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Managing Editor
James Parker
jparker@netmagmedia.co.uk

Publisher
Anthony Parker
aparker@netmagmedia.co.uk

Editorial Co-ordinator
Shelley Collyer

Editorial Assistant
Laura Shadwell

Editorial Contributor
Jack Wooler

Studio Manager
Mikey Pooley

Production Assistants
Georgia Musson
Kim Musson

Account Manager
Sheehan Edmonds

Sales Executive
Steve Smith

PR Executives
Suzanne Easter
Kim Friend

Managing Director
Simon Reed

Advertising & Administration
t 01435 863500
info@netmagmedia.co.uk
www.architectsdatafile.co.uk

Press Releases
editorial@netmagmedia.co.uk

Subscription & Circulation enquiries
info@netmagmedia.co.uk

netMAGmedia Ltd
Cointronic House
Station Road, Heathfield
East Sussex, TN21 8DF



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FROM THE EDITOR



Hitting zero carbon in 2050 depends on the housebuilding industry embracing efficiency, including offsite, which in turn depends on some other key things changing, notably planning. Of course, the housebuilding industry is riddled with conflicts – such as local pressures against development versus the need to build in the right locations for amenities, transport and sustainability. There is the suggestion that developers making large margins might only build out sites as fast as they need to in order to serve their demand, while at the same time blaming the planners for not giving them the sites.

A recent Radio 4 show, *The Bottom Line*, nailed the key problems, particularly factors like housebuilding being increasingly dominated by big firms because land is such a financial risk, which relies on a certain level of headroom. This Government would have to intervene way beyond a level it's normally comfortable with in order to change that particular symptom of business doing what it does.

The Future Homes Standard doesn't effectively kick in until next year, but the energy uplifts of 31% will be put into the shade by the removal of gas as an option for the 2025 standard. Peter Trustcott, chief executive of Crest Nicholson, was heard on *The Bottom Line* saying that going wholesale for heat pumps ran the risk of "betting on Betamax" when there might be better technologies currently under development. But arguably, there isn't time to wait for them to materialise.

The local authorities are under fire again for not granting planning to sites quickly, but also for "constraining" developers putting in heat pumps – until recently. That's the view of Rico Wojtulewicz, of the National Federation of Builders, who bangs the drum for SME firms. Planners are perceived as the gatekeepers of not just sites, but wider sustainability it seems, and it's hard to believe that can be totally true. However, Trustcott says that 300,000 homes is never going to happen, because of "land supply," which does have the paradoxical benefit that the skills crisis isn't actually as bad as it's made out to be.

Create Streets is campaigning for beauty in housing (as DLUC has also tried to do), but their contention that better-looking developments will mean less opposition from locals was refuted by both Crest Nicholson and the NFB as a "cop out." Trustcott defended housebuilders' aesthetic record, and said that local objection was in fact about "Governments abdicating responsibility" for freeing up sites.

There was a depressing conclusion from these key voices on the ability of offsite to deliver, because it relies on a planning system that gives certainty, and also which "allows repetition." Currently, said Trustcott, the system wants "everything to be different." DLUC's plan for 'street votes,' in the context of factory built homes, was "fantasy world – you can't have both." If planning is the main problem for unlocking MMC, it needs a dynamic solution, quickly.

Offsite has to be the way forward for housebuilding.

James Parker, Editor



ON THE COVER...

Charle Ratchford Court in Camden is an extra-care later living scheme with a difference – PRP's design provides a high degree of spatial quality for wellness and connectedness
For the full report on this project, go to page 22



Leyton House © Fernando Manoso



Paper Igloo © David Barbour



Ravine House © Dug Wilder

AWARDS

RIBA announces House of the Year longlist for 2022

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced its 'longlist' of 20 projects for the 2022 RIBA House of the Year.

Among the projects in the running to win the national award for a new house or extension include Ostro Passivhaus in rural Stirlingshire – a striking black timber-clad eco-home designed by Paper Igloo, inspired by the designs of Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Also on the list are The Parchment Works by Will Gamble Architects (pictured below right), a remodelled house incorporated into the ruins of a 17th century parchment factory and old cattle shed in Northampton; and Leyton House in Waltham Forest, north

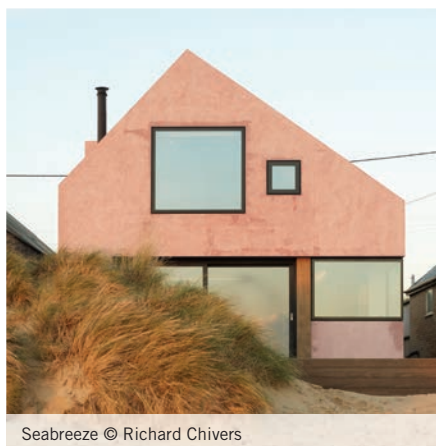
east London (McMahon Architecture, pictured above left), a four-storey town house added to the end of a 1960s terrace.

There are a total of five other London projects in the list: The Library House by Macdonald Wright Architects, Mews House Deep Retrofit by Prewett Bizley Architects, Mountain View by CAN, Peeking House by Fletcher Crane Architects, and Surbiton Springs by Surman Weston.

Also included are Derwent Valley Villa (Derbyshire), by Blee Halligan, House at Lough Beg (N. Ireland) by McGonigle McGrath, Mere House in Cambridgeshire by Mole Architects, Norfolk Barn by 31/44 Architects and Taylor Made Space, Ravine House in Derbyshire by Chiles Evans + Care Architects.

Last but not least, are Seabreeze (East Sussex), by RX Architects, a cottage in Suffolk by Haysom Ward Miller Architects, the Cowshed in Dorset by Crawshaw Architects, The Den in the west of Scotland (Technique Architecture and Design/Stallan-Brand), The Dutch Barn in West Sussex by Sandy Rendel Architects, The Garden Studio in Norfolk by Brisco Loran/James Alder, and the Red House in Dorset by David Kohn Architects.

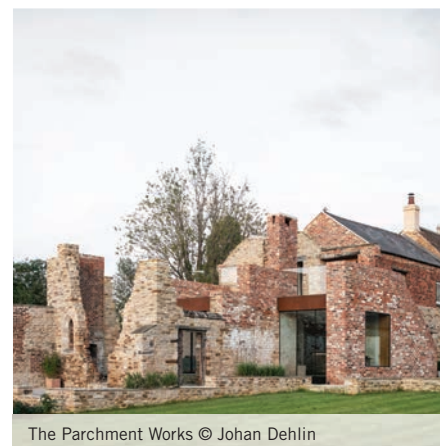
The shortlist and winner of the RIBA House of the Year 2022 will be revealed in the seventh series of *Grand Designs: House of the Year*, to be aired on Channel 4 later this year. To see more on the 20 longlisted homes, visit www.architectsdatafile.co.uk



Seabreeze © Richard Chivers



Mountain View © Jim Stephenson



The Parchment Works © Johan Dehlin

ADAPTIVE REUSE

Scott Brownrigg concept reuses Rhondda rail tunnel as art gallery

Scott Brownrigg have revealed concept plans to repurpose the longest rail tunnel in Wales into a “digital art gallery” and performance space which celebrates the heritage and culture of the Welsh valleys.

The concept design, created with tourism consultant Steven & Associates, also aspires to “reconnect communities” at either end of the tunnel. This “unique visitor destination will breathe life back into the abandoned 130-year-old Rhondda Tunnel, helping to enhance Wales’ place on the map for global tourism,” said the architects.

A new hotel, located on the outskirts of the village of Blaencwm at the eastern entrance of the tunnel, is also being designed to provide guests with a “unique experience of the Welsh valleys.” The western entrance – which is in the village of Blaengwynfi – will become a visitor centre with art galleries, cafe, external performance space and digital theatre.

An exoskeleton of “digitally constructed” timber ribs has been designed to change across the length of the building, thereby “alluding to the movement of a train as it disappears into the tunnel.”

Referencing local rail heritage, the galleries – which sit above the steeply



sloping tunnel entrance on top of slender stilts – are designed to resemble a lump of coal, with scorched black timber cladding.

Following structural repair and restoration, the nearly two mile long tunnel itself will be transformed into a public pedestrian and cycle route, as well as digital art gallery and performance space,

with a viewing tower above.

The scheme will be designed to achieve “BREEAM Excellent “or equivalent,” said the architects, with opportunities explored for use of geothermal energy sources, and is reported to contain the potential to contribute more than £16m to the local economy per year.

CONTRACTS

ACA launches a simpler appointments document

The Association of Consultant Architects has launched a revised digital-only Professional Services Agreement with the aim to provide a simplified document to reduce barriers for architects and clients during the appointment process.

The PSA22 document has been created to incorporate changes in practice and legislation, such as CDM, the Building Safety Act, and the ‘Golden Thread’ as part of the association’s regular review of its Standard Form of Appointment (SFA). Association

president Andrew Catto commented: “We recognised that most smaller and domestic projects are often essentially the same, and needed a simpler, shorter form aimed to make completing it less of a barrier for architects and their clients.”

The new document was developed from the ACA’s original Standard Form – which was launched in 2008 in response to a “dangerous revision to the most widely used form,” said Catto. Standard documents available at the time were “often unwieldy and difficult to fill in,” he said.

Catto added: “It is rightly a requirement of the ARB code, and probably of your insurers’ too, that your terms should be in writing.”

Founded in 1973, the Association of Consultant Architects (ACA) is the national professional body representing architects in private practice in the UK. It lobbies Government and provides an “independent voice for, and support to, architectural practices that promotes and enables high standards in practice.” For further information visit their website at www.acarchitects.co.uk

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SITE LINES

The case for workspace in a hybrid future

What is the case for the office post-pandemic? Mark O'Neill, MD at Edge Architecture & Design, explores why and how offices need to be repositioned, highlighting the example of a recent head office project for a clothing retailer

An ONS study published this February found that after Government guidance to work from home was lifted in England and Scotland, more than eight out of 10 people who had worked from home said they planned to continue hybrid working post-pandemic. Further ONS surveys show that from February to May 2022, the proportion of those hybrid working rose from 13% to 24% and the percentage of those working exclusively from home fell from 22% to 14%.

With this fundamental shift taking place, how do we – as architects and designers – help clients re-examine the purpose of the office, address the shift to hybrid working, and create the optimum workspaces? Research from Dr Matthew Davies at Leeds University Business School suggests that one size can't fit

all, when it comes to the design of hybrid and future ways of working.

Our perception is that organisations are developing their workspaces to be more focused around moments of human connection, and on shared values and behaviours. Every action, interaction and experience is a touchpoint with a client's brand, and as such we should take time to craft those experiences to support the collective purpose or belief. This includes realising the importance of how spaces make us feel and behave, not just how they enable productive work. While many of the fundamentals have changed, at the core, feeling 'right' in a workspace and having the right emotional experience are going to be major drivers of the return to the office.



JOULES IN THE CROWN

Now a major lifestyle brand, Joules commissioned Edge to design a flexible and attractive new head office in Market Harborough that would help bring staff back to the workplace

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A new head office

Michael Fern, executive director at Edge and a project principal on the new 60,000 ft² head office for British lifestyle brand Joules in Market Harborough, says that Covid has changed attitudes to the workplace. “The pandemic has kick-started some serious discussion and debate around the role of the office – around feeling liberated, much freer, more flexible, with more choice and autonomy.”

He continues: “We’ve started to build a more forensic understanding of why the office is important, with a shift from personal preference to the collective benefit of attending an office. We need to know why we’re asking people to come in, and then to ensure that we have the right space for getting the best out of teams when they do come together. With projects such as the Joules head office, what we’re really trying to do is map an experience across the workspace, considering both the functional and emotional value.”

For most workers and firms, the office still has a role, but its purpose in the future is much more than simply rows and rows of desks. The rationale for an office is to be a place that facilitates and supports the strategic and operational objectives of an organisation – a physical, tangible, immersive embodiment of an organisation’s brand purpose and values.

And central to achieving this is listening to employees’ voices, understanding their wants and needs, and finding ways of exceeding their expectations.

Joules was changing from separate locations where teams worked in silos, to a single building where everyone would be under one roof for the first time. One goal was a new head office which would support agile working and other new efficiency measures, in an environment that would attract and retain talent. The new building would be a physical manifestation of the Joules brand values that would enrich, inspire and engage visitors and users, and embody the ‘Joules way of life.’ Edge had already been working with the company on an agile workplace strategy as well as a hybrid work strategy and had already provided spaces that are now going to be even more important, post-pandemic.

The new head office incorporates Joules’ existing building, Compass House, into the design, with an upgraded external envelope. Integrating the new buildings and landscaping into the existing development while maintaining and enhancing the natural enclosure of the site have been important design objectives, as well as a clear statement on Joules’ sustainability aspirations to minimise environmental impact as a business.

The building was planned for greater future (year 5) occupation levels, to ensure that it could accommodate Joules’ predicted growth to 527 people by 2024. The workplace design has been



At the centre is the enclosed atrium, designed to give the feeling of being in the yard of a farmstead, with a ‘tree’

driven by Joules’ processes, and interaction between people and product. The configuration allows maximum future flexibility of use, including options for sub-letting. We had to consider internal layouts which would facilitate a wide range of workplace activities, from print creation and production through to in-store execution. Each involved different dwell times and different uses of facilities.

Typical workspace settings have been created as neighbourhoods assigned to each department with shared office/study rooms, meeting rooms and collaborative spaces. Within these there are a number of assigned and unassigned workstations to support agility.

There are various sizes of fully equipped bookable meeting rooms clustered together located either in the meeting suite or across workspace. The kitchen is where staff meet and enjoy meals together, and it opens a great view, allowing natural light in, and will be used to accommodate multiple uses including informal meetings, town hall, workspaces and collaborative spaces.

Everything from the reception, ‘landside’ meeting spaces, product showcase areas, communal spaces and wayfinding have textures and finishes that have been designed to inspire and engage all visitors and users in the Joules way of life. The building maximises natural light and takes advantage of the views to the adjacent green belt, with access to outdoors, where possible. Materials have been sustainably sourced and reference the site’s semi-rural setting and local vernacular as a starting point for the visual aesthetic.

The tallest structure on the site is a large barn to the east, which has been designed to create a landmark gateway building. At the centre is the enclosed atrium, designed to give the feeling of being in the yard of a farmstead with a structural ‘tree’ supporting the roof.

There has been external recognition for how the head office is fostering greater collaboration, and the client’s workplace strategy of nimbleness while supporting the brand’s culture and behaviour. Winning a BCO Regional Award in 2022 for Best Corporate Workplace in the Midlands evidenced its credentials.

The judges stated: “The building symbolises a landmark in purpose-built offices. It leaves behind sterile working places of the past and heralds a new era in flexible working with technology and wellbeing factors built in.”

Mark O’Neill is managing director at Edge Architecture & Design



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ASK THE ARCHITECT

Festus Moffat, director at John Robertson Architects (JRA), answers *ADF's* questions on his motivations, and his practice's future plans



Festus Moffat, director at John Robertson Architects

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT?

Growing up, I was always interested in drawing, and in art, and I was good at maths and physics, so architecture was a fit for me. Being part of the creative process was an irresistible pull.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT MOST NOW?

Being an architect, I get to experience views over London and other cities that very few people will ever see. It is an enormous privilege.

DO YOU ENJOY PROJECT DESIGN MORE AS IT GETS MORE CHALLENGING AND COMPLEX?

Definitely! Being an architect is about being the lead consultant, which means taking guardianship of the vision for the project, bringing together all of the inputs to the design from the wider team and assimilating them, so that a rounded and coherent scheme is developed and delivered. The more challenging the project, the more that role is key to its success and the greater the satisfaction there is in realising the vision.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

There can be an attitude of fear on some projects, which can inhibit freedom of thought amongst some design team members, leading them to default to formulaic responses to problems, rather than focusing on finding an elegant solution that is in the spirit of the overall design vision. This can be very frustrating and challenging to overcome, making the job that little bit harder.

DO YOU SEE CONSISTENCY AS EQUAL IN IMPORTANCE TO CREATIVITY?

If by consistency you mean the ability to develop key aspects of the creative response to the brief and apply them throughout the project to achieve a coherent design then, yes, we believe they go hand in hand.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT?

Without a doubt it is our team at JRA. We have invested a lot of time in employing young architects straight out of university and mentoring them as they begin their



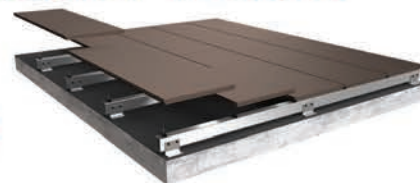
Bloom – new workplace, retail and amenity space in Clerkenwell © Peter Cook



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Bloom, Clerkenwell © Peter Cook

professional life, giving them a fantastic opportunity to contribute to exciting projects and see their designs realised. Some have left us and gone to live in other parts of the world, but I am extremely proud of the diverse and talented team we have built from within.

DO YOU THINK MORE ARCHITECTS SHOULD DO WORKPLACE FITOUT?

Yes, because I think the skills are very transferable. However, there is a difference

between the two disciplines – architectural design and interior architecture – both in the product knowledge that you need and the standards that you need to apply, so an element of specialism is helpful.

WHAT SINGLE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION WOULD MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER?

Higher performance glazing. There is a drive to ever lower windows-to-wall ratios to meet the targets of current energy models which, in turn, reduces

You first need to look at the existing building on a site, to establish what can be done to keep as much of it as possible

daylighting into – and views out of – buildings. I believe that because of this trend we are at risk of producing buildings that the users will not enjoy and take delight in. We are at risk of overlooking the users, how they inhabit buildings and what they take pleasure from.

THERE ARE A RANGE OF VIEWS ON BREEAM, WHAT'S YOURS IN A NUTSHELL?

I am a big fan of BREEAM. It has driven the sustainability agenda over the last 20 years as everyone has been striving to meet the market standard. BREEAM has evolved its requirements, which has forced the industry to respond to keep up.

DO YOU REGARD YOURSELF AS A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION?

Yes, as an architect you need to have sustainability at the heart of your project and you need to champion that, and be creative in doing it.

WHAT'S YOUR BIG SHORT-TERM GOAL PERSONALLY?

To find the time to work on my golf handicap.

HAS DEALING WITH CLIENTS BEEN THE HARDEST PART OF THE PANDEMIC?

No, not really. The biggest issue has been the challenges around mentoring junior staff remotely and keeping up the quality of our work without the creative energy of having everyone in the same space focused on resolving a specific problem.

NEW BUILD OR REFURBISHMENT?

Refurbishment should always be the first thing we look at. That is not to say we will never design a new building, but you first need to look very closely at the existing building to establish what can be done to keep as much of it as possible. ■



© James Brittain

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NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT HEADQUARTERS, KUWAIT CITY FOSTER + PARTNERS

Foster + Partners has recently completed the new headquarters for the National Bank of Kuwait. Located on a prominent site in Kuwait City, the 300 metre skyscraper has a “distinctive presence among the buildings of Sharq” (the city’s growing financial district), commented the architects. The building design – which brings all of the bank’s corporate employees together under one roof – combines “sustainable features and structural innovation,” providing an “energy efficient passive form and shielding the offices from the extremes of Kuwait’s climate.” To the north, the curved facade reveals the panoramic views of the Arabian Gulf. A series of concrete fins along the sun path extend the full height of the tower, providing structural support while contributing to the environmental strategy through shading.

By tapering the floorplates inwards towards the base, the design maximises floor space at upper levels and the overhanging floorplates shelter the offices below. Passive and active measures to reduce water consumption minimise energy use and improve the indoor air quality. The tower’s 63 floors are punctuated by sky lobbies, which provide a “social focus” and meeting facilities for staff. At the base of the tower, an 18 metre-high lobby greets employees and visitors. Other amenities include a double-height restaurant at level 18, a gym at level 19, and a “unique” ballroom and auditorium on level 38 with panoramic views out to the bay and the rest of the city.



Q3 – TIGNÉ POINT, MALTA LOM ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

A residential and public realm project in Malta designed by LOM has broken ground. The new residential block, known as Q3, and its surrounding site development, is the final phase of the €275m Tigné Point peninsula development by MIDI plc. The €30m (£26m) scheme is currently seeing civil works being carried out by Excel System Construction. Located close to the capital, Valletta, Tigné Point has been transformed over the last 20 years with residential, leisure, retail and office accommodation focused around “restored, landscaped public realm,” said the architects. The 16 floors of residential accommodation include 63 luxury apartments across the 9,000 m² floorplan, designed to maximise views towards the Mediterranean.

The building is stepped to accommodate the apartments’ design and the south facade has a staggered profile, with large balconies providing shading. Glass reinforced concrete cladding will be used on the facades referencing local limestone, and the balconies will be edged in bronze-coloured zinc. A residents’ gym, office and communal meeting space are located at ground level, which was pedestrianised thanks to four levels of basement car parking. The building is set within 7,000 m² of landscaped public realm that contains the restored ‘Garden Battery,’ one of a series of 19th century artillery fortifications on the island, retained as the centrepiece of the Tigné Point scheme. The landscaping has been designed to provide fully accessible public walkways, with stone terraces, stepped seating and green spaces planted with native species, a water feature and “reflection pools.” A new pedestrian bridge will link The Point shopping mall to the seafront promenade.

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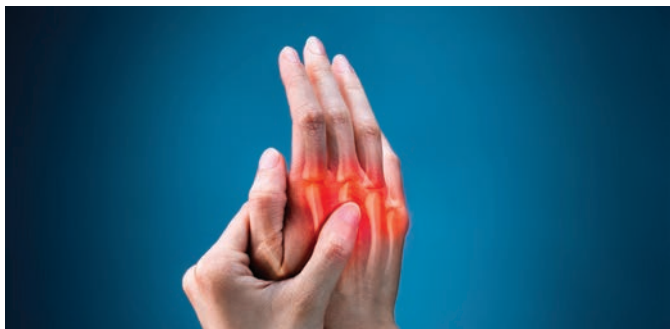
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PUTTING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FIRST



Since it was introduced in 2013 the European safety standard EN 16005 remains a key standard to be followed to ensure pedestrian safety at automatic doors. Considered to be a more onerous standard it defines the responsibilities of all those in the construction industry from manufacturer to end user and including architects and contractors.

GEZE UK has revised and updated its popular and informative RIBA-approved 'CPD Safeguarding Pedestrians from Accidents at Power Operated Doorsets'.

The 40-minute seminar looks at the European standard EN 16005 in detail and explains the responsibilities of all involved to ensure safety and compliance at all stages of construction.

It explains everything from activation distances for escape routes and non-escape routes; the danger points of automatic sliding, swing and revolving doors and how safety features such as finger guards and protection leaves can be used to reduce the risk of injury; and looks at revolving doors which are potentially the most dangerous and which received the most significant changes.

It is intended for Chartered members of RIBA but is also suitable for facilities managers, property managers and contractors.

Offering architects and specifiers invaluable advice and guidance, which contributes to their continuing professional development, this updated training seminar gives a better

understanding of the standards and regulations surrounding pedestrian safety at automatic doors. The seminar is included in RIBA's core curriculum: Design, Construction and Technology; Health, Safety and Wellbeing; and Legal, Regulatory and Statutory Compliance for the General Awareness knowledge level.

It can be presented in person or virtually via a variety of online platforms and at a time to suit, usually lunchtime but breakfast seminars or afternoon sessions can be accommodated.

To find out more or to book a CPD seminar, please email cpd@geze.co.uk or visit the CPD information page on www.geze.co.uk under services.

National Specification Manager Richard Richardson-Derry said: "Automatic doors are a machine and just like any machine they can cause harm if not used properly, however we cannot expect pedestrians who may not be so familiar with them to be aware of the potential danger, therefore those of us in the industry need to take responsibility and ensure they are safe for all to use."

"This CPD explains how to do just that and that if we all play our part we can limit or even eliminate accidents at pedestrian doors."

Other presentations offered by GEZE UK, include Specifying, Installing and Maintaining Ironmongery for Fire Doors; Designing Effective Natural Heat and Smoke Ventilation; and Removing Barriers to Access. 01543 443000 www.geze.co.uk

UNLOCK THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN A NEW CPD FROM MODULYSS



modulyss has introduced a new RIBA accredited CPD seminar, 'The Circular Economy'. 'The Circular Economy' is a new RIBA accredited CPD seminar from modulyss that explores what circularity means, how it is likely to evolve and how soft floor coverings can contribute to it. The seminar takes a deep dive into circularity and how it can help us to reduce our impact on the environment to protect our planet for future generations through sustainable specifications. Cutting through the hype of product sustainability claims and identifying what they mean, it promises revealing and informative insight into sustainability within commercial interiors and floor coverings. Jose Hamp, sales director at modulyss said: "There's a lot of talk around the circular economy but with many different approaches too, it's important for us to facilitate creating specifications that take steps in the right direction. Through the facts presented in our Circular Economy CPD we're bringing clarity to this process and making it easy to implement meaningful changes to specifications that reduce our impact on the environment."

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GET THE "LOW DOWN" ON THE PERFECT OFFICE ENVIRONMENT



AET Flexible Space has developed a new CPD presentation to help architects deliver on all the key drivers that affect commercial building design. The educational module focuses on the concept of underfloor air conditioning-UfAC: widely employed across the EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Asia), especially in other countries with similar climates to the UK. It covers the evolution of the system over the past 30+ years, how best to apply the principles of UfAC to the design of a building, both refurbishment and new build, and the numerous benefits of "going under floor" can bring. Explains Karl Strauss, head of sales at AET Flexible Space said: "Due to the pandemic, office design is in a state of flux. Spaces increasingly need to adapt to change. Indoor air quality and employee health & wellbeing are rising up the list of priorities. Regulations too are placing higher demands on building services, to deliver better performance, for less energy. The pandemic has shown we CAN adapt to change, and find better ways of doing things, a sentiment that is echoed throughout the CPD, when it comes to designing air conditioning systems. Ultimately, static, conventional air conditioning solutions will struggle to meet the needs of the occupier. It's time the industry changes the way it thinks about how designing office spaces to deliver a sustainable answer for everyone involved- designer, developer, owner, occupier." AET Flexible Space has continued to develop and evolve the original system, to make best use of advances in product design, materials, Regulations and market forces. 01342 310400 www.flexiblespace.com

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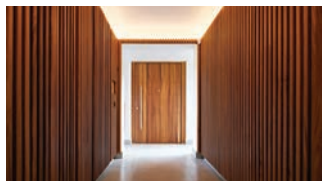
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To comply with the government's Future Homes Standard, all homes and businesses will have to meet strict energy efficiency targets. **ROCKWOOL**, the UK's leading stone wool insulation manufacturer, has launched the new '*Retrofitting Rainscreen Insulation and Cladding*' CPD (Continuing Professional Development) module to support building contractors and specifiers with advice on how to increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings by retrofitting non-combustible insulation. Reducing emissions and energy use are important aims for the construction industry in the face of climate change and rising energy costs. Constructing new, energy efficient buildings will help reduce energy consumption in the future but can also create high carbon emissions that will take years to neutralise. The new CPD module will explain the benefits of retrofitting insulation and clarify why retrofitting can be better than demolishing and rebuilding from new. Course participants will learn about the mechanism of action and the advantages of a ventilated rainscreen system. The module will also cover key planning and design considerations in retrofit projects, including thermal performance and acoustics. Also included in the CPD will be an introduction to **ROCKWOOL**'s range of fire-resistant stone wool insulation products that are suitable for retrofitting facades. Learn more about the benefits of retrofitting rainscreen systems, register to attend the **ROCKWOOL** CPD session by visiting the website. 01656 868 490 rockwool.com/uk/cpd

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Specification Sales Director joins Domus



Mark Glasspool has been appointed to the post of specification sales director at **Domus Ventilation**, manufacturer of market-leading ventilation systems that save energy and improve indoor air quality. Mark has responsibility for new business development through the specification channel, managing a team of experienced engineers who work closely with consultants, architects, and developers in the residential new build sector. Mark brings considerable experience to the position of specification sales director, having worked in the HVAC industry for over 35 years. vent.info@domusventilation.co.uk www.domusventilation.co.uk

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CHARLIE RATCHFORD COURT
CAMDEN, LONDON

Keeping in touch

An extra care scheme in Camden designed to offer extra connections to the community evolved to include younger residents, in efficiently-designed flats with the focus on wellness and sustainability. James Parker speaks to PRP Architects about the approach they took to the project

Charlie Ratchford Court is a development of 38 ‘extra care’ apartments in Camden, north London, in a six-storey block designed to not only provide high quality living spaces for older people, but also a series of facilities to be shared with the local community.

The project was initially envisioned by Camden Council to provide purpose-built accessible apartments with a strong sense of connection to their surroundings, to help them feel in touch with the outside world. Part of this would be bringing in the local community to allow residents to interact with people of all ages. It represents something of a rarity among extra care schemes, plus something of a ‘curveball’ for the architects, PRP, in that the extra-care accommodation itself would in the event be used to house younger residents.

The council’s brief included an ‘intergenerational hub’ with community facilities on the ground floor which would encourage residents to socialise and interact, to combat isolation in older age. As well as helping to maintain the independence of residents, this forges a connection between the building and the wider community.

The 38 flats (comprising 32 one beds and six two beds), are accompanied by similarly “accessible and adaptable” facilities, including indoor and outdoor communal spaces, a health & wellbeing suite, and a guest suite for families. The communal aspects support the architects’ goal of creating a project that avoids the stigmas of traditional accommodation for older people.

Site & procurement

The site was a prime vacant location, close to Chalk Farm station, a relatively well-heeled area of Camden, with a host of amenities nearby. As Clare Cameron tells *ADF*, the site is “embedded in a residential area,” giving a solid opportunity to connect to the community. It is a locally significant scheme, the site having been derelict for many years. Community facilities would be accommodated on the ground floor of the new building, with extra care housing above; the site of the former Charlie Ratchford Day Centre opposite being sold for private housing to fund the scheme.

PRP first became involved around a decade ago, when the council, which owned the “very challenging, long and thin” site, were seeking a housing association to develop it in partnership, and PRP bid for the job. In the end, the council decided to develop the site by itself, and staged a design competition. As the winning practice, PRP were careful to involve the community and input their views as the design progressed. The project backs onto Haverstock School, prompting warnings about potential noise for residents, however the architects “actually saw it as a positive; hearing children is a welcome sound of local activity.”

Traditional later living design best practice normally includes a large, enclosed garden. Here, due to the site’s narrowness, a slightly different approach was needed – with further constraints being the number of apartments required on the plot and it being cheek by jowl with other buildings. However, says Cameron, “what’s really



ELEVATIONS

The building has been designed to tie in with its Camden neighbours in both its proportions and materials, including two stories of reconstituted stone cladding



COMMUNITY ROLE

The ground floor features amenities accessible to local people, including a commercial cafe and activity spaces

good about the site” is how it is aligned north-south along the road, giving ideal east-west orientation for the apartments.” They are dual aspect, with the front door to the west, and generous private amenity space in the form of balconies with winter gardens to the east.

A broader focus

The explicitly intergenerational aspect of the scheme emerged a couple of years after the project’s inception, says Cameron, with a shift in the brief to housing younger occupants as well as older people. It was something of a surprise for the architects, and a requirement that grew out of the original brief for extra care housing – with community facilities and day care centre on the ground floor, and apartments above. She says that the robustness of the original design was evidenced by how suitable the apartments were. “Nothing needed to be changed, due to the apartments’ flexible design,” which was one key tenet of the “very clear brief” from the client.

Again following the original brief, a series of activity spaces are distributed on the ground floor, for functions such as yoga classes and coffee



mornings, and a large commercially-operated cafe provides meals for local people as well as residents. This was “always going to bring an intergenerational use to the ground floor,” says Cameron, adding that “from the outset” the client welcomed the chance to “invite the wider community into the building.”

Wellbeing to the fore

The highly influential 2009 HAPPI Report (compiled by the Housing Our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation), which included a former PRP director) was a key driver for the client and designers. Recommendations from the report were included in this project, such as generous space standards, lots of storage, open plan layouts, and maximised levels of natural light. The report’s launch was timely, and clients “really woke up and listened,” says Cameron; “the quality of housing for older people has improved so much as a result.”

PRP, who specialise in the later living sector, put the health and wellbeing of residents at the centre of their design, and brought all of the HAPPI recommendations into its competition entry. The circulation is provided by open

galleries, connecting two stair cores, which provides the apartments with both copious natural light and cross ventilation. The galleries give residents good views of their surroundings, increasing their feeling of connectedness, which is further boosted by being able to hear what is going on outside. To avoid excessive disruption from the schoolchildren in the playing field next door however, the living spaces with their balconies face onto the street side.

Cameron explains some of the benefits of the galleried access: “Rather than have an overheated, stale corridor, the galleries are open to the elements,” with glazed screens giving views to the adjacent school. She adds: “That connection to the community is really important for someone that probably once lived in the area.” The galleries become “balconies in themselves” in the evenings, capturing the sunset.

Having open galleries, as well as giving the feeling of a street rather than a corridor, also allows the straightforwardly stacked, identical apartments, to have a ‘real front door.’ The abundance of fresh air as well as the ability too purge the dual aspect apartments via cross-ventilation also assists infection control, which is a key concern post-pandemic.

The private balconies to the east and south elevations are screened from the elements and other users, provide residents with the opportunity of outside space to enjoy. Most have sliding glazed screens, which close to provide winter gardens offering wide views of Camden. Existing silver birch trees have been retained, and form the focus of the new, largely paved residents’ garden to the south.

Another aspect of connectedness that the design delivers – benefitting residents but also staff – are the kitchen windows to apartments which overlook the circulation galleries and the school playing field. Cameron explains that they allow residents to see their neighbours, but also allow staff to “discreetly monitor, for example when someone has their light on in the middle of the night.”

There are a range of communal spaces on the ground floor, including a dedicated residents’ lounge with its own garden and a small tea bar. Cameron says that during a visit by judges of a London housing award, a young resident with learning difficulties told the project team that he had newfound confidence to engage in group activities – partly thanks to the staff encouraging him to use the lounge. Close to this area are a cinema room, therapy room, hair salon,



and cafe, all of which can be used by the community. Although there’s a single front door, there are also gates to the street to allow the public in, such as for events, while ensuring security for all residents inside.

An important aspect of choice is bestowed on users by the design, in terms of supporting their desire to interact with others, or not. They can remain in their own apartment and private terrace/winter-garden, or use the communal spaces and gardens for more social interaction.

Accessible accommodation

The building was designed by PRP to enable older residents to stay as independent as possible for as long as possible, and incorporates what the practice has learnt over many years of designing projects with a similar goal.

Discrete features allow space for aids, adaptations and barrier free design for wheelchairs, and all areas of the apartments and circulation are generously sized to allow walking aids and wheelchair access. Lifts are designed to allow access for mobility scooters. “We have done everything we can to ensure the whole building is barrier-free,” says Cameron.

Each apartment has a generous private balcony which can be transformed into a wintergarden





PROJECT FACTFILE

Date of completion: April 2021

Tenure: 100% Affordable Rent

Total number of homes: 38

Site size (hectares): 0.16 ha

Size of principal unit: 57 m²

Smallest unit: 55 m²

Largest unit: 74 m²

Architect: PRP

Developer: London Borough of Camden

Contractor: Vistry Partnership

Planning authority: London Borough of Camden

Planning consultant: PRP

At the same time, the balcony screens can be locked to ensure safety if a risk assessment deems that the use of an open balcony is not appropriate. As well as space for wheelchairs, kitchens have reinforced sinks/basins and eye-level ovens.

Wayfinding is assisted through views out to the surrounding area, maximum natural light and the use of different, bold colours for each stairwell. Having designed a building that is “accessible for everybody,” the architect says that there was no physical reason that someone of a different age couldn’t be housed in the spaces. This meant that they needed no adaptation for the younger residents with learning disabilities to be able to use them.

Elevations

The building’s form ties in with its neighbours in both scale and materials. Facades have been designed to offer the best of both worlds, being both “contemporary, while respectful of the historic context, and in keeping with Camden housing typologies.” Victorian townhouses surround the site; in particular an adjacent terrace of locally listed houses provided inspiration. The arrangement of windows on the new building has been carefully chosen to help tie in with the proportions of these houses; at the same time the balconies (when their screens are open) offer depth to the south facade facing the road.

Elevational studies carried out by the architects led them to use reconstituted stone panels for the base to emulate the stone of the adjacent buildings, as well as a London stock brick on the stories above. The council’s ‘Urban Designer’ told the architects, “you don’t need to be slavish, just pick up the key qualities,” which was a boon to the designers, who wanted facades which “fit in with the grain,” but weren’t a pastiche of the local listed buildings. Alongside this however, Clare says that a lot of the local residents were “active during the consultation, and worried about what was coming, and PRP wanted to be as sensitive as we possibly could.” The sixth storey is set back in a grey clad form which refers to nearby slate roofs. Cameron pays tribute to Design and Build contractor Vistry for the work they did to achieve a precise finish on the building.

Sustainability

The project has achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating, a result of a combination of passive design measures, renewable energies and low carbon technologies.

Cameron says that when designing to HAPPI standards, it’s “actually quite easy to get to BREEAM Excellent,” as the need for cooling is reduced, with circulation spaces that are airy and pleasant without a need for heating.

The balconies, whether screened or not enable solar gain, to reduce energy demand, and warm the whole living space. Their deep, recessed design provides shading to avoid overheating, plus year-round usability. There’s no car parking on the site, and the roof is covered in PVs. Lastly, an MVHR system provides an efficient source of heating the apartments and ground floor communal spaces. The community cafe is naturally ventilated via doors to the front garden and to a rear courtyard, allowing quick cross-ventilation for events held here. These also benefit from protected external space thanks to overhangs from the galleried access above, which run across the whole north elevation.

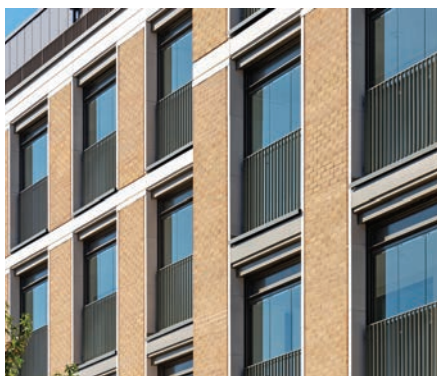
The architects will be revisiting the scheme as part of their focus on post-occupancy evaluation in later living schemes, so will be finding out how efficiently the building performs in use.

Conclusion

Intergenerational housing has become “very much the buzzword at the moment,” says the project’s architect, “as people realise the benefits.” However she asserts that Charlie Ratchford Court is a rare example of a local authority which is actually delivering it, saying it’s “testament to Camden Council that they have been able to actually make it come about.”

Cameron adds that another thing that marks the council out as a client is how proactive they were on “ensuring good quality design,” and that they supported the design quality on the project “every step of the way, from the concept to delivery.” This meant that any cost-savings suggested during the Design and Build process were robustly investigated to ensure value for money. This projection of the original design was one crucial aspect that contributed to the project’s overall success.

As the architect says, many older people might prefer to stay at home in their later years. However, as our population ages, many will also be keen to be in a specialist building such as this, with staff on hand to support and care for them when needed. It is increasingly important therefore for residents’ wellness that their buildings are carefully designed to keep people connected to the outside world. ■





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BUILDING
EXCELLENCE

SOMERBROOK GREAT SOMERFORD, WILTSHIRE

Serving past and future needs

A design and development team embarking on its first new build aimed for an affordably high standard of residential design and build, with an aesthetic that beds the scheme into its historic context. Jack Wooler reports

Somerbrook is a collection of 28 private and 10 affordable homes in Great Somerford, Wiltshire, developed by Stonewood Partnerships, a company within the Stonewood Group, which also includes contracting and architectural arms within its set-up.

“As Somerbrook was our first new build development, it was important to set a high standard of both design and build,” begins Sam Smart, managing director of Stonewood Partnerships.

Smart tells me that “incorporating the creative flair of Stonewood Design’s team,” alongside the practical experience of its construction arm, was essential to

its success on this project.

Set in a quiet corner of Wiltshire, Great Somerford has been described as the most picturesque village in England. The new development, on a prime site near the River Avon, comprises two to five-bedroom homes with a mix of terraced, link-detached, or detached.

The design employs a traditional style to blend with the adjacent village and the neighbouring Brook Farm – despite the latter, which was established in the 1500s and includes listed buildings, causing a number of challenges throughout the project.

Regardless of house size, across the



“We wanted to focus on simple but elegant architectural form, whilst adding character to the homes with premium quality materials and points of interest”

development the homes have generous circulation spaces, higher than average ceiling heights, and a focus on natural light throughout, as well as high spec finishes.

“It is important to us that the core product is at a standard that’s higher than other housebuilders,” says Gavin Calthrop, director of operations at Stonewood Partnerships.

“That is why,” he says, “we have very few sales extras available, as we include these in the home as standard, for example, underfloor heating and oak floor finishing.”

It is in part because of this high attention to detail that the development won the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) South West House Builder Award, with the trade association hailing the project as “setting the bar high for future projects,” and reinforcing Stonewood’s credentials as “a top-tier house builder.”

The right location

“Working as part of Stonewood Group, we were first introduced to the prospect of working in new-build development through a former client, Richard Cherry, who is ex Countryside Properties,” says Calthrop.

According to the director, the company is always keen to diversify, and so, through him “opening their eyes to the prospect,” the developer realised there was potential to create a “niche, high-quality, community-led

scheme” that was in keeping with its core brand values.

“We wanted to find the right location that would enable us to create a quality product that stays true to the Stonewood brand, so we focused on rural locations that would be resilient to market fluctuations,” he continues.

As such, when the opportunity arose to build Stonewood’s first new scheme in Great Somerford, Calthrop tells me it felt like the “natural choice.”

“Working with funding partners Housing Growth Partnership and Close Bros, we feel that we have a finished product we can all be truly proud of,” he adds.

Site acquisition & planning

When it came to acquiring the land, Gavin highlights Stonewood’s positive existing relationship with the landowners, which ensured a “smooth conditional purchase” (facilitated by Savills). There was existing, but somewhat outdated planning consent, so the team spent time improving it, to ensure the development was more in keeping with the vernacular of the village.

According to Calthrop, there were some access challenges to overcome with the site access extending through the old farm, but other than that, he reports that it was a “straightforward” site, needing little remediation.



In terms of planning, he tells me the biggest challenge was landscaping and boundary treatments, as the team had to balance requirements around security and local policy, while trying to retain the unique character of the rural setting.

With access to the site being a potential issue – especially as part of the access required an entrance through the old farm which would require the refurbishment of listed buildings – “early engagement and research” was needed to ensure a smooth process here. “Our good relationship with the farm meant that we were able to work with them to facilitate the phasing plan and accommodate site storage,” explains Calthrop.

Because the contracting arm of the Stonewood Group specialises in the restoration and refurbishment of listed properties, they were able to seek advice and expertise from colleagues, and “navigate this accordingly.”

Design partnership

From a design point of view, the farm provided the bulk of the context for the design of the scheme, and this reportedly became a key selling point for potential buyers.

“We wanted to focus on a simple but elegant architectural form, whilst adding character to the homes with premium

quality materials and architectural points of interest, for example datum lines with a different course of brick highlighting these points of reference, generous window openings, natural slate roof finishes, natural stone,” explains Calthrop.

According to Smart, the team worked closely with ‘partner architects’ Stonewood Design to achieve this: “We are both part of the group, but work independently from each other until the opportunity and project are right, then we pull together and harness each other’s expertise to raise the bar.”

He continues: “We have been working alongside each other for many years, constantly refining ways of delivering projects efficiently with quality at the heart of every decision we make. We have effective methods of problem-solving and communication, allowing a smooth working relationship that has resulted in a beautiful project.”

“Most importantly,” says Calthrop, “we all understood how the scheme would need to work as a great place to live – this meant plenty of green space, generous gardens and public open space that would add great connections to the existing village.”

Architectural palette

The team looked to the village, beyond the farm, to create an architectural palette that

FACING PAGE

The new development has been designed to have a “traditional” look to help the homes blend with historic properties surround them



“We have very few sales extras available, as we include these in the home as standard, like underfloor heating and oak floor finishing”

Gavin Calthrop, director, Stonewood Homes

would sit well within the local vernacular. The exteriors offer the same finishes of stone, red brick and premium quality roughcast render as houses seen throughout Great Somerford, combining to provide “a sympathetic street scene that makes the development feel part of the village,” says Smart.

One particular inspiration that Smart cites is the village’s former pub, The Masons Arms – now a private home – which opened in 1841. He says: “Echoes of its stone frontage and late Georgian/early Victorian style are seen throughout the development,” which may provide some nostalgic overtones for residents.

Another key driver for ensuring the development “blended seamlessly” with the village was that it would in effect be a “new entrance” to the north of the village. This was also a further reason why it was key for the homes to blend with the neighbouring farm, including “making a feature of the listed farm buildings,” Smart adds.

Light & space

This being the builder’s first development in the area, the team went with a traditional construction method, with a range of brick, stone and roughcast render, focusing on high-quality craftsmanship. Calthrop adds that Stonewood paid close attention to detail on the quality of finish.

According to Smart, the key driver in this process was to have a “simple build,” that used high-quality materials and design, with a focus on light and space.

He says it was an “essential” element to have a view from the front of the houses through to the rear living/dining space and onto the garden “so that you could see right into the heart of the house,” he says. “This is a design aspect that is essential to all the homes – the corridor of light through their centre is something that welcomes you as you enter.”

To maximise daylighting, the team incorporated skylights where possible, and additional full-height windows at the entrances – with natural light increased by the combination of higher than standard new build ceilings (2.7 metres compared to 2.4 metres on the ground floor and 2.6 rather than 2.4 upstairs), and larger than average windows.

In the larger homes, the rooflights overlook spacious landings that are big enough to be workspaces. The design team calls this ‘stolen space,’ creating an extra room without compromising the size of any other rooms around it.

The rest of the layout focuses on the kitchen being the homes’ “heart” – a shared kitchen/living area “perfect for flexible family living,” Calthrop adds: “The combination of space along with the amount of green space in the development make these homes a fantastic choice for families.”

Sustainability

This attention to detail continued through the development’s approach to ecology and sustainability, though Calthrop says that – given the nature of working within the





existing planning consent – the team were “somewhat constrained” in terms of adding value on sustainability-focused aspects of the scheme.

However, he says that realising this development has already given them a platform to develop a sustainability-led, timber-framed housing scheme, ‘Orchard Field’ near Cirencester, which is reportedly already achieving exceptional levels of energy efficiency. In future, Calthrop adds that Stonewood is committed to exceeding the Future Home Standard across all its upcoming schemes.

“We aim to be the most sustainable SME developers in the industry,” he asserts, “so we are increasingly looking at how we can achieve these same results but with more modern and sustainable methods.”

Adding value

There were several examples of how the developers contributed to wider community benefit as part of the scheme for residents and locals, even presenting all its buyers with vouchers to the village pub, thereby helping to support a local business post-pandemic. They also arranged for an all-weather surface to be installed at the primary school so outdoor play equipment could be used all year round, and also worked with the school on a buried time capsule, encouraging pupils to write messages and draw pictures.

Calthrop tells me that as well as driving community engagement throughout all stages of the development, they are celebrating and promoting existing

local businesses, advertising them across their social media channels, and in the development’s show home. “We really feel like we have left a positive mark on the community that will last for generations,” he asserts.

Public success

According to Calthrop, much of the wider successes of the scheme are down to both this strong community engagement, but also the sense of placemaking introduced by the development’s public spaces.

Smart believes that one of the firm’s most important principles is its commitment to larger than average gardens, and plenty of communal green spaces, as they encourage socialising, play, walking and relaxing, thereby “offering opportunities for new communities to form.”

“Every development, regardless of size, should be a meaningful place, centred around interesting public spaces,” he says.

Calthrop adds that canvassing the views of the community, and engaging with it, is another key tenet for the firm, exemplified by this project: “We recognised that by building within a community, we are becoming part of it.”

According to Calthrop, this is why the team made the extra effort to support local schools and businesses wherever they can, and to bring local people on board with what they were trying to achieve from an early stage. He says this ties in strongly to the firm’s ethos: “That’s what construction should be about – leaving behind something solid and enduring.” ■

STOLEN SPACE

The design team calls ‘stolen space’ the areas on landings which are large enough to be used as workspaces (below)



Building Adhesives & ARDEX celebrate awards success

Building Adhesives Ltd and ARDEX have celebrated award success at this year's Tile Association Awards.

Held at The Hilton Birmingham Metropole on Friday 24 June, this year's awards were themed "Stronger Together", and recognised the best of the best in the tiling industry.

Success began with David Wilson, UK Head of Standards and Specifications at ARDEX and Building Adhesives Ltd being presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his more than 35 years' service to the tiling industry.

Chosen by the TTA Board, this award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution on the growth, promotion, technical or training areas of the wall and floor tile industry during their career.

A respected and leading industry voice, David first joined Building Adhesives Ltd as an R&D Chemist. A member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, David sits on numerous industry bodies including BSI B539 Technical

Committee, CEN (European) Standards TC 67 WG3 and the TTA Technical Committee and has been responsible for helping to formulate many of the British Standards that tilers and contractors work to today.

Success continued for Building Adhesives and ARDEX with Stacey Livett, UK Head of Customer Service, being awarded "Employee of the Year".

Stacey was recognised for successfully integrating customer service and order management teams at Stoke-on-Trent and Haverhill, while facing major raw materials shortages, Covid restrictions and force majeure.

Despite these challenging conditions, she has helped deliver record orders for customers as well as ensuring end users are supported with technical and product enquiries now fed into the joint team.

Finally, ARDEX and Building Adhesives tasted success with "Highly Commended" in the Best Domestic Category, for a Dream Pool Project in Staffordshire by Rob Faulkner



and his team from Abstract Pools.

A very labour-intensive project, Rob carried out all the rendering, screed works, and installed the hand-built steam room, formed-experience showers, massage room and high-end changing room.

Peter Bell, Managing Director, said: "Congratulations to David and Stacey for their awards which are thoroughly deserved and a reflection of the huge amount of hard work, dedication and commitment to the company and the industry."

"We would also like to congratulate Rob for his award in the Best Domestic category. The Dream Pool project is a truly stunning example of the highest quality workmanship, and we're delighted that he completed it with the backing of ARDEX products and on-site support."

ardex.co.uk bal-adhesives.com

Schüco Excellence Award winners 2022 announced



Schüco is delighted to announce the winners of its esteemed Excellence Awards which were presented in the impressive setting of Whitehall's Banqueting House by architectural designer and television presenter, Charlie Luxton. Held in association with Architecture Today, the awards are an established part of the architectural calendar and attract a wide range of high-calibre projects. The awards celebrate the innovation and close collaboration between design teams and contractors that successful building projects demand. The judges assessed each entry against four key criteria: creativity, innovation, technical skill and creative collaboration. Every year one exemplar building is crowned Overall Winner. This year that honour belongs to Master's Field Development in Oxford by Níall McLaughlin Architects, in collaboration with specialist contractor Alucraft Systems. The awards also featured the coveted People's Choice award, voted for by attendees on the day. This year that accolade went to the Fire Station Auditorium in Sunderland. The flexible, three-storey music venue was designed by Flanagan Lawrence, working with specialist contractor Entec Design.

01908 282111 www.schueco.com/uk/specifiers/schueco-events/excellence-award-winners-2022

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Newton Waterproofing leads the way



Sustainability is something that's always been paramount to Newton Waterproofing. In 2017, Newton launched the Newton Recycling Service, the first closed-loop recycling scheme in the UK waterproofing industry. The Newton

Recycling Service runs in collaboration with its Newton Specialist Basement Contractors (NSBCs), in order to actively collect and recycle off-cuts of HDPE waterproofing membrane, as well as the plastic tubs and metal containers that hold its liquid waterproofing products from across the UK, for re-use in the construction industry.

01732 360 095 info@newtonwaterproofing.co.uk



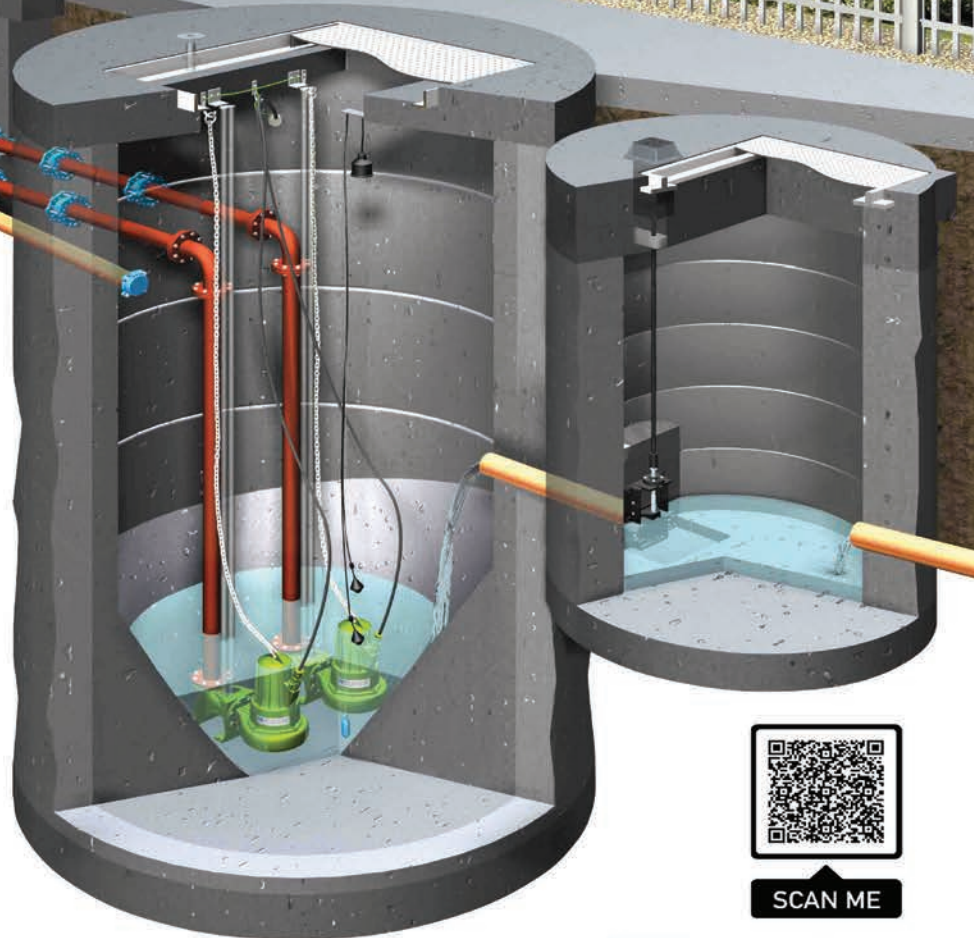
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www.mbhplc.co.uk/hybrick

Ahead of the curve

As an alternative to revolving doors, automatic curved sliding doors are a great way of combining efficiency with a stunning focal point at a building's entrance. James White from Record UK explains the options for specifiers

Curved sliding door systems offer a variety of options. These range from complete circular doors containing a pair of external and internal doors supported by a glazed drum creating an entrance vestibule, to single door suites that follow the curve of a facade to maintain an uninterrupted aesthetic. They offer the benefit of maximising throughput capacity with relatively unimpeded access to all building users.

Circular sliding doors create visually stunning entrances which provide the maximum clear opening in any given footprint, making them ideal in high pedestrian foot traffic environments, particularly at peak times in commercial offices, luxury shops, shopping centres, hospitals, hotels and leisure facilities.

Circular sliding door systems are inclusive, as they provide clear unrestricted and unobstructed access to all building users without the need for an additional pass door. When linked to a fire alarm system, they are also suitable for the final exit point for all. As standard, the operators used also contain an integrated battery backup unit to ensure emergency operation in the event of a power failure, for compliance and peace of mind.

When compared to a linear sliding door system, for example, circular sliding doors offer improved aerodynamic properties as they deflect and dissipate wind pressure much more effectively while reducing the ingress of cold air. The addition of a concealed warm air curtain further improves this.

Flexibility in design

There are many options available to architects when it comes to curved and circular sliding doors, including concave and convex designs. This gives designers greater freedom to create individuality and a sense of intrigue at entrances using varying degrees of curvature or radius, to complement the architecture of the building.



There are various finish options too. From simple RAL specification polyester powder-coated finishes to bespoke metal finishes such as polished stainless steel and bespoke cladding. Most requirements can be accommodated, and the earlier specification teams are involved in the design process the better.

Drive options

An in-ground drive is the best option when the light transmission is a priority, because there is no need for a solid metal canopy

Circular sliding door systems provide clear unrestricted and unobstructed access to all building users



above the opening to house the operator. This means that it can be substituted with a glass roof, further improving the aesthetic appeal. If a warm air curtain is required, then a vertical column-type heater should be considered.

When the operator is mounted above the opening leaves, an overhead drive option will allow a warm air curtain to be concealed within the operator canopy as well as bespoke lighting systems and CCTV cameras etc. A minimal amount of space is required for a floor ring beneath the system, meaning these might be more suitable when replacing existing doors or when there is limited available floor depth.

Facade integration

Curved sliding doors can be integrated into multiple types of facade construction including curtain walling systems and all-glass screens with suitable facade connections. Specification teams are on hand to support the design of these elements however.

Some manufacturers can offer bespoke sizes with diameters up to 6000 mm and passage heights up to 3500 mm with the opportunity to incorporate an additional canopy above to increase the system height

further maximising architectural freedom. However, the larger the door system, the more consideration needs to be given to site delivery, service and maintenance, as well as access, and indoor climate impact.

Security

When building security is a priority such as in financial buildings, data centres and other secure establishments, then enhanced security options are also available. From physical security options such as burglar-resistant glazing and electromechanical locking to operational security in the form of 'anti-piggy backing' and 'anti-tailgating' technologies. There is also the ability to add access control with options such as iris and fingerprint scanning, facial recognition, and code card readers.

Ultimately, it depends on what you require from your building entrance. Curved doors are less complex, inclusive by design, extremely flexible and can be used on escape routes. One thing is for sure, by choosing a curved door you will be assured of the grand, elegant yet functional entrance that your building deserves.

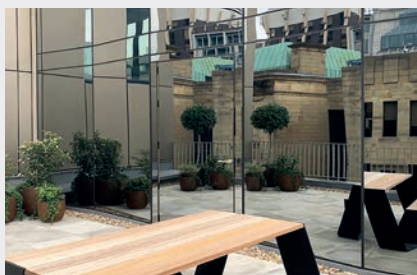
James White is specification manager at Record UK

Frameless structural glass specialist installs Kestrel 'invisible' flush glazed mirror door

Contemporary Glass Structures a company which specialise in frameless structural glass products were selected to manufacture and install a flush glazed mirror door for a 4th-floor terrace glass facade as part of extensive renovations of a commercial office building in the heart of Manchester's professional district.

Andy Howells of Contemporary commented: "The client wanted the door to almost disappear within the glass facade externally. The contractor's curtain wall supplier could only do a standard framed door, not what the architect and client wanted." Drawing on their experience in the fenestration industry Contemporary offered a bespoke solution and specified the Kestrel Aluminium residential door system as the base for the project."

"The geometry of the door hinges gave the best external glass to glass gap at the hinge position without the glass on the door leaf clashing with the glass which is silicone



bonded to the outside of the outer frame. Also, the slim minimalistic design of the hinges worked well with the aesthetics of the design, meaning they sat in line or just behind the outer glass surface line."

The robust sturdy nature of the PAS 24 accredited Kestrel door with its double mechanical spring cleats to each mitre joint also gave the team the confidence to attempt this design for this size of door which at 1200 mm wide x 2600 mm high weighed nearly 100 kg.

Contemporary installed a door closer to stop the outwardly opening door from catching in the wind and opening too far (past 110°) which would cause the glass to clash and destruct. A stainless-steel boss was machined to space the external handle mounting face away from the door by 14mm to allow for the thickness of the external stepped glass and the silicone bond.

The door frame was powder coated with a special, not readily available TIGER Drylac® colour. The glass specified was Guardian Glass HD20 "made to order" product. Contemporary worked closely with their specialist suppliers to meet the specification and match the building's glass facade, whilst completing the installation within the construction schedule. Andy Howells commented, "the client is delighted with the final result, it has been a challenging but well worthwhile project."

0121 333 3575 www.kestrelaluminium.co.uk



Multiboard helps drain top floor balcony

An experienced builder and roofing contractor has made use of some 300 standard and tapered **Marmox** Multiboards to complete a complex refurbishment of a large, top floor balcony on an apartment building in North London. Lightwood Construction has used Marmox Multiboards on many occasions in the past for both interior and exterior applications. In this instance, long term exposure to the weather and ponding had caused the original waterproofing system to deteriorate, and leaks to occur. Having stripped off all of the rotten felt and boarding, Lightwood Construction's operatives installed 90 sheets of 20 mm thick 1250 mm x 600 mm standard Multiboards, along with 200 of the 1200 mm x 1200 mm cut-to-falls variant which taper from 33 mm down to 10 mm: enabling subtle gradients to be created in draining the balcony to multiple outlets. In completing the repairs, Lightwood Construction used 50 rolls of the 120 mm wide waterproof tape and 96 tubes of Marmox's 360 Multipurpose Adhesive.

01634 835290 www.marmox.co.uk

Concealed multipoint locking



Recent development work carried out by **Steel Window Association** member company, **Steel Window Fittings**, means it is now possible to specify concealed multipoint locking on virtually all the different door and window systems available in the sector. Not only can this be aesthetically much more appealing, but it further enhances steel fenestration's renowned strength and security, while helping improve weather-tightness. Further development work by Steel Window Fittings and the SWA's Technical Committee has enabled the advancements to be offered across the range.

www.steel-window-association.co.uk

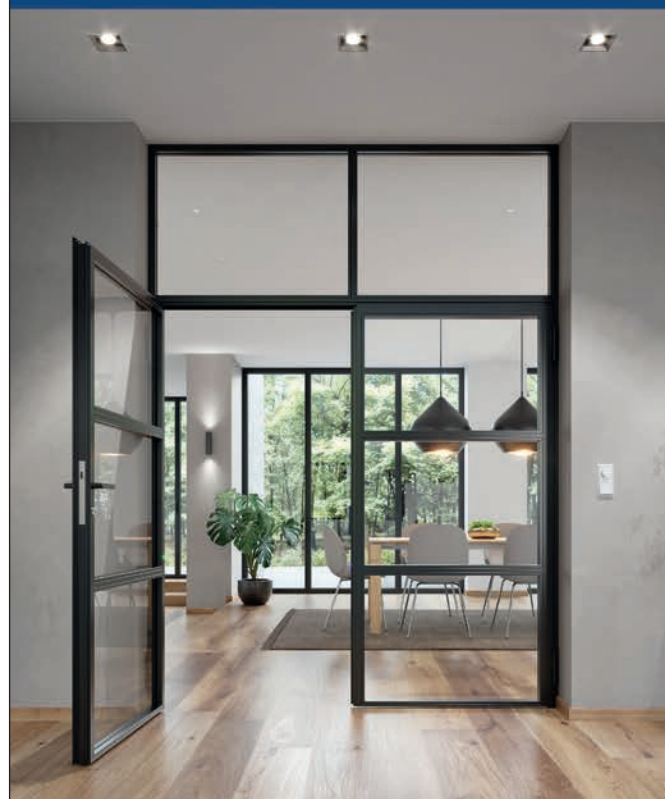
Project highlights suitability of StoVentec



The specification of a **StoVentec** Glass cladding solution at London's new Paddington Elizabeth line station has highlighted the growing popularity of this system for use at transport hubs. Paddington is the latest in a growing list of transport sector projects where StoVentec Glass has been installed, and it underlines the system's ability to satisfy the very specific and demanding requirements of this type of application. The StoVentec Glass system was installed in a large public area which leads onto the main station concourse, and the StoVentec Glass panels were screen-printed with a circular, patterned design.

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Visible benefits

Light is more than just physical, it affects us biologically, and can significantly enhance our lives. Natalie Goodridge at Lamilux UK looks at the relative benefits of natural versus artificial light for occupant wellbeing

While light gives biological benefits, there are also proven psychological benefits linked to it. Obviously, bright summer days lift spirits, while a grey winter's day tends to have a negative effect on your mood.

However, what exactly is light? Even from a purely physical point of view, light is not straightforward because light is both a wave and a particle. Yet we only see a small part of the light spectrum and much of what the sun sends to us, eight minutes later, remains hidden from the human eye. This includes low-frequency infrared radiation as well as high-frequency ultraviolet radiation.

This is important in understanding why daylight and artificial light are fundamentally different. Artificial light covers a much narrower spectrum than sunlight, however, due to the ability of our eyes and our lack of perception outside the visible spectrum, this fact remains hidden from us at first glance. Also important for our sensory perception of different lights is the brightness and colour of spectral light, because these are decisive factors for how the mind responds to the quality of light. We only see light: every colour we perceive is only the reflection of light in space. So light is always present, and is everywhere around us.

Artificial light/daylight – what is the difference?

There are some significant differences between natural daylight and artificial light – most importantly, intensity and spectrum. The full light spectrum can only be found in daylight, however bright sunlight is not necessary – an overcast winter's day will still provide better light than bright artificial office lighting. This natural daylight not only lifts the mood and helps the body produce vitamin D, but it is also better for the eyes, and productivity.

Fonts are easier to read, and colours easier to distinguish, in daylight than in artificial light. Also, our eyes do not have



to strain as they would do in the light of a lamp. The white light colour of the midday sun, or an overcast day, is rather cool, and provides clear and unfiltered colour perception. Natural light is accordingly always better than artificial light.

'The inner clock': light as a natural wake-up call

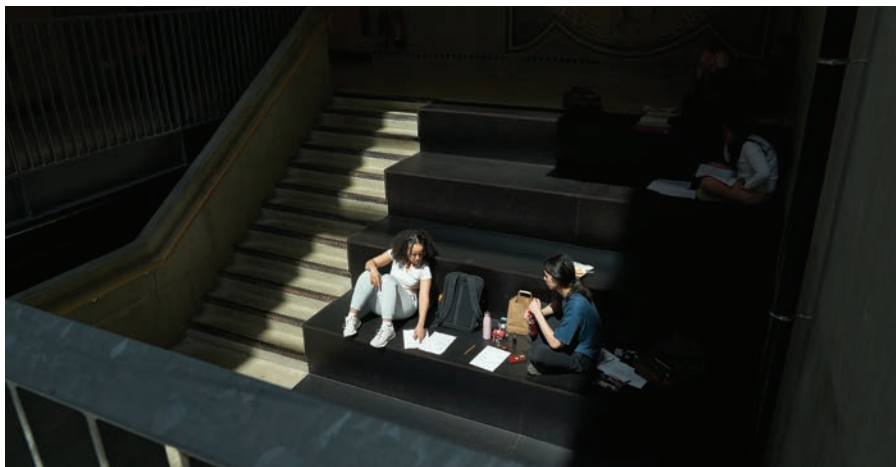
You can not only see light, but more importantly feel how vital light is for human existence. The waking and resting phases of human beings are anchored in biology, and can be supported in a completely natural way.

Large, bright rooms which are flooded with natural daylight release hormones that make us more alert, active and productive. This is not only an ideal factor in the workplace, but also makes a big difference for schools, hospitals and, of course, the living room at home.

Daylight affects your productivity not only because of the positive effects, but also because of negative effects. Our internal clock is synchronised to the natural day, our productivity increases in the cooler and more intense light of the morning sun and decreases towards the evening.

An overcast winter's day will still provide better light quality than bright artificial office lighting





Small skylight openings have the same effect as much larger side windows and can easily illuminate the entire room

Where should daylight enter our buildings?

Natural daylight is therefore the best way to work more productively and healthily, but not all light sources are equally suitable for this. Daylight in any form is superior to artificial light sources, but windows in the wall are often not enough. The setting of your site will be influential on your daylight design strategy. If you are designing on new greenfield land you have lots of scope to design your building and its orientation for

energy efficiency and optimum daylight. However, when working with existing sites, the sky may become more valuable to utilise as a light source. Especially in larger rooms, not enough daylight can penetrate into the depth of the room from the wall.

Additionally, we only ever capture part of the sky through wall windows. The University of Roehampton Library project illustrated here is a perfect example of designing for light from above, flooding the room with natural daylight. Even small skylight openings have the same effect as much larger side windows and can easily illuminate the entire room on the top floors or in single-storey buildings. And this is precisely where rooflight solutions demonstrate their efficiency.

Bright rooms appear larger – as well as more charming – natural daylight helps us to concentrate, and creates the hormonal basis for a healthy mind and a balanced day-night rhythm. Rooflight professionals will demonstrate how to bring daylight into a design as early as the planning phase, or how to easily retrofit elegant flat roof skylights.

Natalie Goodridge is marketing manager at Lamilux UK



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Gilberts helps Gleneagles deliver understated luxury in historic setting

One of the world's most iconic hotel brands is diversifying into the city with the opening of the Gleneagles Townhouse. The air of understated luxury which will pervade all areas of the historic building will be delivered courtesy of Gilberts' ventilation control throughout the guest areas.

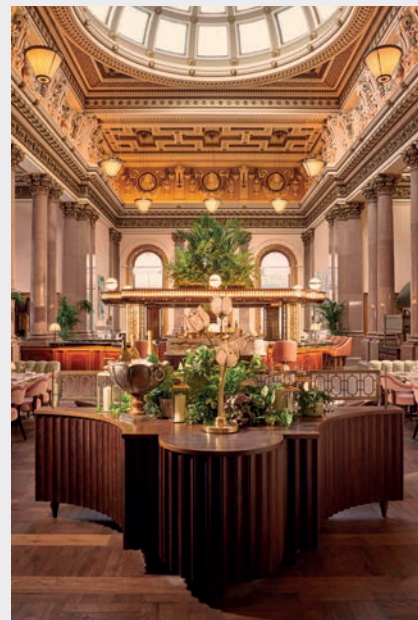
In St Andrew Square – a world heritage site in the heart of Edinburgh – the new venue features 33 individually-designed bedrooms, an all-day restaurant, members club, roof terrace and spa & wellness centre, carefully created within the Grade A listed building to preserve the classical architecture dating back to the 1850s.

Environmental Design Consultants Atelier Ten had to design the ventilation solution with care to deliver the levels of fresh air required in the boutique hotel environment without adversely impacting on the elaborate plasterwork and interior décor. It turned to Gilberts (Blackpool) to deliver.

Air supply has been achieved through a combination of DGA louvre face diffusers (plaster-in version), and LGN linear bar grilles with concealed fixing in runs up to 2m long. The combination ensures compliant levels of ventilation with a discreet visual appearance and clean horizontal air distribution pattern.

Linear bar grilles and GECA egg crate grilles return the air for extraction through to WGC external louvres discreetly integrated into the windows. In its in-house state of the art powder-coating facility, Gilberts finished many of the grilles satin black, chosen to deceive the eye and blend the grilles into the interior décor.

Toilet areas feature Gilberts' GX air valves. Gilberts' Ductgard fire and smoke dampers and associated controls complete the portfolio of solutions. Ductgard has been specifically engineered to provide up to four hours' protection against smoke and fire, in one unit, in most ductwork. Fully tested, it is certified to BS EN1366-2.



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Electrorads' ThermaStore High Heat Retention making storage heaters attractive again!

Electrorads' newest edition to its family of electric heating has launched! Richard Brown, Managing Director at Electrorad says: "The R&D team have worked tirelessly to ensure the BRE, BSRIA and LOT20 boxes are firmly ticked and that we are recognised on the SAP database within the high heat retention category. Our ThermaStore HHR Storage System really does bring all the great advantages of storage heating without any of the negatives."



The ThermaStore HHR has high quality internal insulation around its core, enabling longevity of heat retention which ensures you have heat whenever you want it throughout the whole of the day, unlike the more traditional heaters that can often only provide enough heat for start of the day then run out toward the end. The ThermaStore also has optional app control too which is compatible with Alexa and Google Home giving you voice control of your heating!

With built in digital controls and clever thermostat the ThermaStore HHR has the ability to learn what charge is required to heat your rooms day to day, which means it really makes your Economy 7 tariff work hard for you and is proven to be up to 27% cheaper to run than a standard storage heaters!

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OMNIE whole-house solution for Devon barn conversions



The conversion of three stone-built agricultural buildings near the beautiful Devon town of Totnes is employing a full selection of renewable and low-energy technologies from the range of Exeter based manufacturer, OMNIE, to create a comfortable living environment. The hundred year old buildings at Ritson Farm are being renovated and turned into highly desirable rural retreats by The Dartmouth Building Company. Each of the luxury homes is to be heated by an LV air source heat pump, which will be connected via multi-branch manifolds to OMNIE's Staple underfloor heating system across the ground floors with the company's LowBoard being specified to warm the upper levels. Then to maximise fuel efficiency and help guarantee a healthy indoor living environment, a constant supply of pre-warmed and filtered fresh air will be supplied via one of OMNIE's Zehnder ComfoAir mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) units. As well as installing internal wall insulation, the vaulted roofs to the early 20th century buildings have been fitted with 150 mm of Celotex and a layer of TLS Gold Multifoil incorporating a breather membrane.

projects@omnie.co.uk www.omnie.co.uk

Panasonic wins AC Product of the Year



The Panasonic Etherea Air Conditioning units which features Panasonic's nanoe™X technology was announced as the winner of the AC Product of the Year award category at the recent National ACR & Heat Pump Awards 2022. The Etherea range is suitable for residential homes, retail and commercial applications such as healthcare,

offices and hospitality spaces with a wide range of capacities from 2kW – 3.5kW to suit a variety of applications. The Panasonic Etherea model is robust and boasts the highest energy rank of A+++ in heating and cooling, providing the greatest level of comfort.

0808 2082115 www.aircon.panasonic.eu

VORTICE HRU installed in Middlesbrough



VORTICE has recently worked with Quartz Electrical and Mechanical Services to install an impressive heat recovery air handling unit at Middlesbrough College. The RXH/Hi is an integrated refrigerant circuit heat recovery unit, ensuring that

Middlesbrough College not only has good indoor air quality, but it also reaps the benefits of heat recovery thereby reducing the energy costs and the CO2 footprint. The unit was installed in a new extension to the college creating a state-of-the-art digital IT centre.

01283 492949 www.vortice.ltd.uk

Acoustic scheme for historic Standon Hall

Acoustic insulation experts CMS Danskin Acoustics have worked with historic Standon Hall to specify and supply a range of acoustic products to reduce the impact of airborne and impact sound transmission in the Grade II* listed Staffordshire venue. During the course of redeveloping the early 20th Century country house into a high-quality wedding and business venue, Standon Hall made acoustics a key element for investment.

CMS Danskin Acoustic's in-house technical team conducted a site assessment in order to specify an insulation strategy to address structure borne noise and absorb sound.

The objective was to prevent noise transfer between ground floor functions rooms and nine bedrooms and suites above. Andrey Magiy, Standon Hall's MD, said: "It was as important to prevent sounds from above being heard in meetings and conferences below, as it was to prevent noise from ground floor functions filtering up into the bedrooms."

The resulting acoustics strategy from CMS Danskin Acoustics involved the installation of



Picture courtesy Standon Hall

600 square metres of Smartspan floor panels, Karma TNF70 high density stone-fibre batt and REGUPOL acoustic isolation strip.

Andy Hayes, CMS Danskin Specification Manager and IAO Affiliate, said: "Smartspan panels span across bearing structures such as, in this case, joists. They provide high acoustic performance, are easy to install, come in different thicknesses, such as

the 32 mm and 18 mm used at Standon Hall, and have a reaction to fire classification (EN 13501-1) A1."

"Smartspan was also valuable for use in bathroom floors as it has excellent thermal conductivity making it ideal over UFH systems, has surface water absorption of only (EN20535) <300 g/m², is suitable for stone and ceramic finishes and, with a tongue and groove profile, it is straight forward to install."

REGUPOL Acoustic Isolation Strip was also incorporated to reduce impact noise from first floor footfall. The strips are designed to sit beneath all types of partition walls and are a simple and effective way to reduce structure borne noise. Quick and easy to install, they provide long term performance without collapse or 'bottoming' out under high point loads, are resistant to ageing and deformation, are manufactured using recycled materials and are 100% recyclable. Karma TNF70 was also specified in places.

www.cmsdanskin.co.uk
www.standonhall.co.uk

Troldtekt takes Gold

Since 2012, Danish acoustic wood wool manufacturer Troldtekt has been leading the way with its sustainable practices and leadership. An early adopter of the Cradle-to-Cradle design concept, the company has focused on its material health, reutilisation, energy, water and social responsibility winning recognition and numerous green awards over the years.

The adoption of Futurecem™ has now further enhanced the manufacturing process and elevated Troldtekt to Cradle-to-Cradle Gold Certification. In addition, and being both FSC® and PEFC™ certified, the company has set strict environmental targets for its manufacture and products culminating in a transparent roadmap in its annual CSR reports. This has led the company to be one of Europe's most vociferous advocates for sustainable design and one which contributes positively to BREEAM, WELL, LEED and DGNB-Certifications.



Futurecem™ is a new patented cement from Aalborg Portland. Absorbing more CO₂ than it creates during production, its incorporation into Troldtekt's wood wool panels gives Troldtekt acoustic panels their strength, durability and fire-protective properties without the use of harmful chemicals. This combination also means that Troldtekt's panels have a negative carbon footprint right up until it is time for them to be disposed of or recycled – a phenomenal result.

Troldtekt's natural and inherently sustainable panels offer high sound absorption and tactile surface, coupled with 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 from Troldtekt.

01978 664255 Troldtekt.co.uk

Divine insulation for repurposed Glasgow Church

A redundant Glasgow church with historic connections to former US President Ronald Reagan has been given a comprehensive makeover with the help of high-performance spray foam insulation from Huntsman Building Solutions.

Castlehead Church, an imposing, stone built Presbyterian Church in Paisley, SW Scotland which dates back to the late 18th century, had lain empty since its closure in 2010.

Local historic records link the Church to both Robert Tannahill, a popular poet from Paisley and contemporary of Scotland's National Poet Robert Burns, and former US President, Ronald Reagan who, with his Wife Nancy, visited the Church in 1991 to view the grave of his great-great grandparents who are buried there.

Glasgow based property developer, Clevedon Homes Ltd recognised the potential of the now empty building and in 2017, submitted plans to convert the site into luxury apartments. Alex McGurk of Clevedon takes up the story.

"The basic shell of the building was still in good shape despite being well over 200 years old. It's a rectangular plan gable

hall structure with rubble walls and ashlar dressings. The fenestration is impressive with an imposing door to the main gable, flanked by tall windows and five tall windows to both of the side walls," said Alex.

Cold and draughty

As with similar buildings constructed centuries ago, the builders of old thought little of how to prevent heat loss through both walls and roof of the building. Alex continues. "Churches throughout the country have a reputation for being cold and draughty places and Castlehead was no different. Our top priority was making the structure as airtight as we could and brought up to a high standard of thermal insulation"

Clevedon brought in insulation specialists JSJ Foam Insulation of Eaglesham, Glasgow for guidance. Jim Shearer of JSJ recommended insulating the entire inner surfaces of the building with H2Foam Lite, a breathable spray foam insulation system from Huntsman Building Solutions [HBS].

HBS H2Foam Lite, open-cell insulation

H2Foam Lite is a high-performance spray applied foam insulation, originally



H2Foam Lite, a breathable spray foam insulation system from Huntsman Building Solutions

developed in Canada to cope with their severe winter conditions and now manufactured at Huntsman's facilities in Kings Lynn. According to Jim Shearer, the system is now widely used in Scotland and the rest of the UK in both commercial and residential buildings.

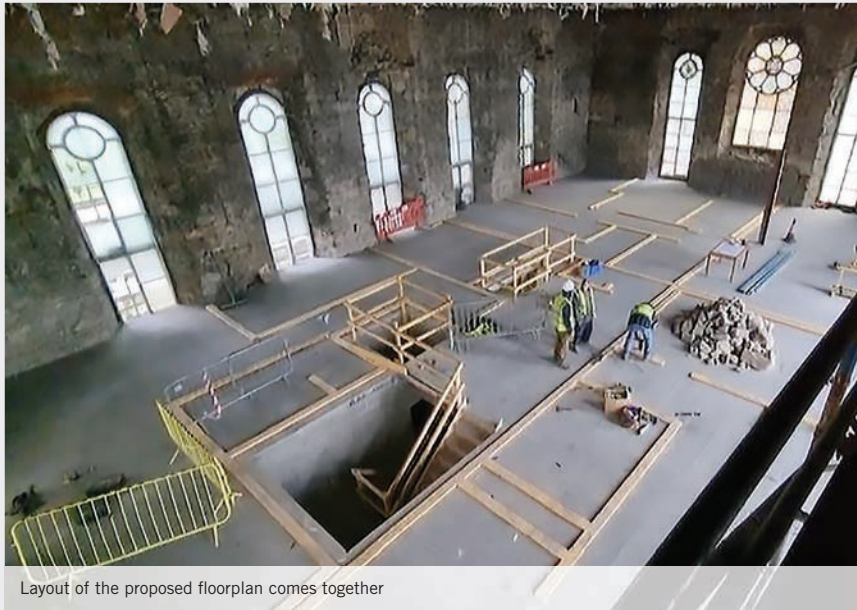
H2Foam Lite is a flexible "open cell" material with an elastic, yielding texture. It provides outstanding levels of thermal insulation yet allows the building to breathe naturally, resisting internal condensation and



Castlehead Church, Paisley, had lain empty since its closure in 2010.



The entire church interior was stripped out prior to repurposing



Layout of the proposed floorplan comes together



External walls were lined with timber studwork to accept insulation

at the same time eliminating air leakage – more commonly known as draughts.

“Up to 40% of a buildings heat loss can be attributed to air leakage,” said Shearer, “so it’s vital that reducing air leakage is included in any programme of measures to improve a building’s thermal performance.”

H2Foam Lite is installed using a pressurised gun system. Foams are applied as a two-component mixture that come together forming a foam that expands 100-fold within seconds, closing off all gaps, service holes

and hard to get to spaces that conventional insulation materials fail to reach.

Low environmental impact

Unlike the polyurethane foams of 20 years ago, modern spray foams such as H2Foam Lite uses water as the blowing agent. This means that the reaction between the two components produces a small amount of CO₂ which causes the foam to expand. Cells of the foam burst and the CO₂ is replaced by air. From an environmental perspective, H2

Foam Lite has a Global Warming Potential [GWP] of 1 and an Ozone Depletion Potential of 0 [Zero]

Insulation was applied to the inside of all external walls as well as the roof structure. Walls were sprayed to a thickness of 165mm between timber studwork and to a thickness of 320 mm within the pitched roof.

Studwork dividing walls within the building were also insulated to provide a high level of both thermal and acoustic insulation.

Spray foam converts

Clevedon has created a development of seven luxury 1, 2 & 3 bed apartments over four floors with ground floor parking and lift access to floors above. There is approximately 1000 sqm of floor area overall.

Commenting on the use of spray foam insulation, Alex McGurk said; “Speed of installation and minimal waste were key factors in our decision to use spray foam. That and the overall lower cost of spray foam, because we didn’t need to commit trades to the time-consuming process of cutting and fitting rigid board type insulation really clinched it. We are spray-foam converts!”

Clevedon are progressing well with the Castlehead Church repurposing project and anticipate completing in winter 2022.

For more information about HBS H2Foam Lite products please visit www.huntsmanbuildingsolutions.com/en-GB/products/open-cell-insulation

0485 500 668

www.huntsmanbuildingsolutions.co.uk



Insulation was applied to the inside of all external walls as well as the roof structure

Fireline FQ5 from Charlton & Jenrick



A new addition to the Fireline 5 kW line-up, the FQ5 features a modern door style making it perfect for contemporary interior spaces. Performance and environmental credentials are guaranteed with the tertiary air and airwash features. The optional log store and brushed stainless steel door handle are available to help you tailor your stove to your tastes and your environment. This stove benefits from Charlton & Jenrick's state-of-the-art firebox combustion technology for Ecodesign 2022 ready, DEFRA exempt heating as standard, and the clearSkies Level 5 certification.

01952 200 444 www.charltonandjenrick.co.uk

Introducing the Panache 8040



The first in a new range of gas fires by Charlton and Jenrick, the Panache 8040 builds on the highly successful Charlton and Jenrick Large Format gas range. This new range features large, chunky logs which combined with black glass liners create a luxurious ambience wherever it is installed. This style has not compromised efficiency though, with the Panache achieving a net efficiency of 78% with a heat output of 4.5kW. The range of installation options is unmatched for this kind of product, making the Panache the perfect companion, whatever your interior space.

01952 200 444 www.charltonandjenrick.co.uk

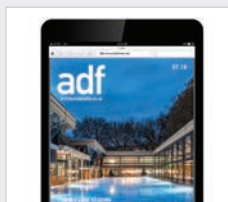
Guide to Approved Document L



Following Approved Document L (England) 2021 coming into force, ROCKWOOL has created an easy-to-digest guide to the new building regulations to support specifiers and installers in meeting and exceeding the requirements. With Approved Document L (ADL) spelling significant changes to thermal regulations for both new and existing buildings, the ROCKWOOL Guide to Approved Document L 2021 unpacks the updates to Volume 1: dwellings and Volume 2: buildings other than dwellings, plus gives users U-value requirements with a handy side-by-side comparison against the 2013 edition.

01656 868 400 www.rockwool.com/uk/adl

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ELLE Decoration Award For Vitra and Tom Dixon



The Liquid range by Vitra and Tom Dixon, which is inspired by pop art and Victorian bathrooms, has won another award, this time in the prestigious EDIDA 2022 awards.

The winners are chosen by the 25 Editors in Chief of the ELLE Decoration international network. Liquid was voted winner in the Bathroom sector and was described as setting a new standard for the bathroom space.

Liquid is the first bathroom range by the British designer Tom Dixon and is a complete bathroom collection that includes basins, taps, showers, accessories, tiles, and furniture.

Liquid features round-edged aesthetics and soft forms. The pieces can be used together, or single items can be selected as a focal point.

Recognising the current obsession with slim, reduced designs, Vitra and Tom Dixon have created the opposite, incorporating fatter, softer lines that are inspired by elements of pop art. While the overall design is reduced, the functionality is intuitive so that users can instinctively understand how to operate products such as taps and showers. The curved shapes make cleaning quick and easy – vital in the post pandemic world.

01235 750990

www.Vitra.co.uk/explore/liquid



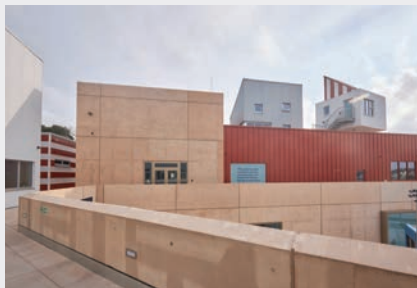
Schlüter specification for East Quay Pods

Set over multiple levels and containing five accommodation pods built amongst plenty of creative spaces, East Quay is a stunning building situated in Watchet, Somerset. The project was commissioned by Somerset-based social enterprise Onion Collective and led by architects George Williams and Owen Hughes Pearce of PEARCE+Fægen.

The duo designed the pod interiors whilst Invisible Studio were the concept architects for the building and Mark Anstey of Ellis Williams Architects was the project architect.

Due to the priceless artwork displayed on rotation within the creative spaces above and below the accommodation pods, a fully tanked waterproofing solution was high on the list of priorities. Pairing this with the innovative design elements required for each individual pod meant that floor build up also needed to be taken into consideration. This is where tile and stone protection expert Schlüter-Systems stepped in to put together a specification for three of the pods.

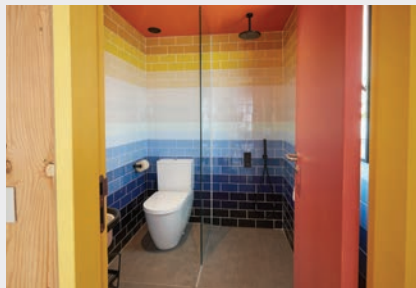
A DDA-compliant wetroom sits on the lower floor of Pod 2 for full accessibility. Due



to these requirements, Schlüter advised that a point drain would be most suitable and therefore suggested their Schlüter point drain system as the perfect solution.

Pods 4 and 5 needed linear drains, with the architects choosing to install the low height version of shower tray Schlüter-KERDI-SHOWER-LTS and its partnering product, the Schlüter-KERDI-LINE-G3 drain for each. This guaranteed entry level access within the bathroom areas.

Reliable waterproofing was taken care of within the three pods with the help of uncoupling membrane Schlüter-DITRA.

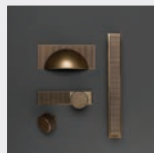


The multi-talented product offered many benefits to the project such as crack-bridging, waterproofing and load distribution

East Quay and its creative presence has given Watchet and surrounding areas a new lease of life, displaying just how vibrant and welcoming the town and community is. Pulling together unique and thought-provoking design elements with technical know-how was paramount in getting this project off the ground, and Schlüter are incredibly proud to have been part of it.

01530 813396 www.schluter.co.uk

Bring your projects to life



IronmongeryDirect has recently added Hendel & Hendel to its offering of leading ironmongery brands. Hendel & Hendel is the ideal range of cabinet hardware for those wanting to make a statement. With its ornate designs and trend-led finishes, there is no limit as to where you can use the Barrington. Designed in a contemporary

style and embellished with a knurled texture, the Kellas is a modern classic that is quickly becoming a 'go-to' for homeowners. The Casper benefits from a soft triangular curved bar, giving it a unique shape that cannot be found in any other range by IronmongeryDirect.

03003 038821 ironmongerydirect.co.uk/brands/hendelandhendel

Beautifully crafted. Built to last.



Elisa™ has announced the introduction of a completely customisable, modular shower collection based around Aquahub™ – a unique, concealed valve technology innovated in-house at Elisa. This stunning new mixer range offers a fully personalised choice of facias, shower outlets, heads and accessories, all compatible with the central Aquahub valve. Each component is available in a brushed brass, polished chrome or matt black finish. Mike Simpson, chief marketing officer at Elisa, commented: "The Elisa Emilie and Rosa collections can be as individual as the homeowners themselves".

01959 560003 www.elisabathrooms.com

Saniflo solves drainage issue



Saniflo has provided a number of Sanibest Pro macerators and a Sanifos 280 lifting station to Hampshire based MDL Marinas – a multi-service leisure business running marinas, boatyards and holiday centres –

for its new marine lodges. The challenge was to work out the most efficient waste discharge from the bathrooms and kitchens with least possible disruption to customers and marina staff. Saniflo's solution was in the shape of a Sanibest Pro macerator fitted in the bathroom of each lodge and a Sanifos underground lifting station to collect and pump away the waste to a landside drain.

020 8842 0033 www.saniflo.co.uk

F. Ball launches next generation



F. Ball and Co. Ltd. has launched Stopgap 1500 AquaPro, the latest addition to its range of high-performance, water-mix smoothing underlayments. Stopgap 1500 AquaPro uses the latest technology to create the next generation of water-mix smoothing underlayment and can be applied over old adhesive residues, including bitumen, carpet tile tackifiers and ceramic tile adhesives, eliminating the need for mechanical preparation. In such applications, there is no need to prime beforehand, saving further time and expense. It is walk-on hard in as little as 60 minutes after application and ready to receive floorcoverings from just four hours.

01538 361 633 www.f-ball.co.uk

Shining a light on embodied carbon

The lighting industry is changing fast in order to gear up for net zero – Tim Bowes from Whitecroft Lighting explains how supply chains are cutting embodied carbon

The construction industry is often criticised for its slow pace of change, and for the rigidity of traditional supply chains hindering knowledge and ideas sharing. But the way we work is changing at an exponential rate, influenced by clients prioritising resource efficiency, and reducing their whole life carbon.

This is reshaping supply chains, making them flatter and better connected – creating shortcuts so that M&E manufacturers can more easily collaborate with architects at an earlier stage of a project.

Net zero is sending everyone in the industry back to the drawing board, forcing the supply chain to rethink priorities and revisit past assumptions. M&E sector manufacturers are increasingly being asked to share their expertise at an earlier stage in projects, particularly in markets such as education and healthcare, where their accumulated know-how can have a big impact on sustainability at the design stage. Becoming more involved in projects at an earlier stage means they can also help influence how innovation is deployed to achieve the most effective long-term result for the client.

Architects understand have a key role to play in achieving net zero, placing sustainability at the heart of building designs. Research conducted by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation into the value of the circular economy calculated that 80% of a building's whole life carbon impact is dictated by its design, fabric and construction.

Although buildings can be made more efficient once they are built, the embodied carbon from permanent structures is 'lost' forever.

Clearly for architects this is a complex, multifaceted challenge that requires new forms of technical expertise, imaginative uses of materials, as well as radical new approaches to design and construction.

The challenge of net zero and making

better material choices has certainly filtered down to M&E, and questions on the whole-life carbon impact of lighting are now commonplace from clients, consultants and specifiers. The issue is now not 'if' manufacturers can respond, but 'how quickly.'

Explaining embodied carbon

Embodied carbon is emitted from the sourcing of virgin materials, the manufacturing of building products, through to the construction process itself, plus the disposal of materials at the end of life, and is a big contributor to climate change – 11% of the total CO₂ emitted globally each year.

As we increasingly switch from finite to more sustainable energy sources, combined with ever more energy efficient buildings, the significance of embodied carbon is forced up, in proportion to operational carbon.

On the subject of operational efficiency, the lighting products industry has become very good at reducing energy use and day-to-day emissions. Architects can be secure in the knowledge that once they have settled on a lighting aesthetic, their M&E consultants will specify highly energy-efficient LEDs.

But the factoring in of embodied carbon is now placing more emphasis on design and materials, and the need for lighting to fit consistently with a building's overall sustainability strategy and whole life impact.

Circular arguments

This new focus on embodied carbon increasingly means adhering to the principles of circularity (prioritising repair, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling, minimising waste and the use of virgin materials), and this is where architects can benefit from collaboration and earlier engagement.





The focus on hitting net zero is sending everyone in the industry back to the drawing board, forcing the supply chain to rethink priorities and revisit past assumptions

Circularity is also about demonstrating to clients, investors and the world at large, that the industry is taking a long term approach to minimising waste, and accepting responsibility for the impact that product and materials purchased have on net zero.

Finally, nobody in the industry has all the answers when it comes to net zero, but we should all be taking steps to offer transparency around all types of carbon in buildings, to make it easier for the supply chain to make informed decisions.

We took the decision to begin quantifying the embodied carbon in an increasing number of our solutions (using third party verification), and then ‘crunching’ that data to drive the redesign of some of our products.

As a result, specifiers will increasingly see reusable and replaceable modules being built into various products we offer, with the aim of lengthening their lifespan.

This has enhanced our understanding of the full value of circularity, and created new ways for manufacturers to add value, develop longer-term partnerships, and deliver significant carbon savings.

When you categorise building fabrics, the biggest sources of embodied carbon tend

to be the likes of steel and concrete – big, bulky materials containing a relatively small number of ingredients, and makes the majority of a building’s embodied carbon relatively easy to calculate.

Although lighting (and M&E more widely) contribute much less to that total, it can be stubbornly harder to calculate, containing more complicated electrical components, such as circuit boards, drivers and LEDs.

We should remember that the end goal is to minimise the carbon impact of every element of a building, using all the available tools and technologies to hit the lowest achievable point at any given time, and then offsetting the rest.

This is placing more responsibility on manufacturers to not only offer more sustainable options, but demonstrate those carbon savings clearly by using industry recognised standards, such as EPDs.

Our free guide, ‘Shining a Light on Net-Zero’ explains how to balance the demands of reducing whole life carbon of lighting with other priorities, such as health and wellbeing. It is a useful starting point.

Tim Bowes is head of lighting applications at Whitecroft Lighting

Design Freely with the Origin 70 Luxury Vinyl Tiles Collection



Origin 70 is the new Luxury Vinyl Tiles flooring collection from IVC Commercial, letting you design freely with the ultimate in performance through quality, loose lay installation and design flexibility. With loose lay installation and plank and tile formats that let you mix and match seamlessly with carpet tiles, IVC Commercial’s Origin 70 Luxury Vinyl Tiles collection brings design freedom to flooring for projects. Designed and made in Belgium to be completely recycled, projects benefit from a more sustainable floor as well. Origin 70’s designs explore the fundamental connection to nature, bringing calm and peace to the great indoors. With the lifelike tactility of an ultra matt and emboss in register finish – where texture accurately tracks the pattern – each Origin 70 design is authentic and original. Origin 70 planks and tiles are also cut from an extra-large pattern to avoid obvious repeats and to further enhance the natural look. The extra-large pattern also allows IVC Commercial to create larger plank and tile formats that are designed to be used alongside its carpet tiles and carpet planks, such as the Rudiments and Imperfection collections.

01332 851 500 www.ivc-commercial.com

Media in the frame with screwless range

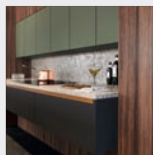


Offering homeowners and commercial clients alike a modern aesthetic and a high degree of versatility, the new screwless multimedia plate range from Knightsbridge – one of the UK’s leading manufacturers of wiring devices, accessories and lighting – brings additional style and functionality

to the most demanding of modular applications. The extensive screwless multimedia range covers all application requirements with a large selection of faceplate designs to choose from, all available with or without FASTCHARGE A+C USB charging ports.

01582 887760 www.mlaccessories.co.uk

The height of luxury with Keller



Classic styles are still very much on trend, and Keller’s all-new Marbling Moods (pictured) kitchen is a clear sign that this admiration is unlikely to disappear soon. This kitchen maintains modern utility, form, and function alongside its retro design. The suspended cabinets are easy to access and emphasise spaciousness and accessibility, while the island, shielded in marble, features a sink for both classical style and pragmatic benefit. The Watford door blends well with the rest of the kitchen, thanks in particular to its handle-less design.

www.kellerkitchens.com

Q-Range Guide Launch

Quantum Flooring's Q-Range Stair Nosing collection is at the forefront of safety and compliance for specification. It caters for all sectors and installations, with profiles to suit any project. Quantum is delighted to announce that the brand-new Q-Range Guide is now available.

Q-Range Stair Nosings are designed for all step types and can be fitted with all floorcoverings. These profiles have a patented all-over slip resistant tread. The satin anodised riser inhibits glare, while providing the double benefit of scratch resistance. This ensures that Q-Range doesn't just enhance the appearance of a staircase, it also offers longevity and durability.

All Q-Range Stair Nosings with Flat, Rake Back, and Chevron risers offer Building Regulations best practice solutions. The profiles are manufactured with 100% recyclable materials, using Lean principles to cut out waste. Even the minimal packaging is 100% recyclable. Q-Range is available in 25 colours, offering a wide spectrum of LRVs to contrast



with any floorcovering, or to complement the overall design.

There are different versions of the range which offer even more options. Q-Range

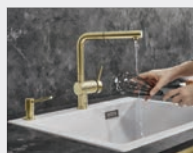
Wide has a greater tread area than any other stair nosing available, negating the problem of dirt traps that traditional double-channel stair nosings can pose. For the ultimate in specification, Q-Range DUO offers a solid colour on both the riser and tread, with each being 55 mm. This helps it to adhere to all best practice guidelines in Building Regulations, BS 8300-2:2018 and the Equality Act.

- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Design
- ✓ Compliance
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Colour

When it comes to superior stair nosings, Q-Range ticks all the boxes. You can download the new Q-Range Stair Nosing Guide from quantumflooring.co.uk. To order a print copy, please contact Quantum Flooring.

0161 627 4222
info@quantumflooring.co.uk

The gold standard of BLANCO craftsmanship



The eternal popularity of gold is a tale as old as time. To capitalise on this perpetual trend, BLANCO UK has launched Satin Gold as the latest finish for their range of high-quality LINUS and LINUS-S tap designs. Gold is a colour of great symbolism, epitomising the very ideal of luxury. BLANCO's Satin Gold

taps are designed to evoke these same sensations of grandeur and extravagance. A Satin Gold tap is an attention-grabbing statement piece, a source of opulence that nevertheless looks chic and modern in the kitchen especially when a part of a BLANCO UNIT.

www.blanco.co.uk

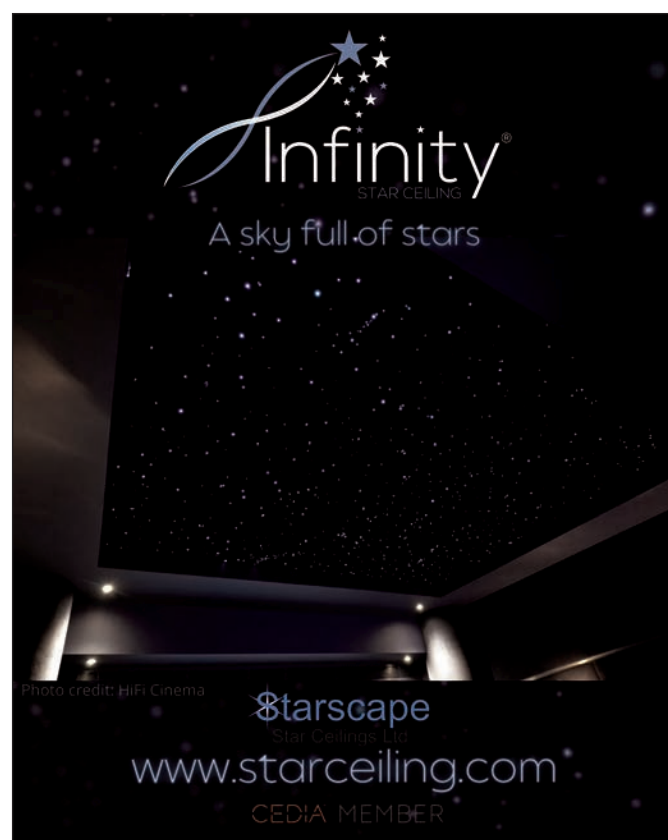
A helping hand from nature



Keller Kitchens and parent group, DKG, are delighted to report that the ambition to be carbon negative during 2022 is well on track to becoming reality. In addition to the numerous steps, measures and investments the business has taken to attain "manufacturer" carbon neutral

status back in April 2017, more recent initiatives required the help of nature itself. National Sales Manager UK, Tim Spann commented: "The results are very, very encouraging giving us the confidence we are on the right track to maintain our industry-leading position for manufacturing kitchens by the most sustainable means possible."

www.kellerkitchens.com



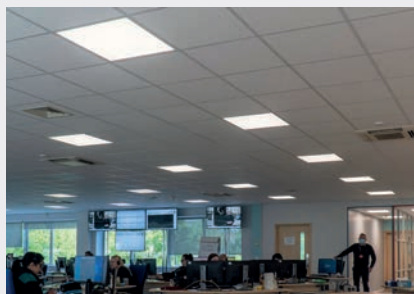
Luceco Lighting Controls at East Midlands Ambulance Service Call Centre

Luceco has recently lit facilities at Horizon Place for East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS). EMAS provides emergency care and patient transport services for 4.8 million people. Phase 1 of the project included the relighting of the Incoming Call Centre, a very busy environment operating 24/7 and a pivotal element of the services provided by EMAS. The open plan space required eight zones which could be separately controlled

providing various levels of illumination to assist with the activities of the call centre and to help promote wellbeing in a setting dealing with emergency situations.

Recessed LuxPanel Extra luminaires were used throughout the installation controlled by Luceco's wireless lighting control system – Platform. Platform is an innovative controls solution making the planning, configuration, and commissioning of wireless lighting controls accessible to many applications from large open plan commercial environments and warehouse spaces to conference rooms, corridors, and smaller office layouts. Existing and new installations can be transformed into a flexible wireless controlled infrastructure. Platform sensors were used to provide occupancy and daylight dimming facilities with Platform switches pre-set with scenes for different lux levels depending on the time of day and staff shift arrangements.

Luceco Project Manager, Leigh Davey said: "With many organisations looking



to become more environmentally friendly and reduce their energy and operating costs, lighting controls can help save around 60-70% on energy consumption and ensure spaces are lit appropriately to provide safety, security and comfort using scene setting, presence detection and daylight dimming controls. Platform offers high value return-of-investment on new or existing lighting installations as well as extending the life of the luminaires due to reduced operating hours."

uk_sales@luceco.com
www.luceco.uk



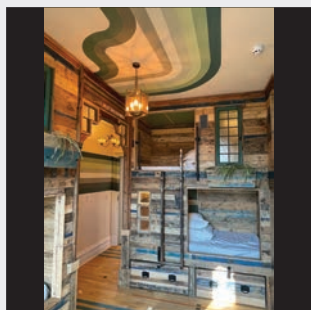
Sliding doors framed in style with Brooklyn



Available in a sophisticated matte black finish, the CRL Brooklyn frame system brings style and timeless elegance to sliding glass door partitioning for domestic and commercial use. In the domestic setting, CRL Brooklyn taps into the move towards open-plan living, acting as a practical partition between kitchen and living areas, for example, while ensuring that natural light can flow throughout. In commercial situations, the sliding door system is ideal for use in any environment where partitioning is required, from restaurants to offices, providing an effective, simple to install and easy to use solution in locations where maintaining a sense of space is crucial. From a style point of view, the minimalist style of the matte black door frame has been developed within classic lines to complement a wide range of interior styles. CRL Brooklyn has many practical qualities, not least ease of installation. The system is suitable for dropped ceiling and fixed ceiling applications and allows for a vertical adjustment of +/- 3 mm. It even gives the option to install bi-parting doors with the use of an extra set of clamps.

01706 863600 www.crlaurence.co.uk

Earthborn's Claypaint on hand to help with new hostel



A newly renovated 19th century building in Leeds recently opened its doors to accommodate travellers. The new hostel has 12 truly unique rooms, all designed by local and international artists. Earthborn's Claypaint was on hand to help these talented artists turn their ideas into reality. Hannah Platt, Assistant Manager at the Art Hostel, said: "We approached Earthborn because of their highly recognised eco credentials and their breathable Claypaint. We wanted to collaborate with a paint company that cares about their carbon footprint and would also suit the needs of such an old building." Hannah added: "The artists found Earthborn's Claypaint to be a refreshing change from normal paints. There was zero smell, the coverage was amazing and Claypaint has a beautiful palette of colours for our artists to work with. We highly recommend anyone to try Earthborn paint, you won't be disappointed." Claypaint is available from Earthborn's network of distributors in its Classic palette of 72 colours, plus white and 12 Modern Country Colours. Pictured is the Rainbow Lodge – the clean flowing lines perfectly showcase a delicious array of greens.

01928 734 171 www.earthbornpaints.co.uk

Facing the threats

A growing range of perimeter security measures have been developed by industry to meet ever-changing security threats, with full accreditation to give specifiers and clients confidence. Sally Osmond from Frontier Pitts explains the options

With a range of potential threats to premises and people including forced entry, a wide range of intruder resistant security gates and turnstiles have been designed and manufactured in recent years. They are tested to the LPCB (Global Certification and Standards for Fire and Security); to LPS1175, including different security ratings, range of tool sets, and for specified lengths of time. Hostile Vehicle Mitigation, or 'HVM' is the name for the approach taken against vehicles used as a weapon, and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices. HVM impact is tested to the international specification IWA14:2013 and/or BSi PAS68.

Many sites, including data centres and logistics warehouses, are being designed with a layered security approach. This provides a site with 'onion' like layers of protection around a built asset designed to deter, detect, delay, and deny any attack. Depending on the site's particular threat assessment level, a layered approach could include anti-terrorist HVM gates on the outer layer to protect the site from possible terrorism and vehicles used as a weapon, with LPS1175 intruder resistant gates on the inner layers to protect the asset. Alternatively, if a security interlock system is preferred (to ensure all vehicles entering site are securely checked), the first gate would be an LPS1175 intruder resistant model, with the second, final 'denial barrier' being a HVM anti-terrorist gate (which is also LPS1175 certified).

Another option would be a system with a combination of products installed and programmed to work together to meet the site's requirements. LPS1175 gates can be backed by HVM blockers and bollards, or rising arm barriers with HVM blockers and bollards. All options are dependent on the site-specific threat assessment, operational requirements, and the client's 'control philosophy.'

It is also important to provide a separate access point for pedestrians by installing



pedestrian turnstiles and/or gates adjacent to the vehicle gates. All should have the same security rating (that rating depending on the site's specific threat assessment), and match the fence lines' security rating and height.

For sites and locations such as crowded places and public realm, it is vital that any security equipment blends into the surroundings, and that the public feel safe to visit. 'Pedestrian permeable' HVM such as bollards are particularly popular with these types of sites, allowing free passage for pedestrians, while stopping vehicles.

As each site is different, made to order security installations are typically available with a wide range of options. For instance, inner city areas where



foundation depths may be limited due to underground services, HVM rising bollards are available with shallow foundation depths, plus road blockers with shallow or surface mount alternatives.

With LPS1175 and Secured by Design Gates, it is important that the gate mechanism, locking, hinges, and the gate infill are tested to the standard. Many options have been tested to LPS1175, such as a bi-folding gate with overhead guidance, designed for underground car parks. Alongside the tested mechanisms, there are also a variety of security rated infills for architects to choose from.

Further info as standard

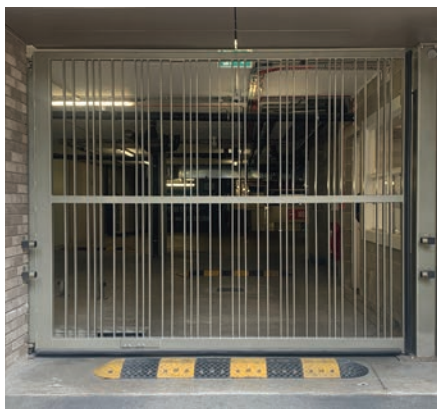
The standard covers the requirements and testing procedures for the LPCB approval and listing of intruder resistant free-standing barriers. All LPS1175 approved products are listed Red Book Live (BRE) at www.redbooklive.com

LPS1175 covers what's thought to be the broadest scope of physical security products and services of any publicly available standard in the world. It is the result of many years of work by LPCB, Government, insurers and the police, and has rapidly become a core element of

For sites and locations such as crowded places and public realm, it is vital that any security equipment blends into the surroundings and that the public feel safe to visit

physical security specification across many sectors. The standard comprises several security ratings with test requirements of ascending intensity; these are measured in terms of attack tools and time available to the attacker, and enable specifiers to select products according to the specific risks that their property faces. LPS1175 can be used in a range of applications, including critical infrastructure projects. The correct specification of security products and systems is critical in protecting people and property from losses associated with crime and terrorism.

Sally Osmond is brand and development manager at Frontier Pitts



Faster, safer, building evacuations

Fire and life safety systems manufacturer, **Advanced**, has extended its emergency lighting range with Dynamic Safety Signage (DSS) – proven to make building evacuations faster and safer. In emergency situations, lack of information and confusion mean people often make poor decisions. DSS uses green moving and pulsing LED arrows to clearly indicate safe exits and red LED crosses to boldly show no-go areas. This distinctive indication supports effective escape and avoids congestion at exits. DSS is ideal for settings where large numbers of people may be unfamiliar with emergency escape routes, e.g. university campuses, hospitals, stadiums and transport hubs. The new range of signage provides different tiers of functionality making it very versatile in meeting requirements across a wide range of sites and scenarios. The lighting can be used standalone or integrated with conventional/addressable fire alarm panels to trigger emergency lighting if an incident occurs. Cause and effect can be programmed, allowing DSS to be used adaptively. This ensures that as evacuation situations evolve, only the safest escape routes are highlighted.

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Budget beating multi-purpose panels

Unilin Panels, has introduced decorative Compact MDF: a budget-friendly product that brings more than 80 surface designs with excellent scratch and stain resistance. With a high-density, moisture-resistant black core, Compact MDF needs no edging tape and can be used in humid environments. It is also ideal for areas subject to intensive use: changing and dressing rooms, toilet areas, kitchen and bathroom furniture, product displays and worktops can all benefit from its excellent scratch- and wear-resistance. The core of Compact MDF is made from 100% recovered wood. This is wood and wood waste that is no longer usable for someone else, which is used in the production of MDF to save it from incineration. From true-to-material Fibromax Compact MR Black and classic wood effects to brushed metals and an extraordinary collection of solid colours, there's a finish to coordinate with almost any interior.

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Resistance to Bomb Blast

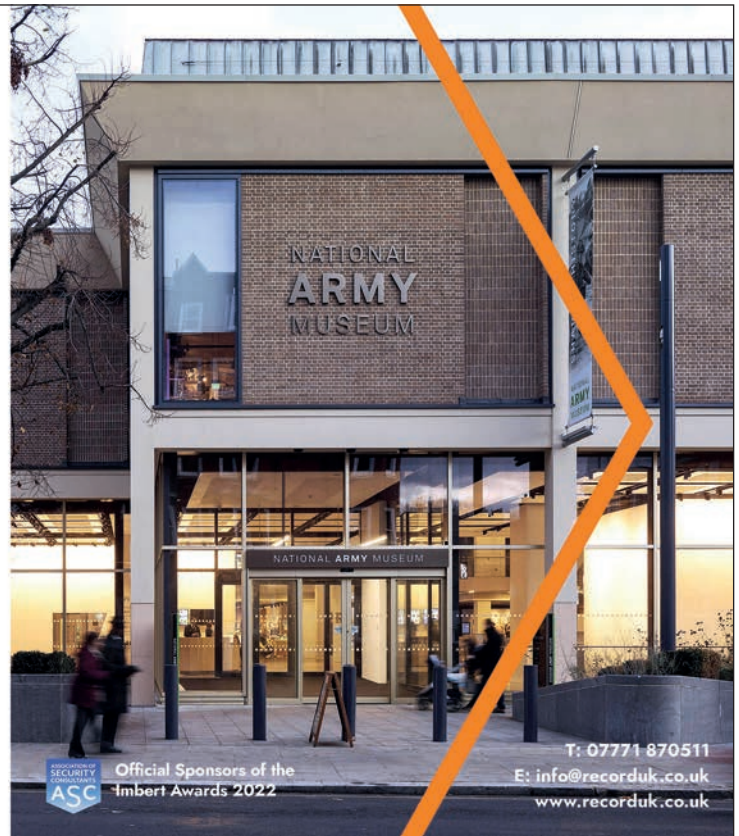
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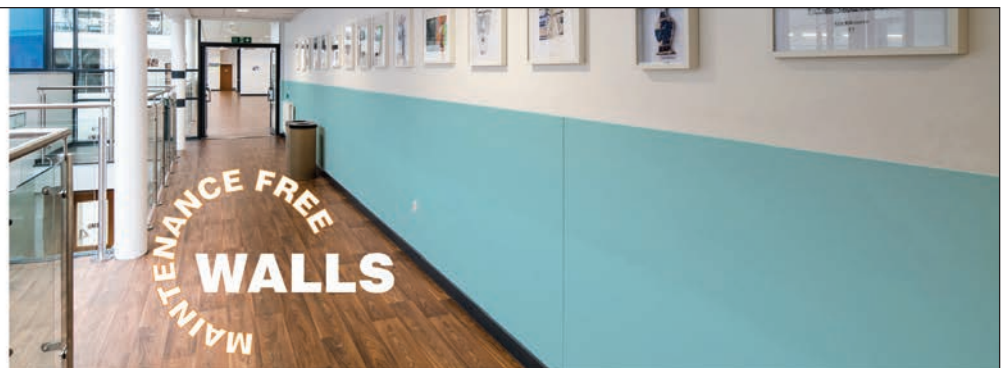
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Public realm regeneration with permeable paving

A new case study from Interpave explores recent urban realm regeneration projects in Tottenham, London exemplifying the synergy of concrete block permeable paving and street trees to address climate change while delivering SuDS. It demonstrates important new techniques applicable to all urban areas.

The regeneration of White Hart Lane in north Tottenham, by muf architecture/art, was a pilot designed using 'Healthy Streets' principles. But it also applies innovative sustainable drainage (SuDS) techniques introduced by design collaborators Robert Bray Associates. This approach reduces flooding and pollution through the integration of bioretention raingardens to collect and treat polluted road runoff. In addition, extensive concrete block permeable paving surfaces not only act as SuDS elements – attenuating and treating rainwater runoff – but also enable essential air/CO₂ exchange and optimised water supply for tree roots,

using a range of techniques.

A new, concrete block permeable paved, adopted highway accepts runoff from White Hart Lane and other impermeable surfaces. At two points, structural tree pits span the full width below the road surface, connecting road-narrowing tree planters on each side, based on the 'Stockholm Solution' for urban tree planting. At the nearby renovation of Broad Lane Square, the same designers take forward these principles with further innovations. In particular, 'inverted raingardens' protect existing trees and new green infrastructure, supplied with a gradual supply of clean water from extensive concrete block permeable paving catchments.

Concrete block permeable paving – whether full-construction with storage sub-base or applied as an overlay to an existing impermeable road base – works in synergy with trees. It collects available rainfall, including away from the canopy, and conveys it to trees and can be used over standard tree



pits, proprietary tree planters, Stockholm System or other structural soil installations. Concrete block permeable paving technology will prove invaluable in delivering the street trees now demanded by planning policies for developments, as well as regeneration.

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Resiblock Resiecco goes big in Littlehampton



Resiblock Resiecco, the environmentally friendly commercial grade paving sealer by Resiblock, has been utilised as part of the Littlehampton Town Centre Public Realm improvements. The scheme has seen £6m million of improvements carried out in a bid to attract private sector investment,

as well as transforming the town centre to meet changing shopping and leisure habits. With the expected large volumes of footfall traffic expected to come with the regeneration, Resiblock Resiecco was selected to provide joint stabilisation and overall paver protection to the variety of pavers across the town centre.

www.resiblock.com

Bringing the great outdoors to book



With gardens becoming crucial to so many during the pandemic lockdowns, the effective utilisation of outdoor space is more important than ever and Knightsbridge – a leading manufacturer of wiring devices, accessories and lighting – has curated its impressive IP-rated outdoor ranges into a single collection. Compiled into single handy reference, *The Complete Outdoor Range*,

the 49pp brochure is packed with high quality full colour product and lifestyle illustrations and shows how Knightsbridge caters for all demands in weatherproof and garden installations.

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