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FROM THE EDITOR



Visiting Foster + Partners' new building, nestling inobtrusively behind the Victorian and Grade II listed City of London Magistrates court, you are somewhat unprepared for the delights contained within. As well as the contrast between relatively humble exterior and stunning interior, Bloomberg's HQ is also a surprise in that it sees the financial information behemoth setting up its European base in London as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

Great architecture is not about biggest is best, it can be showy without being show-offy, and can retain a degree of humility appropriate to its setting while also being a celebration of design. This building is an amazing example of attention to detail, from its natural ventilation via beautiful gill-like bronze fins and an open core, to 2.5 million polished aluminium 'petals' that make up the ceilings, to the way the timber floors meet the facade.

Foster wanted a "London building" and externally its stone frame and low height does have some of that stoic seriousness of businesslike London buildings of the past. However this comes not from penny-pinching (and the project team won't give a hint of how much this one cost), but instead it's a result of a client wanting to blend in.

The irony of course is that this building was planned shortly after the financial crash, but company founder and 10th richest person in the world Michael Bloomberg didn't anticipate the Brexit vote, and he gave a candid hint recently that he might have taken a different tack on where to site the HQ if he had known. In fact this straight-talking New Yorker had some scathing words for the UK about Brexit, saying it was "the stupidest thing any country had done," until the US 'Trumped' it a few months later.

This former New York Mayor could have built a 22-storey macho monolith here, but did something very different, with curving bronze walkways and a sense of collaboration. He jokingly said that the project was the result of "a billionaire who wanted to be an architect working with an architect who wanted to be a billionaire," however it is evident that the partnership between architect and client has been a very harmonious one.

Another Mayor was present, Sadiq Khan, somewhat predictably saying Bloomberg choosing this site "sends a clear message to the world about the value of investing in this great city." He also said pointedly that "despite Brexit, it shows that London is open to business, investment and some of the best design in the world." However, sitting in the opulent results of this intent, it didn't sound like empty rhetoric.

Norman Foster spoke about how, as a patron, Michael was a "rare individual in that he practices what he preaches." Also that he had written that "issues of sustainability were too important to be left to Government." He has put his money where his mouth is – the building's the greenest yet of its kind – but perhaps the equally important thing for inspiring future design is that it's a fantastic place to be. And Bloomberg is keen to stress that the public won't be shut out as they have been with the Gherkin, they will be allowed in to enjoy at least some of it.

As a chapter closes on London's involvement in Europe, it's an interesting irony that the new building is built over the ancient Temple of Mithras, now to be restored for free public access. It's reportedly where the name of London as a settlement was first written down; could the amazing building above be one of the last temples to London as the world's financial centre?

James Parker
Editor

**ON THE COVER...**

Maggie's Oldham by dRMM Architects, highly sensitive design for cancer patients.

For full report, go to page 31.

Image © Alex de Rijke

FOSTER + PARTNERS

Stone-built Bloomberg HQ is hailed as world's most sustainable office building

The Foster + Partners-designed European headquarters of financial media giant Bloomberg has been opened as the world's most sustainable office yet seen.

The two buildings, located to Fosters' Wallbrook Building in the City of London, are wholly-owned by Bloomberg, the HQ bringing its 4,000 London employees together under one roof. It has achieved a design-stage BREEAM Outstanding rating of 98.5 per cent, the highest such rating of any major office building. Natural ventilation strategies using bronze fins combine with bespoke-designed ceilings to provide a projected saving of 35 per cent on the energy consumption of a "normal office building," and 73 per cent of the water.

The architects said that the building "responds to its historic context, yet is uniquely of its place and time." Materials used include 9,600 tonnes of Derbyshire sandstone for the building's frame, American red oak, granite floors, and bronze cladding for the curving ramps that run through the open plan interior. Most materials used were sourced from the UK.

Company founder Michael R Bloomberg commented at the HQ's opening: "The building adds life to this historic neighbourhood. Its spectacular design brings people together in ways that will promote collaboration and communication, and forges new frontiers in sustainability that we hope will serve as a model for others."

The site includes three public plazas, and an arcade between the buildings, providing



a new pedestrian thoroughfare. Bloomberg also commissioned several artworks for the building's interior from leading artists.

Lord Foster described the close working partnership between practice and client that brought the scheme to fruition: "Above all we had a shared belief that we should provide the highest standards of sustainability and wellbeing for occupants, as well as create major new public spaces at ground level." He added: "We wanted the building to have integrity and continuity of expression both inside and out, creating an inspiring, innovative and collaborative workplace."

Mayor Sadiq Khan said that Bloomberg opening a new European base in London showed that it regarded London as key to its operations, notwithstanding Brexit: "This fantastic new building is a huge vote of confidence in London as a destination for global business. The fact that London will continue to be the home of Bloomberg's European operations shows London is open for business."

The project also restores and recreates the ancient Temple of Mithras on its original site under the building, which will open free to the public in November as the London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE.

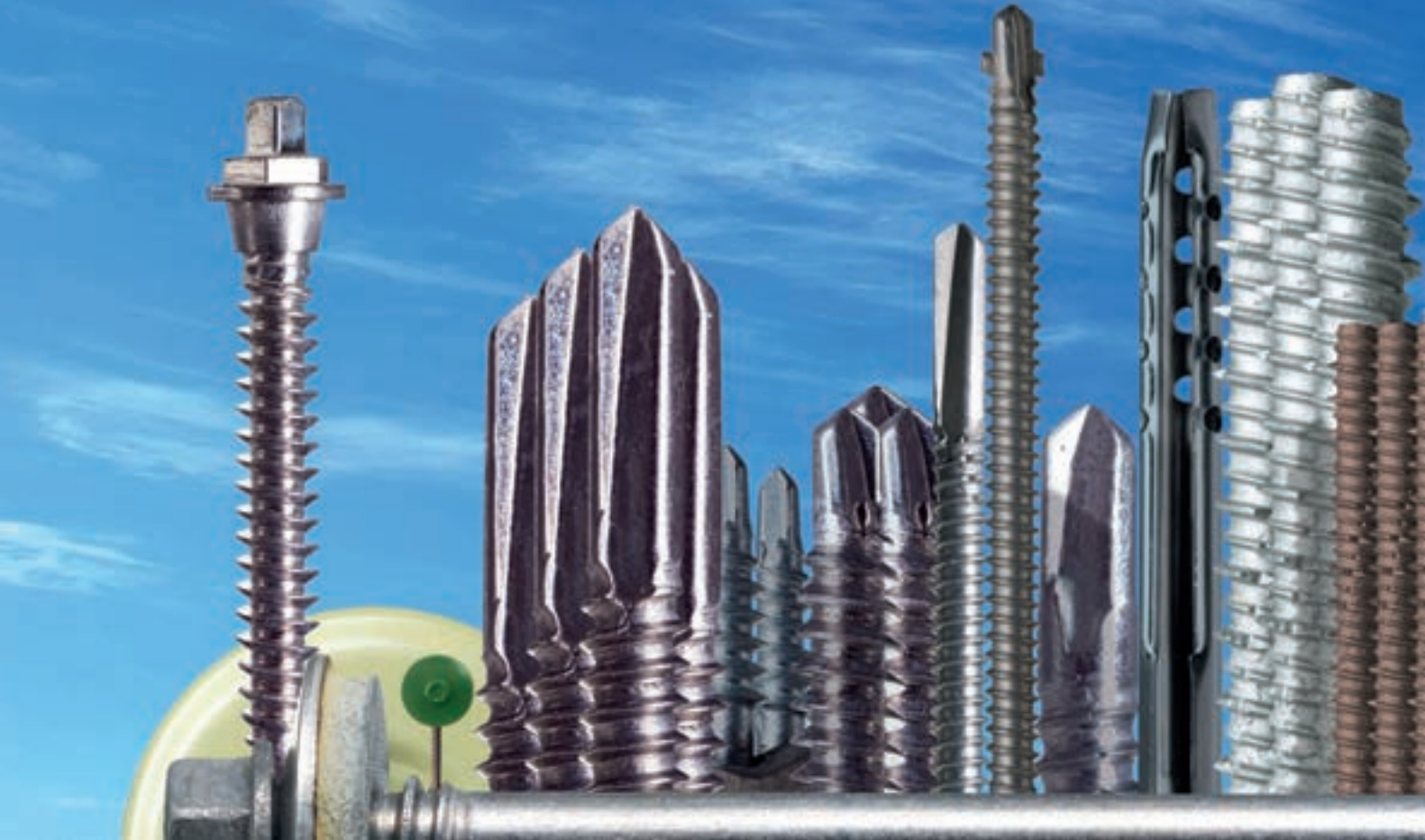
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EVENTS

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RIBA contracts: an essential guide to dispute resolution
14 November, Manchester
www.architecture.com/whats-on/

An essential guide to public procurement: better prospects and more opportunities
28 November, Manchester
www.architecture.com/whats-on/

EXHIBITION

Ceramica
28 October - 10 February
www.architecture.com/whats-on/ceramica

TALKS

Architecture on Stage: Pier Vittorio Aureli (Dogma)
16 November, London
www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/art-design

TRADE SHOWS

Sleep
21-22 November, London
www.thesleepevent.com

Architect@work
24-25 January, London
www.architect-at-work.co.uk

Surface Design Show
06-08 February, London
[www.surfacedesignshow.com](http://www surfacedesignshow.com)

KBB
04-07 March, London
www.kbb.co.uk

Ecobuild
06-08, London
www.ecobuild.co.uk

UK Concrete Show
21-22 March, Birmingham
www.concreteshow.co.uk

Materials for Architecture
25-26 April, London
www.materialsforarchitecture.com



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Erskine Award for refugee-built community centre

A community centre in Mannheim, Germany which was designed and built by architecture students and the refugees it is intended for, has been given the Erskine Award.

The \$10,000 award was established by Scottish architect Ralph Erskine and his wife Ruth, via a fund administered by the Swedish architectural association Sveriges Arkitekter. It is given to individuals or organisations for innovation in architecture in the context of its social and ecological as well as aesthetic aspects. It particularly considers schemes which “primarily benefit the less privileged in society,” said Sveriges Arkitekter.

The Spinelli Community Building has been constructed on a deserted US military base in Mannheim, adjacent to the refugee settlement it serves. Architecture students from the University of Kaiserslautern designed and built the centre, together with 25 refugees and local construction companies and with support from the city and local businesses and organisations. The centre received the award as a result of “the inclusive process, an engaged group of participants, and an outstanding aesthetic achievement.”

The volumes and spaces of the centre are said to “succeed impressively in resolving a

complicated urban context and allowing identification and participation.” Interior and exterior spaces are linked or separated in a “carefully created succession.” An enclosed space with covered niches facing east and south serves as an “introverted garden” – designed for “retreat and silence.”

Structural elements, wall and ceiling surfaces, flooring and furnishings are made of untreated timber. In order to build elements such as walls and roofs in under six weeks, panels and components were prefabricated in a vacant hangar nearby.

“Labour-intensive but simple and resource-friendly” construction processes were used to enable manual labour to reduce reliance on large machinery such as cranes.

The centre’s ornamental structure with its “varied play of light” is said to be regarded by the refugees on the site as “reminiscent of oriental ornaments and as an inviting gesture of identification in a foreign place.”

Nearly half of the current population of Mannheim has a background of migration. Sveriges Arkitekter commented that in the current period of turmoil around the issue across Europe, the building “takes a stand for an inclusive way ahead.”

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PLUMBING THE POSSIBILITIES

WINNER

Curvy Kingston house wins 2017 Manser Medal

Eldridge London Architects have won the 2017 Manser Medal for the design of an unusual curvy house in Coombe Park, Kingston upon Thames.

Presenting the award to the scheme's architect Mike Gibson and homeowner Jim Mason at the 2017 Sunday Times British Homes Awards, judge and architect Jonathan Manser said: "In the middle of boxy suburbia this house appears to hover above the ground when seen from the road, and the illusions continue at every level thereafter."

He added: "Beautifully designed and built, with immaculate detailing, there is hardly a straight line in the building and the resultant plan, linkage of spaces, and relationship of the house to its carefully sculpted garden is nothing if not innovative."

Manser continued: "This is a house that can't be ignored, has many stunning and surprising elements and while unlikely to be copied, will give architects and house-builders much to think about. All in all, a

fantastically brave and well executed grand project of domestic architecture!"

A shortlist of six schemes was selected from highly commended designs within three British Homes Awards categories.

The other five shortlisted practices were Strom Architects for The Quest; Liddicoat & Goldhill LLP for The Maker's House;

Scampton & Barnett Architects for Fernaig Cottage; Patalab Architecture for Heath House; and Hyde + Hyde Architects for Silver House.

The judging panel consisted of Jonathan Manser, Chris Loyn, founder, Loyn + Co Architects, and Sandra Coppin, director, Coppin Dockray Architecture & Design.



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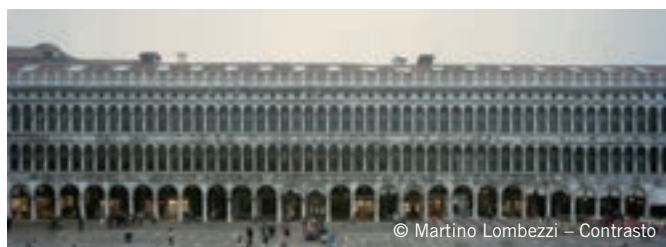
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RESTORATION

Procuratie Vecchie to be restored by David Chipperfield



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Italian insurance giant Generali Group has appointed David Chipperfield Architects to undertake the restoration of a historic building in St Mark's Square, Venice, which will see it opened to the public for the first time in 500 years.

Once restored, the Procuratie Vecchie will be the administrative HQ for Generali's new initiative The Human Safety Net, set up to provide aid to "some of the most vulnerable communities around the world". Its programmes include support for families living in poverty and "refugee startups," and research into infant asphyxia.

Generali said it will undertake a "unique restoration" that will bring together other parts of the square and the Royal Gardens. When complete, it will re-establish historic paths to and from St Mark's Square. David Chipperfield Architects will be applying an approach that will allow for a "respectful transformation."

David Chipperfield, principal of the firm commented: "The Human Safety Net and its home in Venice, a city steeped in history and culture, brings together knowledge and inspiration for the common good. I am delighted to be working on this project, which will convey and connect ideas and people around the world."

The Procuratie Vecchie will provide an open door for people to seek inspiration from programmes, exchange ideas and volunteer to take collective action. The hub will host regular public exhibitions, events and discussions on pressing social and demographic challenges from poverty to migration.

Chipperfield explained the collaborative aim for the project: "Working closely with Generali, we have a vision to transform the Procuratie Vecchie into a more active and engaged space, which embodies the global mission of The Human Safety Net, while retaining the dignified beauty and history of the buildings."

Philippe Donnet, CEO of Generali Group explained why the insurer decided to work with Chipperfield on the project: "David Chipperfield was a natural choice due to his love of Venice and shared vision for an architecturally and socially coherent restoration."

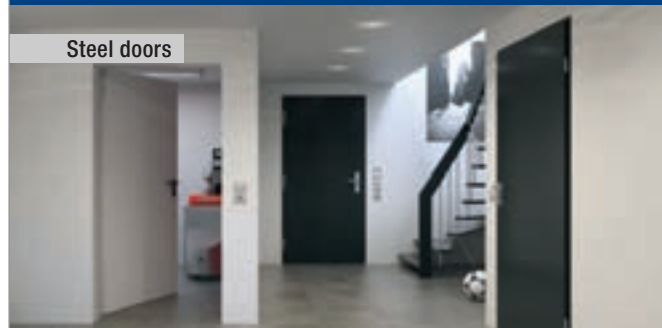
He added: "By opening the Procuratie Vecchie to the public for the first time in nearly five centuries, we are creating new and vibrant spaces where people can meet to discuss some of today's most pressing social and global issues. Venice has long been a crossroads of different cultures from around the world, and we hope to build on this tradition through The Human Safety Net and our movement of 'people helping people'."



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PRACTICE PROFILE

Colman Architects

Emerging from a desire to ‘do things better’, over their 30-year lifespan Colman Architects have produced a wealth of diverse projects from sleek gallery spaces to colossal Chinese masterplans. Sébastien Reed investigates

The project is the all-important thing – Colman Architects’ mantra for delivering projects places the achievement of transformative solutions to a client’s brief as a top priority. The practice, whose roots are firmly in commercial architecture, differentiates itself from others through its strict client-oriented approach, and steering projects away from “self-indulgent” design choices and towards the best course of action that fits a particular need.

When ADF challenges senior partner Trevor Colman on whether the level of design freedom his team enjoys is limited by such an approach, he responds: “a lot of architectural practices do as they’re told, and perhaps their customers and clients get a service that they ask for, but not necessarily what they actually want.” By contrast Colman Architects put their weight behind moving beyond straightforward implementation of a pre-proposed solution, towards reimagining the solution altogether for the client, be it a bank, funding institution, developer or individual investor. Colman states simply: “What we’re about is getting the very best quality of design, so that the client is left feeling a sense of joy.”

Origins

The practice was born in the late 80s as three architects at McColl Architects, a go-ahead London firm at the time, saw the

opportunity to develop a more comprehensive, service-focused offering, and left to found a new practice together. Nearly three decades later, Colman Architects has grown in size and contracted through peaks and troughs in demand, eventually finding a balance with 20-35 architects distributed among two UK offices and a China-based satellite practice harbouring much of its East Asian work.

Colmans’ preoccupation with commercial projects is a direct product of its origins. With McColl being heavily involved in retail, it provided the current firm’s founding three with the expertise to broaden its horizons to office and leisure schemes like hotels, cinemas, and restaurants. However, after the resurgence of mixed-use developments in the 1990s, the practice’s portfolio has diversified yet further, encompassing everything from town-scale masterplanning to relatively modest private residences.

Leading from the top

The current team relies heavily on the influence and expertise of its directors, as Colman explains: “I’ve got two directors who’ve been with me for 28 years, that’s a long time.” Describing the practice’s working methods, he says the directors are the first port of call for any crucial design decisions, “because that’s where the experience is, and then it filters down through the practice.”

Colman Architects’ significant lifespan has allowed for consider-



Circus, Liverpool © iGuzzinni



Mascolo Space gallery, Battersea, London

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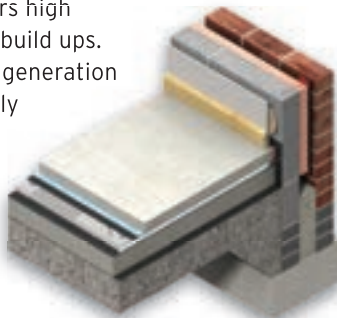


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able experimentation, the firm having established offices in Dublin, Ireland and Chengdu, China, and growing its workforce of designers to over 50 (before later slimming it down again). Colman also notes the double-edged sword of running a larger practice with increasingly international commitments: “The directors end up running a company rather than doing the projects.”

The Dublin office has closed and the Chinese bureau now functions largely self-sufficiently, and this has brought efficiencies. Limiting the size and breadth of the practice, says Colman, “gives the opportunity for the directors to be involved in every project, and the ability to do the biggest projects, as well as giving a lot of time to smaller projects as well.”

In the pipeline

Colman Architects now focuses on its UK offices, of which one is based in London, and the other, newly established in Chichester, Sussex. While the practice has a large array of international projects under its belt, it is currently putting a lot of resources into a vast mixed-use scheme, a makeover of the well-known Lewis’s retail store in Liverpool into the Circus retail and leisure project. Deploying all of Colman’s commercial sector expertise, it will combine “cinemas, clubs, bars, as well as retail, linking into probably the busiest transport hub in Liverpool.”

He says the scheme is a good example of Colman Architects’ client-centred philosophy, “The developer is really keen on the way we do the service and we’re very pleased.”

‘Cost-effective’ and ‘elegant’ are the two traits claimed by the practice to encapsulate the results of their designs. These traits are perhaps best illustrated in their adaptation and refurbishment of the Grade II Listed former Tate Library into the Mascolo Space studio and gallery in Battersea, London, which plays host to a wide variety of events. The project, which features stained-glass windows and oak panelled walls, was elegantly frugal, totalling only £400,000 – its cost-effectiveness, Colman explains, coming from “producing all the right systems and squeezing them into the building.”

In terms of their approach to creating aesthetically elegant solutions particularly in a retail development context, Colman notes how slight adjustments in the presentation of main circulation spaces, tweaking lighting systems and colour schemes for instance, can “influence the way you feel about the whole environment.”

Taking a holistic approach

Moor House School & College in Oxted, Surrey, is an example of one of the practice’s masterplanning successes. The specialist school for children and young people with speech and language difficulties was seeking ways to increase accessibility and independence for its students, so it hosted a competition for a new sixth form college design. Instead of providing an architectural design for a new building, Colman Architects’ careful landscaping and use of spatial circulation gave rise to a completely new ‘student village’ concept.

“What they were trying to do was give students that independence within the school environment,” explains Trevor Colman, before going on to say how the design helped the spaces not look unduly different from ‘normal’ homes; “if you design this student village as a series of large houses with bedrooms and kitchens, so that they look and feel like houses or domestic properties, then the students will instantly feel at home.” He continues: “That holistic view of the whole problem meant that we could actually give them probably something they didn’t realise they wanted.”



A lot of practices do as they’re told, and perhaps customers get a service they ask for, but not necessarily what they want

Senior partner, Trevor Colman

At the other end of the spectrum, Colmans’ Chinese office is currently facing the challenge of developing the strategic master-plan for a new neighbourhood 30 miles from Chengdu, which is set to accommodate 20,000 inhabitants.

The development is intended to reference elements of traditional Chinese villages, while diverging from the overtly urban tendencies of large-scale East Asian schemes, creating a sustainable, empathic, and again, holistic solution to planned urbanisation.

The future

The practice has embraced technological advances in a number of areas, from utilising the latest software to produce renderings for clients, to specifying glue-laminated timber for a swimming pool in Belgium. Colman is quick to add, however, that pursuing such cutting-edge technologies should be done with a healthy dose of scepticism.

On BIM, Colman posits that given the huge investments of time and effort necessary to generate models, there is still a very long way to go before it becomes a practical solution and a staple tool for Colman Architects, saying: “It feels very much like the early stages of when practices were computerising.” And on new materials, he expresses concern around “experimenting with clients’ money,” adding “we tend to not go for materials just for the sake of it, we’re always looking for the appropriate material for the situation we’re in.”

Like many UK architectural practices, Colman Architects boasts a largely international workforce – “at one point the practice collectively had the ability to speak 25 different languages!” exclaims Colman. With it having benefitted greatly from the expertise of EU nationals among its staff over the years, he does have concerns around Brexit. He wonders whether the industry will be able to meet spikes in demand in future – likely to occur due to the cyclic nature of the construction industry. Whether future demand can be satisfied by UK architects alone, without any supplementation from the EU, is unknown, he says: “The thing that concerns me is whether we’ll be able to access that resource in the future.”

Despite these ambiguities, the future continues to look bright for Colman Architects. The practice has weathered a slew of outside forces over three decades in the form of financial crises, and is still going strong. The eagerness to deliver exactly what is needed for projects, driven from the top, has gained the firm strong trust among clients and allowed it to put its best foot forward for the future. ■



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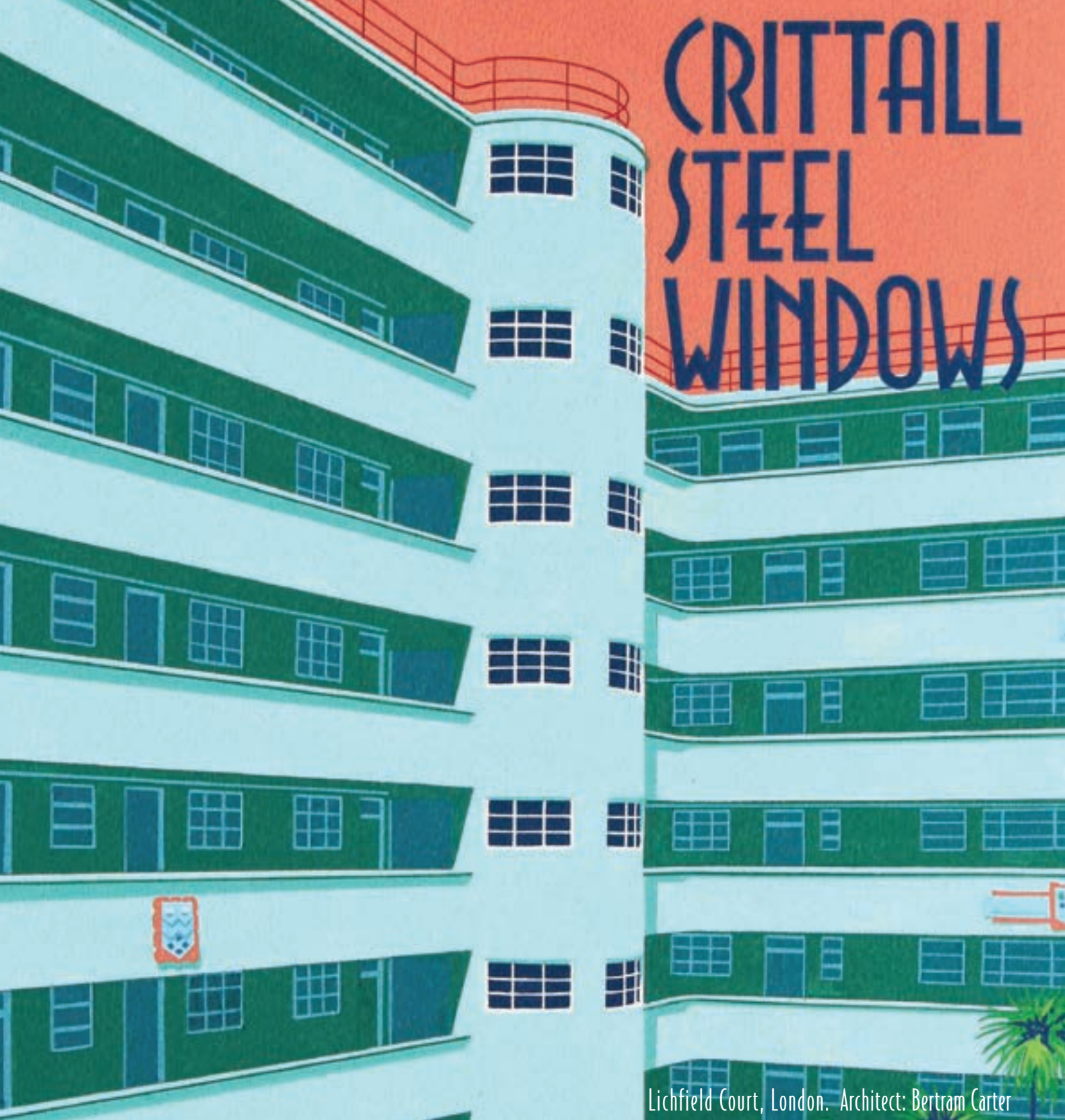
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BRIAN JAMES



VIEW POINT

Tim Burgess of CoveBurgess Architects says that grass-roots answers are needed to the problem of practices finding it harder to be located in London's rich diversity

Our modern cities are the current embodiment of humans' desire to gather into groupings that offer them greater protection and support than they would have on their own. The heady mix of overlapping cultures and activities present in cities make them a fabulous environment for creativity. At the dawn of the internet era we were presented with the idea that we could 'work from anywhere'. But we didn't – instead our cities absorbed and integrated technology into its fabric, and we remained. We go where our tribe is, as communal creatures we thrive in a collective, rather than in isolation.

Architects and designers in particular work well in this environment. It is the bedrock of our culture of collaboration and appropriation. We are magpies who thrive on the diversity and richness of cities. Historically architects and design practices have sought 'light industrial' spaces, where the primary requirements for drawing boards and layout space was ample room and natural light. And of course, it had to be affordable. This was made particularly acute by the greater amount of space required by creatives, relative to desk workers. Unlike artists and makers who tend to work in isolation, they run service-led businesses that also rely on proximity to their clients. In a cultural milieu that increasingly values collaboration, making yourself less accessible is plain daft.

But here's the rub – culture creates value, but rising land values and rents threaten to drive out the very activities that created the culture. As with the story of the goose who laid the golden eggs, if you want to keep getting the eggs you have to look after the goose! And to take the bird analogy a step further, because creatives need larger spaces than other service industries, they become the 'canaries in the mine shaft' – the first to be asphyxiated by rising rents. This scenario is felt most profoundly in those parts of London that were once the 'rough

edges', and that are now well and truly located in the mainstream.

Areas like Camden and Hackney provided the type of space that was ideal for creatives; clusters of small-floorplate warehouses that created vibrant daytime neighbourhoods. These have largely been lost to the twin-pronged attack of conversion to 'hip' residential living or replacement by large-floorplate, bland commercial space.

There are parts of the city where enlightened land owners (notably the great London Estates) who actively manage their letting, take seriously their role of 'curators' – organising the pieces to make a whole greater than the sum of its parts. They choose to take lower rents to get the right occupants that create the character and atmosphere, that benefits the whole.

Cities don't have curators. In Jane Jacobs' book 'Life and Death of American Cities' the author rails against the destruction of her beloved New York in the 1960s by the top-down planning approach of the city officials. She eloquently argued for a neighbourhood-led view of cities, and revealed that top-down city planning is a blunt instrument that kills every patient it tries to cure.

We believe that any viable solution has to be from grass-roots up, and in our case, address the question: "How do you create affordable, flexible space in central London?" Our response comes in three parts: firstly, height – sites need to work hard, with a high enough ratio of studio space per square foot of land. Secondly, simplicity – the fabric has to be 'no-frills'; buildings serviced locally on a floor-by floor basis, avoiding space-hungry risers and the unnecessary complexity of a BMS, and have openable windows. Lastly, be sustainable – warehouses of the past were straightforward, simply built with available material and adapted over time. The majority of the fabric of buildings should be off-site timber construction technology, minimising waste and environmental footprint.



VERTICAL WORKING

The 'Vertical Village' could provide a quarter of a million square feet of studios in London Bridge

Our own 'grass roots' solution for our neighbourhood of London Bridge is the 'Vertical Village' – a quarter of million square feet's worth of individual studios clustered and stacked around two cores. It's the antidote to the corporate slickness of the Shard; the contemporary equivalent of lost warehouse spaces. Flexible workspaces with ample light, high ceilings, and no frills, in the middle of town.

At the ground level, a new public square with kiosk, gardens and bike parking. Above, an inclusive architecture that expresses the flexible, open and communal nature of future workplaces. These hark back to the clustered bunches of warehouses gathered around cores and punctuated by gardens. It's sustainable, carbon-neutral construction – including rainwater harvesting and a rooftop food farm, as well as data-driven M&E systems that learn and adapt to occupants' needs. ■

Tim Burgess is a partner at CoveBurgess

NEW ARRIVALS

Rounding up the latest movers and in-house appointments across the industry

ELITE SHER BRYDEN WOOD



Elite Sher has joined consultant Bryden Wood as Virtual Reality (VR) development lead. Prior to this she worked as an innovation programmer and designer for Microsoft. Elite is an experienced, multidisciplinary software developer, creative technologist and designer, who specialises in developing creative applications for emerging technologies. She has a background in architecture and an MSc in adaptive architecture and computation from University College London. Phil Langley, director of digital delivery at Bryden Wood, commented: "Elite's appointment is a key step in extending our digital skills. She is responsible for the design and development of client-centred VR applications, with an emphasis on creating interactive and immersive experiences. Our idea is for VR and AR to become part of our everyday workflow, focusing on creativity, data visualisation, collaborative work and productivity. We are doing some pioneering work in this area and this appointment has helped further build on our digital capabilities."



FIONA BALL ALLAN CORFIELD ARCHITECTS

ACA are pleased to announce the appointment of Fiona Ball, who joins with a wealth of commercial and residential experience gained from her time as a project architect at Watson Burnett Architects and Morris and Steedman Associates. She believes in promoting environmentally sensitive design alongside conservation, and is "passionate about the possibilities for thoughtful design to enhance our everyday experience".



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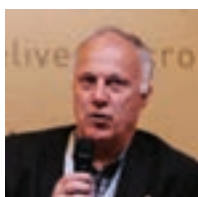
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ASK THE ARCHITECT

Mungo Smith is a renowned specialist healthcare architect, and was director of Medical Architecture and Art Projects (MAAP) in the UK until 2012, when he moved the firm to Sydney, Australia. He tells ADF why an architect's life down under isn't always plain sailing



Mungo Smith

AFTER SETTING UP SHOP IN AUSTRALIA, WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER FOR OTHER ARCHITECTS LOOKING TO DO A SIMILAR THING?

The 'cultural cringe' from Australians at their own culture has not gone away, which is a potential advantage for overseas practices. It helps to be invited here and to have a USP that provides the international dimension. However, once here you become part of the local scene and less exotic there may be tendency to be taken for granted.

MAAP set up in Sydney to support the New South Wales government Health Infrastructure body on the back of two commissions in 2012. After five years, we have virtually nothing in New South Wales and are now working mostly in Melbourne, Brisbane and New Zealand. As a



Glenside Health Campus, Adelaide

sub-consultant, it is difficult to establish or maintain direct relationships with state health departments.

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE DESIGN SCENE LIKE?

We initially set up the practice as it now is doing projects out of London – personal relationships were, and still are, essential to get work. Fees are very competitive, and projects are often re-tendered two or three times during the design process. Large practices dominate the health sector; few small firms get in. MAAP are a notable exception, initially trading on our niche international experience, and then producing useful work.

In New South Wales, there is a clear split in commissioning between planning new facilities and their delivery. Therefore, it's not easy to get work in both, or maintain continuity through the project.

The short three-year political cycle does inhibit progress, quick and safe masterplans are a requirement for every significant health project, but they are often superficial and limited in scope, and rarely involve engaging with the wider community or its representatives.

The exception is a 'co-design' consultation process in which we are involved in Queensland.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING IN AUSTRALIA?

My work colleagues, the coffee culture, wonderful food, and of course the weather. Sydney has one of the most beautiful settings of any city in the world, with stunning harbourside views.

Potential clients here do not always realise what we can do for them, or whether we even exist

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BUILDING IN THE HEALTHCARE WORLD?

Hospitals should be visible and fully integrated with the city. My favourite is the relatively recent St. Olav's Hospital in Trondheim, Norway. Hvidovre Hospital, Copenhagen completed in 1972 is well worth a review. My favourite in the UK is the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT DESIGNING BUILDINGS IN THE UK?

Getting them built – until recently, we have rarely got beyond producing a masterplan or concept. We provided the complete service in the UK. The one project in Australia whose delivery we were directly involved in, most of our contribution was made in London prior to setting up here. Now we are on our second, tiny by comparison, and we are only playing a bit-part, post-tender.

In the UK, we would have been involved in every aspect of design, documentation and delivery. Our previous work in UK earned us the respect we have from clients. The health sector is playing catch-up with most other sectors, which generally lead in

technological development and innovation. Any innovation in the health sector architecture creates excitement and in the UK, MAAP were re-inventing old paradigms. Not so here – it is very conservative and risk averse.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB CURRENTLY?

Establishing and running a small practice takes all my time – most days I work 12 hours and that often includes weekends.

Other challenges are protecting the original design concept and maintaining a level of consistency through the process, not having a direct relationship with the end-users, and being micro-managed.

WHAT INNOVATIONS WOULD MAKE THE ARCHITECT'S JOB EASIER?

I do not think we need any more technological innovation, but we do need ways to improve communication and managing the design process. Meeting stakeholders' expectations is becoming more and more difficult.

A real-time costing tool/plugin to BIM might reduce abortive work - we are required to investigate more options than necessary, to arrive at an exemplary solution. And a smart post-occupancy evaluation tool, so that we can all learn from our mistakes.

A whole-life costing tool linked to the design software would allow us to discuss cost and value intelligently.

WHAT MATERIALS ARE YOU ENJOYING WORKING WITH THE MOST?

Here in Australia, it's OK to clad buildings in corrugated iron! Keeping buildings cool in extreme conditions rather than heating them is the main environmental challenge. I would like to introduce Australians to the benefits of insulation and double

glazing; energy conservation could be taken more seriously.

WHAT CAN THE UK LEARN FROM OVERSEAS ARCHITECTS?

In Australia, young architects develop their skills in a large and sophisticated residential sector. They pay a lot of attention to detail and producing thorough documentation, so they can bring the same craft to health from this and other sectors. They are fearless doing large buildings too.

HOW IS THE ARCHITECT'S ROLE LIKELY TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE?

The architect's role has already changed for the worse here. The design of health facilities is still in the last century and the focus is principally on cost and delivery. When we do get to see the clients, it is usually a highly stage-managed event. This stifles curiosity and innovation.

In our practice, we can stay small and work smarter, to help clients and the broader community solve problems, but we still need to communicate (explain, write and draw) our ideas clearly. Simply, providing efficient drafting, documentation and co-ordination services for project and construction managers will produce neither elegant nor healing environments.

DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR CLIENTS HAVE A GOOD GRASP OF WHAT YOU CAN DO?

Yes, when we get an opportunity to present ourselves. Much of our work comes by invitation, not tender – we are selective. Potential clients here do not always realise what we can do for them, or whether we even exist, which means we are only using part of our capability; we also offer health planning, but roles have become fragmented and more specialised. We are considered small and without the

I would like to introduce Australians to the benefits of insulation and double glazing

capacity to deliver large facilities. Because of this we work at the front end of projects, which is interesting and rewarding. We should probably market ourselves better!

Here, as in the US, the normal method of designing facilities is that health planners lay out the buildings and architects provide the envelope. In UK and Europe, architects have traditionally provided a more expansive and inclusive service, and design teams are generally smaller on major projects. Here, there can be 20 or more consultants and sub-consultants.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR 2018 AND BEYOND?

Consolidate MAAP's practice in Sydney and undertake projects where quality is championed. I would like us to work again in Europe and the UK. We now have work in the Middle East, so that may become possible.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT?

Setting up MAAP which, over the past 25 years, has changed the way that the architectural profession approaches the design of mental health facilities. We are still finding new solutions for our clients, which is very satisfying, when they are accepted. And helping to advocate the benefits of providing 100 per cent single rooms in public hospitals.

On a personal note, I'm proud of designing Lambeth Community Care Centre with Edward Cullinan Architects, which set me on this path over 30 years ago. ■

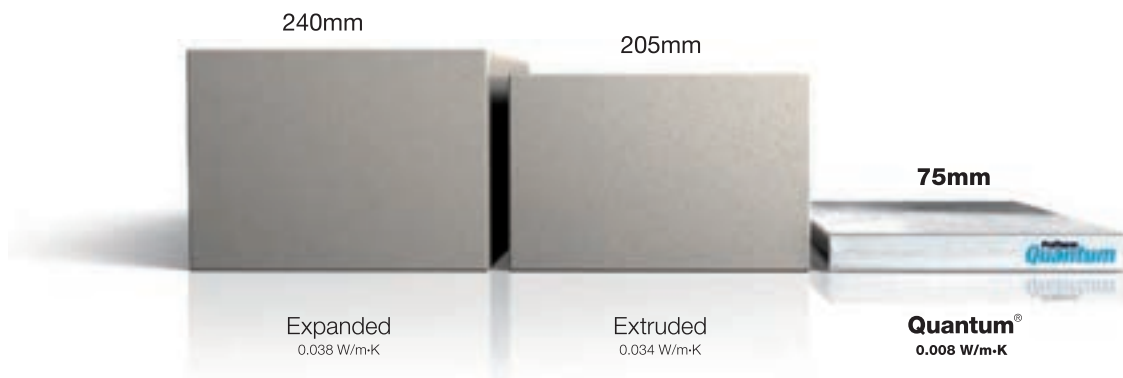
Vicaima launch new products at world leading design show



One of Europe's leading manufacturers of interior doors and decorative panel products recently made a big splash at London's 100% Design Event. Vicaima presented no less than two large stands showcasing genuine inspiration with an array of new design trends and performance solutions. Vicaima has always prided itself on forward thinking and a passion for innovation. This was very much in evidence at this year's design show where Vicaima were able to launch a whole host of new products, including their exciting and thought provoking MATCH decorative panels. MATCH was very noticeable throughout both stands, where it could be seen as wall panels, doors, furniture, ornamental pillars and even works of art. 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 such as stone, textile, metal or unique surfaces. In this way designers can untether their creative flair and remove the boundaries to realising unique concepts.

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CAOHEJING GUIGU CREATIVE HEADQUARTERS, CHINA SCHMIDT HAMMER LASSEN

Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects' design for the new CaoHeJing Guigu Creative Headquarters in Shanghai has broken ground. Developed by the government-backed CaoHeJing Hi-Tech Park, the project intended to be CaoHeJing's "platform for innovation". The new centre will support and nurture high-tech firms, and connect local and overseas university graduates and enterprises, as well as acting as an "accelerator for new technology" in China. The project comprises three volumes split by two external landscaped terraces that contain shared meeting and support functions. The two upper volumes contain divisible incubator studio space while the lower volume contains the main lobby, exhibition and event space and a coffee bar. The project is the third collaboration between Schmidt Hammer Lassen and CaoHeJing, and is expected to complete in 2020.

Ref: 5604



PRAGA STUDIOS, CZECH REPUBLIC SKANSKA

Skanska has invested €27m in the office project Praga Studios in Prague, Czech Republic. The seven-floor building will offer a total leasable area of about 12,000 m². It will not only be a modern business centre, but also offer the public a venue for various cultural and social events. In addition to office spaces, the building will include a spacious, publicly accessible atrium. Praga Studios is expected to receive LEED Platinum and WELL certifications. LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) focuses on energy consumption and sustainable materials selection, while WELL is based on how the built environment affects people.

Ref: 2186



SAINT-CHARLES HOSPITAL, FRANCE HELLIN-SEBBAG ARCHITECTES

Hellin-Sebbag Architectes office delivered the first phase of the Saint-Charles Hospital site at Montpellier in 2011. The second phase redevelops 6,377 m² within the wing called the "Incurables". The ground floor accommodates the public for international conferences and symposia, while the research work spaces are located on the first and second floors. There is also an amphitheatre which "seemed almost impossible within this 18th century building with an unsuited load-bearing structure," said the architects. However, they succeeded in inserting a 100-seat amphitheatre that occupies the full width of the central wing of the very narrow (10.5 metre wide) and vaulted (5.3 metre high) building.

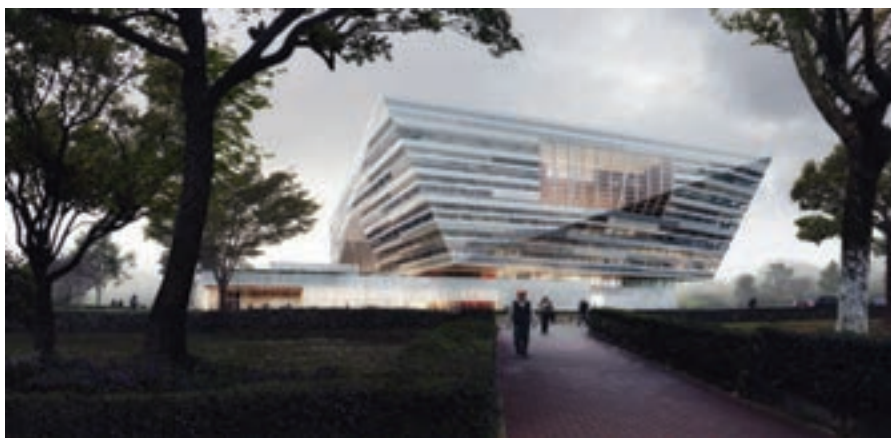
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BUND FINANCE CENTRE, CHINA FOSTER + PARTNERS AND HEATHERWICK STUDIO

The Bund Finance Centre – a major new mixed-use development jointly designed by Foster + Partners and Heatherwick Studio – is set to revitalise Shanghai's waterfront. Occupying a prominent site on the Bund, the buildings define the 'end point' to Shanghai's most famous street. The 420,000 m² masterplan is highly permeable for pedestrians, with the design conceived as a point of connection between the old town and the new financial district. Inspired by this urban context, two 180 metre landmark towers are placed in the south of the site, while the buildings facing the waterfront are staggered in height and relate in scale and rhythm to the grand nineteenth-century landmarks along the Bund. At the heart of the scheme is a flexible arts and cultural centre, home to the Fosun Foundation, which combines exhibition and events halls with a performance venue, inspired by the open stages of traditional Chinese theatres.

Ref: 6401



SHANGHAI EAST LIBRARY, CHINA SCHMIDT HAMMER LASSEN

Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects have revealed new visuals of the Shanghai East Library. In 2016, the practice won a three-stage international competition to design the new public library that will sit adjacent to Century Park in the east part of the city. The 115,000 m² library, located in Pudong District – the area of the city known for its iconic skyline, will sit immediately next to Century Park – the largest park in the city spread over 140 hectares. The project is conceived as a singular monolithic form floating above the tree canopy within the park. The main library volume floats above two pavilions that will house a 1000 seat performance venue, exhibition and events space and a dedicated children's library, that will all open up towards a series of landscaped courtyards and gardens.

Ref: 4738



MOL CAMPUS, HUNGARY FOSTER + PARTNERS

Foster + Partners' designs for MOL Campus, the new headquarters for the MOL Group, a global oil and gas company based in Hungary, have been revealed. The new building is "a vision for the workplace of the future" that places sustainability at the heart of the campus. Located in southern Budapest, it is set to be the tallest building in the city. The building's form integrates a 28-storey tower with a podium a single form to create a unified campus. Greenery travels through the heart of the building, from the central atrium on the ground floor, linked with skygardens throughout the tower, and culminating in a public garden at the top of the building. These green spaces also act as a social catalyst throughout the building, encouraging collaboration, relaxation and inspiration by bringing nature closer to the workplace. All occupants have a direct connection to the external environment providing fresh air, daylight and views, and the building utilises low and zero carbon energy sources, such as photovoltaics, also featuring rainwater harvesting and storage facilities.

Ref: 9774

CPD FOCUS

The latest CPD courses, seminars and documents for architects

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Rockfon has used its knowledge and technical expertise to create two informative and enjoyable RIBA-accredited CPDs. *Interior Acoustic Surfaces for Monolithic Architecture* is a must for all architects and designers involved in monolithic building designs and *Natural Benefits of Stone Wool for Acoustic Ceilings and Walls* explains how to create beautiful, healthy spaces which protect people from unwanted noise and the spread of fire while making a valuable contribution towards a sustainable future. For further information or to book your CPD please call or visit the website. 0800 389 0314 www.rockfon.co.uk

'STEP ON IT!' SPECIFICATION OF ENTRANCE MATTING



Quantum Flooring Solutions – RIBA approved CPD seminar *STEP ON IT!* is a presentation and discussion dealing with the subject of specifying safe and effective entrance matting. The CPD presentation includes: What entrance matting is designed to achieve and how to select the right one; How recent BRE guidelines affect the choices for specifiers; Environmental and health and safety considerations applicable to the manufacture, installation and maintenance of entrance matting. 0161 627 4222 www.quantumprofilesystems.com

A SPECIFIER'S GUIDE TO INNOVATIVE ROOFLIGHT DESIGN



We are in an era where Architecture increasingly encompasses the importance of natural light on our health and wellbeing. Vision AGI is pleased to offer a RIBA approved 45 minute interactive presentation, where it discusses the environmental and health benefits of natural light; the different glass types and their uses; rooflight performance characteristics, testing and certifications; glass fragility and loadings. Its experienced Presenters will travel throughout the UK, so you can learn in the comfort of your own office. 01223 792 244 www.visionagi.co.uk

CHIMNEY DESIGN AND RESTORATION OF FLUES AND DUCTS



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. 0203 858 3888 www.fluelinersolutions.co.uk

TWO NEW RIBA ASSESSED CPD SEMINARS FROM COMAR



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 H11 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. 020 685 9685 www.comar-alu.co.uk

EARN CPD POINTS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE WITH KINGSPAN



Kingspan Insulation has introduced its new website, placing a world of in-depth insulation knowledge at the fingertips of specifiers. The clean, easily navigable site provides detailed information on Kingspan's comprehensive product range and features a free online education centre: Kingspan Insight. Users can choose from a range of interactive multi-unit courses, covering key industry topics, and earn points towards their CPD. It launches with three courses covering Building Regulations and Standards, tapered roofing design and the impact of insulation specifications on the long-term rental value. 01544 387 384 www.kingspaninsulation.co.uk/insight

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. 01670 718222 www.renolit.com/design

ENGINEERING VS PSEUDOMONAS... CPD FROM HORNE ENGINEERING



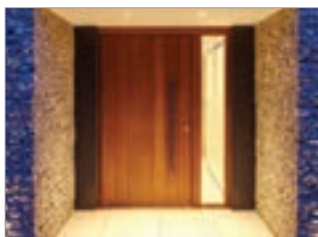
The importance of good hand hygiene, the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and the need to reduce reservoirs of infection in the healthcare environment are key points in this highly educational presentation, which, in the last 12 months has been delivered to more than 300 healthcare specifiers. This presentation, from Horne, makes excellent use of videos, props and practical demonstrations to illustrate some tricky concepts. Feedback from participants is universally positive – almost invariably it's 'the best CPD we've ever had'. 01505 321455 www.horne.co.uk

RIBA APPROVED CPD LAMINATE FACTORY TOUR FROM FORMICA



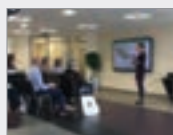
Formica Group, is now offering a CPD factory tour approved by the Royal Institute of British Architects. The tour is based at the Formica Group facility in North Shields and incorporates the factory, office and fabrication support unit, as well as an overview of the process of laminate manufacturing and usage. A hands-on opportunity to work with laminate, the tour also includes the experience of bonding and postforming, as well as understanding the various grades and laminate capabilities. Lasting two and a half hours, tours are limited to eight people. 0191 259 3512 www.formica.com

SPECIFYING HARDWOOD TIMBER DOORSETS



Urban Front offer a RIBA certified CPD: *Specifying Hardwood Timber doorsets* which has been updated for 2017 to include for changes in building regulations and to include the more complicated fitting of timber doorsets into frameless and architectural glass. The CPD aims to educate specifiers on all the aspects of fitting hardwood timber doorsets into various private and commercial dwellings. Urban Front also have RIBA certified blogs which you can find on the RIBA website and on Urban Front's website. To make a booking please call Urban Front. 01494 778787 www.urbanfront.co.uk

Wellbeing at heart of Altro's forum



Transforming spaces to improve wellbeing within healthcare was the focus of Altro's latest European Forum, hosted at the company's HQ in Letchworth. The two-day event brought together healthcare industry experts with care professionals from across Europe to share best practices and discuss the latest innovations, legislation, design and trends within the sector. Healthcare specialist Gilling Dod Architects joined Dr Steve Thorpe, chair of the UK Slip Resistance Group, to present the latest thinking and host discussions along with Altro's in-house development teams.

01462 480480 www.altro.co.uk/healthcare

Firestone signals roofing growth



EPDM roofing specialist, Firestone Building Products, has signalled the implementation of an ambitious growth strategy for commercial and industrial roofing with the appointment of product sales manager, Steve Clowes. Responsible for driving sales opportunities for Firestone's RubberGard™ EPDM roofing products and UltraPly™ TPO commercial roofing membranes range, bringing technical expertise in correct specification and installation of single ply membranes to the role. His remit is to engage with architects, specifiers, main contractors, roofing contractors and building surveyors.

01606 552026 www.firestonebpe.co.uk

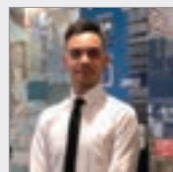
VEKA hosts NNP report launch



The Northern Powerhouse Partnership (NPP) chose VEKA Group's Burnley headquarters as the location for the launch of its latest report; 'Powerhouse 2050: The North's Routemap for Productivity'. NPP aims to increase the contribution the North makes to the UK economy. Following the publication of its first report earlier in the year – which focussed on Education & Skills, Infrastructure & Assets, International Competitiveness, and Leadership & Learning – the four primary capabilities of the Powerhouse 2050 report hones in on Advanced Manufacturing & Materials, Energy, Digital, and Health Innovation.

01282 716611 www.vekauk.com

Change of Role for Luke at GEZE UK



The recent expansion of GEZE UK's external sales teams has seen Luke Carroll appointed to the role of Sales Manager for Window Technology Systems. Luke will look after the Southern region – managing key accounts, providing customer training, specifying widow technology and raising awareness of the GEZE Window Technology portfolio. His area covers Lincoln, Derby and Nottingham in the east, through to mid and South Wales in the west, and from Birmingham and the Midlands, to London and south east, and down to Cornwall.

01543 443000 www.geze.co.uk

A new website for a new era in composite covers



As demand for stronger, lighter and more durable materials increases, Fibrelite continues to invest in technology – designing, developing, manufacturing and rapidly bringing new solutions to market. The new website is a perfect example. Created to showcase Fibrelite's endlessly evolving product portfolio and reflect their design-to-delivery capabilities, fibrelite.com is a new website for a new era. Inspired to simplify the transition to composite, it showcases the widest range of GRP access covers and underground enclosures available. Designed to accommodate the increasing variety of internet usage, the new site delivers a consistent user experience on desktop, mobile and tablet – allowing users everywhere to intuitively navigate by product, select specifications, download technical information and request quotes. Customers can also access over three decades of expertise, including instructional brochures, installation guides, manuals and test reports. A vast library of case studies demonstrates Fibrelite's ability to provide local support globally, develop covering solutions for different industries and manufacture bespoke products to suit every application.

01756 799 773 www.fibrelite.com

Decorative casing solutions – the big cover up



Porsche West London

The interiors of many buildings, as well as some exteriors, would be considerably less attractive and practical, if it wasn't for column casings and interior wall lining solutions.

A bold statement perhaps, but column casings are an essential part of contemporary building design and perform a vital function by providing an effective, stylish and immensely versatile method of concealing structural steelwork, concrete columns and in some cases, building services.

While there may be very few people who will stand back to admire laminated plywood column casings in schools, hospitals and retail outlets or brushed stainless steel wall cladding in a prestige office building or hotel, they play a key role in the aesthetics of countless building environments.

The use of column casings has grown dramatically since the early 1980s where their primary role was purely to cover structural supports with comparatively little consideration as a method of adding visual

decoration to a building.

Since then, the demand for wider choice and increased aesthetics from design conscious architects, interior designers and specifiers has been a key influence on Peterborough based decorative casing specialist, Encasement, whose range has expanded and diversified considerably over the past ten years to become the most comprehensive available in the UK.

The company's complete range includes 'Circa' and 'Quadra' which are manufactured from pre-formed plywood, alongside its 'Forma' metal casings, 'Polyma' GRP and 'Gypra' GRG product ranges. 'Metza', a specialised solution that provides mezzanine floor columns with up to 2 hours fire protection is also available.

Versatility is a key feature behind a diverse range of projects where the column casing's design has been used to accent an interior or provide a unique aspect to a building. This high degree of freedom enables major brands, particularly in the retail sector,

to specify colours that not only adhere to their brand guidelines but also add to the customer experience.

Encasement's 'Forma' metal casings, for example, provide specifiers with a diverse range of options and can be specified with diameters from 250mm up to 1000mm or as square, rectangular and hexagonal forms, as well as unique custom profiles.

While all of Encasement's column casings are suitable for interior use, its 'Polyma' GRP products and 'Forma' range, which can be manufactured from aluminium or stainless steel, are also widely used on exterior projects due to their inherent weather resistance.

Recent projects, such as Tetrosyl's new head office reception, Birmingham Dental Hospital and Winchester College, together with Porsche West London's prestige showroom, Kia's recently opened flagship premises on London's Great West Road and Debenhams' major store at Cheshire Oaks, all perfectly illustrate the versatility of 'Forma' column casing solutions.

At Tetrosyl, the casings are a unique aerofoil section, Birmingham's Dental Hospital uses a 2.5 metre high semi-elliptical design, whilst at Porsche, Kia and Winchester College, the casings are circular, but use



Tetrosyl

distinctly different finishes to meet individual project specifications. In addition, the Winchester casings are used both on the building's exterior, as well as its interior.

Alongside 'Forma', Encasement's 'Circa' and 'Quadra' pre-formed plywood column casings ranges were the first to be introduced by the company and are still arguably the most popular, as they provide specifiers and contractors with an unrivalled selection of finishes, which includes plain, laminated or real wood veneers.

While 'Circa' is available from Encasement as a plain casings for on site painting and decoration, by far the most popular casings are those finished with decorative laminates, which not only resist damage, scuffs and scratches, but also provides the specifier with a diverse palette of finishes including plain colours, wood grain and metallic, as well as textured and real wood veneers, to name but a few.



Dame Kelly Holmes Centre

Both 'Circa' and 'Quadra' are manufactured from FSC® certified plywood and Encasement is the UK's only supplier and manufacturer of pre-formed plywood pipe boxing and decorative casing products that holds an FSC® 'Chain of Custody Certification' from the Forest Stewardship Council. This makes the products compliant with sustainability codes and environmental procurement policies.



Winchester College

Designed solely for interior applications, 'Circa' and 'Quadra' are used in almost every building type from education, retail, hotel, sports and leisure to health sector and commercial office buildings. As a result, the choice of sizes available is also wide, allowing specifiers to choose not only circular and square, but also extended circles and rectangular profiles, which use additional infill panels to give greater flexibility while ensuring they are still easy to install.

Recent Quadra projects include Farnborough's 6th Form Centre and the Dame Kelly Holmes Sports Centre, while among the many 'Circa' installations, Gatwick Airport's South Terminal, Liverpool University and Gateshead International Stadium are major installations.

Alongside the company's column casings, its 'Vecta' system provides a high quality solution for interior wall linings, bulkheads and reveals. Launched just a few years ago, the system has been widely used in retail, education and commercial buildings, such as Tesco, South Bank University and Prêt à Manger, as well as prestigious office developments, including Wellington House and the Carmine building in Paddington, London.

Encasement's Managing Director, Martin Taylor, commented: "Column casings provide a perfect mix of practicality and

aesthetics and we've taken a lot of care to ensure our range meets both of these key criteria while also ensuring that we always remain competitive and deliver high quality products. Our entire range has been configured to provide the widest possible choice as well as being easy to specify."

He added: "The Vecta interior cladding system enhances our building interiors offer and allows specifiers to source a range of specialised interior finish products from a single company with high levels of expertise and experience in this sector. We also have our own contracting arm, which enables us to offer a full supply and install service to support contractors."

Encasement's latest 'column casing solutions' e-brochure is available for download from the company's website and covers every product in the range as well as providing details on materials, sizes and finishes available alongside an extensive technical information section.

01733 266889 www.encasement.co.uk



Birmingham Dental Hospital

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**BUILDING
PROJECTS**

MAGGIE'S CENTRE OLDHAM

A material level of care

The world's first hardwood CLT building is a highly considered centre for cancer patients that puts function and sensitive use of materials over form. James Parker reports

The new Maggie's Centre, sitting next to a typically forbidding Victorian NHS oncology building in Oldham, is a subtle surprise. Sitting on columns to grab views of its surroundings and sheltering a new garden beneath, it is architect dRMM's first healthcare building. This box contains hidden treasures and embodies nature to support cancer patients and their relatives, in a building which has been realised with an unusual degree of care.

The first hardwood cross-laminated timber building ever created, this centre is a celebration of the materiality of timber, which in itself makes it something of an oddity in UK healthcare design. Also, you would not normally expect to see a 7 metre

birch tree in a glass lightwell in a building of this type. One of several other good reasons for it to be there, is that birch is a 'pioneer species' – typically one of the first to grow on polluted sites, and as such is a fitting symbol of the pioneering nature of this project, and of patients' resilience.

Its architect, Alex de Rijke, was determined to ensure that his building did not replicate any of the dehumanising flaws that he sees as exemplifying healthcare facilities in the UK. By both avoiding these tropes (suspended ceilings, vending machines, a general sense of anti-nature and blandness) and also by way of a distinctly user-sensitive approach to design that echoes that of the Maggie's charity

This centre is a celebration of the materiality of timber, which in itself makes it something of an oddity in UK healthcare design

**ABOVE LEFT**

The birch tree in its glass lightwell divides the open plan space, and is given emphasis by the cranked structural timber walls to ancillary rooms

ABOVE RIGHT

Loggia along south elevation



© Alex de Rijke

itself, the architects have created something wonderful.

As de Rijke says, the building not only sits in explicit contrast to NHS buildings, it was also an attempt to stand back from the pantheon of other Maggie's Centres (which tend to sit on NHS campuses, and have been designed by world-famous firms). He sees it as standing out however by being less about form than content. "It's quite a deliberate reaction to many of the others, which often rely on form. They do tend to privilege the building as an object." Instead this building is a somewhat humbler attempt at facilitating the service within it by paying meticulous attention to the details.

The architects were commissioned by registered charity Maggie's to design this centre at Royal Oldham Hospital, following a donation from Oldham boy-made-good Normal Stoller, who developed the tubigrip bandage. Maggie's had admired dRMM's work, particularly in pioneering the use of soft and hardwood CLT, and believed its skills were the right fit for creating the "architecture of hope" which the organisation aims for. And the result shows that being the first hardwood CLT building is only one of many remarkable things about this place.

Timber pioneer

The practice tested American tulipwood CLT in a collaboration with Arup to

produce the 'Endless Stair' experimental sculpture in 2013. The same wood as used in Maggie's Oldham (in fact the same batch) was then used by Alison Brooks Architects for their 2016 London Design Festival 'Smile' project with Arup, its highly variegated aesthetics and structural efficiency again coming to the fore.

This timber species is, despite its excellent strength to weight ratio and fine grain ("more akin to a piece of furniture than a construction material" say dRMM), something of a commodity product in the States. As de Rijke tells ADF, "Tulipwood's prolific to the point that it's almost a waste wood." He adds: "It's not particularly useful in its raw state, but once we cross-laminated it, it became something really special."

Timber walls form the entire structure, apart from the steel columns they stand on and the glazing, with a series of ancillary rooms framed by structural walls. Tulipwood is "very good at coping with shear forces," says de Rijke, "so it's fantastic for walls, and can be used quite thin compared with normal CLT."

However with the fairly long 12 metre spans this largely open-plan building required, he says it was more efficient to use more simple glulam joists for the floor and ceiling. "People often make the mistake that if you're doing a CLT building you use it everywhere, whereas a better approach is to use each engineered timber

product for what it's best at. CLT isn't great for floors because you end up using so much of it."

He says despite the relative simplicity of the structure, hardwood CLT was "uncharted territory" for the local structural engineers Booth King, however Arup passed on their research from the test projects undertaken on hardwood CLT with dRMM. The project was also aided by the fact that contractor Parkinson had worked on the all-CLT Blackpool Tower of Love with the architects.

The building's exterior is made from an unusual custom-fluted and thermally treated version of tulipwood. The material was developed by dRMM especially for this project and creates a curtain-like effect. Inside, the ceiling is constructed from tulipwood slats with gaps forming a plenum to aid the building's natural ventilation as well as softening the acoustics, the wood coming again from offcuts from this project and also the Smile. "We stripped panels down into three different sizes to make a very quiet acoustic baffle-type ceiling that works as an attenuating soffit," says de Rijke.

The purity of approach to materials even extends to the insulation which is cellulose panels made from compacted waste tulipwood from routing the openings to the building elements in the factory. The architects also wanted to avoid the use of toxins wherever possible in materials, so the internal timber is untreated (apart from being lacquered up to skirting height on the walls to protect it during cleaning), and MDF was avoided due to the formaldehyde present in its glue. The untreated internal surface also provides a tactile and soothing experience which many users of the centre are said to appreciate.

Supporting care

Maggie's Centres offer a place to come to for patients who may have recently received a cancer diagnosis, and in this case perhaps in the adjacent breast cancer care unit. Therefore they may be in distress and needing comfort or may be dealing with the aftermath of chemotherapy, needing support, advice or just a chat and a cup of tea.

Alex de Rijke tells ADF that this is why this project needed to be much more than just a demonstration of a new material: "The main ambition was to create a more holistic architecture of care. There's nothing in the building next door which is going to look after you other than the



© Jasmin Sohi

**TOP LEFT**

The open plan area has views of the Pennines to the north and features a bespoke-designed circular curtain

ABOVE

Kitchen area plus dark walnut worktop

ABOVE RIGHT

Landscaped garden beneath unit and birch tree

clinical process of absorbing chemicals.

You can't go and talk to anyone about what a nightmare this may be, nor can your family and friends."

There is only one small window to the front elevation facing the nearby hospital buildings, and the elevated box with its curtain-like cladding immediately presents a feeling of discreet privacy, but also a big difference from the norm. Patients coming from the oncology building cross a wooden bridge, and enter a naturally lit and ventilated building which, instead of hospital disinfectant, smells of timber resin.

They are presented not with a reception desk, but an expansive soft latex resin floor in a warm "egg yolk" yellow, and an open area divided in half by a tree growing in the garden below, giving the impression that you are outside once more. The lightwell surrounding it, its undulating, seamless butted glass reaching up past the roof and through the floor into the void beneath, brings generous light into the space.

Patients can interact with staff, in a natural way that forms part of the ethos of empowerment that Maggie's puts forward. de Rijke says: "You don't make appointments, but you always get help, it's always very welcoming. There are no signs or name badges and it's not choreographed, you have to speak to people." He adds: "It's a very shrewd managerial strategy and we

took that as a departure point for the design." He adds: "As a result, while there is no hierarchy of spaces such as a desk, the building does have a "set of carefully created experiences".

The centre's manager Bernie Byrne describes the lightwell as a "glass bubble" which "breaks up the size of the interior," allowing people to choose how they use the space. She continues: "They can turn towards the kitchen area if feeling sociable or enter the opposite end to sit and enjoy the view of the Pennines. The furniture is placed to allow people to sit in their own contained space while still being a part of the whole".

Ranged either side of the entrance are the support rooms – a small consultation room for one-on-one counselling, an office, and a 'nook' near the entrance if users do not want to enter the open-plan space. A larger multi-purpose meeting room sits at the north-east corner, where practical sessions may take place such as learning how to apply make-up to suit the different skin tone chemotherapy brings, or try on wigs. Being cranked, the wall separating these rooms from the open-plan space not only gives emphasis to the tree and the entrance, it also reduces reverberation. On the other side of the tree along the west wall is the kitchen – featuring a large, dark walnut worktop – plus a library and computer area.



© Jasmin Sohi

As patients undergoing chemotherapy can be very sensitive to direct sunlight, the spaces have been orientated to carefully manipulate light; to the north large floor-to-ceiling windows bring in soft light, and offer great backlit views towards the hills. As well as moderating light coming in to the centre of the unit, the tree attractively dapples the floor with moving shadows that rotate through the day.

To the south a deep loggia, adjacent to the kitchen, provides a space to sit outside but be protected from direct sun. Another sense affected by chemotherapy is touch, with cold surfaces tending to feel extremely unpleasant, so dRMM managed to obtain wood door handles to ameliorate this.

The open plan space has an ingenious device to provide a more private area, for yoga or other activities, in the form of a beautiful curtain that matches the yellow floor, and runs around a bespoke track, making a circular 'room.' Designer Petra Blaisse from Inside/Outside made it shiny on one side and soft on the other, and easily reversed to suit the function desired.

This site was chosen by the architects because despite being cheek-by-jowl with some typically bleak buildings, it gave them the opportunity to have a secluded garden underneath, which the alternative site in the centre of a car park would not have offered.

This would of course also mean the potential to have a tree growing into the building.

Stones from the demolished single-storey mortuary on the site has been recycled into the landscaping and paths, which link into routes across the hospital site. Several new trees have been planted, including a tulip tree, which is a satisfying counterpoint to the material used to construct the centre.

Reactions

According to Bernie Byrne, it is a "wonderful privilege" to work in the centre. This painstakingly designed, calm building is having a commensurate effect on users. She tells ADF: "A frequently heard comment is how calming, restful and uplifting it is. The tree creates a sense of calm and tranquillity, grounding and relaxing visitors from the moment they enter, and the floor is often described as bringing sunshine into the building even on a cloudy day."

The overall impression of Maggie's Oldham is one of surprise, comfort and empowering delight, despite its relative humility as a piece of architecture. The fact we are surprised that a healthcare building can be like this is both a triumph and a cause of sadness. After all, shouldn't it be a general rule that buildings for healthcare are in themselves the most, not least supportive that we build? ■

LEARNING

The centre includes a library and computer resource area for users

PROJECT FACTFILE

Project name: Maggie's Oldham

Location: Royal Oldham Hospital

Client: The Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust

Architect & interiors: dRMM

Landscape design: dRMM/Rupert Muldoon

Gross internal area: 260 m²

Structural engineer: Booth King

Main contractor: F Parkinson

Timber consultant: AHEC

Artist (curtain): Inside/Outside

Timber supplier: Middle Tennessee Lumber

Landscape consultant: Hultons

Polypipe Terrain installed throughout largest single bed hospital in the country

Polypipe Terrain, a leading plastic piping systems manufacturer, has been specified throughout a new £335 million pound hospital development in Liverpool.

PVC Vent and Waste Pipes, Terrain FUZE HDPE and Terrain Dilution Traps have been installed in the most sensitive areas of The Royal Liverpool University Hospital, including, above theatres, scanners and in the Accident & Emergency Department.

The Royal Liverpool University Hospital is the largest single bed hospital in the country, with 646 beds, including a 40 bed critical care unit. With an abundance of expensive equipment and machinery, it was of paramount importance to main contractor, Carillion, that the drainage throughout the hospital could be trusted.

Initially, an order of Polypipe Terrain PVC was placed to provide secondary stack ventilation throughout the hospital. After this successful installation, Polypipe Terrain FUZE HDPE was selected as a modern



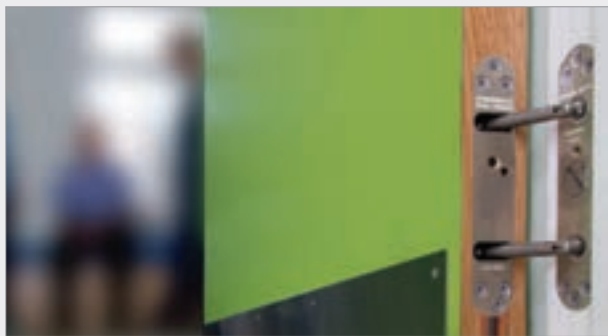
alternative to the cast iron system already specified, providing expert drainage throughout. With patients in theatre and A&E highly vulnerable, it was paramount that the drainage system could be installed and trusted not to leak. Using electrofusion jointing, Polypipe Terrain FUZE HDPE ensures system integrity as the weld area is as strong as the host area. This was an important consideration for The Royal Liverpool University Hospital as any leaks could result in the damage of life

saving, and incredibly expensive machinery.

Polypipe Terrain also worked with Carillion in providing an alternative to the system and dilution traps which had already been specified in the Science and Research Building. Terrain FUZE HDPE and Terrain PVC Dilution Traps were used throughout the development, allowing for a quicker and easier installation. Dilution Traps were a requirement throughout the project as any chemical waste water needed to be properly diluted before being reintroduced into the waste water drainage.

Providing longevity and leak free solutions was the key consideration for both Carillion and the hospital, the sustainability of the project was also of great importance. Polypipe Terrain is BES 6001 accredited, meaning that both suppliers and the company are committed to producing materials that are environmentally considerate.

01622 795200 www.polypipe.com/terrain

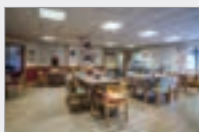


Healthier door closing

Powermatic concealed door closers from **Samuel Heath** are becoming increasingly popular with specifiers, estates managers and clinicians throughout the healthcare sector thanks to the many health, safety and hygiene benefits that they deliver. Powermatic door closers are totally concealed when the door is closed and offer few surfaces on which dust and potentially harmful detritus can accumulate. Their low mounting height also simplifies inspection and cleaning procedures. British designed and manufactured, Powermatic door closers are ideal for anti-ligature and anti-barricade applications in mental health facilities. Their concealment also helps to create the less institutionalised, more therapeutic environment valued by clinicians. Finally, the door closers are less likely to be vandalised, significantly enhancing reliability of the closer and fire door, and reducing repair and maintenance costs.

0121 766 4200 www.concealeddoorclosers.com

Affinity255 helps refurbish care home



Affinity255 PUR wood effect luxury vinyl tiles from Polyflor, were recently installed at Tegfan Resource Centre, a care home facility in Aberdare, Wales. Heavy commercial Affinity255 PUR luxury vinyl tiles were fitted in the dining area

of Tegfan Resource Centre, which is a 49 bed aged care residential home operated by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. Installed by Treorchy based flooring contractors Carpets 'N' Carpets Ltd, the Dappled Oak design from the Affinity255 PUR collection includes tan and honey tones in a smooth oak plank pattern.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

Altro creates home look for care home



Willowbrook Care Home in Birmingham provides specialist support for people with dementia and mental health problems. The care home recently extended the premises to create more bedrooms and circulation areas for residents. Altro floors were used

throughout the 2,000m² new build extension. Altro Wood™ Safety was installed in circulation areas, dayrooms and bedrooms. Altro Pisces™ was used in all ensembles and assisted bathrooms. Altro Walkway™ 20 was used in the laundry room.

01462 489 516 www.altro.co.uk

Happy landings with refreshed helipad



Air ambulance helicopters now have a distinctive new helipad at a Chelmsford hospital, thanks to a repainting job using Bradite products. Broomfield is the largest general hospital in this part of Essex and refurbishment work was needed on the helipad situated on the roof of the building. Bradite's CF22 Chlorinated Rubber paint was specified to recoat the previously painted concrete deck. The base colour of the new deck is green with various markings, including a large 'H' in the centre. The name of the hospital and other information has been painted in white, yellow, black and red.

01248 600315 www.bradite.com

Welcoming entrance to hospital



A Kent hospital undergoing substantial refurbishment has been enhanced by a solid wood Hunter Douglas ceiling. The leading architectural products company was specified to manufacture and supply 650m² of solid wood open linear ceiling for the external canopy and entrance lobby at ground and first floors at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. The panels were supplied in western red cedar in open module 111, 92mm timber. Internal panels were varnished on three sides, while the external panels received treatment on all four sides to safeguard against harsh weather conditions.

01604648229 www.hunterdouglas.co.uk

Gatic channel drainage installed at Rushden Lakes Shopping Centre



CastSlot and PaveSlot, a channel drainage systems from Gatic Civil Drainage, have been installed at Rushden Lakes, the new high end shopping centre in Northamptonshire. CastSlot's tread safe top is important in areas with high volumes of pedestrians, removing the risk of heels getting caught in the grating. PaveSlot was installed in the project's central boulevard – home to a bespoke water feature. CastSlot's high capacity channels provide effective surface water management, protecting areas from excessive rainfall. PaveSlot is ideal for paved areas, with a discreet profile that sits neatly in the ground for a subtle and unobtrusive finish. BE Design specifies Gatic for many projects due to its all-round top performance and their strong relationship with the team. Shawn Loo of BE Design explains: "Gatic's technical team, their expertise and the service they provide is second to none. I was particularly impressed with this project where the team provided a value engineered design in a quick turnaround. This level of service means we not only get the best solution, but we also deliver the project to the required timescales. It's what makes working with Gatic a smooth and simple process."

0808 100 2008 www.gatic.com

Warm, contemporary retail experience



The Vape Superstore in London E8 has been shortlisted for an International Interior Design Award. Designed by Catherine White Interiors, the contemporary environment creates a welcoming ambience for customers. Heradesign from Knauf AMF is installed as a large ceiling raft to enhance the modern interior and offer outstanding acoustic control. Heradesign is a popular choice for architects and interior designers who want to

produce a less processed, simpler aesthetic. In keeping with the clean aesthetic for the Vape Superstore, Heradesign was specified in white.

0191 5188600 www.knaufamf.co.uk

Bathroom pods for new £69m hospital



Offsite Solutions, one of the UK's leading bathroom pod manufacturer, has been awarded the contract to supply bathroom pods for the new £69 million, state-of-the-art East Lothian Community Hospital. Offsite Solutions will provide bathroom pods for the project.

The large 2.6m x 2.2m pods will easily accommodate a patient and a carer, and will have a wider pre-prepared aperture for two door leaves for easy access. The wash basins, toilets and showers will be pre-installed in the Offsite Solutions' factory and the easy-to-clean, hygienic walls will be finished in white with a feature wall.

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Magical Result as SFS Fasteners Deliver for MediaCity UK's Iconic New Building

SFS has played a key role in enabling Artez, the main contractor, and leading roofing and cladding contractor Longworth to deliver an iconic new building on Manchester's vibrant MediaCity waterfront for upmarket bar and restaurant chain The Alchemist.

The company's powder-coated, high performance A4 (grade 316) stainless steel fasteners were key to creating a stunning gold building envelope for 'The Bund', a unique structure located on the land bridge crossing Dock 9 at Salford Quays, between The Lowry and the BBC.

Designed by Reid Architects, The Bund is an iconic new bar and restaurant on the waterfront next to the world famous Lowry Centre for Living Ventures and the company's 11th Alchemist venue. The design brief provided scope for originality and creativity in meeting the key requirements to deliver a building that would be different and special, and draw together the diverse areas of Salford Quays in a single new building.

The Bund provides a revolutionary hybrid landscape in creating what is a unique and futuristic venue. The new building's gold roof and walls, and stunning terrace that cantilevers out over the canal, are designed to match the aesthetic and style ambitions of Living Ventures and of the high class cocktail bar's clientele.

Longworth, who are renowned for their expertise in metal roofing, were commissioned to construct the building envelope and to realise Reid Architects' golden vision. The company's Business Development Manager, Ben Parker, says, "We are immensely proud of our work on The Alchemist, an incredibly complex building envelope project that only a handful of companies in the UK could have successfully implemented. To hear that the building was shortlisted for a Building of the Year Award with Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce makes it an especially memorable project for us.

"Colour coordinating the gold zinc panels and the fasteners was critical, which is why we worked with SFS to ensure complete colour consistency on the fastener heads. We can rely on the excellent quality of SFS products, with their range



of A4 (grade 316) fasteners enabling us to offer an extended life cycle on the building envelope, a requirement which is now generally specified by all the leading architects."

Graeme McIlroy, Regional Sales Manager at SFS, adds, "Fasteners hold the key to maintaining the visual appeal of the building envelope, with our powder coated A4 stainless steel fasteners best for ensuring a facade retains its integrity over a long service life. We are

delighted to have been part of The Bund development working with Longworth and we hope to supply fasteners for more projects as this exciting development rivals London at the heart of the media world."

To find out more about high performance fasteners for the building envelope visit the SFS website:

0113 2085 500 www.sfsintec.co.uk

ST JAMES'S MARKET
LONDON

Past and present unified

A prestigious retail scheme in London's West End had to elegantly blend the old and new, which meant a lot to consider for the architects, as Steve Menary reports for *ADF*.

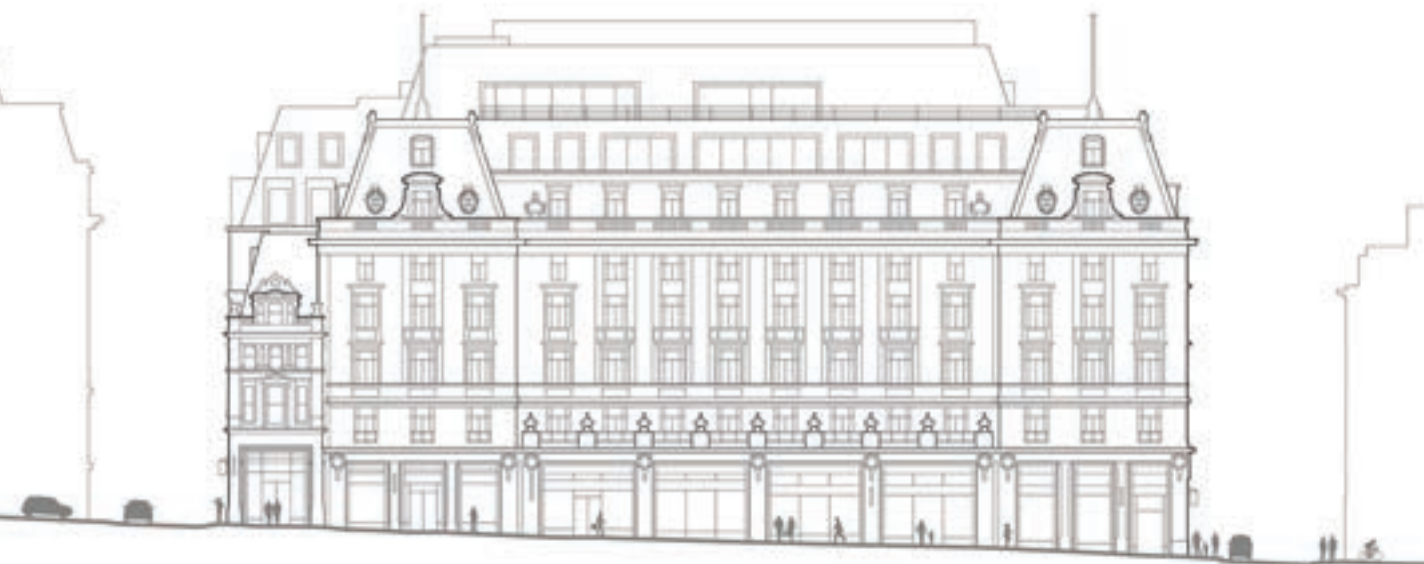
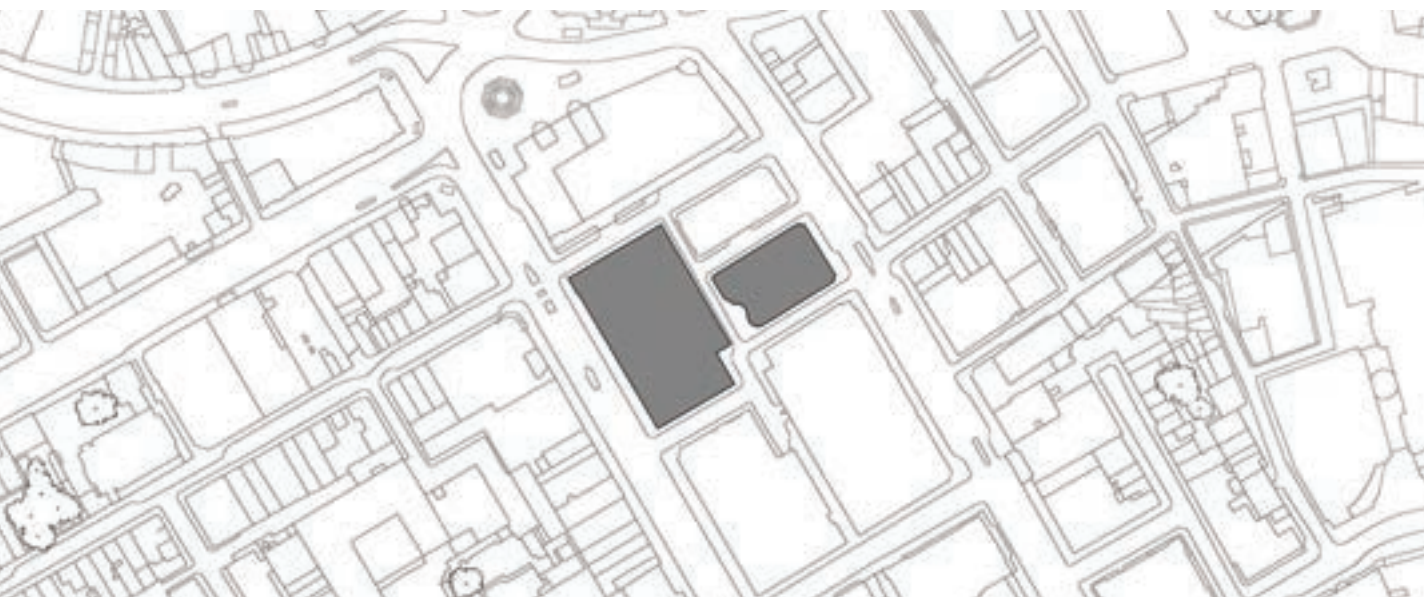
Not everyone strolling through central London might have noticed, but Lower Regent Street has disappeared. Not taken by aliens or demolished, but re-named Regent Street St James as part of a £450m redevelopment of a prime section of retail and commercial space owned by The Crown Estate.

Situated behind Lillywhites at Piccadilly Circus, St James's Market was home to a forgettable London pub and was a rat run for London's taxi drivers. But a stylish makeover designed by Make Architects for The Crown Estate and their partners, Oxford Properties has changed all that.

The project comprises 25,500 m² of space in 1 St James's Market (1SJM), which borders the new Regent Street St James, another 10,800 m² of space in 2 St James's Market (2SJM) bordering Haymarket and 3,500 m² of public realm in the centre, all developed in two conservation areas.

Make were retained by The Crown Estate to produce a masterplan for the site in 2010. It quickly became apparent that the site needed a combination of sensitive rationalising and restoration and the new buildings to have a unifying aesthetic.



**ABOVE**

The 19th century facade of 1 St James's Market (1SJM) is being restored, and an extension added

TOP

Street plan showing the original building on the left, the new 2SJM building on the right, and Piccadilly Circus just north of the development

Project architect James Roberts says: "Considering its location, the site was not achieving its potential, and as an aim was to attract high quality commercial tenants, we wanted to provide large floorplates with up to date specification. 1SJM has 2,200 m² per floor, which is pretty big for the West End, and 2SJM is 900 m²."

Make worked closely with Historic England, the St James's Conservation Trust, the Westminster Society and Westminster City Council on its design.

1SJM fronts onto the new Regent Street St James thoroughfare, a part of which features a large heritage clock that dates back to the 1880s. This elevation is in fact made up of two separate buildings constructed in differ-

ent periods, both of which are listed, and providing a challenge for the design and construction team in terms of both specification and construction.

Once work had begun, the clock was sent to Derbyshire to be repaired, the stonework was cleaned and the distinctive Cumbrian slate roof was restored.

Roberts adds: "The roof has a traditional random diminishing course. None of the slates line up vertically and as they go up they reduce in size. This plays on perspective from ground level and is a quality, bespoke detail which is reflected throughout the project."

The mansard roof was rebuilt and extended by 1.5 metres to help Make

Considering its location, the site was not achieving its potential, and as an aim was to attract high quality commercial tenants, we wanted to provide large floorplates with up to date specifications

Project architect James Roberts, Make Architects

achieve the internal space requirements.

For the elevations that front the central public space between the two buildings, Make had greater freedom for expression, albeit within certain limitations, to try and distinguish and yet link the two buildings.

Roberts explains: “There’s an element of being sympathetic. It’s a heritage area but the area is very much founded in Portland Stone. That was our starting point and then we looked at what enhanced that palette, such as the anodised aluminium banding for example.”

On 1SJM, more than 4,000 m³ of Albion Stone’s Fancy Beach was used on precast panels. This ranged from a coarse finish on the bottom, working up to a fine finish at the higher levels with Grove Whitbed used for the plinths. The market-side exterior of 1SJM also features an artwork from Berlin-based artist David Thorpe.

2SJM, which is a complete new build, has a more modern aesthetic. Here the architects specified limestone rainscreen combined with anodised aluminium. The stone was left open-jointed and a curved Portland Stone and glass wall was wrapped around the building using Albion Stone’s Jordans Whitbed on a unitised facade. The building cuts back at the ground floor to define and enclose the central space.

Unknown to most visitors to St James’s Market, the two buildings are linked by an underground tunnel and this needed new foundations within the load bearing and vibration restrictions set by Crossrail, which will bore two tunnels near the site.

Extensive surveys and a structural 3D Revit model were also used to avoid intruding on an existing main sewer under the carriageway and to match the basement levels of the two buildings. The weight of the fabricated beam sections had to be optimised to achieve the dynamic response



requirements of the floor slabs.

When the project was on the virtual drawing board at the turn of the decade, Make had an opportunity to create a crossroads in the public realm design. With surrounding areas closed off by Transport for London as part of a rerouting of roads in the area, the practice deliberately eschewed this opportunity to create space for the retail element of the scheme.

“We decided not to create a cruciform as

STREETSCAPE

New public realm has been created between the 1SJM scheme (left) and the curvaceous new addition 2SJM



ABOVE RIGHT

The architects Make decided not to create a cruciform street pattern as that “would not give people a reason to dwell”

that would not give people a reason to dwell,” says Roberts.

Fellow project architect Rebecca Thomas adds: “A big part of the masterplan was to bring pedestrians to the area.”

St James’s Market opened in late 2016 and with new signage in nearby Piccadilly Circus tube station and streets opened to passers-by, the site is beginning to attract visitors. A host of upmarket retail and restaurant chains have moved in, including leather retailer Aspinal, ASSOS of Switzerland, Paul & Shark and SMEG.

Roberts explains: “In terms of the retail, The Crown Estate has gone for a unique offer, whereby the retailers cannot have another unit within a certain distance.”

This has attracted a much more exclusive and upmarket retail tenant contingent than might traditionally be expected and the interior fitout reflects this.

In the office reception of 1SJM, visitors are greeted by two further giant Thorpe artworks and an impressive stone reception desk, but the main focus is a cantilevering staircase clad in Corian. In 2SJM, the decor

on the entrance area is very different, featuring hardwood panelling.

Roberts adds: “The timber cladding in 2SJM is reminiscent of a timber-lined drawing room. The benefit of the natural material is that in 10 years’ time, it won’t look the same.”

“The timber panelling is from Great Windsor Park, which is owned by The Crown Estate. It is from London Plane trees which needed to be felled anyway, so it was a great opportunity to work closely with a quality material that we knew the full back history of.”

Balfour Beatty, which won the £87m contract for the construction, retained a specialist consultant, KLH Sustainability, in a bid with Make to secure BREEAM Excellent status for the project.

A policy termed ‘closing the loop’ was developed. Stone was quarried in Portland and frame-fitted at Ealing in west London, timber panelling was kiln dried in Grantham and fabricated in Essex, and aggregates were dredged from the Thames Estuary and landed in Greenwich before



being barged up river to a concrete batching facility in Battersea.

The quest was successful. St James's Market achieved BREEAM excellent scores in both design stage (76 per cent for 1SJM and 77.8 per cent for 2SJM) and construction stage (74.6 per cent and 72.5 per cent respectively).

The scheme has been shortlisted for a host of awards in 2017 including the Westminster People's Choice Award, the RICS Awards, the OAS Development Awards, the New London Awards and the AJ Architecture Awards for workplace of the year.

The restaurant units are all taken and include Anzu from contemporary Japanese restaurant group Tonkotsu, Nordic chain Aquavit, Danish bakery Læggekagehuset from Ole & Steen, and Veneta from London's Salt Yard Group.

Above the retail and restaurants are seven storeys of commercial offices and tenants range from the Carlyle Group and Formula One's new headquarters to the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan and

The scheme has been shortlisted for a host of awards in 2017 including the Westminster People's Choice Award

include an unexpected arrival: The Crown Estate itself.

"We didn't know about that, but they obviously liked it so much they moved in," says Thomas with a smile.

The Crown Estate has certainly been effusive about the scheme. Head of development Matthew Giles describes St James's Market as "the most exciting scheme that we have ever undertaken in the West End."

The scheme is the first part of a larger masterplan for the St James's Market site. Subsequent phases are in the pipeline but they will have much to live up to. ■

MOVING IN

Client The Crown Estate liked the scheme so much that they moved across from their premises nearby

PROJECT DETAILS

Project: St James's Market
Gross development value: £450m
Clients: The Crown Estate & Oxford Properties
Architect: Make Architects
Planning consultant: CBRE
Civil & structural engineer: Waterman
Contractor: Balfour Beatty
Sustainability manager: KLH Sustainability
Scaffolding: Lyndon Scaffolding

Hard Landscaping to Help Shape Positive Visitor Experience at Snowhill Retail Park

Charcon, the commercial hard landscaping division of Aggregate Industries, has successfully completed a significant delivery to the new £12m Snowhill Retail Park in Wakefield.

Appointed by contractors, Kier and Savills, Charcon consulted with architects, The Harris Partnership, to recommend the best hard landscaping products to complement the aesthetics of the overall project.

More than 2,250m² of Andover Textured Block Paving was specified in a range of grey hues, including Light Grey, Silver Fleck and Chestnut, plus 400 units of Andover Textured Flag Paving in Silver Fleck and Light Grey.

Incorporating uniquely formulated Cornish aggregates to maximise performance, durability and aesthetics, Andover Textured offers the hard-wearing performance of granite at an affordable price. It's ideal for prestigious pedestrian areas and building developments, including town centres and shopping precincts. It features a



finely textured surface, is available in 12 sizes, offering a myriad of design options, and the breadth of shades can be used to complement and contrast one another to dramatic effect. An Infilta concrete block permeable paver is

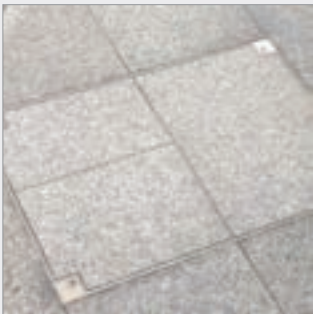
also available where sustainable urban drainage is a requirement.

Mike Davies, Sector Marketing Manager for Charcon, comments: "We are delighted to have been able to provide our product expertise and knowledge to the Snowhill Retail Park project. Charcon is pleased to be supporting Wakefield's vision for the wider Snowhill development, with beautiful, contemporary landscaping helping to shape a positive experience for people visiting the centre."

Completed in May, Snowhill Retail Park officially opened to the public this summer, bringing with it 250 local jobs. The food anchored retail centre forms the first phase of the wider Snowhill development, along the A650 in Newton Bar, which received planning permission in 2009. For further information, please visit Charcon's website.

01335 372222 www.charcon.com

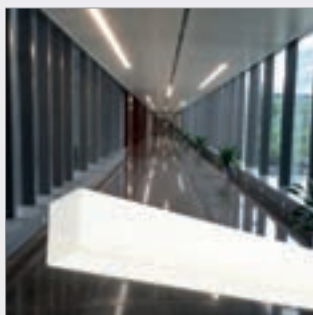
Worry free floor access for Westgate Oxford



Over 80 of Howe Green's 7500 Series Medium Duty Stainless Steel Floor Access Covers have been specified by architect Chapman Taylor LLP for the Westgate Oxford development. The floor covers will provide access to essential services concealed under the flooring. The centre will comprise over 100 stores, 25 restaurants and cafes, a five screen boutique cinema and a public roof garden complete with cocktail bar. A demanding environment requires a robust infrastructure. The Howe Green 7500 Series Floor Access Covers provide safe, easy access to underfloor services and high levels of performance for what will be a heavily trafficked pedestrian area. The 7500 Series can withstand up to a five tonne pneumatic wheel loading and, as they are made of stainless steel, are resistant to rust and corrosion. The floor access covers are designed to be infilled with a floor finish to match the surrounding area. The covers have been infilled with various types of stone to blend seamlessly with the different hard flooring finishes used across multiple locations. The flush finish ensures the attractiveness of the flooring is not compromised and the risk of slip and trip hazards is reduced.

01920 463230 www.howegreen.com

Seamless LED lighting system from Luceco



Contour from Luceco is the ideal linear fluorescent luminaire replacement where continuous runs of illumination are required in retail and commercial environments. The LED lighting system consists of connectable modules that can be surface mounted, suspended or recessed. Seamless runs of energy saving, cost effective LED lighting can be created with interconnecting power and module connectors. Manufactured as a premium aluminium extrusion with high quality polycarbonate opal diffuser, micro prism or asymmetric optic distribution options, Contour has a full range of illuminated interconnecting modules as well as an integrated driver with quick electrical connectors for ease of installation. Interconnecting modules include corner connectors, T junction and cross pieces. Contour has a five year extended warranty available and offers over 50,000 hours operational life, with no maintenance over the lifetime of the luminaire, an important factor when considering applications such as retail environments where 24 hours a day operation may be required. Other options include direct and indirect lighting distribution as well as DALI and emergency Self-Test variants.

01952 238100 www.luceco.com

RECYFIX MONOTEC® drains car park at Crompton Retail Park, Doncaster

A 930m² (10,000ft²) Farmfood store opened its doors to customers this Spring (2017) on the Crompton Retail Park, Doncaster, West Yorkshire. For this new section of the Retail Park's car park the 150 spaces, was drained by some 73 metres of RECYFIX® MONOTEC, Hauraton's high capacity channel drainage system. The store joins a Dunelm outlet at 3720m² (40,000 ft²) a Marston's Public House, a Goals Soccer Centre and other retail and leisure facilities on the 13 acre site located just off the Wheatley Hall Road (A630).

Hauraton Limited introduced the RECYFIX® MONOTEC, system in January 2016. The new Home Bargains store joins the numerous installations successfully completed in the United Kingdom.

Two RECYFIX® MONOTEC 100 models were installed in the car park's asphalt surface, both channels having a grating width of 100mm (Channel internal dimension). The



larger channel has an overall height of 380mm and provides a cross-section of 355.5cm². The smaller channel has an overall height of 280mm and provides a cross-section of 245.5cm². The 73 metres of channel installed has a total water capacity of just over 2444 litres.

The MONOTEC one metre long channel

component is of a sturdy monolithic design where the HEELSAFE 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 stabiliser so that the structural strength of the material is unaffected and a consistent appearance is maintained. The MONOTEC channels have a loading category of up to Class D400.

All Hauraton surface water drainage systems' comply with European Standards (hENs) and carries the CE mark.

For RECYFIX® MONOTEC product specifications go to the website.

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Architects Datafile website



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T-T have launched a CPD seminar!



T-T are proud to announce they have a RIBA certified CPD seminar. This CPD aims to provide architects and specifiers with the necessary information and regulatory requirements regarding pumping stations. T-T's new CPD seminar is informative and interactive, focusing on a variety of topics concerning pumping stations; covering the functionality, design, installation, operation and the

maintenance process. By the end of the CPD, the attendee should obtain the necessary information to specify the correct equipment for every application where a sewage and drainage solution is needed.

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There are over 5 million homes in England and Wales that are at risk of flooding

Prevention is still better than cure

Last winter was dry compared with previous winters, but that's no reason to be complacent about flooding; Safeguard Europe's Hudson Lambert says that when designing new homes it's essential to prioritise prevention

It could be thought that, flood-wise, the winter of 2016 was something of a let off, being relatively warm and dry, given the events of 2015 and 2014. 2014 saw Somerset and the Surrey and Thames river valleys under water; while the following year it was Cumbria, north Lancashire and Northumbria that were worst hit.

Despite last winter's reprieve, the reality is that extreme weather events are increasing – look at the Caribbean and southern United States recently – and, according to the Environment Agency, there are over 5 million homes in England and Wales that are at risk of flooding.

Design solutions to tackle flooding have been described as either 'flood resistant' or 'flood resilient'. However, use of these terms had become muddled and occasionally used interchangeably. Consequently, less ambiguous terms are now being employed, namely 'water exclusion strategies' (i.e. resistance), and 'water entry strategies' (i.e. resilience).

A 'water-exclusion strategy' house is built so that water cannot get into the building and cause damage. A 'water-entry strategy' means constructing the house so that although water may enter, the impact is lessened, structural integrity is maintained and drying and cleaning is made easier.

The likely depth of flooding will impact on the choice of design. For low water depths, a 'water exclusion strategy' is typically recommended. A 'water entry strategy' is needed for higher water levels: a difference in water level of over 0.6 metres between inside and outside can cause significant structural damage to standard masonry buildings.

In practice, a pragmatic combination of both is taken because it is often either prohibitively expensive or impractical to provide a completely flood-resistant

building – especially in cases where flood protection is being retrofitted to existing buildings.

Designing in flood resistance

In a new-build situation, the best way to stop water penetrating is to ensure that all concrete used is waterproof and to seal all construction joints with specifically designed proprietary tapes. Services coming in through walls and floors should be designed to be watertight.

As a second line of defence, and if budget and circumstances allow, a cavity drainage membrane can help with the management of flood water. These types of membrane direct the water down the walls into a perimeter drain with the water running to a sump, where it can be evacuated using a pump. This approach is also popular as a retrofit measure to existing buildings, used in combination with measures to upgrade the resistance of the existing masonry such as tanking and repointing.

Designing in flood resilience

When designing for flood resilience, the goal is to make it as easy as possible to clean the interior of a house after a flood. Floors and walls should be finished with an easily cleanable surface such as tiles. If the floor surface isn't water compatible, it should be easy to take up and replace.

Water compatible doors and woodwork should be considered. Electrical circuits and sockets should be situated above the expected water level and in a kitchen, appliances can be raised up off the floor.

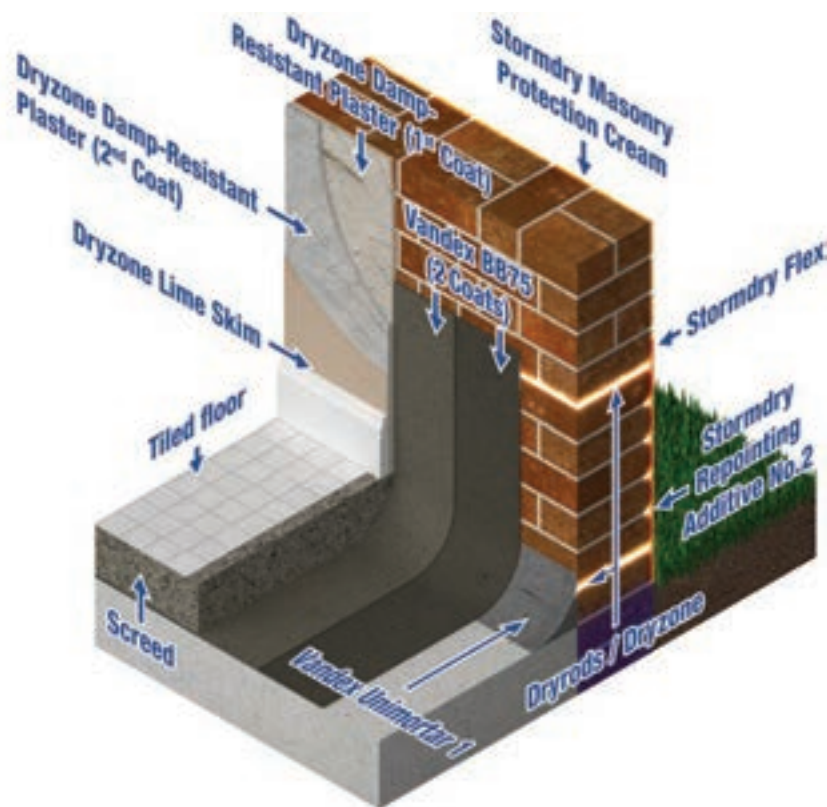
Apart from floor coverings and joinery, interior decoration can take the biggest hammering – especially where walls are finished with gypsum- or lime-based plasters. A new report from the University of Portsmouth ('The Effect of Moisture on

Plaster Performance') supports the use of damp-resistant plasters instead. This cost-effective system utilises breathable, moisture-resistant plasters to allow the fabric of a flooded building to dry out while providing a durable finish that will be resilient to future flooding. Moisture-resistant screeds have also been developed. After a flood, you can – for all practical purposes – simply hose down and sterilise the wall. The make-up of these plasters means they have large pores and a high pore volume. This allows salts to form within the plaster rather than on the surface; and the high pore volume results in high water vapour diffusion (breathability) and higher thermal resistance, reducing condensation risk.

Vital details

When considering the right combination of measures and products, it may be necessary to get specialist advice from a consultant or from the technical team of a supplier. As with any system designed to protect buildings from water, it is vital to get the detail right at the design and installation stages.

Hudson Lambert is the director of Safeguard Europe



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Flood Resilience – Flooding is at a new time high in the United Kingdom

Between 2015/2016 flooding was ever present in the news, which saw families left homeless and homes destroyed. An estimated 5.2 million homes are at risk from surface, river and coastal flooding; over 400,000 of these homes are classed as 'extreme high risk'.

The Property Flood Resilience Action Plan, headed by Dr Peter Bonfield OBE, sought to explore avenues readily available to assist these requirements. Various experts joined the task force allowing for a cross section of knowledge. The focus set, to join forces to find ways to prevent flood damage and ways to combat the devastation caused by flooding.

David J Symes, Technical Director of Delta Membrane Systems Limited attended these focus group meetings. It was during these focus group meetings that Stephen Garvin of the British Research Establishment ("BRE") suggested use of a Victorian Terrace house which currently sits on site at the BRE



Innovation Park. Stephen envisaged using the Victorian Terrace house to demonstrate how flood prevention can be incorporated into our homes, meaning flood damage is a thing of the past and families can get back into their homes sooner.

The Flood Resilient House whilst in the planning stage was desired to be both 'Resilient' and offer 'Resistance' and these approaches were incorporated into the project from the onset, the BRE has referred to this as 'Property Flood Resilient Repair'. The project had a clear objective, to ensure

limited damage to a property in the event of flooding, meaning a vast reduction in time needed for reoccupation.

The specification for resilience was simple, using tried and tested technology Delta Membrane Systems Limited have used for many years, historically in Basement or below ground structures/situations with consideration as to how we could adapt these products to work in flood situations.

In order to significantly reduce downtime, a Delta membrane system can be installed to a property/structure as demonstrated within the BRE test house. Delta Membrane Systems Limited was awarded the Property Care Association, Property Care Innovation and Sustainability Award 2017 for their entry on the Flood Resilient House project. The Innovation and Sustainability Award is a great achievement for Delta Membrane Systems Limited.

01992 523 523 www.deltamembranes.com



SAE Joist hanger – 4 million and counting

This Autumn, construction connector manufacturer Simpson Strong-Tie is celebrating the pressing of its 4 millionth 'SAE' joist hanger. The UK's most versatile, heavy duty timber connector is going from strength to strength, increasing in popularity as builders opt for a connector solution to suit a wider variety of applications, is easy to install and comfortably capable of supporting higher loads. UK Marketing Manager, Chris Sanders explains: "The SAE is something of a fan favourite; it can either be nailed to solid and engineered joists, or bolted directly onto masonry, comes with an impressive load bearing capacity and can support joist widths from 38mm right up to 200mm while offering up to 20.9kN of safe working load – making the SAE an easy fit for most situations. The rate we're making them, we could be celebrating the 5 million mile stone before long".

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Re-shaping the housebuilding industry



Structural timber technology addresses many government concerns associated with the public procurement of housing. These include the speed of construction, environmental impact, energy efficiency and cost. For example, Norbord's own oriented strand board, SterlingOSB, one of the most widely-used components of UK timber frame systems. SterlingOSB is a sustainable, low-energy product with excellent physical performance characteristics. OSB is an essential component of all timber framed panel systems and a major contributor to their growing popularity.

www.norbord.co.uk

Safeguard has designs on basements



Although basements are a significant area of business opportunity for the construction industry, it is a complex and potentially fraught sector and an area for the specialist. Yet Safeguard Europe, is helping to demystify and simplify understanding of this underground world with the publication of its guide to Basement Waterproofing. Through its 34 years supplying waterproofing systems for basements and other structures, Safeguard has identified four main basement scenarios and outlined common design types that suit each environment.

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GLASS INNOVATIONS

Balancing views, solar control & daylighting

John Godwin of Vena looks at the need to achieve a tricky balance when considering architectural glazing

When it comes to specifying the glazing for a project, all too often the need to achieve good views out can override the importance of solar control and regulating glare. In addition, the longer term maintenance requirements that secondary shading devices require can be overlooked, as well as the additional costs of their installation.

While maintaining a visual link with the outside is an important consideration, the daylighting of the internal space is equally important. Focusing less on the views out and more on how the internal space is protected from the glare and contrast in lighting levels from bright sun light helps to create a more user friendly environment, promoting greater productivity and wellbeing.

Selection of the right solar coating on a glass to achieve desired lighting levels and control heat gain is part of the consideration when selecting glazing, however this also need to be coupled with the external appearance required and most suitable shading method to best meet a project's individual requirements.

Direct sunlight through clear solar control glass creates intense areas of light which are distracting and often result in blinds being used. These in turn can result in artificial lighting being turned on to overcome the loss of the natural light.

To avoid this, light diffusing interlayers or finishes can be incorporated in the glazing or, if better diffusion is required, a three-dimensional interlayer can be incorporated within the cavity. This form of capillary insert, when hit with direct

sunlight, bounces the light within the small tubes inside, resulting in the light that enters the space travelling in many different directions and creating an evenly distributed natural light.

There are a number of different ways in which the important visual link to the outside can be achieved, such as using external blinds or brise soleil, as well as internal blinds that can be operated to suit changing daylight. These provide low heat gain in summer months by blocking out the sun and in winter allowing more low level light into the space which in turn helps to reduce the heating loads. A TSET (g value) as low as 8 per cent can be achieved for a 60 degree sun angle, with the view out being constantly visible.

This type of system, while having a more solid appearance during the day, can come alive at night as artificial lights are switched on, revealing the interior space.

Metal louvres are another device that can be incorporated within insulated glass units and, depending on the design of the louvre, can offer basic shading as well as enhanced performance features such as re-directing light up onto the ceiling, or blocking views in a particular direction where privacy is an important factor or where planning restrictions insist views in a particular direction are prevented.

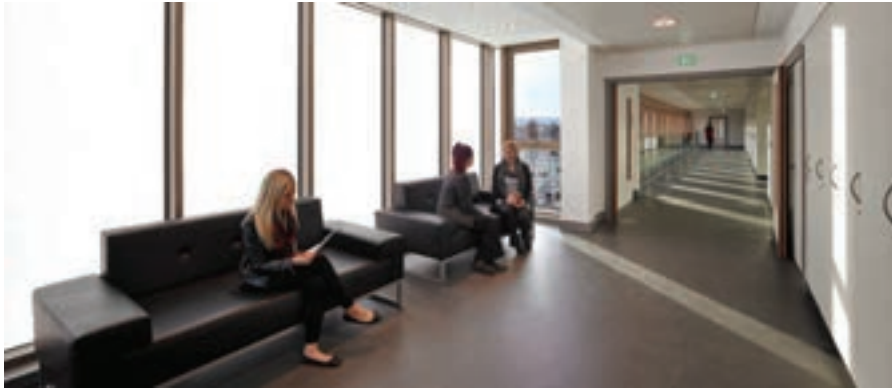
Louvres of various types are available to go into glazing units in both moveable and fixed configurations and, as with all the various shading solutions, the ease and accessibility for maintenance should be considered carefully alongside other aspects such as performance.



SOLAR CONTROL

Diffusing light to create an evenly and naturally lit space using Okawood integral timber blinds

Direct sunlight through clear solar control glass creates intense areas of light which are distracting



Fixed louvres, for both facades and roof glazing, avoid the maintenance issue and, by carrying out a solar assessment specific to a building's layout and orientation early on, the louvre type can be selected to offer the best shading with minimal direct light coming into the space.

For spaces where the consistency of the lighting level is more critical this can be achieved by using a rooflight louvre that completely blocks all direct sunlight from the south while allowing the naturally diffused northern light into the space.

Where the appearance of metal louvres is not visually appropriate, you can use timber louvres. Being less reflective they are ideal in high-density areas, and the light that is emitted into the building is softer and more natural.

By considering early on in the design of a project what the key requirements that the glazing has to meet are, a finished project of high architectural merit and user comfort can be created, tailored to suit planner, designer and end users needs in a way that is easily maintained, and which will look and function well for many years to come.

John Godwin is director at Vena



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Two G17 Award nominations twice as nice



As the finalists for this year's G17 Awards were announced, it was a double celebration for the **VEKA Group** with nominations in two categories. Making the list for both 'Training & Development Initiative of the Year' and the 'Unsung Hero

Award' categories – for Head of Human Resources Gabriela Hammond – VEKA will also be celebrating the success of its customers; Glazerite and Thistle Windows & Conservatories, and commercial installer The Window Company (Contracts) who have all been named as finalists across various categories.

01282 716611 www.vekauk.com

Built with steel window precision



Manufactured to incredibly tight tolerances, a screen of steel windows and doors below a glazed roof was employed to form a conservatory within a large kitchen that extends to the whole width of a Victorian Italianate villa.

The roof was made by a metal contractor with double glazing by a second company while Steel Window Services and Supplies, a member of the **Steel Window Association**, fabricated the facade. The gabled screen manufactured by Steel Window Services and Supplies to form the end of the conservatory area contains double doors that open out into the garden.

www.steel-window-association.co.uk

Hybrid of old and new creates stunning college campus



The architectural grandeur of a former Masonic Hall has provided the inspiration for a new sixth form campus for d'Overbroeck's College in Oxford which features glazing solutions from **Senior Architectural System's** Hybrid range. The construction materials for the new build elements have been carefully specified to both complement and enhance the existing Italianate Villa style of the older building. Doors, windows and curtain walling from Senior's innovative Hybrid range, which features aluminium on the exterior to provide a durable and low maintenance solution and engineered timber on the interior for a natural look and feel, provided the perfect solution. Senior's Hybrid curtain wall and windows were also installed to the college's new hall that is adjacent to the main building and which provides dining facilities and a 180-seat auditorium for performance and events. A key challenge, and one which illustrates both Soundcraft's skill as an installer and the design flexibility of Senior's Hybrid range, was the creation of the hall's curved elevation that features a complex faceted curtain wall screen.

www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk



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Roofglaze achieves Class 1 non-fragility

Roofglaze have recently undertaken further independent testing on their Flatglass range of contemporary glass rooflights, carried out at a world-leading Building Research Establishment in Watford, UK. Their exhaustive and destructive testing simulates the impact of a person accidentally falling onto the rooflight, plus impacts from tools and equipment, followed by a static load test to demonstrate the residual strength of the glass. CWCT Class 1 Non-fragile rooflights are for applications where they may be walked on for cleaning and maintenance purposes. They need to be able to support both the weight of people on the glass and their equipment, and withstand the impact from a person and their equipment. Achieving this Class 1 Non-fragility rating is a major step forward in the continuous development of Roofglaze's Flatglass rooflights.

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Sto-Color X-black at Newcastle School



The technical and scientific nature of a specialist school in Newcastle has been underlined by the use of a ground-breaking render paint from Sto. The StoColor X-black paint has enabled a highly unusual black finish to be achieved for rendered areas

of the school, so that the building's predominantly monochrome design brief could be brought to life. Adding a very dark render finish over external wall insulation has traditionally been impossible, due to the heat build-up in the render from solar gain, which can subject the render and insulation to temperatures of up to 80°C.

01418 928000 www.sto.com

Metal Technology in Holiday mode!



Design and Build contractor McAleer & Rushe and architect Urban Innovations specified Metal Technology's standard capped and structural glazed System 17 curtain walling, along with System 10 automatic sliding main entrance doors

and System 5-20D Hi+ thermally broken manual doors to create the modern distinctive Holiday Inn look for the brand's 298-bed hotel in Manchester city centre. System 17 offers a wide and diverse range of profiles engineered to provide full structural integrity with high levels of both weather performance and thermal enhancement.

028 9448 7777 www.metaltechnology.com

New light facade with natural clay tiles



European Building Materials has launched Vidar, a clean and elegant lightweight cladding system using natural clay tiles. Fast and simple to install, this inexpensive system is completely recyclable and designed in accordance with Cradle to Cradle environmental principles. Vidar can

be used for both facades and roofs. The system allows for solar panels to be integrated flush with facade or roof elements. The natural clay tiles come in seven architect-selected colours, from dark yellow and red-brown to black-brown, black, blue, grey and white.

0203 805 0920 www.cbmsupplies.com

Horbury Facades gets creative



Horbury Facades, part of the Horbury Group, has secured a contract to design and install the innovative rainscreen cladding system for the new Digital Media Hub that forms part of the Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies on behalf of Nottingham Trent University. The new building will feature the increasingly popular 'Corten' panel, which naturally weathers over time, producing a striking, oxide finish that protects the building. The natural patina, which mellows over time, creates a protective coating that provides a highly durable, low maintenance and aesthetically pleasing facade.

enquiries@horburygroup.com



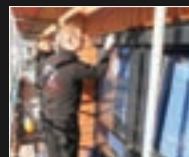
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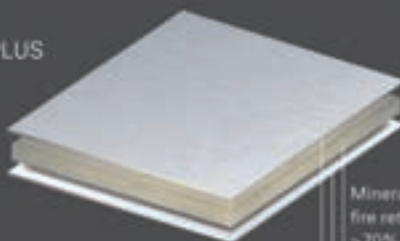
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Neaco products featured at waterside



Neaco's semi-structural glass balustrade and aluminium decking systems have been extensively specified at The Slate, the University of Warwick's impressive conference centre occupying a waterside setting in the heart of the campus near Coventry. The

aluminium powder coated balustrade lines a front terrace overlooking a lake and accommodates the view with clear glass panel infills. Neaco's decking is enjoying a major surge in demand for terraces and balconies due to its efficient drainage, fire resistance, anti-slip surfaces and maintenance-free durability.

www.neaco.co.uk

Hybrid of old and new



A new sixth form campus for d'Overbroeck's College in Oxford which features glazing solutions from Senior Architectural System's Hybrid range. The architectural grandeur of a former Masonic Hall has provided the inspiration for a new sixth form campus for

d'Overbroeck's College in Oxford which features glazing solutions from Senior Architectural System's Hybrid range. Senior's Hybrid curtain wall and windows were also installed. To complete the fenestration package, Soundcraft also installed Senior's robust SPW501 aluminium doors.

www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk

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www.rensonuk.net

Saving Energy, improving lives: ROCKWOOL and Rockpanel partner in award-winning midlands development

ROCKWOOL® and Rockpanel® have joined forces in developing a high performance, fire resilient cladding project which has transformed three high-rise residential towers for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Challenge

The Crofts in Smethwick consists of 270 homes within Ashcroft, Birchcroft and Elmcroft houses.

This development is located on a major arterial route into the city of Birmingham within a district that ranked 12th out of 326 in terms of deprivation in a 2010 study of the country. The three tower blocks, originally constructed in the 1960s, were in universally poor condition, showing signs of major wear and tear to the building fabric, windows, roofing and balconies. In the absence of any wall insulation, they were also proving very difficult to heat and especially challenging to keep warm for those tenants living in fuel poverty.

Refurbishment at The Crofts also offered an opportunity for Sandwell Council to rejuvenate not just these high-rise homes but also the wider area as they sought to bring a renewed sense of pride in their surroundings to residents and the local community.

The Solution

This two year, £11 million project for contractor, Keepmoat Regeneration, has involved a dramatic, top-to-bottom renovation of each tower at The Crofts.



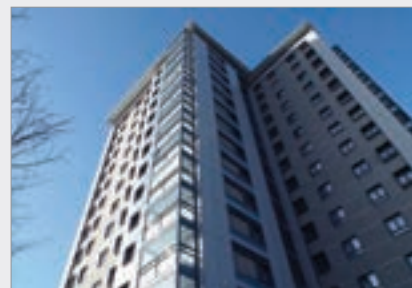
Substantial improvements have included flat-to-pitched roof conversions with solar panel installations, new windows and striking new balcony enclosures, redecorated communal areas, asbestos removal and the installation of a highly efficient, aesthetically attractive and non-combustible insulated cladding solution supplied by sister brands, ROCKWOOL® and Rockpanel.

ROCKWOOL's RAINSCREEN DUO SLAB® is the non-combustible dual density insulation board fitted at The Crofts. It offers a robust outer surface and a resilient inner face designed specifically for application to this type of high rise development. Made from stone wool, RAINSCREEN DUO SLAB® is A1 fire rated for optimum fire resilience. It also has the benefit of high resistance to wind and rain during construction, which, together with the minimal number of fixings required, makes installation quicker and easier for contractors. At The Crofts, the product has been tightly butt jointed, knitting together to deliver effective thermal insulation at 0.035 W/mK at the same time as it minimises any heat loss that could arise from gaps between insulation boards.

For the exterior cladding the extra fire safe façade board Rockpanel FS-Xtra has been used to provide the attractive aesthetic finish on the project. Applied on top of an aluminium supporting structure and fixed with blind rivets, these Rockpanel FS-Xtra boards, in combination with ROCKWOOL's RAINSCREEN DUO SLAB®, meet the requirements for European fire class A2-s1,d0. The boards also weigh very little compared to other board materials and can be easily worked with on site, with no special tools required. This saves installation time and costs. Installed on this project by Astley Facades, Rockpanel FS-Xtra boards are available in a wide range of different finishes and colours. A mixture of vibrant Rockpanel Colours, such as RAL 3009 and 5011, has been supplied at The Crofts.

The Result

"We're extremely proud of the work we have been able to do here at The Crofts," said a spokesperson from Sandwell Council. "These



improvements have made a massive impact on both the internal and external appearance of the blocks, as well as the local skyline. And, the much improved insulation offered by the eye-catching cladding will help reduce fuel bills for tenants."

A huge uplift in energy performance will result from these improvements. In fact, Sandwell Council estimates that, in total, approximately 9,600 tonnes of carbon will be saved every year.

The Crofts has picked up two awards for corporate social responsibility, including a Bronze in the 2015 International Corporate Social Responsibility Awards and a first prize in the Delivering Social Value category at the 2016 National Federation of Builders Awards.

Ultimately, the project has made a significant impact in the local community. These three tower blocks are not merely visibly transformed, they are more energy efficient residences and they are also beacons of hope for tenants and the community of Smethwick.

01656 863 210 www.rockpanel.co.uk
01656 862 621 www.rockwool.co.uk

PROJECT DETAILS

Client: Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Main Contractor: Keepmoat Regeneration
Location: Smethwick
Building Use: Residential flats

New Name, World of Opportunity: DOWSIL™ Product brand name announced



Dow Performance Silicones, a global business unit of DowDuPont Materials Sciences division, announces the rollout of a new product brand name – DOWSIL™ – for its heritage Dow Corning high-performance silicone-based building products. The new DOWSIL product brand name represents the combined power of Dow and Dow Corning and emphasizes longstanding global expertise in silicone technologies across dozens of industries. Dow Corning revolutionized the way architects and fabricators design commercial facades, with 50+ years of proven performance in Silicone Structural Glazing (SSG) and Weatherproofing Sealants (WP). Customers can continue to rely on the same trusted silicone chemistries, features and product benefits for their designs under the new DOWSIL name. Through a phased implementation over the next year, Dow Corning® branded silicone products for building and construction will move to the new DOWSIL name. Product descriptors that are part of the product names today will remain the same. Products will be sold by Dow moving forward. Customers can also expect a simpler, more enjoyable online search and buying experience, driven by a new website.

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Rise in expectations of student living fuels demand in cladding expertise



The continued growth in both domestic and international students moving on to higher education has seen an increased focus from universities on delivering accommodation which offers a safe and conducive home away from home. Specialist Cladding Systems (SCS), CA Group Limited's specialist cladding division, has seen a rise in demand for expertise, not only in the new-build sector but also from those looking to redesign and reinvigorate existing buildings. The company has completed work on two major student accommodation sites over recent months. These include the redevelopment of the former Midland Bus Depot in Leicester, for students at De Montfort University, and The Helix, an eight-story student accommodation building situated in Selly Oak, for students at the University of Birmingham. CA Group and its Roofing Services division, SCS works with a range of external partners to deliver a wider variety of rainscreen cladding solutions including timber, terracotta and stone products, complemented by single ply and standing seam roof systems.

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Life on Roofs

Planting the seeds of a successful green roof specification

Stuart Hicks from liquid roofing membrane specialist Kemper System discusses what you need to consider when specifying green roof systems

The drive towards more sustainable buildings has led to an evolution of green roofs from specialist 'eco-feature', to much more mainstream specification. Whether the green roof is specified to help a building blend in to rural or semi-rural surroundings, to enhance biodiversity or to gain BREEAM points, it can be a striking addition to a building that matures to enhance the structure's character over time.

However, the success or failure of a green roof depends on an effective specification that considers not only the structure itself but the location, orientation, shading and climate of the site. Only by working with waterproofing and green roof specialists that can offer a proven roofing system along with the required level of horticultural expertise can a specifier be confident of a viable long-term result.

Design stage

While it may appear that planting can be decided at a later stage, in fact it is important that these decisions are considered at the design stage as the roof build-up impacts on the planting possibilities. For example, wildflower meadows are a popular choice for large expanses of roof surface, but they need plenty of moisture, which means designing the roof to accommodate the load and a greater depth of reservoir core and necessary growing medium required to keep the green roof healthy. Conversely, alpine planting needs much less water to thrive, which influences the load-bearing capabilities required from the roof.

Green roofs can also be incorporated in to a project as part of a SuDS design. Water stored to irrigate the green roof reduces the potential impact of new and existing developments with respect to surface water



drainage discharges. Again, considering the planting at an early stage means that the specifier is in a much more informed position to understand the level of water that will need to be stored or released from the roof. Where a traditional below ground SuDS system may not be possible, it's worth considering a 'blue roof' i.e. one that is designed to attenuate rainwater rather than drain it off as quickly as possible. Blue roofs can significantly contribute to the SuDS requirements within a development by collecting and retaining rain fall within the actual roof structure before discharging it at a controlled rate. This is particularly beneficial on sites where available land is limited, such as urban areas, where installation of other attenuation systems such as ponds or underground tanks may not be feasible.

Watertight

The effectiveness of the waterproofing membrane used to create a watertight

The success or failure of a green roof depends on an effective specification



PLANTING

Factors including light, heat, shade from surrounding buildings and moisture should be assessed together to determine the viability of different types of planting. Images courtesy of Kemper System

barrier between the roof substrate and the green roof system is the most critically important element of the specification. The membrane should be flexible enough to cope with any post build 'settlement', tough and durable enough to cope with the load bearing requirements of the planting medium, and have a sufficiently long service life to make the green roof viable.

A common green roof design would typically consist of an inverted warm roof build up, applying the waterproofing system to the roof substrate, followed by the insulation, and then the green roof elements. This can add an extra layer of protection for the waterproofing membrane as it is cushioned underneath the insulation. However, the use of a reinforced liquid membrane system means that the waterproofing can be applied either below the insulation or above as in the case of a conventional warm roof. Any system chosen needs to be FLL certified as root resistant so there is no risk of root damage to the integrity of the waterproofing membrane, even as plants mature and their root size increases.

Consulting the membrane supplier for

technical support can help determine the right specification in this regard.

Location, Location, Location

In terms of specification of the green roof planting itself, client preferences and aesthetics have a role to play, but a key consideration should always be the location and prevailing climatic conditions, as these govern the amount of light, heat, shade and moisture the roof will receive. The influence of surrounding buildings, which can also affect shading levels and exposure to winds also need to be taken into account. These factors should be assessed in combination to determine the viability of different types of planting.

Of course, no matter how carefully considered the planting specification, without proper maintenance post installation, a green roof will not thrive. Establishing a maintenance plan and provision for the associated costs need to be factored in at the design stage for the aesthetics and benefits of any green roof to last long term.

Stuart Hicks is marketing manager at Kemper System

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The follow-up model Floradrain FD 60 neo by Zinco has been launched into the market providing the same reliability and sustainability but also optimized technical and economical features. An increase in water storage capacity and a greater

compressive strength allow for more flexibility in landscaped roof planning. Special interlocking studs for a safe connection of the drainage boards avoid the infilling material falling between the adjoining elements. Finally a larger board size and improved stackability provide economical benefits in matters of logistics.

www.zinco-greenroof.co.uk

RubberGard™ is right for scheme

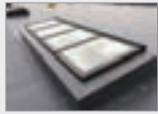


Residential property developer Endeavour, has chosen Firestone's RubberGard™ EPDM roofing membrane for its innovative Queen's Terrace Development in Salford. Firestone's RubberGard™ EPDM membrane will form a robust waterproof covering with a service life of at least 40

years. Three of the Endeavour team have undergone installation training at Firestone Building Products' training centre in Cheshire prior to work beginning on site to ensure that the roof is installed in line with best practice guidelines.

01606 552026 www.firestonebpe.co.uk

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www.glazing-systems.co.uk

Sundolitt XPS specified for living roof



Sundolitt's XPS insulation has been specified for Northumberland National Park's new and exciting National Landscape Discovery Centre. In total 1,900m² was installed, built up to a thickness of 270mm with flower-rich native Whin Grassland planted on top. Sundolitt's XPS material was chosen as a cost effective solution that could withstand the heavy loads of soil and planting as well as constant footfall on the roof. XPS is also water resistant and not affected by water allowing the green roof to thrive.

01786 471586 www.sundolitt.co.uk

Eurocell slots in timely solution



Eurocell, is promising to deliver a whole host of benefits to the timber frame and off-site construction sectors with the launch of its new InSite window solution. InSite will enable timber frame manufacturers to install fully glazed, fully finished windows into wall panels as part of the factory production process, thereby reducing on site disruption and labour costs while saving time on build programme schedules. There are also significant health and safety benefits with factory fitting and reduction in manual handling, as well as an estimated 30 per cent improvement in transportation yields.

0800 988 3049 www.eurocell.co.uk/insite

Natural slate brings heritage feel



When Crest Nicholson began planning its Chertsey regeneration site, it looked to create a neighbourhood with its own unique character, which harmonises perfectly with its surroundings. This led to CUPA PIZARRAS being specified to provide its high quality H18 tiles for the recently launched Upper Longcross development, which forms part of the government-backed Longcross Garden Village. The H18 tile features slight variations in thickness and flatness, with a smooth matte surface to result in a high quality, natural finish.

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Trojan Group's fenestration hardware is ahead of the game

Document Q, the latest addition to building regulations that covers security, came into force on 1 October 2015 and left many hardware products non-compliant. But Trojan's core product range already met the requirements and put them ahead of the game in the supply of Document Q compliant window and door hardware.

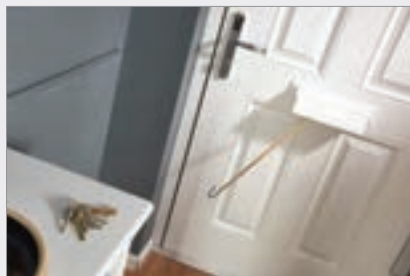
Currently, all windows and doors installed in new dwellings (that means new builds and conversions) need to conform to PAS 24:2016. Letterplates on doors need to meet the standards set out in TS008:2015 (a Door and Hardware Federation specification that represents best practice for the industry) and all main entrance doors will need to be fitted with a door viewer unless a measure such as clear glass is in place and have a door restrictor.

As you can probably tell, the new standards will have a big impact as architects, contractors and specifiers start to consider the impact the new requirements will have on their choice of architecture.

As a door and window hardware designer and manufacturer, one of our core missions has to be to develop products that meet exacting security standards. It therefore means that many of our core products already meet the standards set out in the new legislation.

In terms of windows locks, both our Mustang and Pegasus Window Locks conform to the new requirements as well as having a wealth of other attractive features. The Pegasus Window Lock is unique and offers the twin advantages of one price for all sizes and one size fits all, significantly reducing purchasing costs, making budgeting simple and dramatically reducing product inventory.

The new PAS 24 door hinge requirements are met by the all new Athena PVC-U and Composite Door Hinges, as part of a door set. As well as being PAS 24 compliant, the Athena hinges have easy, accurate, independent 3D and 2D adjustments and are supplied pre-assembled ready to fit, dramatically speeding up the fitting process compared to similar double knuckle hinges. The hinge is easily adjusted in all planes, either in the factory or on-site by one person, ensuring perfect door alignment for years of trouble-free operation.



Our Sparta Stainless Steel TS007 2 star high security Door Handle is also PAS 24 compliant. Manufactured from stainless steel for ultimate corrosion resistance the handle comes with a 25 year surface finish guarantee and is one of the most popular products in our extensive hardware range.

Finally, we have introduced one of the industry's very few Document Q compliant letterplates. The new TS008 Unicorn letterplate is manufactured from Stainless Steel for ultimate corrosion resistance and meets the requirements of TS008 which means it can be used on doorsets that need to comply with the requirements of PAS 24:2016 or Document Q of Building Regulations.

The TS008 Unicorn Letterplate's inner protective housing has a unique concealed hinge mechanism to prevent attack. The inner flap has a positive stop feature for maximum protection from 'fishing' while the inner flap projection is below door handle height for added protection. The simple but elegant

styling will complement any doorface and is suitable for both composite and PVC-U doors and is available in a range of colours to match the door colour too.

The external flap is manufactured from 304 Stainless Steel for ultimate corrosion resistance (galvanised mild steel is used for painted finishes). The letterplate has a 25 year anti-corrosion guarantee on all Stainless Steel product finishes and there is a 10 year mechanical guarantee on all versions.

Legislation change almost invariably creates a great deal of upheaval. For architects, specifiers and contractors the new requirements will cause short term headaches as they reassess their go-to products. So if you are looking to partner with a hardware supplier that has their finger on the pulse when it comes to legislation conforming products then contact us today.

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A new sustainable orthopaedic clinic is enhanced with Selectaglaze Secondary Glazing

Benitck Street lies between Welbeck Street and Manchester Square in the heart of Marylebone and was named after the family surname of the Duke of Portland. Back in the Victorian era Charles Dickens lived down this street for some time with his father.

Number 20, part of the Howard De Walden Estate, has been transformed into a high spec orthopaedic clinic. The original timeworn windows were draughty and allowed high levels of noise ingress. The building is within a conservation area, so it was specified that the Georgian facade remained.

Architects Frank Shaw, generated a design to make the building function in its new role as a clinic. This involved the fitting of secondary glazing to the front elevation of the building, to enhance the acoustic performance and thermal retention of the original glazing.

The Series 41 side hung casements were specified, as these have a flush glass to frame



detail which minimises the build-up of dust and dirt on ledges. This is an important consideration when specifying building elements for controlled environments and where there is a requirement for infection control, such as recovery rooms and operating suites. All the casements were glazed with sealed units housing integral blinds, which again helps maintain a clean environment, as well as to help provide patient privacy from the overlooking neighbours.

Selectaglaze subsequently installed 30 units. A tight fitting schedule was set, due to the opening of the centre in Autumn 2017. The installation was a success and the thermal and noise enhancements can be felt in the rooms already. With the addition of secondary glazing, it is hoped patient stays will be quiet, comfortable, private and clean.

Founded in 1966 and Royal Warrant Holder since 2004, Selectaglaze has a wealth of experience working on all building types from Listed libraries to new build hotels, with each unit bespoke to the individual needs of the project.

Selectaglaze will be exhibiting at the UK Security Expo, at London Olympia on the 29th and 30th November 2017. Located on stand L66, Selectaglaze Technical Advisors will be happy to answer any secondary glazing related questions.

01727 837271 www.selectaglaze.co.uk

Aspex wins two major orders



Aspex, has recently secured two major contracts to supply more than 500 doorsets. Aspex will be supplying 400 Novista Steel Riser doorsets to The Gates Shopping Centre in Durham, which is currently undergoing a £30 million revamp. The company has also

been contracted to supply the doorsets and ironmongery to the new £30 million Radisson RED Hotel in Glasgow including 180 Novista Steel Riser doorsets access to the en suite bathrooms. The Radisson RED is a new hotel philosophy that aims to connect with millennials through a bold and inspirational design.

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

Lusso adds zest to conservatory styles

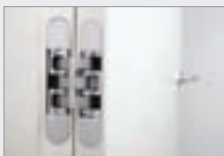


Eurocell has announced the new Lusso orangery-style roof system. Comprising highline gutter and internal pelmet components, Lusso is a modern take on traditional roof design, offering an on-trend orangery effect from standard components – and

without all the extra building work or added cost of structural work to ensure the conservatory can take a 'fuller' roof. The deep sculptured design of the highline gutter adds a touch of class and character to a 'normal' conservatory roof, while neatening up the drainage details, without a visible gutter and brackets running horizontally.

0800 988 3047 www.eurocell.co.uk/lusso

SFS extends specifier support



Leading door hinge manufacturer SFS has extended its technical support for architects, interior designers and fit-out contractors to help deliver safe, secure and compliant doorsets which take advantage of the latest hinge technology for long term reliable performance and

visual appeal. The company's new RIBA-Approved CPD seminar is now available for bookings. Its focus on security and access for the disabled provides essential guidance on the design considerations for external and internal doorsets, and why the hinge plays a pivotal role.

0113 2085 500 www.sfsintec.co.uk

RHS turns over a new leaf with Kingspan



The Kingspan TEK Building System of Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) as been erected in just three weeks to form the structure of a new office building at the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) flagship gardens in Wisley. Whilst the building has the appearance of a traditional barn, its construction is thoroughly modern with the walls and roof formed from 142mm and 172mm Kingspan TEK Building System panels respectively. Kingspan TEK Building System panels feature an OSB/3 facing bonded to a highly insulated core.

01544 387 384 www.kingspantek.co.uk

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Standard is not always the answer



Stelrad offers a Special Application Series – the new Heavy Duty Planar comes with a sturdy 2mm one section integrated steel fascia incorporating side and top panels. It's stylish, but robust enough to withstand the knocks of heavy traffic in the commercial environments they were designed for.

There's also the Compact Xtra Protection – a rust resistant radiator range designed for rooms with on-going high humidity – showers, bathrooms, wet rooms and changing rooms in homes but also in sports halls, leisure centres and spas.

0844 543 6200 www.stelrad.com

Vortice expands its fan offering



Ventilation specialist Vortice has expanded its commercial fan offering in the UK in response to customer demand. The commercial collection includes extract fans incorporating constant pressure control, heat recovery units with counter crossflow plate heat exchangers

and thermal wheel. These additions to the range extend the flexibility that Vortice can offer to projects like offices, schools, care homes and shopping centres. Customers are recommended to discuss their project directly with the Vortice technical department who can help and guide them as to the most appropriate solutions.

01283 492949 www.vortice.ltd.uk

Development shows benefits of OMNIE



A high quality residential development is making extensive use of underfloor heating systems from the well proven and very versatile OMNIE range. The heating at the four properties at Clearwater Court in Clyst St. Mary, is being provided by high performance

gas boilers distributed by two OMNIE solutions. The boiler in each property is connected via two of OMNIE's Axios manifolds located at ground floor and first floor level. Richard Parker, managing director commented: "We have used the OMNIE systems on other projects in the past and know they are both easy to install and reliable".

01392 363605 www.omnie.co.uk

Viessmann – "Best Buy" boiler brand



Viessmann has today been named as a Best Buy gas boiler brand by Which? Viessmann is praised as "the most reliable" of all brands. This assessment is the result of a survey conducted earlier this year

which questioned 9,610 boiler owners and 219 Which? Trusted Traders heating engineers throughout the UK. The survey sought the views and experiences of consumers who actually own the boilers and obtained from engineers an in-depth picture of build-quality, availability of parts and spares, ease of repairing and servicing.

info-uk@viessmann.com



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One Step Closer to the Sweet Sound of Silence

Schlüter-Systems is delighted to report the pleasing results of impact sound reduction tests on its latest innovative uncoupling membrane for crack-free tile and stone. Schlüter®-DITRA-HEAT-TB has been renamed as Schlüter®-DITRA-HEAT-DUO, in recognition of the fact that the matting now offers two officially-verified features over its parent product DITRA-HEAT: thermal breaking and impact sound reduction. The newly-confirmed impact sound reduction of up to 13dB is perceived as a 50 per cent reduction by the human ear.

This new development brings the tally of features offered by this product to seven in total—which together aid the construction process, protect the fabric of the building and improve privacy for occupants. DITRA-HEAT-DUO is a universal substrate for tile and stone coverings; as well as providing thermal breaking and impact sound reduction, it serves as a bonded waterproofing, uncoupling, crack bridging



and vapour pressure equalisation layer.

The matting is also designed for the secure attachment of heating cables as an integral part of the no-nonsense electrical underfloor heating system, Schlüter®-DITRA-HEAT-E. In terms of thermal break credentials, DITRA-HEAT-DUO pushes 80 per cent of its input to the surface during the heat-up phase, whereas alternative systems can lose up to half of the heat into the screed or subfloor.

DITRA-HEAT-DUO consists of a polypropylene membrane with a cut back stud structure, with a unique 2mm anchoring fleece laminated on the underside. It can be installed on floors or walls as part of a complete DITRA-HEAT-E system, for ultimate flexibility.

01530 813396 www.ditra-heat.co.uk

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Link Up is good news for people who already have central heating from an open fire, stove, or cooker and looking for the flexibility of a gas or oil boilers.

The use of a **Dunsley Baker Neutralizer** offers a neat solution to all problems when connecting two or more central heating boilers into one heating system. Link Up helps reduce dependence on one fuel and gives greater control over heating cost.



Marble Hill Fireplaces was established in 1974 and is one of the market leaders in fireplace design and technology. Marble Hill are constantly evolving to meet current trends and now offer not only traditional style stone and marble mantels but also a stunning range of balanced flue gas fires, but also a wonderful selection of contemporary and traditional stoves and Bio fuel fires. Marble Hill offers a full service from design through to installation.



The London Chimney Sweeps and **Enviro flame** have worked hand in hand for nearly five years to create the perfect customer solution for fireplaces and flue lining. Enviro flame's team specialise in custom made bespoke solutions, ranging from power flue systems to Furanflex lining, and can adapt or create fireplaces to match you or your customers expectations. Enviro flame have a high quality showroom based in Wimbledon SW London.



In a **Loxone Smart Home**, the heating in each room or zone of your home is intelligently automated, so energy is not wasted heating rooms you aren't using. It can also keep track of the weather forecast and ensure your home is always at the right temperature. When no one's home, the heating is lowered automatically to save energy. With Loxone, you can intelligently automate many sources of heat including radiators and underfloor heating.

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Stokvis EVOLUTION boilers



The R40 EVOLUTION and R600 EVOLUTION series represent the latest generation of Stokvis Energy Systems' long-established and widely-specified boilers, which can be installed along with the manufacturer's H Series Heat Interface Units to supply heating and domestic hot water to individual dwellings. Using the R40 and R600 EVOLUTION boilers in centralised plant rooms provides a primary heat source for the HIU's with an excellent efficiency while saving landlords the headache of gaining access for annual gas safety inspections.

info@stokvisboilers.com

QuanTec condensing boilers new guarantee



Johnson & Starley's established range of QuanTec condensing boilers has been given an 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

Gaia warms listed chapel conversion



Housing developer, Beechcroft, has chosen Gaia's low-temperature hot water underfloor heating system to create a warm, comfortable living space inside a former chapel. The advantage of underfloor heating is that, by filtering up through the floor, it warms the occupants of the room rather than the airspace. Gaia installed its low-temperature hot water system between the original timber floor joists, with aluminium thermal plates from Autron Heating Products to distribute the heat evenly and reflect it upwards and into the room.

www.gaia.co.uk

Airflow helps development achieve certification



Heathcott Road, a social housing project in Leicester, has been granted full Passive House status. Comprised of 68 new dwellings, all benefitting from a Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) unit, including DV96 Adroit from Airflow Developments, the site is the largest housing scheme of its type in Europe to receive the status. Adroit MVHR units incorporate low energy EC fans, a unique triple filter system that prevents airborne pollutants as small as carbon from entering the property, frost protection and an automatic 100 per cent summer bypass facility.

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Sto helps to keep things quiet



Libraries are noted for their quiet acoustics, and nowhere is this more true than a prominent London library which has just been refurbished with products supplied by Sto Ltd. The StoSilent Distance system can be installed as a suspended ceiling, or as a wall-covering over a cavity. This allows an effective acoustic solution to be created for many different types of installation. The system features a metal profile sub-structure fitted with acoustic panels manufactured from expanded glass granulate. The lightweight system is easy to work with, and it can be adjusted to suit any room shape.

01418 928000 www.sto.com

Kingspan insulates science building



The Kingspan Kooltherm FM Complete Pipe Insulation System and Kingspan Kooltherm FM Duct Insulation have been installed as part of Coventry University's flagship scientific teaching and research building, contributing towards the building's BREEAM 'Excellent' rating and delivering a high level of fire resistance performance through the use of intumescent lined Kingspan Kooltherm FireSleeves. The products feature premium performance insulation cores with thermal conductivities as low as 0.025 W/m.K and 0.022 W/m.K respectively.

01544 388 601 www.kingspaninsulation.co.uk

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Offsite solutions: driving bathroom installation efficiency

Richard Tonkinson of Offsite Solutions offers some practical advice for specifying factory-built bathrooms

Bathroom pods have driven innovation in traditional construction methods and are now widely used for student accommodation, hospitals, hotels and housing – from luxury apartments to social housing. The approach uses offsite manufacture to bring a range of benefits and improve the efficiency of construction.

The number of activities on site are radically reduced, resulting in significant programme savings, improvements in quality and waste reductions of up to 50 per cent.

On a large-scale, complex residential project, the programme saving can be as much as 20 weeks. This reduces the cost of site preliminaries, as well as waste removal and snagging. There is a faster return on investment for the client or earlier occupation, as well as much greater certainty of completion on time and to budget.

What are the different pod types?

Firstly, steel-framed pods – these offer ceramic tiled finishes and a high level of design flexibility. Applications include large-scale apartments, student residences and hotels.

Secondly, GRP pods are widely used for student accommodation, social housing and hospitals, requiring lower capital expenditure and being easy to maintain and clean. GRP pods we supply use a panelled system which creates vertical walls and 90 degree corners for improved aesthetics by avoiding tapered walls.

Concrete pods are less common, due to the higher loadings, but are seen occasionally in secure institutions such as prisons.

Innovations

Innovations which have occurred in pod design include hybrid concrete/steel pods – using a concrete base and steel-framed walls, and seen in high-spec apartments.

Demountable GRP pods extend the

application of pods to refurbishment with the use of a sectional structure. In commercial-to-residential conversions, and some new build projects, access may not be possible for fully assembled pods. Panel sizes of a demountable GRP pod are designed for easier access, for example, via the main entrance or facade openings. Up to 10 demountables can be installed in three days, with superior quality and the added benefit of having a single point of contact. Site-built bathrooms can take six-12 weeks to complete requiring multiple trades and extensive site management.

Hybrid GRP pods allow an enhanced finish and improved aesthetics such as a ceramic-tiled feature wall and recesses. Appropriate applications would include Build to Rent schemes.

Lastly, floorless pods can be a useful option for projects where a continuous level floor finish is required throughout a building or for DDA compliance requiring floors with no threshold.

How are pods installed?

Factory-built bathrooms are delivered on a 'supply-only' basis, where the main contractor organises installation via the M&E contractor. The exception is demountable GRP pods, where we would undertake installation and assembly.

As many as 10 GRP pods can be installed in two hours – or six-eight steel-framed pods. It can take around 80 hours for a bathroom to be built on site requiring around 10-15 operations plus drying times. A pod can be manufactured in 14 hours in a factory, which means improved quality, mitigating defects and remedial works.

Key specification considerations

One of the first and most important specification considerations is early engagement – essential to achieve optimal efficiency by designing pods into the early stages of a construction project.



The number of activities on site are radically reduced, resulting in significant programme savings



Next, consider access – accommodate pod installation in the build-up of walls and floors. Take account of access for delivery of the pods to site, particularly on constrained sites.

Look at economies of scale – standardised designs with minimal variations allow cost savings and time efficiencies to be achieved by using the repetition of the production process. A reputable manufacturer will have an extensive library of pod designs which architects can draw on. Pods can be bespoke but specifiers need to allow for modelling, prototyping, production engineering, machine programming, production line set up – and the manufacture of GRP moulds. To optimise efficiency, architects should rationalise the number of design types in size and shape, and variations, such as left and right hand versions, as far as possible.

Are you considering integrating pods with building services? Connections to services are made externally so access should be allowed for as part of the installation process. Connections from inside a pod are possible but are slower on site and affect quality. A good manufacturer will design the pods to facilitate installation,

using for example mechanically-fitted pan connectors and the option of pre-wired junction boxes to simplify electrics.

There are numerous other design aspects that should be taken into consideration when specifying bathroom pods. Depending on the project requirements and the size of the pod, the thickness of the pod base can be varied.

Natural materials such as marble and granite do not transport well and these finishes are not uniform so the typical tolerances that a pod manufacturer will work to may not be possible.

The building structure must clearly be designed to be able to support a pod, although the weight of a steel or GRP pod should be close to the weight of a site-constructed bathroom. With steel-framed pods there are eight point loads to take the weight of the pod and account for in the structural loadings.

And, finally, the floor slab should be flat and level to +/- 10 mm tolerance to ensure accurate installation.

Richard Tonkinson is executive director of bathroom pod manufacturer Offsite Solutions

Wetroom drain has sunk to new depths



CCL Wetrooms, a leading wetroom specialist, have launched their shallowest ever waterless trap – the NEW Lo-Seal Trap – at a cutting edge depth of only 55mm. Developed specifically for use in

wetroom construction projects with screed depths of below 60mm, the new trap allows wetroom drainage to be installed where standard depth drains cannot be accommodated. Designed as the central element of the Linear Screed Drain, the new Lo-Seal waterless trap has an improved design which contains a spring-loaded mechanism keeping the trap sealed when not in use.

0844 327 6002 www.ccl-wetrooms.co.uk

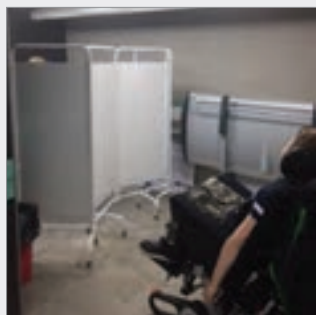
The new Design Solutions range



Design Solutions range from AQATA is incredibly versatile offering highly engineered luxury shower enclosures and screens as well as the opportunity to create truly individual showering solutions including; a choice of discreet wall fixings; steady bars; handle and towel rail options as well as glass types and etched designs which can all be selected and made to suit individual preferences making the bathroom as unique as the customer. For an added personal touch, for the first time AQATA offers a choice of three glass tints, as well as the Clear Plus glass option which offers a crystal-clear finish.

01455 896500 www.aqata.co.uk

Grow your customer base by 30 per cent



If your shop or venue is inaccessible to anyone who needs care support, you're excluding twice as many potential customers as you think... So warns Samantha Buck, mother and one of the leading campaigners for assisted accessible toilets. "It's not just the person with the disability who needs some of the elements in an assisted, accessible toilet – a Changing Places or a Space to Change facility. It's their carer too! There are 6.5million carers in Britain today. Potentially up to 14 million people need a Changing Places or Space to Change. Together that's almost 30 per cent of the population. Can you afford to be inaccessible?" Clos-o-Mat, a British leader in supporting delivery of dignified, independent toileting at home and away, is unique in its ability to deliver both Changing Places and Space to Change facilities. It was the original sponsor of the Changing Places campaign, and has helped campaigners develop the Space to Change concept. Clos-o-Mat can provide, in-house, the design advice, supply, installation, commissioning, project management and maintenance across the ambit of accessible toileting equipment.

0161 969 1199 www.clos-o-mat.com

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Oak veneer creates classic look



The striking new retail and office development at 7 Clarges Street comprises bespoke office accommodation. The washrooms are a continuation of the interior design theme and feature stunning oak veneer to complement the rest of the building. Washroom's full height Alto toilet cubicles and pilasters were both finished in real wood dark oak veneer. Washroom's Concerto integrated duct paneling system was faced with toughened back painted glass to create a seamless finish. Washroom also supplied and installed all sanitaryware, as well as all ancillary items.

sales@washroom.co.uk

illbruck chieve astonishing airtightness



Thanks to a variety of air- and vapour-tight barriers, sealants and gap-fillers from tremco illbruck, a new-build oak-framed office building has achieved an astonishing airtightness. illbruck ME003 Vapour Barrier is a three-ply co-extruded polyethylene (PE) membrane. illbruck ME317 Internal Membrane Tape, a single-sided, reinforced kraft paper tape with solvent-free, modified acrylic adhesive for bonding the vapour barrier overlaps. illbruck OT301 Endurance Adhesive, for bonding and forming an air-tight seal between the ME003 vapour barrier and the structural elements.

www.tremco-illbruck.com

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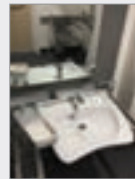


Amwell Systems, the Washrooms specialists has extended its prestigious Sylan range with the introduction of Sylan Glass. With a Sylan washroom it's the detail that makes the difference and the flush fronted, elegant Glass cubicle system brings a true

element of luxury to any washroom. Crafted to clients' individual specifications, Sylan Glass is the epitome of style and sophistication and will fit in seamlessly with any washroom design. Available in Black and White, the naturally reflective material provides a light and modern environment. Sylan is also available in five other materials.

01763 276200 www.amwell-systems.com

Accessibility in new student bathrooms



The University of Kent is maintaining a strong focus on accessibility within its residential student accommodation with the completion of four newly refurbished bathrooms. The fully accessible bathrooms have been furnished with the latest design of height adjustable products from Pressalit Care. The new bathrooms feature the Matrix Curve hand basin where the ergonomic design helps with the practicalities of everyday use. The shallow bowl allows for wheelchair access underneath, whilst the curved front edge of the basin provides ease and comfort of use, in particular allowing easy reach of the tap.

0844 8806950 www.pressalit.com

Hunter Douglas fills the void at Schiphol



Hunter Douglas has played a key role in the development of Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport where the ceiling system in the main halls, feature their range of BXD linear ceiling panels.

Recognised for their, versatility and ease of installation, the Hunter Douglas range of BXD panels are available in three different widths and heights. This unique pairing of ceiling options, make it possible to create highly functional and beautifully engineered three-dimensional designs. The BXD Ceiling panel are available in three widths: 30, 80 and 130mm.

01604 648229 www.hunterdouglas.co.uk

Polyflor achieves a BES 6001 'Excellent'



Polyflor, has become the only flooring manufacturer to achieve an 'Excellent' rating for BES 6001 certification, a standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products as certified by the BRE. After being the first flooring manufacturer to obtain BES 6001 certification in 2015 with a 'Very Good' rating, Polyflor has further improved responsible sourcing procedures at their Whitefield and Riverside manufacturing facilities to successfully achieve the highest possible 'Excellent' rating. Polyflor remains the only floorcovering manufacturer to obtain the BES 6001 standard.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

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Bright Bloc flooring brings colour



Bloc solid colour vinyl flooring from commercial flooring specialists Polyflor was recently installed in the refurbished office of Ashworth Parkes Architects in Cambridge. Bloc PUR in the bright yellow Lemon Punch design was selected to add a pop of bold colour to the modern, minimalist office space at Ashworth Parkes Architects HQ. The Bloc PUR range can be used to create tonal, complementary or harmonious interior design schemes through the availability of greys, neutrals, pastels and brights in its colour palette.

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com/bloc

Flowfresh renews HACCP Certification



The ultra-hygienic polyurethane flooring range Flowfresh has successfully achieved HACCP International certification for the second time, with Flowfresh Cove included in the accredited collection for the first time. This certification comes just over a decade since the global

resin flooring manufacturer Flowcrete Group Ltd. first combined the silver-ion based antibacterial agent Polygiene® with a robust polyurethane coating, creating what is now the go-to choice of flooring for the food and beverage industry. In fact, many of the Flowfresh coatings that Flowcrete worked on a decade ago are still in place.

01270 753000 www.flowcrete.co.uk





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Quality and comfort into retirement



When Anchor Trust's newly-built luxury retirement development – Hurst Place in Haywards Heath, West Sussex – required furnishing, handcrafted soft seating from **Lyndon** by Boss Design was chosen to replicate the look and feel of a high-end hospitality design. Devon Interiors of Exeter, an exquisite assortment of seating from Lyndon's revered collections provides elegance and comfort throughout selected public areas of the first-class facilities. Chosen to exude refinement and indulgence, armchairs and sofas from Lyndon's Lysander collection take centre stage in Hurst Place's Club House.

sales@lyndon.co.uk

Stylish and elegant BLANCO FILTRA Pro



BLANCO has developed a new, stylish filter tap; the FILTRA Pro. By actively processing up to 6000 litres of filtered water before replacing the filter, the BLANCO FILTRA Pro delivers far more in terms of efficiency and cost than most other systems on the market. 3.20 billion

litres of bottled water is now consumed in the UK. As a nation, we now drink more bottled water than fruit juices/nectars, wine or spirits; now the same quality water can be enjoyed at home – at a fraction of the cost. BLANCO has designed this tap model to complement all sorts of sink and kitchen designs.

www.blanco.co.uk

S+B laboratory furniture



S+B UK Limited is one of the UK's longest established and leading specialists in the design, manufacture and installation of laboratory furniture, fume cupboards and associated services. S+B furniture systems have been developed by one of Europe's leading specialist

industrial designers to combine durability, function, ergonomics with a modern, clean, crisp and attractive appearance. S+B can supply everything from a single workstation or fume cupboard to a complete suite of state of the art research laboratories, serving R&D, Healthcare, Universities, Utilities, Food & Beverage and Industry.

www.splusb.co.uk

Safety needs drive product innovation



Industrial safety expert **McCue** utilises its armoury of protection products in facilities across the globe. But when one high profile customer expressed a need to protect walkways from the potential danger of protruding ground level forklift truck forks, McCue's R&D team

were called into action. McCue's R&D team solved the problem by delivering the ultra-strong, multifunctional FlexCore Guard Rail. The handrails still guide pedestrians and organise a facility, but a reinforced ground level rail with hidden hardware offers an extra strong layer of protection – and the ability to deflect intrusive forks.

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Marshalls new collection of Brutalist inspired landscape furniture at designjunction 2017

Marshalls proudly introduced a new, modular collection of concrete Landscape Furniture inspired by industrial design.

TENPLO combines a linear style with a solid form and angular geometry, with selected modules featuring a striking pattern relief detail that gives the collection an understated, sophisticated charm.

The collection was installed in Granary Square at designjunction 2017 in September, and will be brought to market later in the year.

Marshalls worked with design practice Maynard to create the eye-catching yet understated furniture collection, which can be configured to adapt to any urban environment.

In the design realm, concrete is often taken for granted, and viewed as a functional material synonymous with high-rise apartment blocks for a more cost-effective application. However, the natural resilience and durability of concrete allows the material to



lend itself to more than just a functional product solution.

During the 1950s, an architectural movement developed which was characterised by raw, exposed concrete construction known as Brutalism - a stark, functionalist style that combined repeated patterns and the

raw finish of concrete. In recent times, concrete has seen a revival following projects by notable architects such as Zaha Hadid and Herzog & de Meuron. It is now a popular way to add a minimalist style into projects.

Consisting of ten modules, the TENPLO collection offers huge design flexibility and means no two schemes need to be the same due to its extensive array of configuration options, which include a variety of seating choices, a planter, litter bin, cycle and transitions blocks.

The modules are all available in three stunning shades of grey – Rocksalt, Slate or Basalt - with the choice of either Amber or Graphite Accoya timber, and a Red or Grey oxide finish on the litter bin.

Steve Reddington, Marshalls' Commercial Director for Landscape Furniture, said: "It's a fantastic addition to our already extensive Landscape Furniture portfolio."

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Resiblock on the Way to Wembley



Two sealers from the Resiblock Commercial range were identified, to cater for sealing a trio of different pavers types on Olympic Way at Wembley Stadium. Resiblock '22' was selected to stabilise the 1430m² of Marshall Tegula Concrete Blocks and 1710m² of Ketley Blue Clay Blocks. Volker Fitzpatrick, through their sub-contractors Lorclon and under the guidance of Resiblock, are now

installing both Resiblock '22' and Resiblock '22' A.F to the Olympic Way site with works expected to be completed in early 2018.

custserv@resiblock.com

Eco Pod Drive- Thru opens in Swansea



Fordingbridge are extremely proud to have delivered the complete frame and envelope of the UK's first Net Zero Drive-Thru. Following on from the first Net Zero retail building for Costa in 2015, Fordingbridge delivered this project for developer Hammerson on their

Parc Tawe retail park in Swansea. The 186m²/2000sqft pod houses a dine-in and drive-thru Costa Coffee situated in the car park of the large shopping centre redevelopment scheme. Working with main contractor ISG, Fordingbridge completed the shell of the pod in an eight-week programme, ready for client fit-out.

info@fordingbridge.co.uk

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