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## THE RING, CHONGQING, CHINA

Lead8 connect with nature, including a botanical garden in the centre of a major mixed use scheme



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# FROM THE EDITOR



First, the positives – Rishi Sunak's Spring Budget, though light on construction-friendly measures (except for a cut in fuel duty), did have one big announcement for those interested in how we might actually get to zero carbon.

Namely, that the normal 5% VAT levied on energy efficiency measures for homeowners will be abolished for the next five years. This really focuses the mind, and should be the boost needed to get a chunk of home retrofit projects off the ground.

However, in a time of runaway inflation, that is still not going to mean much for the vast majority of homeowners, living in leaky buildings which fall well short of 21st century performance requirements, never mind net zero. Ironically, with energy prices having just gone through the roof, there is a further incentive to try and find the investment needed to stop energy disappearing through the roof and walls, at a time when most don't have the spare cash. Digging deeper, it appears Sunak's VAT cut may not apply to a lot of low energy retrofit, if the sustainability part forms part of a wider system installation.

With Government measures still amounting to tinkering, rather than recycling it, are we kicking the net zero can down an ever-shortening road? It's estimated that around 80% of the buildings currently standing in the UK will still be there in 2050 – so much more intervention in the market is needed to make nationwide retrofit happen.

Despite all the talk around new heating systems, such as heat pumps in the light of the imminent Future Homes Standard, houses are being erected now with condensing gas boilers in them. Grasping the nettle of getting housebuilders and other clients out of 'business as usual' mindsets is where the energy needs to go. After all, homeowners will soon realise that when it comes to the price of heating homes, things are likely to never be the same.

Loans for homeowners have so far been largely a disaster – remember the Green Homes Grant? Something significant needs to happen to mandate developers, and that probably means hefty incentives, which the Government has made no sign of introducing.

Trevor Morris, who's principal at architects SPPARC, recently pointed out that if the Government spent what it has spent on the Palace of Westminster refurbishment on funding low-carbon heating upgrades and insulation, almost 19 million homes could have seen improvements by 2030. We need to reuse, and retrofit, on a huge scale – but we need to somehow find a way of making it affordable.

**James Parker, Editor**

**ON THE COVER...**

Hailed as a pioneering mixed use in China, Lead8's 'The Ring' in Chongqing contains a 42-metre high 'botanical garden,' linking a range of retail, sports and cultural spaces.

Cover Image © Lead8

For the full report on this project, go to page 34





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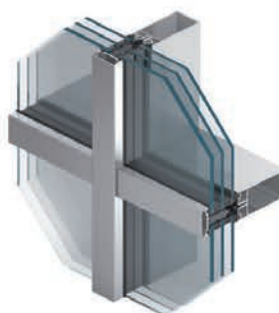
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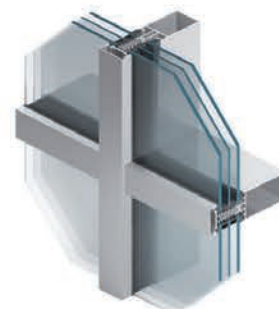
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## EDUCATION

# HLM school completes in Barry

Work has been completed on the new school building for Pencoedtre High School in Barry, on the Glamorgan coast, designed by HLM and built by Bouygues UK. The project forms part of a £34.7m investment into the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme – a “long-term strategic investment in schools and colleges throughout Wales, developed by the Vale Council and Welsh Government.”

Built over two years, the new school provides modern facilities catering for up to 1,100 pupils, including sixth form students, with additional amenities to accommodate pupils with enhanced learning needs.

The school includes two three-storey teaching wings, connected by wide corridors and large windows to increase ventilation, centred around an open plan dining hall, main hall, and courtyard. The design incorporates state of the art music studios, science labs and a fitness suite, alongside a full-size sports hall that connects directly to the external sporting facilities – also designed by HLM – which are expected to be open to the local community outside school hours. The external sporting facilities, which are under construction, offer a “high-quality, multi-functional area that can be used to enhance learning and wellbeing,” said the architects, with spaces for socialising, learning, recreation and relaxing.

The focus on the local community has been evident throughout the project, as student ambassadors worked with the contractors to give pupils exclusive access to the site throughout construction, enabling them to learn about different stages of the build.

Gareth Woodfin, Cardiff studio director, HLM Architects, said: “These facilities will provide students with the resources they need to excel academically, while extending support to the local community by acting as a central hub for residents in the surrounding area, aligning with our design philosophy to help positively shape the areas we serve.”

Work on site is continuing with the demolition of the old school and construction of the external sporting facilities, with full completion expected in February 2023.







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## EDUCATION

# ADP transform Art Deco Debenhams into university campus

Architects ADP have been granted planning permission to transform a landmark Art Deco building in Gloucester into a “sustainable city campus” for the university which will be “a major catalyst in the reinvigoration of Gloucester’s high street and its wider city centre regeneration.”

The two-phase project for the University of Gloucestershire will transform the vacant Debenhams department store in the city centre into a new home for the schools of Education and Humanities and Health and Social Care. It is also set to house public health, wellbeing, and cultural services to create a “thriving city hub,” said the architects.

ADP’s plans will comprehensively renovate and modernise the five-storey, 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> 1930s building which sits in the heart of Gloucester City Conservation Area. The project will create attractive high-tech spaces for teaching and learning, while “providing a welcoming and inclusive public space,” said the architects. Discussions are also underway with Gloucestershire County Council to rehouse the city’s central library in the building.

The retrofit project will “make the most of the existing building envelope and structure,” while also bringing it up to today’s energy standards. The building fabric will be improved to maximise natural daylight and minimise excessive solar gain,

and the practice will implement low carbon design features and technologies, including “intelligent building systems” for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting. The campus will also have ample cycle facilities, and accessibility is prioritised.

Original metal panelling and concrete supports will be restored, and previously hidden features, including decorative plasterwork, will be exposed. Internally, the architects will create a series of lightwells, forming a “social ribbon” to connect and integrate the academic and community spaces.

The City Campus project is funded following a successful bid for £20m of Levelling Up funding from Government.





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## NEW APPOINTMENTS

## Studio Anyo appointments support practice's growth

Architect and interior designers Studio Anyo have announced two appointments as it continues to develop and expand its regional and national operations. Michelle Tang joins as a Part 1 architectural assistant while Alannah Lyons comes in as an interior designer.



Michelle Tang

With a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Edinburgh, Michelle Tang will support the architectural project team and undertake a range of duties including client briefings, preparing drawings, schedules and reports, undertaking site visits, and completing surveys.

Alannah Lyons will be involved in the firm's expanding range of commercial and residential interior design work, as well as supporting the senior management team in project management and development work.

Currently employing 18 people across its Stockton and London studios, Studio Anyo is continuing to recruit skilled people for several roles to support new business wins and growth.

This includes a six-figure contract to design offsite modular apartment blocks in Sussex for Legal & General Modular Homes and new student accommodation in Nottingham and London, for IQ Student Accommodation.

Stockton office-based director Craig Kipling said: "Our investment in



Alannah Lyons

Michelle and Alannah alongside other experienced and skilled people is the linchpin of providing top quality advice and services to our clients. This will contribute to our ongoing success and add to the team's knowledge, capabilities and all-round expertise."

## NET ZERO

## RIBA warns of performance gap risk to net zero goals

Building performance considerations must be embedded into architecture "from pre-design stages on into operation," in order to achieve architects' 2030 net zero targets, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has warned.

Working with climate technology firm IES, RIBA said that pressure is mounting on architects, urban designers and planners to "play their role in tackling the climate crisis." However, at the same time the performance gap between the predicted energy performance of a building and in-use performance "will continue to render the industry's net zero pledges impossible, without more widespread adoption of an outcomes-based design approach and performance modelling tools."

HOK London principal Gary Clark commented: "We cannot continue to allow the use of predicted outcomes as



the absolute measure of success if we are serious about delivering a step change in sustainability."

Over 1,200 architects have now pledged their support for the UK Architects Declare Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, and more than 1,000 firms have committed to reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 with the AIA 2030 Commitment. More than 300 RIBA Chartered Practices have signed up to its RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge.

RIBA's 2030 Climate Challenge sets performance targets across operational energy use, water use and embodied carbon, and to meet these will require a shift away from traditional practices.

In addition to architecture firms' voluntary commitments to reaching carbon neutrality, the Government is introducing a range of changes to the Building Regulations to "help decarbonise the built environment." As of June 2022, there will be a mandatory 31% cut in carbon for all new homes and a 27% cut for other buildings, including offices and shops, relative to 2013 standards.

However, RIBA president Simon Allford commented: "The new minimum standards for fabric efficiency and new Part O (covering overheating) signal real progress, but without regulation of actual energy use, the built environment will not decarbonise at the rate required."



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# ASK THE ARCHITECT

Liz Leber, managing partner of New York practice Beyer Blinder Belle, drives her firm to work with clients who have a clear “mission”, but also strives to extract their core project objectives. She explains the “creativity, pragmatism, and optimism” she brings to the job



Liz Leber, managing partner of Beyer Blinder Belle

## WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT?

The father of a close friend was an architect; he designed the family's house, which was very contemporary in style at the time. It opened my eyes to thinking about space in an entirely different way. I never lost the bug to become an architect from age eight onwards, though I'm glad I went on a few tangents during my undergraduate years.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT MOST?

I love that I am learning every day, even at this point in my career. And I love knowing that the spaces we create will have a positive impact on occupants.

## CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR 'INQUISITIVE NATURE' IN PRACTICE?

In the early phase of a project, I treat programming interviews like I'm moderating a talk show – the more questions I ask, the deeper I get to the heart of the matter. And I am still involved with consultants on some of my projects. The multi-disciplinary aspect of that work feeds my curiosity and love of knowledge.

## HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT EXTRACTING CLIENTS' CORE OBJECTIVES?

I ask a lot of questions, I listen very carefully, and I synthesise what I hear. The less they try to translate their objectives into spatial ideas, the better – I want to hear them in their own voice, their

vocabulary, to truly understand where they are coming from before I (or they) make any design assumptions.

## IS ARCHITECTURE SOMETIMES MORE ABOUT BEING A GOOD DIPLOMAT THAN BEING AN EXTRAORDINARY DESIGNER?

I wouldn't say it's more important, but it's an important part of the job, particularly with my institutional clients. For as much time as we spend getting the design just right, I spend the same amount of time framing the narrative and facilitating the decision-making process with the client team.

## HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN A HEALTHY EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN WORK AND YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

I love what I do and I have chosen to make it my time priority. But I also love seeing friends and family, practising my hobbies, and being outdoors. It doesn't take much time away for me to feel restored and energised to continue working.

## CAN YOU NAME A FAVOURITE PROJECT YOU'VE WORKED ON?

That's like naming a favourite child! My favourite projects are the ones that are tapping into the best part of my brain space on any given day. A sampling at the moment includes hometown icons New York Public Library and 92nd Street Y; transformative academic projects at Harvard, Penn, and Phillips Exeter Academy; and my work for



Sophie and Morris Chang Building, Massachusetts Institute of Technology © Chuck Choi



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Jewish institutions, which have personal significance to me.

#### **DO YOU THINK THE PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED YOU PROFESSIONALLY?**

The pandemic has certainly made me scrutinise many issues I might not have in the past. It's made me a better leader, I think. It's put a magnifying lens to issues and working methods that happen every day in our firm, or in any business, and has compelled me to think more deeply, react a bit more slowly, and also to consider many perspectives.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST CURRENT DESIGN CHALLENGE?**

Most of my projects involve existing buildings, historic fabric and campuses. My biggest design challenge these days is to effect timeless design in those contexts, adding a chapter to the story of a place. There's a lot of communicating, facilitating, and educating to bring clients along on that ride.

#### **DO YOU DESIGN ON PAPER OR ON COMPUTER?**

I don't design on the computer. Sadly, when the industry converted to Building Information Modelling, it felt late for me to try to pick up that skill. I rely on trace and lots of markers when I actually get the

time to draw. And I'm a pretty skilled editor within PDF documents – my own 21st century red pencil.

#### **WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT BEING AT BBB CURRENTLY?**

I've been our firm's managing partner for just over a year now. That's my new adventure, and I'm really enjoying it. It's allowed me to have a new perspective on the business of architecture and fix my eyes on the horizon a bit more. I enjoy doing what I do for BBB so that my partners and all the staff can shine at what they do.

#### **HOW DO YOU THINK HAVING A GOOD RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE PARTNERS AND PRINCIPALS BENEFITS THE FIRM?**

I believe more female leaders benefit any endeavour, including BBB. We're not fully there yet, but we're getting better. I don't want to generalise about gender characteristics, but I know from experience that our women leaders – at our firm, in our industry, of our clients – bring a different perspective that is much valued and much needed.

#### **WHAT INDUSTRY INNOVATION WOULD REALLY GIVE A BOOST TO ARCHITECTS?**

Besides fees that value our creative time and energy? Any innovation that

bridges the relationship gap between architects and contractors is welcome. For the best projects to be built, we need to be on the same team, and not just contractually. It's a two-way street, and there are process and technology changes – some of which BBB is researching and implementing – that would make it easier for us to be better partners.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE MATERIAL FOR USE IN DESIGNS?**

There are so many. I love felt as an acoustic material for its warmth and colour possibilities. I love wood for its connection to nature, even in the most urban of projects. I've always loved cork as a flooring material that can last for more than 100 years, and still look timeless.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR BIG SHORT-TERM GOAL?**

Finding the best balance of remote work and in-person collaboration and mentorship for our field. I can't wait to settle into whatever the new normal ends up being – I'm confident it will be a happy and creative place.

*Liz Leber is managing partner of Beyer Blinder Belle*



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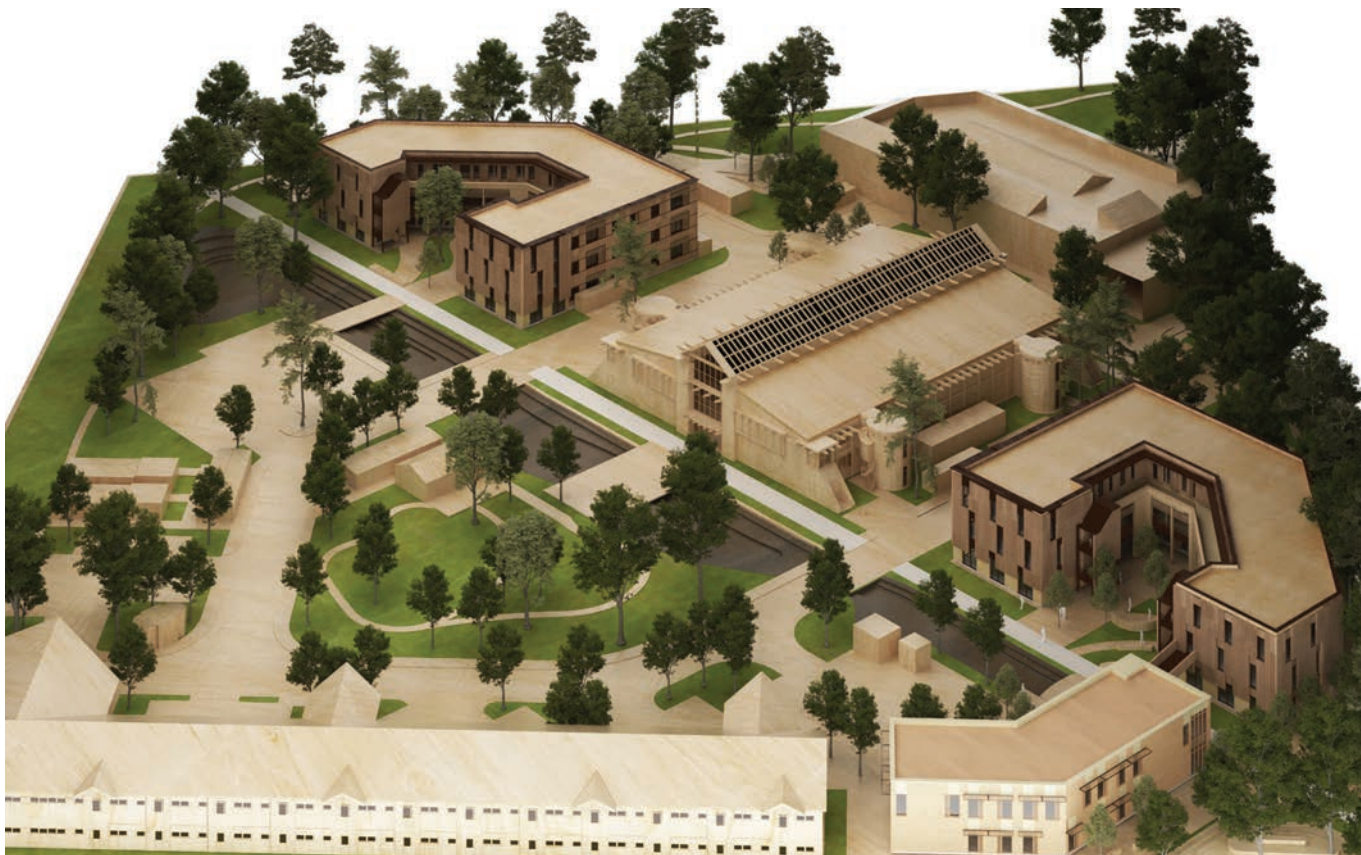
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## SITE LINES

# Health and wellbeing at work

Saunders have designed what will be one of the most sustainable business parks in the UK, with the focus on sustainable construction and healthy lifestyles for staff. Martin Williams explains why it is an exemplar workplace



Cambridge Innovation Park North is set to become one of the first fully sustainable business campuses in the UK. The ethos driving this business park model – in itself innovative – extends beyond highly energy efficient buildings, MMC and carbon offsetting, to also fully embrace community wellbeing.

It sits on a 3.88 hectare former Ministry of Defence site at Waterbeach, in Cambridge. It is the first phase of a three-park initiative, and an aspirational model of sustainability for a business park community of the future with ‘best in class’ environmental strategies, which encourages sustainable modes of transport, and contains settings which allow for exercise and relaxation.

The scheme gained planning consent following a successful planning performance agreement with the local planning authority. Being sustainability-led, the design proposal fell in line with local development aspirations for the area and was well

received by consultees. As a result, the client is now working on further environmentally-driven schemes with the architectural team.

## Diversifying workplaces

It is very clear that if the business park model of yesteryear is to survive, it needs to diversify. The out-of-town parks synonymous with uninspiring and insular block buildings surrounded by a sea of cars is at odds with today’s focus on sustainable and commutable living. We were fortunate that the client in this case prioritised sustainability and had a vision of a setting constructed in sustainable materials, employing modular solutions and employing passive or low energy service strategies. The sustainable workplace will incorporate facilities for wellbeing such as breakout spaces, social facilities, a cafe, gym, trim trail, running/cycle tracks and meeting spaces, set around a large, ecologically diverse watercourse





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reminiscent of the local fenland character. As well as attracting and retaining staff, this provides efficient links to new town facilities and importantly, transport.

Isolated workplaces which are divorced from amenities have become unthinkable nowadays. Good transport linkages and access to town centres or their facilities are fundamental to the success of a business park. The Waterbeach site is located adjacent to a vast new town development including shops, bars, residential and a new railway/bus station. The proposal also includes excellent covered, secure cycle parking which far exceeds the national standards, with changing shower facilities linked to the cycle network and public transport together with a green travel plan to provide bus facilities to reduce reliance on cars alone. Parking spaces will be prioritised for electric vehicles and employees involved in a car sharing scheme. Despite the inclusion of adequate parking, the proposal is landscape focused, with the majority of parking concentrated to the rear of the site. This maximises the impact of the soft, green landscaping, and 'waterscape' setting.

### Work culture shift

A big shift for the business park is also in work culture. The first examples were devised for a nine to five working day, however, post-pandemic flexible working requires a shift in our understanding of the workplace. Staff need to be enticed by an attractive and stimulating change of scene from their desks at home, as a place for collaboration that will engage the best staff. The work setting promotes a lifestyle, while enabling a sensible work/life balance. Flexible low carbon workplaces that are naturally lit and ventilated improve wellbeing and, in turn, positively impact a company's employee retention.

In this project, detailed materials research and appraisals determined the most appropriate, low impact materials to be included in the building, including those which have the potential to store carbon throughout their life cycles. Natural materials such as timber, sheep wool, straw and cellulose (recycled paper), all by-products of much larger industries, are available locally and have the potential to be used within the building design, especially for insulation. Additionally, hemp, which is a great absorber of carbon, is being considered as the liner for a prefabricated wall panel; to offer the benefit of naturally modulating internal temperatures as well as carbon sequestration.

The holistic approach to sustainable design also goes far beyond the tangible elements, such as material choices, construction methodology and energy sources. The ethos of the brief and design proposal needed to persuade the post-pandemic worker that there are clear and healthy benefits (both physical and mental) to going back to the office. This includes the camaraderie, discussion, collaboration, social stimulation and opportunities to break the pattern of the day with sporting or recreational activities.

Forward thinking, socially responsible businesses are keen to promote a commitment to sustainability, and are more discerning about their working environment. This will attract an environmentally conscious workforce who appreciate the sustainable benefits of their workplace.

The business park of the future can play a key role in establishing new workplace models and many of those existing business parks are capable of being remodelled, just like we have at Cambridge, to make a truly positive impact on the climate crisis.

*Martin Williams is managing director of Saunders*





# CHOSEN TO PERFORM

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# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

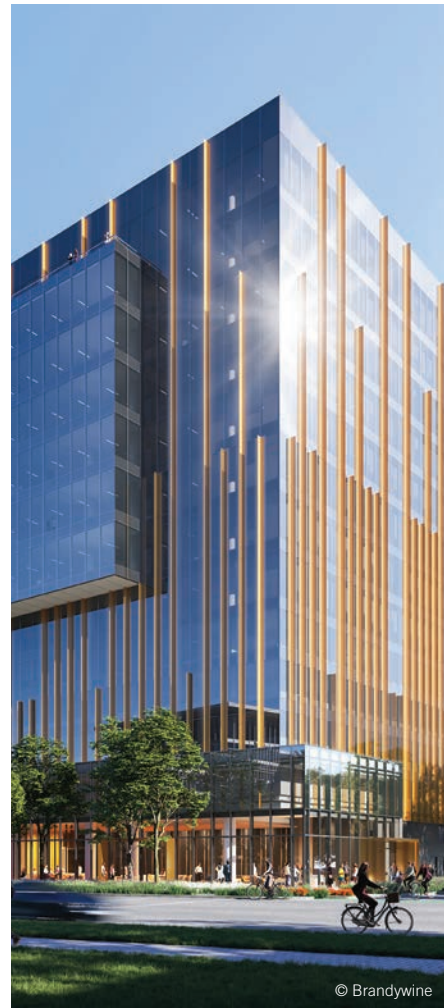
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## YG ENTERTAINMENT HQ, SEOUL UNSTUDIO

The South Korean K-Pop music scene is a major force in the global music industry, and in 2017 the main producers of K-Pop, YG Entertainment, invited UNStudio to design their new headquarters building in Seoul. The building houses office spaces, meeting rooms and recording studios, all of which are organised to provide employees with “the most uplifting and inspiring work environment possible,” said the architects. The new HQ is located on a site that borders low-density housing to one side, and faces a dense network of highways and bridges on the other, although also overlooking a large green park. Situated directly next to the existing YG Building, the building’s interior is brightly lit, with a range of white tones and geometric lines.

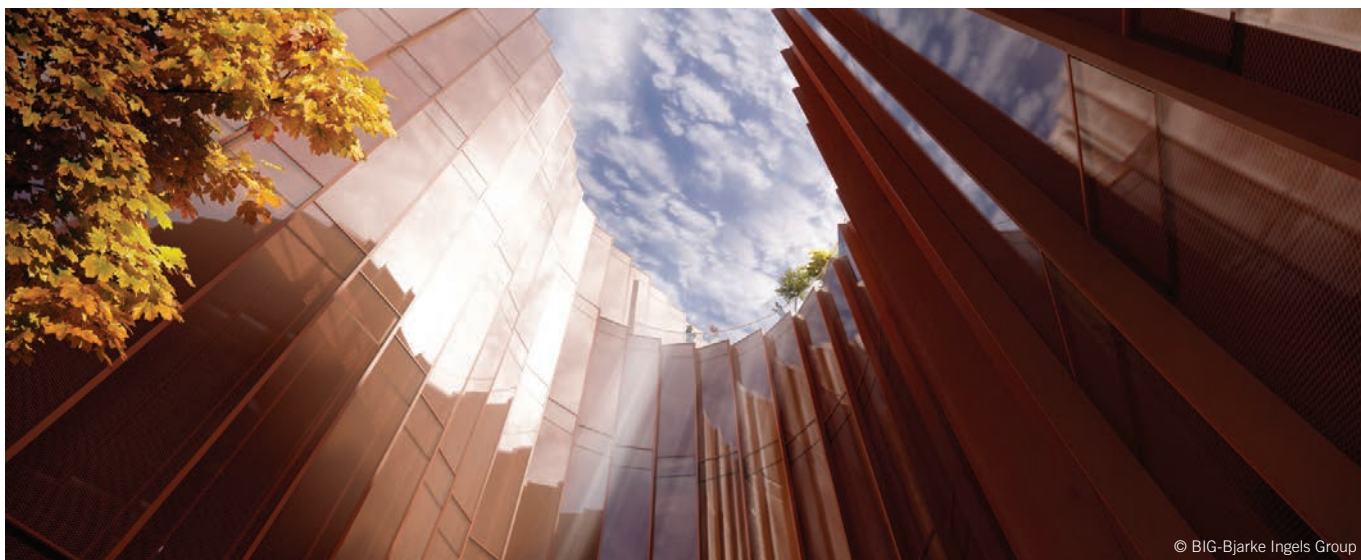
According to the architects, the building’s shell “manifests as a new urban speaker,” and is designed to be “more reminiscent of a product than a building.” The seven office levels are oriented to give views of the park, and bring daylight on all work floors. The meeting and collaboration spaces on the first four floors face an interior atrium, a “collective space” in the heart of the building. This area acts as a “central stage” for the lower level offices and recording studios, as well as for staff and visitors. The interior facade of the atrium is punctuated by exposed, capsule-like meeting rooms for work or resting. On ground level, the atrium space hosts a hidden garden and functions as a “living room” to welcome visitors. Fully glazed areas are located towards the park, and the central zone on this side of the building is equipped with balconies. BIPV solar cells are also integrated in the south-facing facade and on the roof. Within the semi glazed areas, perforation patterns and alternating aluminium and glazing panels provide a glimpse of the functions and activities inside the building. The building is illuminated at night, helping it “become an identifiable part of the city’s skyline.”



## UPTOWN ATX, TEXAS SWA/BALSLEY

Construction is underway on the \$3bn, 66-acre Uptown ATX neighbourhood in Austin, Texas, with a public realm designed by SWA/Balsley with Coleman & Associates. The “sustainable urban development” will introduce workspace, multi-family, retail, hospitality, and a new Capital Metro Rail Station in the heart of Austin’s “second downtown.” The design comprises 3.2 million ft<sup>2</sup> of workspace, 2.9 million ft<sup>2</sup> of multi-family units, 600,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of retail and hospitality, and 11 acres of public open space. The new Capital Metro Rail station – which recently broke ground – provides a much needed connection to downtown Austin and the larger region. The SWA/Balsley team is tasked with design and implementation of all the district’s streetscapes, seven public parks and plazas, and amenity terraces for two development blocks. Together with the development, this “robust public realm” will establish Uptown ATX as a “new regional destination to work, live, and play,” said the project team.





## AARHUS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, DENMARK BJARKE INGELS GROUP (BIG)

A new Neuroscience Centre designed by BIG at Aarhus University Hospital will bring together psychiatry and neuroscience under one roof to combine groundbreaking science and treatment of physical and mental diseases including brain, spinal cord and nervous systems. The 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> design mimics the form of the human brain to use the constrained site area most efficiently while “creating synergies between the different disciplines within the hospital,” said the architects. The six-storey building, due to open in 2026, will connect directly with the existing hospital campus and will “seek to intensify the hospital’s unique approach combining healthcare, education and scientific research to collaborate and inspire each other.” The proposal “folds” the floor plan around an atrium, allowing each floor to reach the necessary square footage within a limited area, while creating “a number of connections and smaller clusters” including intimate workspaces, courtyards and views between each floor. From a large open atrium at the centre of the building, visitors head directly to one of the upstairs clinics, or the café and a public green courtyard at ground level. The red concrete of the exterior will blend with the existing brick buildings and bring warmth to the spaces, “contrasting the usual clinical and sanitised white environment of hospitals.” All office areas are planned to be naturally ventilated, and every floor has access to an outdoor terrace. A “stretched” metal window mesh prevents glare or direct sunlight to workspaces, providing filtered natural light to offices, laboratories and examination rooms. The project is targeting Danish DGBN Gold sustainability certification for hospitals.



## AVICII ARENA, STOCKHOLM HOK

Stockholm Globe Arena Fastigheter AB (SGAF) have selected a project team to reimagine Avicii Arena following a plan developed by Stockholm City Council. HOK – the lead architect for the renovation – will join a team led by Legends International. The arena is a significant landmark in Stockholm and a premier destination for concerts, entertainment and hockey. “We are honoured to have the opportunity to collaborate with Legends International and SGAF to infuse the arena with new offerings and energy that will elevate the spectator, athlete and performer experience.” said John Rhodes, director of Sports + Entertainment at HOK. In addition to HOK and Legends International, the project team includes schlaich bergemann partner (structural engineering), Ramboll (MEP engineering), Efterklang (acoustics), Light Bureau (lighting), AFRY (cost management) and Movement Strategies (crowd dynamics).



# Building cultural change in London

UK Construction Week (UKCW) comes to London on 3-5 May at ExCel, with the promises of a major face to face event for the construction industry for 25,000 expected visitors

**The focus is on “how the industry implements new behaviours, best practice, and a true cultural shift in how it builds for the future”**

The organisers have developed a key focus for UKCW London 2022, namely “how the industry implements new behaviours, best practice, and a true cultural shift in how it builds for the future.”

The organisers comment: “There are many changes facing architects this year, including potential new CPD requirements, changes to the education system, huge expectations around the role of architects in achieving the country’s net zero objectives, and a continued push to improve diversity, equality and inclusion in the profession.” They add: “Coming at the same time as new legislation on building safety, this event will be a well-timed opportunity to come together to learn, network, inspire, debate, and discuss practical ideas to address these changes.”

The organisers believe that UKCW London is likely to be “the biggest construction event the capital has seen in many years,” with over 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, and more than 300 exhibitors. It says there are planned to be 10,000 products on show, as well as 300 expert speakers, seven theatre stages, multiple specialist hubs, and 150 hours of CPD content.

The event will provide insights into the issues affecting the way in which buildings are designed and the “emerging markets, technology innovations and global design trends to watch.” Some of the major companies signed up include HS2,

ABC+ Warranty, Bosch, Hanson Plywood, Xero, Entserv UK and Construction Industry Solutions.

Nathan Garnett, UKCW event director, expressed how excited he was to bring UK Construction Week to London. “This is the year to focus on how we achieve the systemic changes we’ve been discussing for some time, and to share the learning from the organisations who have already made a strong start.”

## Conference programme

Day one will include updates on the new rules around public procurement, the new regulatory regime on building safety, the forthcoming Building Safety Act, and the new ways in which the industry is pursuing projects as wide ranging as prisons, hospitals, road and rail infrastructure, education buildings and housing. Day two promises a “deep dive” into digitisation, net zero and “energy futures,” and day three will focus on people – diversity, health and wellbeing, and recruitment and retention.

The main stage will be sponsored by construction software firm COINS, while CEMEX will be sponsoring the Infrastructure Hub. Expert speakers from the Infrastructure Projects Authority and Barbour ABI will showcase learning from major projects including HS2, Thames Tideway, Royal Docks London and the West Midlands Growth Engine, as well as analysing government policies that will affect infrastructure





over the next 10-15 years.

The Sustainability Hub includes sessions on best practice in low carbon building and European retrofit, plus “regenerative design” and “biomimicry,” as well as hydrogen innovation, 3D printing, dealing with waste, and building for disassembly.

The Digital Construction Hub, in partnership with Build in Digital, will deliver practical workshops on digital strategy, BIM, cloud computing, cybersecurity, use of Big Data, and how technology can improve efficiency, productivity and profitability.

The Offsite Alliance Hub will share learning from Alliance members who work alongside leading organisations, as well as government, local authorities and housing associations to increase the uptake and delivery of offsite technologies across the residential sector.

### Role Models

UKCW's Role Models awards – an opportunity to recognise talented professionals – returns for its fourth year after receiving a record number of nominees last year from all areas of construction, including a large number of architects.

Entries for the 2022 Role Models awards are now closed and this year's shortlist will be announced at UKCW London, with the winner crowned at UKCW Birmingham, which is being held 4-6 October at the NEC.

UKCW's organisers sat the events are a chance to “celebrate the sector's achievements and some of the best thought leaders and innovators construction has to offer.” With sponsors including Aico, Northgate Vehicle Hire and Bosch, UKCW London runs alongside Concrete Expo (3-4 May), the Offsite Show with Buildoffsite, (3-5 May), and Grand Designs Live (30 April - 8 May), all at ExCel. Industry conferences will be held by the Timber Trade Federation (3 May) and on the Future of Work in Construction (4 May).

Free registration to UK Construction Week London is now open – one badge also gives access to the Offsite Show, Concrete Expo, and Grand Designs Live.

Visitors can download the free UKCW app (from both iOS and Android app stores) and book one-to-one appointments with delegates and exhibitors. To get regular updates on the event, follow UKCW on social media using the hashtags #UKCW2022 #UKCWLDN

If you're interested in attending or participating in UKCW London 2022, please scan here:



## Jackson Building Systems show the future of housebuilding at UKCW, stand D32

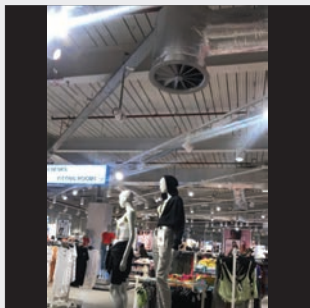


JACKON's two construction systems – JACKODUR® Atlas and THERMOMUR® Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF) – will be on display on the company's stand at UK Construction Week. These products exceed the u-value targets of the new Part L building regs which are coming into effect in June this year. JACKON's THERMOMUR® 350 Super block is the most energy efficient building system currently available. It has a U-value of 0.15 straight out of the box, ahead of the required maximum of 0.16 U-value on external walls – part of the requirement that new homes emit 31% less CO<sub>2</sub> under the new Part L. JACKON brings its 60 years' expertise in EPS (moulded expanded polystyrene) and XPS (extruded polystyrene) manufacturing to the market. JACKODUR® ATLAS uses XPS (extruded polystyrene) to create an insulated floor slab, while THERMOMUR® ICF uses EPS (moulded expanded polystyrene) to create the formwork. ICF is a modern construction method, which is rapidly growing in popularity in the UK. It integrates insulation materials into the concrete formwork, totally revolutionising the way a house is constructed.

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UK CONSTRUCTION WEEK STAND D32

## Primark & Gilberts – the first and now the biggest



The world's biggest Primark store is making the most of its space – through to its ventilation. Gilberts Blackpool – the air movement specialist that provided the air distribution outlets for Primark's first UK store over 20 years ago – has now facilitated a fresh environment for shoppers at the latest Primark to open its doors: the Birmingham megastore, claimed to be the biggest of the chain's outlets in the world. It even features three food venues, Disney and Hogwarts zones and a beauty studio. Gilberts worked with facilities management company Mitie to ensure air supply throughout the public and staff areas of five-storey, 161,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (14,957 m<sup>2</sup>) new store, on the former Pavilions site in the heart of the UK's second city. A combination of GSFA swirl diffusers, DG4 ceiling diffusers, GX extract valves, GSL linear slot diffusers and transfer grilles provide air supply internally, complimented by smoke louvres within the atrium, and WGF38 external louvres on the facade from first floor upwards servicing the plant rooms. More than 300 diffusers, linear diffusers up to 2.4 m long, and some 20 facade louvres up to 2.5 m x 1.5 m were manufactured at Gilberts' Lancashire factory for on-site installation by Mitie.

01253 766911 [info@gilbertsblackpool.com](mailto:info@gilbertsblackpool.com)



# The retail mix – combining design with practicality

As shoppers make a welcome return to the high street, malls and out-of-town centres, the retail sector and construction industry are also assessing opportunities. Retail has always been a dynamic environment that not only reflects and meets the needs of buyers, but often drives change in the way consumers interact with products, whether they are high-value luxury purchases or lower cost everyday items.

The purchasing environment is a key aspect of the retail experience and the importance of combining practicality with aesthetics is essential. Decorative column casings and wall linings are key ingredients in this process, as they provide practical solutions for concealing interior and exterior structural steelwork, while adding to a building's aesthetics.

With around 40 years of experience in the manufacture and supply of column casing and wall lining solutions, Encasement products are installed in a diverse range of retail projects and are used by many well-known brands, including Porsche, ASDA, Kia Motors, Tesco, Next, Oak Furnitureland and Greggs.



Porsche West London – Interior and exterior Forma column casings

Used on both new-build and refurbishment schemes, Encasement's column casing range includes six individual products, offering a wide choice of materials and finish options for exterior or interior applications.

Circa and Quadra casings are manufactured from pre-formed plywood, while the Forma range is fabricated from metal. Alongside these, Polyma and Gypra casings are moulded, respectively, from glass reinforced plastic (GRP) and glass reinforced



Tesco Birmingham – Forma column casings and Vecta metal bulkheads

gypsum (GRG). Completing the range is Metza, a specialised solution designed to provide fire protection for with mezzanine floor supporting columns.

## Column casings and applications

Where casings are needed for interior use only, Circa and Quadra casings allow circular, square and rectangular profiles to be specified. They also provide a wide range of finish options with the most popular being decorative laminates, as they are resistant to scuffs and scratches, and can be specified in plain colours, wood grain and metallics, as well as textured finishes.

While every Encasement column casing type is suitable for interior use, both the Forma and Polyma ranges are also widely used for exterior retail projects, such as store fronts, canopy supports or as a feature on retail park units, due to their durability and inherent weather resistance.



Shoprite Isle of Man – Quadra column casings

Available in aluminium or stainless steel, Forma casings can be specified in circular, square, rectangular or hexagonal forms, as well as bespoke shapes. A wide choice of finishes is available including PPC options in any RAL colour, as well as brushed, anodised, embossed or textured finishes, such as Rimex.

Strength, durability and colour choice are also features of the Polyma GRP range. As Polyma GRP casings are produced using moulds, this manufacturing process allows a high degree of design flexibility with shape; size and colour options all open to specification to meet bespoke project requirements, as well as standard profile options.

## Vecta building linings

Alongside Encasement's column casings, the Vecta building lining range provides high-quality solutions for interior wall linings, bulkheads, fascias, soffits and reveals with projects already installed for a range of brands, including Tesco, Prêt à Manger, Mini and Greggs.

Depending on the application, the Vecta range can be specified in a choice of materials and finishes. High-level bulkheads, such as 100-metre long solution at Tesco in Yardley, Birmingham, use PPC aluminium, although they can also be manufactured from stainless steel, as well as GRP or GRG, which can help save weight, although consideration should be given to the materials' suitability for each application.

By offering six different column casing ranges and the Vecta building linings system, specifiers can source a range of specialised products from a single company.

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**BUILDING  
PROJECTS**

## SHANGHAI JIUGUANG CENTER SHANGHAI

# More than meets the eye

Retail developments in Chinese cities now contain much more than just retail, and are designed to be 'all-in-one' destinations; the new Shanghai Jiuguang Center is no exception. Roseanne Field reports





**T**he Shanghai Jiuguang Center, located in the northern Shanghai neighbourhood of Jing'an, was designed to be not only a retail destination, but also a central meeting point for locals. New shopping malls have for some time been developed as 'all-in-one' destinations in China, and this was the most crucial part of the vision for Lifestyle China Group, who commissioned UNStudio to design the complex in collaboration with Japanese architecture firm Nihon Sekkei.

The project appealed to UNStudio because of the "opportunity to create a unique retail destination in Shanghai and possibility for good dialogue with the client," explains partner and senior architect at the firm, Astrid Piber. An interview process with Lifestyle China Group was undertaken, with various architects considered based on their previous experience with retail projects, among other things.

In the end, says Piber, it was UNStudio's overall design ethos that won them the project. "The client placed a strong focus on creating synergy between architecture/design and the commercial ambitions," she says. "Our approach, which involves looking at the users and designing for numerous different experiences, became the tool to create such a synergy."

The project comprises two 100 metre high office towers and an eight storey

shopping mall – the largest shopping complex in the northern part of Shanghai. However, although the retail and commercial elements of the project were an essential element, so too was the centre's ability to provide a public meeting space for locals that they could – and would want to – visit regularly, whether shopping or not.

### Design development

The architects' "human-centric" notion was central to the design development, with the practice viewing the project as they would any public space within a city. "We envision the centre as a destination to be taken on by people; that it becomes a place that one remembers well and wants to return to again and again for new experiences," explains Piber. "Whether that be for consumption and shopping, or for the mere sake of being updated on what is going on and being among like-minded people, the space is open to all."

From the outset of the project, Piber explains, Lifestyle China Group had a vision that the exterior of the building should "act as an 'outer shell'", and tasked Nihon Sekkei with the design of the building envelope. "For the interior, the client was looking for a concept that would help create a highly attractive destination in Shanghai," Piber adds. UNStudio designed the interior of the buildings and the inner courtyard which they're centred around.



“Our approach to the design of these had to be the driver for the user experience throughout several zones and levels of the building,” Piber says.

The practice’s extensive work on previous retail developments, says Piber, gave them a good understanding of the different types of experiences users may have. “‘Shopping for convenience’ is usually very fast and efficient, whereas ‘shopping for desire’ is about seduction and offering the customer the new and unexpected,” she explains. “In the Jiuguang Center all these experiences are curated to immerse people in a world of retail that, although large, is still human-centric.”

### Programme

The complex consists of three voids located around a large central courtyard, each with its own identity and theme. The ‘urban catwalk’ has been designed utilising “dark and glossy materials to create a night-time atmosphere,” say the architects, whereas the ‘urban oasis’ uses a natural, warm colour scheme alongside brass to “reconnect with nature.” Finally, the ‘urban playground’ makes use of bright and colourful materials, to emulate the bustle of the city outside.

The design of these voids evolved to help navigating the retail areas simpler for users. “They vertically link the shopping experience,” Piber says. “The three voids anchor the public circulation areas and

create a vertical space across the different retail levels. They supply the circulation spaces with daylight and provide glimpses to the courtyard outside.”

The three voids are connected on every level by a “retail boulevard”, providing access to all the shops. “Along with the three voids, the retail boulevard forms an interior public space that creates a constant flow of people,” Piber explains. A pattern was integrated into the ceiling design throughout the interior elements, acting as a wayfinding element for users leading them to areas such as toilets, lifts and the escalators, which are located next to the voids. Combined with the boulevard this improves the “overall orientation and curated experience of the building”, says Piber.

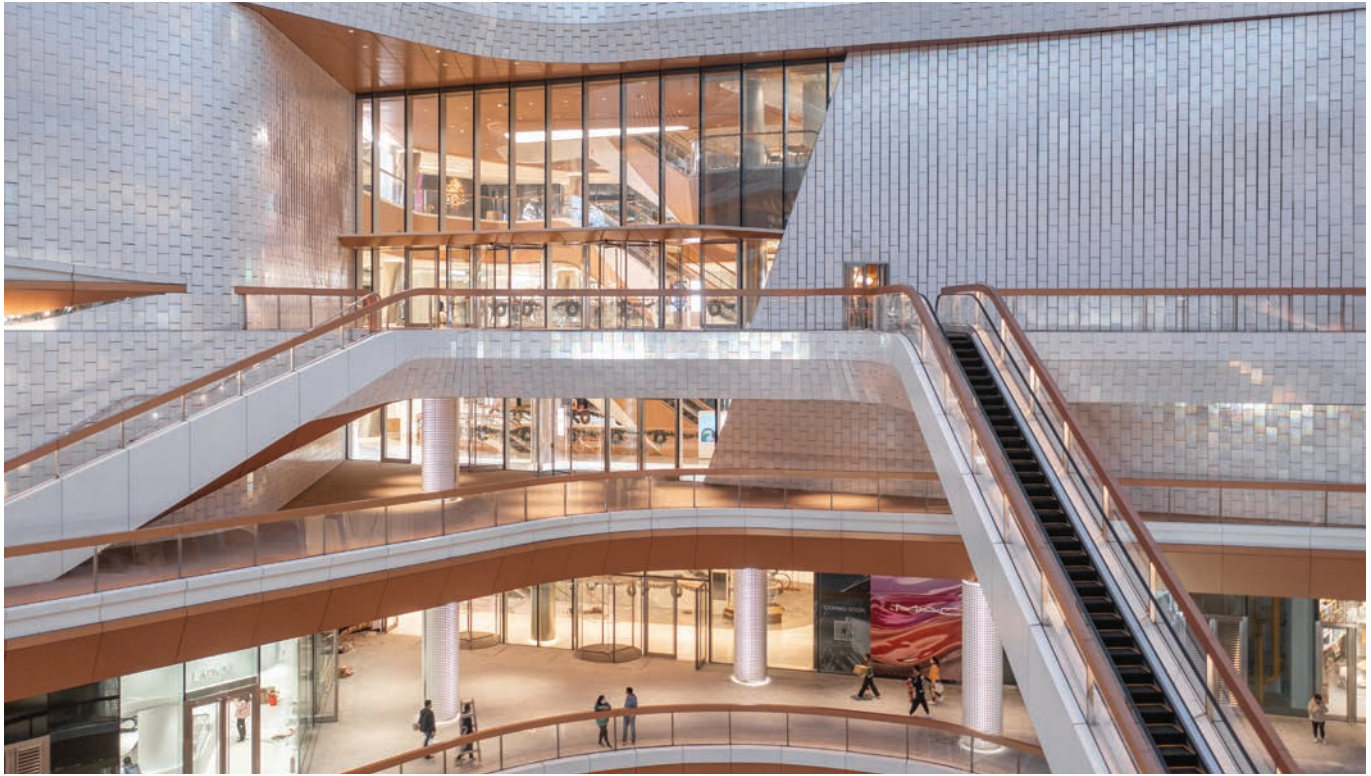
The central courtyard at the heart of the complex was a key design element for a number of reasons. It was an important part of the brief that it act not only as a shopping destination but a public meeting place. “Shopping malls are the public spaces of Chinese cities,” says Ben van Berkel, founder and principal architect of UNStudio. “These retail complexes are not simply places to shop, they are all-in-one destinations for outings and social gatherings. They are also places where culture and commerce merge and where architecture can express this expansive condition.”



**“The three voids anchor the public circulation areas and create a vertical space across the different retail levels”**

Astrid Piber, UNStudio





## “Shopping malls are the public spaces of Chinese cities”

Ben van Berkel, UNStudio

Part of the courtyard is sunken, with ample integrated seating meaning it serves “not only as an event space for the mall itself, but also as a destination for the wider community,” says Piber. Carefully designed landscaping/planting and lighting also features throughout the space, making it usable both during the day and in the evenings, as a ‘garden’ for the city’s inhabitants.

The courtyard also has the benefit of reducing the depth of the building, though this wasn’t necessarily a key part of the design brief, says Piber. “We looked at the building organisation in a holistic manner,” she says. They wanted the exterior and interior spaces – including the three voids – to feel connected, and have a strong relationship with one another. “Horizontal window bands in the facades surrounding the courtyard create a strong visual connection between the external spaces and interior area,” Piber explains. “Light enters the void spaces through the facade, creating vertical spaces flooded with daylight, bringing it into the depth of the floor space,” she continues.

Connecting the interior and exterior spaces was aided by the somewhat constrained footprint of the overall site. “It enabled us to think of ways to create a fluent transition between exterior and

interior, guide the daylight deep into the spaces, and organise the different floors around a continuous looped routing system,” says Piber.

Semi-enclosed walkways and balconies line the edge of the courtyard and connect to the three voids which, says Piber, further “blurs the relationship between interior and exterior.” The balcony detailing was colour matched to those used within the voids in order to “accentuate” these features within the space. The basement levels and upper levels are connected via the courtyard by a series of staircases and escalators, which also lead up to a rooftop garden.

### Materials

The heart of the complex – the courtyard and its internal facades – was designed to represent a ‘pearl set within its shell,’ with curved champagne-coloured aluminium alloy strips and pearlescent ceramic tiles. This contrasts against the harsher, tessellated metal facade of the centre, which “opens up to a fluid experience, and a mother-of-pearl effect, as you enter the central courtyard,” says Piber. During the day natural light is reflected off these pearlescent tiles into the interior spaces, further enhancing the connection between interior and exterior.





Nihon Sekkei's initial sketches for the exterior had already been done when UNStudio began working on the project. "We liked the contrast that would result if this was coupled with our more fluid approach," Piber explains. "In terms of geometry and the continuity of the experience based on colours, a simplicity of facade pattern and colour accents."

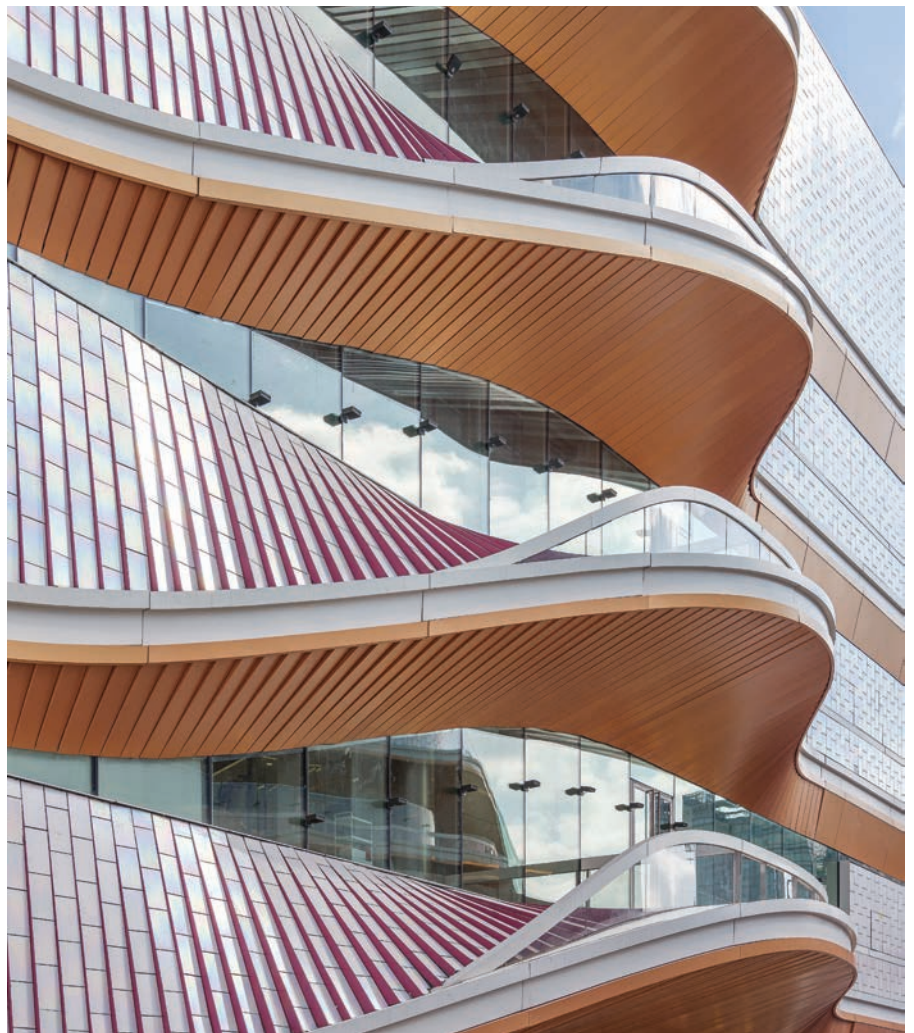
When designing the facade, Nihon Sekkei shared and understood the desired impact the complex as a whole would have in the city: "This building complex has an impact not only on the surrounding roads, but also on the entire surrounding region and the city itself," says Nihon Sekkei's Wenjie Li, chief architect on the project. "We always understood the sculptural approach as enabling the unexpected and suggesting there is something to be revealed or discovered on the inside of the building," adds Piber.

There are various elements to the facade, with the volumes facing the road on the south and east side of the building clad in bright white elements which have been rotated at varying angles to resemble origami. A glass curtain wall at ground level gives passers by a glimpse inside at the retailers and provides an entrance to the complex.

The building's west facing facade features carefully configured golden triangular blocks, a design inspired by diamonds to represent the luxurious element of the shopping experience. The black blocks containing the upper levels of the building feature aluminium alloy plates and metal louvres.

The building's scale (it has a gross floor area of approx 120,000 m<sup>2</sup>; comprising 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> retail and 18,290 m<sup>2</sup> office) meant the facade was always going to be a substantial area. And this was a key reason behind the overall tessellated design. "A building with a large volume usually gives an oppressive impression," says Nihon Sekkei's Li Shen. "By breaking up the volume, we eliminated the oppressiveness and gained the unity and individuality of the building at the same time."

Although it appears 'random', the pattern of the aluminium pieces cladding the facades – of which there are 14,000 in total – was rigorously controlled. Each was numbered before being placed, in a painstakingly specific way to also adhere to mechanical ventilation and smoke exhaust system requirements. "The aluminium materials were neatly lined up in a spiral



pattern, which satisfies the ventilation requirements and gives a unique appearance from the outside," Shen explains. He adds: "Parametric design brought convenience and reliability to the construction."

An overall aim with the material choices on the project, says Piber, was to use natural materials wherever they could. "From wood inlays to ceramics and textiles, our focus was to use natural materials as much as possible throughout the whole scheme," she says, adding that it was particularly possible in the facade cladding and fit out aspects to achieve this aim.

As well as providing retail space to high-end brands, previously uncatered for in the Jing'an district, the complex will also bolster Shanghai's so-called "debut economy," by providing a platform for businesses to open their first stores. With work having begun on the complex in 2014, it had its official opening ceremony in November 2021. ■

**"Our approach involves looking at the users and designing for numerous different experiences"**

Astrid Piber



## Case Study - 120 Oxford Street

City Remedial contacted the Resapol London technical team in March 2021 in order to support with supplying a solution for the reinstatement of reinforced concrete taking place on 120 Oxford Street, a major shopping destination in the West End of London. City Remedial were contracted to perform necessary repairs to the basement,



under pavement and vaulted areas that run around the entire perimeter of the building, as well as through a restaurant situated behind it. The original material coating the walls had failed due to water ingress causing the concrete to spall and steels to corrode.

Following extensive consultations and site visits with City Remedial and the Fosroc technical team, Fosroc's Renderoc HB45 was selected. Renderoc HB45 is a high performance, fibre reinforced medium density concrete reinstatement mortar that conforms to the requirements of BS EN 1504-3 Class R4. It is utilised for the reinstatement of reinforced concrete where low permeability characteristics are required and higher compressive strength is a consideration; these key characteristics made it the perfect product solution.

Resapol were consistently on hand throughout the project providing quick and reliable delivery of the product direct to site. The project is now nearing completion and Renderoc HB45 has performed extremely well, John Butcher the Director/surveyor at City Remedial had this to say on Resapol's



service: "Resapol have given us a second to none supply and advice service throughout the whole of this project - deliveries have been prompt and have been on several occasions exemplary. We have phoned up on several occasions with an urgent need for material and have received the goods within a couple of hours - how often does that happen?!"

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## Ashburton Triangle Mixed-Use Development Installs Advanced Fire Protection

A hat-trick of fire protection solutions from UK manufacturer, Advanced, is now installed at a sought-after, mixed-use development just metres from the Emirates Stadium, home to premier league football club, Arsenal.

Three 8-loop, one 4-loop and one 2-loop MxPro 5 fire panels, as well as a LifeLine paging system and a custom-built 16-way peripheral relay panel have all been installed at Ashburton Triangle in Islington, London.

The fault-tolerant network of eight panels is installed alongside approximately 3,500 Nittan devices and integrates with a host of third-party solutions, including the site's intelligent escape signage, sprinkler system, lifts, door access and individual apartment and rooftop dampers.

The MxPro 5 fire system is also integrated with the LifeLine paging system, used by the onsite concierge team for staff alert purposes. For increased safety, Ashburton Triangle's fire system has been set up to communicate with



the Emirates Stadium's fire system, signalling to the stadium when its alarm has been activated, and visa versa.

Responsible for the supply and commissioning of all equipment, on behalf of Newlon Housing Trust, were Coomber Fire and Security Systems who have installed Advanced's fire protection solutions for almost 20 years.

Adam Pitman, senior fire systems engineer at Coomber Fire and Security Systems, said:

"Not only did this project require a solution compatible with specific Nittan devices, it also needed to support high-performing cause and effect programming, false alarm management and to facilitate staged evacuation. We selected Advanced as we knew it could easily deliver on the requirements for Ashburton Triangle, and nothing really comes close to its solutions in terms of flexibility and ease of installation."

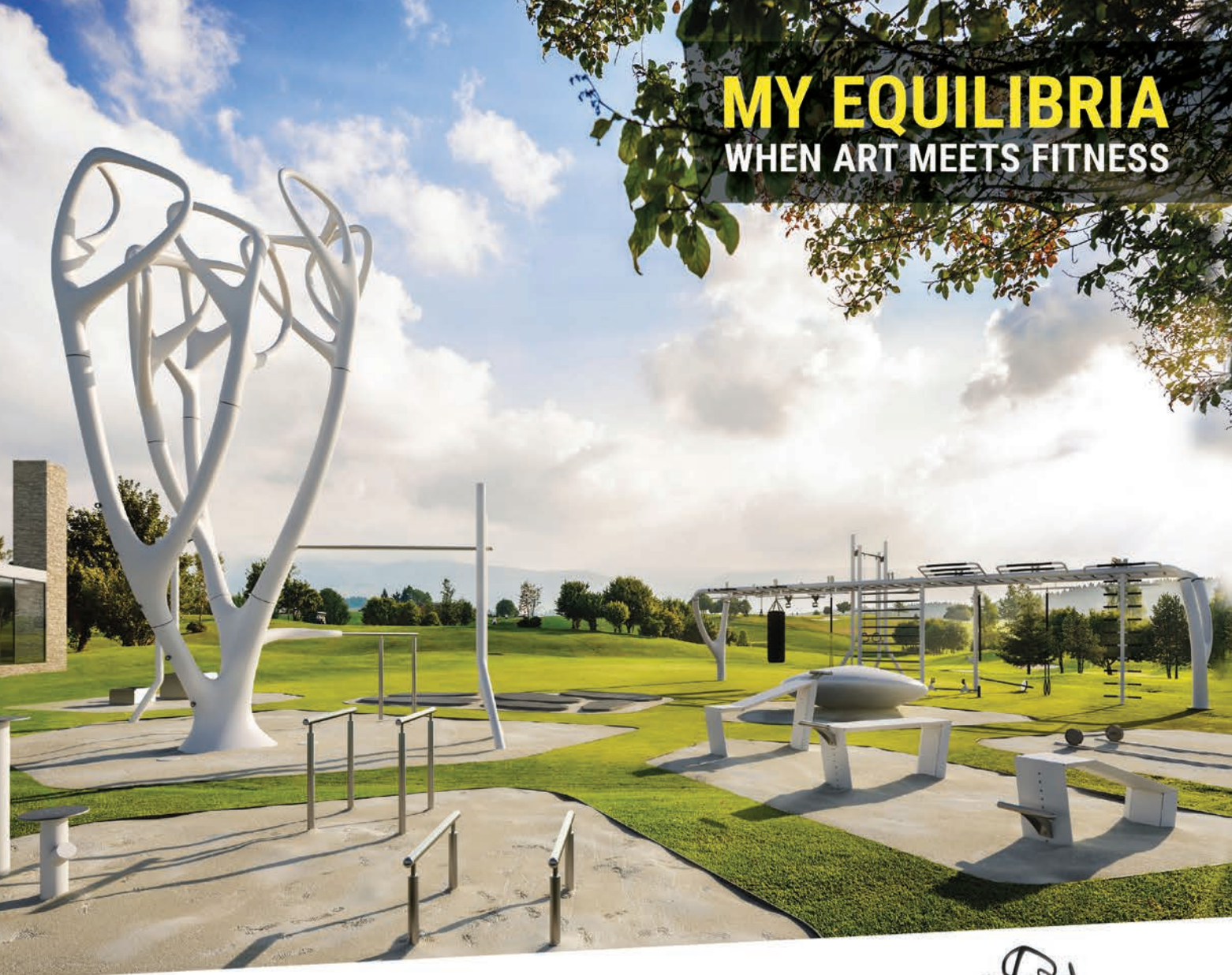
Phil Calvey, sales manager for the South West and West Midlands at Advanced, said: "The flexibility of Advanced's solutions provide a range of time and cost benefits to installers, particularly in scenarios where specific equipment is specified, or needs to be integrated with the fire system. Our MxPro 5 panels are designed to make life as easy as possible, delivering robust solutions that offer real peace of mind, all backed-up by our highly-rated technical support."

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CHONGQING, CHINA

# Selling biophilic benefits

Shopping malls are a key social destination in China, and with this in mind Lead8 sought to provide a landscape-rich interior to enhance the experience of a new mixed-use scheme in Chongqing, in the form of a huge botanical garden. James Parker reports

The Ring, opened in spring 2021 in the fast-growing metropolis of Chongqing in south west China, is a new mixed use project whose interior, by retail and leisure specialists Lead8, contains one big difference. In the first scheme of its kind for the municipality's 32 million inhabitants, the building contains a 42-metre high 'botanical garden,' linked to a range of retail, sports, and cultural/entertainment spaces. In so doing, the project team says, it creates a 'living mall,' with its design driven by sustainability principles of maximising wellness for all users.

According to the similarly exponentially-growing Hong Kong-based firm of architects, the city's new mixed-use development "entwines retail, nature, culture and experience." As the interior designers, the Lead8 team also intended for it to be "truly innovative, delivering a new-generation social destination, and an urban natural community." The scale of the internal gardens incorporated demonstrates the emphasis now being placed on biophilia-based design ambitions by commercial clients and by association, their designers. It has moved way beyond token gestures at the fringes, to a serious allocation of what is non income-generating space to greenery.

Lead8's portfolio showcases large-scale mixed-use projects, often including retail, such as high-profile schemes in major Asian cities like MixC Shenzhen Bay, One Bangkok, and 11 SKIES in Hong Kong. According to the practice's co-founder and executive director, Simon Chua, its "significant track record in conceiving and delivering retail-led destinations across Asia" has garnered the firm a strong

reputation in the sector, cemented by various awards.

On The Ring however, the team took a different approach when it came to the landscaping-focused interior design of this distinctive project – for developer client Hongkong Land. This essentially meant allowing the very 'green' design concept for the interiors to guide the wider design, "with a vision to be unique to the market," as Chua tells *ADF*.

However, he explains that when the architects initially received the brief from the client, the substantial botanic garden element finally achieved "was not a major component of the scheme," although the client had four key values for the project which helped drive Lead8 towards its concept, namely: "Organic, Respectful, Inspiring and Magnetic."

Lead8's design team worked to expand the idea of interior retail landscape into a "major design intervention that integrated a multi-level living garden into the retail mall," says Chua. Throughout this process, Lead8 worked to "refine the connective layers of the design," which meant collaborating with structural engineers, landscape consultant and client to develop what would be called the 'Oasis Walk'; a series of ramps allowing visitors to directly interact with the gardens at all levels.

## Scope, location & context

Lead8's Chua says that The Ring will "reshape the city's (and region's) expectations for what experiential retail destinations can deliver." The development is the first to be completed within a planned series of retail developments by Hongkong Land which come under the branding of 'The Ring.'



Photography © Lead8

**"The pandemic has illuminated the importance of healthy lifestyles and our desire to maintain a connection with nature"**

Simon Chua, Lead8





This 430,000 m<sup>2</sup> “strategic” project for Chongqing comprises a seven-level retail mall totalling around 154,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with a further 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> of ‘retail street.’ There is also 111,000 m<sup>2</sup> of ‘super grade A’ office accommodation, and the big selling point, the 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> interior garden, ranging over several levels of the building.

The Ring is located in the Jinzhou Business District, which is itself also in the residential centre of Chongqing, and sits next to the picturesque Zhaomushan Forest Park. Direct connections to two lines of the Chongqing Metro make for convenient access to and from the new development from across the city.

The design development process was, by necessity, “heavily collaborative,” says Simon Chua, as “numerous specialist consultants” were required to bring the vision to life. This included the range of professional input needed to ensure a multi-level indoor garden would be fully supported and practically sustainable in a commercial interior. Therefore design strategies from lighting specialists, engineers, landscapers, interior designers

and retail planners were required to “all come together seamlessly.”

### Botanical benefits

The major design objective of the project – led by biophilia principles – was to ‘intertwine’ nature with the commercial environment to a much greater degree than normally achieved in such schemes. As a result, the design puts the botanical garden at the very centre of the building, having the key benefit of providing great air quality to internal spaces. With thousands of plants covering a broad range of species, the garden offers a “living, sunlit environment” that enriches the whole experience for users.

The inclusion of a garden on this scale “creates a new retail habitat for people,” say the project’s designers. The garden in fact connects each of the mall’s seven levels, and the interior design augments the natural atmosphere created via the material palette and open plan approach. The ‘Oasis Walk’ combines with public seating and hanging fixtures to, in Chua’s words, “create intimacy with nature, and extend the gardens upwards.” The design creates



“nodal” spaces for rest, events and social encounters, “while immersing the surrounding retail activities in an ecological setting.”

The Oasis Walk is a series of connected, elevated ramps that allow visitors to “immerse themselves” in the botanical garden, and “take a journey of discovery” through the multiple levels. The walkways were created using an open steel truss structure with steps to allow people to walk comfortably between floors. The structure is clad with a system of glass balustrades and flooring, which allowed for lighting and greenery to be integrated in a way that would make maintenance easy.

A pair of steel tree-columns were used to support the main structure, as they can cantilever wider spans. This meant that the number of traditional steel columns could be reduced.

In tandem with achieving the aesthetic and structural goals, what Lead8 call “cutting-edge indoor environmental protection technologies” were also needed to construct the gardens and thereby “produce an oasis for the city.”

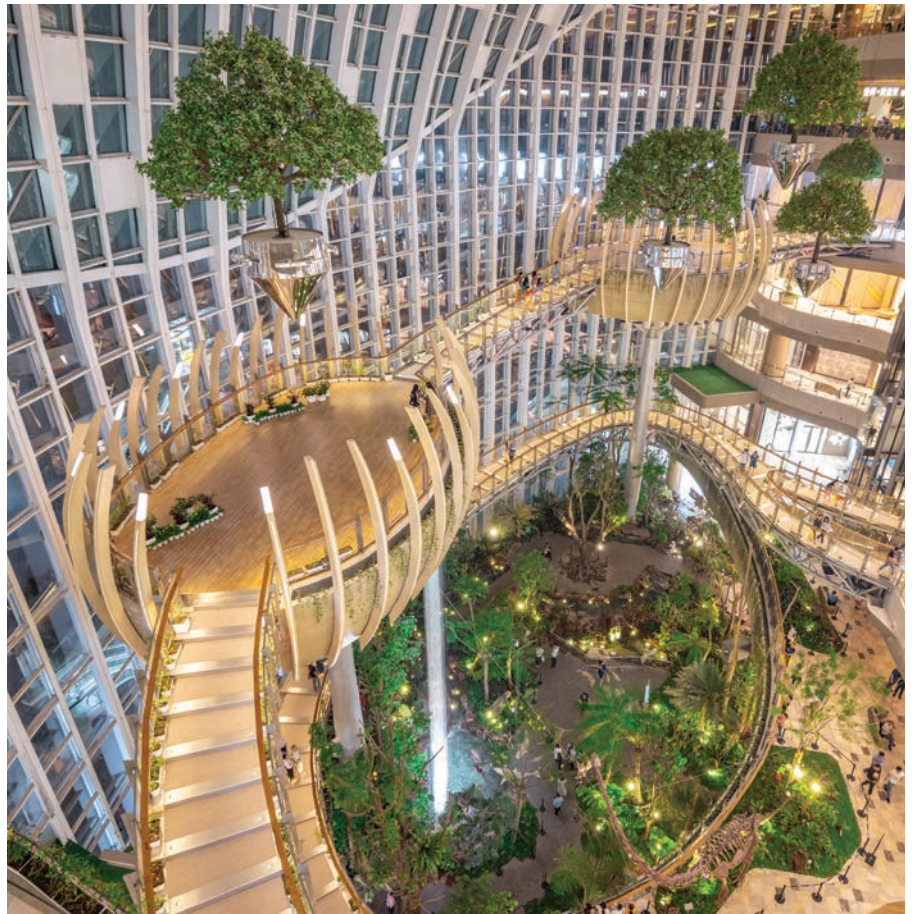
### ‘Mountain City’

The interior design centres on a ‘Mountain City’ concept; “bringing together natural environments with enriched engagement and experiential opportunities to create a diversified lifestyle offer,” comments Chua. The designers hope this will resonate with local visitors, by “reimagining the natural terrain of Chongqing and expressing it in a contemporary way.”

The interiors blend these natural features through the main atrium in such a way that it “feels like one unified space,” with the assistance of flooring design, ceiling materials and last but not least, a 24-metre high waterfall. The result is a stunning, year-round green space for the community in Chongqing to shop and socialise in.

A natural, earthy interior design palette was selected to complement the biologically-inspired spaces inside. “Environmentally-friendly” products were prioritised to support the architects’ strong drive to maximise the building’s performance. Also, says Chua, “handling a project of this magnitude meant sourcing local materials wherever possible is a very vital move.” This also has the practical benefit of making future planned maintenance interventions easier, in terms of replacement materials.

A glass curtain wall opens up views to the multi-storey indoor gardens and ‘Oasis



Walk’ from outside. Lastly, “a large-scale sculptural installation looks into the building from the outside, to draw visitors’ attention to the attractions within.”

### Programme

The development’s programming features a “diverse collection of spaces that form a creative mix and offering that spans sports and leisure, ‘edutainment,’ family, dining and culture,” says Chua. The retail planning adopted a ‘single spine’ approach, with a central garden “to create a draw for people from both ends of the building.” This strategy allows a simple circulation route as well as flexibility in arranging retail units, and also means visitors “will always be able to see all the retail units from both sides anywhere from the corridors.”

As part of meeting the brief’s requirement to “innovatively combine urban living and the beauty of nature in one space,” Lead8 introduced further spaces which are claimed to offer a unique combination of facilities in the region – in schemes of this type. These include “interactive sports and culture facilities, family and child-friendly activities,

**Lead8’s design team worked to expand the interior landscape into a “major design intervention that integrated a multi-level living garden into the retail mall”**







and a vibrant food area,” all integrated with the botanic garden, and all under one roof.

On levels three to five are a ‘multi-sports events area’ with ‘digital integration,’ e-gaming and an “iconic” staircase for audience seating to “entice a new generation of customers,” say the designers. Also on these levels are an ‘Open Lab’ Cultural Forum, a “calm public space for reading and gathering with ample seating and open views.”

On level two, a themed playground “envisions a cardboard city for young children to engage with, capturing the family entertainment market.” A “children-related” trade and entertainment mix surrounds the space. Lastly, on levels four and five, the Commune Village food and beverage area is configured as an internal street with “interlocking and double storey shopfronts,” to provide a “new dining culture,” says Chua.

In terms of providing future flexibility, a “large retail grid” means the units and spaces inside can be easily changed in the future. The open mall has very few columns in the public space, which “opens up vistas inside the building.” As part of a close focus on users’ convenience, the entrances are configured to allow comfortable access into the property from different street levels outside as well as maximising footfall for retailers.

### Post-pandemic health

According to Simon Chua, the pandemic has “not only shone a new light on the significance of delivering safe environments from a public health perspective (using

intelligent ventilation systems, distancing sensors, sanitisable surfaces, motion detectors and touchless systems).” He says “it has also illuminated the importance of healthy lifestyles and our desire to maintain a connection with nature.”

He adds that greater integration of nature into major schemes is “delivering new answers to how we can enhance the safety and experience of our indoor spaces in more engaging ways.” With awareness of users’ desire to be connected with nature being bolstered by research, biophilic as well as sustainable design is finding “renewed prominence,” he says. “Scientific studies have shown that living environments within indoor spaces can help to remove pollutants from the air, and new reporting has also indicated that viral infectivity decreases as air pollution decreases.”

### Conclusion

The completed development comes with a ‘USP’ that it has introduced a brand new experience for shoppers and the community in general in Chongqing. The designers believe it has “elevated the standard of experiential destinations and opportunities in the city.”

The project has certainly been specifically targeted to capture the interest of the community of a diverse population, and thereby ensure their engagement with the project in a competitive retail environment. Lead8 also believe that The Ring will herald further large schemes which infuse nature to a far greater degree than before, and that it will “influence a new generation of developments that put experience, nature and community at their core.”

They go as far to say that the development signals a “change of attitude towards placemaking and the evolution of ‘development’ to ‘ecosystem,’” says Simon Chua of Lead8, adding that it has already become a ‘must visit’ for the city’s inhabitants. This vindicates the team’s ambitions to provide a viable ‘green’ retail model, by “allowing the market to see that it is possible to deliver a high-quality green space for a mixed-use, transit-oriented project.”

He adds: “As we hoped, this project has inspired many new future developments to push the boundaries of internal green space for large commercial projects.” This strikingly realised example makes The Ring a pioneer in combining urban, nature and community drivers in a retail setting, and one which is already being followed in other major cities. ■



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# BATHROOMS, KITCHENS & WASHROOMS SUPPLEMENT

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Cover image courtesy of Häfele

Häfele reveals its latest research into kitchen design and how enhanced functionality can improve wellbeing of homeowners. See page 47.



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# Commercial considerations

Anil Madan of Ideal Standard details the top factors that architects need to consider when designing and creating commercial washrooms

Commercial washroom design is often a tricky balance due to the many factors you need to weigh up with what the end-users will ultimately need. There are, however, some key themes which you should always pay close attention to for any washroom project.

One of the biggest considerations in all commercial washrooms today is sustainability, especially as utility bills continue to rise and the focus on water conservation grows. Thankfully, water saving features can be quickly and easily incorporated across any washroom regardless of the setting.

There are plenty of options. Whether it's low-flow taps, dual flush toilets or modern changing room showers, the market is seeing a wave of sustainable innovation.

Product innovations such as hygienic smart taps can significantly reduce the use of water with every wash. By dispensing a pre-programmed amount of water and soap with every use, it's possible to save up to 85% on water and 80% on soap compared to traditional fittings.

Touchless taps in general are a great sustainability choice for a variety of washrooms, especially when they're in a public building, hotel, or office space, and are usually fitted with pre-programmed flow timers that offer reduced water usage.

WCs have also seen water saving technology advance within them over the last decade. By opting for dual flush toilets, especially those with smaller volume cisterns, commercial properties can save huge amounts of water, particularly in high traffic environments. Older commercial toilets are likely to have up to 6 litres of water per flush, compared to some new dual flush toilets which use 4/2.6 litres with each use, while still achieving the desired end result.

Urinals can account for 20% of office water use with flushing continuing even when buildings are closed to the public or after office hours. More advanced products have programmable flushing routines, which restrict when the urinals flush and

can greatly reduce the amount of water used. Waterless urinals are also a great choice for optimising sustainability.

## Aesthetics & durability

Although sustainability is one of the most important factors to consider, ensuring your customers have a washroom that looks great is still a large part of creating an attractive office, hotel or restaurant. Opting for pieces that work in harmony with the wider design scheme will result in a more uniform space and a better experience for every visitor. For example, circular urinals are available with water-saving technology, and also come in waterless versions.

For designers, the goal should be to create a relaxed space which guarantees personal privacy. This may call for a more diverse colour palette, a creative layout with more stalls, and potentially even the incorporation of music and fragrance.

Specifying solutions that are reliable and durable is key to end-user satisfaction, regardless of the environment. A wide range of design options combined with 'behind-the-wall' technology can offer designers the ability to create striking washrooms which continue to perform.

Cleanliness is now at the forefront of people's minds, post-pandemic. Options such as touchless taps and hands-free flush plates give users peace of mind about cleanliness, with minimal direct contact. Easily maintainable soap dispensers and hand-dryers are more sought after than ever by commercial customers.

Products which reduce the load on cleaning teams include washbasins, showerheads and WCs with smooth lines and curves, lacking the nooks or crannies which are difficult to clean or easy to miss by staff. Opting for toilets with rimless pans also results in a more easily cleanable washroom without hard-to-reach areas, and special designs are available for low-flush options with maximum cleanliness.

*Anil Madan is the non-residential marketing manager at Ideal Standard*





# SPORTING 2 SECURITHERM shower panel delivers stylish, safe & sustainable showering

**D**ELABIE's has launched a touch-free thermostatic version of its flagship SPORTING 2 shower panel, bringing the comfort of home to public washrooms. The new SPORTING 2 SECURITHERM ingeniously combines the hygiene benefits of touch-free, electronic control with anti-scalding thermostatic technology in a stylish, yet compact silhouette.

Inside the shower head a thermostatic cell blends the water at the point-of-use to a safe temperature, simultaneously ensuring user comfort and removing any scalding risk. A failsafe shuts off the hot water if the cold supply fails (and vice versa), further reducing the scalding risk. The same shower head also houses a solenoid valve which opens and closes the water flow automatically when a hand passes in front of the sensor.

Designed specifically for public places, SPORTING 2 SECURITHERM helps combat Legionella. The hot and cold water supplies connect directly to the mixing valve, removing potential dead legs where water can stagnate - ideal conditions for Legionella bacteria to develop. If unused for long periods, a duty flush occurs, ensuring the water circulates within the system, also minimising stagnation.

SPORTING 2 SECURITHERM promotes fractional showering: water only flows when



required, avoiding waste due to user neglect. A pre-set 6 litres/minute flow rate guarantees water efficiency without compromising comfort, while an anti-blocking system prevents voluntary waste. Powered by

batteries, the solenoid valve uses active-pulse infrared technology, ensuring low energy and water consumption, delivering up to 80% water savings compared to domestic showers.

The panel is easy to install with no electrical connection required thanks to integrated batteries. With the flow rate and detection distance pre-set, no additional adjustments are required on installation. Accessible filters, integrated non-return valves and standardised components ensure maintenance is kept to a minimum. The SPORTING 2 SECURITHERM integrates recycled materials and standard parts that require minimal resource to install and maintain. And, at the end of its considerable lifespan, the materials are fully recyclable. It therefore has a very low environmental impact.

Intended for non-domestic use, its sleek profile is discreet, blending naturally into any architectural style. Thanks to low water and energy consumption, building owners also benefit from lower utility bills, perfect for gyms, leisure centres, education buildings and offices that offer employee changing facilities.

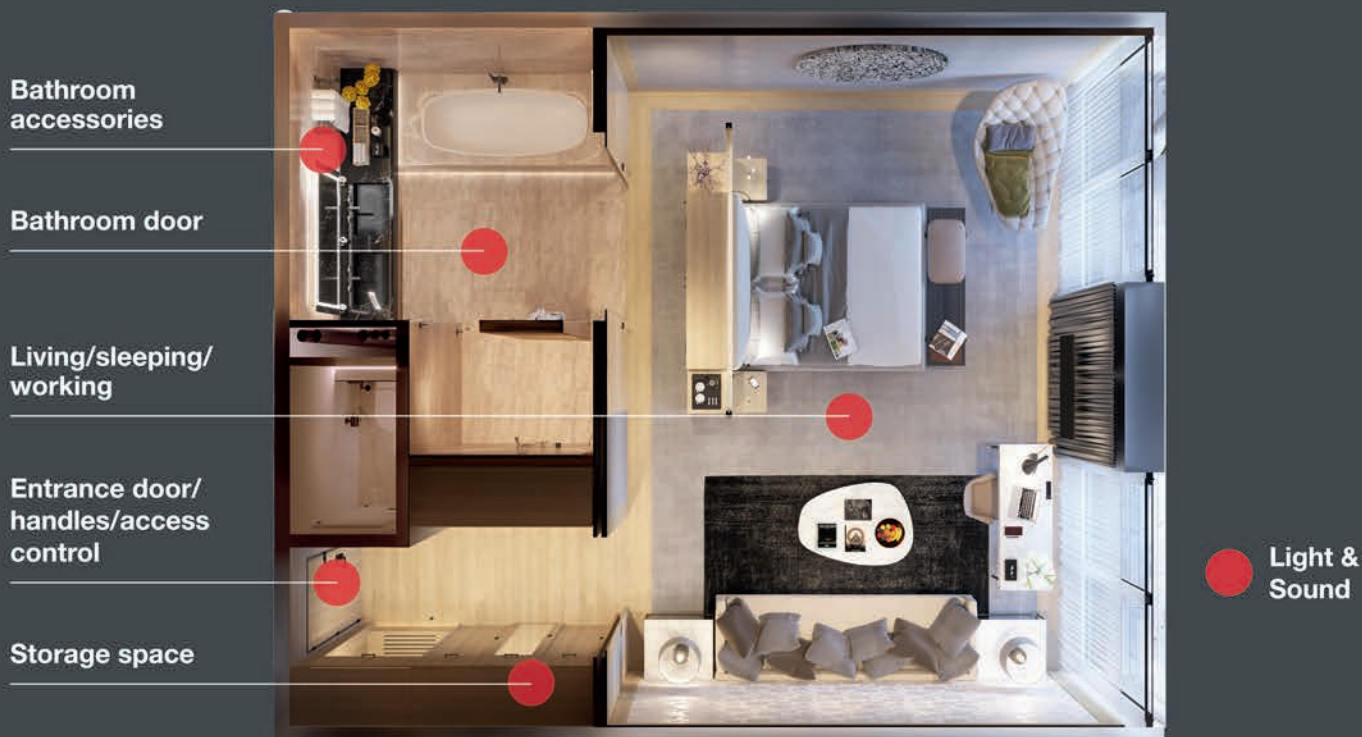
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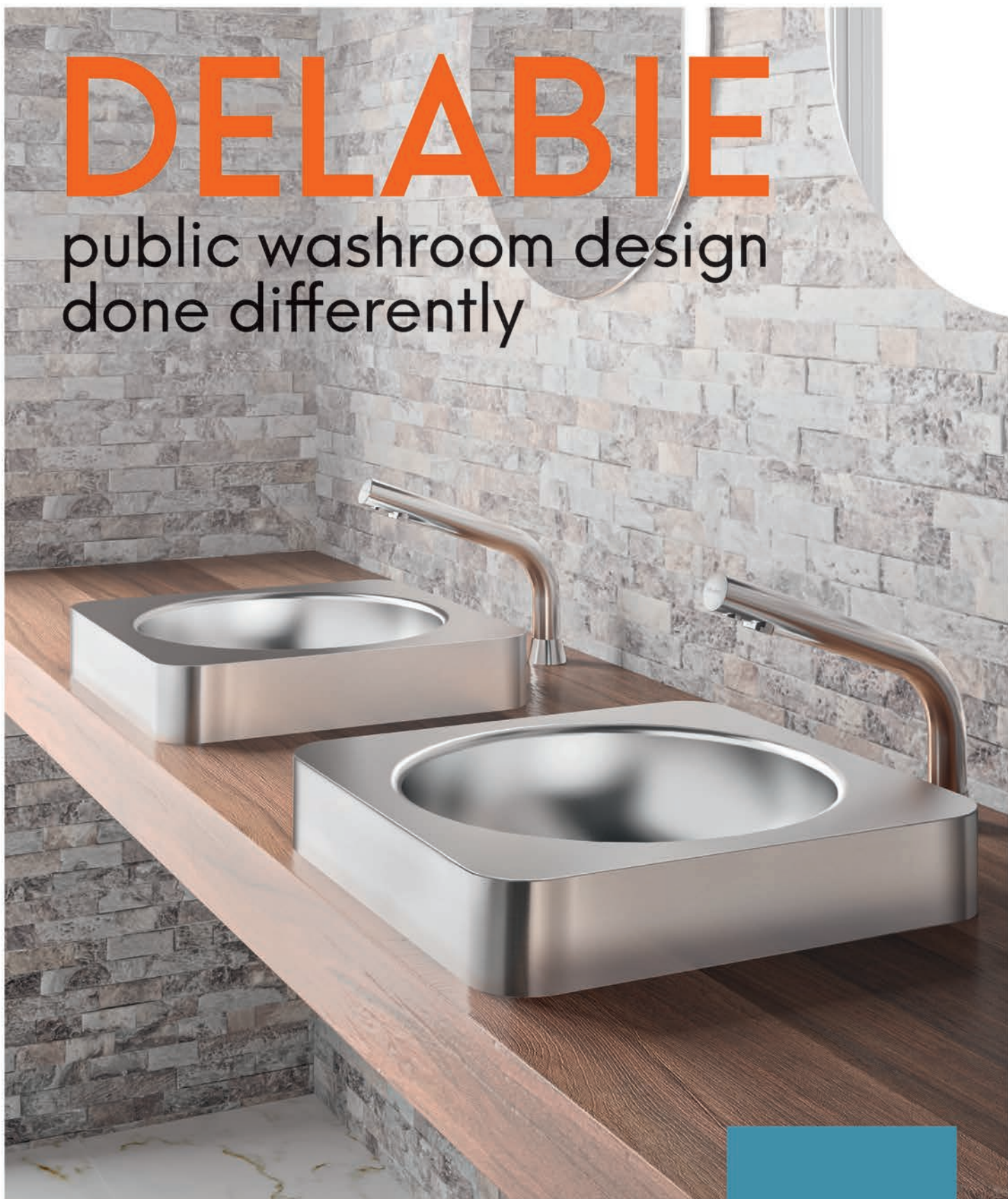
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# Food for thought

Recent research into how people use kitchens shows that careful designs can create kitchens in residential schemes that play a positive role in contributing to homeowners' wellbeing, says Natalie Davenport from Häfele UK

**T**raditionally, kitchens were small spaces added onto a home for cooking, but research shows this way of thinking no longer fits modern living. Not only do homeowners want more appliances, technology and features in their kitchen; the way they live and interact in their homes is also continuing to evolve.

Additionally, with many of us having spent more time than usual at home over the last two years, the importance of functionality and flexibility of each room in the house has become more crucial. Get it wrong and not only does the space not work effectively, but it can impact our day-to-day lives and relationships.

Our recent research revealed that entertaining (26%), working from home (10%), and even exercising (4%) are now among the most popular activities we do in the kitchen. The research also shows that while nearly all homeowners (91%) use their kitchens for cooking, 16% people use the room to relax in, and 11% use it as a playroom or homework area for children.

Many respondents cited flexibility as the most important factor when choosing their next kitchen. In fact, 15% said they wanted to be able to change the room's function, for example by using sliding doors to create a 'broken plan' layout and close off areas to hide mess or change the use of the space at the end of the day. A further 13% said they wanted to be able to change the mood of their kitchen, for example by using lighting.

Architects and designers can help to meet users' expectations by carving out specific areas for designated uses, with installations that make it easier to achieve different functionalities.

## Wellbeing

Our research revealed that people seek a positive emotional connection with their kitchen – though that's not currently happening for everyone.

The research also showed that one in five respondents don't like their current kitchen, due to badly designed storage, a

lack of space and poor layout. In fact, more than 85% said their kitchen impacts their emotional and mental health, while two thirds said if their biggest issue with their kitchen was fixed, it would improve their quality of life.

Our respondents said poor kitchen design could even trigger sadness, stress, depression and anxiety. The good news is that there's a opportunity to turn these figures on their head.

## Functionality plus look & feel

There are a wealth of fixtures and fittings available on the market today that can improve the functionality of a space, and also spark positive reactions from the people using them.

For example, 31% of people said they wanted lighting built into cabinets for full visibility inside, and 40% said they wanted more spotlights to help them do practical work. However, a further 13% said they wanted a lighting scheme that could change to create different atmospheres and moods, depending on the activity.

We are conditioned to think that how lighting looks is what's most important, but the function lighting serves also needs to be a key focus, as does the way it makes homeowners feel. Cost-effective, easy to install LED lighting which gives a premium look and feel, and can be controlled by the end user, strikes the perfect balance.

There's a big opportunity for architects and designers to embrace these findings and implement them into future kitchen designs; and play a more integral role in the long term, day-to-day lives of their clients. A three-way partnership with the end customer and design studio will be vital to put the kitchen back into the heart of the family home, creating functional spaces that maximise usability, flexibility and value while balancing personal style and design trends.

*Natalie Davenport is head of marketing at Häfele UK*





# “Luxtainable” bathroom solutions - created with superior steel enamel from Kaldewei

Kaldewei is a brand with a strong ethical and ecological conscience. As a pioneer in the field of sustainability for over 100 years they continue to look for ways to improve and expand on this. In late 2021 they started manufacturing their excellent sanitaryware using Bluemint steel, which now reduces their carbon output by 70 percent. The change in the manufacturing process does not, however, alter the quality of their products in any way, they still produce luxurious, sustainable bathroom solutions but with an even greater focus on the environment. This has coined the term Luxtainable - the perfect example of how the highest standards of sustainability, quality and aesthetics can merge flawlessly into exciting and desirable products.

The most recent product is the Superplan Zero a shower surface from Kaldewei, providing a completely floor-level finish. When creating Superplan Zero, Kaldewei considered requests from their customers,



which led to the creation of a product that is totally flat to the floor, with zero steps, zero edges, and zero compromises. This makes it ideal for bathrooms not only in the hospitality sector but for project developers and homebuilders too. Developed by the award-winning Berlin product designer Werner Aisslinger the Superplan Zero maintains Kaldewei's green credentials as

with its luxurious steel enamel base it is both durable and 100% recyclable.

Sustainability is a key to Kaldewei, but elegant design and trendsetting style is equally as significant. Colour is an important feature in the bathroom and as such Kaldewei offer a bi-coloured baths variant in three of their freestanding bathtub models: Centro Duo Oval, Conoduo and Ellipso Duo Oval. These produce a dramatic impact within the bathing area and are available in alpine white, alpine white matt, black gloss, and lava black matt – providing an eye-catching combination for today's modern bathroom.

In fact, Kaldewei have an extensive portfolio of over 600 shower surfaces, bathtubs, and washbasins, with a wide coordinated colour palette, plus excellent performance, and longevity. Which enables Kaldewei to provide perfectly coordinated solutions for projects large or small.

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## A game changer amongst smart taps



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## New Rituals in the kitchen with Keller



The popularity of the industrial-style kitchen continues apace and Keller has, once again, come up trumps with the newest addition to the collection, Dark Rituals. The overall scheme incorporates, and combines, weathered materials, black, metal and stone. The door

fronts used in the Dark Rituals model, pictured here, are the Nottingham in matt black oak along with the new Bolton door in stainless steel – for the ultimate in industrial chic. For a smaller kitchen, the same look can be created with a corner design or a smaller island. Finishes can be interchanged with Keller's trend options in concrete or stone.

[www.kellerkitchens.com](http://www.kellerkitchens.com)

## LINEO QUIET ES making a difference



Owners of a Surrey residential property are already seeing the benefits of installing the new VORTICE LINEO QUIET ES extractor fan in their en-suite. Ventilation specialists Better Indoors were approached by the homeowners to help overcome an issue they had with excessive heat retention on the second floor. A detailed site survey was carried out and an urgent retro fit was required to enhance inadequate ventilation.

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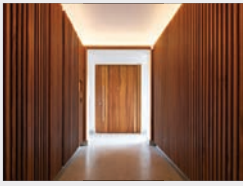


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## Specifying hardwood timber doorsets



Urban Front are now presenting the 'Specifying Hardwood Timber External Doorsets' CPD workshops online and can accommodate up to 20 participants for each webinar date. The objective is to enthuse and inform architects about specifying hardwood internal and external doors. Seminars last an hour

and count for double points for architects and architectural assistants. The CPD shows photographs of specifications and settings and includes demonstrations. Attendees will also be able to ask questions throughout.

01494 778 787 [www.urbanfront.com/riba-cpdoffering/book-cpd](http://www.urbanfront.com/riba-cpdoffering/book-cpd)

## Bringing new innovation studio to life



Photo by Alive Photography

A state-of-the-art business incubation building in Dorset has been completed with the use of an integrated package of Sto thermal insulation and external render and paint products. StoTherm Vario and StoTherm Classic insulation systems were specified for the new Innovation Studio at

the Arts University Bournemouth, along with StoSilco exterior render and StoColor Dryonic facade paint. The cost-effective StoTherm Vario system installed onto this unique two-storey building has an efficient single-leaf construction that provides excellent thermal performance while also protecting the external wall surface from weathering.

0141 892 8000 [www.sto.co.uk](http://www.sto.co.uk)

## A revolutionary revolving-sliding door



Royal Boon Edam International B.V. announced that they have launched a ground-breaking revolving-sliding high capacity revolving door. This new and patented automatic revolving door encompasses the latest technology within Boon Edam's signature "premium

minimalistic" design and is unlike any other existing revolving doors. With energy savings and user experience at its heart, the Orbit TriSens is ideal for use in areas with a high footfall of pedestrian traffic or where large objects need to be transported through an entrance.

01233 505 900 [www.boonedam.co.uk/orbit-trisens](http://www.boonedam.co.uk/orbit-trisens)

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# LEED on low impact

LEED is a growing presence in evaluating UK buildings' sustainability. Wojciech Brożyna from Aluprof UK discusses its benefits, and ways to meet the standard

**L** EED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a building quality rating system that is used in more than 160 countries around the world. It was created and developed in 1998 by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), whose goal was to distinguish buildings significantly reducing their negative impact on the environment.

It is also an easy way to determine to what extent an investment complies with the principles of sustainable construction and architecture. Importantly, LEED certification applies not only to new buildings but also to existing ones and those undergoing renovation. LEED certification is an industry-recognised certification, and is often a mandatory requirement set by future users of a building.

Certification is handled by the system operator, USGBC, and its partner GBCI (Green Business Certification Inc). Outside the US, the process of applying for LEED certification requires working with an accredited specialist, termed the 'LEED AP'.

## What is assessed?

LEED certification looks at several factors, including the location, the materials and solutions used, and the water and energy savings achieved. The characteristics of the internal environment are also taken into account, including air quality and acoustics, as well as the impact of the environmental building solutions used.

To obtain the certificate, you must start by registering on the LEED Online platform, submit documentation, and pay a certification fee. Then, GBCI will conduct a detailed review of the submitted documents. LEED is assessed according to six categories:

- building location and transportation
- sustainable and ecological grounds management
- water savings, energy savings, use of materials, and indoor environment.

Additionally, the use of innovative and unique solutions is taken into account,



together with the fulfilment of special requirements defined by LEED as important for a particular region of the world. Some of the above-mentioned criteria are mandatory for obtaining the certificate, while others are evaluated in the so-called credits or points.

These are combined to produce the final figure that dictates the level of the awarded certificate, which has four levels: Certified (40-49 points), Silver (50-59 points), Gold (60-79 points) and Platinum (80-110 points). The latter represents the absolute highest class of eco-friendly buildings.

It is important to remember that LEED certification is awarded to the entire building, not to its individual components, such as windows and doors. According to the certification rules, it is the designer who defines the technical requirements for the components of the whole development, and this results in obtaining the number of points required to classify the building to a targeted LEED certificate level.

## Benefits of LEED certification

LEED certification is, above all, an opportunity for investors to embrace. The decisions about the building, according to the assumptions of this system, directly

**More and more clients are noticing that renting well-thought-out and sustainable workspaces have a positive influence on the wellbeing and productivity of employees**



influence its energy efficiency, and improves the profitability of the entire undertaking. In reality, it turns out that buildings with this certificate are more likely to be rented, and in turn tenants are more likely to agree to higher rents.

Statistics show that fees investors can charge for using space in buildings with LEED certification may be raised by as much as 17%. Similarly, in the case of resale, the price obtained for LEED certified buildings may be 5% to 35% higher.

It's also about the steadily increasing ecological awareness of entrepreneurs who rent office spaces. More and more of them are noticing that renting well-thought-out and sustainable workspaces has a positive influence on the wellbeing – and productivity – of employees. And these indicators are directly translated into better profits and an elevated overall position of the company. The overall financial benefits can be far greater than, for example, those associated with reduced energy consumption.

Therefore this certificate often has a positive impact on the image of the building, investor, owner and tenants. Its high level of recognition, status and associated environmental values can also

be successfully used in marketing activities. Nowadays, information about a building's compliance with sustainable architecture principles is the most important information for many.

In addition, LEED certification is increasingly becoming the most important factor in the decision to lease premises by potential tenants. Such a distinction confirms not only that the building meets the criteria taken into account by the entity issuing the certificate, but also indicates the overall quality of workmanship and durability of the entire building, as well as the use of environmentally friendly materials.

### Let's build a better future

The LEED certificate is only one of many different tools that show that the construction industry is pursuing sustainable development – after all, the environment and the future of the entire planet depend on it. Each subsequent building with this certificate is a small step towards improving the quality of life of inhabitants of the entire planet.

*Wojciech Brożyna is managing director at Aluprof UK*



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## Renaissance for tried and trusted windows



Member companies of the Steel Window Association (SWA) have been enjoying a boom in business. This is thanks to the general upturn in activity across the housing market, with the focus on the acquisition and refurbishment of rural properties having resulted in higher than usual demand for the replacement of the traditional W20 style windows. The W20 closely replicates the appearance of the older universal suite of sections and can therefore be found providing reliable service from country cottages to dockland warehouses and in commercial, as well as industrial buildings.

[www.steel-window-association.co.uk](http://www.steel-window-association.co.uk)

## New Guardian SunGuard® SNX 70 glass



Guardian Glass Europe has launched the latest product in their leading SunGuard® eXtraSelective range – Guardian SunGuard SNX 70. SunGuard SNX 70 is a new triple silver-coated glass that boasts outstanding solar control and light transmission approaching 70% – plus high thermal insulation. Yet it also has a uniquely clean, natural appearance and a subtle reflective quality that achieves a strikingly uniform aesthetic across design contours and different viewing angles. This means SunGuard SNX 70 offers architects the opportunity to introduce more natural light and possibility of improvements in energy efficiency and comfort.

[www.guardianglass.com/gb/en](http://www.guardianglass.com/gb/en)

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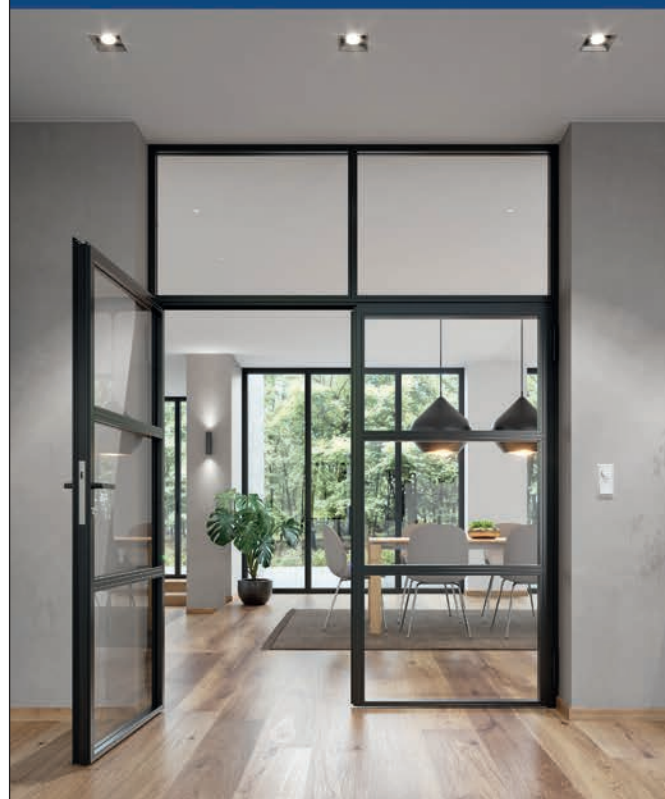
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## Quick access for Slick Stitch staff



Improving both security and accessibility, TORMAX was recently contracted to remove two manual doors at the Slick Stitch head offices and replace them with new, single sliding automatic entrance systems. Contained in a compact casing that measures just 100 mm high, the doors are powered by two in-house designed, iMotion 2202 operators, delivering whisper-quiet, reliable performance. Ensuring a high level of protection, the doors incorporate a secure electro-mechanical locking mechanism, which TORMAX interfaced with Slick Stitch's existing access control system. The existing manual doors to the staff entrance and main reception both needed upgrading, particularly as the security locks had become worn over time. Providing a more aesthetically attractive solution, the TORMAX entrances bring light into the lobby areas whilst the black powder-coated profile perfectly off-sets the new signage. "We have been really very pleased with the new entrances," comments Pete Gwilt, production manager for Slick Stitch. "The upgraded reception is considerably smarter and is certainly more befitting of our position as the No.1 apparel personalisation fulfilment business in the UK."

[www.tormax.co.uk](http://www.tormax.co.uk)

## Get up to date with GEZE's latest product guide



GEZE UK, has updated its Product Guide and Price List to help architects, architectural ironmongers and specifiers choose the most effective product for their needs. The detailed, illustrated technical guide provides specifiers with essential information about GEZE's extensive range of door closers, window control systems, sliding door fittings, glass door fittings, and smoke and heat extraction systems. Created to be completely user-friendly, the guide is divided into five easy to use sections so that the comprehensive range of products can be found quickly and efficiently, whilst also providing users with a handy reference guide to the applications of all GEZE products. It includes technical drawings, application descriptions and finishes as well as glass preparation information and technical information on a wide variety of solutions for toughened glass. The Product Guide is available electronically or as hard copy. Andy Howland, sales and marketing director of GEZE UK, said: "The industry is constantly changing, new guidelines and legislation are introduced regularly and GEZE continually innovates to ensure that our products remain at the forefront of technological innovations."

01543 443015 [info.uk@geze.com](mailto:info.uk@geze.com)

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## GaraGlide roller doors continue winning streak



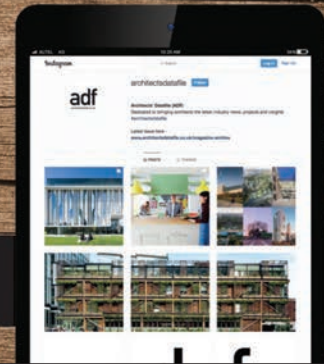
Garador's GaraGlide roller door continues to grow in popularity as it is quick to install, easy to transport to site and precision engineered for durability. An affordable price point has also made it a popular product amongst builders and homeowners alike. The speed and ease with which the GaraGlide can be installed is a significant advantage to builders saving them time and effort, and because the door is supplied in two double-wall cardboard boxes it's easy to get the door to site too. The door itself has a pre-assembled box cover and barrel and requires as little as 12 fixings all round.

The door curtain, comprised of 77 mm high rust-resistant aluminium laths, rolls up into a neat box at the top of the opening, giving optimum space around the door and the ceiling area. It is operated by two remote hand transmitters. The GaraGlide roller garage door is available in sizes up to 5,000 mm wide and is available in a range of 20 colours including two different timber effect finishes.

01935 443722 [www.garador.co.uk](http://www.garador.co.uk)

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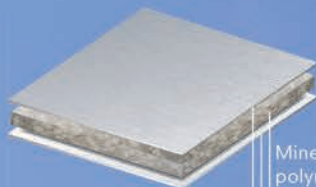
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## EJOT innovates to support UK's higher soffit insulation standards



EJOT UK's new DDS-Z fastener range holds the key to installing much greater depths of soffit liners with the smallest embedment depth, to help architects and clients to dramatically improve the thermal, acoustic and fire insulation standards in their buildings. This range of high quality self-tapping fasteners is designed specifically for the attachment of ceiling insulation and acoustic boards to concrete soffits, where the goal is to bring uninsulated floor structures up to the thermal requirements of the latest Building Regulations and beyond. It is an increasingly popular trend amongst the designers, owners or managers of buildings that feature car parking below ground or at ground level with residential or commercial space above – hence the need for noise reduction measures, in particular. Soffit liners have long been seen as an effective solution but the increasingly high standards now being sought here in the UK has given rise to the use of much greater depths of mineral fibre insulation. As this requires significantly longer fasteners to drive through the multiple layers of insulation and anchor effectively into the concrete substrate with a minimal embedment depth, EJOT UK has responded with the DDS-Z range.

01977 687040 [www.ejot.co.uk](http://www.ejot.co.uk)

## SterlingOSB Zero is the answer to green



Speed and efficiency favour off-site housebuilding; off-site favours timber frame; and timber frame favours West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero. The result is less reliance on traditional site-based trades and a re-shaping of the housebuilding sector. In a recent House of Commons research briefing, it was estimated that 340,000 new

homes would need to be supplied every year to meet demand. Offsite timber frame construction could be the solution for housebuilders and using West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is just the ticket in terms of green, speed and cost when considering essential board materials.

[uk.westfraser.com](http://uk.westfraser.com)

## Newton saves double basement failure



Newton Waterproofing and their Specialist Contractor Stonehouse have delivered an exceptional waterproofing design and installation for a large, two-level basement in Notting Hill, resulting in a stunning watertight and guaranteed new living space beneath the home. Stonehouse

Managing Director Graham Stone comments: "With clients who wanted no future risk of water ingress, we were able to design and install a robust, durable solution utilising the full range of Newton Waterproofing products to prevent water ingress from all conceivable directions."

01732 360 095 [info@newtonwaterproofing.co.uk](mailto:info@newtonwaterproofing.co.uk)



## ZENON ROOFLIGHT TO ACHIEVE 1.5 MINIMUM EXTRA BREEAM POINTS... JUST LOOK UP.

Hambleside Danelaw was the first UK rooflight manufacturer to receive a product EPD for in-plane rooflights by BRE.

This means that when specifying Zenon rooflights, they can contribute a minimum of 1.5 points, in addition to the metal roof system, towards the building's overall BREEAM rating. These EPD points fall under the category of Material - Criterion Mat 02.

Over and above the metal roof system, rooflights can also contribute to two other categories, Energy and Health and Wellbeing, and two other criterion for the Material Category.



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1.5 BREEAM POINTS



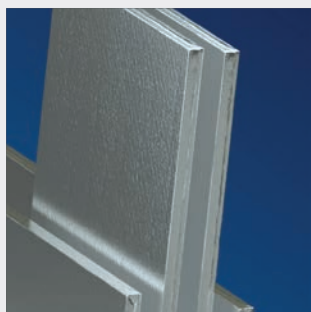
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This enables the building envelope to both satisfy the demanding requirements of the latest Building Regulations and minimise thickness of the construction build-up. ULTIMA VIP is ideal for inverted roofs, balconies and terraces where adding deep insulation can impact on the practicality and aesthetics of the building feature. ULTIMA VIP also benefits domestic and commercial new build projects by allowing for additional floor space by reducing the thickness of walls without compromising thermal performance – and potentially improving it.

0800 588 4444 [www.promat.com](http://www.promat.com)

## Domus Ventilation proves ideal solution



Domus Ventilation's HRXE-HERA® Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) systems have been specified for the be:here Hayes build-to-rent residential development in West London. The MVHR units are being installed as a retrofit, replacing the previous

units that had come to the end of their working lives. The new energy efficient HRXE-HERA® units are smaller than their predecessors making them ideal for wall-mounting in the apartments' storage cupboards. This solution also provides users with easy access to change the filters.

[vent.info@domusventilation.co.uk](mailto:vent.info@domusventilation.co.uk) [www.domusventilation.co.uk](http://www.domusventilation.co.uk)

## Purevision stoves by Charlton & Jenrick



Be completely free of gas and electricity suppliers for individual room heating or a blast of top-up heat for the coldest days and make the finishing touch a Purevision clearSkies 4 or 5 stove from Charlton & Jenrick. Just launched are the Purevision Countryman 5 or 5 Wide stoves that marry modern Ecodesign performance with robustly styled outer aesthetics. For a more

contemporary look the original Purevision 5, 5 Wide and 8.5 models are supported by the PVR cylindrical design, boasting probably the largest glass window of any pedestal type stove on the market.

01952 200 444 [www.charltonandjenrick.co.uk](http://www.charltonandjenrick.co.uk)

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## Better school buildings

One of the most important buildings in any country is the school because the future depends on how the next generations are educated. Apart from the standard of teaching, informed local authorities and designers understand how a high-quality indoor climate is equally important. Apart from planning and layout, the school also has to enjoy the best acoustics, air quality and healthy environment.

Troldtekt solutions not only help to improve acoustics but also influence air quality, overall design, durability and operating economy and contribute to a school's overall sustainability and visual coherence between rooms.

Today, a quite unexpected problem that has impacted and required several emergency measures, especially in new buildings, is the handling of pandemics. A good example of great design is Denmark's first newly built school of architecture has been conceived as a laboratory for learning and architectural experimentation designed by ADEPT. It features several variants of Troldtekt acoustic ceilings.

Turnkey architect and founding partner Martin Krogh says: "We chose Troldtekt because of its simplicity and versatility. The solutions are perfect for rooms where peace and quiet are needed for concentrated study or work but also in high-ceilinged and complex soundscapes."

Pernille Svendsen from Arkitema Learning is extremely pleased with the acoustic solution at the Erlev School in Haderslev. "I personally think that the Troldtekt ceilings are a wonderful match for the wooden structures and the many interior elements in wood. Troldtekt is both an acoustic solution and also suits the overall design catalogue for the school. The panels have a surface that is a bit rough, but in a good way. A school shouldn't look too fine and polished. It should signal that it can withstand use, hanging things up, exhibiting and moving around. There's room for change here."

Founded on the Cradle-to-Cradle design concept, Troldtekt's natural and inherently sustainable panels are available in a variety of different surfaces and colours and contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, DGNB



and LEED ratings. In addition to their high sound absorption and tactile surface, they offer high durability and low-cost lifecycle performance. Available in various sizes and in four grades, from extreme fine to coarse, the panels can be left untreated or painted in virtually any RAL colour.

Samples, case studies and technical guidance are available by contacting Troldtekt, and more about the theme can be found here: [www.troldtekt.com/news/themes/healthy-schools-of-the-future](http://www.troldtekt.com/news/themes/healthy-schools-of-the-future)

01978 664255 [Troldtekt.co.uk](http://Troldtekt.co.uk)

## Gilberts delivers form and functionality in healthcare reform "first"



The first community diagnostics hub of its kind in England is now open and delivering a healthy environment for patients through its ventilation. The Rutherford Diagnostic Centre Somerset in Taunton is the first to open in response to recommendations made in an independent review, recommending such facilities be created in free-standing, accessible locations to provide quicker and easier access to patients. Phase 1 of the new facility provides two MRI rooms, two CT scan rooms and an ultrasound room, equipped with cutting-edge diagnostic equipment and cannulation rooms plus support consulting rooms and reception. Throughout the MRI Scan suite areas, a combination of Gilberts' DGA4 louvred face diffusers and GECA egg-crate grilles, specifically manufactured in non-ferrous material and plastic PX extract valves have been used to provide compliant quality and volume of air in line with latest NHS guidance HTM03-01. In non-treatment areas and other clinical spaces, mild steel versions of the DGA4 and GECA units supply fresh, filtered air which is extracted via Gilberts' PG-R perforated face diffusers. In the main reception, Gilberts' JSL jumbo slot diffusers in runs up to 12 m have been installed, blending seamlessly.

01253 766911 [info@gilbertsblackpool.com](mailto:info@gilbertsblackpool.com)

## Hybrid Ventilation for Oceansgate



Breathing Buildings, a leading provider of controlled hybrid ventilation systems, has supplied a ventilation system to a newbuild office development, Oceansgate, in Plymouth. Oceansgate brings together marine-based businesses in a collaborative environment. Breathing Buildings was specified by the design team to provide a hybrid ventilation system to serve the open-plan office spaces and several cellular offices for each of the three floors. Within the project 24 Breathing Buildings NVHR 900 units were installed, plus the company also supplied external weather louvres which were glazed into the curtain walling system.

01223 450 060 [www.breathingbuildings.com](http://www.breathingbuildings.com)

## Waterloo's collaborative approach



Waterloo's extensive range of products and ability to respond quickly provided the agility and flexibility required. The manufacturing floor where the motorcycles are hand-built has been fitted with RWH High-Flo Jet Diffusers. The innovative reversible and rotatable core design of the RHW diffuser allows for the air jet to be adjusted for both pattern and deflection. For the main offices Waterloo specified a Square Plate Vane Swirl Diffuser (SDVS) which could be mounted within the gridded or plasterboard ceilings. These diffusers are designed for office areas where rapid mixing of air supply is required in rooms of ceiling height between 2.6 m and 4 m.

01622 711500 [www.waterloo.co.uk](http://www.waterloo.co.uk)



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[ecodan.me.uk/ad3](https://ecodan.me.uk/ad3)







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## Altro brings vibrant designs to life



Altro Ensemble modular flooring system has been paired with Altro White Rock Digiclad (Custom) wall panels to deliver the 'wow' factor front of house at the El Mexicana restaurant in Chelmsford. Great for areas where looks count, for feature walls, entire spaces, and to aid with way-finding, Altro White Rock Digiclad™ (Custom) wall panels give total creative freedom with the quality and performance you expect from Altro walls. Altro Ensemble™ is a modular flooring system of luxury vinyl tiles that gives complete design freedom to create stunning floors for interior spaces.

01462 489 516 [www.altro.co.uk/Home/Menu/Floors/Designer](http://www.altro.co.uk/Home/Menu/Floors/Designer)

## F. Ball supports Coventry centre renovation



Products donated by F. Ball and Co. Ltd., including the company's Stopgap 1200 Pro levelling compound, have been used to prepare subfloors as part of the renovation of the Coventry Caribbean Community Centre prior to its reopening to coincide with Coventry's UK City of Culture status last year. Installers opted to use F. Ball's Stopgap 1200 Pro to smooth subfloors. The levelling compound can be applied directly over minimal, well-bonded old adhesive residues. F. Ball's Stopgap F77 one-part waterproof surface membrane was then applied to prevent excess subfloor moisture attacking floorcoverings and adhesives.

01583 361 633 [www.f-ball.co.uk](http://www.f-ball.co.uk)

## World first for Panasonic's nanoe™



Panasonic Corporation has announced that the company, in collaboration with the Japan Textile Products Quality Technology Center, has verified the inhibitory effect of nanoe™ on novel coronavirus adhering in a 24 m³ test space. This is the first time in the world that the inhibitory effect on adhering novel coronavirus has been verified in a

test space almost as large as a daily living space. nanoe™ is a technology that collects invisible moisture in the air and applies a high voltage to it to produce "hydroxyl radicals contained in water". Hydroxyl radicals inhibit the growth of pollutants such as bacteria and viruses.

[www.panasonic.com/global](http://www.panasonic.com/global) [www.aircon.panasonic.eu/GB\\_en](http://www.aircon.panasonic.eu/GB_en)

## Ceilings installed in new headquarters



Global architectural products company Hunter Douglas was specified to supply 358 m² of its solid wood grill ceiling in American White Oak, 15 mm x 35 mm slats, that were installed in the President's suite, conference and function rooms as well as the entrance lobby and cafe area of the new Royal College of Surgeons of England headquarters. The Hunter Douglas solid wood grill ceiling is an environmentally friendly choice and comes with FSC/PEFC certification. It is also Cradle to Cradle Certified™ silver, which demonstrates that it meets certain stringent standards for manufacture and environmental controls.

01604 648 229 [www.hunterdouglas.co.uk](http://www.hunterdouglas.co.uk)

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Call us on 01206 713800 or email [enquiries@titon.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@titon.co.uk)

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## Great materials for big ideas

UNILIN Panels has launched its 2022-2026 decorative range, giving architects, designers and interior fabricators a choice of more than 200 decorative finishes available across a range of high-quality panels.

With 222 designs, including 67 brand-new looks, the UNILIN Panels 2022-2026 decorative range offers an extraordinary collection of surface finishes that can be used to bring big ideas to commercial interiors. No matter whether the originality and authenticity of Master Oak or metallic, marble, stone, concrete, textile and solid colour effects; the 2022-2026 decorative range always delivers a flawless finish that's durable and easy to maintain.

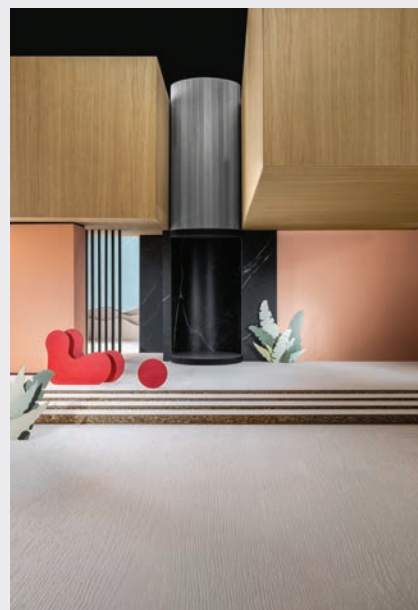
"New trends require new designs," says product manager, Ann De Blanck. "We've kept 128 designs from our previous collection and have added 94 new ones, including 27 refreshes of existing designs. With their new structure, the refreshed effects are now fully in-line with the trend for matt finishes. There are 67 brand new designs in the 2022-2026 collection, including Master Oak, a truly

revolutionary oak effect. We also have a range of new textiles looks, focusing on fresh and soft colours."

Not only have the designs been given an update, UNILIN has also developed new panels, making the range even more adaptable than before. For example, Fibrilux core-coloured decorative MDF panels in various lacquer finishes bring a genuine and original interpretation of this often disguised material. Then, the company has also engineered new melamine faced compact MDF for an easily workable alternative to compact HPL.

At the same time, a whole series of existing products have remained in the range: melamine faced panels, HPL, Clicwall, furniture panels and matching edge bands ensure the UNILIN Panels 2022-2026 decorative range provides a solution to any interior surface application. Designs can now also be selected on special substrates including moisture-retardant, fire-retardant and antibacterial panels.

Combining the latest designs with enhanced function, the decorative range is not only evolving in terms of aesthetics, but



also in terms of performance. Samples of the 2022-2026 decorative range can be ordered direct from the UNILIN Panels website.

[info.panels@unilin.com](mailto:info.panels@unilin.com)  
[www.unilinpanels.com](http://www.unilinpanels.com)



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 Rehau Genio / Synego  
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 Aluplast HST 85



# Join Quantum for an afternoon of Building Product Specification, CPD and Beer

Quantum Profile Systems Ltd is hosting a unique FREE event for Architects and Specifiers in partnership with the Manchester Society of Architects on Thursday 14th July 2022, from 3pm until 10.30pm. It will give those in attendance the chance to learn about the very latest building product developments in the construction industry, and enjoy an evening of networking. Free transport will also be available to and from Manchester Northern Quarter.

There will be an afternoon of focused RIBA CPDs, an RIBA accredited Lean factory tour, and an exhibition from leading building product manufacturers. There will also be a free bar and hog roast (plus veggie option) in the evening.

Several leading building product manufacturers will be offering 20-minute-long, focused CPDs which will earn CPD points for our guests. Attendees will be offered an RIBA assessed tour of



QPSL's factory, which will allow them to observe its Lean manufacturing techniques in practice. There will also be an exhibition area where you can speak directly to a range of manufacturers.

In the evening there will be a selection of beers and ciders on draft at a free bar. A range of spirits will also be available, along with red and white wine. Guests will be served a buffet, the centrepiece of which will be a whole hog roast with all the trimmings. There will also be vegan and vegetarian options available.

Entertainment will be provided by live performances from various musical artists, including the band Pressure Drop, a Manchester-based Reggae and Ska street band. For those who would like to take advantage of the refreshments, free transport is available on the day. There will be a bus to pick people up from the Northern Quarter in Manchester at 2.15pm and to drop people back there at 10.30pm.

Book your FREE place today – [tinyurl.com/qpsl2022](https://tinyurl.com/qpsl2022).

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Visit: [ribacpd.com/dru](https://ribacpd.com/dru)



Dik Geurts Soren 5  
wood stove



Dik Geurts Instyle Corner  
wood fire



## New style solutions for tiling projects



Commercial tile supplier CTD Architectural Tiles has unveiled its new tile collection which has been carefully curated to include the latest on-trend designs and high-performance solutions from some of the world's most innovative and established manufacturers. The latest collection encompasses brand new commercial tile solutions as well as updates to established ranges with an extended selection of colours, sizes and finishes now available. Specifiers, architects and designers can also experience the look and feel of the new tiles by requesting free samples from across the extensive product range.

0800 021 4835 [www.ctdarchitecturaltiles.co.uk](http://www.ctdarchitecturaltiles.co.uk)

## Viega opens new exhibition space



Viega has opened the doors to its 'LONDON' space in the Building Centre, providing a central location for showcasing products and interacting directly with visitors. In the heart of the capital, architects, designers, engineers and installers alike, can now view the company's innovative portfolio

offering of ProfiPress, Megapress, Viega Smartpress, Sanpress Inox, flush plates and Prevista, Viega's latest generation of water compliant cisterns; providing visitors with a much more tactile understanding of what they are capable of. The space can also accommodate live demonstrations and video content of the Viega products in action.

[sales@viega.co.uk](mailto:sales@viega.co.uk)

## The affordable alternative to steel screens



Tradelink Window Solutions is seeing a boom in demand for its glazed aluminium screens which are ideally suited to replicating the classic look of steel screens; at a fraction of the cost. The extruded aluminium, polyester powder-coated screens are manufactured to order at Tradelink's dedicated production facility in March, Cambridgeshire, for specialist installers to fit within their clients' homes.

They are perfect for creating a home office or otherwise helping re-designate space within a property, while also being suitable for cutting heat loss between garden rooms and the rest of the interior.

[tradelinkdirect.com](http://tradelinkdirect.com)

## Forbo's new designer collection



Renowned for his stimulating artwork, José Medina Galeote's creations have been given a new dimension through the medium of flooring. By exploring new perspectives and utilising Forbo Flooring Systems' high-definition printing techniques, the new 'Created by JM Galeote' range can help specifiers to fashion

striking interiors, with a strong design narrative. The collection comprises nine designs, eight of which are split into three distinct themes: Writing, which emphasises the beauty of handwriting; Linear, which experiments with illusion and perspective; and Organic, featuring designs that evoke a warm and familiar feeling related to the natural world.

01773 744 121 [www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/jmgaleote](http://www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/jmgaleote)

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## SEN School refreshed with Yeoman Shield

Fairfield School in Batley, West Yorkshire, managed by FM company Pinnacle Group, engaged with Yeoman Shield wall & door protection specialists to carry out re-branding and maintenance work during the February half-term.

Catering for students from 4-19 years old with a wide range of needs, the school premises required the protection rails and handrails along the main corridors to receive new covers to reflect the fresh re-branding of the school.

Having previously installed their Guardian Handrail and 200 mm Protection Rail products in the school, Yeoman Shield were able to remove the original covers and replace with the vibrant colour ways of Aqua Blue rails and Steel Blue stop end and corner accessories offering a contrast to highlight doorways, entrances and direction changes.

Michael Cooper, lifecycle & variation manager for FM division of Pinnacle said of the work carried out: "Many thanks to Yeoman Shield for the smooth and successful completion of this project."



"The feedback received from our PFI partners at the school following their rebranding exercise, have been really positive.

"I have used Yeoman Shield products in both Healthcare and Educational settings and their protective products are perfect for the environments we are responsible

for maintaining."

"The products and quality of workmanship are both excellent and I would be more than happy to use Yeoman Shield for any of our upcoming protective requirements across any of our contracts."

Over the years the Guardian Handrail and Protection Rails have protected the walls of Fairfield School from impact damage caused by the everyday movement of staff and students, (some using wheeled mobility aids), helping to reduce maintenance and repair costs, keeping the school looking smart and welcoming.

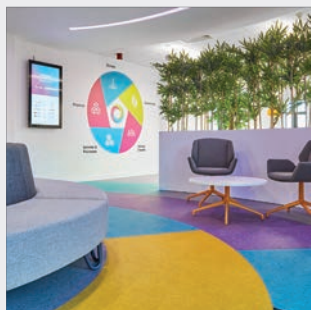
The versatility and durability of the products have facilitated the choice of colour change, adding to the bright and fun environment envisioned by the building management and school team.

Manufactured from a rigid PVCu material, the rails are easy to clean and do not support the growth of bacteria or mould maintaining the all important high hygiene standards.

0113 279 5854

[www.yeomanshield.com](http://www.yeomanshield.com)

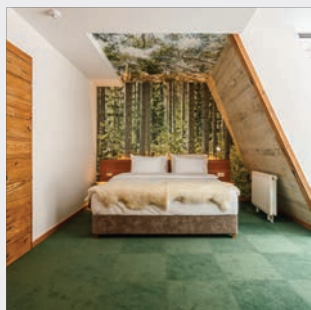
## Brand identity in a practical floor finish at Plastribution



IVC Commercial Carpet Tiles, Luxury Vinyl Tiles and Heterogeneous Vinyl floors have been utilised in the new offices of Plastribution, supporting brand identity and keeping it practical. Plastribution, one of the UK's leading distributor of plastics and raw materials, recently moved into new offices and called upon Blueprint Interiors to design a practical space that reflected its brand through colours. Across 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space, a range of flooring solutions from IVC Commercial have been used. In the main desking areas, Art Style and Art Fields carpet planks have been installed in a range of colours that reflect Plastribution's colourful and vibrant brand identity. Bright tones of yellow, cyan and magenta have been contrasted with circles of charcoal grey for a look that is energetic yet professional. The circle theme is continued with Optimise 70 acoustic sheet vinyl and Moduleo 55 Ceppo LVT installed in thoroughfares, kitchen, breakout and collaboration areas for an easy to maintain, durable floor finish. Mysto's authentic terrazzo effect is interspersed by circles of bright and bold colours of Optimise 70 Ombra, again reinforcing Plastribution's brand.

01332 851 500 [www.ivc-commercial.com](http://www.ivc-commercial.com)

## A more sustainable way to better comfort



comfortBackeco is the new sustainable carpet tile backing from modulyss®, now available on the Belgian manufacturer's high-quality carpet tile collections. Combining shock and noise absorbing benefits with a sustainable and circular construction, comfortBackeco is the modulyss carpet tile backing that gives best of both worlds. Consisting of 62% recycled material, 100% PVC and bitumen free and with the ability to be disassembled and recycled back into itself, comfortBackeco is a carpet tile backing that's better for the planet and better for people. Thanks to a 90% recycled polyester felt, it soaks up noise and absorbs footfall for a floor finish that adds an extra layer of comfort. With an average 65% improvement in sound absorption and blocking out 25% more sound from adjacent rooms, modulyss carpet tiles with comfortBackeco help spaces to be quieter. The lightweight yet dense polyester felt also absorbs footfall time after time, for a carpet tile that's more comfortable to walk and stand on. Cradle to Cradle Gold Certified®, the backing's lightweight construction also helps to reduce the impact of transportation, providing an 18% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

0800 096 2702 [www.modulyss.com/en-INT/technical/backings](http://www.modulyss.com/en-INT/technical/backings)



# New Vicaima Wardrobe brochure truly inspires with functionality and aesthetics



Vicaima, a major European player in the design and production of vanguard solutions for interiors doors, doorsets, wall panels and associated joinery solutions, have just launched the latest version of their inspiring wardrobe brochure, together with tutorial assembly videos to show how easy it is to create beautiful storage solutions. In a symbiosis between functionality and aesthetics, Vicaima wardrobes feature refined, innovative, sustainable designs and multiple customization possibilities, presenting a modern portfolio which promises to cater for

the latest market trends in 2022.

The three ranges of the brand, Easy, Advanced and Transform, complement each other and enable Vicaima to provide extensive solutions, suited to the varied demands prescribed by the multiple sectors of activity, namely housing, hospitality and health, amongst others. True to its commitment to sustainability, all these solutions are available with FSC® certification, an entity which promotes responsible forest management.

The Easy Range is noted for its versatility, promoting a practical and functional concept, offering modulation options and specific accessories. Focusing on elegance and optimization of the wardrobe interior, Vicaima provides solutions with opening doors, sliding doors, with the option of a mirror and wardrobe fronts, consisting of doors and frame.

Sophistication and comfort are the vectors guiding the entire Advanced Range. With a wide range of contemporary coatings and finishes, where Naturdor® and Lacdor are the highlights, these suggestions blend in perfect harmony with the interior doors. Sophistication leads the various modulation solutions, enhanced by the elegance of the details and the different options of accessories that are available for the wardrobes and

storage solutions within this range.

Strongly committed to the professionals of this sector, Vicaima also produced two tutorial videos explaining the installation of the Easy Range wardrobes, in a sliding door version, and the Advanced, with opening doors, which will be available, in bilingual format, on the social networks and on the company's website.

In response to the desire for exclusivity and customisation, the Transform Range grants the customer the possibility to explore his creativity and imagination, thereby designing genuinely unique projects. Focused on detail, these solutions are enhanced through innovative combinations of exclusive real wood veneers, sophisticated lacquers and highly customised patterns and textures, which imprint an individual identity to each room.

This latest renewal is an expression of the quality, differentiation and diversity of the wardrobe solutions developed by Vicaima, and also of the company's capacity to follow and set market trends, which are continuously accompanied by its commitment to sustainability and to a circular economy.

01793 532 333  
[www.vicaima.com](http://www.vicaima.com)



## Dulux Trade unveils antiviral paint Sterishield Dual Active Matt



Dulux Trade has launched Dulux Trade Sterishield Dual Active Matt, a quick drying, water-based coating with anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties that meets growing demand among decorators and consumers for products that contribute to more hygienic environments. The innovative paint contains in-film antimicrobial additives that inhibit bacteria and viruses within the paint film. It reduces populations of MRSA, E. coli, Coronaviruses, Human Herpesvirus and Phi 6 bacteriophage, and, when combined with appropriate cleaning practices, helps to promote a more hygienic environment. Dulux Trade Sterishield Dual Active Matt is a stain resistant, scrubbable, durable matt finish emulsion suitable for all normal interior wall and ceiling surfaces. It achieves ISO 11998 Class 1 and Type C BS 7719 scrub ratings, making it ideal for high use areas that require regular cleaning. The launch of Dulux Trade Sterishield Dual Active Matt comes in response to increased interest from trade professionals and industries for health and cleanliness-focused propositions. Research shows 58% of decorators believe a healthy environment for their clients is part of what they would define as 'quality' when it comes to paint.

0333 222 7070 [www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk/en/products/dulux-trade-sterishield-dual-active-matt](http://www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk/en/products/dulux-trade-sterishield-dual-active-matt)

## Space Works – A Podcast Series



Over the last two years, the built environment has seen the most significant systematic shift in how we design, interact with and utilise workspaces. Komfort is excited to launch its brand-new podcast entitled *Space Works*. This podcast involves research and development discussions and open forum debates with industry experts on the new era of the built environment, each series with a specific focus. In the most recent podcast episode, Ana Rita Martins from Woodalls, highlighted how “The key to future spaces is understanding the clear link between the building performance and how that interacts with human behaviour, and therefore business performance.”

0121 332 2550 [www.komfort.com/space-works-podcast](http://www.komfort.com/space-works-podcast)

## Sika launches new online finder tool



Sika's new Fire Stopping Solution Finder tool has been created to support the specification process by helping to identify the most appropriate and effective fire stopping products to use when restoring the fire resistance of walls and floors disrupted by penetration seals. Specifiers can simply input key project details to receive a bespoke recommendation, including technical CAD drawings which can be downloaded as PDFs for inclusion in product specifications. The easy to use and convenient resource has been designed to work in conjunction with Sika's technical team who are on hand to offer further guidance and specification support.

01707 394444 [www.sika.co.uk/passivefire](http://www.sika.co.uk/passivefire)

## More power, more connectivity



GEZE have completely upgraded their control panels for smoke and heat extraction systems. Control units are the brain and the power supply of the smoke and heat extraction systems in a building. The new THZ N4 and THZ Comfort replace the previous versions and offer a more powerful power supply, increased connectivity and easier installation. In addition to extracting smoke from staircases the THZ N4 and THZ Comfort can also be used for smaller smoke and heat extraction systems such as a foyer and are suitable for use on new buildings and retrofitting. In large event venues with smoke extraction installed in the roof or with a machine smoke extraction system the THZ N4 is particularly suited for operating fresh air drives such as GEZE's RWA K 600. Both versions have received a hardware and capability upgrade; the more powerful power supply enables an increased output of 4.5A from the 3.4A in previous models which broadens the panel's specification possibilities and allows more drives to be connected. The motor line connection has also been upgraded to a spring level motor terminal to allow for easier installation and both can now be interfaced with the GEZE ST 220 service terminal for quick and easy commissioning.

[info.uk@geze.com](mailto:info.uk@geze.com) [www.geze.co.uk](http://www.geze.co.uk)

## A hospital specifies TITAN Lite™ 120:60 from FIREFLY



An 18-month contract being carried out by a leading UK fire contractor has involved installing large quantities of the TITAN Lite™ 120:60, manufactured by TBA FIREFLY™, to create fire barriers above ceiling voids throughout many parts of the hospital. The hospital has 660 beds and provides medical and surgical care to a third of a million people. The refurbishment work, concluded at the end of November 2021, was being carried out by Plymouth based Ventro Ltd. The Site Agent for Ventro, John Roberts, commented: “As a specialist fire contractor working across the whole of the UK and beyond, we have employed Firefly products on many projects over the years and expect to continue doing so.” FIREFLY™ TITAN Lite™ 120:60 has been developed as a flexible fire barrier to provide compartmentation of larger concealed spaces within different types of buildings including factories, warehouses and railway stations. By offering 120 minutes integrity and 60 minutes insulation, TITAN Lite™ 120:60 exceeds the minimum requirements relating to Fire Barriers as detailed in the UK Building Regulations: Approved Document B (Fire Safety). Firefly is manufactured using specially treated woven glass fibre fabrics.

01706 758817 [www.tbafirefly.com](http://www.tbafirefly.com)



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\*Depending on size and orientation of panel

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# Stannah



# Safety rises to the top

The Building Safety Act has wide-ranging implications across many areas of construction; Nick Mellor at LEIA explains what it means for design of evacuation lifts

In the wake of Grenfell, the initial focus of the Building Safety Bill is understandably on higher risk residential buildings. This follows recommendations from Dame Judith Hackitt for a “new regulatory framework to develop an ‘integrated systemic change’ with a greater focus on getting building design and ongoing safety right.”

In a nutshell, the Bill is concerned with improving consistency and oversight across the entire supply chain. This means a digital record for projects, with a ‘golden thread’ of information from design, through to construction and occupation, all overseen by a new building safety regulator.

For architects, or the principal designer on the project, this means new requirements to plan, manage and monitor design work to ensure it complies with Building Regulations. In addition, they must co-operate, communicate and coordinate work with other duty holders. So where does this leave the design of evacuation lifts in projects?

## Accessibility for all

Until various documents such as Building Regulations guidance and standards such as BS 9991:2015 (‘Fire safety in the design, management and use of residential buildings’) and BS 9999:2017 (‘Fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings’) are revised, the only current description of an evacuation lift for the evacuation of disabled people is in BS 9999:2017, Annex G. This describes a lift which is removed from normal operation and used by a rescue team with a manual operator driving the lift to the floors where people are awaiting evacuation.

However, the use of lifts for the evacuation of disabled people is being looked at in several pieces of work. There has been work to draft a European standard which would be EN 81-76 (‘Evacuation of persons with disabilities using lifts’). A draft for public comment should be circulated in May 2022 which will include proposals for optional evacuation modes including a



driver assisted operation – similar to but a development on from what we have seen in British Standards – and an automatic evacuation operation. Approval and publication of a final EN 81-76 (2023 at the earliest) is not guaranteed so the draft EN 81-76 should not be referenced as if it were a standard.

The possibility of an automatic evacuation operation for disabled people to self-evacuate without assistance was recognised by the new London Plan – published in March 2021 – which includes Policy D5(B5) requiring development proposals to be “designed to incorporate safe and dignified emergency evacuation for all building users. In all developments where lifts are installed, at a minimum at least one lift per core (or more subject to capacity assessments) should be a suitably sized fire evacuation lift suitable to be used to evacuate people who require level access from the building.”

## London Plan

The changes in the London Plan will have very significant implications, in influencing other guidance and recommendations revised to respond to similar challenges.

At the time of writing, the supporting

**In a nutshell, the Bill is concerned with improving consistency and oversight between the entire supply chain to improve safety**

**LIFTEX 2022 takes place 12-13 October 2022 at ExCeL, London including a free seminar programme addressing key changes architects need to be aware of in The Building Safety Bill. Please visit [www.liftexshow.com](http://www.liftexshow.com)**

fire safety and evacuation lift guidance for the London Plan is under consultation. Recognising the situation with the development of EN 81-76, the draft evacuation lift guidance references BS EN 81-76 "if published," and BS 9991, BS 9999 for evacuation lifts. So, until a BS EN 81-76 is published (2023 at the earliest), the guidance in BS 9991 and BS 9999 should be followed for evacuation lifts.

In the meantime, work started at BSI to revise BS 9991:2015; a draft for public comment was published in August 2021. This supported the London Plan policy for all building users to be able to evacuate as independently as possible and included proposals for all developments with passenger lifts to have at least one evacuation lift, and for buildings in excess of 18 metres in height to be provided with more than one.

The proposals contained in the draft version of BS 9991 included significant developments on from the evacuation lift described in BS 9999, Annex G; an evacuation lift would have the ability to be controlled by an evacuation assistant (as we have currently in BS 9999), but crucially the draft introduced the possibility of the evacuation lift to have an automatic

operation to support the self-evacuation of disabled people.

It is not certain whether the final published BS 9991 standard will include these proposals. However, we do expect that forthcoming standards will focus on improving the evacuation lift provision in new buildings. There is currently only one description of an evacuation lift: BS 9999:2017 (Annex G).

While any revised BS 9991 and BS 9999 will set the benchmark for new buildings, in her report Judith Hackitt recognised the need for a continued and determined focus on driving improvements in (fire) safety in the existing housing stock as well as new builds, or the required safety improvements will not occur.

Speaking on behalf of the group Actuate UK at the Construction Leadership Council's COP26 session, Michelle Agha-Hosseini highlighted that 80% of buildings in existence today will still be in use by 2050. While a key issue for sustainability, it also has implications for improving building safety; the improvement of existing lifts will become a major factor.

*Nick Mellor is managing director of the Lift & Escalator Industry Association*

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## BAL's external tiling range trusted for long-life installations



Launched to the market last year, BAL's external tiling range provides installers with a trusted solution for fixing external tiles and pavers – including popular 20 mm external porcelain. Developed using market-leading performance and quality standards, the installation range provides improved installation for the two main build-ups in the UK: concrete bases or Type 1 MOT substrates. There is even a simple, faster track BAL system for use on concrete which is already in suitable condition for direct tiling. When installing onto Type 1 MOT, professional and long-lasting installations are made possible with three BAL External Tiling Range Products: BAL Bedding Mortar; BAL Priming Slurry Bond; BAL Level Out; BAL Terrace Grout. Alex Underwood, head of marketing at BAL, said: "A straightforward system, our External Tiling Range it provides ease of use and high performance when installing external porcelain tiles, pavers or slabs. As market-leaders for tiling in the UK and supported by the research and development capabilities of the global ARDEX Group, BAL's product range uses the most up-to-date technology is trusted for long-lasting patios and terraces."

01782 591100 [www.bal-adhesives.com](http://www.bal-adhesives.com)

## In the 'Bank' with Resiblock Sealers



Resiblock Resiecco has been utilised at Phases 1 & 2 of the major brownfield development Anchorwood Bank. The project sees the implementation of 170 new homes, restaurants and cafes, as well as leisure and commercial facilities. Resiblock were specified following a CPD seminar with contractors Pearce Construction, with Resiecco now being used on

two different sections of the site. Both the main road and the Western Piazza now benefit from Resiblock Sealers which will ensure no paver destabilisation from joint loss due to vehicular and footfall traffic, as well as providing stain protection against food, drink and chewing gum.

[www.resiblock.com](http://www.resiblock.com)

## Resin pathway for 'Love Your Garden' show



When it comes to resin bound, the good news is that you can install it on a good existing surface such as concrete or tarmac. For light traffic areas in gardens a compacted stone is often sufficient, and preparation is not time-consuming or costly. A clear UV resin is combined with 6 mm Natural Aggregate blend, SureSet's Winter Pearl,

in a forced action mixer, levelled at a 30 mm depth and hand compressed to an attractive smooth and permeable finish provides a resin bound garden to enjoy for a lifetime. For more info visit [www.sureset.co.uk/case-studies/our-resin-pathway-for-itvs-show-love-your-garden-sureset/](http://www.sureset.co.uk/case-studies/our-resin-pathway-for-itvs-show-love-your-garden-sureset/)

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IKONIC LIFTS

# Raising the bar for external spaces

Caroline Birdsall from Millboard describes the recent trends in including decking for outdoor areas, from entertainment to increasingly al fresco bars and dining in domestic and hospitality settings, post-pandemic



**A**n overriding trend we have all seen in recent times is the importance and value being attached to the space we have around us. For a while, the outside was the only place you could legally connect with friends and family due to Covid restrictions, and more of us are working from home these days, spending more time together under one roof. The once taken for granted garden has become an extra 'room' of the house – or, more accurately, an extension. It has become a living room, office, gym, pub and cafe.

## The bar at home

We have seen a huge increase in homeowners wanting high end, 'show-stopping' areas for dining and entertaining outside. Decking areas are being designed with lighting, heating and shade so that the space can be used year-round. It is often the finishing touches that take a deck to the 'next level' in the eyes of homeowners. For instance, adding edging allows easy incorporation of under-lip lighting for a really professional finish to entertaining spaces. Also, built-in seating using the same



material can create a pared-back aesthetic giving the illusion of more space – very useful for smaller urban gardens.

### Outdoor hospitality

One trend which started before lockdown is the use of composite decking for outdoor spaces in the hospitality industry. Composite decking looks like wood and feels pleasant underfoot but is easy to maintain, long-lasting and slip resistant – it's hard to argue with those qualities when you're running a busy hotel or bar. The space is also easy to clean up after the inevitable food and drink spills.

### Different shades

For those who want their decking to be centre stage, different decking colours can be combined to create a diverse garden scheme which complements or contrasts with the surrounding hard materials such as fencing, a shed or outbuilding, or even the colour of the window frames or interior scheme. This helps to break up the space and injects a little brightness to a scheme that may heavily feature one colour. This is especially useful in public areas where slips and trips might take place.

Not only beautiful, but practical too; highlighting the edges of steps or drops from the side of decking can reduce the risk of visitors mis-stepping or losing balance. Picture framing your decking in this way also adds a formal feel, while choosing a contrasting step riser adds a fresh, contemporary look.

### Biophilia

The increased emphasis on the importance of health and wellbeing and the positive impact that nature can have means that biophilia – our innate wish to connect with nature – is being regularly incorporated into designs, indoors and out, to add texture and soften edges. For example, we've seen our decking boards being used to great effect to make planters and living walls. Planters incorporated into decking designs also remain popular in low maintenance urban gardens, and also on a larger scale in hotels and public spaces.

### Rustic authenticity

High-end supermarket chain Booths, and family restaurant chain Harvester, have both used composite decking for their branded front facades recently. Facades are fully exposed to all the elements, and the combination of rain and sun can make timber look tired and faded without regular



treatment. The effect of the boarded facade in these instances is rustic and homely looking. This effect has also been used for serving facades in cafes and restaurants where the emphasis is on fresh farm produce and home-cooked food.

### Looking after nature

The other major trend we have seen is customers in both the residential and commercial sectors seeking to invest in designs that will stand the test of time. Space is highly valued, but so too is sustainability, and we have seen a real move towards specifying products that will last, without the need for environmentally damaging chemical preservatives. For many customers, the desire to use the most planet-friendly products has moved right to the top of their criteria for selection. Being a long-term issue, the shift towards sustainability is one 'trend' that is here to stay.

*Caroline Birdsall is director of marketing at Millboard*

**Composite decking looks like wood and feels pleasant underfoot but it is easy to maintain, long-lasting, and slip resistant**

## The Vista20 collection is now available from Parkside and Strata Tiles



Exclusively available from **Parkside Architectural Tiles** and **Strata Technical Tiles**, Vista20 is a versatile tiling solution for the growing adoption of outdoor spaces. With occupant and user wellbeing a focus in many projects, outdoor areas are increasingly being considered holistically within the design of commercial spaces. Vista20, a specially developed outdoor tile range, is just one of the solutions offered as a response to this approach by Parkside and Strata Tiles. A 20 mm thick outdoor, frost-resistant porcelain floor tile with 36+ PTV slip-resistance, Vista20 consists of stone, wood, marble, concrete and terrazzo effects – some matched by an indoor 10mm specification for a floor finish that flows from indoors to outdoors. Available in three sizes, as well as modular formats, Vista20 is a highly versatile tile range that can be used across a spectrum of outdoor spaces. The Vista20 collection includes Larkham, a 40% recycled content tile that's part of the 40 for 40 initiative with the World Land Trust. With every square metre of Vista20 Larkham tiles purchased, Parkside and Strata Tiles will donate 40 pence to the habitat preservation activities of the charity. 40 for 40 will see new tile collections added during the year.

0116 276 2532 [www.parkside.co.uk](http://www.parkside.co.uk)

## Luceco lights Drydocks World – Dubai



Luceco, in partnership with Sharaf DG Energy, has successfully completed a lighting retrofit project at Drydocks World – Dubai on behalf of Etihad ESCO. In order for the UAE to achieve their sustainable related targets, replacing conventional lamped fittings and accessories with cost effective, energy saving LED luminaires is a primary focus. Workshop areas such as Steel and Pipe shops originally lit with conventional HighBay fittings, have now been replaced with the Luceco Eris HighBay providing uniform illumination throughout and a greatly improved lit environment. Eris is a modern and slim IP65 rated luminaire, with die-cast aluminium body and polycarbonate lens optic with a 120° beam angle as standard for optimum performance with options including 13500-2400 lumen output variants delivering 135 Llm/cW. Consisting of 18 and 30 m High masts, the Safina area was lit with Metal Halide fittings but now has been replaced with Amnis floodlights. Amnis is a high-performance luminaire offering a luminaire efficacy of up to 168 luminaire lm/W and is capable of producing up to 187,000 luminaire lumens at 4000 K with a CRI>70. Narrow and wide optics are available, and the luminaire rated at IP66 and IK08.

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