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FROM THE EDITOR



s the forest fires start to abate across the globe, the climate debate is heating up to an unprecedented level in the UK. It's finally front page news, because it's inconveniencing people directly - as the offshoot of Extinction Rebellion with the unlikely moniker 'Insulate Britain' brings motorways to a halt. And this was before the driver shortage made moving about impossible in various areas, thanks to the queues.

An offshoot of the group's recent actions is bringing the urgency to retrofit our homes to the forefront of people's minds, although perhaps now with added negative connotations due to Insulate Britain's resolutely combative stance. They claim that nearly 15% of the UK's total emissions come from heating homes, and are demanding that the Government produces - in four months - a nationwide, well funded programme to upgrade "almost every house," with the priority given to social housing.

After the failures of the Green Homes Grant and Green Deal, the Government has its work cut out to persuade anyone it is going to deliver on the agenda. New build should be covered by the Future Homes Standard, but when will the Heat and Buildings Strategy on retrofit be published? Despite the frustration, with protesters endangering lives and in turn being labelled 'terrorists,' the level of debate needs to cool down.

Many of us certainly (myself included) take the ability to drive a car for granted, and many become violently angry when that right is threatened. As well as fights over petrol however, battles on motorways over insulation aren't the way forward, despite many of the protesters' doubtless good intentions. Liam Morton, one of Insulate Britain's leaders, recently stormed off Good Morning Britain (I confess, not a show I watch regularly), inadvertently resembling ex-host Piers Morgan. The interviewers were desperate to expose him as a hypocrite, because he apparently couldn't afford to spend £10,000 to insulate his own house. This is effectively poverty-shaming and should be called out as such, despite his unadvisable methods for raising awareness.

Instead, in the year of COP26 and with a climate catastrophe looming, we have to get real about what is going to take to support 'real' people to pay for the upgrades they need. Taxation is going to have to be tweaked not only to pay for the pandemic, but to ensure that the nation's leaky homes are no longer the shame of Europe, when it comes to the climate change agenda.

Unless there is concerted action soon, people are going to feel hopeless as to how to help make a difference as we approach 2050, and global temperatures continue upwards. Grappling with Covid and a fuel crisis, Government still haven't managed to successfully get climate to the top of its agenda, despite the UK about to stage the most critical international climate forum yet, in Glasgow next month. 'cop out' at COP26.

One sure-fire way to reach net zero is to design to Passivhaus standards. Some, such as Lord Deben, have called for all new homes to be Passivhaus. This is clearly fanciful, but in the new Building Insights podcast we have just published, architect Sarah Lewis of the Passivhaus Trust explains just how achievable Passivhaus really is, as a possible way out of our current predicament. Visit architectsdatafile.co.uk to listen to the conversation.

James Parker Editor



ON THE COVER

Zvonarka Bus Terminal in Brno. Czech Republic demonstrates how a light-touch refurbishment can still have major social value results, giving a Communist era relic a new lease of life in the city.

For the full report on this project, go to page 30

AWARD

Shortlist revealed showcasing 2021's best global timber projects



The World Architecture Festival (WAF) has revealed its shortlist of eight timber projects from across the world for the Best Use of Certified Timber award 2021.

The shortlisted entries "push new boundaries in the use of certified timber, in terms of construction, sustainability and aesthetics," said the award organisers. Supported for the third year in a row by Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the award's shortlisted projects were selected from a total of 28 entries from architects and project teams from 13 countries.

This year's shortlisted projects include The Ariake Gymnastics Centre, a purposebuilt venue for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, by Nikken Sekkei and Shimizu Corporation. The 12,000-capacity building is defined by a striking 'wraparound floating vessel' in timber, and extensive use of the material throughout.

Also featured is the largest cross laminated timber (CLT) building in the

United States (and first large-scale mass timber residence hall), Adohi Hall, University of Arkansas by Leers Weinzapfel Associates. They are lead architects for a consortium also including Modus Studio and Mackey Mitchell Architects.

An educational climate centre on the west coast of Denmark designed by 3XN was shortlisted, featuring a 'wave' carved into the facade, clad in light wood, resembling the ribbed hull of a boat. A micro-library designed by Indonesian architects Shau also made the shortlist. A community space constructed from "environmentally conscious materials," it has been designed to serve low-income neighbourhoods.

Also shortlisted was an impressive glulam timber structure by Kirk architects for a research, conservation and visitor centre dedicated to nesting sea turtles on Mon Repos Beach, in Greece.

Daramu House in Barangaroo, Sydney, by Tzannes, has a distinctive sculptural

form which features an 18 metre span in timber, "pushing the limits of timber construction and making it a world leader in sustainability," said the award organisers.

Scion Innovation Hub, Te Whare Nui o Tuteata, is a workplace located on the edge of the redwood forest in Whakarewarewa Forest Park, Rotorua, New Zealand. The exhibition of wood-fibre technology sits beneath a trio of glulam timber 'peaks', as a "cutting-edge showcase for engineered timber."

Lastly, Harbour Kiosk in Hong Kong by LAAB Architects features 49 robotic arms behind profiled timber fins, creating an "engaging, kinetic piece of public architecture."

This year the WAF jury consists of Keith Bradley of Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, Carin Smuts of CS Studio Architects, Darryl Condon of HCMA Architecture + Design, and a PEFC representative. The winning project will announced live on the final day of the festival – 3 December – in Lisbon.



FISHER & PAYKEL

DESIGN FOR KITCHEN PERFECTION

Integrated Fisher & Paykel Column Refrigeration hides seamlessly within the cabinetry of this townhouse kitchen. To get this seamless finish, architectural practice Tom Mark Henry had to marry their vision with a level of technical detail to ensure minimum gaps, breakline alignments and flush detailing. Fisher & Paykel's technical content allowed them to get to that level of detail.

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Top: ArchiCAD model of a Fisher & Paykel classic range. **Bottom:** Specification Guide for a Fisher & Paykel oven.

MIXED USE

Kings Road pub given a mixed use future

A former pub on the Kings Road, Chelsea has been restored and extended by Paul Murphy Architects (PMA) to create a new "high quality" mixed-use development.

PMA inherited an existing consent for the Hand and Flower site on the corner of Kings Road and Edith Grove, and planning permission was subsequently granted for the redevelopment of a neighbouring site to the rear. "This has allowed the neighbouring developments to collectively contribute to a successful piece of city repair," said the architects.

PMA were appointed to improve the consented scheme and were tasked with designing a "better mix of units, more spacious living accommodation and additional amenity space." The facade was retained, but the interior layout was completely changed; the completed development now houses five new apartments, with retail use at ground floor and basement level.

The form of the building is influenced by its immediate context: the design "celebrates the dialogue between old and new," said the architects. While the existing



building has been painstakingly restored, the new extension is "driven by the specific characteristics of the site to create high quality residential accommodation."

The architects commented on how the overall form responds to the streetscape: "The site geometry created by the existing street pattern informs a tapered building form on plan, with a new brick facade remaking the street edge." The design also responds to the planning requirement to minimise the impact of the extension on



neighbouring properties, resulting in a "faceted" rear facade which in turn, creates stepped roof terraces.

An enclosed glazed link connects the old and new parts, and houses a new timber

The former gas works site to the south is currently being redeveloped by St William/the Berkeley Group and the National Grid. Due to launch from 2022, the renamed Kings Road Park will create around 1,800 new homes.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

CPMG recruits young talent to **London and Nottingham studios**

CPMG Architects has recently added to its nationwide workforce with the arrival of young talent at its studios in Nottingham and London.

Cameron Kiddle joins as an architectural technologist at CPMG's head office in Nottingham, as the practice relocates to St Peter's Gate in the city centre. He recently graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a degree in architectural technology.

He aims to advance both his professional and academic ambitions simultaneously in order to become fully qualified and "brimming with professional and practical experience," said the firm.

CPMG has also hired Chloe Majomi as an architectural technologist in its London office. Majomi was formerly at construction firm J Coffey working as a BIM technician, and brings "far-reaching experience having also worked at architecture firms in Nigeria and Japan," said CPMG.

CPMG said it is driven by its "core values" of "people, purpose and place," and places health and wellbeing "at the heart of all of its work - including the work designing its own new Nottingham office." Recent award wins include British Sugar's headquarters in Peterborough, and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building in Nottingham Science Park.







Commonly thought of as a commercial product, curtain walling is becoming increasingly specified for homes to create a light and airy living space. The architect specified the Kestrel Aluminium100mm box and plate curtain walling system incorporating Kestrel 60mm windows to maximise natural light and give a dramatic frontage to this prestigious development on the Coton House Estate, near Rugby.

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VIEW POINT



With Covid-19 sadly not likely to disappear any time soon, achieving the correct ventilation of workplaces is critical to mitigate the spread in future. Hywel Davies of CIBSE discusses the issues for designers

ovid-19 is not going away any time soon. Immunologists, infectious disease researchers and virologists expect the virus to circulate and evolve in the global population for years to come – much like influenza and the four endemic human coronaviruses that cause common colds.

For those involved in the design of new buildings and the modification and refurbishment of existing buildings, the continued presence of coronavirus makes it essential that offices and public buildings are designed with effective ventilation to create a safe working environment.

Ventilation is needed to combat infection because there is a growing body of evidence that appears to show that the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, can be spread by very small particles (aerosols) in a similar way to that of cold and flu viruses.

Aerosols – alongside larger droplets – are released by an infected person when they cough, sneeze, talk and breathe. The larger droplets fall to the ground within 2 metres of the source, which is why social distancing is recommended. Smaller aerosols can stay airborne for hours, which enables them to travel longer distances where they can infect secondary hosts.

In a well-ventilated room, air supplied to the space will help dilute the concentration of aerosols, while extracting air will assist in the removal of airborne pathogens to outside – helping reduce the possibility of inhalation by room users and their deposition on indoor surfaces.

The provision of good ventilation has other benefits; bringing a stream of outside air into a space and removing stale air helps create a healthy indoor environment for occupants. In addition to reducing levels of illness, this will also



help improve concentration levels, and increase productivity.

By contrast, in rooms that are poorly ventilated, the concentration of aerosols and airborne pathogens will inevitably be higher, putting occupants at risk of infection; a risk that will increase in line with the amount of time spent in the space.

When it comes to the design of new buildings, the Building Regulations require that an adequate means of ventilation be provided in a building. In England, 'Approved Document F: Ventilation' sets out what is considered, in ordinary circumstances, to be adequate ventilation, while in the devolved nations there are alternative regulations and guidance in place.

The minimum ventilation rates required by the current Building Regulations should be effective in helping prevent the spread of Covid-19, where the ventilation system has been designed by a competent engineer and installed appropriately.

However, we recommend that systems be designed to enable outside air flow rates to be increased above the minimum needed for compliance, to further limit the possibility of airborne transmission of Covid-19 – wherever it is reasonable to do so – without causing discomfort or a significant increase in energy demand. Also, that the ventilation system should not recirculate air from one space to another.

The recommendation that systems are designed to enable increased outside

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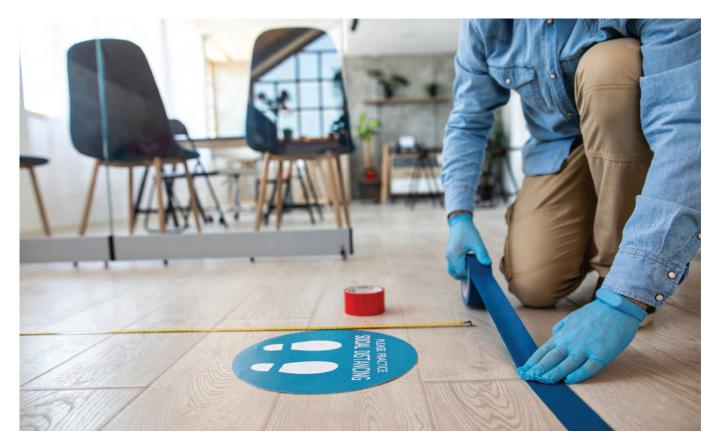












air flow rates is reflected in the recent consultation on proposed changes to Approved Document F. This includes a requirement that office ventilation systems are designed "to have the means to increase the general ventilation rate of each occupiable room by 50% so that it can operate for long periods (e.g. months) at a higher ventilation rate," to help reduce the spread of airborne infection in those periods when airborne infections are prevalent.

Regardless of whether the proposed changes to Part F are implemented, it seems inevitable that ventilation systems will need to be designed with the ability to enhance ventilation rates to help create a safe working environment in the current pandemic, and for future pandemics.

Engineering systems for increased ventilation will inevitably have an impact on building design. For mechanically ventilated buildings, it may well be that the ventilation systems have to increase in size if they are to circulate higher volumes of air for longer periods of time without unduly increasing energy consumption and noise levels. That could mean larger distribution ducts and a corresponding increase in plant space. Early involvement of building

services engineers will help develop designs that provide effective ventilation – keeping costs to a minimum and ensuring careful co-ordination and integration with the structure and interior design.

The provision of effective ventilation is not simply about increasing the volume of air blown into, and sucked out of, spaces, it is also about ensuring the effective distribution of air within spaces. That requires the supply and extract to be positioned precisely to ensure air can move unobstructed through a space and stagnant air pockets are eliminated (where aerosol concentrations could be higher).

For naturally ventilated buildings, where a space is reliant on opening windows and doors for ventilation, the general advice is that the scheme should be designed on the assumption that windows and vents will be used more than normal when airborne infection rates are high.

When refurbishing or redeveloping existing buildings, the provision of good ventilation can be more of a challenge. Where a building's ventilation system is being replaced, this should be relatively straightforward. However, where an existing ventilation system is being considered for upgrade or improvement to

increase clean air delivery, developers and designers need to be mindful of the possibility of unintended consequences.

The continued presence of coronavirus means that effective ventilation will continue to be a critical factor in the design of workplaces. Unlike social distancing and hand washing, ventilation requirements are not easily distilled into one simple approach that everyone can follow. Assessing ventilation needs across a range of environments can be challenging and often requires engineering expertise to ensure any proposed scheme or mitigation measures will be effective for a particular building type, ventilation system, user group and activity.

Two new guidance documents on reducing Covid-19 transmission through ventilation and air cleaning technologies have been published by the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE). The guidance is available to download for free from the 'Coronavirus Advice' section of the CIBSE website www.cibse.org

Hywel Davies is technical director of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers



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PRACTICE PROFILE

Broadway Malyan

Tom Boddy speaks to Broadway Malyan about their journey to becoming a global architectural firm, and how the practice philosophy has evolved to increasingly embrace "holistic building design"

It was in 1958 in Weybridge, Surrey that Cyril Broadway and John Malyan decided to team up and found a practice together. Their focus from the start was on housing schemes and housing competitions in that sector. Even today as a global AJ100 practice with over 400 employees, 60% of Broadway Malyan's work comes from residential projects. Ian Apsley, group managing director, comments: "Housing and designing for the community has always been one of our main priorities – this has included some very big masterplans with thousands of homes, but also many designs for individual houses."

Since its origins, the practice has grown "organically," says Apsley, which was "very much led by clients." In the early 90s their reputation led to the firm taking overseas commissions for the first time, and in 1995, the practice opened up their first studio outside the UK, in Lisbon. The following decade saw BM expand east, opening offices in Warsaw, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Shanghai. Today the practice has 15 studios around the world.

But the firm's international growth hasn't all been smooth sailing, and there have been "growing pains" along the way, says Apsley. The evolution of the firm can be split up into "three generations of leadership;" the second being when it embarked on overseas expansion.

Any major practice spreading its reach across the globe is likely to run into challenges over the course of its existence. Apsley alludes to issues that Broadway Malyan faced at this time: "Some of the work we did back then in London faced quite a lot of controversy with the UK architectural press." The firm had just become a limited company, was growing fast, and "did lose some focus."

Apsley joined the practice in 1999, which coincided with what he says was "a huge change." He explains: "Becoming international required a huge cultural shift, which formed the basis of the completely different practice we are today." The last decade has seen BM move into its third "generation" of leadership, becoming employee-owned in 2016 – a project led by Apsley. "This was really about looking to the future, stabilising the business and making us resilient – we don't rely on individual investors anymore." He adds: "This process has put the ability to drive influence into the hands of the people that love the firm, and want to see it thrive onto the next generation."

Although the firm now has a global network of studios, Apsley says they have never lost their core focus on the UK. "The UK is more than a third of our business, and the market where we deliver the greatest variety of services."











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Design principles

"When we talk about ourselves, we say 'creating places together' – for me it's all in those three words," says Apsley. The 'together' part refers to putting collaboration at the forefront, he says. "We've been very clear that we're never going to be able to do everything under our own roof." The practice now works with a number of individual consultants and startups, a lot of which contain former colleagues. "We have a network of people we reach out to for specialist skills."

Ensuring that projects respond to their context is key, but doesn't just mean the physical aspects of a site, assets Apsley. "On some of the projects we get involved in, particularly in developing countries, context is around what will be there in 20-30 years. It can also be about something spiritual."

Allied with this is their "big idea" concept, which drives the narrative throughout a project, to foster clarity of thinking as well as refinement of that idea. Apsley explains how this iterative process "simplifies a project, strengthens it, and in turn makes it easier to build – meaning the quality is higher. It's a virtuous circle."

One thing that underpins everything Broadway Malyan do is the fact they don't promote a 'house style.' "We don't impose predetermined ideas or visual identity on clients." The practice spends a lot of time working with clients to "really understand what's key to them, to the place, and more than ever now to the environment."

Research & sustainability

With the housing crisis becoming even more acute after increased demand post-pandemic, the practice has recently published 'Reimagined Village' – a report they hope will trigger a 'national conversation' on logical non-urban housing solutions. With rural villages in the UK having less environmentally friendly credentials or economic accessibility compared with their city counterparts, the report highlights the urgent need to act to ensure these places become sustainable alternatives to city living.

Apsley expands on this: "Not every site or new community should be an extension to an existing town, putting more pressure on its infrastructure." Instead the report gives insights into how planners and developers can transform these villages to meet the needs of the future.

To ensure Broadway Malyan's climate goals are met, an 'environmental design group' supervises its internal and external operations. Internally, looking at the practice's infrastructure and how they work as employees, they have set a daunting target to become net carbon zero over the next three years. However, "with a





"Housing and designing for the community has always been one of our main priorities — this has included some very big masterplans with thousands of homes, but also many designs for individual houses"

Ian Apsley, group managing director, Broadway Malyan

pause on travel from Covid," says Apsley, "there's a chance we could potentially achieve it ahead of this." Externally, as well as designing projects with minimised energy use, they are putting the emphasis on producing climate-resilient buildings. "We believe that from a more holistic building design and masterplanning point of view, this is where the focus really needs to be." Apsley adds: "This is about working at multiple scales at once. I genuinely believe there are a lot of opportunities in that area."

Moving forward

Despite the practice already having a strong education offer in both Asia and the Middle East, as well as university projects in the UK, it's a sector they are keen to grow. This ambition has led to them recently breaking ground on a new international school in Cairo – their first school in Africa. The £25m project will accommodate 1,500 pupils from nursery to year 12, including 70 classrooms, laboratories, a library, a 450-seat auditorium, sports facilities and a full-size football pitch. "This is a project we love doing, and we want to do more!"

Apsley also picks out a masterplanning project in Indonesia, 'Redeveloping Dolly (part of the UK Government's Global Future Cities Programme), as showcasing their current philosophy, and being an example of where the firm is heading. Putat Jaya, a former red-light district in Surabaya – known colloquially as 'Dolly' – is being regenerated. Broadway Malyan is developing a set of "replicable" design standards and urban design guidelines to help support the local community through skills and entrepreneurship training. "We led a big consultation on urban transformation and the project has been really well received so far, not only by the Indonesian government but by local residents too." Apsley says the project demonstrates "an evolution of the kind of work we do at that scale."

In terms of the goals moving forward, the practice is looking to broaden its horizons still further. "We want to expand on our services and provide a greater range of consultancy, away from the traditional architectural offerings," says Apsley. He adds: "You're going to see more blurred boundaries between studios, specialisms and our traditional sectors such as residential and commercial."

And finally, in terms of the firm's many collaborative aspects going forward, the pandemic has actually strengthened them, says Ian Apsley. He concludes that they are now taking a "less corporate, more agile approach to everything."





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CONFERENCE **STAGES**















BUILDING

THE BOTTLE FACTORY PECKHAM

New wine in old bottles

A historic soft drink bottling facility in a formerly run-down part of south east London has been stripped and restored by Studio RHE, bringing its attributes to the fore as a lively commercial and events space. Roseanne Field reports

ocated on Ossory Road in Peckham, just off south east London's main thoroughfare Old Kent Road, is a 30,000 ft² warehouse – the former home of bottling brand J. Mills & Sons. Dating back to 1895, the building was used for almost a century to produce glass and stoneware bottles and to bottle mineral water, lemonade and ginger beer.

It was later occupied by a furniture manufacturer, and more recently a church, before eventually sitting unoccupied as an unused asset with strong architectural attributes. An extension was added in 1914, and a further, smaller one after the end of World War II.

Despite the building being empty, it was added to Glengall Road Conservation Area

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STEEL FRAME

Where the windows could not be repaired, bespoke steel-framed replacements were installed with matching scales and proportions to the originals in May 2019 when an application to extend the boundary was extended. In 2017 Southwark Council's Old Kent Road Area Action Plan had identified the former bottling plant as being of architectural and historic interest, and a building that should be retained for future commercial use.

The area surrounding Old Kent Road was undergoing, and continues to undergo, substantial change and regeneration, and it wasn't long before developer Fabrix identified the building's potential. They bought it with the intention to refurbish into office and creative space, and renamed the Bottle Factory it now sits in what is an up and coming district.

"Our vision for Old Kent Road is to build on its unique creative character, a place where industry can thrive alongside new homes and quality open spaces," explains Southwark Councillor and Cabinet Member for Growth, Development and Planning, Johnson Situ. "The loss of this previously undesignated heritage asset would have been detrimental to the whole Old Kent Road area, which has lost the vast majority of its industrial heritage over time."

Having gained approval to change the building's use to flexible 'B1' office and 'B2'

industrial accommodation, Fabrix asked Studio RHE, who they'd worked with previously, to complete a site appraisal and feasibility study in June 2019. The team, headed by director Richard Hywel-Evans, comprised Ella Riley (architectural designer), Camilla Wright (architect) and Alex Davis (associate). They were then formally appointed to take the project to Stage 3, and then from Stage 4 to 6.

Peeling back the layers

The key aspect the practice were asked to focus on was restoring the building's heritage features, but in so doing, removing as many of the additions that had been made over the years as possible. "The client's overarching brief was to strip back to the building's original state and bring it up to a 'Cat A' fit out," explains Richard Hywel-Evans. He adds that the architects were asked to "develop and expand on the brief, to add more specific detail."

Over time, some of the factory's original architectural features had been replaced, removed and hidden. "The historic identity of the building had been diluted as a result of poor maintenance, insensitive design and disregard for building conservation," Camilla Wright says. Original steel-framed



windows and doors had been replaced with standard white PVCu ones, and various openings, arches and skylights had been either boarded over or filled in with blockwork.

Because of the ongoing discoveries, the studio had to keep their designs and plans relatively flexible for the duration of the project, while taking a careful approach. "Prior to and during the strip-out we continuously inspected the building, and evolved the scope of works as we discovered key features that were hidden by alterations," says Ella Riley. During the second stage they stripped out test areas, carefully removing plaster from the brick face in the main reception due to mould growth and revealed historical brick arches. So the architect "decided to remove all the plaster to celebrate this feature."

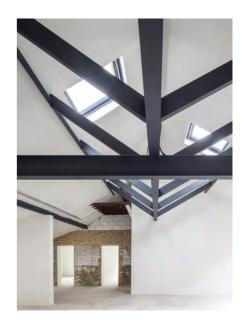
The interventions the practice could do on the building were limited by a number of factors, not least the site's location within the Conservation Area, and the client's key requirements. Other than asking for the building's heritage features to be restored, Fabrix's other main requirement was for the buildings to be left as a fairly open shell. "The buildings were to be left open, divided

only to allow for safe exit in the event of fire," says Hywel-Evans.

With some of the space to be used as office space post-completion, the developer wanted the building to remain a fairly blank canvas for prospective tenants. "Communal facilities were planned and connecting pipework installed, but left incomplete to allow for flexibility of letting," explains Hywel-Evans. "We were instructed to reimagine the internal spaces as a backdrop for future tenant fit-out, with Fabrix taking a directorial role." The practice were also asked to 'decorate' all communal access routes however.

Achieving planning consent meant paying close attention to the site's location, as well as the building itself. "It is a building of note within the Conservation Area, limiting the scope of new works," Wright explains. "New additions or extensions to the envelope were not permitted; we were only permitted to complete works on the facade to enhance the original industrial character of the building." They were also "encouraged to discard any insensitive late additions," she continues. She gives the example of some "unsightly" plant that was on the roof, and connecting ductwork which she says dominated the roof terrace.

The loss of this previously undesignated heritage asset would have been detrimental to the whole Old Kent Road area



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The colours used throughout the refurbishment were taken from heritage palettes and colours uncovered during the project

They were also given permission to demolish boards or blockwork blocking original openings and archways, and to install new windows.

A new lease of life

As well as remedying a vast array of newer elements and additions, many of the heritage features needed repair and restoration, having been damaged by both previous works, and many years of neglect. As well as removing internal walls, ceilings, finishes, MEP and sanitary equipment were also taken out, exposing the original features and structure. From this point the architects were able to assess what needed specific attention, both in terms of restoration and making sure the building was structurally sound.

Ensuring the building was safe and fit for purpose according to current Building Regulations was naturally of key importance. Project managers Opera explain: "A series of structural and compliancy works were required to respond to the dilapidated condition after years of neglect." Structural repairs were made to existing lintels, beams, and floors, the existing timber floors were repaired and in some places replaced, and general strengthening works were undertaken where required. A new stair core was added to comply with fire

escape requirements, and new fire compartmentation was introduced.

Removing the partitions and plaster that had been added over the years revealed a mixture of original heritage features – a steel frame structure, wrought iron columns, timber beams, floorboards, doors, pitched roof structures, and rooflights. There were various elements of brickwork including archways and corbelling; and steel-framed windows. The building was built using yellow London stock bricks that had also been covered with plaster in places, so this was also removed.

Repairing and restoring these features was a monumental task, involving a variety of works. "The building envelope was fully repaired, including roof works, window and door refurbishment and replacement, and detailed brickwork repair to reinstate heritage features," Davis explains. He gives the example of two archways leading off what is now the main reception, which had been partially infilled. "The bullnose bricks to one side of the openings had crumbled away and another was in disrepair, so we removed them and used matching reclaimed London stock and blue bullnose engineering bricks, which were toothed in to rebuild them to their original state," adds Davis.

The practice then installed steel-framed doors within these refurbished archways, bespoke made to fit each one. "Rather than

reconfiguring the arches to provide two identical openings the doors are unique in size and shape to celebrate the original asymmetric design," says Davis. Original timber loading doors were also refurbished.

Using reclaimed materials was something the practice aimed for throughout the project, sourcing recycled materials from other sites and reusing existing materials where they could. Where new materials needed to be sourced, samples were taken from the building and then sourced from the same companies where possible.

The windows were a key element in restoring the building. "Although numerous windows had been replaced with PCVu, some original windows remained, but many were damaged and broken," Riley explains. "Where possible these were repaired, their glass replaced, the graffiti removed, and they were made operable." Where the windows were beyond repair, new, bespoke steel-framed windows were installed with matching scales and proportions to the originals. Riley explains it wasn't cost efficient to replace the PVCu windows that had been added later. "They were refurbished and painted in a more complimentary colour to the original dark green windows," she says. The colours used throughout the refurbishment were taken from heritage palettes and colours uncovered during the project, and new brickwork was laid to replicate patterns found onsite.

The practice stuck to the original open plan floor plan as much as possible, to, says Davis, "create the original industrial utilitarian aesthetic." This included the uncovering and reopening of a large space stretching up into the gable, complete with metal roof trusses and a timber rooflight running down the entire length of the space. "The large open floor plates allow for flexible subdivision across levels or buildings to suit different uses and tenants," Davis explains.

In order to make the building more suitable for diverse future tenants, the practice had to consider what changes were necessary from a comfort point of view. They opted to insulate the existing metal frame and timber roofs to increase thermal comfort, as well reduce energy consumption.

Externally, as well as the brickwork being uncovered and restored (including polishing quoins and lintels), the building's original natural slate roof was retained, as well as original chimneys. The entrance's cobbled yard, which leads



to the building's prominent gable end, also remains intact.

A new era

Both since completion and even during the renovation, the building has played host to a variety of events. A number of 'meanwhile use' events took place. These included an art exhibition (run in partnership with Creative Debuts) which saw young artists showcase their work, a Christmas fundraiser that raised money for men's mental health and testicular cancer charities, and various food and beverage and music events. Called The Paperworks, the latter were held in the courtyard over August and September 2020, in partnership with Corsica Studios. Fabrix also worked with Dazed magazine to create a short film, 'The Qweens Speech' filmed at The Bottle Factory, highlighting LGBTQ+ issues and featuring singer-songwriter Sam Smith.

The client is very happy with the careful and painstaking work done by the studio to restore this building, according to Riley, and is "looking forward to viewings with prospective tenants." The site is set to benefit further from the council's Old Kent Road Action Plan which seeks to both preserve the area's heritage and history, while also driving development. This includes plans for two new Bakerloo tube stations, both of which will sit within 500 metres of The Bottle Factory.



PROJECT FACTFILE

Client: Fabrix

Architect: Studio RHE

Structural Engineer: Symmetrys

M&E: EEP Consultant: CHP

Project manager/contract administrator: Opera

Canary Wharf office complex upgrades to Advanced protection

host of industry-leading fire protection solutions from UK manufacturer, Advanced, have been installed to protect approximately 140,000 ft² of Grade A office space at Westferry House, Canary Wharf.

As a cornerstone office building situated at the western gateway to Europe's largest and most successful business district, Westferry House consists of 11 storeys, complete with its own retail promenade on the ground floor. At the core of the active fire protection for the building are six Advanced MxPro 5 fire alarm control panels installed alongside Apollo Soteria multi-sensors.

Responsible for all aspects of the installation, as well as the future maintenance of the system, are Advanced partners, Pacific Security Systems Ltd. The Kent-based fire and security specialists installed the MxPro 5 fire panels alongside Advanced's remote-control terminal and repeater panel, TouchControl, to provide a discreet and aesthetically pleasing means of viewing the fire system in the building's recently refurbished reception area.

Advanced's AdSpecials team was also commissioned by Pacific Security Systems to design and manufacture a custom-built annunciator panel to control the pressurisation and extraction fans and dampers on all floors of the building. The annunciator also integrates with the building's VA/PA system to provide manual control of messages on all floors.

Kirk Short, director at Pacific Security Systems, said: "As long-time installers of Advanced with many successful projects, large and small, under our belts, we know its solutions are both reliable and user friendly. The bespoke equipment we required for the





fire system upgrade at Westferry House is of an excellent standard, and we found the AdSpecials team very easy to work with throughout the entire design process."

Advanced's AdSpecials team works with customers requiring bespoke fire panels to design and manufacture unique fire system solutions, whatever the installation challenge.

Amanda Hope, UK fire business development manager at Advanced, said: "Canary Wharf attracts some of the World's most respected and successful companies, and it was fantastic to learn that our solutions have been installed in such a prestigious commercial office space. Westferry House is just a stone's throw from the Landmark Pinnacle – the UK's tallest residential building – another iconic site protected by Advanced's MxPro 5 panels."

"Westferry House is also a fantastic example of where our TouchControl solution comes into its own, providing additional monitoring and control in a sleek and versatile format, that complements the building's stylish reception space."

TouchControl is the low-profile, high-resolution touchscreen repeater that makes it easy to check fire system status via interactive maps and zone plans, while harmonising with a wide range of interiors. When in standby, it can be used to display branding, advertisements and information,

but will instantly revert to fire operation when a fire condition occurs.

Advanced, owned by FTSE 100 company Halma PLC, protects a wide range of prestigious and high-profile sites across the globe – from London's Shard to Abu Dhabi International Airport and the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macau Bridge.

Advanced is a world leader in the development and manufacture of fire protection solutions. Advanced's reputation for performance, quality and ease of use see its products specified in locations around the world, from single-panel installations to large, multi-site networks. Advanced's products include complete fire detection systems, multiprotocol fire panels, extinguishing control, fire paging, false alarm management and reduction systems as well as emergency lighting.

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Secondary glazing receives a warm reception in top London PR office

Premier Public Relations' office is a self-contained 19th century industrial building spread over five floors in Bucknall Street, London. Premier has over three decades of experience delivering marketing communications campaigns for the entertainment, arts and cultural industries and was awarded 'PR Moment Large Agency of the Year' in 2017.

Originally used as a warehouse, the thermal and acoustic controls in the large yellow brick Victorian building were inadequate for its new use as office space due to the inefficient single glazed original windows. Premier approached Selectaglaze for a cost-effective window improvement to their offices. This was to ensure a more agreeable working environment to achieve a high level of thermal insulation. Although this was the main aim, Premier was also interested in what could be achieved to improve noise attenuation as the offices were located close to a busy thoroughfare in WC2.

Selectaglaze installed 115 windows across the ground, first, second and third floors. A wide range of products were combined for the specification, the majority of which were two and three pane horizontal sliders. The Series 30 lift-out unit was used for one particular opening to allow easy access for cleaning. Another primary window was fitted with a single side hung casement, designed to suit the existing fenestration.

'Sustainable St Albans' provided Selectaglaze with a thermal imaging camera which measured the changes in the thermal integrity of the primary windows before and after the addition of secondary glazing. Although the resulting images were of a low resolution, the remarkable differences are apparent between treated and untreated windows.

The successful installation of secondary glazing has greatly enhanced the working environment, with staff noticing a significant difference in thermal retention, with draughts



virtually eliminated. It has also improved the working environment considerably across all the office floors.

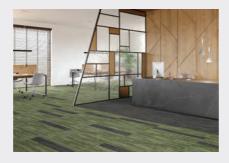
Joe Chandler of Premier said: "We were very pleased with our secondary glazing from Selectaglaze. Providing both sound insulation in noisy Central London and a much warmer office space in the winter."

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Responding to the design challenges of modern offices

Rudiments is a unique carpet tile and plank collection from IVC Commercial. With a shared colour palette, modular options and designs that work beautifully together, Rudiments can respond to the design challenge of modern offices. Featuring Jute, Teak, Basalt and the brand-new Clay and Clay Create, all carpet tiles in Rudiments are made from solution-dyed nylon for hassle-free performance, meaning that designers can focus on the job in hand, delivering inspirational spaces that support the productivity and wellbeing of their users.

Sharing a similar design, Clay and Clay Create carpet planks are made to work together. With the all-over look of Clay adding texture across large areas and Clay Create's ability to explore colour combinations that mark out activity or transition from one area to the next, it's a combination that makes powerful flooring layouts possible. The new 25 x 100 cm plank



format also means a perfect match to Rudiments carpet tiles, for even more creativity. Adding organic structure to projects, it's presented in a selection of 12 colours from the Rudiments palette. In a random lay plank made to work easily with all Rudiments styles, Clay brings new ways of breaking up spaces.

Rooted in ancient and timeworn stone blocks, Basalt is a random lay carpet tile that adds bold texture. Creating a random organic pattern well-suited to large areas, the rise and fall of Basalt's structure is available in all 12 colours of the Rudiments carpet tile collection.

The coarsely spun plant threads of woven hessian are the muse for Jute, a subtle and undeniably elegant look for schemes with a sophisticated materials palette. Available in all 12 colourways of the Rudiments collection that blend functional colours with complementing trend hues, this design brings a relaxed harmony to commercial projects.

For Teak, IVC Commercial has explored our innate connection with wood, creating a random lay carpet tile with a structured look and a casual touch for endless mix and match possibilities. Echoing the light and shade thrown by oiled blocks arranged in arbitrary geometric patterns, the carpet tile offers a structured yet casual aesthetic across open spaces in all 12 Rudiments colourways.

01332 851 500 www.ivc-commercial.com

Breathing new life into historic building

The Grade II* listed India Buildings in the heart of Liverpool has undergone a major refurbishment, to transform the 100 years old, 12-storey mixed use structure into state-of-the-art office, residential and retail accommodation.

Being redeveloped for owner Legal & General by refurbishment specialist Overbury, the rejuvenation sees the eight floors of Category A office space delivering a BREEAM and WELL compliant environment, through grilles and diffusers from air movement specialist Gilberts (Blackpool).

The 350,000 ft² of commercial space is served by four-pipe heating and cooling services connected to fan coil units behind bespoke bulkheads. Consulting engineers Crookes Walker Consulting designed the ventilation strategy, installed by Ameon Building Services Engineering.

Crookes Walker specified a combination of Gilberts' JSL and L Series linear bar grilles in the bulkheads, GECA eggcrate grilles and GTD concealed swirl diffusers across the field area of the perforated ceilings to handle both



the supply and extract of fresh air throughout the open plan commercial areas. Gilberts GX air valves ventilate the WCs.

Gilberts' technical team in-house executed Computation Fluid Dynamics (CFD) modelling of Crookes Walker's design to validate optimal incoming air temperatures to achieve comfort conditions, without over-heating: a comfortable average 22°C was preserved.

Lee Carey, principal mechanical engineer at



Crookes Walker Consulting commented: "We recommended Gilberts' grilles and diffusers were used because we were confident in the quality of the product, and knew we could rely on a rapid response to any technical or practical queries which was crucial in expediating such a high profile project."

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BUILDING

ZVONARKA BUS TERMINAL BRNO

Renewing social connections

The light-touch refurbishment of a brutalist city centre bus station in the Czech Republic belies the extent of a young Czech practice's achievement, catalysing the transformation of a local eyesore into a building of renewed social value. James Parker reports

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The history of the central bus terminal in the Czech Republic's second city (and former textile powerhouse)
Brno, is inextricably tied up with the country's communist past. And despite the light nature of the refurbishment project undertaken by dynamic local practice
Chybik + Kristof, the scheme to bring brightness and transparency to a neglected asset has made it a symbol of the city's future, and a break from the past.

Bus terminals, as practice co-founder Ondrej Chybik asserts, are not only central to the urban fabric, they're "windows on the city," creating the lasting impression visitors have, being the "first thing they see when they arrive, and the last thing when they leave." Zvonarka is important for the whole region of Moravia, with connections

across the country, and also internationally on the route east to Kiev.

The building is hard to miss, a vast, $100~\text{m}^2$ concrete slab supported by steel columns and beams, but it makes efficient use of its city centre site by accommodating a parking area for buses on the upper level. However, it had become a "dark, dirty, and dangerous' place for users (including Ondrej himself, a non-car driver, and his partner at the practice Michal Kristof), and was a blot on the city's reputation.

The brutalist structure, despite its condition, was an important example of the city's heritage for the architects. It was designed by Czech architect Radúz Russ and built in 1988, with a complex, extensive network of diagonal steel beams supporting the roof, and exposed concrete

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DESIGN FOR LIGHT

The core design move was repainting and lighting the white roof structure, enhancing a feeling of weightlessness given by the beams overhead cladding. Driven by functionalism principles which saw their heyday in Brno's architecture in the interwar period, (including Mies van der Rohe's famous Villa Tugendhat), the building instantly communicates how it works. It also ideally suits its core function, enabling buses to move easily to and from the park above and platforms below.

The effort to restore the building for the 21st century as a positive emblem of the city would require the practice to take a persistently proactive stance over many years in order to get it off the ground. For Ondrej, it was a "personal project," which helped to motivate him in what he admits was a labour of love for the practice.

The building was not long completed before the Velvet Revolution in 1989, which saw the formerly government-owned terminal sold to a private company, however it retained the stigma of the past.

As the architects attest, trying to make the case for restoring this kind of contemporary architecture is always difficult, but it's made harder when associated with a controversial political legacy. In addition, it "wasn't old enough to be considered historical."

A new era of challenges

With the building having been built by the former regime, the majority of people in the region consider it "communist architecture," says Chybik. He says the antipathy towards brutalist architecture in the country is now a "hot topic, because architects are trying to protect and preserve it." He says the "complicated" identity of buildings of this era is resulting in their demolition, also citing the recent removal of brutalist buildings by renowned architect Kengo Kuma in Japan as a disappointing recent symptom.

Despite the hope engendered by the 1989 revolution, the initial phase of the move to democracy and capitalism in the new Republic was problematic, says Chybik, with uncontrolled speculative development rife. The new private owners of the Zvonarka terminal didn't run the service, and only made rental income from the bus companies, and "the business wasn't lucrative enough to maintain the property properly, or reconstruct it." This also meant the owners weren't able to sell it for office, retail or residential purposes.

The terminal faces onto a retail park across a public square, however prior to the refurbishment its perimeter was cluttered with retail "stands" – low-quality prefab cubicles added piecemeal over the years, selling cheap goods. These ruined the transparency and connectivity with the city which the original design offered, and obscured and darkened its ground level. Says Chybik, "It was a place where you felt sorry for young girls having to wait alone for the evening bus – it was even scary for me."

The practice's overarching driver alongside this renewal agenda, was one of sustainability: "You can't constantly remove and replace. Let's try and reuse existing buildings more efficiently, make them more versatile; society has built enough."

Making an intervention

Founding their practice in 2010, the architects were relatively new and hungry, and determined to do something with the terminal. They were also able to devote the time to making the project happen. This was fortunate, as the client would prove to

be the main practical obstacle. After approaching the city with sketches of a scheme to then find it wasn't owned by them, they found the private owner, who "explained that his business isn't producing enough income."

However, says Chybik: "This answer wasn't good enough," so in 2012 the architects took to social media, posting "very simple renderings" on Facebook to promote their vision to the public. "The role of an architect in our generation is more than sketches and documentation – it's about trying to diagnose the problem."

He says that despite the increased pressure being put on the client, during what Chybik calls the "first round of negotiations," they were "trying not to see what was there." However after "around five years of discussions" they eventually commissioned the practice, and "started to be very active, and friendly." When a functional brief eventually arrived, the client specified little more than the number of buses that needed to be accommodated, and a new entrance hall plus other normal functions such as a ticket office. Ondrej says, "The scale of the transformation was pretty much in our hands."

The practice "opened a dialogue between the city and owner, as the moderator," which "led to the municipality understanding the problem." With the client struggling to fund the scheme, a stroke of "coincidence or luck," saw the EU offer grants of up to 70% to improve central European public transportation hubs. "The owner was able to put in the 30%, the maximum they could afford," says Chybik. The total project cost was 100 m Koruna (around £3.3m).

Return on investment for the designers wasn't the priority, despite the time they had committed to getting the scheme off the ground – and the fact the practice had been working for free. "Our major motivation wasn't income, but was to make people not ashamed to use the bus," says Ondrej.

Design approach

The architects' key goal (including that of project architect Ondřej Švancara) was to reveal and highlight the fabric, and celebrate its strengths. "You have to try and understand the approach of the previous author, and try to read the strongest part of the piece, and reflect on it in your approach, and not go against their initial ideas." He adds an interesting and perhaps counter-intuitive aside: "If you follow their original context, you're free."



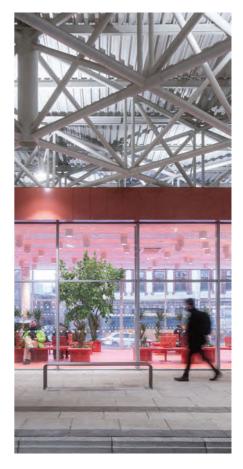
Although the designers were in any case required to preserve the major parts of the original building for structural reasons, and what heritage protection existed, this was also their goal based on principle, because "the buildings of great architects are able to work for 200 years." The extent of the actual physical design moves belie the long-term value to the city of the restoration. Instead the project is "focused on retaining the essential traits of the building's image, but with subtle renewal," say the architects.

The core design move was repainting and lighting the white roof structure - "the strongest thing on the entire building." This enhanced a feeling of "weightlessness" given by the beams overhead, say the architects, and drew an even stronger contrast with the heaviness of the mass above. In so doing, the architects managed to avoid adding other lighting infrastructure to the platforms below, which would have been "more obstacles" in the way of its mission to strip clutter out. The programmable LEDs installed within the roof are enough to give generous light to the platforms, augmented by an existing roof light running the full length of the building, front to back.

Following the same route, is a central pedestrian 'spine' created by the architects, and this bisects another lateral route near the front of the building, creating a 'crossroads,' plus an additional one near the back. The designers inserted a new, glazed entrance hall building leading straight through to the spine, providing not only a "very logical connection, but also connecting back to the city," says the architect.

The new entrance building is roofed in red-coated concrete tiles to reference Brno bricks, and curves downwards at its flanks,

The role of an architect in our generation is more than doing the sketches and documentation — it's more trying to diagnose the problem



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The project demonstrates how an architectural studio's role can be more usefully about catalysing, and even driving forward, a difficult project to benefit a dilapidated urban area

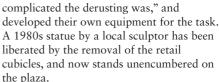
creating views in and out. The slim roof suggests "the platforms' decking being detached from the floor like a conveyor belt," say the architects.

However both the wave-like form and its colour strongly contrast against the rectilinear, white expanse above, and help give the new addition some prominence in this large space. With the 'temporary' cubicles having been removed, light is no longer impeded at the corners of the front elevation, and corners have been dispensed with on the new building to obviate any more chances of any of the bus platforms feeling closed-in once more.

Chybik explains further: "It's very transparent, from the city you can see through the building, and when leaving the station, you see the new shopping mall, plus a brick-built former factory which is now a gallery." On one side of the public plaza created in front of the bus station is a new tram stop, and this can now be entered on the same level as the terminal, as part of the project's focus on maximising accessibility. "This part of Brno is transforming," says Chybik, a southern chunk of the city centre is a "big brownfield" which the municipality is redeveloping into a transport hub, including a new rail station sitting adjacent to the bus terminal.

The architects believe that the building's brutalism, and the "rational clarity of functionalist architecture," has been enhanced by the addition of "new forms and resources." Chybik says the aim is to "contrast with the brutalism, not to compete with it."

As part of the "facelift," the building's concrete cladding has been cleaned, and copious scrubbing has removed rust on the steel structure. The subcontractor enlisted for this role was "surprised by how



Chybik admits there are "two camps" when it comes to public reaction to the project. "One was complaining that we 'spent 100 million on painting it," adding this was 70% of the comments on social media. However while the younger generation of Brno residents are keener than their older counterparts, there are also "plenty of happy customers, understanding that the city's biggest shame just disappeared."

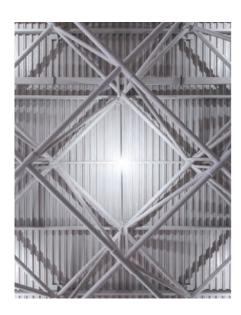
Driving social change

The project demonstrates how an architectural studio's role can be more usefully about catalysing, and even driving forward, a difficult project to benefit a dilapidated urban area – as opposed to creating a new building for its own sake. As well as a strong sustainability driver for refurbishing the 1980s-built station, the architects' goal in tirelessly promoting this refurbishment as a viable scheme was not just to renew a heritage building, but also to reinvent the area surrounding it, and make the terminal something the citizens could be proud of.

The studio co-founder tells *ADF* that he believes this project is a "great example of how architects globally can open their eyes, and show care." This chimes with the practice's belief that architects' role is "intrinsically social." He also thinks it points toward a future of fewer 'starchitects' and architectural ego, and more reuse, based around a "local agenda." This project fits exactly the practice's stated goal to "demonstrate commitment to driving social change."

While not including major design interventions, in revitalising and opening up this structure it represents a major example of how this city is rejecting certain aspects of its past, but preserving some of the positives. Says Chybik: "An important part of the story was letting Brno be an open, transparent city."

Chybik adds: "I know that as architects we have the power to change. We have a voice and we can advocate for it, and I'm very happy that we succeeded in this case." He concludes: "It's not always about the greatest shape of a window, but about the client starting to make a change, to open their eyes, and listen to us."









The fitting is easy with MEGAgrip balustrade system

afety and ease of installation go hand in hand with CRL's MEGAgrip, a heavyduty balustrade system suitable for commercial situations.

MEGAgrip is a fully adjustable 3kN commercial balustrade system, designed as a highly-durable public safety barrier for large commercial constructs, such as sports stadiums, transport hubs and similar venues where there is a risk of overcrowding.

One of the simplest balustrade systems to fit and adjust thanks to its patented screw-clamp technology to secure the glass in place, MEGAgrip is a dry-glazed system, with no specialist tools are required, so the glass can easily be removed and replaced if required. Internal glass clamps make alignment of the glass within the channel simple and as they are compatible with a wide range of glass thicknesses, MEGAgrip is one of the most adaptable balustrade systems on the market. Lightweight and strong, the balustrade system can easily be upgraded with a simple



conversion kit, to become a bomb-resistant or bulletproof balustrade system.

MEGAgrip is accredited and approved by multiple organisations to verify that it meets national and international building regulations for use as edge protection, where up to 3 kN force loading is required.

Precision engineered using extruded aluminium with a geometrically hollowed out core, providing an incredible strength to weight ratio, MEGAgrip is a frameless



system, for an aesthetically pleasing safety enhancement in any setting. The system also includes a complete accessory range designed to complement any installation, from end caps to create a tidy finish when the balustrade doesn't finish against a fixed point, side cladding, top bead and 90° pre-fabricate corners.

01706 863600 www.crlaurence.co.uk



Leisure sector column casings from Encasement

s theatres, restaurants, hotels and gyms begin a gradual return to trading, this key sector of the economy is a long-standing user of decorative column casings from Encasement to help provide a stylish environment for customers, while also concealing concrete columns and structural steelwork.

The combination of aesthetics and practicality are key features of our column casings, which enable architects and specifiers to enhance the customer experience, using a decorative finishes and designs in both exterior and interior applications.

As leisure sector buildings are often designed to cope with large volumes of people in foyers, reception areas and fitness areas this requires the decorative casings to be highly durable to cope with customers and staff, whilst also requiring minimal maintenance.

Projects ranging from exterior casings for Premier Inn and Holiday Inn to interior solutions for the Jubilee 2 Gym, Gatehead Stadium and Cardiff's Sherman Theatre,



perfectly illustrate the diversity of options, as well as the design versatility available across the range.

'Circa' and 'Quadra' pre-formed plywood casings have a tough laminated finish and are designed specifically for interior applications, while the metal 'Forma' range and 'Polyma' GRP casings can be used in both exterior and interior projects.

Circa and Quadra allow circular, square and rectangular profiles to be specified while

also providing a wide range of finish options with the most popular being decorative laminates, which have very good resistance to damage, scuffs and scratches. They also offer specifiers a diverse palette of finishes, which is essential for many leisure environments, such as restaurants and hotels.

Strength, durability and colour choice are also features of the Polyma GRP range. As they are produced from moulds, a high degree of design flexibility is possible with shape; size and colour options all open to specification to meet bespoke project requirements.

Forma aluminium or stainless-steel column casings also extremely versatile and can be specified in circular, square, rectangular or hexagonal forms, as well as unique bespoke shapes. A wide choice of finishes is available including PPC coating in any RAL colour, as well as brushed, anodised, embossed, or textured finishes such as Rimex.

01733 266 889 www.encasement.co.uk



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Ardex is taking up a majority shareholding in wedi GmbH



Ardex continues to grow: the Witten-based construction chemicals specialist is taking up a majority shareholding in wedi GmbH, a leading manufacturer of system solutions for high-quality wet room solutions domiciled in Emsdetten – it is the largest acquisition in the company's history. The employees of both family-run companies have already been informed of the development. In this respect, the management made it clear that wedi will continue to operate independently. In addition, Stephan Wedi and Fabian Rechlin will remain in place as the manging directors of wedi. Stephan Wedi will also continue in his shareholder role. For Mark Eslamlooy, CEO of the Ardex Group, this cooperation is a milestone in the development of the company – and his delight at the future collaboration with wedi is correspondingly great: "The Ardex Group is taking a major step forward with the acquisition of the market leader for watertight shower and construction systems. There could be no better way to enhance our systems competence – Ardex and wedi are two strong brands which complement one another in an ideal manner."

01440 714939 www.ardex.co.uk

Plan for a Better Future at the Festival of Sustainability



Parkside and Strata Tiles are holding the Festival of Sustainability at the iconic Barbican, as the companies lift the lid on a commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2022. The Festival of Sustainability, with Parkside and Strata Tiles, is a one night only event of talks on the topics shaping the response of the tile industry and specification communities to the immediate climate challenge. Taking place Wednesday 27th October at the Barbican, the night will cover everything from building models to the sustainable future of commercial interiors, furniture, beer and waste. Kicking the night off, speakers from greenspec and specifiers experienced in using BREEAM and Passivehaus will show ways to clear the mud covering sustainable criteria. Then, leading architects and constructors including MakeArchitects, Tudor Stonework, BDP and The Office Group are going to get stuck into the future of sustainability. The session will wrap up with eco champions discussing topics as diverse as furniture, beer and waste, before finishing with the launch of the '40 for 40' partnership with the World Land Trust. To book, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-sustainability-registration-167624749137

0116 276 2532 www.parkside.co.uk



Titon shortlisted in H&V News Awards

Titon is proud to announce that it is once again a finalist in the 2021 H&V News Awards. The innovative Titon Ultimate® dMEV and Titon FireSafe® Air Brick products have been shortlisted in the 'Domestic Ventilation Product of the Year' category. The Titon Ultimate® dMEV is an ultra quiet low profile fan, which is suitable for new build or refurbishment projects. With its one fan fits all solution, it is ideal for bathrooms, kitchens and utility room applications and is one of the quietest solutions and best performing dMEV fan on the market. The Titon FireSafe® Air Brick is a non-combustible compact inlet/outlet grille suitable for new and refurbished houses and apartments. Designed with architects, mechanical engineers, contractors and local authorities in mind, the product can easily be built into external walls during construction. The awards ceremony will take place later this year at the Hilton Park Lane in London on November 11th.

0800 970 4190 www.titon.com/uk

'COVID-19 Support Campaign' shortlisted



Ventilation manufacturer Vent-Axia is delighted to announce that it has been named as a finalist in the prestigious HVR Awards 2021. The company's Covid-19 Support Campaign has been shortlisted for the 'Covid-19

Innovation Award'. Vent-Axia moved swiftly to inform and support both new and existing customers to improve public health and help in the national response against Covid-19. As the pandemic evolved with the recognition of airborne transmission of the virus, effective ventilation became even more vital with Vent-Axia providing expert advice to its customers to help make their buildings healthier and safer.

0344 856 0590 www.vent-axia.com

Helping specifiers and builders meet targets



One OSB product may seem much like any other. In reality it is worth checking before specifying, especially if you want to score eco points. When it comes to being green, West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero stands out. Not only is SterlingOSB Zero the

only UK-manufactured OSB with zero-added formaldehyde, but it is also net carbon negative. Every SterlingOSB Zero board removes more carbon from the atmosphere than is emitted during manufacture, locking it up into long term storage within the board.

uk.westfraser.com



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Complete specification support from Delta







Rocusing on technical expertise, product innovation, research and development and the emphasis on education, Delta combines all to deliver a complete package for every possible application.

Delta's ever evolving portfolio of solutions cover every aspect of waterproofing design both in commercial and residential structures, from Type C Fire Retardant Systems to cold applied liquid waterproofing.

Pushing business development, Delta has firm focus on the ultimate goal raising the standard within the waterproofing industry.

Using joined up thinking to create an all-round connectivity for below ground projects. As most will know, within the waterproofing industry there is no one-size fits all solution to complex structures and this is where our team of Technical Waterproofing Consultants can help.

Helping customers to meet their challenges Georgia Burbridge, Delta's specification manager said: "We work closely with a wide range of customers, from architects to contractors. Their challenges vary, whether its technical advice to design or product specification. We're always on hand to support them."

Fresh from a site meeting, Delta's North-East Technical Manager, Bob Deary added: "Delivering projects to tight budgets without compromising on quality are a hurdle which is often seen in the industry, from a waterproofing design perspective,

our commitment is to provide an incredibly valuable service which doesn't lack of success. No matter how difficult the project, overcoming tough situations is part of the path in creating a robust, innovative approach."

Focusing on building relationships and partnerships, Delta's Technical Team offer a dedicated specification support, encompassing communication, transparency, and trust.

Delta's Technical Team of qualified professionals combine their product know-how with technical strategic insight and problem-solving approach to deliver innovative specifications to support customers in achieving their project goals.

Specification Support from the Delta Team

Delta's Technical Team offer a range of services including:

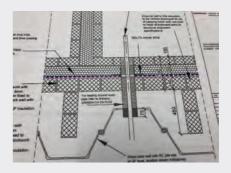
- Comprehensive advice and guidance
- Pre-planning advice
- Bespoke installation details in CAD to support effective project planning
- Specification Reports
- Concept and waterproofing solutions
- Site inspections
- Detailed design
- Troubleshoot systems and water ingress problems, diagnosing and fault solving
- Specific support that is right for you

Each member of our technical team is empowered by a working culture that offers both collaboration and autonomy to achieve the highest levels of innovation. The Delta team has a broad range of experience and can design, survey, and advise on a full range of structural waterproofing solutions. Whatever size of project, the Delta team will always show the same honest and clear approach working with the client to deliver a robust, systematic, and economic waterproof design.

We're always happy to help. To speak to Delta's Technical Team or for specification support email: info@deltamembranes.com

If you have a general question, or if you'd like to talk to someone but you're unsure which team you should speak to, you can call us.

01992 523 523 www.deltamembranes.com



IG Masonry Support goes above and beyond on Canada Water development



When it came to providing a range of bespoke brick slip products to achieve intricate brick features throughout the facade on the buildings in the first phase of the Water Yards masterplan at Canada Water, IG Masonry Support was well-poised to deliver the goods. The first phase of this ambitious masterplan included 234 apartments rising up 18 storeys, located in four residential cores surrounding a landscaped courtyard and a 100,000 ft² Decathlon store with a basement car park. The intricate brick features and balconies with brick soffits required IG's full catalogue of prefabricated components. This solution was the first that used an extended B.O.S.S system based on steel. IG also provided hangers, which were flexible enough for movement between the main structure of the balcony and its system. IG's prefabricated brick slip balcony soffit solution enabled main contractor Ardmore to achieve the desired brick detail quickly and effectively. The complex brick detail achieved above the windows, openings and recesses throughout the development highlights the design versatility of IG's offsite soffit solutions. Follow IG Masonry Support on Twitter: @MasonrySupport

0128 320 0157 igmasonrysupport.com

Old Ford car site converted into energy efficient affordable homes



A four-acre site, originally part of the Ford Dagenham car plant, will provide a new home for 325 residential units in a series of five to ten storey apartment buildings. The Merrielands Crescent project is part of the London Riverside Opportunity Area, a 3,000-hectare regeneration zone designated in the London Plan for up to 26,500 homes across the borough of Barking & Dagenham. 15,000 m² of the Wraptite® airtightness membrane from the A. Proctor Group features in the design. Wraptite is the only self-adhering vapour permeable air barrier certified by the BBA and combines the critical properties of vapour permeability and airtightness in one self-adhering membrane. Including the Wraptite System within the facade design helps ensure "as-designed" performance, narrowing the gap between as-designed and actual energy performance and reducing the likelihood of potential failures to meet required airtightness levels. Wraptite is compliant with Part B regulation changes and also has BBA approval for unrestricted use in buildings over 18m in England and 11m in Scotland.

01250 872261 www.proctorgroup.com



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Affordable housing given superior vapour barrier and airtightness solution



A series of 10 newly built affordable Council houses in Montrose, Scotland has been fitted with a high-performing variable-permeability vapour control layer from the A. Proctor Group. Procheck® Adapt is designed to protect the building fabric from the potential risks of condensation and act as an effective airtight barrier. Jason Noble, architect with Angus Council commented on the requirement for a high-performance solution: "We required a high performing vapour barrier and air tightness layer, that could be installed on site by our contractor and achieve our performance specification." Thanks to its unique design, the Procheck Adapt membrane offers variable permeability which adapts to changes in humidity levels and allows the structure to dry out in the summer and in sunny days during spring and autumn while protecting it from moisture overload in the winter. This is possible because the membrane adapts its vapour resistance to the environment i.e., vapour tight in the winter and more vapour open in the summer. The introduction of Procheck Adapt will ensure that it provides a high level of protection throughout the lifespan of the properties.

01250 872261 www.proctorgroup.com

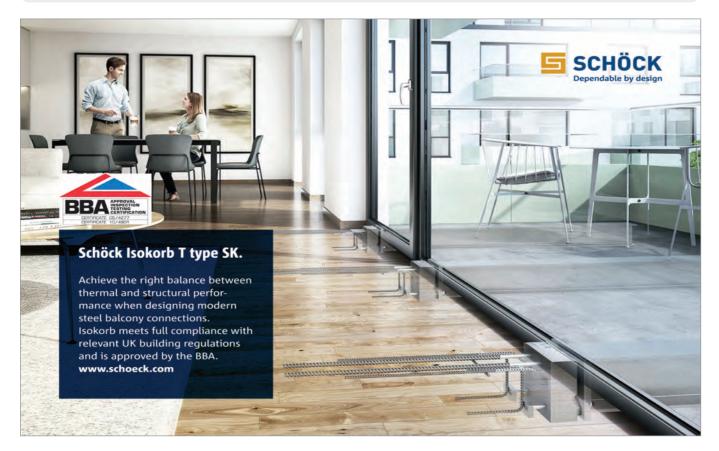
New door sizes on Garador Carlton and Horizon garage doors



Garador is seeing strong demand for its new range of taller up & over garage doors. Garador introduced new 6'8" and 7'2" door heights to the size range for their popular Carlton and Horizon up & over garage doors, back in April 2021. The sales of these new height doors have increased steadily through the summer months. Standard 6'6" and 7'0" garage door heights don't always match standard openings and gaps often have to be filled with uPVC. These new 6'8" and 7'2" door heights offer a perfect fit for some taller standard openings, including a 6mm fitting tolerance. This means there is no need for uPVC cladding, saving both time and materials.

Garador's new height doors are available for both the Carlton and Horizon door models. The 6'8" door heights can be supplied with either canopy or retractable lifting gear, whilst the 7'2" door heights only come with retractable lifting gear.

01935 443722 www.garador.co.uk







ALUCOBOND® legno – The Look & Feel of Natural Wood

LUCOBOND®, from 3A Composites GmbH, is pleased to announce 'ALUCOBOND® legno' a stunning new wood-effect finish, which not only looks like wood but due to its special coating – which adds a grainy structured feel to the surface – has a texture to mimic the feel of natural wood too.

Part of the company's new Super Matt surfaces, ALUCOBOND® legno, is a high-quality new generation textured facade panel, which features the company's stunning new extra matt woodgrain surface, to deliver that authentic and much-in-demand natural wood look.

Taking its inspiration from the oldest construction material in the world, ALUCOBOND® legno brings a warmth and texture to any building type, combining all the qualities of natural wood, but with the durability of ALUCOBOND® aluminium composite panels. The flatness and flexural strength of these lightweight panels - both in large formats and, as narrow slats - means ALUCOBOND® legno panels are also ideal for a wide variety of different facades, whilst the panel's diverse processing options facilitates the greatest possible architectural scope. Panels can even be folded into complex and multi-dimensional shapes and given a sharp and precise geometry, using routing and folding for even more design possibilities.

Available in five stunning wood-effect finishes; African Zebrano; Aged Oak; European Walnut; Antique Pine and Coco



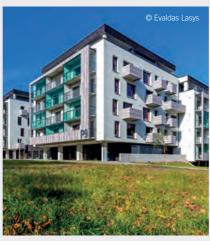
Bolo, ALUCOBOND® legno is resistant to mould, fire, and temperature fluctuations.

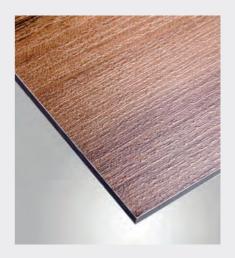
While ALUCOBOND® legno embodies all the qualities, character, and tactility of natural wood, the finish is both durable and long-lasting being resistant to weathering, erosion, or corrosion. When used with ALUCOBOND® A2, a noncombustible panel with a mineral-filled core, ALUCOBOND® legno also meets all strict requirements of fire regulations.

With the environment always of concern, recognising the need to be sensitive to it now and in the future, the material is completely recyclable, which is appropriate for a product that embodies the character of a natural product – wood.

Paul Herbert, Sales Manager 07584 680262 www.alucobond.com







ALUCOBOND® A2 | PLUS

ALUCOBOND® is the original aluminium composites material



- ALUCOBOND® A2 and PLUS have been in continuous production for over twenty years.
- 3A Composites, the manufacturer of ALUCOBOND®, has only promoted and sold fire retardant material since 2013, pre-dating regulation changes.
- ALUCOBOND® A2 and PLUS were tested to BS8414 large scale tests pre June 2017.
- 3A Composites is member of the MCRMA and furthermore collaborating with National & European Authorities to enhance regulations and standards.
- 3A Composites has strategic partners enabling comprehensive training on design, fabrication and installation.

Erie Basin, Salford Quays, Manchester ALUCOBOND® A2 special colour FK Group | © John Kees Photography



Sales Manager UK / IE

+44 75 84 68 02 62

Paul Herbert

ALUCOBOND® A2

ALUCOBOND® A2 is a composite panel and a core with a high content of non-combustible minerals (>90%)



ALUCOBOND® PLUS

a fire-retardant mineral-filled core (70%).

For rear-ventilated façades, we recommend ALUCOBOND® A2 (EN classes A2-s1, d0) or ALUCOBOND® PLUS (EN classes B-s1, d0) in combination with non-combustible mineral insulation. This combination shows no flame propagation or critical temperature rise, and even exceeds the requirements of BR135.



Keystone brick slip feature lintels make an entrance at luxury Beaconsfield development



The superior aesthetics, offsite craftmanship and precision of **Keystone Lintels'** pioneering brick slip system has ensured the facade of a luxury apartment complex in Buckinghamshire is in keeping with its exemplary architectural design. Wellington Court is an exclusive development of one, two and three bedroom apartments. Developer Halamar's architectural vision for this property required a gable ended facade and main entrance featuring prominent and distinctive brickwork arches in the Arts and Craft style. To meet their requirements, Keystone's technical team designed Brick Slip Feature corbelled and full arch lintels which were manufactured in a factory-controlled environment, negating the need for complex brick cutting on-site Keystone's technical team ensured each bespoke lintel was manufactured to the size, shape and aesthetic requirements within the project build schedule. The one-piece lintel design solution required exacting dimensions to avoid any conflict with the proposed stone sitting at the end of each arch bearing. 3,593 mm upper coursing span and 3,143 mm lower coursing span measurements were essential for the seamless installation of the prominent entrance.

01283 200 150 keystonelintels.com

Crittall Leeds the way



Original Crittall windows have been replaced and upgraded on the main street frontage of one of Leeds' most historic quarters. Briggate is a pedestrianised principal shopping street in the city centre containing many historic buildings including, tucked away from view in Lamberts Yard, the only remaining Elizabethan timber framed property in the City dating back to circa 1600. The walkway leading to that heritage enclave passes through No. 162 Briggate, a 1950's vintage commercial and residential block where Think Architecture has installed replacement Crittall steel windows. "No.162 had original Crittalls and, as with all the buildings around Lamberts Yard, things were in various appalling states," said Simon Smithson, director of Pudsey, West Yorkshire-based, Think Architecture. The original single glazed windows in the three-storey no.162 were replaced with double glazed lookalike Homelight windows. The building now houses new apartments and a ground-floor commercial premises. "I have to say," added Mr Smithson, "that the Crittall windows are a wonderful system."

01376 530800 www.crittall-windows.co.uk

TORMAX automatic access to award-winning gallery



The award-winning MK Gallery brings world-class exhibitions and events, together with pioneering learning and engagement programmes, to the heart of Milton Keynes. Ensuring this vibrant community facility is accessible to all, TORMAX was contracted by B&K Building Services Ltd to install automatic doors throughout the contemporary new extension. Access to the popular cafe and extensive gallery spaces is simplified with the installation of TORMAX iMotion 1301 heavy-duty swing doors, ensuring free-flowing pedestrian traffic, even during busy events. A TORMAX iMotion 2302 automatic single sliding door creates a welcoming main entrance. Ensuring trouble-free operation and maximising the working life of the doors, MK Gallery has an annual maintenance contract with the in-house trained team of TORMAX service engineers. The Swiss-designed TORMAX range of iMotion automatic door operators incorporate a high torque synchronous motor that features none of the working parts that usually wear out, such as gears and brushes, making them one of the most durable and reliable on the market today.

www.tormax.co.uk

TECHNAL systems at six college sites



Providing yet another facade solution for Coleg Cambria, one of the largest colleges in the UK, TECHNAL aluminium windows, doors and curtain walling have been specified and installed at the college's flagship Yale Campus – the sixth Coleg Cambria site to feature TECHNAL systems. Maximising daylight and ventilation, the glazed facade spans 1,200 sqm across the building. Specified for proven performance

and thermal insulation, TECHNAL curtain walling offers a fully capped, mullion-drained solution. It creates a slim sightline while also providing the necessary strength and inertia requirements.

01684 853 500 www.technal.com/en/uk

Shining the light on London redevelopment



Associated Steel Window Services (ASWS), is proud to have been involved in the detailed restoration and conservation of both timber and steel fenestration throughout three floors of Quadrant Arcade, a Grade II listed building in London's Regent Street. Katrina Howard

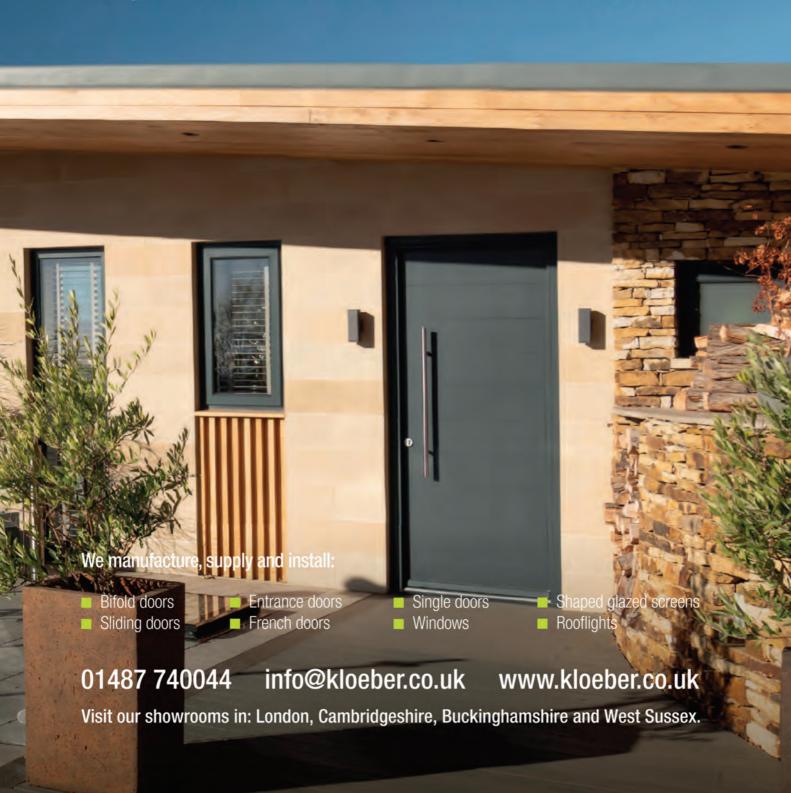
of ASWS commented: "We worked across the ground, mezzanine and first floor, not just repairing and replacing steel and timber frames, but also sourcing all of the required replica brass ironmongery, which we then re-patinated so that the colour matched throughout the building."

www.asws.co.uk



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ITPL relies on Stertil Dock Products to support 24/7 operation

ne of the UK's leading logistics companies, Integrated Third Party Logistics (ITPL), relies on an installation of 32 loading bays from Stertil Dock Products to ensure the efficient loading and unloading of 160 vehicles every day.

Vehicles arriving at the ITPL complex, which include 40 foot curtain sided and box containers, deliver and collect palletised loads with an average weight of one tonne per pallet.

When originally constructed, the ITPL warehouse incorporated 16 loading bays featuring Stertil loading bay equipment. This original installation performed well in a demanding application over many years which led to the decision to install similar equipment to support a recent 14 bay extension to cope with increasing throughputs. The Stertil equipment installed within the new extension includes the latest generation of S-series swing-lip dock levellers. Providing a dynamic load capacity of six



tonnes, these levellers automatically adjust to the changing floor height of the vehicle during loading and unloading operations, even if the vehicle is unevenly loaded.

Stertil also supplied and fitted its W-series curtain dock shelters to ensure exceptional performance of the loading bays. These shelters combine sturdy aluminium frames and strong reinforced curtains to provide optimal sealing between vehicles and the warehouse building.

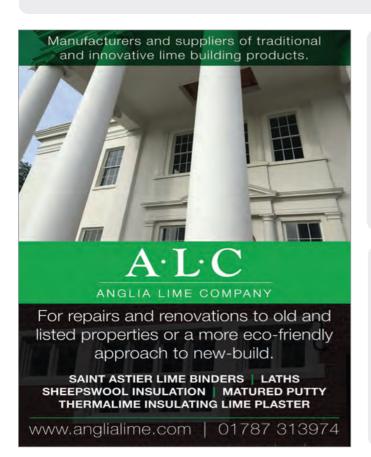
To complement the energy saving properties of the dock shelters, Stertil also



installed insulated doors from its Thermadoor range. These doors offer a choice of insulation levels including higher value insulation for applications where temperature control is critical.

Completing the range of Stertil dock products installed at the ITPL warehouse are L-shaped rubber bumpers which effectively prevent damage to the loading bay caused by reversing vehicles.

08707 700471 www.stertil-dockproducts.co.uk



W20 steel frames bringing new business



The roll out of the W50 TB thermally broken steel frame system – which captures the classic appearance of the ubiquitous W20 profiles, while delivering contemporary standards of energy performance – has been gathering pace as building activity across the

UK recovers from the disruption of the pandemic. First introduced in 2016, W50 TB windows and doors are now being offered by most members of the **Steel Window Association**; and are finding applications in both high specification projects and the refurbishment of larger properties including hotels, offices and public buildings.

www.steel-window-association.co.uk

Creative aluminium windows and doors



Hitting low U-value targets doesn't mean missing out on design flexibility thanks to Senior Architectural Systems' stylish range of PURe® aluminium windows and doors. With the thermal-efficiency of aluminium windows set to become even more important in light of the pending

changes to Part L of the Building regulations, Senior's patented PURe® system can offer specifiers functionality and flexibility thanks to the extensive range of design options, styles and configurations available. The unique system benefits from a high-performance PUR thermal barrier which allows significantly lower U-values to be achieved.

01709 772600 www.seniorarchitecturalsystems.co.uk



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Our innovative Zenon Pro and Zenon Evolution GRP rooflights are manufactured using a combination of materials that allows daylight to be spread throughout the whole building interior, making the most effective use of available daylight through maximum diffusion. This enhances internal illuminance by significantly reducing areas of light and shade, minimising the creation of shadows and providing a safer work environment.



Contact us to receive a free copy of our new Whitepaper: Zenon **GRP Rooflights: Sustainability** from natural daylight in the **built environment**



Slated for natural versatility

David Cooke from Cupa Pizarras discusses the versatility of natural slate when it comes to aesthetics, and the resulting design freedom it offers architects, giving recent examples

In an age where the environmental impact of our actions is rightly under scrutiny, natural slate represents a highly sustainable roofing or cladding choice. A 100% natural material, its production process from quarry to installation is a highly efficient one that does not require any chemical treatment. Independent studies, such as the Inventory of Carbon and Energy (ICE) at the University of Bath, have highlighted that natural slate has the ability to offer the lowest environmental impact when compared to alternative roofing materials.

Performance & aesthetics

With a lifespan of up to 150 years and needing only minimal maintenance, natural slate also provides a high performance and practical roofing option. In the material's early use, it was favoured for the construction of castles and churches due to its weather resistance. However, in more modern times, it has become a popular choice for its non-combustibility and sustainability credentials. Natural slate can create a sleek and uniform aesthetic and has the added benefit of being resistant to unsightly fungus or mould growth. Also, with the growing trend for unique pitched roofs that incorporate complex shapes,

natural slate can play a key role in a project's success. The material can be easily cut into a wide range of sizes, for example larger, 50 x 30 cm and 60 x 30 cm formats, and shapes including rhomboid and half moon to complement a wide variety of architectural designs.

The versatility of natural slate also means that it can be used as a contemporary cladding material. An example of this can be seen at a recent project in Peckham, south London, where a 72° upper mansard was created to provide a truly striking aesthetic. Mansards are becoming an increasingly popular choice due to the way in which they efficiently use interior space, as well as how they allow natural slate to be combined with other materials. In the case of Costa Street in Peckham, natural slate was selected due to its light weight and superior strength to weight ratio, enabling a dramatic 'leaning' effect to be achieved.

For a £2m development at the Colin Forbes Building – part of the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge – slate cladding was used alongside brickwork to provide a contemporary look, and complement the existing building. A 'random' natural slate rainscreen cladding system was specified in

Natural slate was selected due to its light weight and superior strength to weight ratio, enabling a dramatic 'leaning' effect to be achieved

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a range of dimensions to create a varied and dynamic finish. It also allowed the impression of stratified rock to provide a further visual cue to the geological nature of the work conducted inside.

A traditional approach

While cladding provides a striking modern use for natural slate, the material remains a popular choice for more traditional building designs and heritage roofs too. In particular, many projects can benefit from the longstanding design choice of laying natural slate in 'diminishing' courses. This approach, sometimes referred to as random slating, was originally the result of many Scottish quarries historically producing slates in varying dimensions and thicknesses to maximise the quarry output. This led to the practice of laying the slates with the largest ones at the base of the roof and the smaller ones near the ridge.

Some manufacturers offer options in a random format should the distinctive aesthetic be required. This was the case during a recent renovation of the historic Marine Hotel in Troon, Ayrshir located on the edge of Royal Troon Golf Course. The choice of product closely replicated the

colour and thickness of the original slates while maintaining the diminishing courses used on the original roof.

Finally, natural slate can be used to complement other natural materials, textures and colour schemes to create unique architectural designs, as evidenced by a recent new build development in Whitstable. Pitched roofs feature extensive use of dark grey aluminium glazing systems, including rooftop lanterns and large sloping roof windows. The design also included high quality natural timber cladding, sedum green roofing and natural stone blockwork, used alongside natural slate. achieving the desired look and a durable result.

While natural slate has a long and established history as a building material, the design possibilities, sustainable credentials and performance benefits for modern construction projects are clear. Manufacturers offer product portfolios of natural solutions which can provide the ideal result for specifiers, whether it is a unique and contemporary project or one looking to maintain traditional aesthetics.

David Cooke is business development manager at Cupa Pizarras



Supporting net zero ambitions: New solar PV enhancement from Marley



With net zero ambitions set across the UK, and the Future Homes Standard calling for all new homes built from 2025 to deliver a 75-80% reduction in carbon emissions, integrated photovoltaics (PV) systems are seen as part of the solution. To aid the specification market as it seeks to design in renewable energy solutions needed for the homes of tomorrow, Marley has launched a new solar panel providing superior aesthetic appeal and improved power output. The new enhanced Marley SolarTile® – delivers a lean, low-profile aesthetic for both new build and retrofit projects and offers simple and quick roof integration. Following significant research and development by Marley to design products that meet the needs of changing legislation, and carbon reduction targets, the enhanced panel is quick to install, and the increased efficiency allows for an install time of 45 minutes per kWp. The panel development gives specifiers the benefit of an increase in total power output from the roof area or achieving the same output using fewer panels. A higher power rating makes roof-integrated solar a more cost-effective option, with fewer panels and roofing kits needed to reach the project energy target.

01283 722588 www.marley.co.uk/solar

SIGnature Rooflights Configurator



With so many rooflight options on the market it can be confusing to know which is the best solution for your project. To help guide architects and contractors through the different options available and simplify the specification process SIG Design & Technology has

launched their new online SIGnature Rooflight Configurator tool. SIGnature rooflights have been developed specifically for flat roofs, low pitched or gently curved roofs where the pitch does not exceed 15°. They can be used with a range of roofing systems including single ply, bituminous, metal, liquid applied and asphalt.

01509 505 714 www.singleply.co.uk/other-systems/signature-rooflights

Sto helps restore historic London art gallery



Hayward Gallery at London's Southbank Centre underwent a complete refurbishment, and the StoSilent Distance system from Sto helped create a new and dramatically improved acoustic environment for this world-renowned art gallery. Unlike conventional acoustic treatments which use exposed grid and tile

systems and offer limited design possibilities, the StoSilent Distance solution allows the creation of modern, clean, monolithic and seamless solutions, and can accommodate unusual design features such as the gallery ceiling and its pyramid-shaped skylights.

0141 892 8000 www.sto.co.uk



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Flexible working, flexible office



Over the past 5 years, and due to the increased demand for the flexible space that the post pandemic office requires, the industry has been set alight to the concept. An increasing number of developers, architects, consultants, contractors, and occupiers are all discovering the many

benefits to underfloor air conditioning and its key role in offices of today and the future. **AET Flexible Space** has been working on some exciting projects pre and post pandemic, and can't wait for the endusers to start enjoying the benefits of these stunning workspaces.

01342 310400 www.flexiblespace.com/flexible-working-flexible-office

Adaptive Ducted Units to VRF range



Panasonic Heating & Cooling Solutions introduces the Adaptive Ducted F3 range for its VRF systems, designed for retail, hotel and office applications. The range features a new vertical mounting option

and a choice of rear or bottom air inlet, increasing fitting possibilities. This, and a choice of 12 capacities, from 1.5 kW – 16 kW, provides very flexible options for installers. The Adaptive Ducted Units come in a compact design for the ultimate space-saving solution, with a height of just 250 mm and ranges in weight from 26 kg to 42 kg, making it well adapted for projects requiring a more discreet fit.

01344 853 393 www.aircon.panasonic.eu/gb_en





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How convenient are public conveniences?

Public toilets have long held a certain notoriety. Originally designed for convenience to provide comfort outside of the home, today's reality is very different. Far from offering "amenities" and "comfort breaks", they are often unhygienic, uninspiring and unappealing - the antithesis of what is required of public washrooms.

As we finally return to shared spaces, it's time to address this lack of comfort and place a renewed emphasis on hygiene when refurbishing communal washrooms and designing public facilities for offices, shopping centres, restaurants and transport hubs.

Great expectations

Nowadays, public washroom users expect: cleanliness, aesthetic designs and comfort in terms of touch-free water and soap delivery; and full temperature control. The facility manager demands reliable, safe, and hygienic products, in addition to water and energy savings. The installer, for his part, looks for easy installation and reduced maintenance. The real challenge is meeting everyone's expectations.

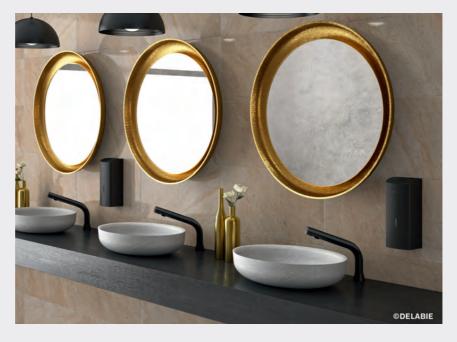
DELABIE's new range of BINOPTIC mixers and taps, with coordinating accessories, weaves an elegant link between design, functionality, hygiene and comfort. Our product designers combined form and function to deliver sleek profiles in matte black which withstand intensive daily use, yet retain their elegant looks.

Touch-free taps

Completely touch-free, the user can wash, soap, rinse and dry their hands without touching any surfaces. However, hygiene runs deeper, with key features to reduce water stagnation and limit bacterial development such as an automatic duty flush, a smooth interior with low water capacity, and a reduced-stagnation solenoid valve. Mixer



DELABIE's hand dryer with anti-blocking



versions also have a side lever to adjust the water temperature with a maximum limiter to prevent scalding. User comfort is assured.

Specifying BINOPTIC taps in public washrooms guarantees sustainability. They avoid unnecessary waste, activating only when a user is detected, and closing when their presence is no longer detected. The flow rate is 3 lpm, but can be set as low as 1.5 lpm to meet water efficiency standards. Reducing water usage also impacts energy consumption. If less hot water is used, less energy is required to heat it.

Keeping it simple

DELABIE's taps and soap dispensers are battery-operated and, since they need no electrical connection, they are simple to install. Maintenance for the electronic taps is also less onerous, assisted by LED diagnostic aids. Parts are standardised and they can be easily accessed without isolating the water supply since the mechanism, solenoid valve and battery are integrated within the body.

As footfall increases and since hand hygiene has become second nature, the fittings in public washrooms must be resilient. BINOPTIC taps feature shock-resistant mechanisms and sensors, housed in a solid brass body. The taps and soap dispensers also feature anti-blocking which ensures that no water or soap is delivered if the sensor is permanently covered.

The matte black range from DELABIE offers a stylish solution to fulfil the complex demands on modern washrooms. Specifically designed for public and commercial places, it delivers user comfort, reduces waste, controls consumption and contributes to good hygiene practices, and all delivered in a stylish package.

01491 824449 www.delabie.co.uk



Matte black touch-free soap dispenser

Callisto stars at Premier League Training Ground!

allisto from Luceco has been installed at an academy base for a Premier Birmingham. Callisto is a contemporary and stylish linear LED surface mounted luminaire, offering over 100,000 hours of maintenance free, operational life and was specified for this state-of-the-art cutting edge, sports, and scientific technology centre. With an efficacy of 135 Llm/cW, and lumen output variants ranging from 11,000 lm up to 32,000 lm, Callisto benefits from IK10 rating so can be used in semi industrial applications as well recreational and sports facilities, offering both wide and narrow optical light distribution.

Ceres was also a principal luminaire alongside the Callisto. The Ceres range offers up to 147 Llm/cW with 100,000 hours working life, perfect for applications with high mounting locations where re lamping can be both hazardous and expensive due to hire of special equipment and downtime. IP65 rated, Ceres is available with on/off presence detection options, often



a requirement in commercial and industrial applications and 60°, 90° and 120° lens variations. Options include two, three or five row LED housing possibilities and like Callisto, is available as fixed output, DALI dimmable, emergency back-up variants and Luceco's Wireless Lighting Controls, Platform and Elevate.

Conference facilities, match analysis rooms and offices were lit with a combination of Leren, LuxFrame and Ice, all highly contemporary energy saving luminaires.

Contemporary and stylish, Ice Linear is a transparent optic pendant luminaire



providing both upward and downward light distribution. Supplied complete with adjustable wire suspensions, Ice Linear delivers an enhanced lit effect, the sleek transparent design complements modern interiors even when turned off.

Cost effective lighting was an essential element for this state-of-the-art sports facility, and Callisto is definitely performing a starring role at this famous midland's based, football club's training ground!

01952 238 100 www.luceco.com/uk









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Where style meets durability

he Formica® Door Collection encapsulates a refined selection of eye-catching colours and wood decors and tactile surface finishes into high pressure laminate (HPL). HPL is the perfect material to meet the demanding design and surface performance requirements for architectural doors, in today's modern commercial and residential environments.

Formica Group has carefully considered the most suitable and useable designs and decors for door design; introducing 15 new 'colors', all available in Matte58 texture and 4 selected 'colors' now available in Naturelle and Linewood textures to present wood detailing on colour. The Formica Door Collection has truly been inspired by nature and introduces 20 new wood decors in a variety of textures, matched to best suit each wood design.

'Colors'

New plain colour introductions; Greens, Reds and the Night Series, have a raw and earthed approach. The new green palette continues to answer the trend for biophillic design and the 'outdoors in' theme and includes natural earthy tones of green in sophisticated and calming hues.

Terracotta and earthy hues of red have been introduced, fitting the trend for more natural looking materials connecting back to manmade and authentic looks.

The Night Series is an introduction of three new rich and luxe 'almost black' colours. Night Shade is reddish near black, Night Forest is the same level of dark but green and Night Sea is a deep blue.

Brite White, a cool white, completes the new plain colour introductions.

Woods

The highlight of the woods introductions is Ventura Oak, a stylish, relaxed woodgrain in a cool, neutral mid-tone grey, almost blueish in colour.

The Cedar series is a cool, calming and contemporary version of a softwood look, coming in a series of three; a blond, milky



mocha and near black noir colour.

Tromso Maple is a Scandinavian inspired, naturally light species, low in contrast keeping the typical knots in balance. Three Ash decors, Pale Ash, Aged Ash and Dark Ash create a Scandinavian elegance instantly with a timeless structure.

Trendy beige, greige and grey-brown extends the greyed muted palette with the introduction of Belvedere Beech and Nevada Oak.

Four elegant walnuts; Formal Walnut, Refined Walnut, Peruca Walnut and Cetina Walnut add warmth to the collection from bleached to fully saturated dark brown.

0191 622 0096 www.formica.com

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Sealing concrete's interior future

Architects and designers are broadening their concrete horizons – firmly cementing the time-honoured material's place in 'softer' interior applications. Craig Bell from Osmo provides advice on maintaining its durability



rends in interior design change constantly, and it can be hard to keep up with what is the latest style, product or material that is currently ontrend. Interior designers and architects like to try new things, and one shift that is particularly noticeable, is the transition of concrete from a 'hard' building material used in all types of construction, to a contemporary and stylish finish for interior design elements such as flooring, furniture and surfaces.

Concrete in its various forms has been around for centuries. However, it is only in the last few years that it has made this transition to an interior product. It has a proven industrial heritage of extreme durability, a quality that translates well to an interior environment. The benefits of concrete furniture for example go far beyond strength and durability however. The potential designs can range from the very simple, to the ornate, with each piece

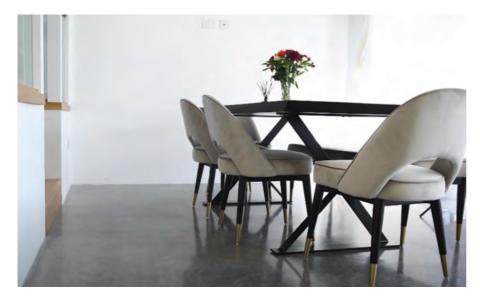
custom created to complement the surrounding decor.

Typical concrete pieces might be dining, coffee and side tables, kitchen worktops and even lighting fixtures. The material's simple style and colour also make it a great contrast feature for monochrome interior features, and it's an ideal material to create an 'industrial' design aesthetic. It also pairs extremely well with other materials, and the unusual texture can really make an impact in any interior scheme.

Maintenance

Like many materials, concrete needs care and attention to maintain the qualities that make it an appealing product in the first place. Each concrete piece is usually uniquely designed to suit the application, and it is important to look after them.

A good way to treat interior concrete products is to use a good clear, satin impregnation oil. This combines the One shift that is particularly noticeable is the transition of concrete from a 'hard' material to a contemporary and stylish finish for interior design elements such as flooring, furniture and services







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advantages of natural oils and waxes in one product. Importantly it is designed not to form a film on the surface – particularly important with concrete – instead, it penetrates the surface. As a result, the microporous surface becomes water and dirt repellent, as well as stain resistant. This action makes the oil especially suited to concrete wall panelling and flooring in kitchens and bathrooms as well as for tabletops, windows sills and kitchen worktops.

Application

When undertaking maintenance with oil, it is important to apply it very thinly and spread it well across the area. Any excess product (i.e. pooling or streaks) should be removed using a pad, or a lint-free cloth. For larger areas, remove excess oil with a rubber scraper and polish with a buffing machine ('whitepad'). The oil must be absorbed into the surface, allowing 8-10 hours to dry. For best results, the area should be well ventilated. When ready, apply the second coat also very thinly and again, remove any excess. When renovating an already oiled surface, normally one coat on a cleaned surface is sufficient.

Sustainability

Concrete is also a sustainable material. This is a major plus for many architects and interior designers working in today's environmentally conscious marketplace, where sustainable sourcing is key. Should it be necessary, concrete pieces can be recycled at the end of their life. That said, with proper care and attention concrete products can last for centuries. Although it is unlikely anyone has such grand ambitions for today's interior pieces, it is reassuring for architects and designers to know there are products available that can maintain, preserve and enhance the concrete features they create today.

Craig Bell is senior technical advisor at Osmo

Norcros Adhesives nails it with beauty salon refurb



Norcros Adhesives has been involved in a stunning refurbishment of a beauty salon and nail bar in Gillow Heath, Staffordshire. This was a huge job, with a 40 m² tiled area, in which all the rooms had to be taken back to bare brick and the floors ripped up and chiselled away. The floors then needed levelling to provide a suitable substrate for tiling. There was also a tight deadline, as the owner needed to open the salon on a fixed date. A range of Norcros Adhesives products were used. These included: 10 mm Pro Board, S1 Rapid White Adhesive, Pro 10 Leveller, Prime Bond, Sealing Slurry, Tanking Kit and Flexi Grout Slate Grey. Norcros Adhesives' ability to supply the required products on a very rapid turnaround, while also providing constant technical support, including the supply of handy step-by-step guides, helped the project run very smoothly and enabled the salon to open as planned. According to Ray Lambert at the contractor, Dylston Property Maintenance: "The constant support from the technical team at Norcros really was brilliant and I cannot fault their efforts in helping this be a smooth, stress-free project."

01782 524140 www.norcros-adhesives.com

HiB launches new mirrors and cabinets showcasing statement styles and technology



Leading supplier HiB has unveiled its latest collection of bathroom mirrors and cabinets, showcasing sophisticated styling and stunning functionality. Among the new products is the Maxim mirror, which is composed of three panels of mirrored glass reaching up to 900 mm in height. Maxim's precision illumination is operated using a touchless sensor and features colour temperature changing technology. For those seeking the ultimate bathroom cabinet, the new Isoe range offers the complete package. With its curved lighting and mirrored sides it offers perfect aesthetics for all bathrooms. Isoe also delivers plenty of functionality, including an electric toothbrush charger and head storage, 2 pin socket and double USB. With a reputation for developing quality bathroom products that spans more than 30 years, HiB's latest products are no exception. Each range has been developed with cutting-edge style and customers' needs at the forefront of design. Ash Chilver, sales director at HiB said: "The range of styles and the meticulous attention to detail displays HiB's ongoing commitment to the development of innovative bathroom mirrors and cabinets."

020 8441 0352 www.hib.co.uk

Flooring delivers savings year after year



Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust was an early adopter of Altro CantataTM adhesive-free flooring, putting it to the test in the most demanding of areas before rolling it out in many high circulation areas. Altro has revisited four years on and found that the time and cost savings associated

with adhesive-free floors have continued well beyond the initial installation. Altro's award-winning adhesive-free installation method means flooring can be welded and walked on the same day – halving the installation time compared with a traditional adhered installation.

01462 489 516 www.altro.co.uk

Fresh. Energising. Innovative.



Forbo Flooring Systems has launched the second generation of its premium homogeneous vinyl sheet collection, Sphera Energetic. Developed by Forbo's in-house European design team using the latest technology, the revitalised

collection comprises four design families – Uni, Vivid, Shimmer and Confetti – each one offering an array of beautifully balanced designs to help architects and specifiers create fresh, contemporary interiors, whilst still retaining its exceptional durability properties. Sphera Energetic is the perfect solution for hygienic healthcare environments.

01773 744 121 www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/spheraenergetic

BLANCO's SUBLINE in SILGRANIT® is sublime



BLANCO's SUBLINE sink portfolio has been developed to combine exceptional designs with practicality and durability. Available in a range of models and colours, the SUBLINE sink in Silgranit® combines a strong sink surface with creativity for the busy kitchen.

Homeowners and designers can select a small bowl – for example, BLANCO's SUBLINE 160-U as a side bowl – to sit alongside a larger main one, such as the SUBLINE 700-U. The Silgranit material ensures a seamless blend between the two. The strong, durable and stone-like surface is scratch-, impact-, acid- and heat-resistant.

www.blanco.co.uk

Bold and beautiful with Black Marble



The Black Marble kitchen is a sleek addition to Keller Kitchens' range of beautiful kitchen designs. Matt surfacing and black decor in the kitchen has enjoyed a resurgence recently. As this kitchen with a real luxurious feel shows, black features

and matt finishes work in tandem to bring a sophisticated touch of class. Keller has used a black marble ceramics recess paired with matt black appliances to create a unique focal point in the kitchen. This ontrend feature has been matched with a monochrome kitchen island; the white cabinetry adding another level of depth to design excellence.

www.kellerkitchens.com

Wash your hands, stop the spread...



Regular handwashing, with soap and water, is proven to break the chain of transmission for a variety of common respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, which PHE warns will add to Covid pressure for care providers this winter. Covid-19 social-distancing measures and lock-down meant many fewer cases of the cold, flu, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and Norovirus/winter vomiting bug were recorded last winter. With social interactions increasing again, and the autumnal weather pressing us back indoors, non-Covid infections are now on the rise. Surface cleaning and regular, effective soap/water handwashing, will therefore be even more important to keep such infections in check this winter, and particularly in care establishments where patients and service-users may have compromised immunity. The award-winning Optitherm thermostatic clinical tap has been specially designed for clinical handwash; ergonomic lever actuation ensures reliable and clean hands-free operation, delivering safe, comfortable and accurate temperature controlled warm water with minimal splashing. Visit the Horne website for more information.

01505 321455 b.link/Safehands

New lease of life to British treasure



The Saniflo Sanicubic macerator pump is breathing a new lease of life into a highly-acclaimed piece of British heritage – a replica of the famous ship, the Golden Hinde, known for circumventing the globe during the 16th century under the command of

British explorer Sir Francis Drake. Located underneath the floorboards in the bow of the ship, the pump is perfectly positioned to take waste from two new WCS cubicles and basins as well as a new kitchen area in the galley. A dishwasher, sink and icemaker are all plumbed into the Sanicubic thanks to its multiple outlets.

020 8842 0033 www.saniflo.co.uk

VORTICE updates its hair dryer range



With many people now choosing to bring their own hair dryers into hotel rooms due to inferior products being offered, VORTICE has updated its longstanding Vort Dry hair dryer with some clever tweaks. The unit offers built-in two-speed thermal protector, for the best balance between drying speed and comfort of use and has an extremely powerful airflow

thanks to the axial impeller. The Vort Dry unit itself has a modern and ergonomic design with an extendable nozzle of up to 130 cm which is both non yellowing and designed to ensure no heat build up.

01283 492949 www.vortice.ltd.uk

A new discovery in smoke protection



Gilberts' "first of its kind" Series 60 damper were chosen by leading smoke control systems company Baiceir to protect the 14-storey Discovery Quay development. Some 26 dampers – each capable of providing up to two hours' fire integrity – were incorporated into the common corridors to protect the two stairwells within the £24.5m building, comprising 400 student bedrooms and ancillary communal space. Manufactured from galvanised steel with intumescent material and gaskets within, Series 60 has passed all relevant smoke and fire tests (EN12101-8 and EN1366-10), retaining its integrity and performance when incorporated into evacuation shafts and risers. Thus customers have the assurance that they are meeting, if not surpassing, current Standards for smoke ventilation in multi-storey buildings- new build and refurbishments. Believed to be the only vent of its kind designed and manufactured in the UK, Series 60 offers what Gilberts claims will the biggest standard range of EN12101-8 compliant fire-tested dampers. The initial launch provides seven sizes, from 440 mm x 440 mm up to 1,000 mm x 1,125 mm. The range will be extended by 1mm increments over the coming months.

01253 766911 info@gilbertsblackpool.com

When is a fire door not a fire door?



Well, the simple answer is 'when the door closer isn't working'. If a door closer has been damaged by vandalism or tampering, the fire door will not perform the function for which it is designed and specified, namely keeping the door closed. Unlike surface-mounted door closers, Powermatic is completely concealed when the door is closed. Not only does this enable the specifier to retain the aesthetics of a door and interior, but it also reduces the opportunity for the door closer to be vandalised, tampered with or removed, ensuring that the fire door continues to perform reliably. Together with maintenance-free service and closing speed and latching action which can be adjusted without removal from the door, this can result in a reduced maintenance burden for building owners and managers. Powermatic also boasts a plethora of performance accreditations, including UKCA marking, fire testing on half- and one-hour fire doors, opening forces that comply with BS8300 and the ability to enable doors to meet the requirements of Approved Document M. It is also the only Certifire jamb-mounted door closer. Please visit Samuel Heath's website for more information.

0121 766 4200 concealeddoorclosers.com

Baldwin Boxall designs residential tower emergency communication solution

Pollowing the Grenfell Tower incident resulting in the tragic loss of life in 2017, and other events in residential towers, it has become clear that a method of informing residents of a situation is urgently needed.

Baldwin Boxall has addressed this problem by designing an ideal solution, which has been successfully installed in a residential tower. Fire officers, council personnel and landlords were consulted and have fully endorsed this ground breaking pilot scheme.

The specially designed, networked, enhanced public address system enables fire rescue services to broadcast speech and message announcements to single floors, multiple floors or the whole building in the event of an emergency situation. Installed as a secondary measure to the building's fire detection and traditional sounders, the Baldwin Boxall system can be used to broadcast information and reassurance to the residents – including instruction as necessary.

Standards compliance

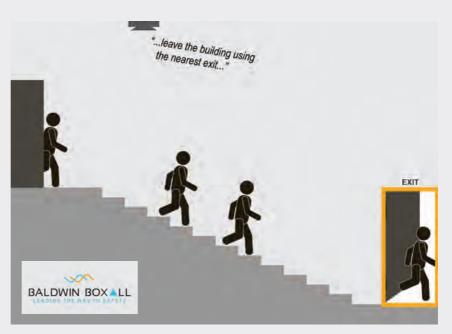
As with all projects, particularly those that require a system that differs from the norm, Baldwin Boxall checked and reviewed the available British Standards which may have been partially applicable, this includes: EN54-16:2008, BS5839-8:2013, BS8629:2019 and BSEN50849:2017. It was found that, due to the application being purely residential, there are no current standards against which this system could be certified.

Protection & coverage

The loudspeakers installed for the enhanced PA system are vandal resistant, rugged units, in addition, to reduce possible exposure to



Baldwin Boxall surface mount touch screen PAVA microphone BVRDTSMS



system damage, the end-of-line monitoring ability has been achieved by specially fitting monitoring PCBs within the loudspeaker units. (EOL monitoring is usually achieved via separate, wall mounted enclosures.) The design of the system ensures that damage to a loudspeaker or cabling – or indeed should a line fault arise – the system will keep functioning thus ensuring the residents will still receive emergency broadcasts in their vicinity.

Monitoring 'Pulse'

Like voice alarm, every part of the enhanced PA is monitored, and battery-backed to ensure it will function as needed during an

monitored system, a '20kHz pulse' is sent through each length of cable from one point to another (critical signal path) at regular intervals which can, on occasion, be detected by animals and those with exceptional hearing. In order to eliminate any possible effects on residents, or pets, a 20kHz filter has been specially added to each EOL monitoring PCB.

emergency. To check the integrity of a

The System

The design includes a network of Eclipse4 units and surface mount touch screen microphone. The Eclipse4 has a slim profile and can be installed as a stand-alone PA/VA unit or with multiple units in a networked system. It is a fully integrated public address/voice evacuation system which takes up minimal floor space and is secured by bolting to a wall or suitable solid upright.

The surface mount touch screen microphone (BVRDTSMS) is housed in a robust and weather-proof enclosure. The unit has been designed specifically for the voice alarm market and will interface with any Baldwin Boxall VIGIL voice alarm system.

01892 664422 www.baldwinboxall.co.uk



The Baldwin Boxall VIGIL Eclipse4 PAVA wall mount system





Safety in numbers

Dave Walker of Distinction Doors explores how early engagement between architects and product manufacturers will be key to helping the industry design and construct safer buildings, post-Grenfell

hen speaking with architects and other product manufacturers, one point which comes up again and again is the need for early engagement on projects. While the new national construction products regulator will give confidence to architects and specifiers, the success of these reforms will lie in collaborative working.

Operating within the Office for Product Safety and Standards, the new regulator has been set up to ensure construction materials are safe. It will have the authority to "remove any product from the market that presents a significant safety risk" and will be able to conduct its own product testing when investigating concerns.

Some of the concerns to be addressed by the regulator will include those heard in the Grenfell Inquiry, namely "Malpractice by some construction product manufacturers and their employees, and weaknesses of the present product testing regime."

Commenting on the new initiative, Lord Porter, the Local Government Association's building safety spokesperson, said: "It is good that the Government has listened to councils' concerns and announced a review into testing. We have previously raised concerns about the role of the test houses in the mass failure of glass reinforced plastic (GRP) fire doors following the Grenfell Tower tragedy."

With the Building Safety Bill expected to be enforced within two years, the wider construction industry understands that traceability will be fundamental to the future of fire safety. Architects, especially Principal Designers (named as duty holders under the reforms), will undoubtedly welcome this new regulator. It will promote competence and quality in the construction industry and enforce greater responsibility in the supply chain.

For designers of tall buildings, easy access to high level information will be essential in maintaining the 'golden thread' of information – an obligation within the new legislation. In time, every architectural



practice will have its own golden thread. Yet, there are no indicators on how this information should be stored or updated. To overcome this and aid the transition, the RIBA launched its own Fire Safety Compliance Tracker this summer.

In recent years several GRP composite fire door system houses, and members of the Association of Composite Door Manufacturers, have taken steps which go some way to meet the demand for product traceability – gaining third party certification and taking control of their supply chain. This not only significantly reduces risk, but also promotes stakeholder confidence.

Early consultation

In the past, specialist design elements have occurred too late, leading to ambiguities and omissions which do not coordinate with the original design. There is also the issue of value engineering, which can compromise the integrity of the fire safety design. Early consultation with product manufacturers and other specialist





Architects must demand better quality information and innovation from manufacturers

sub-contractors would alleviate this. Their expertise and knowledge can be used to inform the overall fire safety design and aid the design and specification of fire safety measures before construction begins.

We are hopeful that while this initiative is driven by the Building Safety Bill which relates to higher-risk, high-rise buildings, it will be a driver for change across the built environment. Early engagement is critical for safer buildings.

To prepare and support early consultation, product manufacturers have a duty to provide access to clear and transparent product information, e.g. BIM models, technical data and test evidence. This is particularly pertinent for fire safety products, especially test data. Test evidence should be made readily available in a digital format. Proof of independent third-party testing offers reassurance to all stakeholders, demonstrating that the product has been verified by an expert and is publicly available.

Fire doorsets, for example, should be third-party tested and certificated using an independent United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited test house.

One GRP composite fire door system

supplier (FDS) has raised the bar, meeting not just the British Standard (BS 476-22 Fire resistance and smoke control tests for door and shutter assemblies, openable windows and elements of building hardware) but also the more demanding European test method standard BS EN 1634-1.

The tests were conducted in three countries, using three variations of supporting wall construction – 150 mm and 225 mm rigid aerated block and flexible steel stud construction.

Ready access to this level of test data is invaluable not only for architects, but to ease concerns and meet the demands of the national construction products regulator.

Architects must demand more from product manufacturers; better quality information and innovation. It would educate and promote a greater understanding of the products being specified; how they should be installed and more importantly, in the case of fire protection and prevention products, how to maintain them.

Dave Walker is technical director of Distinction Doors



A trio of fire rated systems



Following rigorous testing, Komfort Partitioning is excited to introduce Polar 35FR and Polar 101FR, their enhanced single and double glazed Polar fire rated partitioning systems. Their new enhanced Polar fire rated partitioning systems complement their fire screens and fire rated doors, providing designers with complete flexibility in design and performance to meet a wide range of

project fire requirements and briefs. At Komfort, fire safety is an absolute priority and is treated with the highest importance throughout the design, manufacture, specification and install process.

specifiersupport@komfort.co.uk www.komfort.com

Siderise launches fire protection package



Siderise has launched a suite of new passive fire protection products specifically engineered for masonry facades, making it easy for specifiers and developers to choose the right protection for their buildings. The new product range includes the Siderise External Wall (EW) and

enhanced External Wall intumescent (EWi) systems, comprising both specialised cavity barriers and fire stops, in addition to the Siderise BB-CB Balcony Bracket Cavity Barrier. Each product has been subject to rigorous third-party testing to the relevant UK and European standards to ensure high performance and accurate product data.

01656 730833 www.siderise.com







BAL Waterproof 1C, the new one-coat solution – All the features, none of the faff

BAL, market-leaders in full-tiling solutions, have launched a new one-coat waterproofing solution for bathrooms, wetrooms and showers prior to tiling.

BAL Waterproof 1C is a ready-mixed tanking solution that can be used without priming on most common substrates and is ready to tile after only two hours!

Formulated with fibre-strand technology for improved strength, it can be applied in one-coat on walls and floors with a brush, roller or 4 mm notched trowel. No additional tapes or matting are needed as it is crackbridging from 2-3 mm.

This innovative new product is lightweight with easy-to-apply rheology and provides excellent coverage of up to 6 m² – making it suitable for domestic shower rooms, bathrooms or wetrooms.

BAL Waterproof 1C also has sustainable benefits with Low VOC and using 40% recycled materials. As part of the launch, BAL

is streamlining its current waterproofing solution by deleting BAL WP1 / BAL Waterproofing Kit – and old technology that will be replaced by the higher performing Waterproof 1C.

Continuing in the product range will be BAL Tank-it – a quicker setting 2-part powder and liquid product that can be tiled in only 90 minutes.

BAL Tank-it can also be used for large scale commercial projects and external waterproofing such as balconies and terraces.

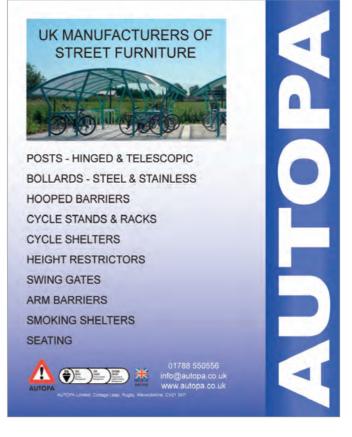
Alex Underwood, head of marketing said: "BAL Waterproof 1C is a significant waterproofing innovation, greatly improving the performance of our former ready-mixed tanking solutions. In most instances, with no tapes or priming required, and being applied as a one-coat solution, BAL Waterproof 1C provides an easy waterproofing solution to ensure tiled wet areas are compliant with British Standards."



Additional advice on waterproof tanking system requirements for domestic and commercial wet areas is also given in BS 5385 Part 4: 2015.

01782 591120 www.bal-adhesives.com





Armourcoat PPX® features in award-winning sanctuary show garden at Chelsea flower show







The garden design, entitled "The Boodles Secret Garden", is inspired by the well-loved children's story by Frances Hodgson-Burnett, and is an interpretation of the journey to



an enchanted, life-changing sanctuary.

Two walls were hand finished with Armourcoat PPX, a low maintenance, durable exterior limestone render that creates stunning honed and textured stone-like finishes.

Thomas Hoblyn commented: "The garden has a very naturalistic feel about it and I used a lot of natural products like timber in its raw form and hand dressed stone and I really wanted to create a wall that had the same

mood. Armourcoat PPX creates this lovely pitted effect so it looks like it's been there for a long time which is bang on for the ambience I was trying to create for the sanctuary garden. Armourcoat really does have that natural beautiful textured finish. It's a perfect exterior product as it looks flawless and is designed to last. I would happily use Armourcoat again and again and again, I would use them for all my show gardens because it's a great way to get a really good effect but it's a real product that you can use outside. This is not a stage set, this is a real garden and this is what Armourcoat are really good at doing".

The finished garden highlights the importance of finding an inner sanctuary to restore and enhance life after uncertainty and crisis; a space in which to heal and move forward, metaphorically and in the real space of our own gardens.

Tom Hoblyn is a British landscape designer, horticulturist, and gardener designer. An established figure at both Chelsea and RHS Hampton Court designs "The Boodles Secret Garden" is Tom's seventh show garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



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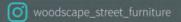














Taking fencing to the next level

John Abernethie of Birkdale looks at how fencing has evolved beyond a functional element to help architects provide increasingly in-demand, attractive outdoor spaces for clients

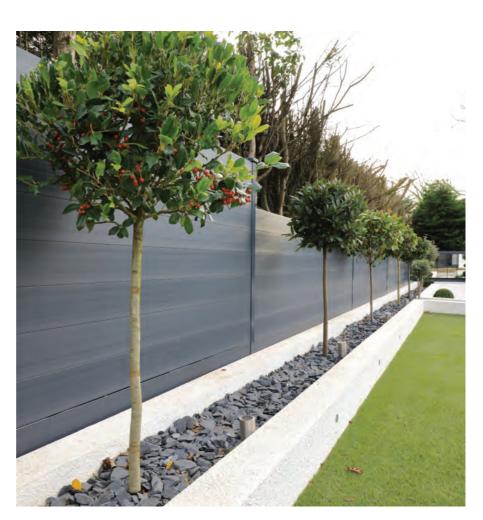
utdoor areas are becoming more important for both residential and commercial projects. The health and wellbeing benefits of access to quality outdoor spaces is now well established. Homeowners are expecting more from gardens, viewing them as an important extension of the house.

Until recently, fences have been considered to be primarily functional elements, used to create boundaries, provide security and allow privacy. While this is still important, fencing is increasingly a key part of the visual design and used in more varied and innovative ways to bring structure and texture to an outdoor area. As such, the careful selection of fencing, posts and accessories can have a significant impact on the space.

Traditionally, there have been limited options when it comes to fencing, with timber and concrete being the two most popular materials for posts, and timber being the most common choice for the panelling itself. The development of galvanised steel posts in a range of colours, alongside other fencing accessories have opened up a number of design opportunities, as well as practical benefits.

One of the key trends in recent years has been the blending of different textures and materials. This can be achieved in an outdoor space by combining the natural, traditional appearance of timber panels with the sleek, modern aesthetics of steel posts. Powder-coated steel products also provide an opportunity to create a colour scheme for the fence with matching posts, gate posts, post caps, gravel boards and capping rails.

These accessories will complement the chosen fence panel material and design as well as provide an opportunity to visually link the outdoor spaces to the exterior, or even interior, of the house or building. For example, on-trend colours, such as anthracite – popular for windows, doors, cladding and rainwater systems – can be



reflected in the fence posts and accessories.

In addition, when used innovatively, composite gravel boards can provide an altogether different aesthetic. It is possible to construct the panel sections to the full height of the fence using gravel boards only in a stacked configuration. Selecting boards made from a composite material will ensure a long life, and with the added benefit of a choice of colours. Products designed for this purpose will include features such as a tongue and groove design, creating a solid,

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One of the key trends in recent years has been the blending of different textures and materials



consistent finish. Using a single-colour gravel board can create a background that allows other elements of the space, such as planting, to stand out. Alternatively, mixing or alternating gravel boards of different colours can help create an eyecatching feature.

Another trend is the move away from traditional styles and designs for fences. While conventional options such as horizontal and vertical close-board panels are still popular, those looking to create a more distinctive look can opt for Venetian, hit and miss, louvre or woven designs. Low-rise fencing options can be used to compartmentalise a space without creating barriers that could make it feel smaller. Picket or trellis panel fencing can also soften the impact by letting light through and allowing visibility into the sectioned-off areas.

Versatile fence post solutions enable different fencing styles and designs to be created simply and cost effectively, using both pre-fabricated panels and onsite construction approaches. For example, galvanised steel products with an H-profile can allow the panel material to be fixed simply using screws, and held securely.

Additionally, fence posts with a slim profile can take up less space within gardens when compared to timber or concrete alternatives.

Finally, it is also important to specify a fencing system that will make installation simple. Galvanised steel posts have a high strength-to-weight ratio and can be installed in the same way as other products. They are approximately 80% lighter than concrete alternatives making them easier and safer to handle. In contrast to timber fence posts, which are susceptible to rotting and warping, steel fence posts are designed to not degrade over time. Their finish provides additional corrosion protection and unlike timber, does not require regular maintenance.

Fencing has evolved beyond the conventional functions of providing boundaries, privacy and security to become a central part of the design of outdoor spaces. Selecting durable, versatile fencing systems will not only allow the intended design to be achieved easier but also ensure a long-lasting, high quality finish.

John Abernethie is managing director at Birkdale





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Durapost® provides the answer for new-build residential development



Birkdale has supplied its innovative DuraPost® fence post system for a series of up-market new-build properties located alongside the scenic Hamble River. Specified for its modern style and durability, the powder coated galvanised steel solution also helped to overcome a series of specific onsite challenges due to its light weight. When visiting his local Strukta Group builders' merchants, Kevin Smith at K & J Contracts Ltd, was impressed by contractor Silvervale Ltd.'s display of DuraPost® fencing products installed on site. Following a discussion with Silvervale, Kevin specified DuraPost® gravel boards for use between the brick piers in the front gardens while intermediate DuraPost® fence posts were specified in the rear gardens for use with prefabricated fence panels. DuraPost® fence post caps and capping rails were also specified. All products were in RAL 7016 Anthracite Grey to complement the windows, doors and gates of each property. The systems were supplied and installed by Silvervale, which is one of Birkdale's Elite Stockists and trained installers. Kevin concluded: "If you are looking for a fencing solution that offers a unique and modern appearance, DuraPost® is ideal."

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DuraPost® can bring positive benefits



Birkdale has expanded its extensive product portfolio by launching a new patented Commercial DuraPost®. Available in a range of lengths from 2.4 m up to 5 m, Commercial DuraPost® is scalable for fencing projects up to 4 m above the ground and offers an easy to install and hardwearing fencing solution. Birkdale has launched Commercial DuraPost® in response to increased demand for stronger commercial fencing, which has been

demonstrated by the rise in RSJ metal sections or H section steel fence posts being used for larger commercial fences and highways.

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Resiblock seal status as sealer of choice



Resiblock are delighted to have once again been specified as sealer of choice for Leeds County Council, this time at Temple Green Park & Ride. Following the success of Resiblock, and the 'Legendary' Resiblock '22' product, at

Stourton Park & Ride, both the Council and Contractors BAM Nuttalls pushed ahead with the use of the sealer at Temple Green. Temple Green hosts near 1,400 car parking spaces, with charging stations for both electronic and hybrid vehicles, and is one of three Park & Ride schemes to service Leeds City Centre.

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