown that nuisance noise is one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Here, Anthony Barnett, technical marketing manager at Armacell, looks at how development of specialist foams and a better understanding of where noise is generated is helping address this issue. "One of the most common sources of nuisance noise in living and working environments emanates from wastewater and rainwater pipes. Noise that is transmitted through pipework can be amplified by boarding, with unsealed pipework apertures between rooms creating a pathway for sound to travel to other areas. All buildings have the potential to generate unwanted noise, although it is a particular concern in multi occupancy structures. In the majority of these cases, specifying acoustic insulation foams, which are relatively inexpensive and easy to install, can address the issue. The ArmaComfort AB Alu product consists of a 2mm thick foil faced acoustic EPDM-EVA barrier with 4kg/m² weight and a 10mm polyurethane foam layer for decoupling. In comparison to traditional acoustic insulation products, tests show that flexible insulation foams achieve a much greater reduction in sound level, and with a thinner wall thickness."

0161 287 7100 www.armacell.co.uk

Purevision slimline models



Charlton & Jenrick is pleased to announce the launch of the slimline versions of its popular Purevision stoves. New models are available in the new slim line format are the PV5W, BPV5W (Black – pictured) and the Classic CPV5W. The new versions keep the same look, design and feel but benefit from

being shallower and in the case of the Classic stove also shorter. This was after feedback from their customers who love the look and performance of the Purevision stoves but were looking for a more universal fitting stove that would fit into more situations.

sales@charltonandjenrick.co.uk

The latest in bioethanol fire technology



The newly introduced FireLine Automatic 3 XL by Planika encompasses all the latest advances in bio fire technology. The increased tank size gives burn times of up to 44 hours and an automated filling system makes this process far easier. Options include burner lengths from 690 mm to 2900mm, various casings, remote tanks and RAL colour finishing. This latest version increases the suitability of bio ethanol fires for both residential and commercial projects. Bioethanolfires.co.uk specialise in Planika's products and work with architects and designers on projects throughout the UK providing technical and installation advice.

info@bioethanolfires.co.uk

bioethanolfires.co.uk

Specialists in Planika automatic bioethanol fires



The latest generation FireLine Automatic 3 XL bio ethanol fire by Planika is wifi enabled and has increased burn times of up to 44 hours. With automatic and remote filling, this makes it a viable alternative to a traditional fireplace. We specialise in Planika's automatic range of fires and work closely with architects and designers on projects all over the UK. Call us for more information.

call 0161 929 1870 email info@bioethanolfires.co.uk
visit www.bioethanolfires.co.uk



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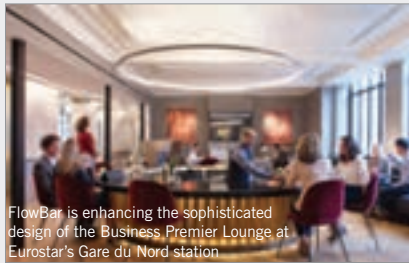
Out of sight, but not out of mind

Architects are often confronted with the seemingly impossible problem of ensuring indoor air quality meets acceptable standards, but without using ventilation equipment that spoils the building's interior design.

One of the biggest issues confronting the building services industry is the battle to maintain good air quality inside buildings without using equipment that is unsightly or noisy.

We are all familiar with the principle of controlling temperature inside buildings to improve comfort and health. When it is too hot or cold outside, people expect to be able to step into comfortable conditions inside. The same principle should apply to air pollution with people expecting a similar protection from outside conditions – not forgetting that we spend around 90 per cent of our time indoors.

As a result, adequate ventilation is a major preoccupation for design teams – so being able to balance healthy conditions with a discreet design is something of a 'Holy Grail'.



FlowBar is enhancing the sophisticated design of the Business Premier Lounge at Eurostar's Gare du Nord station

Demand

At Air Diffusion we are seeing a dramatic increase in demand for our FlowBar range of high capacity linear slot diffusers.

These are designed to combine a very high air handling capacity with maximum flexibility and subtlety. They are suitable for either ceiling or sidewall applications fitting discreetly into a stylish interior to provide both practical and aesthetic benefits.

The discrete and stylish look of these diffusers allows them to blend into a design so they can be almost invisible, if required, or can become part of the interior design by providing sleek lines in walls or ceilings. As a

result, they have received a warm reception from both architects and interior designers.

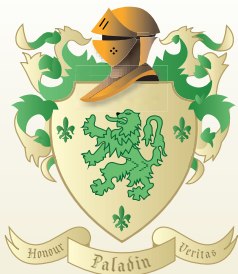
FlowBar is available in straight lines or curves to blend with other architectural elements and enhance the overall concept of the project while also ensuring the occupied internal space is adequately and efficiently ventilated.

The standard finish on these products is a polyester powder coating and there are a number of different models available.

Factory engineered plenum boxes can be provided with all models to ensure trouble free installation and ensure the performance levels outlined in the catalogue are met.

The flexible, modular design means they can be configured in a wide variety of lengths and slot depths to fit in with an interior design. This is a product that naturally lends itself to bespoke solutions, which means the ventilation industry is able to live up to the exacting standards and deliver the best of both worlds – something of an architect's dream.

01746 761921 www.air-diffusion.co.uk



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CRXLC



MRXLC

Consort Claudgen launches Landlord Control Heating System

Consort Claudgen's RXLC Landlord Control Heating System is an ideal heating system for student accommodation, hotels, or anywhere where a central control unit is required to control the temperature of all heaters in a building or rooms. It consists of an MRXLC controller and one or more CRXLC controllers connected to Consort's RX heaters. The MRXLC can control any number of CRXLC depending on the building construction. It sets the same seven-day programme with six time settings per day for all CRXLC controllers. Room occupants can temporarily adjust the room temperature on the CRXLC for a predetermined length of time before the CRXLC reverts to the programmed temperature. With ever increasing energy bills, the RXLC system is vital for landlords wanting greater control over their heating system and costs whilst allowing room occupants to temporarily adjust the room temperature to their comfort setting. For more information on Consort heating ventilation and services please visit their website or by calling their sales team.

01646 692172 www.consortepl.com

QuanTec condensing boilers new guarantee

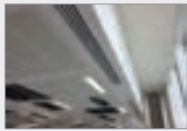


Johnson & Starley's established range of QuanTec condensing boilers has been given a eight year guarantee. This covers all parts and labour for every QuanTec model. QuanTec condensing boilers were recognised in 2016 by a leading consumer magazine as one of the most reliable boilers on the UK market. Their build quality and energy efficiency applies to a

wide choice of combi, system and regular models including the top of the range QuanTec HR 28C. This technology provides potential extra energy savings of up to 26 per cent.

01604 762881 www.johnsonandstarley.co.uk

Gilberts in plaster...



Reflecting trending design for ceilings in commercial buildings, Gilberts has refined its standard, linear and high capacity slot diffuser border options to enable plasterwork to run right up to the vents cut out in the ceiling. Gilberts' aluminium slot diffusers

have been designed to meet exacting performance criteria. They deliver smooth, accurate air distribution, via a discreet directional control vane in each slot that directs the airflow as required. A choice of slot numbers and widths in each unit enable precise tailoring to each project's specific requirements.

01253 766 911 www.gilbertsblackpool.com

Underfloor Air Conditioning fits the bill



No. 8 Waterloo Place, a fabulous Edwardian building with a Grade II listed Portland stone facade, has recently undergone a full refurbishment. AET Flexible Space are delighted to have supplied a CAM-C

direct expansion underfloor air conditioning system for this refurbishment. The CAM-C downflow unit supplies conditioned air into the plenum beneath the raised access floor, which serves as the ventilation zone. This zone is divided into supply and return air paths using airtight relocatable baffle and then the CAM receives spent air back at floor level for re-conditioning.

01342 310400 www.flexiblespace.com

Vortice kitchen fan for the Holiday Inn



The IP55 rated Vort QBK Sal KC kitchen fan by Vortice has recently been fitted into the Holiday Inn, Belfast. Part of the company's commercial kitchen cabinet range of fans, the Vortice kitchen fan is suitable for ducting from canopies, has backward curved impellers and is supplied with an integral drain tray and drain point. Vortice National Sales Manager Paul Gunner said: "We were

delighted to work with Crystal Air and Holiday Inn, Belfast in specifying the right kitchen fan for the hotel's requirements. This was fitted in the roof space and Crystal Air altered the ductwork to suit."

01283 492949 www.vortice.ltd.uk



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Crown Paints brings new colour twist with 2017 trends

Clean and contemporary lines, an atmosphere of mystery and drama and a natural, rural patchwork effect are the three dominant themes in Crown Paints' latest, on-trend Colour Influences.

Three palettes have been developed for the Autumn/Winter 2017 season, Considered, Intrigue and Patterned Landscape, with each collection designed to give architects and designers inspirations.

The Colour Influences are produced by an expert panel, assembled by Crown, who join forces to pinpoint the latest trends.

Crown Colour Specialist, Kathryn Lloyd, is a member of the Colour Influences panel and has worked to ensure the palettes work in both private and public spaces.

Kathryn said: "The Colour Influences programme is Crown Paints' way of celebrating its love of colour. It gives specification professionals useful insight into the shades which will shape professional interior and exterior environments in Autumn

and Winter, as well as Spring and Summer each year.

"For Autumn/Winter 2017, the first palette, Considered, is a mature and sophisticated collection of soft, muted tones that celebrate the fluidity of colour.

"Frosted blues and faded hues of purple and pink are separated by hard lines and geometric shapes.

"A clean and contemporary trend, Considered can be interpreted onto a single statement wall, or an entire room.

"The second trend, Intrigue, invites us to look to the evening, bringing with it an unpredictable atmosphere of mystery.

"This palette depicts colours at their deepest and most absorbing, pairing midnight blues and rich greens, with accents of yellow punctuating big blocks of colour like moonlight on the water.

"The final trend, Patterned Landscape, is inspired by an aerial view of the sweeping countryside, revealing patterns from above.



"Dewy greens and milky browns are stitched together with accents of white and copper metallic to add texture and bring the landscape to life."

Crown Paints also offers two CPDs on colour. The first, 'The Role Of Colour In Buildings' covers colour psychology and the role it plays in creating atmosphere, effective lighting and the role colour plays in perceptions of room dimensions.

'Colour In Education' is the second CPD, this explores how colour can be used to best effect within an educational environment.

03300240310 www.crownpaintspec.co.uk

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Get smart, get control

Edward Lees of Feilo Sylvania shines the light on how sophisticated smart lighting control systems can offer efficiency benefits as well as design flexibility

The industry is now well versed in the benefits of LED technology and the energy savings it can generate.

For example, lighting accounts for 20 per cent of the energy used by a typical commercial building; upgrading from traditional technologies to LED however could result in savings of up to 50 per cent. In addition, installing a lighting control system could further minimise the energy consumption.

Striking a balance

While all this is great news for building owners and occupants, designing-in these lighting controls can often be a headache for architects, as the devices may be difficult to conceal effectively. So how can architects strike a balance between providing a cost-cutting lighting control technology for their clients while remaining true to the intended design?

One solution is to specify an intelligent, de-centralised lighting control with wirelessly-operated lighting controls placed within each luminaire. In addition, luminaires with embedded sensors can auto-commission themselves to provide lighting only when required, for example if someone walks into a space. With sensors and controls integrated into each luminaire, a fine grain of control can be achieved, while all luminaires can also work together through 'hive intelligence'.

Sustainability

Designing a scheme to comply with Building Regulations is a basic necessity; however, achieving a BREEAM certification or meeting the recommendations of the British Council of Offices (BCO) can further boost the sustainability credentials of a building.

Employing an intelligent de-centralised lighting control solution that embeds presence and daylight sensors in each fixture enables a system to automatically work to suit the occupants and deliver the needed controls where required.

This type of system also provides signifi-

cant on-site savings as well as a smoother specification, design and installation. It is enough to select a luminaire and connect the system to power – it will then set itself up with no programming required. Such systems also have the capability to adjust to changes in the layout, such as after an office reconfiguration, without any further re-programming.

However, meeting certain legislation and guidelines comes first, and below are some of the main considerations.

Lighting advice

To ensure maximum credit under BREEAM Hea 01 ("visual comfort"), internal lighting in commercial offices has to be zoned to allow for occupant control, and zones cannot be more than four work stations. This could be difficult to account for in the design if there's no clarity over the precise locations of each workstation prior to the building's completion; however, architects can mitigate this issue by specifying a luminaire with an in-built sensor.

The BCO recommendations can also prove tricky. For example, the recommendation calls for a combined motion, photocell and IR receiver devices to be installed in the ceiling on a grid no larger than six by six metres. Without being able to determine where the workstations would be placed, this can be problematic.

Again, an intelligent decentralised lighting control system can easily handle this as in fact each grid is subdivided by having a sensor in each luminaire, and therefore can ensure an architect can meet these recommendations no matter where the desks are positioned.

Live data – real savings

A decentralised lighting control system can offer much more than just lighting control and energy efficiencies. With sensors built into every luminaire, facility managers can extract data from each sensor in order to gain insights into the energy consumption of the building and its occupants' patterns of movements.



THE AUTHOR

Edward Lees is senior product line manager (lighting controls) at Feilo Sylvania

With sensors and controls integrated into each luminaire, a fine grain of control can be achieved, while all luminaires can work together through 'hive intelligence'



This data analysis can empower users to make further cost efficiencies on lighting consumption by 'tuning' light levels to daily patterns of use. This information can be used to minimise energy consumption or expenditure for cleaning and security, by not cleaning unoccupied areas or by suspending patrolling in certain parts of a building.

With access to real-time data on the occupancy of the office, building owners and energy managers can utilise every square metre of space while also being able to open and close larger floor areas as and when necessary. According to AWA Research, such measures would result in reduced floor space, thus leading to minimised energy consumption from lighting or other services, and a total energy saving of up to 40 per cent. In comparison, a saving of only 10 per cent is achieved by switching from traditional lighting to LED.

This is why by specifying a smart lighting system, architects could offer their clients not just lighting control, but also in-depth knowledge about the building, how it operates and its occupant movement patterns, making their scheme truly 'smart'.

Edward Lees is senior product line manager (lighting controls) at Feilo Sylva



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The latest innovation from Schlüter-Systems, Schlüter®-LIPROTEC, adds a fourth dimension to architecture and plays an essential role when it comes to inspired design.

Schlüter®-LIPROTEC is an intelligent lighting concept that combines lighting and profiles within the tile and stone covering. A choice of indirect or direct light is available, with Schlüter profile technology, allowing you to emphasise curtain walls and illuminate stairways, foyers, bathrooms and more—all with an innovative, unique appearance.

The new Schlüter®-LIPROTEC RGB+W LED strips allow for coloured and white LEDs on a single strip, giving the ultimate freedom for creating coloured light and temperature-controllable white light, which can be selected from 2500K to 6500K.

Lighting also helps us to feel more energetic and lifts our mood; studies show that light enriched with blue makes us feel particularly active and can even reduce eye strain and headaches.

Intelligent receivers control the LED strips with power supply units that convert the



mains voltage to the 24 V required. Pre-programmed colour changes can be selected using the control system, where you decide the mood with the touch of a button. If your client is looking for a particular ambience or to bring brand colours into the design, then the system can be programmed from 16 million colours easily selected via a Bluetooth app and new remote control.

Suitable for moisture-rich rooms, the LED strips are completely encapsulated and conform to IP67 protection rating, allowing subtle detail to be incorporated into the smallest rooms in the house, hotel, or wherever your imagination takes you.

01530 813396 www.liprotec.co.uk

Loxone smart home

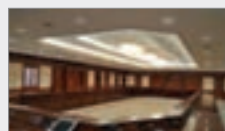


A Loxone Smart Home intelligently automates lighting, heating, blinds, security, energy management, multiroom audio and more. The brain behind this level of automation is the Loxone Miniserver which combines all the components of a home into

one central system – offering simple yet unparalleled control. The system optimally performs tasks around the home according to motion and schedules, while taking into account the time of day, day of the week, weather conditions, occupancy, light levels, air quality and more.

01183 130 140

Ministry of Interior – VVIP Hall, Oman



Luceco has recently supplied energy saving LED luminaires to The Ministry of Interior, the government body in the Sultanate of Oman. Platinum LED Downlights were installed around the perimeter of the decorative ceilings in the

Very Very Important Persons Hall offering potential running cost savings of up to 80 per cent. Platinum has been designed with easy fit positive locating swing out tabs and interchangeable bezel options. Boasting over 50,000 hours of operational, maintenance free life, Platinum has an impressive efficacy of 129 Llm/W.

01952 238100 www.luceco.uk

Special edition catalogue launched



Marshall-Tufflex is releasing a special 75th Anniversary edition of its popular product catalogue. The manufacturer, was an early pioneer of PVC extrusion and has gone on to cement its position as a dedicated producer of innovative, high quality and easy-to-install cable management solutions. The new 328-page

catalogue gives a brief overview of the Marshall-Tufflex history plus recently launched products, including: Cablelay, Punched Mini Trunking, Pre-wired floor boxes and Part M Spacers. To order or view a copy of the new Marshall-Tufflex catalogue please visit the website.

01424 856655 www.newcatalogue.co.uk

Ecophon introduces Akutex HS upgrades



Ecophon has announced upgrades to its Akutex™ HS surface, making it compatible with the Hygiene Performance™ sound-absorbing ceiling system. These changes allow the range to appeal to a wider range of applications, including food preparation

areas, hospitals and care environments. Previously only compatible with Ecophon's Hygiene Foodtec range of acoustic solutions, the new formulation of Akutex HS provides a painted, stain-protected surface for applications where there are high demands for wet cleaning, in addition to dusting and vacuum cleaning.

01256 850977 www.ecophon.com/uk

Quantum's wide range of trusted stair nosings is now even wider!

The experts at Quantum Flooring Solutions are constantly looking for ways to improve the functionality of its specialist products and, following an extensive programme of research and development, they've now hit upon a unique design which will considerably improve user safety on the nation's staircases.

Unlike conventional stair nosings which are manufactured with two separate pieces of narrow tread, Quantum's brand new concept features a single expansive layer of slip-resistant PVC across the entire upper surface of the carrier, crucially creating a greater area of grip than any other product available.

This new Wide-Tread addition to the top-selling Aluminium Q-Range is perfect for installation in all types of public and commercial buildings, and is especially suitable for high footfall locations including schools and hospitals. It is also fully Equality Act compliant; its exclusive broader design



and choice of distinctive tread colours help to generate a far more obtrusive ladder effect on the staircase, maximising visibility and security.

Increased safety isn't the only significant product advantage though – Quantum's new-style nosings eliminate the channel in-between treads where grit and grime collect, facilitating much easier cleaning and maintenance too.



A free site survey and measuring service will prove just how cost-effective this industry-first, new product development can be for your projects. If you'd like to know more about the wider benefits of Wide-Tread stair nosings, contact the Quantum specialists today or alternatively visit the website.

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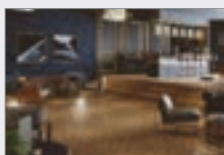

www.esg.glass 01376 520061







Two exciting new LVT collections



Polyflor, is delighted to announce the relaunch of two high design luxury vinyl tile collections within the renowned Expona brand family – Expona Commercial PUR and Expona Simplay PUR. The Expona Commercial range now features 80 inspiring wood, stone and abstract effect designs, 55 of which are brand new. The Expona Simplay collection of loose lay vinyl tiles and planks now offers 40 authentic wood, stone and textile effects presented in an adhesive-free, ready to lay product designed to reduce installation time.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

Polyflor flows through Waterways Museum



Hardwearing wood effect Expona Flow commercial flooring from vinyl floor-covering specialist Polyflor was recently chosen to give a new lease of life to the National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Polyflor's Expona Flow

PUR sheet vinyl flooring was selected in Sun Bleached Oak for the museum's reception area, shop and Waterside Café. Featuring wood grain detail for added authenticity and subtle cool tones, this floorcovering complements the interior design scheme perfectly, improving the experience of visitors as soon as they enter the museum.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

Architects Datafile website



The Architects Datafile (ADF) website is an online provider of past and present products and news items for the architect or specifier. architectsdatafile.co.uk is a one-stop source for all the latest press releases providing any visitor with access to information about products and services that they may require. From the website, you can find links to digital

issues that have live links to advertisers' sites, as well as daily email alerts to keep you as informed as possible.

www.architectsdatafile.co.uk

Polyflor vinyl tiles help add retro edge



A variety of vinyl tile products from Polyflor were recently chosen to create a retro inspired interior design scheme for Nelson's Diner in Newbury, Berkshire. Expona Commercial PUR luxury vinyl tiles in Light Grey Concrete were fitted around the booth seating area, with the Black Matrix design used for a highlight arc shade near the bar area. Expona Bevel Line PUR tiles in the pale Portland Stone design were also installed around the bar seating area. Polyflex Plus PU homogeneous tiles in the Anglian Red and Mournie Grey were used to create a chequerboard pattern in the middle of the diner.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

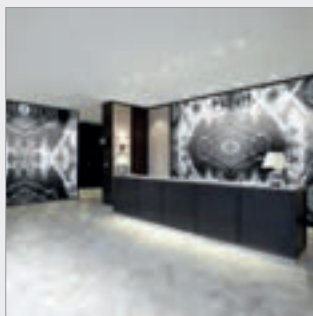
Flowcrete UK unveils new polished concrete floor – Monodec Grande Lux



Flowcrete UK has unveiled a new polished concrete system to the construction industry, Monodec Grande Lux. Suitable for commercial, industrial, new build and refurbishment projects, Monodec Grande Lux is ideal for transforming an existing concrete slab into a visually appealing surface that provides both easy cleanability and durability. Flowcrete UK has developed this new system by bringing together specialist grinding and polishing techniques with high performance sealers, densifiers, coatings and dyes. A Monodec Grande Lux floor is created by using diamond grinding techniques to remove the surface laitance and expose the natural aggregates in the concrete mix. The slab is then treated to strengthen the concrete and ensure a uniform finish. Designers can even choose between a coloured stain or patterned visual effect. Once treated the floor is then polished down to a super flat, super glossy surface that will not only achieve a high-end appearance but which will maintain an easy to clean, wear resistant finish for the long term. Additionally, Monodec Grande Lux has a lifecycle cost that is typically 60 per cent lower than traditional floor coverings.

01270 753000 www.flowcrete.co.uk

Now a product that can MATCH your vision



MATCH is a revolutionary decorative panel that uses innovative technology and advanced production processes to create tailor-made graphic solutions directly onto veneered and other base layers. With the ability to re-create natural materials like stone, textile, metal or unique surfaces. Vicaima MATCH is available in a selection of panel types with differing physical and mechanical properties, appropriate to their desired performance and covered by EN standards. These include plywood, MDF with improved resistance to fire or moisture, among others. Choice of Surface finish is also flexible, with everything from dull matt to mirror like gloss. The combination between the composition of the product and the advanced manufacturing technology used with the surface materials, allows Vicaima to achieve unparalleled results. With outstanding performance, product flexibility and the ability to create a truly unique space, MATCH introduces a new real freedom for interior design. It offers complete inspiration for a wide range of markets including residential, hotels, retail, corporate environments, schools, medical and public places.

01793 532 333 www.vicaimamatch.com

Door frame damage eliminated with Yeoman Shield Universal Frame Protector



Interior maintenance, such as repair, repainting and re-plastering in busy and well used buildings can be a financial burden. With over 50 years in the business Yeoman Shield's experience and knowledge of vulnerable areas in buildings such as walls, corners, doors and door frames, that are prone to damage has led to the honing of an outstanding, stylish yet functional range of 30+ wall and door protection systems to provide solutions to these predicaments. The Universal Frame Protector is the latest product to be added to this range helping clients to overcome the problem of split and splintered door frames that can be caused from people, wheeled equipment, trolleys and wheelchairs pushing through doorways. Manufactured with a 65mm x 65mm leg length (though shorter options are available on request), with a 20mm formed corner designed especially to deflect damaging blows to wooden door frames and architraves. Supplied in 2.4m lengths the and in the full range of 48 on trend colours, the Universal Frame Protector can accommodate most door frame configurations being both easy and quick to install. Once in place this product will offer protection to vulnerable frame work for many years to come whilst eliminating the need for repainting, saving valuable time and money.

0113 279 5854 www.yeomanshield.com

Should a firewall be for life?



It's not just a wall, it's a firewall and for such crucial protection the use of composite panels gives buildings a huge performance boost. But, Brett Harrington, Divisional Manager for the Firewall and Data Division of ISD Solutions, warns you will get what you pay for – as we've learned firewalls must never become mere commodities for sacrifice on the altar of cost. Fire is the disaster that does not discriminate. No matter what or where your company is, fire can destroy it. The importance of fire safety from composite firewalls should therefore never be understated. They are lightweight, tremendously durable and have improved thermal properties. Furthermore, build times are reduced, construction costs are lower and maintenance is easier. Compared to blockwork its carbon footprint is lower too. ISD Firewall is built around the latest steel-faced composite panels with non-combustible mineral fibre cores to offer complete protection for premises and their contents. These are an evolutionary replacement for jumbo stud or block walling that are faster to install, more aesthetically pleasing and completely demountable for re-use or re-positioning.

01452 520 649 www.isd-solutions.co.uk

Abode Hotel Manchester

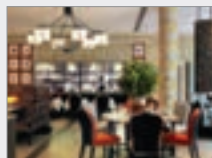


Leading flooring manufacturer Atkinson & Kirby has helped to add character and style to the reception area of the Abode Hotel Manchester as part of its most recent refurbishments. The contractor for the project, supplied the Renaissance range in the shade

Marlborough to enhance the sense of luxury and reflect the Abode Hotel's distinctive style, which focuses on both quality and comfort at the core. With the high level of footfall the Abode Hotel receives on a daily basis, the inclusion of a durable, long-lasting and eye catching flooring was a much needed addition to the entrance area.

sales@akirby.co.uk

Fire safety with Crittall Fabrications



Architects planning a fire escape route within their buildings can now specify Crittall Fabrications glazed partitions and doorsets. Its extensive range of steel fire rated glazed doorsets, flush fitting steel fire rated doors, and fire rated steel glazed partition walling provides a winning blend

of elegance and peace of mind. All the company's glazed partitioning products comply fully with the appropriate BS and EN standards. Steel doorsets/partitioning can be supplied as single/double-leaf doorsets, with sliding doors, a break-in/break-out emergency function.

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RECYFIX® MONOTEC: A monolithic drainage system with a high attenuation volume

Hauraton Limited has introduced into the UK, RECYFIX® MONOTEC, its new high capacity channel system for the surface drainage of pavements, bicycle routes, car/van parks and roadways in and around residential, commercial and light industrial areas where the channels need to have high lateral strength, are capable of withstanding continuous compressive loads and where ease of installation is a major consideration.

The RECYFIX® MONOTEC one metre long channel component is of a sturdy monolithic design where the grating and the tongue and groove linking system are integral to the channel moulding. The whole unit is made of tough, virtually unbreakable polypropylene (PP) formulated to be very resistant to daily temperature fluctuations from frost conditions to strong sunlight, including the Ultra Violet (UV) spectrum. PP is naturally resistant to de-icing salt. Complying with the requirements of EN

1433, the PP is given its UV resistance by adding just sufficient carbon black as a stabiliser so that the structural strength of the material is unaffected and a consistent appearance is maintained.

MONOTEC channels are offered in two nominal grating widths of 100 and 200mm, both suitable for a loading category of up to Class D400. The 100mm channels are available in three overall heights; 230, 280 and 380mm and provide channel cross-sections of 190.5cm², 245.5cm², and 355.5cm² respectively. The largest 200mm channel, which only weighs 16.2kg, has a cross-section of 746.1cm² and so has an attenuation volume in excess of 74 litres per meter.

The three sizes of 100mm channels can be arranged in a step-fall arrangement with different channel heights connected by special transition adaptors that ensure the water drains away smoothly and quietly with the increased flow velocity playing a



considerable role in cleaning the channel run. The step-fall arrangement may be desirable where there is a high risk of silting as the increased flow will help wash debris towards the system's Inspection/Trash Box.

RECYFIX® MONOTEC channels are certified in accordance with EN 1433. The CE symbol, external monitoring and the conformity declaration are the guarantee of a maximum technical and qualitative standard.

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SureSet are excited to boost their ever expanding commercial paving product range with new FlexiSet®. Made from 50 per cent recycled rubber and 50 per cent 6mm natural aggregate and resin, lightweight and flexible, FlexiSet is ideal for woodland trails, jogging paths, pedestrian areas, cycle tracks and much more. A combination of the

absorption and flexible properties of recycled rubber and the strength and durability of natural aggregate, bound together with quality resin, creates an external surface suitable for pedestrian use.

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Crossing sealed with safety in mind

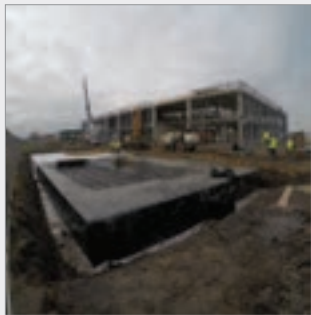


The Royal Victoria Infirmary Hospital have successfully sealed their pedestrian crossings following the installation of Resiblock Ultra Matt. 10 separate crossings, which make up the key pedestrian routes, have been sealed to prevent paver destabilisation from

a variety of vehicles. Paving at the crossings had previously failed. Following discussions between Resiblock and client Healthcare Services Ltd, the specialist pre-polymer urethane (SPPU) Resiblock Ultra Matt was selected as this could seal both the Marshall White Marker Blocks and the Weinberger Clay Blocks that were on-site.

custserv@resiblock.com

RAINBOX® attenuation chosen for 10-acre cutting edge office development



A RAINBOX® 3S attenuation system from water management specialists JDP has been chosen for a brand new 10-acre cutting edge office development just outside Durham. The £10 million site will be home to a new, state of the art, IT, data and marketing centre for leading wholesaler City Electrical Factors. JDP was asked by Joyce Construction & Civils to design and supply an effective storm water drainage management solution with the capability to hold excess run off from the site during storms and to protect the impressive new facility. Due to the flexibility and sustainability features of the crates, the JDP technical team proposed a storm management system incorporating the RAINBOX® 3S geocellular system. A total of 300m³ of RAINBOX® 3S crates were supplied and delivered for quick and easy assembly on site. The RAINBOX® 3S system consists of two half-boxes and a centre plate delivered flat-packed to site for easy transportation and assembly. Boxes and plates are quickly and simply snapped together to make a full-size crate. RAINBOX® 3S is designed to have a high void ration to maximise storage volume and is recommended for light and medium loading class usage.

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