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FROM THE EDITOR



The desire to wish everyone a happy new year has to be tempered with the fact that this year looks just as tricky as 2020, to say the least. It's hard to know where to start.

The welcome rollout of the vaccines will not be the rapid silver bullet solution we were hoping for. Some say that widespread protection could only really start to show signs of returning life to normal by the summer. Even then, there's a good chance that further lockdowns will be needed next winter, if people can't take the (seemingly impossible for many) practical steps to prioritise safety over the freedoms they feel entitled to.

Cases are soaring in the UK, and the vaccines have arrived just in time to prevent disaster. However in a final gloomy twist, the new variant found recently in South Africa may even make vaccines less effective.

If you are, like me, currently working from home and experiencing occasional cabin fever, one thing that might make you feel less alone is this. That punchdrunk sensation from a seemingly endless tide of mildly panic-inducing news, whose numbing effect makes it impossible to react in an appropriately panicked fashion? I fully understand what you're going through!

2020 has so effectively raised the bar on the challenges we expect from daily life, that it takes something like the hair-raising goings-on in Washington DC to really spur your attention. Who knows what the next few months will bring – somehow even Brexit seems to be a low-level risk at the moment, by comparison (although its effects have, it seems, been delayed by Covid).

What does all this have to do with architecture? Well, in the broadest sense, architecture is life, it's about how people live and work day to day, and how to design for that, and now that life is changing beyond all recognition. There is a likelihood that Covid will be around for years, so unless it is suppressed to stop it being a deadly risk to millions, we will be moving to a different way of living for the foreseeable future.

There will be fewer people working in our major cities, although potentially a lot more older people in new 'permitted development' housing. Homes are the new workplaces for the time being, and refurbishment to provide for this may be the order of the day, also driven by a dropping housing market. Many more architects might have to turn their hands to humbler, retrofit-oriented domestic schemes to make things stack up. The recent PMI figures showing the construction sector riding out the pandemic somewhat, propped up by the housebuilding sector, is another sign that architects may need to find new ways to penetrate this occasionally designer-free area.

Hospitals and offices and other sectors on the other hand may start to see major shifts to quickly deliver infectionproof spaces. Not just moving partitions around, but rethinking circulation, toilets, the way staff and visitors use future new-build facilities. This is all work for architects, but will that be enough to sustain the great industry we currently have, when practices are currently under threat?

Talking about sustainability, the big question is when we will finally be able to get back to tackling it with vigour – the really big issue for coming decades.

James Parker Editor



ON THE COVER...

Maggie's Yorkshire, designed by Heatherwick Studio, is a healing environment which brings nature in as well as maximising landscape externally, avoiding the constraints of 'medicalised' facilities.

Cover Image © Hufton + Crow For the full report on this project, go to page 37

COHESIVE USE

Jestico+Whiles' post-Covid "cohesive use" scheme set to revitalise Nottingham



Proposals for what's described as a ground-breaking "cohesive use" scheme in the centre of Nottingham designed by Jestico+Whiles and combining hotel, co-working, apartment and leisure space, have been revealed.

Phase 1B of The Island Quarter development has been hailed as a UK first, in terms of "sustainability, innovation and engagement with nature and green space in a post-Covid world," said developer Conygar. The "ambitious" plans submitted to Nottingham City Council include a 223-room hotel, 247 apartments, and food and beverage facilities.

Richard Watson of Conygar commented, "It is an ambitious project – unmatched across the UK. The scheme will raise the profile of Nottingham, so we are working closely with our team of architects and designers to create a lasting legacy and community."

The proposals include large archways and a 100m-long atrium plus a luxury day spa and green space for visitors. The development is believed to be the UK's first cohesive-use project, "incorporating multiple uses within the same flowing space, similar to Roppongi Hills in Tokyo," said the developer.

Several aspects of the design have been created to meet "changing needs anticipated in the aftermath of the pandemic," such as flexible spaces, relaxing community areas and green public realm.

David Jones, director at Axis Planning, commented, "This latest phase is groundbreaking in a number of ways. The ground floor provides an extensive mixed-use food and beverage-led experience, incorporating restaurant, bar, forum and atrium space in a way that hasn't been done before in the UK."

"The mix of linked buildings together with integral and adjacent open spaces provides a fluidity within the development which will be essential in a post-Covid world."

The Island Quarter masterplan, which received outline planning approval in April 2019, has been designed with a "full lifecycle of uses," ranging from student housing, office space and community living. The development will introduce a network of public realm and access routes for pedestrians and cyclists, with green spaces "at the heart of the plans." Operating "in tandem" with Canal Turn, the first phase of the scheme, the architecture of Phase 1B echoes adjacent heritage buildings, as well as taking inspiration from nearby Victorian railway structures.

James Dilley, director at architect Jestico+Whiles, said, "This design truly blends with Canal Turn and its surroundings. It is about place making, focused on a spirit of community, conviviality and collaboration. It reflects the synergy of uses that the wider scheme will create, and we hope will create a ripple effect across the entire site and across Nottingham itself."

"This building is inspired by the rich and layered context of The Island Quarter, respecting and referencing its centuries of heritage while creating something entirely new. This isn't helicopter architecture – we aren't just dropping something in and hoping it works with its surroundings, it is born of its special context."

The 17-storey hotel is combined with $3,000 \text{ m}^2$ of serviced flexible office space in the proposals, plus a "linear park," creating a link through the site from the city centre to the suburbs to the east.

RESIDENTIAL

Green light for Assael Architecture's 400-home canalside scheme in Hayes

Residential property group A2Dominion and Assael Architecture have secured planning consent for 400 canalside homes in Hayes, West London. The proposals respond to the borough's Local Plan and the council's aspirations to open the Grand Union Canal up to the public.

The development includes a variety of affordable family homes comprising four-bedroom townhouses, and threebedroom duplexes and apartments. The scheme also includes a mix of one and twobedroom apartments, each having either projecting or inset balconies. Other benefits will include electric car parking spaces, biodiverse green roofs with renewable energy in the form of PV panels, an air source heat pump hybrid heating strategy, and over 1,300 m² of commercial space.

The individual buildings have been orientated to maximise views to the canal with a high number of apartments and houses being dual aspect. Residents will also benefit from large communal podium gardens – in excess of 3,200 m² – that include children's play areas with views to



the canal and the newly designed waterfront edge.

The architectural design comprises three character areas, as Assael Architecture explained: "the 'industrial' buildings reference the site's history with features from the existing warehouses transferred to the new buildings, such as generous window openings and transom bars."

They added, "The 'residential' buildings



respond to the existing architecture, with building heights lowered to a more appropriate scale and identifiable front doors accessed directly from the street, and the 'canalside' buildings respond directly to the waterside with full height windows to maximise views and a contemporary design that includes sash windows, recessed panels and a clear horizontal datum banding."

MARKET REPORT

Architects experiencing a 'challenging market'

The architecture market became "increasingly challenging" over the 12 months to 1 May 2020, according to the RIBA's annual summary of business trends in architecture and construction.

The findings in the 2020 RIBA Business Benchmark report only reflected the initial few months of the Covid-19 pandemic however, suggesting things could have deteriorated further during the year. The survey tracked the turnover and salaries of UK architects, as well as global growth areas for UK architecture.

Practice revenue fell by 1 per cent, meaning 2020 was the first year that revenue fell since the survey began in 2012, however UK architectural expertise "remained in strong demand overseas," said RIBA. Staffing levels fell by 5 per cent, having increased by 8 per cent increase in 2019, on the back of successive year on year increases.

The 2020 results follow a period of "phenomenal growth," said RIBA, in which practices saw revenue more than double between 2012 and 2019, and growth in exports increased strongly. Key trends revealed in the report included:

- Chartered practices have maintained success in overseas markets – generating £624m of revenue from outside the UK
- London is generating an increasing share of revenue; £2 out of every £3 of revenue earned by the whole profession comes

from practices in the capital

- Practices with over 50 staff members account for "well over half" of all Chartered Practices' revenue, and 90 per cent of all overseas revenue
- Total revenue held "fairly steady" in 2020, although falling by 1 per cent
- Architects are contributing £3.6bn to the UK economy.

The context of multiple uncertainties behind the figures included "the risk of a no deal Brexit; paralysis within Parliament, a General Election, and the beginning of the pandemic, making it a more difficult year for architects than the previous seven," said RIBA.



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LEISURE

Saunders' Hertfordshire college sports building gets the go-ahead

Architectural practice Saunders' design proposals for a "contemporary" sports building and 3G football pitch for North Hertfordshire College have received a "resolution to grant planning permission."

The proposed facilities sit within the existing further education college site, and form part of a mixed use application which also includes a residential development by CALA Homes. This will help fund the development of the new sports facilities.

With existing facilities being in need of modernisation, the new scheme will bring sports facilities at the college into the 21st century, with a new sports hall, reception, gym and changing rooms. The buildings will connect with the existing college campus, and will be accessed via well landscaped areas of public realm.

The building design consists of a series of three dark, interconnecting boxes, decreasing in scale. The largest, which will





house the sports hall, will have ribbed matt black cladding, with vertical bands of varying widths over a plinth of robust dark brick. The medium-sized box will provide space for changing and shower facilities with direct access to the 3G pitch and the hall. This will also be clad in black, but with a different vertical cladding to the main hall. The smallest box will contain the gym, with obscured activity able to be seen on arrival through a full-height, translucent screen.

The entrance is marked with elements in vibrant pink which continue inside the building. At night, the gym will have a "jewel-like glow," said the architects, sitting below the entrance canopy.

As well as meeting the requirements of the college curriculum, Saunders' approved designs will also serve the wider community outside college hours. Work is due to start on site in 2021.

AWARDS

Natural Stone Awards shortlist announced

The Stone Federation has announced the shortlist for the 2020 Natural Stone Awards, which celebrate and recognise design excellence in natural stone projects from across the industry.

In spite of the challenges that 2020 presented, the Stone Federation said "it was incredibly encouraging to see that both the quantity and quality of entries were equal to that of our previous Natural Stone Awards."

Due to the evolving and unpredictable nature of restrictions on industry events, the Stone Federation has decided to host the award ceremony online, and the winners will be announced in March 2021.

To view the 2020 Natural Stone Awards shortlist, please visit www.bit.ly/NSAShortlist.



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CHESHIRE PLAINS, ENGLAND

RESIDENTIAL

Woods Bagot Sydney suburbs residential scheme maximises 'liveability'

A new residential project underway in the up and coming western suburbs of Sydney has been designed by Woods Bagot to connect with the area's history, nature and culture, according to the architects.

By "responding directly to the community character of Western Sydney's Merrylands," said the architects, "the Mason & Main project makes a commitment to the neighbourhood's cultural and economic potential while incorporating the spirit of its past."

The project, developed by Coronation Property, "is an example of the importance of creating buildings that are integrated with their suburbs," the practice said. They added that they have designed the project to "take liveability to the next level from top to bottom." The first phase is due to complete in 2022.

The residential precinct includes an 'eat street' of specialty grocers, cafes and restaurants, in a prime central location 350 metres away from Merrylands train station, and key health and education amenities.

The project "opens up space for comfort and convenience," said director and global design leader at Woods Bagot, Domenic Alvaro. He continued: "As Western Sydney continues its rise, it's important to consider how developments can stitch into a suburb's existing grain. In the case of Mason & Main, we've repositioned the ground level cafe and retail spaces to face outwards into the paths that run throughout the site – creating an activated





laneway culture for residents and pedestrians to explore and relax in."

The development also references the area's history, "reimagining striking elements of historical sites in the area," said the architects, taking inspiration from a local brickworks, the Boothtown Aqueduct, and the "eclectic and colourful" nature of the suburb as a whole. Its distinctive brickwork includes a variety of brick and



bricklaying techniques – such as the semi-permeable 'hit and miss' brickwork on the balconies and podium, and "picks up on the rich textures and tones of the wider neighbourhood," said Alvaro.

Archways in the development take their form from the aqueduct and help the project "marry past and present," said the architects. "We've approached every element with a sense of craft and materiality and have committed to excellence at every scale – urban, street and human," commented Alvaro.

Residents' amenities include an outdoor dining area, pool, gym and rooftop gardens. Each apartment has been designed with "maximum access to natural light and air, as well as eliminating shared walls between homes," and to offer future flexibility.

Tapping into its research into future living and working trends, Woods Bagot designed apartments with a multi-purpose room which can quickly transform from a bedroom to a workspace, thanks to built-in joinery.

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RESTAURANTS

Rockwater provides a new view of Hove seafront

Recently opened on the seafront in Hove, East Sussex (although quickly having to close due to the lockdown) is a refurbished restaurant venue designed by architects RTSAN. It has revitalised a prized food and beverage retail site, "opening it up" to the local community as a year-round venue, said its developer.

The new Rockwater venue has seen the previous restaurant and pub ('Babylon Lounge' and later 'The View') reclad and refurbished to provide a two-level seafront 'destination.' A rooftop terrace plus viewing platform is planned, but is yet to receive planning permission.

The existing building has been retained and reclad in a combination of sustainably sourced reclaimed timber and natural pebble cladding, and a new internal steel frame added to support the roof terrace above.

A total of £3.7m has reportedly been put into the project, including £1m donated by residents of the local community.

Rockwater has been developed by entrepreneur Luke Davis, chief executive of IW Capital, to provide "affordable" food, and an open design that would take advantage of the setting. The site will include a play park, which has been occupied by a 'village' of 30 transparent 'Igloos' serving socially-distanced meals during 2020's lockdown, but which were damaged during a storm in early January. RTSAN's design concept is based on the idea of the 'beachcomber,' which according to the practice, "has been carried through into the design with an eclectic mix of styles for lighting, materials, artwork and furniture." The open interior is split by a central bar into restaurant and bar/lounge areas.

"The client wanted a warm, cosy space for the winter and something light and airy for summer." This will be assisted by using different interior design concepts for the different zones.

Rockwater's roof terrace will consist of "a mix of lounge and dining seating," and will have a seasonal theme. Once given planning permission, the structure will sit on composite decking with full-height glazed walls and a retractable roof to enable year-round use, and is expected to complete construction early in 2021.

The venue is engaging with local groups and residents, and there are plans to provide local musicians and artists with a platform to show their work, as well as run sea swimming, pilates and yoga from the venue.

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VIEW POINT



With plans to house the UK's growing elderly population in new town centre developments recently making the news, Russell Pedley of Assael Architecture explains why it's the right solution, giving a key recent example



You would be forgiven for thinking that building new housing for the elderly is a relatively uncontroversial proposition for most towns.

After all, only 2.5 per cent of the UK's 29 million dwellings are technically defined as 'retirement housing,' and just 7,000 new homes built each year are designed for older people. This is insufficient to serve the 180,000 over 65 households that will be created each year over the next decade, or to meet the needs of the estimated 3 million older people who would like to downsize right now.

So it was something of a surprise when, in October 2020, retirement community developer and operator Guild Living had a planning application for a housing with care scheme in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, turned down.

The reason, according to Elmbridge council, was that the property would not bring "vitality or viability" to Walton's town centre.

The idea that older people do not positively impact the places where they live seems inherently wrong. We hear constantly that mixed-use development is the way forward, and I would argue that mixed-age developments are essential to creating a vibrant community, too.

Particularly now, as most of us are spending more time in our local areas thanks to the pandemic, the opportunity to interact with people from all walks of life is

RIGHTSIZER, ENFIELD

This 'later living' proposal designed by Assael Architecture is based around a demountable low-carbon concrete design, and forms part of Phase 2 of Meridian Water, a £6bn regeneration project by Enfield Council

more important than ever. And far from harming a town centre's viability, mixed-age developments can help to harness the greater spending power of older people, the so-called 'grey pound,' estimated to be worth some £350bn a year.

It was this idea that led Assael to come up with Rightsizer – a new later living proposal which has just won a sustainable design competition run by Enfield Council. The concept will now be built into plans for Professional flooring for performing arts & dance education

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I would argue that mixedage developments are essential to creating a vibrant community

the second phase of Meridian Water, the council's £6bn, 10,000-home regeneration project that will be completed over the next 20 years.

Rightsizer is a 'housing with care' community that will provide an aspirational place to live for older people with care and support needs. By creating this, we will help Enfield to not only create a truly intergenerational community, but also to free up larger homes in the borough for use by families.

If the past few months have shown us anything, it is that the way people use space – both in their homes and on their local high streets – is constantly evolving. This is a particular challenge when it comes to creating homes for older people in a bustling, urban setting like Meridian Water, because their care needs will change over time.

What is really important is to provide flexibility in the design of the buildings. Working with AECOM, our proposal is based around a demountable low-carbon concrete design, which can be disassembled and reused. This also means fewer materials will be used in any future reconfiguration of the building, supporting the development's green agenda.

As well as redefining the places we live and work, Covid has also shown us the importance of community, and that is something which transcends generations. During lockdown, who can say that they didn't miss having interactions with the people around them?

With this in mind, Rightsizer also offers a whole host of amenity spaces where residents can spend time and socialise – not unlike the Build To Rent developments that are being targeted at the younger generation. All of these are accessible, and they include a wellness club; a 'high street living room' which will be curated and managed by residents as well as being open to the community; and a 'reminiscence museum' that celebrates the history of the local area, while also assisting residents with memory loss and dementia.

But truly integrating later living into a community cannot just be about buildings and design. Working with Origin Retirement Communities, we are also creating a care academy which will aim to reposition care as a vocation, recruiting local people to train as tomorrow's carers and creating more than 200 jobs.

Older people have so much to offer our communities. And while it might take a bit of creative thinking to accommodate their needs into an urban setting, this is a challenge that we as an industry need to meet.

Rory O'Hagan is director at Assael Architecture the decorative panels group

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SITE LINES



Affordable homes-on-sea

Lee Davies of architects Conran and Partners explores how an East Sussex council's initiative produced an exemplar partnership which employs an innovative design solution to tackle the local housing crisis

ast year marked 100 years since the introduction of the 'Addison Act', the legislation that paved the way for councils to build homes at scale, and established the principle of state-funded council housing set at low rents.

Yet, the challenges of meeting housing needs in the UK continue a century later, requiring local authorities to seek increasingly progressive ways of tackling the issue. Brighton & Hove for one has devised a particularly innovative approach through its 'Homes for Brighton & Hove' initiative. Created from a partnership between the council and the Hyde Group, the initiative seeks to grapple with the local housing crisis, and address the need for truly affordable housing within the city by creating 1,000 new homes for rent and sale for low income households.

Crucially, what defines this enterprise compared with other 'affordable' schemes is that instead of linking rents to a percentage of the local market rent, all the homes delivered will have their rents set at 37.5 per cent of the gross income of a household earning the new Living Wage. Councillor John Allcock, chair of the Council's Housing Committee, described Homes for Brighton & Hove (which he also chairs) as a "key part of the Committee's plans to increase the supply of genuinely affordable homes that the city urgently needs." Hyde's Group business development director, Guy Slocombe, also recognised that although there is "no single answer to tackling the housing shortage," this project will provide a boost to affordable housing delivery in the city, while also contributing to the regeneration of the harbour area.

St James' Square

Conran and Partners are architects for St James' Square, one of the leading sites in the initiative and the former location of Belgrave Day Centre in Portslade, west of Hove. The practice recognised that close collaboration between ourselves, the council and the developer was essential to achieving a scheme best suited to the needs of those who will live there. This kind of close involvement is an approach that we apply across all of our projects. These include





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the redevelopment of the Green Man Lane estate in Ealing, West London, where our recent work with the local authority and developer enabled us to transform an adjacent school (St John's Primary) for the community that went well beyond the original project brief.

Through close consultation with Hyde and Brighton & Hove, we developed a design for St James' Square that fulfils the aims of the initiative by creating a welcoming, community-focused environment in the city. For instance, we have been able to incorporate spectacular views of the sea and the surrounding South Downs for residents. In other hands the scheme could have otherwise easily become luxury apartments for the private market, had it not been for the council taking the decision to allocate this site for 100 per cent affordable housing.

Delivering truly affordable housing poses challenges in terms of costs and viability. From an architectural perspective our challenge is to design economically and efficiently without compromising on quality and successful placemaking – spending money where it makes the most significant difference. At St James' Square we have created a set of buildings that are formed of robust, simple forms with carefully considered and efficient floor plans that don't compromise on space standards or the character of the spaces we create. Driven by the mantra that 'good design improves the quality of people's lives,' we design with people at the core of our design decisions.

Dividing the site in two creates a new pedestrian-friendly route connecting the sea front to local shops, amenities and good transport links, as well as reintroducing a reimagined courtyard that recalls the former St James' Square that once used to occupy the site. Pulling the building line away from the southerly edge gives further generosity and improved public realm to create a 'green corridor' populated with elm trees, hedges and native planting.

The new courtyard space will be filled with trees and overlooked by generous windows and balconies. All front doors are accessed from the square, invoking a neighbourly, intimate space that fosters a sense of community, while also being sheltered from prevailing south-westerly sea winds. The architecture and materials choices reflect the site's industrial past; a refined palette of brick, glass and steel enhances a design with simple geometries and proportions.

The scheme's recent planning approval also forms the first stage of a wider ambitious zonal masterplan delivering regeneration and associated infrastructure within Adur & Worthing, Brighton & Hove and Shoreham Port Authority. This Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) sees further collaboration between these authorities to create a shared vision of the port and this stretch of the coast. We have provided a design which greatly improves connectivity, enabling a robust framework for the delivery of additional buildings at a later stage within the JAAP.

Furthermore, St James' Square attests to the increasing importance of joint ventures, and how close collaboration between architects, housing associations and local authorities is fundamental to creating schemes of lasting impact.

Conran and Partners also recently achieved planning permission for 255 new homes within the same JAAP at Kingston Wharf, Shoreham-by-Sea, on the bank of the River Adur. This project will see the introduction of flood defences for Shoreham and the surrounding area; a publicly accessible and attractive river walk along the entire southern river edge of the site; and the widening and greening of the busy A259 Brighton Road to the north to provide space for a planned cycleway, a more generous pedestrian footpath and soft landscaping.

Council approval for our scheme at St James' Square not only marks the beginning of a vital strategy for Brighton & Hove – one which offers a forward-thinking solution to affordable housing – but also initiates the area's wider masterplan and provides a catalyst for positive change locally.

Lee Davies is a partner at Conran and Partners



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SHENZHEN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM, CHINA ZAHA HADID ARCHITECTS

Designed by Zaha Hadid Architects the Shenzhen Science & Technology Museum, will be a destination to "learn and explore the power of science and technology and understand their impact on our life and future," said ZHA. With a total area of approximately 125,000 m², the museum's U-shaped plan provides interconnecting public spaces, galleries and educational facilities centred around its atrium courtyard. "Responding to the city to the east, the design is defined by its solidity and dynamic curvilinear geometries that express the many urban circulation routes," the architects added. The project's lines are gradually elongated along the museum's north and south elevations with openings carved into the volume to offer glimpses of the activity within. To the west, the building "transforms as it extends towards the natural landscapes that frame the glazed wall leading to the courtyard atrium at the heart of the museum."



PORT TEL AVIV, ISRAEL ILAN PIVKO ARCHITECTS

Construction has started on the new Port Tel Aviva, a ten-storey property featuring 40 luxury apartments along with a five-star hotel. The hotel will take over the first two floors of the development, and the top seven floors will feature the luxury apartments and penthouses, including private rooftop decks and swimming pools. Each floor of Port Tel Aviv features wrap-around recessed private terraces with mosaic-like facades that offer brise soleil protection. The living spaces have been designed to maximise light, with bright, open interiors, luxurious flooring, and high ceilings that facilitate unobstructed floor-to-ceiling views.



BRNO'S ZVONARKA CENTRAL BUS TERMINAL, CZECH REPUBLIC CHYBIK + KRISTOF ARCHITECTS

Chybik + Kristof Architects & Urban Designers have announced the forthcoming ground-breaking of their redesign of Brno's Zvonarka Central Bus Terminal. The project involved preserving the existing Brutalist heritage structure, while addressing the need to "rethink a decaying public space into a functional entity." Following the original floorplan, the redesigned main hall is an open structure without walls. Acting as a "twosided roof," the inner space houses the individual bus stops while the outer area serves as bus parking. The architects will replace the existing stands with an information and ticket office, as well as new platforms and an orientation system accessible to disabled users. The architects' design will give "prominence to light, easing access, evoking comfort and promoting safety."



11 SKIES, HONG KONG Lead8

Lead8 has unveiled its designs for 11 SKIES, a new HK \$20bn mixed-use destination at SKYCITY. 11 SKIES will feature 2.66 million ft2 dedicated to retail and dining, as well as 570,000 ft² for "experiential entertainment" facilities. Once complete, 11 SKIES is set to be the largest indoor entertainment centre in Hong Kong, with over 800 shops and more than 120 "dining concepts" together with entertainment reportedly never seen before in the region, all under one roof. As part of the mixed-use development, 11 SKIES also integrates three grade A office towers covering 570,000 ft². Opening in phases from 2022 to 2025, 11 SKIES is set to deliver a "first-of-its-kind ecosystem, said Lead8, offering brand new experiences for retail, entertainment, dining, wellness and business in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay region.



PORTOPICCOLO SPA, GULF OF TRIESTE STUDIO APOSTOLI

Located in the Gulf of Trieste, Portopiccolo Spa has been named the winner of the 2020 World Luxury Spa Awards. Designed by Studio Apostoli, the 3,600 m² fan-shaped structure is spread over three levels with panoramic terraces, light-coloured stone surfaces, and large windows allowing breathtaking views. The ground floor houses the reception, children's room, hair studio and changing rooms. On the first floor, the "in-out" pool is the main focus, completely glazed to enhance a "continuous dialogue with the landscape," said the architects, and features a salt cave. On this floor is also a gym, a bar and restaurant, and the second floor houses the beauty spa itself.



CITYGATE MALL & SILVERI HOTEL, HONG KONG LWK + PARTNERS

LWK + Partners in collaboration with Arguitectonica have completed the extension of the Citygate Outlets mall and The Silveri Hong Kong – MGallery, a new five-star boutique hotel. The complex is located in Tung Chung, called the 'Gateway to Hong Kong.' The Citygate Outlets extension serves as a connectivity hub for the district, offering an extra 31,800 m² of contemporary retail spaces, while The Silveri Hong Kong – MGallery takes up the upper part of the building. The building features a curved curtain wall facade and aluminium cladding panels which are "adopted and wrapped" by bespoke parallelogram aluminium strips in a vivid mix of colours to produce a "refreshing, unique and dynamic character," said the architects.

CPD FOCUS

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 Hll in the NBS specification system, and how best to make use of it. 'Designing Functions & Reliability into Entrances' - the issues that influence the function of main entrance design and technology. This seminar aims to offer an understanding of how user expectation influences door design and links this with hardware selection, entrance configuration and floor finishes. 020 685 9685 www.comar-alu.co.uk

SPIRAL AND HELICAL STAIRCASE CPD WEBINARS



Staircase experts, Spiral UK, offer architects a live bespoke staircase CPD presentation on Microsoft Teams or Zoom free of charge at a time that suits them. The session covers: staircase design, stair regulations ADK, ADB, ADM and specifically BS5395 Part II (which relates to spiral and helical staircases), the design, manufacture and install process, materials and finishes and case study examples. The session is 30-40 minutes depending on questions and can be tailored to the interests of the practice. Certificates of attendance can be issued. 0330 123 2447 www.spiral.uk.com

CUPA PIZARRAS LAUNCHES ONLINE CPDS FOR ARCHITECTS & SPECIFIERS



CUPA PIZARRAS, a world leader in natural slate, is now hosting two online CPDs. The first of the CPDs will discuss the technical and design criteria for specifying slate, while the second will cover the benefits of using a natural slate rainscreen cladding system. Both are free to attend with tickets available via eventbrite. Terry Collins, specification manager at CUPA PIZARRAS commented, "We have developed the online CPDs to ensure specifiers can still access key information during the pandemic and for when they are working from home." www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cupapizarras-world-leader-in-naturalslate-29672279119

BUILDINGS AS THEATRE



'Buildings as Theatre' is the brand-new curtain walling CPD from aluminium systems house AluK, available to book now via the company's dedicated learning portal. Exploring how innovation in framing and glazing technology have helped to create what it is calling a 'transparent stage of human life' in cities across the world, the CPD aims to inform and inspire with what is possible in the design and construction of curtain walling. It includes a whistle-stop guide to the history of curtain walling as well as an overview for specifiers of the different curtain walling system types available. 01291 639739 www.alukgb.com/learning/home

THE MAGIC OF GLASS – HOW TO SPECIFY



The latest CPD courses, seminars and documents for architects

As part of its 'How to specify' series, George Barnsdale has launched its latest CPD - 'The Magic of Glass' which will explore the importance of glass specification in achieving the best outcome for any given project. It will investigate how glass was developed over centuries into the highly technical product it is today. Available free of charge for architects and specifiers by webinar on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 1pm. Sign up at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/themagic-of-glass-how-to-specifyglass-for-architects-tickets-132338729703 01775 823000

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WHY SPECIFYING THE RIGHT FLOOR IS CRITICAL



Architects and specifiers play a vital part when specifying the correct floor that is fit for purpose. Inspired by Harlequin's commitment to protecting the health and wellbeing of dancers and performers, our CPD explains why specifying the correct floor for dance and the performing arts is critical to the longevity of a performers career. Using comprehensive data and case studies, we outline the key considerations when specifying a performance floor, and look at the important contribution the floor makes to the performer health and safety. 01892 514 888 uk.harlequinfloors.com/en

STELRAD LAUNCHES NEW CPD COVERING TOWEL RAIL RADIATORS



Stelrad Radiators has announced the launch of its latest CIBSE and RIBA approved CPD courses covering the subject matter of towel rail radiators. It can be found at www.stelrad.com. This new CPD course will help attendees understand the history and background behind the evolution of the central heating system and the use of tubular radiators. The UK market for tubular radiators is around the one million mark, so a not an unsubstantial slice of the marketplace - it's certainly more than simply a niche market nowadays. 01709 572279

www.stelrad.com

NEW SKYFOLD & DORMA HÜPPE PARTITIONING CPD WEBINARS



Making it easy for architects to update their knowledge while working from home, leading moveable wall specialist, Style, has made its RIBA approved CPD seminars available as highly accessible webinars. As sole UK distributor for the revolutionary, ceiling-concealed Skyfold partition as well as Dorma Hüppe partitioning systems, Style's CPD's have been hugely popular with architects for many years. Two webinars are available covering 'Fully automatic vertically rising acoustic partition systems' and 'Multi-functional space'. Contact your nearest regional Style office by visiting the website. www.style-partitions.co.uk



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Secondary glazing acoustic performance receives the plaudits at renowned Victorian venue

be a second seco

It was clear that a substantial refurbishment was needed, and this came in the form of a multi-million-pound scheme to create a new Enterprise Quarter in the heart of Tamworth.

Main contractor, Glasgow-based Novus Property Solutions was tasked with the extensive rebuilding of the Grade-II Listed Victorian venue's internal layout. The theatre was substantially refurbished and updated with its ornate historic features conserved.

Much work was required to rejuvenate the large curved casement windows in the main theatre area which had been boarded up since the early 1970s to not only create black-out



for theatre productions but also to provide some form of acoustic control.

Novus made contact with Selectaglaze to discuss the most sympathetic but practical secondary glazing options, ensuring function and aesthetic stipulations were met, along with the required levels of acoustic insulation.

The Series 41 side hung casement was specified to 17 of the clerestory windows in the main theatre. With the openings measuring around $2.5 \text{ m} \times 1 \text{ m}$ a robust solution was needed. Glazed with 6.4 mm

laminate glass, the units weighed 93 kg each and with the clerestory windows sitting 4m from the ground, scaffolding was erected to facilitate the safe and secure installation.

Once all the windows were repaired and ready to house the secondary glazing, the timber sub frames were fixed back to the brick masonry. These were specially designed with a 300 mm wide flat surface at the centre of the soffit to allow for the positioning of motorised blinds which were to be used to black-out the theatre during performances.

The much-loved theatre can now embark on a new chapter in its history having sympathetically enhanced and restored the historic features which make it such a special building.

To book an online RIBA approved CPD seminar or if you are seeking technical advice, please contact Selectaglaze.

01727 837271 www.selectaglaze.co.uk

Advanced at centre of wireless fire detection solution for 18th century listed mansion house

Industry-leading fire alarm control equipment from UK manufacturer, Advanced, has been installed at the core of a wireless fire detection system protecting Leuchie House in East Lothian on the Scottish Borders.

As part of an upgrade to the existing radio fire system at the classical Georgian mansion house in North Berwick which operates as a respite centre for people with multiple sclerosis, an Advanced 4-loop MxPro 5 fire panel has been installed alongside the latest EMS wireless FireCell equipment.

The MxPro 5 was selected to protect the five-storey, 18th century building and its residents, thanks to its compatibility with EMS FireCell XP detection – one of the most advanced cable-free fire detection systems available on the market.

Responsible for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of the fire system at Leuchie House is Galashiels-based Safe Services, who required a solution capable



of delivering seamless protection while keeping disruption to the fabric of the building at a minimum.

As a listed building, retaining a radio fire system was agreed to be the most suitable form of protection to safeguard the features of this period property. Installing cabling would have been intrusive to the decor and difficult and costly to achieve in the more inaccessible areas of the site.

Graeme Millar, fire systems technical engineer at Safe Services, said, "Having worked with Advanced products for many years, we were confident that we could rely on its solutions to perform as required. Now that Advanced supports EMS wireless FireCell detection, the MxPro 5 fire panel was the obvious choice for installation at the core of this wireless fire detection system, effortlessly ensuring protection across all five levels of the building."

The MxPro 5 is the unbeatable multiprotocol fire system. Approved to EN54-2, 4 and 13, it offers four protocols, Apollo, Argus, Hochiki and Nittan and a completely open installer network that benefits from free training and technical support. Panels can be used in single-loop, single-panel format or easily configured into high-speed networks of up to 200-panels covering huge areas. MxPro 5 panels are backwards compatible with existing MxPro 4 networks and include a host of features including AlarmCalm for complete false alarm management and reduction.

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Repair principles and solutions for heritage buildings

hen we refer to heritage, we typically mean buildings or structures that require preservation because of their historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic or ecological value. It is our duty to preserve these buildings for future generations.

The objective of preservation is to deliver a long-term remedial approach which ensures both aesthetics and structural integrity are maintained.

Determining how the building envelope operates creates a clear picture on the best method for remedial solution. How the exterior and interior interact with environments along with functional purposes must be understood to ensure there is no endangerment to the operation of the envelope.

Every building and structure's envelope is unique. Design considerations should incorporate a holistic approach that encompasses:

- The building/structure
- The defects
- Materials within the structure
- Does the structure have
- historical/architectural significance?
- Building Regulations
- Listing requirements
- Future maintenance requirementsOccupants requirements
- Occupants requirements

The Delta system has been specified in numerous buildings and structures in both grade 1 and 2 listed and of historic value throughout the United Kingdom due to its sympathetic advantages. Delta's 'air gap'





technology is favoured by English Heritage, The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and local authority conservation officers.

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- Country Estates
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Who we are

Delta Membrane Systems Limited provides a full range of waterproofing and damp proofing solutions for architects, specifiers, developers, contractors and homeowners on new, retrofit and refurbishment construction and in flood resilience. We also supply ground gas protection membranes protecting structures from harmful ground gases such as radon, carbon dioxide, methane and hydrocarbons.

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BUILDING

THE MILL LOUGHBOROUGH

Seamless combination

The Mill is a luxury housing development that saw a complex conversion combine new build with refurbishment of a historic hosiery factory. Richard Cooper of HSSP Architects spoke to Jack Wooler



former hosiery mill dating back to 1889 has been restored into luxury apartments as part of a regenerative canalside development in Loughborough that restored original features obscured by a 1980s office conversion.

Designed by HSSP Architects, the Victorian building – once a historic factory that supplied garments to the Royal Family – heavily influenced the final project's aesthetic. The team retained the building's brick fabric while incorporating modern interventions and ecological additions.

From the exposed brickwork and detailing, to the original iron, oak and bow

string beams, The Mill carefully weaves old elements with the sensitive additions of a new wing at one end of the site, wrapped around the mill's once isolated chimney, and two new storeys at roof level.

Forming the lobby for the apartments at ground floor and an "iconic" entryway into the building, the retained and restored chimney has been as carefully blended with the new elements as all of the existing building's features – but not without multiple design and engineering challenges at every stage.

Despite tackling these barriers, the first phase has now been finished successfully to



FOCAL POINTS

The retained chimney was one of the major focal points of HSSP's design

great acclaim, and a further two phases are in the works. The project has so far delivered 76 luxury one and two bed apartments, alongside a residents gym, communal offices and parking, all in what has been described as a "groundbreaking regeneration project."

A lucky position

Having worked with developer Solus Homes for a number of years, HSSP was approached directly when pharmaceutical giant 3M, whose UK office base previously occupied the site, put it on the market.

"Solus found themselves in a lucky position here," says Richard Cooper, director at HSSP Architects and lead architect on the project. He tells *ADF* it was "a fantastic opportunity" for the project team, with a history "far too interesting to turn down."

The mill originally created hosiery items such as stockings, and was located at the side of the canal for ease of movement of their goods across the UK. In the 1950s, it was converted into offices, in which 3M would take residence.

While the Victorian architecture was still very recognisable in the building's form when the architects first visited the site, it had of course been reconfigured internally to offer the necessary office functions, and extended – though the extensions were ultimately demolished as part of HSSP's scheme.

Cooper says the older features "were by far the most immediately attractive elements from the outset," the architects appreciating the cast iron columns, exposed timber and the industrial aesthetic, which all "lent themselves very easily" to the functions being served by the practice's design.

"The look was already there," he says, "it had just been hidden by its incarnation as an office."

Ticking all the boxes

The architects began by carrying out a standard site analysis, looking at the focal, and entry, points of the project – which were largely based around the chimney – and how people would use and perceive the building.

Though the retention of The Mill's chimney was key, Cooper says its restoration "was a fairly contentious point in the early days, as the developers thought it would be more of a risk than a feature."

However, the team "slowly convinced everybody, and in the end it worked very successfully," says the architect. Once a more complete plan was produced, the planners were reportedly "won over very quickly."



The project "ticked all the boxes," he adds, it being a brownfield site, and fulfilling both the regeneration and placemaking needs of the local authority.

"Because of this, the planners and council were extremely supportive," says Cooper. "We engaged with them all early in the process, and everyone was very helpful." He adds that it has already proven to have kick-started the regeneration the local authority was hoping for.

Free reign

Cooper says the team had "fairly free reign" when it came to the design process – the client's brief dictating mainly on the building's use and how many units were needed to make it viable.

The waterside provided another key design inspiration, says the architect, the team being "keen to build on its language, along with the industrial elements of the mill." Cooper says that the tall glazed roof extension with exposed steel framework was intended to "evoke this dialogue between water and industry."

One of the key elements of the process here was to combine this design language with that of the building's historic nature, and to reinforce the deep reveals of the brickwork in the new build elements to make it look "part of the same family."

"On the new wing," he explains, "we

went to quite a lot of trouble to get deep reveals in the cladding to hark back to the existing structure," something that the planners were also reportedly keen on.

"Traditional buildings' deep brick reveals are clearly something that's missed," he adds, with modern buildings tending to have much shallower depths.

On the inside, the team worked very closely with the interior designers Kick Associates to continue these themes and "bring the building back to life," ensuring a continuation of the same design values as its exterior, to create a holistic overall effect.

The project's architect tells me that the whole design process had to be somewhat "fluid" here, as when removing the 80s office additions such as the suspended ceilings, ever more elements of the building's history were revealed – to subsequently be exploited in the creation of the final design. This includes the original cast iron columns, which being structural could not be relocated or removed, and instead have been embraced within the apartments and communal areas.

Brickwork

The Mill involved many challenges in its construction process to realise these designs, from the ground all the way up to the new addition. "Starting from the bottom," says Cooper, the existing



The tall glazed roof extension with exposed steel framework was intended to "evoke this dialogue between water and industry"









building's "massive, deep foundations" were amply capable of supporting the "fairly small and lightweight" new build element. As such, the team managed the project without piling, just using traditional insitu poured concrete.

He describes how the existing brick frame starts off very thick at the bottom, and gradually gets thinner toward the upper stories. Structures were typically constructed this way in the pre-steel era, masonry and cast iron columns having to take the vast bulk of the buildings' loads.

The existing brickwork of the Mill was "in pretty good condition," the architect tells *ADF*, and as such there weren't many necessary remedial works – only "a few bits" of pointing and repairs to sills.

When it came to the added brickwork elements in the new wing, however – which were also constructed as load-bearing masonry with concrete planks to fit with the existing structure – Cooper says it took some "fairly lengthy" technical analysis to achieve LABC accreditation.

Roof

Moving up to the roof extension, sitting above both the new build and restored sections, the team turned to Fusion Building Systems to create a structure lightweight enough to be supported by the brickwork.

Cooper explains that these additions were necessary to meet the client's brief for an increased number of homes in the project's footprint. The retained chimney previously stood alone together with "a kind of boiler house," so the architects enacted the wing extension through this new linking block that wraps around it, and which subsequently "leads it all back to the mill."

Then, in order to achieve the two new floors added above all this, the team had to remove the pitched slate roof from the existing brick portion, as well as undertake the removal of some "insensitive additions and links" made in the past during the building's conversion to office space.

"The developer did a really good job of sourcing all these materials to recreate the key details," the architect adds.

Structural stress

When it came to structural challenges around adding the new floors above the existing building, "there was a lot of technical work necessary to get it right," Cooper explains.

A bespoke, "highly complex" metal grill system was used to connect the base of the new floors to the existing building and fully support the 'fusion frame' system at the point of transition.

The team was surprised to find that in stripping out the existing brickwork structure, it was out of level by around 300 mm across the length of the building.

"Nothing's square when you're dealing with these old buildings," says Cooper.



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"It was quite a headache, trying to deal with one system which needs to be made with precision in a factory, and then trying to insert it into something which has been hand built in the Victorian era."

The architect tells me it took "a huge amount" of setting out, modelling and resurveying to achieve this connection.

Live, work and play

Having achieved this complex hybrid structure, Cooper says that the client wanted to do "something different" when it came to the scheme's end use, and intended to "set the benchmark for regeneration" in so doing.

"It's not the standard conversion of a building, where they just thought about how many flats they could get in and how cheaply they could do it," he explains. "It's a placemaking project, and we've really paid attention to how we could create a community here."

As such, the architects followed a "live, work and play" ethos when designing the placemaking aspect of the development.

Embodying this idea, there is a gym, a communal work at home office space where people can mix and "not feel isolated working in their own apartment," and a communal garden space. This includes table tennis tables and street furniture – intended to "encourage people to form a community."

Being alongside a canal, the development also naturally offers the leisure

opportunities of cycling and walking down the waterside.

"Especially in a time of lockdown, exercise is vital for mental health," says Cooper, "and there's no better incentive to get outdoors than having the perfect spot for it just outside your front door."

A greener build

In terms of low energy technologies, the architect admits the project may not be a "model of environmentalism," however multiple elements helped achieve a greener result.

Green roofs were one such addition – the lead architect reports these were welcomed by planners. Further aiding biodiversity, bat and swift boxes were included following stringent ecology surveys.

The project also features solar PVs, but Cooper believes that the real sustainability at The Mill is found in how it reuses a substantial existing building: "we're not losing all that embodied carbon that went into its construction."

He summarises, "We believe that the reuse and adapt method is far better than building something new with flash technology added."

With brick production having significant amounts of embodied carbon, "it would have been a crying shame to have knocked it down and started again," he says.

Problem solvers

The first phase now complete, the team has started work on the further two phases, phase two starting in August this year and due for completion in Spring 2022, and phase three expected to begin in the middle of 2021.

Cooper looks back to the "numerous" challenges within the first phase, but says that, "as an architect, that's basically your day job; coming up with solutions to problems is just what we do."

Despite this, he still cites the matching up of the new frame with the restored building as "a huge task," one that couldn't have been achieved without high levels of collaboration between the project's stakeholders.

The planners were "delighted" with the end result, he says, as were the developers, having managed to sell all units within the development off plan.

In what is a hearteningly positive coda to a challenging project, its architect says "we've only heard positive feedback so far – people are so proud to have been involved, especially ourselves."

Spiral UK win contract for celeb stairs in Royal Albert Hall

Bespoke staircase manufacturer Spiral UK have won the contract for a feature staircase in the Royal Albert Hall. The company, based in Helston Cornwall, is looking forward to providing the artist's bar with a glamourous new staircase.

The Royal Albert Hall is being refurbished and restored ahead of the grade one listed building's 150th birthday celebrations, originally planned for March 2021. This work has included the Great Excavation, a project involving a two-storey expansion to



create a back-of-house area with new multi-purpose space for artists, schools and community groups.

The stylish staircase Spiral UK have been contracted to design, manufacture and install is part of the artist bar and dressing room fit out. The feature wall and curved stair combination will lead from a mezzanine area down to an exclusive bar especially for those backstage and performing at the venue.

Spiral UK Managing Director Eric Nicholls said, "We've had some fantastic contract wins recently and this project is no exception. It's a privilege to work on a project for such an iconic London venue."

"The helical staircase we are creating will have a fabricated steel framework with treads cast in concrete at site. The stringers have been designed to have an elegant saw tooth effect on one side and be hidden in the feature wall on the other. This wall will match the stair balustrade with a combination of rectangular vertical bars and perspex. The



staircase will be finished with a beautiful French polished timber handrail."

Spiral UK specialise in a wide range of bespoke floating, spiral and helical staircases for clients across the UK in the luxury residential, commercial, office fit out and industrial sectors.

They currently have a number of high profile projects in progress in London including boutique offices in Knightsbridge, a huge five-storey fit out in St James' Square and luxury residential projects in Hampstead and Kings Cross.

0330 123 2447 www.spiral.uk.com

Armatile wins 2020 TTA Award for Best Heritage Project



St Comgall's Parish Church is a historic building constructed in 1889. Following its destruction in a fire 25 years ago, the building has undergone a phased restoration programme. During the final phase, 54 individual waterjet-cut pieces were fitted together within each section of the aisle to create an ornate Celtic weave. Armatile has a great reputation for working on heritage projects. It has now delivered over 150 such projects in the past decade. With a sympathetic approach to restoration its team expertly interprets design needs and translates each client's creative vision into reality. The St Comgall's Church project was a great example of how Armatile works in partnership with all project stakeholders, including the architect, builder and users to deliver a tailored surface solution that not only met but exceeded the client's brief for this heritage restoration project. The completely refitted floor delivers the client's vision and the bespoke waterjet cut decorative panels take visitors on a journey through the spiritual life and missionary work of St Comgall through Ireland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. It is an example of how Armatile's entire team utilises its vast experience and knowledge in the heritage sector. The 2021 **TTA Awards** will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on 10 September – and entries are now open!

0300 365 8453 www.ttaawards.com

General hospital banks on Gilberts to help deliver extensive care



A £22m construction programme to expand intensive care facilities is progressing apace despite Covid disruption, as a result of "impressive" performance by **Gilberts Blackpool**. The leading supplier of air movement solutions has completed the supply and installation of 11 banks of screening and ventilation louvres on the facade of the new five-storey extension for University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. The project, with main contractor BAM (who built the original hospital 45 years ago), was completed within the agreed timescales, despite limitations affecting site access and operative working practice as a result of Covid-19. Gilberts created louvre screens almost 415m x 3.5m high from its WGK75 kitform louvre system. Integrated removable panels and doors have allowed maintenance access to the fifth-storey plantroom. Solid insulated panels behind the louvres across much of the additional four levels of façade have helped to maintain high levels of thermal performance for the 22 ICU bed space healthcare facility below. Additionally, a WHC high performance deep channel louvre screen with fire dampers was fitted at plant room level.

01253 766911 info@gilbertsblackpool.com

Heritage action for Acton Town Hall

The conversion of a West London former town hall to include residential accommodation features Crittall windows, carefully designed to preserve the building's original character.

The former Acton Town Hall, in Ealing London Borough, has been partly converted to provide a public library and leisure facilities but the Grade-II listed structure also now contains a range of apartments, some in a newly constructed infill site, but others occupying a carefully transformed original interior.

The prestigious building occupying a



prominent corner site in the local town centre now provides more than 70 one, two, and three bedroom homes, many retaining period features from the original structure, including lofty 3.6 metre ceiling heights.

The building, which dates from 1909, was designed in an Italianate palazzo style, executed in locally made red bricks with Portland-stone dressings. It features tripartite sash windows on the ground and second floors and casement windows to the first floor. The ground and first-floor windows are set under heavy keystones and those on the first floor also have stone aprons. All the windows are set within stone surrounds.

For the refurbishment and conversion works the windows within the original building were replaced with Crittall Corporate W20 profiles. Timber subframes were installed with all these new windows as a planning requirement to ensure a like-forlike replacement. The subframe profiles were a bespoke item so as to match exactly the size and appearance of the original subframes.

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BUILDING

MAGGIE'S YORKSHIRE LEEDS

Light relief

Heatherwick Studio's first completed healthcare scheme is a new Maggie's Centre that turns an unloved patch of city centre hospital estate into a landscape-festooned, lightweight timber refuge for cancer patients. James Parker reports



eatherwick Studio's first completed healthcare project globally is a typically adventurous structure for a Maggie's Centre, on a tight, sloping corner of a hospital site in Leeds. However, this biophilia-embracing design displays a particular amount of care and sensitivity to its users, as well as modesty – in keeping with the highly sensitive nature of the client's aim to both support and inspire cancer patients and their families.

St James' University Hospital is thought to be the largest teaching hospital in Europe, its buildings densely packing a dense site to the north east of the city centre. It is also home to the Leeds Cancer Centre, serving a wide variety of patients across Yorkshire, and it was these two combined factors that led cancer charity Maggie's to locate its 26th facility here.

The key challenge to architects Heatherwick Studio was that the project would of necessity be removing the last green space in the whole campus, and therefore the practice pledged to not only restore this greenery, but increase it using substantial roof gardens. However, having not designed a therapeutic environment before, the architects were faced with wider challenges, not least the need to elevate the typical 'clinical healthcare experience.' Project leader Angel Tenorio tells *ADF*, "We are genuinely interested in improving people's experience and how the physical environment has a direct effect on people's lives." Heatherwick has worked on a number of healthcare projects such as a shortlisted bid for a new clinic at Great Ormond Street, but this is the first to reach fruition for this famously inventive practice, perhaps demonstrating the open-minded attitude of the client.

Maggie's Centres have seen a bevy of top-name architects design their buildings over the years, from Frank Gehry to Zaha Hadid. Many of them no doubt enjoyed the chance to create small, beautiful healing environments which were also free from many of the constraints of full-blown 'medicalised' facilities.

In this case, however, Tenorio says that the practice jumped at the chance to "design something that brings joy and a sense of hope to people who are dealing with cancer, as well as their friends and family." As he says, each Maggie's Centre, by freeing up the ability of designers to create comforting spaces, "offers the opportunity to bring something truly inspiring to people's lives."

The brief to the architects was "very open," says the architect, "to create a home for people that they wouldn't have dared build themselves." This trusting approach has also in the past contributed to the range of often idiosyncratic design responses from leading architects to the charity's various sites. Tenorio does say however that "rather than come in with a magic bullet," Heatherwick Studio engaged in a "lengthy back and forth" design process with the client, to establish the psychological implications of each of their decisions on users in this sensitive setting.

Site & form

Although the construction would be taking the last patch of green space, it was an unprepossessing grass-covered spot, containing landfill spoil from the construction of the adjacent multi-storey car park. The 6-metre level difference between the top and bottom of the site would "typically make the building be semi-sunk into the hillside," says the project leader.

The design instead takes advantage of the slope, avoiding further unnecessary excavation, and providing a series of extensively landscaped roof terraces, the largest central one being accessible and offering expansive views of the Yorkshire Dales. With the tall buildings nearby producing something of a wind-tunnel



effect, the building itself, as well as the tree-heavy landscaping, is designed to shelter and envelop the 110 visitors expected per day from the moment they arrive on site.

The spruce-framed construction sits amongst retaining walls designed in close collaboration with the landscaping architect to further minimise excavation. The site sits on a 'blue route' for ambulances heading to A&E, which could not be closed for long periods, so construction had to be as efficient as possible. This is one of the reasons why manufacturing the glulam rib sections in Switzerland, and assembling them in pairs using timber plates onsite, proved ideal.

TIMBER RIBS

The structural glulam rib sections were made in Switzerland and assembled in pairs onsite, being attached using timber plates



The form of these curving timber vessels echoes the centre's role supporting and giving advice to cancer patients and their families



The idea for creating three forms came from the desire to place the counselling rooms "at the centre of the garden," i.e. the extensively landscaped site. Topped by roof gardens, these 'pods' resemble large planters formed of curved and ribbed glulam, the one at the highest part of the site providing a protective canopy for the entrance. This, and the lowest pod, house full-height rooms, and the taller third volume is three storeys, and sits at the centre of the site. The CLT slab roofs overlap each other slightly, connected at high level by strips of glazing, letting light flood in and creating an appealingly organic terraced composition.

The form of these curving timber vessels echoes the centre's role supporting and giving advice to cancer patients and their families. Says Tenorio, "It's something of an analogy for the strength that people need to gather to go through the process of cancer." The lowest roof garden is viewable from the publicly accessible terrace, however all three are viewable from windows of surrounding wards, providing a new green outlook for many patients at 'Jimmy's'.

The remaining spaces created within the building, surrounding the pods, amount to one interconnected public circulation area – there are 23 spaces in total in this deceptively small 430 m² building, all of which have their own interior design treatment. The site gets a good amount of light in the morning and late afternoon, but is shaded by the car park in the middle of the day. This helped orient the counselling rooms so that windows were located to "focus on the moments they will receive most of the sunlight."

Tenorio says that one of the key things that charity founder, designer Maggie Keswick Jencks, had in mind in her blueprint for the first centre, in Edinburgh, was avoiding the traditionally inadequate welcome that NHS facilities tend to give. Jencks died of cancer before its completion in 1996, but was only too aware of "exactly how unwelcoming and sterile hospitals were," says Tenorio. He adds that her design maxim was that receiving a cancer diagnosis – which many visitors will have just endured prior to arriving – "shouldn't be any harder than it already is."

Although the spaces within are free flowing, the overall effect of the forms is to provide an embracing, comforting feel, enhanced internally by the three overlapping and canopy-like structures. The placing of the two entrances has been carefully considered, working with the landscape designer to create a "seamless and natural" entrance, while locating them "in the most protected way for people on site," i.e. under roof canopies that will provide shelter on rainy days.

One entrance connects the existing hospital with the centre directly, and leads straight into the communal kitchen, "the building's heart," says Tenorio; the other comes into the circulation space. Benches are provided outside the entrances for patients who may wish to have a moment of private reflection before entering.

Interiors

Once inside, the design is intended to intuitively guide the patients but also allow them to explore for themselves, and gain some agency at a very disorienting time. There is no reception desk – as per usual in Maggie's Centres – but instead a variety of peaceful, bright areas to sit and read, or have a coffee around the kitchen table. Short runs of timber stairs connect the different mid levels; patients never need to ascend a full storey, but only mezzanine-like distances – helping them navigate the building, and also tackling the gradient.

The pod spaces were designed to feel deliberately 'private,' in contrast to the rest of the building, as "when people are having therapy they want to feel protected," says Tenorio. The common areas have tall windows, giving a visual connection to the landscaping, enhancing the activities provided here such as group therapy and yoga, as well as sitting and having a conversation with family members. Trees on the landscaped terraces outside dapple the light falling into the interiors, and users can feel the breeze internally thanks to opening windows.

Lighting is an important part of the soothing ambience of the interior, with LEDs integrated into the exteriors of the timber pods, allowing the warm tones of the material to glow without the light source being fully visible. The luminaires are integrated into timber shelves and window sills, the shelving cleverly placed between the vertical ribs and along the floor-to-ceiling windows. This provides more storage space for books as well as for personal artworks to make the interiors feel more homely. Outside, the lighting is directed onto the trees, which projects shadows of leaves into the interior once the sun goes down.

Tenorio says that the designers "almost had to work backwards, to specify how the lights would be integrated at an early stage, as the building was still taking shape when the lighting design came on board". They worked closely with lighting consultant Light Bureau as the lighting positions dictated some of the shelves' locations.

The shelves also provide a key location internally for some of the many planters that make it an unusually verdant healthcare interior. Tumbling out of their containers (which echo the overall form), the plants enhance both walls and stairs and imbue something of a feeling of a timber conservatory to the common spaces. "We wanted the plants to be the heroes" Tenorio commented.

With Thomas Heatherwick having come from the world of furniture design, it's no surprise that key pieces here are designed by his studio. The practice designed two tables inspired by the building's timber fins and built, by Temper Studio, from cork and engineered beech timber, which sit in the 'heart space.' The kitchen table is an important social centrepiece of every Maggie's Centre, and here, the table's ribbed timber legs provide another tie-in with the overall structure. Heatherwick Studio was also responsible for the interior design, and worked with furniture consultant Coexistence to find other pieces that fitted within the architects' vision.

The focus on natural materials is perhaps most evident in the upholstery, chairs and tables, as well as the substantial wool curtains. Such products' tactile qualities are "often missed in healing environments," says Tenorio. Natural finishes used include porous lime plaster, aiding internal humidity.





Timber

The decision to use timber – in addition to its therapeutic natural qualities and abilities to construct the building's sculptural form – was also a response to the complexities of the site. The sloping, and also contaminated, land would have required "significant amounts of deep piling," says Tenorio. Instead, a lightweight set of connected pavilion-type structures over a "rough" slab would provide the minimal loads and maximum environmental benefit.

A further pragmatic reason to choose timber was that its inherent insulating properties mean that the structure could be used exposed, but also running from the interior to the exterior, "without having very complicated cold bridging details," says Tenorio. The glulam fins in turn provide structural support, in combination with the slab and lightweight timber cassette walls, providing a monolithic whole that avoided the need for steel connecting plates, giving cost savings.

Structurally, the building is virtually alltimber, including the lift core, however window frames are aluminium due to their size. The internal carpentry, such as the bespoke handrails, was done by local craftsmen from Yorkshire, who, Tenorio reports, "were inspired by the building and its purpose, which really helped bring everyone together."

The CLT roofs' design challenge was to remain watertight while providing the layered build up that would support thriving Hopefully we may reach a time when such genuinely caring building design isn't a stunning and sadly paradoxical exception in healthcare, but something that we can rightfully come to expect

gardens, featuring trees, shrubs and flowers. The system chosen was low-tech, specified with the landscapers and roofer, "a combination of working with different trades." It features automated irrigation, but is simple and low-maintenance, comprising CLT slab, OSB layers forming the drainage gradients, protected by a membrane, an "egg box" drainage layer, and finally, a lightweight layer of soil. The changing gradient has been used to make areas that offer deeper soil for larger trees.

Reactions

Tenorio gave a talk at the hospital during the project's gestation, and one comment he received vividly demonstrated both the power of the design, and the lack of expectation from patients thanks to their previous experience of health buildings. A cancer patient asked him, "Is that building really going to be for us?" Now, following the project's completion, the building is a huge success, supporting users in a landscape-embracing environment that changes through the seasons. Tenorio highlights how its comforting form delighted one user, a young girl, prompting her to say she loves coming to the centre because "it's like her blanket."

The centre received 3,300 visits before it was locked down in March 2020 (it reopened in the summer and continues to support visitors and families both in person and remotely over Zoom). On revisiting in June, its project architect saying happily that the garden was "flourishing, and changing, and will be a continual surprise." Around a third of users have been NHS staff, using this reassuring and beautiful space as a breakout area from the extra challenges they are facing from Covid.

Hopefully we may reach a time when such genuinely caring building design isn't a stunning and sadly paradoxical exception in healthcare, but something that we can rightfully come to expect.

PROJECT FACTFILE

Client: Maggie's

Architect: Heatherwick Studio Landscape designer: Balston Agius Lighting consultant: Lighting Bureau Structural engineer: AKT - II Main contractor: Sir Robert McAlpine Timber contractor: Blumer Lehmann Table manufacturer: Temper Studio

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Hale unveils new look

Fine builders Morton Hale Construction has rebranded as Hale and unveiled a new look. The move follows a period of growth which has seen the company successfully deliver a significant number of substantial projects. Founded 12 years ago, Hale specialises in complex, high quality residential, heritage and commercial work, partnering architects to help make their vision a reality. The new monochrome look is minimalist in design, creating a simple and effective brand identity. Founder and director, Christian Hale, explains, "We felt the business had progressed in recent years and our brand identity didn't really reflect us. We are all about attention to detail, managing complex builds and maintaining quality in all aspects of our work. As a result, our logo and website have been reimagined to create a whole new look that better showcases our values and work."

020 8949 7112 hale.uk

ARCHITECTS' DARLING AWARD for MyLock online configurator from SALTO

The online configurator MyLock from SALTO has won the silver award in the category "Best Product Configurator" at the ARCHITECTS' DARLING AWARDS 2020.

From the experts' point of view, the clear design and intuitive user experience were the main reasons for awarding the SALTO MyLock Configurator a 2020 ARCHITECTS' DARLING AWARD. In addition, they highlighted the immediate display of configuration changes and the ease of user navigation. SALTO MyLock was clearly above the average of all participants in most evaluation categories.

The award was judged by a jury of communication experts and renowned representatives of top international architecture companies and specifiers. In the course of the evaluation, the jury members answered questions about the brand, the "look & feel," "search results," and open questions about "difficulties," "time required," and "personal impressions." An overall mark was derived from this, which formed the basis for the final ranking.

SALTO MyLock enables specifiers, architects, partners, and end users to individually configure SALTO's wire-free electronic door lock components and visualise them on different door types and styles. Users can select a SALTO electronic lock model, door type, and choose from a broad range of colours, finishes, handles and functions.



Configured for easy and simple use via the web or a mobile device, it's also possible to configure accessory products like wall readers and SALTO Space access-controlmanagement software and SALTO KS keys as a service-compatible product ranges also are included.

Whether it's a change model, finish or door type texture, SALTO MyLock users can easily navigate through a menu to make their selection and customize the chosen model as much as possible. Users can choose between



different door standards and technology platforms, like SALTO Space accessmanagement software or the SALTO KS cloud-based solution, and opening mode options like contactless smart card, mobile key or keypad.

Users can also make more than one configuration in a single MyLock session, which allows those looking at electronic lock solutions to configure a variety of door models within a building. Once completed, a MyLock user can preview and download 3D and 2D files, including BIM files, in a variety of industry formats.

The renowned ARCHITECTS' DARLING AWARDS have been awarded by Heinze GmbH for ten years. This year, the awards were judged in 25 product areas, from flooring to technical products. In addition, 12 theme awards were evaluated by a jury. Categories here included "Best Website," "Best Product Innovation," and, new this year, "Best Product Configurator."

mylock.saltosystems.com

SALTO inspiredaccess

TT Pumps gains ISO 14001:2015 during lockdown

The environment has always been important to T-T as much of its business is involved with pumping drainage and effluents, so the environment is of paramount importance. The company is very fortunate in being located in a rural location at Woore, South Cheshire on a 6-acre site with more than half the site being green natural space, having a small lake, woodland which being expanded by annual planting of British tree species, a further 250 trees were planted in early 2020.

To endorse the company's environmental ambitions the directors felt that it was appropriate to gain ISO14001.

The initial plan of getting full ISO14001 for early 2020 was put into total disarray by the Coronavirus epidemic, so much of the work had already been done during 2019 it was disappointing that completion would be delayed.

After some discussion with LRQA it was realised that not all was lost and that



much of the final qualification could be done remotely. During early 2020 much of the detailed work was completed, only necessitating one surveillance visit to complete the process allowing T-T to gain the valued accreditation in the summer of 2020.

The accreditation will allow the company to continue with its environmental policy

while helping meet environmental regulations, improve efficiency and environmental performance.

Big thanks to LRQA for their positive attitude in helping T-T gaining this important accreditation.

01630-647200 www.ttpumps.com

Concord by Sylvania joins Made in Britain



Concord by Sylvania has joined the Made in Britain[®] organisation. Highly respected architectural lighting brand, Made in Britain brings together the British manufacturing community, united

by the registered collective mark, which has protected status and can only be used by members. Concord focuses on delivering lighting solutions to meet the needs of architects and lighting designers. Its innovative portfolio is one of the most comprehensive on the market, encompassing track and spot, downlights, ambient lighting, recessed and linear solutions for a variety of application segments.

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resultant detail satisfies ventilation and damp control measures demanded within the Building Regulations.

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New sales & marketing personnel



Domus Ventilation has appointed two new members to the ever growing team, Russell Beardsworth as specification sales manager for the Midlands/North England, and Megan Bennett as senior marketing executive. Russell's experience as both a project and key

account manager at Xpelair and Vortice, and his work in developing the latter's specification range, made him an ideal candidate for Domus Ventilation. Megan may be new to the ventilation industry, but her marketing skills are tried and tested. Megan has spent the last eleven years in various marketing roles.

www.domusventilation.co.uk

Norbord helps create dream homes



Creator of beautiful dream homes, GMDL is a family-run architecture and construction company which features **Norbord** products in most of its projects. This impressive building features marketleading CaberDek which has a tough, waterproof and slip-resistant film. This protects the panels for up to 42 days –

from laying the flooring to fixing the roof when laid in accordance with fitting instructions using CaberFix Pro. SterlingOSB Zero OSB 3 was used for the walls, timber frame kit, roof and internal racking.

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Cool ideas for waterproofing

Victoria Ramwell of Kemper System offers specification advice on the versatile cold-applied liquid waterproofing method for residential properties

A key theme throughout the roofing sector and the construction industry as a whole as we enter a new year is the push towards some form of normality. The Government's plans unveiled in 2020 to "build back better" are keenly focused on housing, particularly new build projects, and this is where liquid waterproofing really comes into its own.

Its versatility means that liquid waterproofing can be specified and installed onto a range of substrates used in the housing sector, and tackle many different project challenges, including new-build developments.

Liquid specification

The development of any residential scheme requires adequate planning to ensure budget and time constraints are adhered to – not to mention the safety implications and potential disruption for any nearby residents.

Many, if not all liquid solutions can be applied not only to a roofing area, but also balconies and walkways. It can also be used within a built-up roof system such as a green or blue roof, and offer easy application around areas which have lots of outlets, such as air conditioning and ventilation units or plants.

This versatility is why liquids are one of the fastest growing solutions in the flat roofing sector. Within a housing setting, this characteristic is key, as there can be a number of complex application areas which cold-applied liquids can tackle with ease as they are roller and /or brush applied with minimal equipment needed on site.

If specifying a liquid system, take the time to research which is most suitable for your project. Consider requirements such as compliance with Building Regulations, for example fire resistance, or specific performance characteristics – including the compatibility of the surfaces to be waterproofed, ability to withstand substrate movement, and resistance to damage from anticipated load levels or trafficking.



Independent product accreditation is used to effectively communicate conformity and suitability, so it is advisable to research the manufacturer's current product certification. An example is BBA certification, but there are others.

Beware of specification switching

As we know, specification switching can sometimes happen during housing projects because of budget or time constraints. Maintaining the specification on a project is often difficult, yet the implications of not In a housing setting, there can be a number of complex application areas which cold-applied liquids can tackle with ease





doing so can cause a single product or even an entire system to fail – therefore raising liability issues.

Consider the client's needs as well as the long-term performance requirements for the job. A specifier will often choose a system they have used before and work with the same contractors. However, the main contractor and their preferred subcontractors may then propose to use alternative products to the specifier.

Specifying a complete system from a single-source supplier offers peace of mind. The products specified will be matched for their compatibility, and come with the appropriate guarantees and warranties. Where liquid waterproofing and warm roof systems are concerned, switching just one element of a specification can not only create problems onsite during installation, but may also affect U-value and fire performance, alter the roof design, increase condensation risk and compromise the suitability of individual products. The entire project could be put at risk.

Rather than looking at component cost cutting, the right system choice needs to be made for the end client, and to protect the credibility and reputation of the roofing contractor. The long-term benefits of specifying a complete and proven product system are priceless.

There are many benefits of choosing a cold-applied liquid waterproofing system for flat roof repairs, and with the right application, this can ensure a sustainable refurbishment to serve a community for many years to come.

Case study: Beaufort Park

A recent example where liquid waterproofing was successfully specified and installed into a new-build residential scheme was the Beaufort Park scheme in north west London. A development by St George, part of the Berkeley Group, the scheme includes hundreds of new homes, health and fitness facilities, landscaped gardens, as well as shops, bars and restaurants.

Kemper System's Kemperol V210M was used for for five apartment blocks, comprising a total of 363 homes. It was specified to provide high-performance waterproofing on the roof of each building as well as terrace areas and a second-floor podium, which will be used as a communal courtyard.

Victoria Ramwell is marketing manager at Kemper System





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Exciting new innovations from Simpson Strong-Tie

Despite the unprecedented nature of 2020 the construction industry remains robust, and we've been working hard to bring you exciting new innovations across our product ranges.

In January our Connectors for Timber and Masonry Construction catalogue



introduced the new Gable Panel Connector, a high movement timber frame tie, decorative and heavy duty post bases and an adjustable mini hanger.

Our mascot Rusty advised customers that building requirements only advocate the use of austenitic stainless steel or PVCu beads in UK external rendering applications, not galvanised.

In March we introduced our Premium Fasteners range; Europe's leading range of superior nails and screws, with structural options, including the new the SSH screw for use with connectors where high load capability is required, and a choice of superior stainless steel fasteners.

The range also features our Quik Drive collated fastening system, now available with a lifetime warranty, launched with a viral video game style feature on social media that saw almost 2 million views.

In May we published our Connectors & Fasteners for Cross Laminated Timber



Construction catalogue featuring new structural angle brackets, hold downs, concealed beam hangers, and a timber frame Quik Drive solution.

Autumn saw the release of our popular Building Safer Structures CPD webinar, followed by our Light Gauge Steel catalogue. Included in the range is the brand new LGSSC Splicing Clip, designed to connect the over–sail LGS studs to the primary structure, and the new RCKW Parapet Wall Bracket, designed to resist an over-turning moment at the base of exterior knee-walls and parapets.

"It's been an exciting year, with the launch of new products across our ranges" explains sales director Jon Head. "Coupled with new catalogues and first rate technical and customer support, we have everything you need to build safer, stronger structures."

01827 255600 www.strongtie.co.uk



Safe & sustainable solutions for combustible balconies

-Rated external flooring specialists, Alfresco Floors, are set to be part of a nation-wide initiative to replace combustible balconies on high-rise residential properties with their innovative, time-saving solutions.

As work gets underway to replace combustible cladding on residential buildings, high-rise balconies are also facing scrutiny due to the continued use of flammable materials such as timber, composite and plastic pedestals. The use of such materials is having a profound impact on those living within these buildings – with property valuations plummeting, leaving homeowners significantly out of pocket, living in – what some describe as – a 'fire-trap'.

With over 450,000 flats said to be impacted, many are suggesting that the industry needs to act quickly in order to rectify the 'mistakes of the past'. The scandal, which has left families with repair bills of up to £115,000, threatens to wreck the housing market as a whole, with the flats becoming unsellable.

To facilitate this growing need for safe and compliant solutions for use in high-rise residential properties, external flooring specialists, Alfresco Floors, have launched their latest non-combustible paving and decking systems, AR-Deck & AR-Pave.

Manufactured in the UK, the 100 per cent aluminium systems are comprised of a fully adjustable pedestal and joist subframe with a built-in slope corrector. Its aim is to significantly speed up installation time, while providing specifiers with a fully A-rated solution in very short lead times. A spokesperson for Alfresco Floors commented, "Many residential refurbishments will be driven by efficiency: delivering quick, safe solutions to homeowners and their families in what has been an extremely stressful time. The use of high-quality, non-combustible flooring systems such as the AR-Deck & AR-Pave will be invaluable in ensuring excellent results in a short period of time."

The AR-Deck and AR-Pave systems allows specifiers to incorporate a variety of Alfresco Floors' Class A-Rated surface options, including aluminium deckboards, Italianmade porcelain tiles and concrete paving, ensuring a competitively-priced, A-Rated paving and decking solution without



compromising on style – a key message that the team are keen to promote.

Aluminium is fast becoming one of the more sought-after materials for use in a range of construction applications due to its strength, versatility and seriously green credentials. The AR-Deck system has its own range of aluminium deckboards and is one of the only systems of its kind that can claim fully A-Rated compliance. The unique nonslip coating of the deckboards means that other materials - such as rubber - do not need to be applied to the surface, allowing the AR-Deck to maintain its Class A certification. Qualicoat-approved powder-coating provides a hard-wearing scratch-free finish, available in three stock colours. It can also be supplied in any RAL colour, offering a safe, sustainable solution that will complement any scheme.

For architects and specifiers, AR-Pave can be seen at Domus' London W1 showroom, showcasing the system with external porcelain tiles.

Alfresco Floors, which is the sister company to The Outdoor Deck Company and Buzon UK Ltd, have been at the forefront of fire-related products, producing an e-Book on product requirements for A-rated external flooring, running CPDs for architects and landscape professionals, and offering full technical site-specific advice.

All three companies share a long and well-

respected track record in the industry, with over 20 years` experience in the design, supply and installation of commercial and domestic exterior floors, all over the UK.

Collectively, the trio of companies specialise in hard landscaping systems which feature a variety of surfaces and support technologies, including both A and B firerated systems.

On discussing the recent changes in regulation as a result of the ban on combustible cladding, Managing Director, Mike Wilderink, comments, "We identified a huge gap in the UK supply chain to the UK construction industry for a quality fire-rated external flooring system that would meet the new 2019 edition 'Approved Document B' - Building Regulations for England".

The launch of Alfresco Floors' Euroclass Fire-Rated system - and their wide variety of Class A-Rated external flooring products comes at a time when non-combustible materials are a crucial component of any high-rise project.

If you are working on a residential refurbishment or would like any further information on the AR-Deck & AR-Pave system or any other Class A-Rated external flooring solutions, please visit the website.

020 8977 0904 info@alfrescofloors.com www.alfrescofloors.com

PURE – Less is more

LUCOBOND[®] is extending its naturAL surface series to include the new decor PURE. A surface for purists, futurists and creative thinkers. PURE is exactly what its name suggests: cool, matt silver aluminium, without surface texture and without mirror effects. Aluminium, the same lightweight metal used to create aircraft, vehicles and space dreams. PURE not only evokes eventful past and present utopias, it also provides inspiration for a new utopia in the future.

ALUCOBOND® naturAL PURE has a matt, untextured surface which reflects a mellow and smooth light. This light makes curves and soft contours in PURE appear particularly sleek and powerful. So, PURE is the ideal option to underline the dynamic form of a structure, its engineering or its users' future orientation. Perfect for stand-alone buildings and for free-form expanses on iconic facades, PURE is also just right for subtle, delicate or small-scale applications.

As PURE is untextured and achromatic, there is endless scope for combining it with other materials. It blends well with patterned, textured surfaces such as grey weathered timber or wood grain, exposed aggregate concrete, dark matt bricks or rugged natural stone. PURE develops a reassuring strength in conjunction with the contrasting textures.



Incidentally, the strength PURE demonstrates is not limited to design; it is also strong in physical terms. ALUCOBOND® composite panels naturAL are resistant to weathering, erosion and corrosion. They are also largely scratch and acid resistance. So, ALUCOBOND® naturAL PURE not only looks futuristic and dynamic, but also remains powerful and durable long into the future.

Paul Herbert, Sales Manager 07584 680262 Richard Geater, Specification Manager 07584 680263 www.alucobond.com



TECHNAL systems used at new Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park



The first Enterprise Zone office development at Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP) features **TECHNAL** aluminium curtain walling made from Hydro CIRCAL® 75R, which uses a minimum of 75 per cent post-consumer recycled aluminium, the façade contributes to reducing the building's carbon footprint and its BREEAM Very Good rating. The TECHNAL team were approached by Wates Construction to offer specification solutions that would suit the aesthetics and technical requirements of the project. Designed around a central core with a linking wing either side, TECHNAL MX Grid curtain wall spans vertically. The facade also incorporates the company's FY65 casement windows, and Stormframe STII doors. TECHNAL is part of the Hydro Group, a world leader in aluminium solutions. TECHNAL is part of the Hydro Group, a world leader in aluminium solutions. TECHNAL is part of the Hydro Group, is shaping a sustainable future, with innovative products that satisfy and surpass customer expectations, in line with demands of CSR and increasing environmental regulations.

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Marble-mosaics across Cinque Port self-build



A strikingly modern residential property in one of Kent's most famous coastal towns is making articulate use of **Marmox** Multiboards as part of its cladding solution, around both the inside of an elevated balcony terrace, as well as across the main entrance elevation. The

 3600 ft^2 four-bedroom self-build on Cliff Road in Hythe has been constructed for Gerald Glover using a high performance SIP system to create a series of rectangular elements, stepping down the steeply sloping site; with natural, Multicolour Slate Split Face slips, other cladding materials surrounding the runs of triple glazing.

01634 835290 www.marmox.co.uk

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New Unity A1 fire rated cladding system



The continued fire risks associated with high rise developments, has seen specialist cladding manufacturer **Metalline**, develop a new (A1 Fire Rated to EN 13501-1) non-combustible solid aluminium cladding panel. Entitled Unity their A1 panel is ideal for both new build and as a replacement for buildings currently fitted

with non-compliant ACM, HPL and timber cladding. The new rainscreen panel is functional with exceptional mechanical properties including strength, durability and fire-resistance.

01543 456 930 www.metalline.co.uk

Sto helps create striking appearance



The centre-piece of a redevelopment scheme on Merseyside has been given a striking appearance thanks to a comprehensive facade solution supplied by **Sto**. The Roscoe building in the Greenbank Student Village at the University of Liverpool was completed with the installation of

5,500 m² of StoVentec R ventilated rainscreen cladding, and finished with the unique Sto Lotusan external render. "We have completed dozens of projects using Sto products over very many years, but this has to be the most successful and best-looking of them all," says Steve McGowan of Precision Facades who installed the Sto system.

0141 892 8000 www.sto.co.uk



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The art of render

Strong colours, silicone technology, textured effects and brick slip combinations – James Ormerod of Aliva UK sets out the 'art of the possible' with insulated render

hen looking for a cost-effective cladding option that can be applied quickly and easily, architects can often opt for external wall insulation (EWI). But, rather than being considered a cladding 'common denominator,' reliable insulated render systems can create colourful, stylish exteriors that stand the test of time and stand up to the elements.

Contemporary tones, bold colours, bespoke pantone colour matches and selfcleaning technology mean EWI is enjoying a new coming of age. Used as a standalone finish or in combination with brick slip ranges, the choices available today show just how sleek, vibrant and contemporary insulated render can be. That's alongside exemplary thermal credentials that complement buildings across a swathe of sectors from retail, residential, hospitality, education through to leisure.

Energy-conscious

Given that more than a third of the heat in any building is lost through its walls, high-quality insulated render can deliver a crisp, contemporary finish for any energy-conscious building project.

EWI meets modern thermal requirements, while providing beautiful, weatherproof and long-lasting finishes for external walls. Whether it is being used on a new build or a refurbishment, there will be a render type and colour to fit the project. From gentle hues or pastel shades through to vibrant accent colours and bespoke colour matches, the right, UV-stable compositions are possible with today's EWI systems.

Contemporary tones, bold colours, bespoke pantone colour matches and selfcleaning technology mean EWI is enjoying a new coming of age



Equally important in the current landscape, EWI systems with Euro Class A and B fire performance that complies with current Building Regulations as well as insurance standards, alongside BBA certification and using suppliers with INCA membership.

Design textures

Today's EWI systems can be used to mimic a range of 'texture' designs, decorative surfaces and textured coatings with high aesthetic value for contemporary, unique and entirely customised projects.

Texture aesthetics available include: corten, washed cement, brushed concrete, urban and wood effect, Travertine, streaked, crushed, matt sandblasted and glitter sandblasted effects. Texture design finishes that can be applied to substrates include cement-based plaster, painted plaster, lime-based plaster and paint, exposed reinforced concrete, precast concrete features and panels, gypsum and fibre cement walls and features, after previous treatment where necessary.





Today's EWI systems can be used to mimic a range of 'texture' designs, decorative surfaces and textured coatings with high aesthetic value for contemporary, unique and entirely customised projects





Self-cleaning technology

An example of the self-cleaning abilities of insulated render, the 193-bed Holiday Inn Express hotel at Aberdeen Airport specified a silicone option that would not only look stunning but be highly durable. Architects White Ink and the client wanted the building to retain its fresh, sharp and attractive aesthetic. Aberdeen experiences extreme weather conditions, and the hotel is very exposed to the elements. It is also in close proximity to the airport, with all the associated pollution, so the ability to selfclean was an important design requirement.

The silicone allows rainwater to bead on the surface and then run down, taking dirt and grime that would otherwise attach itself to the damp face of the building, with it. The silicone insulated render was also awarded certification from the Fraunhofer Institut fur Bauphysik in Germany for algae and fungus-resistant coatings.

Bold in black

To deliver a cost-effective, visually striking and energy-efficient facade for a 245-bed, four-storey hotel at Gatwick Airport's south terminal, architects Scott Brownrigg specified insulated render in a bold black. A mineral wool insulated render system created a first-class thermal fabric for the walls of the hotel. While the surface was still wet, a tailored alkali-resistant, woven glass fibre mesh was bedded in, before being coated with another layer of mortar and finished off with a trowel-applied continuous layer of silicate coating and a black acrylic top coat for a luxurious look.

As a result of the render's specification, heat does not escape from the walls in winter, and solar gain is minimised in the summer, creating a comfortable environment for hotel guests. The cold pigment finish allows darker colours to reflect heat rather than absorb it.

EWI replicating rainscreen cladding

A desire to achieve a striking rainscreen cladding 'look' on a reduced budget at Fabrick House in Cheadle saw a novel EWI approach deployed. The dilapidated 1960s office block, undergoing a conversion into a modern apartment building, saw an insulated render system installed but with textured finishes to replicate a rainscreen cladding aesthetic.

Clean blue and white tones and a dark banding effect achieved the desired visual impact, while simultaneously meeting current U-values for the external walls. Opting for an EWI system rather than a bespoke rainscreen panel system reduced the programme timeline, while also mitigating any risk around external cavities; including potential for moisture ingress over the longer term.

The proximity of the West Coast mainline, only 20 metres from the building, meant high acoustic values would be key to comfortable living and these were achieved alongside all standard regulatory requirements. The system achieves A2-s1 d0 fire rating and therefore complies with Building Regulations for buildings over 18 metres in height.

EWI/brick slip combinations

Architects can 'dream big and dream bold' with EWI and brick slip solutions, which offer versatility, adaptability and cost effectiveness where insulated render is combined with clay, lightweight, stone and ceramic slips for example.

EWI can be combined with a range of brick slip solutions to realise bespoke brick slip design with scale and scope rather than watering down architectural aspiration due to cost parameters. Facade specialists well versed in Modern Methods of Construction can advise on weight and support systems, through to the cost efficiency that EWI and brick slip solutions can offer.

A combination of EWI and clay slips were deployed at St Vincent's, a modern, six-storey student accommodation block in Sheffield. The design by HCD Architects required a system that had to be flexible enough to accommodate a stepped feature to the masonry facade. A solution using EWI and two thicknesses of clay slips – 15 mm and 25 mm – created a stepped detail in line with the architect's design intent.

Delivery of the works had to take into account the proximity of neighbouring 19th Century, Grade-II Listed St Vincent's Church which has been fully refurbished as a communal student facility within the overall site development.

The project was highly commended in the Architectural Design category at the 2019 Insulated Render and Cladding Association Awards. The judges were particularly impressed because they felt that it set a good example for the future of EWI. They also recognised the challenges that can occur when working so closely to a listed building.

James Ormerod is managing director at Aliva UK

The past, present and future of innovation



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line in Europe for more than 25 years. Soltherm is engineering led with a R&D department unique to the EWI industry. With an ongoing commitment to innovation and improvement it has produced a fully certified A1 fire rated system using fire safe technology and have a 75 year approved system to name but a few. This along with the company's in house expertise on funding and technical support team.

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ROCKWOOL® supports contractors in managing flat roofs fire risk



With roofs maintaining their prominent role in contemporary building design, **ROCKWOOL** has released a new whitepaper exploring how roofing contractors and specifiers can manage fire risk when planning and installing flat roofs. The 'Flat Roofs: Managing fire risk in the fifth facade' report addresses misconceptions around testing protocols and material fire classification ratings, plus examines the worrying rise in roof fires and the resulting social and economic impact. The whitepaper, which is available to download at www.rockwool.co.uk/fifthfacade then outlines specification best practice for flat roof insulation and how to futureproof the complete building envelope in line with expected changes to Building Regulations. To complement its new whitepaper, ROCKWOOL has also developed an accompanying CPD module that expands subjects detailed in the report and delivers a greater depth of education. The module also outlines its range of non-combustible stone wool insulation products that are compatible with a variety of modern flat roof systems.

01656 868 490 www.rockwool.co.uk/fifthfacade

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Senior makes a grand entrance



Senior Architectural Systems' slimline aluminium curtain walling and its strongest aluminium commercial door systems to date have helped create a fenestration package that is more than fit for purpose at a new leisure centre in Bristol. Senior supplied both

its SF52 aluminium curtain wall system and high-performance PURe[®] Commercial Door for use at the David Lloyd Leisure Centre in Emmerson Green, Bristol. The slimline SF52 aluminium curtain wall system was the ideal choice for creating the centre's attractive facade and to help maximise the use of natural light in the interior design.

www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk

Membranes prove a safe choice



High performance membranes from the **A. Proctor Group** have been selected in the construction of the new Dean Hotel in Cork, Ireland. The 114 bed hotel with rooftop restaurant is just part of an impressive major rejuvenation scheme across a 6 acre site at Horgan's Quay, which will include

apartments, offices, bars, and restaurants. Instead of using a traditional internal air barrier, Wraptite, a self adhesive, vapour permeable, airtight membrane, was applied externally, quickly and easily as part of the rainscreen system. In addition, Procheck FR200 was selected as a fire retardant vapour control layer on the project.

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flueless fire technology

Hot and sophisticated

Steve Birch of Vogue (UK) discusses how the market for radiators and towel warmers has become increasingly sophisticated, and how greater attention is being paid to the look as well as the functionality of heating solutions

In a world where personalisation is becoming an increasing part of the shopping experience, consumers are becoming more open to exploring the advantages of having customised heating solutions. However if they are 'going bespoke' it should be positioned as optimising end user comfort and adding value to their property, and this may be what helps 'seal the deal.'

With much uncertainty present around the economy, many consumers will be inclined to invest in their properties in 2021, so bespoke heating options can be a good way to add personality and flair to a bathroom as well as serving a practical purpose. A timeless contemporary or traditional design can be co-ordinated with existing bathroom fixtures and fittings, for example, or a bespoke finish can add a welcome splash of colour into a room without detracting from the rest of the suite. Although RAL colour matching is well-known for decoration projects and is also entering consumer consciousness with premium bath tubs, it may be something an end client had not previously encountered in terms of heating, but it can transform bathroom decor.

Many manufacturers have found that extending the range of finishes available has led to increased creativity in heating design which helps to ensure that the bathroom has an attractive spa-like ambience rather than a clinical feel. This can be a concern for example if a classic white suite is not carefully augmented with organic elements. Warm metallic or iridescent finishes are a subtle way of injecting colour into the bathroom, and it is likely that will be seeing more of these in 2021, as consumers continue to enjoy more choices.

Another point to consider is that as the desirability of having more than one bathroom or ensuite in a house increases, there will be a corresponding need for more bathroom heating and towel warmers.







This opens the door to more individuality in bathroom designs, especially if they are being designed with particular end users in mind. Therefore, bespoke options could include different colours or finishes on the same model throughout the house so that there is a common thread without it feeling overly uniform.

Trends predict the monochromatic shades of white, grey and black will continue to top the charts and undergo constant reinvention, thanks to new and special finishes being introduced such as iridescent and/or weathered finishes. You can also get the best of both worlds with metallics in 2021 by embracing both warm and cool metals – independently and in combination – alongside colour matched heating controls, valves, brackets and fixtures.

Bespoke heating options can be a helpful way of adding personality and flair to a bathroom

Antique Bronze and Polished Gold, alongside matt and satin lacquered finishes, are going to help define the look of towel warmers and radiators, creating a showpiece in the room that can compete with the latest interior designs.

Other key trends to be aware of is consumers' desire for something extra special which will enhance their quality of life with minimal effort. Be sure to highlight foldaway storage rails, mirrors and remote control functions to make modern life easier. It's true that this sort of attention to detail does need to be priced in, but when the end user is going to reap the benefits every day, the cost per use is really quite negligible.

A helpful way of bridging the gap between the perception of highly priced bespoke products and off-the-peg heating is the ability to offer 'custom-made' solutions. This is something that some manufacturers offer across their standard portfolio, which allows for quick modification of existing models in terms of design and construction. This win-win solution helps the end user save money while achieving a 'luxury look for less' and reaping the benefits of an enhanced amount of choice and a greater level of personalised customer service. Clients will also be satisfied that 'custom-made' products are held to the same exacting standards as everything bespoke, as our highly skilled craftsmen and designers advise clients on all the elements of design, like style, material, finish and practical requirements.

Other bespoke services include corrosion-resistant materials, 90° from wall positioning and floor to ceiling fixing, through to gravity fed system modifications and concealed hot water/electrical connections, through to factory pre-setting, low surface temperatures, and low voltage adaptations to name a few.

Attention to detail and putting the customer at the heart of their heating project, remains the key to really understanding market needs. Having the ability to offer tailor-made products is a great point of difference in today's competitive bathroom market.

Steve Birch is sales director at Vogue (UK)

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energy consumption and carbon emissions were key considerations for this project, and AET Flexible Space's underfloor air conditioning system was selected for its low environmental impact and high efficiency. AET's CAM-C (floor supply, low level return) system was identified as the most suitable AC solution and subsequently specified.

01342 310400 www.flexiblespace.com

Significant interest in heat pumps



Over the past twelve months LG has seem huge interest in its Therma V air to water heat pump range that will only increase after the recent announcement by the Prime Minister. There have been a number of new additions to the range including the new R32 versions of the Therma V Monobloc – of particular interest as these can be installed without the need of

having F-Gas qualifications. Heat pumps offer a well-established, proven renewables technology.

08448 471 402 www.lg.com/uk/heating-awhp

Panasonic's Aquarea heat pumps awarded



Panasonic Heating & Cooling Solutions is pleased to announce that several units from the Aquarea range have been granted a Keymark certification, recognising the high standard of the heat pumps. Aquarea J Generation R32 Monobloc, Bi-bloc and All-in-One have received Keymark

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North East Working Men's Club protected



Newbottle Working Men's Club have had their heating systems protected ahead of the winter months with the help of Enright Environmental Ltd. and **BoilerMag**. Building services engineers Enright Environmental Ltd. installed new pumps and redesigned the pipework in the plant room to include a BoilerMag XL protecting the boilers from

the years of sludge already in the system. The BoilerMag XL magnetic filter is ideal for medium-sized commercial properties and prevents the build-up of ferrous oxide and scale in central heating systems, reducing energy bills and increasing boiler life.

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Rocking the bathroom with statement washbasins from Kaldewei

Addewei as well as being a leading brand in the bathroom industry is also renowned for its green stance; helping the environment with its support of the WWF and with it their own sustainable policies and practices.

It was this stance that drew the attention of legendary rock star and photographer Bryan Adams, "If we take our responsibility towards each other and our environment seriously, we can see we are all naturally connected and have a responsibility to look after each other and our planet." says the photographer.

With this in mind a unique collaboration between Bryan Adams and Kaldewei evolved into the project "Natural Union". With his empathetic and professional vision, Adams photographed the 2021 washbasin collection; the charismatic images are emotionally charged with a strong message.

"Everyday actions such as washing your hands have never been more important" this



message highlights the concept behind the campaign, which features hands of all ages, sexes and nationalities coming together under running water, over the exquisite new Ming and colourful Miena washbasins.

The Ming and Miena Steel Enamel Washbasins

The new Ming washbasin is the embodiment of subtle sophistication forming an elegant silhouette, whether for the minimalist bathroom or more imaginative spaces.



Miena invigorates the bathroom with a totally new colour palette of blue and violet hues creating a perfect statement piece. The Kaldewei steel enamel used to create the washbasin is made up of a percentage of recycled steel enamel and is 100 per cent recyclable too. Creating a stylish environmental statement for any bathroom – #NaturalUnion.

01480 498053 www.kaldewei.co.uk

P C Henderson's sliding door hardware specified for luxury hotel in Shanghai



P C Henderson's sliding door hardware has recently been specified for a luxury hotel built within Shanghai's new National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) in China. Built in 2019, the Intercontinental Shanghai Hongqiao NECC features 536 rooms across 10 floors and is the only hotel to be located within the NECC. The hotel boasts many luxurious features including a fitness spa and wellness centre, a grand ballroom and a signature restaurant which offers an array of international cuisines. The design brief required a sliding door system for each of the 536 rooms to create a partition wall between the bathroom and bedroom. A range of P C Henderson's sliding door hardware systems were specified for the project including 504 Husky Sliding systems for the standard guest bedrooms and 85 Husky Telescopic systems for the hotels executive rooms. A sliding door system was also required for the hotel's lobby to separate the reception desk and lounge area. The Straight Sliding 301 industrial hardware was identified as the ideal system for this part of the project. P C Henderson's range of sliding door hardware is becoming increasing popular within the international hotel market.

0191 377 7345 www.pchenderson.com

Transforming walls with the Lloyd collection



Bringing walls to life through colour and pattern, the new Lloyd collection from **CTD Architectural Tiles** is guaranteed to add a wow-factor to residential, commercial and hospitality projects. Providing a decorative ornate finish, the chevron shape and pattern of the tiles

provides specifiers and designers with the freedom to be creative and invigorate spaces in a sophisticated and elegant manner. A versatile product, the flared reliefs and fluted profiles provide an additional standout feature, setting it apart from other chevron ranges.

0800 021 4835 www.ctdarchitecturaltiles.co.uk

A game changer amongst smart taps



Unique to the market is **BLANCO's** new easy to use, 4-in-1 water-saving boiling water tap, the EVOL-S Pro Hot and Filter. Boasting the revolutionary EVOL rotary dial, allowing you to set precisely the amount of filtered boiling or filtered cold water you choose. The Pro Hot

and Filter 4-in1 tap joins the EVOL-S family alongside the 3-in-1 Pro Filter and the original EVOL-S Volume mixer with pull-out spray. The EVOL-S Pro Hot and Filter is a stunning semi-professional mixer tap, in stainless PVD steel finish, which delivers standard hot and cold water with two spray options via the mixer lever on the right.

www.blanco.co.uk

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www.lowheightdrain.co.uk

Happiness is Secure Access with SALTO

Boutique office company, Office Space in Town, has selected Opem Security to install SALTO Systems to provide access control for its newest serviced office development in London, Blackfriars.

The company offers businesses and individuals flexible workspace solutions, providing serviced offices, co-working space, meeting rooms and virtual offices in London, Cardiff, Northampton, and Edinburgh.

What did they need?

Affectionately named the 'Happiness' building, this vibrant and quirky, new serviced office development is located in Tudor Street in the heart of London's prestigious Midtown district. The building has undergone an extensive £8.5 million refurbishment that has transformed it into affordable uniquely themed, high-spec luxury offices intended to help boost productivity and wellness in a professional, HQ quality standard office – created

for those who appreciate style with a twist.

The building now incorporates over 475 workstations split over five floors, each with its own individual colour treatment. The building also boasts nine individually designed meeting rooms – each based upon the theme of 'what makes you happy' ranging from a quirky hot air balloon designed room, through to an aquatic haven, deep down 'under the sea'.

It is also the first building in the UK to feature Clear View Dynamic Glass – intelligent, electrochromic windows that automatically tint to maximise natural light and reduce heat and glare. The building also boasts the most-up to date technology, enabling it to achieve a Wired Score rating of Platinum, high standard soundproofing and individually controlled air conditioning, to support clients' growth and business needs.

Sara Chewidden, chief operating officer (COO) for Opem Security says, "Right from the start of this project, the client wanted to incorporate the latest technology into the development. This meant that security for the building also had to be top notch, and that the access control system chosen had to be a technologically modern locking solution that would satisfy the needs of both the business and its users."

"It had to be wire free with no cabling requited for network points etc alongside the requirement to be able to grant access rights instantly and revoke them in real-time if and when required. An audit-trail overview of who accessed which door at which time together with easy installation completed the requirements. So, after a site survey and listening to how the customer wanted to operate and manage the building we recommended SALTO as the best product to fit the brief."

Solution

SALTO's SPACE Smart access control technology platform is a fully integrated



electronic locking and software solution that bring seamless access to every door in any building in an efficient, safe and secure accessible way.

It's tailored to the customer's needs and building operating requirements and designed to give users ultimate freedom of choice regarding system layout, type and number of access points as well as level of security. It enables users to incorporate the functionalities they need now, and upgrade accordingly as and when their needs grow.

Security risks related to lost keys are completely eliminated and system operators can manage every door and user access plan from powerful web-based management software. Both staff and customers can open doors with convenient and flexible credentials; smart key card or by smart phone if required. There are no costs from lock replacement caused by lost keys, which saves valuable time and resources across the organisation.

The result

The new security system is now installed, with a total of 88 doors across a mix of communal doors, offices, meeting rooms and exit doors secured by XS4 Original narrow body smart handle sets and SALTO wall readers.

Controlling access plays an important role in the security of any building and SALTO's Innovative, wire-free technology allows stand-alone electronic locks to read, receive and write information via their operating smart cards. And, if the client chooses, they can also incorporate the use of JustIN Mobile technology making it easy and secure to incorporate smart phones as a part of their access control solution.

Office Space in Town's developments director, Simon Eastlake, comments, "From initial investigation through to building wide deployment, Opem Security have provided an excellent service. SALTO now provides us with a robust future proof access control solution that allows for the integration for third party systems as well as wireless doors and mobile tech as we wish."

Jason Pelham, founder and chief executive officer (CEO) for Opem Security concludes, "The combination of the SALTO SPACE platform together with competent engineers and clarity of direction from such a professional client ensured this project was a pleasure to work on. The installation was straightforward and this ensured we delivered the project on time and fully met Office Space in Town's security expectations."

SALTO Systems revolutionized access





control with the introduction of the SALTO Virtual Network SVN data-on-card technology and the battery-operated wire-free electronic lock range in 2001. For nearly 20 years SALTO has been synonymous with innovative solutions, including stand-alone, cloud-based and mobile applications that set new standards in security, manageability, flexibility and design that bring real-world benefits to virtually any type of door. Across a broad range of industries and

applications, SALTO is widely recognized as a global market leader in electronic access control solutions.

01926 811979 www.saltosystems.com/en



Polyflor brings minimalist style to eco home

Imagine owning a house with no CO₂ internal spaces that could be easily producing gas supply that generates maintained. Fitted in a traditional straight energy so efficiently that you receive laid pattern, the oak-style floor brings back more in rebates than you are charged for the electricity you consume. This may seem like fiction but for David and Gill Jay it is a reality. Through a combination of careful design and innovative technology, their home achieves a very high SAP rating of 97, meaning it costs less to run than its current annual energy rebate.

The open-plan layout is flooded with natural light and includes a spacious living area and stylish kitchen diner which can be separated off with sliding dividers. The areas feature a monochrome palette of whites, blacks and greys supported with natural materials. In keeping with this, Polyflor's Colonia Wood PUR Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) collection was specified for the floors throughout this main living area in neutral Nordic White Oak.

Colonia Wood PUR fitted naturally within the design brief to create clean Scandinavian charm to the home and is both soft and warm underfoot. Colonia features a textured surface which captures the look and feel of real wooden flooring but is far simpler to clean and care for over time.

Integral to this hard-wearing design is a durable wear layer which offers lasting protection against dirt, dust, soil and everyday wear and tear, backed with a comprehensive seven year residential guarantee. Colonia LVT is also designed to handle accidental splashes and temporary surface water, meaning they are more than capable of dealing with the occasional spill or mishap within kitchen or dining areas.

In addition to ensuring their new home is highly energy efficient, the Jays were also keen to use sustainable materials within its construction. Colonia Wood PUR more than



ticked this box. The LVT is manufactured with materials which are responsibly sourced and typically comprise around 40 per cent recycled content. Their low maintenance regime means less water and chemicals are needed to keep the floors in top condition. Colonia is also 100 per cent recyclable. As a result of this environmentally friendly performance, Colonia has been assigned a BRE A rating.

David Jay, homeowner commented, "We are very happy indeed with the quality of the Polyflor flooring. The finished surface looks good and with the right equipment, it is very easy to clean."

0161 767 1111 www.polyflor.com

On the level with Norcros Adhesives



Norcros Adhesives' latest addition to its comprehensive range of levelling products is proving very popular with specifiers and housebuilders. Norcros Pro AF Low Prep Self Smoothing Levelling Compound is an ammonia and latex-free, two-part levelling compound. It is suitable for use on most substrates without the need for priming. Norcros Pro AF Leveller has been specially formulated for use over old adhesive residues including bitumen, historically a problematic material to bond to. There is no need to prime or remove firmly bonded residues. This greatly reduces the time usually required for preparation of the substrate to be levelled. The quick-drying formulation means that ceramic and porcelain tiles can be laid in just three hours. It also acts as a final floor finish for vinyl and other floorcoverings, which can be laid in four hours. Norcros Pro AF Leveller can be used from 0 to 12 mm in one application. With the addition of coarse aggregates, the thickness can be increased to 30 mm. The product is suitable for use in installations incorporating underfloor heating systems. Norcros Pro AF Leveller comes in grey and is supplied in a 20 kg bag. It conforms to CT-C14-F6.

01782 524140 www.norcros-adhesives.com

New London workplace



IVC Commercial has announced a new London workplace at The Gallery Clerkenwell. IVC Commercial at The Gallery Clerkenwell is the manufacturer's new London workplace, providing a meeting point and place to explore its Carpet Tiles, Luxury Vinyl Tiles and Heterogeneous Vinyl solutions. Situated on Great Sutton Street, in the heart of the Clerkenwell district, the workplace sees IVC Commercial share a London locale with decorative surfaces, seating and furniture. David Bigland, managing director, IVC Group, "Our new London workplace gives us a space to welcome architects and designers in the capital within easy reach of their offices." Naturally, the floors of The Gallery Clerkenwell feature solutions from IVC Commercial, so that architects and designers can see the impact of designs such as Studio Moods, the Rudiments and Art Intervention carpet tile collections and Concept 70 compact vinyl. IVC Commercial at The Gallery Clerkenwell will also allow the same-day collection and despatch of samples to London-based practices. "We're excited to launch IVC Commercial at The Gallery Clerkenwell" continues David.

01332 851 500 www.ivc-commercial.com

Sculptural Curves at One Blackfriars

A rmourcoat's Sculptural threedimensional wall finish features in the ground floor foyer at One Blackfriars residential tower in London's South Bank. The building designed by SimpsonHaugh and Partners is a compelling architectural achievement, with a stunning arc of glass taking inspiration from



Sarpaneva's Lansetti II vase.

Inside the building the curves continue with a vast, immaculate resident foyer and lift lobby by London-based luxury interior design studio, Goddard Littlefair. With their signature quality and attention to detail it provides the feeling of a five-star hotel entrance. Armourcoat's seamless 'Fluted' Sculptural design was specified by the studio for the flanking feature walls to provide a sense of scale and grandeur on entering the space.

Sculptural wall designs are created using a combination of traditional hand sculpting and computer aided design to ensure total accuracy during installation while retaining the essence of hand crafting. The panels are mineral based and incorporate up to 30 per cent post-consumer recycled content, are non-toxic and are completely non-combustible. Once the panels are installed each design can be finished in a range of decorative surface finishes.

01732 460668 www.armourcoat.com





Recently released new capping system

Quantum Flooring Solutions has recently released two versions of a new capping system: Slimline Capping and Slimline Cap Cove Combined. These profiles are designed to have a much smaller cap over the vinyl floorcovering join than traditional capping. This reduces the risk of dirt and dust build-up, making the Slimline Range excellent for healthcare environments. It also gives the Capping Strips a cleaner look and finish. The two profiles offer differing options to contractors. The classic style Slimline Capping can be used with Quantum's usual Cove Formers, while the Slimline Combined consists of a singular Cap and Cove profile. This can be fitted quickly and easily with the promise of a clean, professional look. Both profiles are available in six colours, to suit the unobtrusive colour schemes of most healthcare projects. To request a sample of either of these new Slimline Capping Strips, or for any further information, please email.

0161 627 4222 info@quantumflooring.co.uk



Luceco "works out" at The Hornsea Hub!

Luceco has supplied energy efficient LED lighting to new facilities at Hornsea Hub working alongside East Riding Infrastructure & Facilities. East Riding of Yorkshire Council awarded the £7.5 million contract for the redevelopment. ERI&F operate on a commercial basis, delivering and maintaining East Riding of Yorkshire Council's infrastructure and facilities. Hornsea Hub has enjoyed a complete refurbishment and extension of the centre, the new build element included a new Foyer, Library and Cafe with a commercial kitchen on the ground floor and Gym and Dance Studio on the first floor. The refurbishment programme included a Children's & Adult's Centre, Swimming Pool, Squash Courts and Sports Hall. Various luminaires were included in the lighting design, notably flagship fittings, Contour and Platinum. With its stunning two-storey extension, Hornsea Hub will provide a new focal point for the central promenade, the project is part of a wider regeneration programme for the sea front designed to attract more visitors to the area, as well as serving the local community.

01952 238 100 www.luceco.uk

Choose a bespoke staircase service



Spiral UK are a leading staircase manufacturer specialising in spiral, helical and cantilever designs for commercial, fit out and residential projects. Their in-house end to end design, manufacture and install service is tailored to the needs of the customer and ensures excellent

quality, on time and to budget. They recently launched a new staircase design guide full tips on what to consider when planning a staircase. The guide is not only helpful to architects but can help their clients understand what the options are available to them.

0330 123 2447 www.spiral.uk.com/brochures

Creative ceiling design has never been easier



Hunter Douglas Architectural's Tavola Baffle Series combines superior aesthetics with solid engineering standards. A lightweight, yet strong range, it is suitable for multiple building sectors and comes in three designs – Straight, Levels and Divergent. The Tavola

Straight panels work when a simple and clean linear, open ceiling is required, while Levels and Divergent can be used to create a more playful or eye-catching design. Each of the three designs is available in widths of 20, 30, 40 and 50 mm, heights between 50 mm and 300 mm and profiles of up to 5000 mm in length.

01604 648229 www.hunterdouglas.co.uk

The Gallery Clerkenwell opens its doors



Manufacturer of decorative surfaces, UNILIN Panels has opened The Gallery Clerkenwell, a hybrid showroom in the heart of London's A&D district. Bringing together like-minded manufacturers from the worlds of surfaces, flooring, seating and storage, The Gallery Clerkenwell provides a chance to share in a passion for creating beautiful interiors and to discover new products in the world of commercial interior design. From UNILIN Evola and Clicwall to carpet tiles, LVT and vinyl from IVC Commercial, task and conferencing seating from Comfort UK and storage furniture from Silverline; visitors to The Gallery Clerkenwell have access to an impressive display of European made interior products. Designed as a collaborative space where people can come together to create inspiring interiors, The Gallery Clerkenwell brings UNILIN Panels together with partners that each bring something unique to commercial interiors. The mix will help architects and designers to create spaces that embrace modern ways of working, living, relaxing, learning and recovering while meeting the need for affordable and sustainable solutions. The Gallery Clerkenwell is situated on Great Sutton Street.

info.panels@unilin.com www.unilinpanels.com



A guide to bespoke staircases

Antonia Harding of British Spirals and Castings discusses the various factors architects and specifiers need to bear in mind when selecting a bespoke staircase

A staircase provides a key focal point in a property and its design can have a significant bearing not only on how easy it is for occupants to get from floor-to-floor, but also on the arrangement and overall feel of the property. To get the best results, it's worth considering the advantages of a bespoke staircase. While these are more costly than mass produced 'kit' alternatives, they also give specifiers much greater control over the overall dimensions and style of the staircase.

When specifying bespoke staircases, there are a number of aspects to consider.

Style

A standard straight staircase has a long, linear footprint which requires a good amount of available floor space on the lower level. If space is limited, a spiral staircase or kited staircase (a straight staircase with a 90° turn) may be more appropriate, due to their reduced footprint. On the other hand, if you have a larger volume such as a foyer, where space is less of a concern, then a helical staircase (a curved staircase with no central pillar) can help to make a statement.

'Clear width'

The staircase width should also be determined by its end use. A main staircase within a home or a public building will need to be wide enough to allow two or more users to pass each other (typically a 900 mm clear width or more). In contrast, a staircase to a utility space can be much narrower (as little as 600 mm).

The key measure for the width of a staircase is the 'clear width' (also known as the effective width), this is the unobstructed width of the tread. For example, if a staircase has handrails which overhang the treads on both sides, the clear width is measured from the inner face of one handrail to the inner face of the other.

Minimum clear widths are set for different types of staircase within Approved Document K and BS5395 Part II to the Building Regulations (England and Wales)





VERSATILITY

Bespoke staircases, balconies and railings can be manufactured for projects of all sizes

Virtually every element of a staircase can be adapted to achieve your desired look and feel



and Technical Handbook 4 (Scotland). If you are looking for escape staircases, additional guidance can also be found in Approved Document B and Technical Handbook 2 if in Scotland.

'Rise' & 'going'

Setting the pitch of the staircase is a balancing act. Staircases with steeper pitches have a more compact footprint but are also more challenging to climb, making them less suitable for families with young children or for older users.

The angle is set primarily using the 'rise' (the height from the top of one tread to the top of the next) and the 'going' (depth of the tread minus any overlap with the nosing of the next tread). Again, minimum requirements are set within the guidance to the Building Regulations and Standards.

In general, it is recommended that to achieve a comfortable step size, the total measurement of twice the rise plus the going (2R + G) should be between 550 mm and 700 mm and maintain a pitch of below 42°. Once set, the rise and going measurements must be the same along the full length of the staircase.

Railing height & gaps

The baluster/railing needs to be sufficiently high to provide owners with the right level of safety. It is generally recommended a height of at least 900 mm to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations, although 1000 mm may be preferred for taller homeowners or public spaces. In addition, there can be no gaps large enough to allow a 100 mm sphere to pass through on any part of the staircase including the baluster. This means riser bars need to be fitted across open risers and may also prevent recreation of some period designs, for example, where only one spindle may have been used per tread.

A step ahead

Bespoke staircase manufacturers can work with you to refine these key characteristics of the staircase along with the choice of materials, finishes and finer design points.

In practice, virtually every element of a staircase can be adapted to achieve your desired look and feel, from the profile of the tread noses, to the design of spindles. Experienced manufacturers should be able to walk you through the options, for example, discussing the use of open risers or perforated treads to improve light transmission, or how materials such as cast aluminium can provide a lighter alternative to traditional materials such as cast iron – reducing structural requirements.

In addition to traditional drawings, some manufacturers can now provide bespoke 3D CAD services, allowing you to visualise the staircase and make any final adjustments before it is manufactured. The result should be a staircase which fits accurately within the space, and delivers on your design vision.

Antonia Harding is commercial director at British Spirals & Castings








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and availability. Pyroguard Firesafe is manufactured in both the UK and France to effectively service the European and Export markets.

01942 710 720 www.pyroguard.eu/en/fire-glass-products/firesafe

'Futureproof' Britain's oldest high street



All roads lead to Rome, as the saying goes, and that was certainly the plan for Britain's oldest High Street in Colchester, when the Romans settled in England in 43AD. Now these roads, and the paving alongside them, are being made 'futureproof' by Essex County Council, with the use of **Resiblock** Resiecco. Having been

used in High Streets throughout the UK, and even at Europe's longest pedestrian shopping area in Købmagergade, Copenhagen, Resiblock provide paving protection against large volumes of footfall traffic, cleaning regimes and staining from food, drinks and chewing gum.

mail@resiblock.com





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