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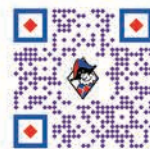
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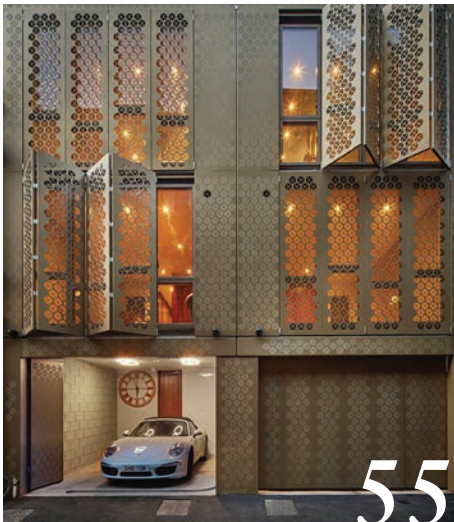


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CONTENTS



NEWS, VIEWS & INSIGHTS

- 04 Industry News
- 14 Site Lines: HKR Architects on MMC
- 18 Comment: Dean Asher of Polypipe on the Golden Thread
- 22 International Focus
- 25 CPD Focus
- 28 Futurebuild 2024 Show Preview
- 43 Brick Awards 2023: The Winners
- 45 Appointments & Company News

PRODUCTS

- 49 Groundworks & Drainage
- 50 Structural Elements
- 50 External Envelope
- 66 Heating, Ventilation & Services
- 68 Interiors
- 78 Insulation
- 80 Landscaping & External Works
- 80 Safety & Security

PROJECT REPORT

30 FINDING A NEW GROOVE

A prominent adaptive reuse scheme in West London, The Gramophone Works sees Studio RHE employing modern timber technology to create a healthy work environment that sustains the former reggae record label HQ's vibrant spirit. Jack Wooler reports

FEATURES

55 EXTERNAL ENVELOPE: DOORS & WINDOWS

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Danesch Missaghian from Rundum Meir UK explains why bespoke garage doors enable specifiers to take a different, more creative approach to the design of the garage and building as a whole

63 EXTERNAL ENVELOPE: ROOFING & CLADDING

CLADDING COLOUR TRENDS

Looking at colour choices for the facades of a residential property or development, Lisa Grosse from Cedral looks at the current trends clients are buying into

73 INTERIORS: BATHROOMS & WASHROOMS

THE SHAPE OF WATER

Tom Reynolds from the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (BMA), highlights the increasing urgency for a focus on water efficiency

78 INSULATION

CUTTING DETAILS DOWN TO PSI

Jonathan Ducker from Kingspan Insulation GB explores how the industry has developed a range of details to assist specifiers pursuing higher thermal performance

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FROM THE EDITOR



Steel and brick – two of the cornerstones of British design, and two materials that have received recent boosts in the industry. The former from the £500m investment being made by the Government (but still dwarfed by Tata Steel's reported £1.25bn committed spend at its Port Talbot works alone) in greener Electric Arc Furnaces which will make 'British steel' a viable global proposition for the future.

The restructuring needed to end coal-based steel production will undoubtedly cause huge amounts of disruption and job losses, but nobody said that moving to more sustainable production that reduces reliance on fossil fuels was going to be easy. How difficult it will be in the short term, we don't know.

I recently got to visit Tata's Shotton facility in North Wales, where the company demonstrated how its Building Systems UK division was innovating in MMC approaches in order to provide full offsite options using steel frame construction, from small domestic to large applications. A variety of delegates from across the sector, from steel fabricators to experts promoting sustainability standards, heard some interesting discussions, including how the Golden Thread approach of continuous project data could be applied in domestic settings, to create a new sense of value for sustainable building performance. One speaker (ex Arup QS, Kevin O'Grady) posited the compelling idea that homeowners could split investment in sustainable retrofit of a property with a buyer, bolstered by a digital 'data logbook' containing unprecedented detail on those rigorously-designed retrofit measures.

I enjoyed a very different event in London recently, which both celebrated and helped to sustain the popularity of brick cladding in our industry, particularly among architects. The Brick Awards saw the softly-spoken owner of GMA Gerard Maccreanor earnestly praising brick from the stage as a 'local material,' but I fear his words were sadly lost on a large number of the very excitable audience (who even chatted through large chunks of George Clarke's attempts to charm the attendees in his trademark way).

There are some truly great projects among the winners, which we feature on pages 43 and 44. As well as the more 'landmark' schemes like the curvy Yoko Ono Lennon Centre in Liverpool, the larger residential projects demonstrate what might be an unexpected level of care and flair at least where their brick detailing is concerned.

Niall McLaughlin's International Rugby Experience in Limerick (the Worldwide winner) looks fantastic, using vertical brick fins to lighten and enliven the overall feel of this new cultural destination, as well as providing shading on lower glazed sections.

However when it comes to the truly sustainable projects that the Brick Development Association is keen to promote, the refurbishment of Shrewsbury Flaxmill, a 19th century pioneer as the iron-framed 'forerunner of the skyscraper' is hard to beat. Feilden Clegg Bradley's careful work was always going to be a restoration, not a tabula rasa, given its heritage, and we look forward to reporting on it in 2024.

James Parker, Editor

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ON THE COVER...

Studio RHE brings new character to the capital's former 'epicentre of reggae,' adding three CLT and glulam storeys to this commercial hub

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



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RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Foster + Partners reveals design for two-site Oxford R&D campus

The designs by Foster + Partners for Ellison Institute of Technology (EIT)'s new interdisciplinary research and development facility in Oxford have been revealed.

Established eight years ago as a research and development centre for cancer and wellness, healthcare and global public health, EIT has now broadened its mission to focus on four key areas of scientific and technological innovation: medical science and healthcare, food security and sustainable agriculture, clean energy and climate change, and government policy and economics.

The new campus will incorporate more than 30,000 m² of research laboratory space, an oncology and wellness patient clinic, as well as educational and meeting spaces.

The campus is spread over two plots, the historic Littlemore House, and Oxford Science Park, connected by a 'treetop

walkway.' At the Littlemore House site, a number of existing buildings, including the historic house itself, are being restored and connected to new pavilions along the eastern edge of the site. The new additions create a C-shaped configuration with a green courtyard at its heart; a landscaped outdoor area with a circular water feature and seasonal planting. Spaces between the buildings visually connect the courtyard with the surrounding streets, while sculptural fins on the facades of the new buildings provide shading, climate control and privacy.

Littlemore House has been restored and transformed into a single volume space, containing a library and study area that can also be adapted for informal meetings and events. Flexible laboratories can be adapted easily to meet the Institute's changing needs over time.

A sunken 250-seat auditorium, located beneath the courtyard, serves as a central meeting space for lectures and large-scale events. Light filters through the water feature above and "dances on the walls of the auditorium," said the architects.

At Oxford Science Park, a new building with additional laboratories and educational spaces has been created, elevated on stilts due to the adjacent Littlemore Brook, allowing "landscaping and fresh air to flow underneath it." A wooden geodesic dome, with rotating solar shading, provides a striking forum for events, lectures and collaborative endeavours at the top of the building.

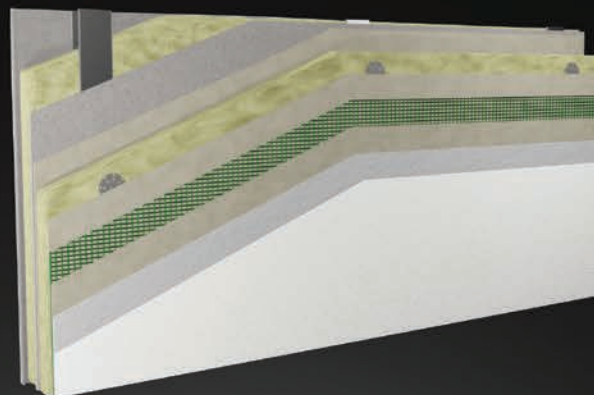
Foster + Partners worked alongside landscape architect Fernando Caruncho for this project. Set for completion in 2026, the sustainable development is targeting BREEAM Outstanding and WELL Platinum accreditation.

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EDUCATION

Mosaic Architecture + Design applies to demolish office and build student accommodation in central Glasgow

Mosaic Architecture + Design, which has offices in Glasgow and London, has submitted a planning application on behalf of Courie Investments for the £30m redevelopment of the site of an existing underused office building at 249 West George Street in Glasgow.

Following careful assessment, it was concluded that due to structural issues the building has to be demolished, and the site redeveloped to provide purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA) providing a mix of 147 studio apartments suitable for a wide range of letting options and incorporating market-leading amenity facilities.

As a new-build PBSA development, the building shall “meet the highest standards in student residential design providing a mix of accommodation and innovative amenity spaces. It will be designed specifically for low-energy operation and aim to achieve a BREEAM rating of ‘very good’,” said the architects.

Primary external amenity space is provided by a south facing rear landscaped courtyard, while upper levels will benefit from two smaller roof terraces affording views across the city. This will provide private external spaces for exercise,



relaxation, interaction, and study.

The site is located at the corner of West George Street and Blythswood Street overlooking Blythswood Square within the Glasgow city centre conservation area.

Neil Haining, director of Mosaic, commented: “The design has been carefully considered in response to the site’s immediate context. The proposed massing

and facades harmonise with the existing heights and rhythms of the buildings on West George Street and Blythswood Street, blending in with the neighbourhood’s architecture. We believe that this PBSA will help re-populate the city centre and provide a new use on an under-used site.”

Planning consultant on the project is Icen Projects while project manager is Pick Everard.

TATA STEEL OPEN DAY

Tata Steel demonstrates ‘Construction Transformation’

Building Systems UK, a division of Tata Steel focused on innovative offsite approaches, held its first ‘Accelerating Construction Transformation’ event at its Shotton, Deeside facility on 26 October.

Over 100 delegates (including ADF) from the architecture, engineering and cladding sectors, as well as academics, heard keynote speakers discuss key topics around productivity, digital

integration and sustainability, and had the opportunity to tour the site’s vast steel manufacturing facility.

The firm staged an MMC ‘Live Build’ in front of delegates, completing a small building within hours, including assembling an insulated roof cassette plus integrated PV panels. The team also demonstrated digital traceability through its track and trace system, and

speakers focused on the need for industry collaboration to deliver MMC solutions.

Building Systems UK’s head of market and business development, Barry Rust, said that the event attendees “shared our view that construction transformation must accelerate to create a more productive, sustainable and resilient sector. We need to walk the walk and not merely talk the talk.”

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AWARDS

Anderson Bell + Christie celebrates Chartered Institute of Housing award

Glasgow-based architects Anderson Bell + Christie has been awarded a Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland Award in partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council for a recently completed housing project at Sighthill in Edinburgh.

The practice, which is located on Great Western Road in Glasgow, received the 'Excellence in Regeneration and Sustainability' Award at the 2023 Chartered Institute of Housing Awards on 27 October.

The development provides 184 new homes in the west of Edinburgh and features a range of house sizes and types, creating a "fully balanced and inclusive community."

Senior architect Eoin Kavanagh, who led the regeneration project at Sighthill, worked alongside The City of Edinburgh Council and the rest of the team at Anderson Bell + Christie to complete the project over a number of years.

The site of the new development was



previously occupied by high-rise flats. The new housing now addresses the previous lack of good quality, accessible routes to and within the area by providing attractive, safe pedestrian routes to Sighthill Park and the adjacent Napier University campus.



Jonathan McQuillan, director at Anderson Bell + Christie, said: "This is a prestigious accolade in our industry, so we're thrilled to have won the 'Excellence in Regeneration and Sustainability' award 2023 with the City of Edinburgh Council."

EDUCATION

Bond Bryan Architects launches Academy at Bradford College

A brand new Academy based at the Bradford College Trinity Green Campus has launched in partnership with Sheffield-based architects, Bond Bryan.

The Bond Bryan Academy will see the practice's team serve as guest lecturers, adding "vital industry knowledge and perspective to Bradford College students' learning," said the architects.

Bond Bryan will also undertake workshops, site visits, and mentorship programmes for students across various courses in the College's Construction & Engineering Department, immersing them in the day-to-day operations of a successful architecture firm.

As part of the partnership, a specially designed Bond Bryan base room has been designed and built in the heart of Trinity Green Campus. As well as serving as a purpose-built classroom to support Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction T Level students, architects will use the facility to oversee new estate projects on site.

Bond Bryan has in-depth knowledge of the education sector and curriculum requirements at Bradford College. The team has collaborated on various successful projects to date, including the design and construction of both the College's David Hockney Building and Advanced Technology Centre.



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SITE LINES

Modular methods of construction

Is modular construction the missing jigsaw piece needed to solve the UK's housing crisis? HKR Architects' Ayna Azhigali says it is, and that aesthetics need not be an issue

We are all acutely aware of the housing crisis that the UK is undergoing, with the number of new homes being built falling short of the Government's targets and a critical need to ensure that people have access to suitable housing that is safe, warm, and healthy.

HKR Architects has over 20 years' experience designing and delivering a wide range of modular projects, both in the UK and internationally, and therefore have first-hand experience of the benefits the method brings in delivering new homes at a faster rate with minimised disruption to the local community.

Modular pocket schemes

With the challenge of tackling three tight urban sites in London on the edge of existing residential estates and alongside a busy railway line, HKR Architects used their knowledge and practical experience to design and deliver quality homes for local first-time buyers.

Creating identical modules across the three Pocket Living projects but designed and assembled to create three distinctly different schemes, these new homes completed the original estate and brought an active community feel to a previously neglected area.

The modules were constructed concurrently, with coordinated factory slots, delivery and sequencing using materials to reflect the local vernacular. By doing this the work on site was completed within four weeks, halving the number trucks on site, considerable reduction in waste and a six-month reduction in the programme.

Due to the close proximity of residential buildings, using

modular construction was particularly beneficial as the construction site had considerably less dust and noise, and in addition the whole construction programme was a lot shorter, resulting in less disruption to the neighbouring houses.

One of the interesting aspects of these three projects was that the client and planning authority didn't want the developments to look like modular construction, but instead look more in line with traditional brick houses.

To make sure that the joints were not visible on the facades, cladding was applied after the modules were installed. This resulted in the building having a more traditional construction look, with each project having distinctive characteristics, while internally the modules are identical, allowing for speed of construction.

Leveraging airspace through modular

Appointed with Adstone Construction and Apex Airspace, HKR Architects completed the design and delivery of an innovative modular rooftop extension and infill development for Lambeth and Southwark Housing Association.

This enhanced scheme, above two existing 1950s residential blocks, created 30 new additional affordable homes by leveraging the airspace while existing residents remained in their homes.

As the existing roof was coming to the end of its life, a bespoke exoskeletal structure could be created. Added to the rooftop to carry the weight of the new modular homes – as part of the rooftop extension – the structure also helped to improve the insulation and weathertightness of the existing homes.



Juxon Street, modular housing scheme in Lambeth



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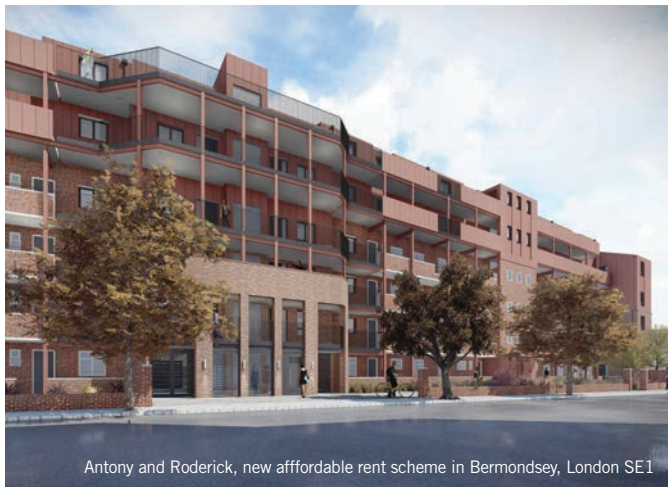
There are a plethora of benefits that can come from modular construction, and the positive impact it has on residents, the environment, and businesses.

With most of the construction itself undertaken in a factory environment the time on site is significantly reduced, easing traffic, dust, and noise disruptions to both residents and the local area. Storage of materials is not an issue, and work can continue without disruption of weather conditions and being able to get homes finished internally in a factory setting ensures a greater consistency and quality.

With recycling being undertaken throughout the build process there is a significant minimisation of site waste, and the way technology is embraced reduces human error, so less snagging issues when installed.

Technology itself cultivates further positives; the speed of production equates to much needed homes being available sooner. Modular is an innovative solution for infill or extremely tight residential sites, as well as being extremely effective when looking at the regeneration of large urban housing estates.

One of the major challenges a lot of housing associations and private developers face is decanting residents of dilapidated housing who don't want to move away from their home area. Modular provides a comprehensive solution that allows homes to be built nearby, quickly, without disruption to residents, and can also make challenging sites more viable.



Antony and Roderick, new affordable rent scheme in Bermondsey, London SE1

Modular pocket-style accommodation has the ability to be constructed quickly in areas such as street car parking spaces on run down housing estates, and existing residents could be decanted into this new accommodation so that they don't have to move out of the area. Once they have moved however, the wider works could begin on the rest of the estate.

By understanding clients' objectives, we can work with them, the sites and the modular product to provide opportunities to bring forward their projects and redevelopment.

Modular is not one thing

There are many facets to modular, another being that it also lends itself well to remote sites across the globe where services are not established and there is no or limited accommodation for staff



Mountearl Gardens, south London

to live. This can be one of the biggest challenges that developers initially face in projects.

Future benefits

Using MMC reduces the amount of people onsite by 80% – with most of the work being carried out in the factory, and a number of factories can synchronise to deliver the modular at scale at the same time.

Modular construction can also help address the skills shortage in the industry. As production is streamlined within the factory, the risk of not being able to find the correct tradesperson is reduced. With AI now able to take over the time-consuming repetitive work that traditionally has been carried out by trained staff, we will be able to free up more skilled people and speed up the production of the homes.

With carbon and sustainability targets high on the agenda, modular ticks these boxes with the minimised waste on site, higher percentage of recycling, reduction in carbon footprint on site and increased insulation to reduce bills for residents.

What we need now to help us deliver the quality homes that are urgently needed is planners to embrace the many advantages of modular and as an industry we have to continue to change the perception it has in order to deliver the number of new homes that are needed.

It is also imperative to move to making planning decisions within the statutory time frame of 8-13 weeks, so that projects can be financially planned and be realised. Unfortunately, this is not the case at the moment, and unknown timeframes and uncertainty over planning approval is causing issues within the industry.

Looking at the need for modular going forward, we need to have more definite timeframes to allow for swift factory production, particularly during economic uncertainty, with rising inflation and interest rate; an unknown time frame can kill projects.

Speeding up the planning process will not only help achieve the houses we need, but also have a wider positive impact on the economy, providing work for subcontractors through to large construction companies and all the professions involved in between.

Modular isn't the only answer for addressing the acute housing shortage, but it is a key piece of it.

Ayna Azhigali is associate director for HKR Architects

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COMMENT

The golden path to safety

Dean Asher from Polypipe Building Products offers some pointers for industry on how best to ensure it is complying with the Building Safety Act's requirements, particularly the golden thread's new responsibilities for design, build and maintenance

Many in the industry have advocated for tighter regulation to make the built environment as safe as it can be since the Grenfell tragedy in 2017. As a result, the Building Safety Act 2022 has been developed in an effort to completely transform UK building safety regulations and set out a clear pathway on how residential buildings should be safely constructed and maintained.

While some parts of the 2022 legislation came into effect earlier this year, the majority of updates to the Building Safety Act came into force on 1 October. The latest set of updates have imposed greater responsibilities on housebuilders, developers and contractors, as well as building owners and operators – through updates to duty holder roles and duties, and changes to workflow and processes.

One of the biggest changes has been the implementation of a 'golden thread of information' in projects. This new concept has been designed to ensure that safety is considered at every stage of the building's life cycle. With the new regulations now in force, it is imperative that architects are familiar with them, and what the golden thread means for them.

The Golden Thread of Data

The Government has introduced the concept of a golden thread of information, and defines it as 'both the information that allows you to understand a building and the steps needed to keep both the building and people safe, now and in the future.'

The golden thread will hold all of the key information that those responsible for the building require to identify, understand, manage and mitigate building safety risks throughout the lifecycle of the building. This includes both the information and documents and the information management processes used to support building safety.

The golden thread will essentially provide a thorough audit trail of a building, and the systems used within it. Therefore, it will affect everyone in the supply chain, whether it's providing data, ensuring the provision of data, or referring back to the data in the instance of retrofitting a property later down the line. As such, it's



important that the data thread is readily available and kept up-to-date throughout the building's life.

All those responsible for building design, construction, and maintenance, will be expected to implement systems that ensure compliance, as the golden thread has become a mandatory feature of the Building Safety Act. All those involved in the design and construction of the build will need to consider this throughout the duration of the project, as it is not an 'end of the project' activity, but instead it is an ongoing 'live' electronic record of the building information. This includes up-to-date safety information regarding the building design, build, and management. This information will be stored and transferred electronically (the digital requirements are not prescriptive in terms of software, file types etc, but they must be accessible) and recipients must acknowledge receipt.

Compliance & consequences

As well as ensuring that any safety risks in a building can be identified and mitigated, adhering to the current regulations is also vital for designers and contractors – to avoid prosecution. The Building Safety Act grants further enforcement powers to

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All those responsible for building design, construction, and maintenance, will be expected to implement systems that ensure compliance, as the golden thread has become a mandatory aspect of the Building Safety Act

the newly appointed Building Safety Regulator, and encompasses Regulation 38, which can hold not only organisations to account, but individuals too. In fact, any person responsible can be held liable retrospectively for up to 30 years since a build, and 15 years prospectively.

In order to avoid liability issues, the principal contractor and designer will be under obligation to report anything that could present a risk of death or serious injury to the Building Safety Regulator when working on any build. These disclosures will offer protection for that individual from criminal proceedings but failure to 'whistle blow' potential hazards during the design and construction phases could be a criminal offence.

The Building Safety Act places a duty on the people responsible for buildings to put in place and maintain a golden thread that is accurate, accessible and up-to-date. During the build phase, these individuals are known as 'duty holders.' This responsibility may fall to either the principal designer, the principal contractor or the client. Failure to adhere to the applicable Building Regulations can result in prosecution for this individual.

The golden thread is also particularly important when working on higher risk buildings, as the duty holder must ensure the receipt of a completion certificate ahead of occupation for these builds. A completion certificate signifies that the building is compliant with building regulation and is safe. The information collated to satisfy golden thread requirements will be significant when collating the evidence of compliance and therefore completion in accordance with approvals.

Looking ahead

Many elements of the latest updates to the Building Safety Act have already become standard practice across some of the industry, however in terms of it being a mandatory requirement for all there is still work to be done.

It should be viewed as an opportunity for the industry to come together. For the implementation to be a success, solid communication strategies are crucial for ensuring all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities when it comes to maintaining the golden thread.

All disciplines need to collaborate closely to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding documentation requirements. The best way to ensure building safety, and therefore compliance, is to collaborate with the full supply chain early on in a project – ensure adequate data, scrutinise specifications, and highlight any elements of a specification that could be problematic in future. By doing so, we can make sure our products and buildings are safe.

Dean Asher is head of technical services at Polypipe Building Products

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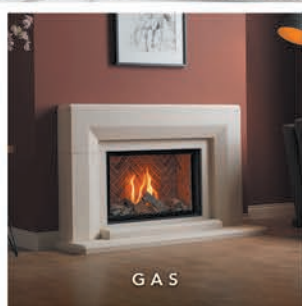
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A CENTRE FOR HANGZHOU, CHINA FOSTER + PARTNERS

Foster + Partners has won the international competition to design a centre for Hangzhou, the capital of China's Zhejiang province. The masterplan creates a green and interconnected mixed-use quarter, at the heart of the Yuhang District.

The masterplan creates a 24-hour district, where people can live, work and play with a mix of public amenities – including offices, nurseries, sports facilities and a shopping centre – in close proximity to vibrant, human-scale neighbourhoods.

The masterplan is organised around a 2.5 km central axis that runs the full length of the site, from north to south. The axis intersects with different bodies of water, generating five distinctive zones with unique characteristics.

Extensive landscaping along the central axis guides people through the district. Green space also bookends the site with a new public park to the north, and a new cultural hub that connects with a wetland to the south. Cultural landmarks – such as a public library, an exhibition hall and galleries – are located along the full length of the axis. This allows people across the district to access a rich programme of arts and culture.

A busy urban centre with a “dynamic skyline” has been created. Across the site, public transport responds to the needs of local users and connects seamlessly with the city's wider infrastructure systems. The project aims to achieve China's 3-star green rating, as well as LEED and WELL Community Gold certification.



PRINCE BAY DACHENG PLAZA, CHINA AEDAS

Established in 1979, the site in Beijing, China was originally the Dacheng Flour Factory – one of the most impressive landmarks of the area with an iconic cylindrical silo. Now with preservation of history in mind, Aedas Global design principal Kevin Wang has led his team to propose a design that balances the past and future.

The mixed-use project integrates offices, apartments, commerce, cultural and arts, and museum uses while facing “multiple restrictions” like the irregularly-shaped plot caused by the existing structures.

By placing the cultural functions and the museum vertically in one of the tallest buildings within the plot, the design echoes the cylindrical silos while creating a cultural interface for the city. The design follows a pattern of disparate heights as an attempt to connect the old and new buildings with a unified architectural language.

The building volume is further slimmed down to create a lively commercial interface. “By horizontally connecting four cubes of different sizes in two layers, they form a zigzag arrangement that eliminates the oppressive feeling usually brought about by inner high-rise residential and office towers,” commented the architects.

The residential towers are placed in the inner part of the plot, allowing the residents to enjoy a quiet environment and panoramic scenery of the sea. The commercial towers are placed along the main roads where it is easily accessible, with a double-height lobby space.

Built with heavy stone materials and glass curtain walls, the podium “resonates with the original historical features of the site while injecting vitality and realising a dialogue between the old and the new,” added the architects.

The project will be topped out by the end of the year, and the facade – completed at the exhibition centre – will be open to the public in mid October.

THE SPIRAL, NEW YORK BIG

Named the world's 'Best Tall Building' in its category by The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat at the organisation's annual conference, The Spiral in New York – designed by BIG in collaboration with Adamson Associates and structural engineer WSP Cantor Seinuk – measures 66 stories and 2.8 million ft², reaching a height of 1,031.5 ft. The building is BIG's first completed supertall, and first completed commercial high-rise in New York.

Developed by Tishman Speyer and built by Turner, The Spiral, which is pursuing LEED Silver certification, has officially opened its doors to major companies including Pfizer and HSBC. Located on West 34th Street between Hudson Boulevard and 10th Avenue, it sits alongside the elevated High Line and Bella Abzug Park on Manhattan's west side.

From street level, the tower draws the eye upwards to greenery that extends the High Line beyond West 34th Street and into the Manhattan skyline. The tower's glass panel facade looks into the building's lobby, which can be accessed via entrances on both Hudson Boulevard and 10th Avenue. The lobby incorporates seven different metals to honour the area's industrial history, with floor panels measured to the exact dimensions of the precast concrete planks spanning the High Line.

The Spiral "slowly reduces in volume as it rises, following the zoning envelope of the site," said Bjarke Ingels, founder and creative director, BIG, adding, "its stepping language resonates with the design aesthetics of classic Manhattan skyscrapers such as the Empire State Building, while its slender proportions and use of modern materials and detailing speak to the design features of contemporary high-rise architecture."

Landscaped terraces and hanging gardens climb the tower in a spiralling motion supplying each office floor with accessible terrace space. With approximately 13,000 ft² of outdoor space, a landscape of The Spiral's size has never been installed at or above 300 feet elevation in New York City.



TOUR & TAXIS LAKE SIDE, BRUSSELS MVRDV

The masterplan for Brussels' development area Lake Side on the site of Tour & Taxis consists of a collection of 17 buildings varying in height and designed by seven different architects, including MVRDV. Adding 800 diverse apartments, the plan creates a dense and lively Tour & Taxis neighbourhood, located near Brussels North station. The multifunctional live-work development area of about 140,000 m² offers a wide range of workspaces and venues for conferences and events, plus a nine-hectare park that creates a car-free and communal neighbourhood forming a bridge to the city. Commissioned by Belgian developer Nextensa, MVRDV is the "chief urbanist and plan supervisor" while also designing one of the masterplan's 17 buildings.

The masterplan is split into three sections. A mixed office and housing campus is on the eastern side of the plot (Zone A), with large-scale buildings "in continuity with the Herman Teirlinck and the Brussels Environment building." These buildings will incorporate the most "ambitious" sustainable principles in their construction, including designs with cross-laminated timber or lightweight hybrid structures.

The middle section of the masterplan is the courtyard, with 14 individual buildings clustered around a public garden for residents, with the ground floor of these buildings offering amenities and shops. All 14 buildings around the courtyard feature either green or "energy-producing" roofs.

The third section of the masterplan "blends the dense neighbourhood into the adjacent Tour & Taxis Park, with a more open space punctuated by a tower known as the Park Building," said the architects.

MVRDV and coordinating architect Bureau Bouwtechniek are working alongside six other teams who will help realise the masterplan within this framework. These include three Danish offices (3XN, Cobe, and Effekt Arkitekter) and three Belgian offices (Binst Architects, Polo, and Hub).

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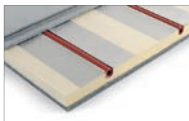
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RIBA CORE CURRICULUM CPD WEBINARS FROM NEWTON



In November **Newton Waterproofing** hosted a free CPD webinar with SpecifiedBy on 'A Designers Guide to 'Type C' Waterproofing to the New British Standard 8102:2022'. The seminar covered the updates to the most recent British Standard, the types of waterproofing systems available, an overview of how to manage water ingress with cavity drain (Type C) waterproofing systems, and the most important design considerations. Another CPD will be held with RIBA on Monday 4th December. The Newton CPD page will soon be releasing a series of free webinar dates throughout 2024.

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

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From new build hospitals to the refurbishment of existing NHS facilities, interior ceiling systems play an important part in boosting wellbeing. That's why acoustic ceiling manufacturer **OWA UK** is providing specifiers with a more holistic approach with its CPD on 'Acoustic and Hygienic Ceilings for Healthcare Premises'. The CPD takes a closer look at the requirements of Health Technical Memorandum 08-01: Acoustics and the Health Building Note 00-10 Part B: Walls and Ceilings, focusing on the challenges of creating different acoustic and soundproofing conditions in open plan areas and across multiple room types. OWA UK's CPD has been created to aid the effective specification of mineral and metal ceiling solutions, covering key issues such as aesthetic, acoustic and budget considerations, as well as maintenance and cleaning requirements, fire ratings, and the design of integrated lighting options and light reflective values to ensure accessibility. The CPD also covers the importance of good design, encouraged by NHS guidance, especially in public areas where staff, visitors and patients can directly benefit. This is reflected by OWA UK's experience of work in the private and NHS healthcare sectors, with the company most recently supplying its high-performance Cloud acoustic baffles to the new Paterson Building at The Christie specialist NHS cancer care centre in Manchester.

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This CPD from **Quantum** looks at the guidelines for the specification of a safe stairway. The presentation and discussion deals with the subject of how to make commercial, public or shared stairways safe and meet all current building regulation guidelines. The seminar lasts 40-60 minutes including time for a Q&A session. All seminars are part of the RIBA core curriculum syllabus and earn double CPD points for those attending the seminars. Now available via Teams, Zoom or Demio – for remote bookings please email for more information.

info@quantumflooring.co.uk www.quantumflooring.co.uk

THE BUILDING SAFETY ACT (2022): WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Join **Harwood Construction Consultancy** for a CPD session hosted by Danny Coomber, Head of Health & Safety at Harwood. With his extensive knowledge and over 40 years of experience in the construction industry, Danny will provide valuable insights into The Building Safety Act and amended Building Regulations. Danny will cover what you should know about dutyholders, duties, and ensuring compliance with Building Regulations for High-Risk Buildings (HRBs) and other construction projects.

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BRAND NEW CPD FROM LEVIAT



Leviat's latest CPD seminar, 'Considered Facade Solutions for Complex Applications' helps specifiers and building professionals understand the complex issues that can arise when designing masonry facades – crucial in order to keep control over the design process and to keep within budgeted construction costs.

On 21 November, Sara Dawes, one of the Regional Technical Sales Managers at Leviat, delves deeper into wall ties, damp proof coursing, large cavities, pier arrangements, as well as other slab zone components, and how they can impact the design of masonry support systems.

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

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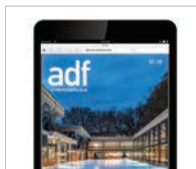


Urban Front are now presenting 'Specifying Hardwood Timber External Doorsets' CPD workshops online and can accommodate up to 20 participants for each available webinar date, or you can book a face to face if you prefer. The objective of this CPD presentation is to enthuse and inform architects about specifying hardwood internal and external doors it also includes detailed information

about Passivhaus doors. All the seminars last for about an hour and count for double points for architects and architectural assistants.

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futurebuild

the future of the built environment

Futurebuild ready for another year of taking a stand for a better built environment

Futurebuild, the built environment's most influential event for innovation and collaboration is back for its 18th year, taking place at London's ExCeL from 5-7 March 2024. The event, which is set to be the most impactful yet, will continue its mission in taking a stand for a better built environment, showcasing groundbreaking ideas, creative and inspirational innovations and crucial collaboration to help us set the stage for a greener, more resilient future.

More than 20,000 professionals from across the entire supply chain including architects, planners, urban designers, landscape architects, housebuilders, developers, consultants, contractors and manufacturers will come together to explore real sustainable building materials and practices and methods of delivering construction projects that are smart and sustainable. The exhibition will showcase over 250 leading brands showcasing innovation, and services that are scaling up sustainability across the built environment.

Martin Hurn, event director at Futurebuild expresses the event's objective of creating real, lasting and tangible change: "Futurebuild is more than just an event; it's a call for action. A platform to engage, debate and educate. It's where global industry leaders, experts and professionals passionate about improving their industry come together to shape the future, which requires substantial change and real courage. We exist to amplify the voices of others, bringing their ideas, initiatives, and innovations to the forefront of our

collective consciousness. By uniting the industry, we can drive real change and create a better built environment for future generations.

At the 2023 event we asked you to join us in taking a stand for a better built environment and voice something you cared passionately about. From the 5000+ pledges made, it is clear the industry is ready, and action is coming. This year we are asking you to now enact on those promises, and show us your (climate) stripes."

Collaboration is key

Futurebuild collaborates with over 70 partners and more than 500 speakers to make sure it can continue to spearhead innovation through collaboration in the built environment. Partners this year include UK Green Building Council, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the Passivhaus Trust, the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and many more.

2024 Exhibitors, Pilkington, highlighted the advantage of collaboration: "We're looking forward to engaging with a wide range of professionals at the event, including architects, property developers, and individuals. Last year we were able to meet people who were genuinely interested in our product."

What's new for 2024: more collaboration, more innovation

- Share your vision, show your stripes, and embrace the change will be the conference themes this year,



highlighting the importance of climate change and the need to take action to work together to achieve a better built environment.

- New Exhibitors will include Danosa, Saint-Gobain Ecophon, FRAMECAD®, O'Reilly Precast and also returning this year are Aico, Viessmann, Bosch, Aco technologies amongst many others.
- The National Retrofit Conference curated by the Retrofit Academy. It will consist of a three-day programme to examine in detail how we are to deliver retrofit across the UK at the scale needed, from policy to practical delivery.

Following the success of last year's launch, 2024 will see the return of the FutureX Innovation Area, where start-ups and SME's have a space to showcase their scalable innovations – including the 'Dragon's Den' style, Big Ideas Pitch, to recognise the best innovative idea or solution for 2024.

Even more innovation can be found in the Innovation Gallery, Big Innovation Pitch and Innovation Trail. This is where partners present products, solutions and materials to specifiers and innovators and showcase their latest game-changing innovations in front of a live audience, with winners being announced at the show.

Knowledge sharing

Visitors can expect seven zones, including The FutureX Innovation Area all with dedicated exhibitors and a targeted seminar programme for each zone. Other show sections include Buildings, Energy, Digital, Retrofit, Sustainable Infrastructure and Materials.

Join us in taking a stand and be a part of the solution for shaping the future of the built environment. For more information and exhibitor inquiries, please visit www.futurebuild.co.uk

Article submitted by Futurebuild

Futurebuild collaborates with over 70 partners and more than 500 speakers to make sure it can continue to spearhead innovation through collaboration in the built environment



THE GRAMOPHONE WORKS
LONDON

Finding a new groove

As a prominent adaptive reuse scheme on the Grand Union Canal in West London, The Gramophone Works sees Studio RHE employing modern timber technology to create a healthy work environment which also sustains the former record label HQ's vibrant spirit. Jack Wooler reports

Playing a new riff on a canalside landmark in west London, The Gramophone Works project has transformed a historic industrial and music industry building into an innovative commercial space. The building was formerly home to an industrial fabrics factory, and later the head office and manufacturing for Saga Records (who owned famous reggae label Trojan, leading the building to be seen as the epicentre of reggae in London).

A mix of refurbished, extended and new-build office spaces, the project utilises CLT and glulam timber to expand upon the retained structures. Across the nearly 90,000 ft² of space, The Gramophone Works offers a number of amenities for client Resolution Property to tempt SME businesses, including a canal-side cafe, communal reception facilities, secure bike parking, changing facilities, and generous external above-ground spaces.

Split between The Dock – the larger, 64,000 ft² structure which has been extended upwards by three timber storeys – and the smaller counterpart The Studio – 19,000 ft², with a slightly more industrial, concrete-heavy style – the composition now features distinctive new design which take cues from the historic heritage.

The client commissioned Studio RHE to realise this design, together with contractor Graham Construction. Together, the team have created a significant new commercial

hub that demonstrates a striking approach to adaptive reuse, one which minimises embodied carbon by almost completely reusing one building, as well as the existing two level structure beside it, and adding four additional floor levels of lightweight timber structure on top of the latter.

In part because of this construction method, the characterful waterside project has been rated BREEAM Excellent as well as Wired Gold, and has already gained industry acclaim for its sustainability credentials.

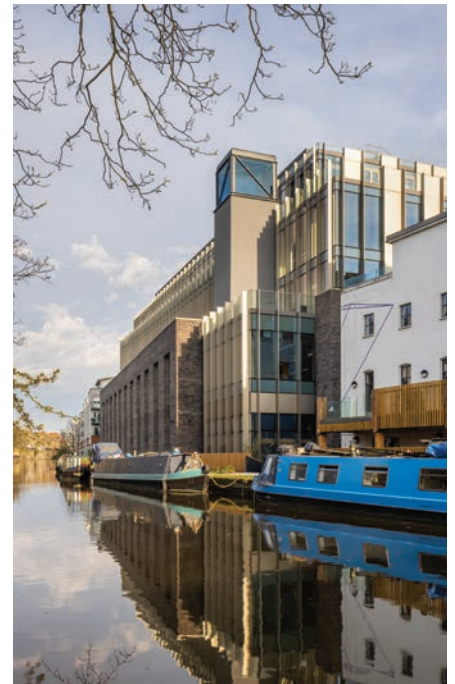
Waterside working

Located on the edge of the Grand Union Canal in Kensal Green, the area is bordered by Queen's Park, Notting Hill, Portobello Road and Ladbroke Grove – and is, say the architects, West London's "best-kept secret."

"It's a fringe area with a long creative history and a sense of individualism," explains Tom Foster, design director at project architects Studio RHE. "It offered an exciting opportunity to retain this history, while bringing much-needed workspaces to the area."

Among the new landscaped public realm between Kensal Road and the canal, the first phase of the project is already in use.

Completed in 2018, Phase One involved the comprehensive refurbishment and reinvention of the Saga Centre, formerly the HQ of the record label. A straightforward refurbishment of the original 20th century





There are a number of buildings on the site, including a Victorian former warehouse, as well as buildings from the 30s and 60s – all of which were able to be kept and updated

building, The Studio retains its industrial character, with original concrete columns and beams restored and displayed proudly.

The second phase is a more ‘transformative’ project, extending the existing Old Gramophone Works building outwards and upwards to six storeys. With the result labelled The Dock, this phase displays contrasting natures, deftly blending the retained concrete structure and the new timber extensions, so that each complements the other.

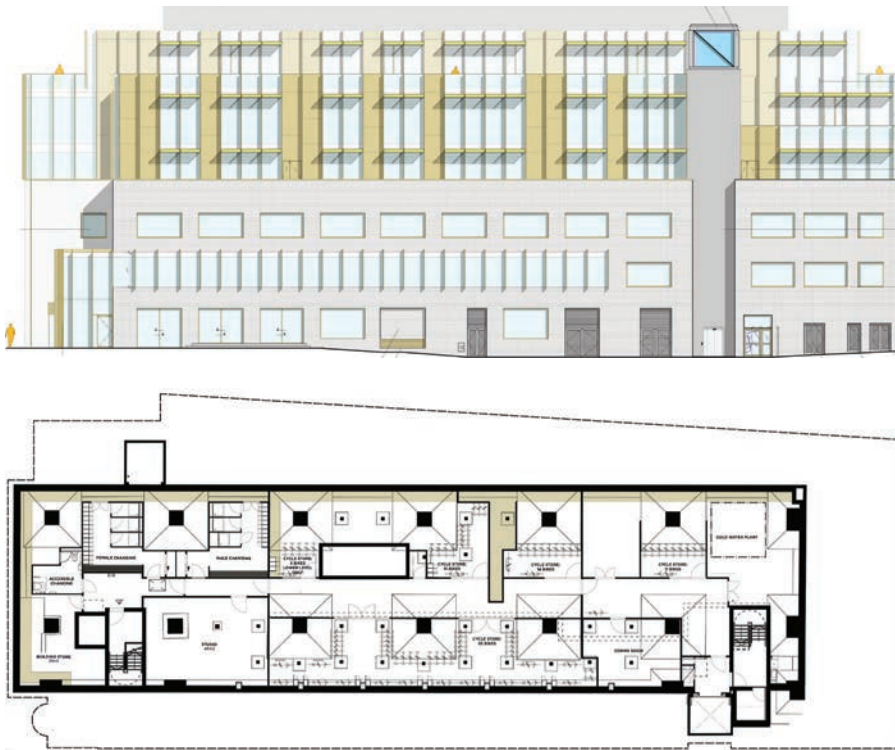
The new and refurbished parts have been designed in a way that their construction is clearly expressed inside and out, with structure and services left exposed, which also provides a “blank canvas” for the commercial spaces. “We left it as raw as

we could,” says Foster. “Where we’ve used timber, we wanted it to be expressed as timber, and where there’s concrete, we wanted to display it as such.”

“That was our philosophy throughout the buildings,” he continues, “as well as adding character, it helped create a sense of volume and light, highlighting the buildings’ historic uses.”

As well as open spaces and meeting rooms internally, every floor of The Dock offers external spaces – which Foster notes the team were “ahead of the game on,” being specified before the pandemic and the rising desire for prioritising wellness that followed in its wake.

According to Foster, the realised designs seek to “finally fulfil” the ambitions



of the buildings' original architects, and to quickly maximise the site's commercial potential, while bringing character and a sense of coherence to the properties. "There's a narrative in the buildings, from the vertical beams on [The Dock's] facade that loosely reference the grooves of a record, and the timber and concrete insides continuing this."

Pre-development

Prior to the acquisition of the site, the buildings retained had a long and interesting history. In 1919, Sandersons & Sons, a wallpaper and paint manufacturer, took over the plot. Later, in 1960, Marcel Rod of Art & Sound Ltd acquired the site, followed by Saga, which in 1975 bought B&C and Trojan Records, bringing reggae to Kensal Road with a notable roster of artists including Bob Marley and the Wailers and Jimmy Cliff.

There are a number of buildings on the site, including a Victorian former warehouse, as well as buildings from the 30s and 60s – all of which were able to be kept and updated.

While still a working studio and vinyl manufacturer, using recycled vinyl from Phillips records factory, the buildings became increasingly focused on recording studio use, and were "getting tighter and

tighter, with more bits added on." Latterly, the tenants had struggled with the changing nature of the music business and left the site open for acquisition.

Once the site was acquired by the client, the project was procured as a two stage tender process, with Graham Construction Group producing a 'value engineered contract' and associated documentation. With the architect having worked with the client before on other adaptive reuse workspaces – including 'Alphabeta' in Finsbury Square, Resolution Property soon approached Studio RHE to begin designs for the project.

"All of our previous projects with the client had been successful and profitable," says Foster, "so of course we welcomed this new opportunity."

Planning

Originally, planning was acquired just before Brexit occurred, a consent would have seen a full rebuild with a mix of residential units, office spaces, and a bowling alley. Following the split from the EU however, Foster explains that the client "did some analysis, and decided that wasn't the right route forwards."

"They wanted instead to progress a solely office scheme, which could be constructed faster and at a lower cost –



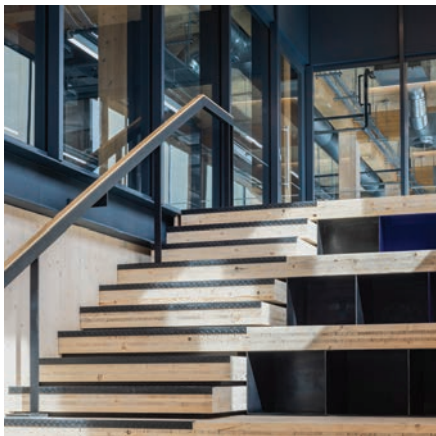
OUTWARDS & UPWARDS

The architects were able to extend the existing Old Gramophone Works factory upwards to six storeys, due to the concrete structure having been designed for future adaptability





“Where we’ve used timber, we wanted it to be expressed as timber, and where there’s concrete, we wanted to display it as such”



both of which could be achieved with the retention of the buildings.” Approaching a new application however, Foster says that this planning process saw a series of pre-application meetings and design review panel sessions to develop the design.

“We had a really positive relationship with the planners – they were really on board with us retaining the building, and could envision the community we were going to build around it.”

First thoughts

With the team in place, according to Foster, even when first visiting the site the practice was struck by its “eclectic feel.” He continues: “It’s got an interesting story, but this came with its own problems.” Despite its “clear potential,” the architect admits that when they first looked at the building, “it was a real dump; there was barbed wire everywhere.”

“There had been a community of people living and working there, and hosting

parties,” he explains. “Some parts were in use, some left vacant. The rooms had been split up into offices and studios, but in a very haphazard, quite chaotic way.” Despite this however, the site’s potential continued to shine through.

With the existing ex-factory building having been designed to be extended upwards in future years, they had heavily engineered structures with concrete columns and two five-storey circulation towers. What would become The Dock was “very suitable to build extensions above,” explains the architect.

Exciting design process

The brief was to “reinvent a much-loved but tired collection of industrial buildings to create a healthy, sustainable work campus,” and Foster says this meant the design process was “exciting, but challenging.” He continues: “Because it’s a ‘fringe’ location, we wanted to attract creative tenants – creating moments which are fun and enjoyable.”





MASSIVE IMPRESSIVE

The interiors make full aesthetic use of the massive retained internal concrete columns, and other raw concrete elements of the structure

“We wanted to ensure the building could meet wide parameters, addressing the human factor of what people actually want from a space.” As part of this, a key tenet of the proposed design was the desire not just to renew the structure, but to “celebrate” its prominence in the community. Foster says this meant “not covering any of it up.”

Helping enable the retention of the existing “amazing” structure of the building, as well as adding the four stories above, the team was pleased to find that the original concrete frame “was still in good condition.”

“That’s one of the great things about retrofit – if the structure is strong, you immediately start with a sense of character that would be very hard to recreate.”

One notable retention was the circulation towers in The Dock, which the architect explains have become “something of a landmark” along the canal since they were

constructed, bringing further character to the scheme.

Both towers are designed to seamlessly rise to the height of the extended building, each now topped by a glass ‘feature’ room for use as an office meeting space.

“The team were able to design the open office spaces inside this skeleton,” says Foster, “saving time and money, and reducing the environmental impact of the project.”

On the exterior of The Dock, facade design was informed through parametric analysis of thermal comfort, carbon emissions and daylight access.

The south facade was modelled with and without adjacent tall properties, and windows and external shading design were sized to allow removal of external shading when adjacent property overshadows the property in the future.

Additionally, the choice of timber material allowed the team to build more



floors without extensive demolition or structural strengthening of existing structure, to have a faster and cost effective build.

Crumbling concrete

Despite the opportunities the site offered, there were a number of restrictions that made the construction process “challenging.”

Not least of these was the age and condition of the buildings. A number of unforeseen problems soon arose, with the concrete discovered to be crumbling in some areas. Remedial structural engineering works were therefore necessary, and the size, age and quality of materials in the properties was varied.

According to Foster, available space in the existing buildings was a major issue: “The warehouse for instance doesn’t have huge ceiling heights by today’s standard, which made it a bit of a squeeze to

install the necessary services on the ground and first floors.”

This was ameliorated with taller floor-to-ceiling heights in the new build timber floors however, and The Dock was also made wider to open the spaces up. The widening did require new foundations, but none were necessary for the parts above the original building.

Joining these old and new structures also introduced both technical and organisational challenges. One of the more innovative approaches in the structure of The Dock especially, the net gain above involved installing a timber frame atop the existing concrete, using a steel transfer structure to align the two.

Considering the challenges of retrofit in general, though the gains were “more than worth it,” Foster tells me the adaptive retrofit project exemplified how the process is far from easy: “It can be tough.

The retention of the existing concrete alone has been calculated as saving 1108 m³ of carbon





Sometimes a ceiling is not where you'd want it, or there's a column in the middle of a space you wish wasn't there."

"It's definitely a harder road. There's more risks, more issues that are hard to foresee, but the results speak for themselves."

Overcoming the timber stigma

Beyond the restrictive areas of the site, a number of other challenges had to be addressed by the team. In the early stages of the project, the pandemic caused significant disruption: "It was tough through Covid, restricting work across the board. The CLT structure was a great help here though. Brought in from offsite, and able to be assembled onsite by a small team, it worked really well in the situation."

Despite its benefits here however, the use of timber itself provided some issues. Though arguably unfounded – with evidence showing mass timber can be safer in a fire than steel in some cases (wood

burning slowly and predictably, and charred timber even helping to protect and insulate the unburnt wood beneath) – fears around building taller structures from timber have arguably intensified in the UK post-Grenfell.

Studio RHE believes strongly in the use of timber however, and as such was more than prepared to fight for it, "trying to use as much as possible" in all their projects, despite the targeting of timber in the wake of Grenfell.

"Before we started onsite, the regulations were changing very quickly, especially around insulation and fire. We of course had a real rigour with all the fire legislation decisions, however, how we interfaced between the materials, how each would perform, which soon allayed any concerns."

"The main problem at the moment seems to be the insurance," says Foster, "which I believe has set the industry back, when really timber structures are a remarkable solution."

In the face of these challenges, the

CLT BENEFITS

The lightweight CLT structure of the new upper floors was a great help during the pandemic, being built offsite and assembled onsite by a small team



“People want more than a building – they want a story, they want sustainability, safety, wellness – we knew we could deliver this here, and that it would attract the desired users”

architect explains that, as a design team, the key to overcoming all these issues was “professionalism within the shifting economic, logistical and legislative environment resulting from Brexit, Covid, Grenfell, and trusting in the use of structural timber during a time of evolving compliance legislation.”

Performance

More than overcoming these hurdles, Foster says the buildings deliver “above and beyond expectations,” increasing the net area of The Dock by over 500 f² since the design stage, and both buildings offer venerable sustainability.

According to the architect, the team employed a “multi-faceted” approach to sustainability, beginning with the decision to retain the existing building – “the most sustainable building being the one that’s already there.”

The retention of the existing concrete alone has been calculated as saving 1,108 m³ of carbon, (avoiding emissions of 655 TCO₂e A), not accounting for the

materials that would have to replace this structure.

Then, the timber extensions perform extremely well on carbon. Across the 1,044 m² of CLT and glulam beams, 1,222 TCO₂e of biogenic carbon has been sequestered, which is close to the upfront carbon arising from all structural works (1,259 TCO₂e), with the timber having upfront carbon that’s 30% lower than the notional LETI 2030 target.

All the timber used was FSC accredited, sourced sustainably from Europe, and the lack of finishing materials further reduced emissions. Alongside the timber, a number of other measures included high levels of insulation to avoid heat loss, solar reflective glazing and solar shading fins and louvres, energy efficient lighting and external lights with daylight and occupancy sensors, and rooftop photovoltaic solar panels with monitoring and targeting.

100% of site demolition spoil was sent for recycling, the aluminium used in the curtain walling is from 100% recycled



Gilberts energises the workplace environment

The expansion, reconfiguration and refurbishment of the London headquarters of a global real estate company has created a workplace fit for the future with wellbeing for people and planet at its heart. The 1990s office block re-work has attained BREEAM Excellent and WELL Platinum – being the UK's largest fully fitted project to achieve the latter certification for the quality of air, water and light within a building. The accreditations have been won in part through the building services devised by engineering consultants Troup Bywaters + Anders and delivered by MALA Engineering. DBA Air Solutions supplied Gilberts' grilles and diffusers for use across the 10 floors of the 144,500 sq ft that form the workspace. Throughout the spaces, Gilberts GSL linear slot diffusers, predominantly in four-slot configuration, have been installed in bulkheads to deliver fresh air, directing the airflow horizontally or vertically as required by each location. Gilberts' GECA eggcrate grilles extract the used air.

01253 766911 info@gilbertsblackpool.com



Style divides space again for prestigious London etc.venues facility

Having previously divided the 1st floor conference facility when etc.venues initially moved into 155 Bishopsgate, London, Style was asked to add further space flexibility when the company recently expanded into the sizeable 2nd floor area. Working with Synergy Architects, and contractor, KPS Partnership Style recommended installing a single, 21 metre long Dorma Huppe Variflex moveable wall down the length of the main conference space. A further five Variflex walls were then installed evenly spaced throughout the room, allowing individual meeting rooms to be created as demand dictates. Maintaining natural light throughout the space, pass-doors are all fully glazed, with an adjacent panel also being fully glazed in each instance. For added wow factor, solid panels feature eye-catching graphics.

www.style-partitions.co.uk

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More than merely overcoming these hurdles, Foster says the buildings deliver “above and beyond expectations,” increasing the net area of The Dock by over 500 ft² since the design stage

sources, and 95% of the curtain walling components used are recyclable.

“There are also a lot of ecological enhancements throughout the project,” says Foster, listing bat boxes, four kinds of bird boxes and 287 m² of wildflower green roofing help to support the ecology of local species.

The project has been awarded BREEAM ‘Excellent,’ with all energy metering and submetering in accordance with the CIBSE TM39 recommendations.

“We were extremely happy,” concludes Foster on the sustainability credentials achieved. “With the retention of the carbon in the structure and the low-carbon building methods employed, the project is essentially net zero.”

Ahead of the curve

The project has already been hailed among users and peers alike, with the project having won the Environmental Prize of the New London Awards 2021 as

well as being shortlisted for the Commercial Retrofit Prize in the same awards.

Demonstrating the potential of adaptive reuse, and of sustainable, cost-effective timber structures rigorously designed for safety performance, Foster hopes that the project will help “break the barrier” to wider use of timber in construction.

Looking back on the project’s success, and how “ahead of the curve” the project is, Foster says that while “adaptive reuse projects aren’t always simple, and there are development costs involved,” that “it’s more than worth it.”

“People want more than a building – they want a story, they want sustainability, safety, wellness – we knew we could deliver this here, and that it would attract the desired users.”

He concludes: “We’ve been through all the problems that adaptive reuse entails, but through this, we’ve proved that you can truly reinvent a structure, while retaining its character.” ■

Brick Awards 2023 Royal Lancaster Hotel, London



The best in brick

Earlier this month the Brick Development Association announced this year's winners of the 2023 Brick Awards, in a ceremony in London's West End hosted by TV architect George Clarke. Attended by a number of architectural practices, the awards celebrate the very best in current design using brick.

Category: Supreme Award, Sustainability & Craftsmanship

Project: Shrewsbury Flaxmill

Brick Manufacturer: Northcot Brick

Architect: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Putting this 225-year-old Grade 1 listed building 'back to work' after 30 years of dereliction required comprehensive repair, retrofitting and bold insertions to safeguard the next 100 years. The pyramidal Malt Kiln is re-purposed as a dramatic new entrance and vertical circulation providing level access to upper floors. The unheated circulation space is emblematic of a project striving towards a circular economy.

Category: Architect's Choice

Project: Yoko Ono Lennon Centre

Brick Manufacturer: Forterra

Architect: Ellis Williams Architects

The Yoko Ono Lennon Centre is a unique teaching and performance building at the University of Liverpool. It has been designed by Liverpool School of Architecture graduates based at UK architecture practice Ellis Williams.

Category: Individual Housing Development

Project: Red House

Brick Manufacturer: Ibstock Brick

Architect: David Kohn Architects

The Red House, a contemporary home in rural Dorset designed by David Kohn Architects, was awarded RIBA House of the Year 2022.



Shrewsbury Flaxmill

Category: Small Housing Development

Project: Becontree Estate

Brick Manufacturer: Michelmersh Brick Holdings

Architect: Archio

Archio has completed a new type of villa within the Becontree Estate, as part of a major house-building programme in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Commissioned by Be First, the design is the product of deep research into the characteristics of the estate, delivering a 'gentle density' of 19 residences, and a community space, across two buildings.

Category: Medium Housing Development

Project: The Tannery

Brick Manufacturer: Forterra

Architect: Mitchell Eley Gould Architects
Bamford Blend, a red clay brick produced exclusively for Taylor Maxwell by Forterra, was selected as the primary building material for 43 new homes, constructed as part of the redevelopment of the Tannery, a derelict industrial area. The Tannery's buildings are a patchwork of materials,



Yoko Ono Lennon Centre

including stone, ashlar and rubble as well as red brick and slatted timber.

Category: Large Housing Development

Project: Kindred House

Brick Manufacturer: Wienerberger

Architect: Pitman Tozer Architects

Kindred House Croydon is a 25-storey mixed-use development on the site of a former car park next to a flyover in central Croydon. The building is clad in more than half a million Zircon bricks, all hand laid from a scaffold. Its massing is a stepped form that helps to break up the mass of the building and create a composition of adjoining slender proportions.

Category: Urban Regeneration

Project: Queen's Quay

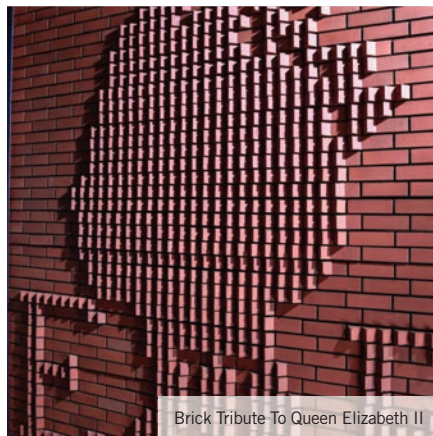
Brick Manufacturer: Michelmersh Brick Holdings and Ibstock Brick

Architect: MAST Architects

Queens Quay is the first residential phase of an ambitious programme to revitalise long-standing derelict land in Clydebank. The development's prominent location and its wider role as a precedent for future phases called for a high quality architectural and



Black Country Living Museum



Brick Tribute To Queen Elizabeth II

urban design response, creating a gateway to the masterplan site and a placemaking exemplar which encapsulates overarching quality aspirations.

Category: Housebuilder

Taylor Wimpey

Development 1: Ockley Park

Brick Manufacturer: Ibstock Brick

Architect: Taylor Wimpey

Development 2: Tudor Park

Brick Manufacturer: Ibstock Brick

Architect: Taylor Wimpey/BM3.

Taylor Wimpey are one of the UK's leading residential developers, operating across five divisions and at a local level from 22 regional businesses across the UK. They have a clear purpose to build great homes and create thriving communities.

Category: Public

Project: Black Country Living Museum

Brick Manufacturer: Michelmersh Brick Holdings

Architect: Napier Clarke Architects

"The £7.36m project would be a new gateway to a £30m expansion of the Museum. As the client, I have felt involved, in control and supported; a lockstep approach which has seen Napier Clarke's vision realised, as well as our needs stated. No mean feat, in surely the most uncertain times for a client-architect relationship."

– Andrew Lovett OBE, chief executive, Black Country Living Museum

Category: Education

Project: White House School

Brick Manufacturer: Ibstock Brick

Architect: vPPR Architects

PPR Architects has completed a new early-years education building for the White

House Preparatory School and Woodentops Kindergarten in Lambeth, South London. Located within a highly constrained site beside a Grade II Listed school building, it features a double-pitch roof and duotone brick design that responds to the surrounding context.

Category: Commercial

Project: Globe Point

Brick Manufacturer: Michelmersh Brick Holdings

Architect: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Globe Point is an impressive example of sustainable architecture, with its handmade brickwork, energy-efficient features, and community-focused design. Globe Point makes exemplary use of its brickwork.

The building's facade is constructed with Freshfield Lane's First Quality Multi bricks, which were chosen for their warm, earthy feel and timelessly authentic stock sand faced texture, as well as their sustainability.

Category: Refurbishment

Project: St Mary's Convent

Brick Manufacturer: Wienerberger

Architect: Hall McKnight

The convent was an under-used building with significant degrees of vacant, unused space. The project brief called for a new entrance space that would allow areas of the convent to be brought back into use in order to accommodate a wide range of functions.

Category: Innovation

Project: Brick Tribute To Queen Elizabeth II

Brick Manufacturer: Ketley Brick Company

Architect: Richard Dyer

Constructed to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, this unique representation of

HM Queen Elizabeth II made entirely in brick relief is an innovative and lasting tribute. It demonstrates a new way of creating complex patterns, designs, images or logos in brickwork relief without the need for costly bespoke bricks, and is currently on display at The Brickworks Museum in Southampton.

Category: Specialist Brickwork Contractor

Winner: Lyons & Annoot

Development 1: 56 Shepherds Bush Green

Location: London

Brick Manufacturer: Ibstock Brick

Architect: Flanagan Lawrence

Development 2: Gate West

Brick Manufacturer: Non-UK

Architect: Gort Scott

Lyons & Annoot are one of the longest established and continuously trading masonry contractors. Winning its first Brick Award in 1992, the firm's longevity speaks volumes.

Category: Worldwide

Project: International Rugby Experience

Architect: Niall McLoughlin Architects

The International Rugby Experience in Limerick is a new cultural institution and visitor experience to honour the worldwide game of rugby. The seven storey building provides an interactive visitor experience, ground floor retail area and first floor cafe adjacent to a double-height entrance hall.

Category: Contractors' Choice

Project: Kensington Palace Orangery

Brick Manufacturer: Bulmer Brick & Tile Company

Architect: Purcell Architects

Kensington Palace Orangery, was built in 1704-05 for Mary's younger sister, Anne, who became Queen when William died. In 2019, plans were submitted to build the education centre at the palace, where a two-floor extension to the Orangery will allow enough space for a lunch and afternoon tea restaurant, catering facilities and an outdoor terrace.

More information for the winners & commended projects can be found on the BDA's website: www.brick.org.uk

Article submitted by Brick Development Association

Zentia take home Made In Britain Award 2023

Congratulations are in order for Zentia, one of the UK's leaders in complete ceiling solutions, for being announced as the Grand Final Winner of the Made in Britain Awards 2023, a category within the North East Business Awards.

Following Zentia's win in the Northumberland and Tyneside heat of the North East Business Awards 2023, the company went head-to-head with the other sub-regional heat winners to be named overall North East winners for the Made in Britain category. Zentia was subsequently crowned winners at the Grand Final, which took place on 26th September 2023 at Hardwick Hall, and was hosted by Iwan Thomas MBE.

The Made in Britain category aims to recognise and champion businesses that are promoting manufacturing and production in the UK. Zentia places a focus on UK manufacturing, with its home base in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, it is the UK's only manufacturer of complete ceiling solutions. Its UK focus also extends to technical and specification experts, as well as creating short supply chains and reliable



deliveries, making it a deserving winner for the Made in Britain category.

Dirk Jaspers, Managing Director at Zentia said: "This makes us very proud. Our company is only three and a half years old, but we have evolved to impressive new heights. We have invested in assets, in people, and in our premises in Gateshead, and we

have also invested in partnerships across the value chain in the UK. We excite our employees, please our customers and thrill our shareholders, so we are very honoured to receive this award."

info@zentia.com
www.zentia.com/en-gb

GEZE UK celebrates 160 years with bubbles, bunting and balloons



GEZE, one of the world's largest manufacturers of innovative and modern door, window and safety technology has been celebrating 160 years in business across all of its subsidiaries around the world throughout 2023. GEZE UK invited all colleagues across its eight offices nationwide to join in the celebration and have some fun. Each office was decorated with bunting and balloons and staff were sent cakes and biscuits iced with GEZE 160 years as well as bubbles to blow and other goodies. Under the motto hundred + sixty years young GEZE has been celebrating across the globe. In addition a microsite www.160years.geze.com has been created detailing the company's history. Founded in 1863, in Germany, the business remains in the same family and has grown to employ over 3,000 people globally, with 37 subsidiaries in 22 countries. Kaz Spiewakowski, MD for GEZE UK said: "It's fantastic to see so many of our GEZE UK colleagues joining in the fun to mark our company's 160th anniversary. It is an incredible achievement that at 160 years old the company is still family owned and continues to grow and develop innovative products".

01543 443000 www.geze.co.uk

Mapei Zero line: portfolio extended to products for the building sector



Mapei UK has extended its range of low environmental impact products. The new Zero Line now includes six building products, now available in the UK – from cementitious mortars to pre-blended grout. The portfolio will provide contractors and specifiers with durable, high-performance products with CO₂ fully offset in the entire life cycle. CO₂ emissions – measured throughout the life cycle of products from the Zero line in 2023 using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, verified and certified with EPDs – have been offset through the acquisition of certified carbon credits in support of renewable energy and forestry protection projects. The portfolio demonstrates Mapei's commitment to the planet, to people and to biodiversity. Giulio Morandini, head of Mapei's building products line, explained: "Products for the building industry from the Mapei Zero line combine sustainability and durability. Through fatigue tests carried out at an external independent laboratory, by applying cyclical dynamic loads, we can demonstrate that our Zero mortars are more resistant to cracking compared with normal concrete, including high quality concrete."

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A sustainable future for Lecico Bathrooms



Lecico Bathrooms hosted their highly anticipated event, “The Future of Sustainable Bathrooms”, at Sustainable Workspaces, County Hall, London on the 22nd of June 2023.

With a steadfast commitment to promoting sustainable products and environmental consciousness, Lecico Bathrooms organised the event to foster dialogue, share insights, and introduce new innovative products to inspire positive change within the bathroom industry. The event welcomed architects, interior designers, developers, contractors, retailers, and merchants interested in sustainable bathroom design.

“The Future of Sustainable Bathrooms” event captured the imagination of participants and provided a platform for professionals passionate about sustainability to delve into the latest advancements in sustainable bathroom solutions. Lecico Bathrooms introduced new and innovative concepts aimed at revolutionizing the way we approach sustainability in the bathrooms industry.

The thought-provoking program featured panel discussions and interactive product demonstrations. The panel discussion offered insights from industry leaders and experts on sustainability within the bathrooms sector. The discussion explored new technology and innovation, circular bathrooms, water conservation, emerging trends, and the role of technology in reducing our environmental impact.

Lecico Bathrooms showcased their beautiful new range of Design Series sanitaryware and furniture, which incorporates water saving low-flush technology. Lecico Bathrooms also demonstrated Propelair, the world’s lowest water-flush WC.

Additionally, the event unveiled a new exclusive UK partnership with Repeat Materials, a new cutting-edge sustainable range of bathroom panel solutions which sets new standards in sustainability and aesthetics. Repeat Materials are manufactured from up to 99% recycled materials and offer a truly circular solution as the products can be recycled and reused

when a building’s life ends. The product demonstrations showcased how water saving products and renewable materials can achieve sustainable objectives coupled with aesthetic beauty and comfort.

“The overwhelming success of ‘The Future of Sustainable Bathrooms’ event reinforces our belief that it is our responsibility to provide sustainable bathroom solutions as an imperative, to play our part in changing the world we live in through a more sustainable built environment” said Antony Thompson, Managing Director at Lecico Bathrooms.

As Lecico Bathrooms reflects on the event, it is already considering new and innovative future products and initiatives to further advance sustainability in the bathrooms sector. The company remains committed to pioneering sustainable solutions that enhance both the functionality and the aesthetic appeal of bathrooms solutions.

01234 244 030
www.lecico.co.uk

Designed to be combined – The new Zara and Layla ranges from Lecico Bathrooms Design Series



A well-designed bathroom is not just a physical space, but a sanctuary in which you start and end your day, each detail a reflection of what personifies you. Whether you choose to create a luxurious haven or a minimalistic escape, every aspect should contribute to creating a space that truly embodies and reflects your tastes and personality.

The new Zara and Layla ranges from Lecico Bathrooms Design Series allow you to discover endless possibilities of style fusion by mixing and matching. Unleash your creativity and elevate your bathroom space by seamlessly blending different design styles. Whether it's the

juxtaposition of modern and traditional elements or the harmonious combination of minimalism and maximalism, the new Zara and Layla ranges provide the inspiration that will help you achieve a unique and personalised look.

Embrace the art of style fusion and create a space that reflects your individuality.

Mix, match & make a statement

The new Zara range of sanitaryware and furniture offer sharp lines, architectural elegance, and geometric precision, while the curves of the new Layla range are soft and add a touch of fluidity and organic beauty. This combination creates a balance

between sharp lines and graceful curves, resulting in a visually captivating and balanced bathroom design.

Both Zara and Layla ranges include furniture with modern and striking colour options.

The ranges also contain a wide range of handles and worktops that can be paired to create a truly unique design. Layla freestanding washbasins can be paired with Italian marble, dark concrete, oak or slate grey worktops with five different colours available for handles in two design styles. The ranges also include vanity washbasins and a wide range of sanitaryware featuring wall hung, back-to-wall, close coupled and comfort height WC's.



About Lecico Bathrooms

Lecico Bathrooms are one of the world's largest manufacturers of sanitaryware, and export to over 50 countries worldwide. Lecico Bathrooms factories employ more than 6,000 people and have the capacity to produce more than 6.2 million pieces of sanitaryware per year. Lecico Bathrooms are number two supplier in the UK market, deliver exceptional quality, and are committed to offering market leading levels of customer service.

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Vicaima Group reaffirms ESG commitment and sets targets driven by the sustainable development goals

The Group shares its strategy, practices and objectives within the scope of the ESG criteria, and its alignment with the 2030 United Nations (UN) Agenda.

Driven by the motto “Together We Build the Future”, Vicaima Group has just presented the sustainability strategy that will guide the Group’s performance until 2026. With a transversal approach and integrated ESG criteria, the Group is reinforcing its responsibility and ambition to continually reduce the impact of its activity, as well as contributing to a more sustainable construction industry in favour of a better planet.

Focusing on transparency and the involvement of all stakeholders in this important mission, the Vicaima Group shares its strategy, implemented practices and goals within the scope of the ESG (Environment, Social and Corporate Governance) criteria, as well as its alignment with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), aimed at developing sustainable, transparent and socially responsible business.

In the words of Arlindo da Costa Leite, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Vicaima Group: “We’re making a long-term commitment which reflects our desire to integrate and ensure the alignment of the Vicaima Group’s strategy with the sustainable development agenda. We see this moment as an important and transformative milestone for our business, and it’s not merely meant to be a simple description of initiatives, goals, objectives or wishes.”

The reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the adoption of circular economy principles, along with the optimisation of materials and resources, minimising waste and residues, are now seen by the Vicaima Group as key innovation catalysts, based on a production model with a strategy to create value with responsibility.

Significant reduction in emissions led to increased efficiency

In 2022, the Vicaima Group achieved a 15% reduction in the tCO₂e/sales emissions index, reflecting an absolute decrease of 578 tCO₂e, despite the increase in production volume.



despite the increase in production volume.

These figures are the result of the implementation of energy efficiency projects and other specific initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions, such as investment in more efficient production equipment, production of renewable energy for self-consumption or focus on electric mobility.

All these policies and activities are part of a holistic perspective for the Organisation, based, according to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, on a “growth strategy founded on a path of innovation and differentiation, seeking a balanced social, environmental and economic dimension”.

Four foundation pillars of an ongoing strategy

The Vicaima Group has identified four fundamental pillars in its strategy for integrating ESG issues into its business: People and Community, Climate Action, Sustainable and Innovative Products and Responsible Business. These aspects represent the Group’s focus and represent the relevant material topics in the ESG sphere resulting from a consultation process with internal stakeholders and from the definition of the Materiality Matrix.

Based on its own projects and the association with partner organisations, the Vicaima Group has been reinforcing its commitment to solidarity, environmental, safety, health and well-being initiatives, as well as to valuing Human Capital. In

this last sphere, it is worth highlighting the implementation of several projects aimed at qualifying and diversifying employees’ skills, as well as synergies with the educational and academic world, with a view to promoting and enhancing youth employment.

These are priorities reflecting the Vicaima Group’s identity, given that, as Arlindo da Costa Leite points out: “our path is based on a strong corporate integrity, entrepreneurship, rigour, innovation and social commitment, translating into a combination of human capital and business development”.

The art of transforming and adding value to wood

Currently, the Vicaima Group is amongst the largest private economic groups in Portugal, operating in over 36 markets worldwide and with a direct presence in Spain and the United Kingdom. Employing more than 800 people, it continuously strives to strengthen its commitment to technology, organisation, human resources and the environment.

The Vicaima Group’s 2022 Sustainability Report is available to view in full at: www.vicaima.com/en-gb/sustainability#inicio

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vicaima

MADEIRAS SGPS, S.A.

Renson UK achieves ISO 9001 certification



Following a stringent auditing process, leading ventilation louvre specialist **Renson UK** has achieved ISO 9001 certification, joining the 1% of elite UK businesses to be accredited. ISO 9001 is recognised internationally as the world's most widely adopted Quality Management System, demonstrating a company's ability to deliver high-quality services to customers on a continuous basis. Martin Daniels, Renson UK's National Sales Manager, comments: "Over the past year, we've implemented internal re-structuring in order to drive business growth and to ensure better customer service, as well as price adjustments in order to be more compatible with the wider louvre and ventilation product market. We've had a careful look at all our offerings, and following changes in personnel, system changes, and streamlining of production processes, we are now able to offer the high-quality and market-leading products associated with Renson, at competitive prices. Achieving ISO 9001, which is recognised as an international standard, is both an honour and a testament to our team's commitment to delivering great service for our customers."

www.renson.eu/en-gb/for-professionals/contact

Tremco wins at the CFJ Awards 2023



Tremco, a brand of Tremco CPG UK, won in the Healthcare – Care Homes Category alongside Beveridge Flooring Ltd and Danfloor UK at the CFJ Awards 2023. The CFJ Awards is an annual celebration of excellence within the flooring industry. Tremco's victory underscores its commitment to innovation and excellence in flooring solutions. The award-winning

project harnessed the power of Tremco's full system solution where three Tremco products ES100 Damp-Proof Membrane, CS190 Gritty Primer and SX300-NA Smoothing Compound were applied.

hello@tremcocpg.com www.tremco-europe.com/en-gb

Saniflo UK extends submersible pump range



Saniflo UK – part of the SFA Group – has expanded its portfolio of submersible pumps with rainwater and waste water pumping solutions just in time for the winter weather. The Sanipump VX range are submersible pumps for lifting wastewater and rainwater. It offers a robust range of cast iron pumps with vortex technology and single and three phase options.

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Triton Systems tank waterproof behemoth basement near Birmingham



The creation of a basement complex that has taken a year to construct and which extends beneath an access road to link the main property with a separate building, is making use of multiple waterproofing products from the range of **Triton Systems**. The 900 m² across main house tunnel and adjacent house reinforced concrete sub-structure to what will be a six-bedroom private residence, with amenities including a swimming pool and gym, has been excavated and formed by Leicester based Beautiful Basements, in a contract valued at £800K. As well as using Triton's formable rubber Adcor and CEMflex steel waterbar products to provide continuity between the multiple sections, all of the ready mixed concrete supplied to the site by Flomix Concrete also incorporates Triton's TT waterproofing admixture. The Managing Director of Beautiful Basements, Andy Parkes, commented: "This has been a long and complex contract but it is progressing well. We always use the Triton membranes and perimeter channels as our go-to solution for these sorts of contracts, as we have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the company going back more than a decade."

info@tritonsystems.co.uk www.tritonsystems.co.uk

Wraptite® airtightness for new self-build house



A self-build house in County Monaghan, Ireland, has been built incorporating the high-performing Wraptite air-barrier from the **A. Proctor Group**. The project, designed by McGuigan Architects, Monaghan, consists of a 250 m² detached private residence developed by Mark Skinnader. The client, Mark Skinnader, explains: "In the early stages of the project, the A. Proctor Group technical representative visited the site to identify a suitable airtight system. As there is no cavity in the proposed wall build-up, we chose the Wraptite breather membrane to act as a vapour permeable and airtight barrier at the sheathing board layer." The house design is a load-bearing Lightweight Steel Frame Construction. The steel frame system's exterior finish is formed of a 12 mm Y-Wall Sheathing Board, the Wraptite Airtight Breather Membrane, and a 150 mm Sto EPS Insulated Render System. The U-Value and condensation risk calculations carried out by the A. Proctor Group on the proposed through wall build-up confirmed no risk of condensation. The membrane provided both a damage resistant air barrier layer and effective secondary weather protection in one installation process.

01250 872261 www.proctorgroup.com

Garador launches new Salisbury side-hinged door



Garador has added an exciting new product to its extensive range of garage doors. The new Salisbury side hinged garage door has a modern attractive design, with traditional cross windows allowing natural light inside your garage. It replicates the already popular Salisbury up & over garage door design, but in a side-hinged door format. This means it is perfect for multi-functional garages as it allows you to access your items without having to lift the whole door. This is very convenient when you need to store or retrieve gardening tools, bicycles or other bulky items. The Salisbury is constructed from high-grade galvanised steel and comes with two-point locking and concealed hinges for security, as well as sturdy weatherproof sealing. The new Salisbury side-hinged door comes in two versions: Version 1, at 7'0" wide, includes small window boundary edging pieces, important to ensure the window frames fit securely, while Version 2, at 7'6" wide, does not require this boundary edging on the windows. Both styles are available in a choice of 20 colours. Find out more about these great looking, value for money garage doors at www.garador.co.uk

01935 443 700 [www.garador.co.uk/garador-range/side-hinged-doors/steel-panel/salisbury-\(version-1\).aspx](http://www.garador.co.uk/garador-range/side-hinged-doors/steel-panel/salisbury-(version-1).aspx)

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Crittall's window display



A town centre shopping mall in Stroud, Gloucestershire, has been given a new lease of life with Crittall playing a significant role in the makeover.

Dransfield Properties opted for a complete transformation of the Five Valleys Shopping Centre to include new retail outlets, as well as enhanced car parking, office space and a community hub with library.

Key to the interior appeal was replacing a

jumble of disparate shopfronts and signage with a more ordered, modern appearance. Sheffield-based Dixon Dawson Architects selected Crittall W20 steel profiles for the task.

"The client wanted a particular style of glazing. I was familiar with Crittall and saw it as the best solution," said Guy Dixon Dawson. "The whole mall was remodelled; frankly it was a bit of a mess



beforehand. Now, everything, ceiling to floor, has been upgraded."

The result is a simplified approach with Crittall's slender steel profiled windows and doors providing a uniform appearance. All the cold form doors were a mix of hinged and automatic sliders.

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75 mm window system launched

Kestrel Aluminium Systems has launched a high-performance 75 mm aluminium window system. The new window is designed to meet the strict performance requirements of both commercial and domestic applications such as homes, schools, offices, healthcare and leisure facilities. Options can be selected between modular thermal levels to enable compliance with project and regulatory requirements, with the benefits of value engineering achieving U values as low as 1.2W/m²K based on standard regulatory window configuration and using double glazed units. Variants include open outside hung & top hung casements, open in tilt before turn, tilt only & turn only and fixed lights. Glazing options at launch include IGU and infill panels 24-32 mm thick. The 75 mm system continues Kestrel's popular method of corner jointing, using mechanical cleats in all corners of each profile to ensure stability and durability. Mechanical jointing is also present on the transoms and mullions. The window system has been successfully tested to the latest PAS24:2022 standard utilising an innovative bead foot design, enabling internal and external glazing of fixed lights whilst maintaining enhanced security.

0121 333 3575 www.kestrelaluminium.co.uk



University upgrades library access

As part of Bournemouth University's ongoing commitment to improving the student and staff experience, TORMAX UK was recently contracted to install a new automatic main entrance to the Sir Michael Cobham Library. Consisting of two sets of double-leaf automatic sliding doors, the outer doors open to welcome visitors into a lobby area before the inner doors slide apart to allow access into the library's main reception. This configuration allows a smooth through-flow of pedestrians while also reducing heat loss from the building and contributing to a lower carbon footprint. Ensuring quick response times to approaching foot traffic, as well as adaptable opening and closing speeds and hold-open time, the doors are powered by the Swiss-designed, TORMAX iMotion 2202 operators. Featuring a state-of-the-art microprocessor control unit, a user-friendly interface allows staff to adjust door movement to reflect foot traffic levels and external weather conditions.

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Thinking outside the box

Danesch Missaghian from Rundum Meir UK explains why bespoke garage doors enable specifiers to take a different, more creative approach to the design of the garage and building as a whole

With residential garages being a common sight in many developments, has this led us to adopt a largely uniform, unimaginative approach to garage design? Typically a stand-alone building, a single-storey building attached to the main house or integrated into the house's ground floor accommodation, a garage will usually have a standard rectangular one piece up and over door. But thinking outside the box, beyond the standard types of doors, and instead designing the garage around a bespoke door can open up vast creative potential, and enable the garage itself to take on a whole new form or purpose.

What is the garage for?

Is the garage intended to be used for parking the car, or will it serve another purpose, such as accommodating a workshop or home office? And anyone involved in high end residential will be aware of many more unusual purposes for garages, including where clients want the garage to accommodate a collection of classic cars, so it becomes their own personal museum or showroom.

In many cases the garage door is more of an afterthought in terms of how it is integrated into the rest of the building. Usually, unless a specific type of garage door is requested by a client

Designing the garage around a bespoke door can open up vast creative potential, and enable the garage itself to take on a whole new form or purpose



or a particularly unusual building design requires it, rarely is the garage door considered at an early stage or regarded as a 'design feature.'

Convention may be that 'a garage door is a garage door' – as long as it opens and closes then the only creative options lie with its outward appearance (be it the colour or choosing either a traditional or contemporary style.)

However, given that a garage can offer a range of functions, surely the design of the door should reflect this? A bespoke door will offer a much wider variety of opening styles and materials for its manufacture and allow wider or taller spans to be accommodated. Not only can this give the door itself a distinctive visual appearance and operating style, but it can actually facilitate a completely different design to the garage and/or the building.

In many developments, the garage door is neglected in respect of the materials and size. But given how a large proportion of

a building's frontage may be taken up by a garage door, giving careful consideration to its appearance and the role it can play in creating versatile garage spaces can give a fresh design perspective.

Maximising aesthetics

Outstanding building design can be achieved by integrating a bespoke garage door that complements or even enhances the envelope or adjacent garage building. Choosing the wrong door because it is too small, for example, or the materials do not reflect the rest of the property, could compromise the design overall and be a disappointing result.

This is why 'made to measure' garage doors have far-reaching aesthetic benefits. From the ability to open sideways and the scope to use more unusual materials and finishes, bespoke garage doors offer much more creative potential than standard doors.

Creating a stand-out feature with the garage door, however, may be the complete opposite of what you are seeking to achieve. More appropriate to the project may be a garage door that is barely noticeable by being thoughtfully integrated into an area of timber cladding, for example, or one that could be regarded as a facade door.

Again, having the creative freedom to choose a great range of materials for the manufacture of a bespoke garage door means that creating a subtle or understated garage door is equally possible. An overhead or side-sliding sectional garage door, for example, could be clad using the same materials as the surrounding facade for a virtually seamless appearance.

Defining a building's style

It is also important to note that a bespoke garage door does not have to be linear. With a side sliding 'round the corner' door or a side sectional garage door, curves of all descriptions can be accommodated including convex, concave and S-shapes.

This versatility enables the building's design to be defined by the garage door and for garages to be created in buildings that would normally be regarded as unsuitable. Twin side-sliding garage doors each curving round 180° can even be combined to create a round free-standing garage with dual access.

Danesch Missaghian is director of Rundum Meir UK

A steel window survey from ASWS



With 60 years' experience as a specialist steel window refurbishment and replacement company, **ASWS** is offering a valuable survey service to property owners, contractors and architects. ASWS has already completed eight surveys in 2023, so far, across London, including Mayfair, Haringey, Marylebone and a few on Regents Street and Oxford Street. The survey and the information gained can be collated to produce a comprehensive bill of quantities and a specification document for pricing purposes, which can be invaluable in the preparation of cost plans and project budgets.

www.asws.co.uk

Renaissance for W20 steel windows



As home renovation remains popular, this has resulted in **SWA** members reporting a higher than usual demand for the replacement of the traditional W20 style windows. Not only do the slimline sections offer slender sightlines compared to PVC-U and timber frames, but their strength also provides good security and long-term robustness. The advancements

made in glass technology and the availability of much improved weather-stripping means that the modern W20 window delivers far better energy performance than their single-glazed predecessors.

www.steel-window-association.co.uk



More choice from Hörmann

Hörmann UK has announced the introduction of the **HART 42**, a side sliding sectional garage door which features a choice of twelve decorative infill panels including coloured glazed options, steel perforated and textured panels. **HART 42** combines functionality, together with clean aesthetics to produce a garage door which will provide a striking addition to the facade of any home. The door is manufactured from lightweight, strong aluminium, and features large, evenly spaced panels for an elegant and harmonious appearance. With its side sliding, convenient operation it is ideal for both new and retrofit garages where the ceiling space needs to be kept free due to construction restrictions or storage requirements. Featuring 42 mm panels, **HART 42** has twin rollers with a rounded floor rail for reliable operation and smooth door travel. A continuous bottom seal provides protection against the weather to Class 2 for water tightness and air permeability. For safe operation finger trap protection is provided both internally and externally as standard, together with an automatic safety cut-out.

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Renson UK contributes to the redevelopment of London's iconic Perfume Factory

Leading ventilation louvre specialist Renson UK has supplied its market leading systems to the infamous Perfume Factory in London, contributing to an overall redevelopment project.

Designed by leading UK architecture and interior design firm Carey Jones Chapman Tolcher and managed by Ardmore Construction, the redevelopment at the site of the former Elizabeth Arden Perfume Factory marks a significant milestone for the site.

Comprising of five buildings, including a 31-storey tower, the development consists of over 600 bespoke student rooms and 85 build-to-rent apartments, along with a seven-storey commercial office space with retail units on the ground floor. All five towers are constructed using traditional brickwork, including the 96 m central structure, which forms the site's iconic identifier.

It was critical to Carey Jones Chapman Tolcher that all parties involved in the project had experience in the construction of high-



rise developments, and with 50 years of experience in designing, developing and manufacturing high-performance ventilation products, Renson UK was the perfect candidate for the supply of louvres.

For this project, Renson UK supplied its 414 glazed in louvres, which are made from extruded aluminium sections and stainless steel 304 insect screen.

414 louvres have a blade pitch of 33.3 mm and can accommodate most glazing thicknesses. They also have a nominal free area of 50%, and are weather and aerodynamically tested to EN 13030, having achieved a class A weathering classification.

Renson UK supplies fully tested, high-quality louvres and mechanical ventilation products for every application.

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Rigidity results worthy of a trophy at Wembley Alto apartments

Part of a winning team at Wembley's new Alto development, Sapphire has once again won praise for its innovative balcony design and unrivalled 'end to end' support. Sapphire worked with Wates Construction to deliver 372 balconies for this stunning project for Quintain Estates. The Wembley Alto project, had an array of challenges from the long projection of the balconies to the internal fan extraction into the balconies. Other requirements included the need for top down installation to save time, GRC effect on balconies and balcony lighting. Each challenge is what makes Wembley Alto a dynamic residential haven with its four stunning towers.

Sapphire's innovative Glide-On™ connectors enabled a Rigid connection back to the building that far outperforms the British Standards L/180 structural deflection limits. With some of the balconies having a 1,725 mm projection, by BS EN Standards, this would be allowed to deflect by 9.6 mm at



the extent. Sapphire's Rigidity point load tests showed minimal deflections with an average of 1.25 mm recorded. Using Sapphire's Counter Balance Lifter (CBL) the client was able to install balconies as the scaffold was struck, saving time on the construction

schedule. Sapphire's innovative Cassette® design and simplicity enabled the integration of the extraction fans into the balconies, hiding the often-unpleasant fans from sight.

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Wraptite® airtightness protection for Northampton school for boys

The Wraptite external air barrier system from the A. Proctor Group has been chosen for its airtight benefits for a Department for Education (DfE) funded project of the offsite construction of Northampton School for Boys Multi-Academy Trust.

Utilising Seismic technology for the Northampton school modules will deliver important benefits; it is 75% faster and achieves a 47% improvement in value compared to traditional construction techniques; it even offers a 33% improvement in speed when compared with standard modular construction. In terms of sustainability, Seismic delivers significant reductions in both operational and embodied carbon of up to 70%. This is achieved through factors including design efficiency, materials selection and manufacturing effectiveness, leading to limited wastage.

A vital element of modern design and construction is to maximise energy efficiency.



Controlling spiralling energy costs is particularly key in educational facilities such as schools and colleges.

The Wraptite air barrier system is a safe and simplified membrane system. It provides a fully self-adhered vapour permeable air barrier certified by the BBA and combines the critical properties of vapour permeability and airtightness. This approach saves on both the labour and material costs associated with achieving the energy efficiency demands in buildings.

The self-adhesive design is perfectly suited to offsite manufacture, easy and quick to apply. Installing Wraptite at a low level in the factory enables the membrane to be easily applied and avoids the risks of working at height. Offsite installation also enables the product to be installed in completely dry conditions to ensure full adhesion in a quality-controlled environment to deliver the required airtightness requirements.

The high vapour permeability of the Wraptite air barrier allows the substrate beneath to dry quickly and moisture vapour to escape and reduces the likelihood of mould, mildew, condensation, timber distortion and metal corrosion.

Also specified alongside Wraptite was Protech GM Super a high-performance proprietary reinforced gas barrier that has been specifically designed by the A. Proctor Group to conform with the latest guidance.

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Cladding colour trends

Looking at colour choices for the facades of a residential property or development, Lisa Grosse from Cedral looks at current trends which clients are buying into



The science of how different colours in our surroundings make an impact on how we feel and its application in construction and design has a long history. Sir Isaac Newton created the first colour wheel, proving that light contains the full spectrum of the rainbow. In the 19th century Goethe studied the impact of colour on human psychology and since then we have advanced the understanding of the subconscious and physiological human responses to colour. At the same time, different colours go in and out of fashion.

When considering the different options for an exterior of a home, the choice of materials including timber, stone, brick, metal, concrete, glass and fibre cement offer a variety of colours which will be integral to the overall design and appearance of the facade.

Most recently, muted, monochrome colour palettes have been particularly popular for domestic facades in the UK, particularly when it comes to cladding. Top colour choices for cladding have been white/coastal whitewash and light grey often used in tonal schemes.

However, there are now several significant trends that are having an influence on the choice of colour for facades, and more specifically, cladding. One is the impact of biophilia, which is all about touch and feel and using natural products that create a sense of wellbeing. The use of natural colours is very much in vogue right now, as is the use of wood-effect, sustainably produced panels such as fibre cement cladding.

Changing tastes & lifestyle trends

At Cedral we recently conducted our largest research study into changing tastes and lifestyle trends and found that public taste has veered towards natural colours and away from more garish or bright hues. The research also found that muted colours are less desirable now. Warm clay colours and earthy tones are proving very popular. Similarly, with a move to bring the outside into homes, natural colours which refer to minerals and plants, have seen a resurgence.

In addition to the use of natural colours, there seems to be a greater interest in being more expressive and experimental





Most recently, muted, monochrome colour palettes have been particularly popular for domestic facades in the UK, particularly in relation to cladding

with colour for domestic exteriors, playing with layers, and for the outside to make a statement. From front doors to window frames and masonry, there are tremendous opportunities to be creative with colour – whether with smaller finishing touches or at scale. Black, charcoal, vibrant greens and cream hues are among the shades that are trending. Other colour selections coming to the fore are natural greens, grey brown, blue grey and sand yellow.

Factors to consider when choosing a colour

The relatively recent concept of modular living, involving creating different spaces within a home and garden for different styles of living, is also influencing the use of colour. In the interior, colour offers a way to highlight different areas within the living space. It can also be integral in creating distinctive living spaces such as garden offices or for a new kitchen extension.

In making the right choice of colour for the exterior there are a range of factors to consider. These are everything from the context, the local landscape and the building's orientation to the light. Durability is another key factor, particularly when it comes to outdoor colours at the mercy of the environment. Another factor relates to the aesthetics of the home, taking into account the colour of the roof, windows, doors and shutters or even the surrounding vegetation.

Creating an accent wall with a different coloured cladding or a textured finish with a patterned colour scheme and mixing in additional colours are good ways to break up expanses of large white walls.



Contrasting colours – such as blue and orange, red and green or yellow and purple – will create a dramatic effect when used together. Harmonious colours – such as blue and green and orange and red create a tranquil, balanced effect when used together. Their receding qualities are also a great way to give a smaller building more impact. A way to create a strong visual appeal is to choose a colour such as a red for the facade and then to add accessories or outdoor plants in contrasting colours. Another is to use ‘pops’ of contrasting colours for the trim.

Light colours for homes' exteriors are enhanced by even the slightest ray of sunshine, and are ideal therefore for shaded houses and cladding. They also help to highlight the architectural design, making the house look larger. White is a clean and sophisticated choice for any home exterior and works well in every setting, but a sun-facing wall may be blinding at certain times of the day. Greens and blues help the exterior blend in within a natural environment. Warm natural colours – reds, terracottas and ochres – give a warmth and original touch.

Crucially, it's important to have a good understanding of the local authority's attitude towards acceptable style and colour when it comes to cladding especially for conservation areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The right choice of colour can make a big difference to the aesthetic appeal of a building and the decision about the colour scheme of the external envelope should be given careful consideration.

Lisa Grosse is brand manager at Cedral



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Senior's SF62 system gets to work in Newcastle's landmark office development

An innovative aluminium curtain wall solution from Senior Architectural Systems has helped create a stunning facade for Bank House, a new state of the art office development in the heart of Newcastle.

At 12 storeys, Bank House is the tallest new build office building to have been constructed in the city in recent years and as such, required a robust solution to create the large expanses of floor to ceiling glazing designed by Ryder Architecture. Senior's innovative SF62 aluminium curtain wall system was the ideal choice, achieving the desired slim sightlines with the added reassurance of being able to accommodate greater structural movement.

Combining an attractive robust aluminium frame with a wider 62 mm box, the increased rebate size of Senior's SF62 system means that it is possible to provide either additional clearance between the section and infill, so that the system is able to allow the glass to move more, or greater edge cover for issues such as guarding. Benefitting from the



inherent strength of its aluminium frame, the new SF62 curtain wall system can also support transom loads of up to 750 kg and achieve longer glazing spans without the need for additional supporting steel to be used.

Senior's SF62 aluminium curtain wall system was fabricated and installed at Bank House by facade specialists Topside Group for main contractor Bowmer & Kirkland, who has constructed the new development

to achieve a BREAAAM rating of 'excellent'. Like all of Senior's aluminium fenestration products, the SF62 curtain wall system is manufactured from recycled aluminium and can be fully recycled at the end of the building's life. While in situ, Senior's SF62 aluminium curtain wall system provides exceptional thermal performance to ensure compliance with the latest Part L requirements and the slim sightlines help maximise the flow of natural light.

The stunning glazed facade also provides the open-plan office interiors with spectacular 360° views of the surrounding city, including many of the area's most famous landmarks such as Tyne Bridge, river and Quayside quarter.

For more information please search for Senior Architectural Systems on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

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www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk

Valcan to launch brand new website



Valcan is excited to announce the launch of its new and improved website, designed to enhance the user experience for construction professionals including architects, designers, and installers. The new website aims to make it even easier to select the perfect cladding product for their projects. One of the key additions to

the website is the ability to book CPD and training sessions online. The new website is now more mobile responsive, allowing users to access the site and its resources conveniently from any device.

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Panasonic expands Portfolio



Panasonic Heating & Cooling Solutions has expanded its portfolio of high-quality HVAC solutions to offer a wide choice to suit a variety of residential, commercial and industrial applications. The portfolio includes air-cooled and water-cooled chillers and heat pumps, fan coil units,

water source heat pumps, and rooftop units. The comprehensive range provides a fully customisable design and offers an ideal solution for a multitude of projects. The expanded series can be viewed in the product range catalogue on Panasonic's website.

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EJOT Colorfast fasteners receive globally renowned FM Approved mark



EJOT has secured FM approval for all the most widely used products in its Colorfast range of colour-matched self-drilling fasteners, providing specifiers and contractors with another independently verified 'stamp of approval' for the suitability of the range's key products when used for fixing sandwich panels, or built-up envelope systems designed to the same standard. It is a development that provides additional assurance when specifying screws for coloured roofing and facade sheets. While Colorfast's original metal parent product has long been FM Approved, this latest approval classifies the products in their own right. The third party certification by FM Approvals, a division of American property insurance giant FM Global, confirms EJOT's stated performance capabilities for the fasteners in line with the stringent requirements of an international standard that applies to fully tested systems. Under the scheme, every element of the building envelope's proposed construction is assessed down to the smallest fasteners, which is why it represents the 'gold standard' for approvals.

01977 687040 www.ejot.co.uk/Colorfast_FM_Approval

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Titon's MVHR HRV Q Plus range just got bigger (the size hasn't though)

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Titon
ventilation systems



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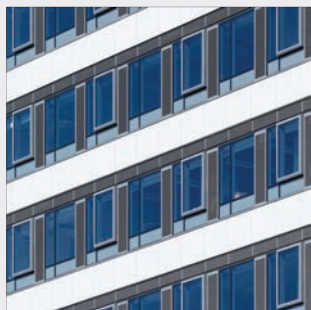
- Professional Nationwide Installation Service
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- Efficient eco Design Wood Burning
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01709 581168 info@futurefires.co.uk www.futurefires.co.uk



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Integrated Ventilation Solutions – The key to creating healthy spaces



In the wake of a global pandemic, the idea of 'creating healthy spaces' has never been more important. While modern buildings may be better insulated than ever, saving us valuable energy, without effective ventilation, this can lead to poor indoor air quality, which can cause a number of health problems. It's one reason why Renson UK has developed a more strategic approach to ventilation – the Integrated Ventilation Solution (IVS). IVS is a custom-made louvre design made to interface with the external facade via the curtain wall or window and mechanical connections, while hidden behind is the thermal protection, the plenums and the duct connections for mechanical installations. Renson has designed this unique one-unit, combined solution to offer outstanding performance and reliability. All products offer outstanding weathertightness and all louvres have undergone rigorous BSRIA testing to EN13030:2001. Renson UK National Sales Manager Martin Daniels explains: "At Renson UK, we're proud to have brought IVS to the market, and we're confident that this unique, one-unit, and extremely effective solution will transform today's louvre market."

www.renson.eu/en-gb/for-professionals/contact

NVHRe hybrid ventilation sets the standard



Breathing Buildings, a leading provider of controlled natural and hybrid ventilation systems, has introduced the new NVHRe to its award-winning range of Natural Ventilation with Heat Recycling (NVHR®) systems, raising the bar on energy efficient ventilation. The key

difference between the original NVHR® range and the new Natural Ventilation with Heat Recycling and Heat Recovery (NVHRe) is an addition of a low resistance heat exchanger cell within the unit. This allows the unit to benefit from both heat recycling and heat recovery, reclaiming even more heat than previous models.

01223 450 060 www.breathingbuildings.com

Introducing new HeartFelt® shapes



Hunter Douglas Architectural, a pioneer in innovative architectural solutions, has introduced two new styles to its HeartFelt® Origami product: Weave and Curve. Building on the success of the original Pyramid felt ceiling, based on the traditional Japanese folding techniques, these new additions

extend architects' creative possibilities. HeartFelt® Origami Curve comprises two variants for open ceilings, the S-Curve, a symmetrical composition, and A-Curve, which is asymmetrical.

01604 648229 www.hunterdouglas.co.uk

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20 years
of reaching
new heights

Sto acoustic system helps refurbished town hall sound just right

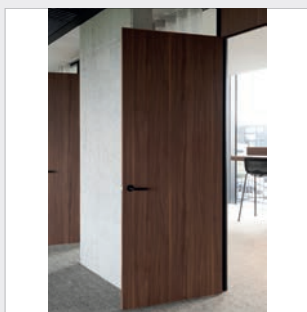


© Chris Humphreys Photography

A 140-year old Category A listed building which has been restored and redeveloped now boasts greatly improved acoustics thanks to the use of the StoSilent Distance ceiling system from Sto. The StoSilent Distance system was installed in the main hall area of the Town Hall building in Paisley, Scotland as part of the venue's transformation. "The highly ornate design of the original ceilings meant that this was a complicated installation, especially given the number of people using the building and the large volume of ambient noise which they could generate," explains Sto's acoustics project manager, James Gosling. "A different solution was originally considered, but Sto's specialist installer, Allied Interiors of Glasgow, recommended the StoSilent Distance system as a more appropriate and highly successful alternative." "The original Town Hall ceilings incorporate various beams, recessed areas and ornate detailing, and the StoSilent Distance system had to be designed to integrate with all these features, and yet still create the perfect acoustic environment which the building needed," adds James.

0330 024 2666 www.sto.co.uk

Unlock Possibilities with HPL for Doors



When it comes to doors, you need something that not only looks great from the off, but that can withstand daily use and stay looking that way. That's why HPL for Doors from Unilin Panels makes sense. Johnny Maris, product manager, Unilin Panels, says: "We started producing HPL entirely in-house in 2022 to give us complete control over the design and quality of every part of our chipboard and MDF panels. Being in charge of every aspect of production ensures that we can provide projects with off-the-shelf doors in exclusive designs and a range of high-performance cores, including Chipboard Air, a lightweight, non-structural specification that's made specifically for door use." The HPL for Doors collection is available in three formats that are immediately available from stock. What's more, there's a matching standard HPL panel also instantly available, so you can create a beautifully coordinated look across your interior: doors, walls, desks, shelves and furniture can all be given the same high quality look and tough, low-maintenance surface. HPL is durable, highly impact and scratch resistant, resists fading, staining and moisture, and is easy to maintain.

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

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Schlüter-LIPROTEC shines a light on interior design

Schlüter-Systems has strengthened its portfolio of bathroom systems through the availability of advanced control light technology which enhances aesthetics while also offering almost unlimited creative choice. Encompassing the latest LED technology, Schlüter-LIPROTEC creates restful lighting for relaxing spaces, or bright, colourful lighting for a busy family bathroom or kitchen. Schlüter-LIPROTEC has a broad range of applications, from direct or indirect lighting effects, enabling the interior designer, architect or property owner to illuminate feature walls, pictures, tiled areas such as shower enclosures or study spaces, kitchen countertops and stairways; in fact, anywhere the creative mind can conceive a plan for. The collection offers the option of neutral white, warm white or RGB+W LEDs; the latter allowing for coloured and white LEDs on a single strip, to generate coloured light or temperature-controllable white light. The system can be programmed to deliver a choice of 16 million colours via a Bluetooth app and remote control.

01530 813396 www.schluter.co.uk

Keller Kitchens awarded with quality standard



Keller Kitchens and parent company, DKG Group have been awarded the German quality standard TÜV GS certificate for the entire portfolio. The GS quality mark is a German quality mark awarded to furniture that meets the highest safety standards. Keller's National Sales Manager in the UK, Tim Spann, comments: "The Keller and DKG team is extremely proud of this massive achievement; the design team works tirelessly all year round to produce safe, designed, high-quality, sustainable and attainable products and receiving a recognition like this makes it all worthwhile."

www.kellerkitchens.com

No tanking required with a Kinedo



The British Standards Institute (BSI) codes of practice state that all substrates should be waterproofed before tiling using a 'suitable proprietary tanking membrane system'. A wise measure given that tiles, grout, plasterboard and adhesives are not always sufficient to stop water penetration. Adding a membrane to waterproof the area will help eliminate leaks and mitigate any possibility of damp and mould. One of the benefits of installing Kinedo cubicles is that this particular regulation doesn't apply. Thanks to the clever design of the units the assembly itself provides all the waterproofing required.

020 8842 0033 www.kinedo.co.uk

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Inevitably as sustainable requirements within the construction sector rise, waterproofing of wet areas is also facing stricter regulation. Rising issues and failures across shower, wet room and bathroom POD installations with water ingress and leaks, prompted NHBC to issue the technical guidance 9.2/06 in the area of substrates for tiling with special attention to tanking systems used beneath tiles. Providing unrivalled peace of mind for everyone involved, wedi has an array of products to meet this new guidance.

wedi is certified: wedi products satisfy the construction guidelines and regulations that are valid in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. As part of the ARDEX family, the manufacturer can offer not only 100% waterproof and loadbearing XPS tilebacker boards and shower systems with all required certifications (CE, UKCA, UKNI, BBA, EPD, VOC A+) but also, compatible adhesives and grouts for direct tiling without the need of additional waterproofing.

wedi is modular: products are designed to interlock with one another and work with clever accessories in order to truly complete the waterproofing of the installation, forming the well-known wedi system.

wedi is comprehensive: whatever the project is – renovation or new build, stud or block, wood or concrete, wet room, bathroom or wellness – a multitude of suitable wedi products offer a full system solution that

provide the same assurances from the floor to the ceiling.

wedi is fundamental: wedi substructures provide basic requirements such as 100% watertightness without the need for additional tanking, excellent thermal insulation (0.036W/mK) and vertical weight load capability (133kgs/m²) whilst creating enduring value as a result.

wedi is versatile: even with the most farsighted planning, the unexpected can happen. The versatility and customisable nature of wedi products allows for subsequent changes with little effort.

wedi is guaranteed: insulating, decoupling, cladding, sealing, constructing, designing – whatever the requirement wedi has the solution – a whole bathroom from a single

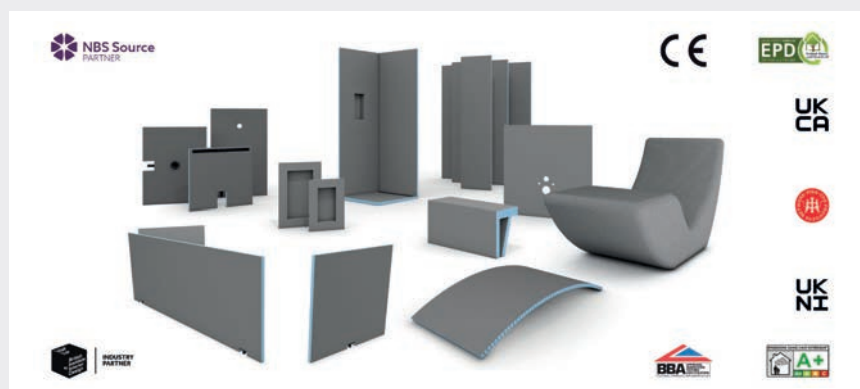
source with a 10 year quality guarantee and a 100% watertight finish.

wedi is effortless: wedi's premium quality product range characterised by its diversity, simplicity and reliability saves time, cost and labour whilst also cutting back on risks associated with additional installation steps.

wedi's technical support service is outstanding: on-site support and training for qualifying projects is also available.

For perfect compliance with sustainable requirements, choose wedi's comprehensive waterproofing system marked to EAD 030437-00-0503. Plan green think blue – know your XPS!

0161 864 2336 enquiries@wedi.co.uk
www.wedi.net





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It's the details that make the difference. Learn more at [schluter.co.uk](https://www.schluter.co.uk)



The shape of water efficiency

Tom Reynolds from the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (BMA) highlights the increasing urgency for a focus on water efficiency in new builds and retrofits

Water is rarely out of the headlines these days. Whether it's about water companies and the issues around water pipe leakage or sewage pumped into our rivers and coastal regions. We have seasonal droughts putting enormous pressure on water reserves, and domestic water usage has risen 2% since 2017/18. A mix of poor national water management and climate change means UK water shortages are set to worsen. Research released in May 2023 by Kingfisher and Cebr estimates that seven out of 17 regions in England are set to experience severe water stress by 2030, rising to 12 by 2040.

Action, therefore, is urgently needed, and we all need to play a part.

The UK Government's 'Plan for Water' sets out actions for stronger regulation, increased investment in infrastructure, cleaning our waterways, and, among other actions, delivering a 'Roadmap to Water Efficiency' in new developments and retrofits.

We all hope the Government's plan works, but what can individuals do to help avert a water crisis? What should architects be looking for to deliver a sustainable and water-efficient bathroom environment?

As the trade association representing UK bathroom manufacturers, the BMA and its members rely on a steady water supply for our products to work effectively. The bathroom space – often that sanctuary of escapism is a heavy water user. Around 70% of household water is used here, and bathroom manufacturers have long identified this challenge, bringing innovative products to market that can provide the opportunity to use less water without compromising aesthetics, functionality and user experience.

How to conserve water

Simple changes can often make a significant impact. Showering is one of the biggest energy and water-using activities; however, specifying smart showers is a step in the right direction. They can reduce or stop the water flow when someone is not directly



under the showerhead, achieving significant savings. Reducing time in the shower can go even further, and some digital showers can have timers, prompts, and personalised programmes to fit a routine within a domestic setting.

Flow regulators can reduce the water from 12 to nine litres per minute for mixer showers. And, for ultimate water efficiency, greywater recycling systems filter water to be reused for garden irrigation or the toilet. Savvy and environment-conscious clients seeking the best eco-friendly bathroom options will thank you for this addition.

The humble tap can also utilise water-saving design innovations. Flow regulators and aerators can be specified and do not impact the experience. In addition, cold start taps can prevent the unintentional operation of the boiler, preventing energy wastage. Using sensor-controlled fixtures in communal commercial spaces is another way to achieve significant savings.

In architecture, where innovation meets creation, it's crucial to remember that sustainability and water conservation buzzwords should never be dismissed as mere trends



At this moment, architects can transform their designs into catalysts for change, champions of sustainability, and guardians of our water resources

Turning attention to the toilet, innovations like the dual flush valve have allowed consumers to significantly reduce their water use, lowering flush volumes from 13 to just four litres.

Reputable bathroom manufacturers spend a great deal of time and effort developing water-saving devices for the domestic market and large commercial installations. Take, for example, hotels. The Sustainable Hospitality Alliance estimates that an average hotel can use 1,500 litres of water per room daily. Many establishments nudge their customers to consider water consumption within their personal spaces, but what about communal areas?

Many communal urinal washrooms are set to flush frequently throughout the day, even if not used. However, recent innovations have resulted in the development of infrared sensor-controlled systems that automatically flush each urinal after use. One UK trial of this system within one hotel achieved a water saving of 84%.

Driving the uptake of water efficiency

In architecture, where innovation meets creation, it's crucial to remember that sustainability and water conservation buzzwords should never be dismissed as mere trends. Even in a place like the UK, where rain often graces our landscape, we are not impervious to the ever-encroaching effects of climate change. It takes only a brief drought to plunge regions into water scarcity.

In response, Defra has charted a clear course for England, aiming to reduce water consumption per capita by 20% compared to the 2019/20 baseline. They envision a future where water labelling becomes ubiquitous on all water-utilising products, from taps and showers to WCs and appliances. The regulations for this mandatory water label are on the horizon, poised for imminent implementation. It is a cause that the BMA and its members have embraced wholeheartedly, actively participating and contributing to this endeavour.

Many international brands have already aligned with the Unified Water Label (UWL). This European-wide initiative clearly labels sanitary ware and bathroom fittings such as toilets, taps, and shower heads, showing how much water each product uses. The UWL, which we hope Defra will adopt, is similar to the energy efficiency labels we often see: red for high use and green for low usage, and it also shows how many litres of water per minute it uses. With many major brands and retailers using the label, the choice of designs, styles, and availability is uncompromised.

The truth is that water-efficient products are already within our grasp, tailored for both domestic and commercial settings. Yet, as stakeholders in our industry, we must collectively amplify the message that these products stand ready for adoption, urging their widespread use.

The successful adoption of water-saving products, their proper utilisation, and the cultivation of water-efficient behaviours depend on the unwavering commitment of our entire sector. This commitment extends to architects and designers whose creative influence shapes the built environment. I implore architects to initiate the dialogue with their clients, illuminating the substantial long-term benefits to their finances and environmental footprint.

At this moment, architects can transform their designs into catalysts for change, champions of sustainability, and guardians of our water resources. Let us rise to the occasion for the betterment of our planet and future generations. Together, we can make a significant difference, one visionary design at a time.

Tom Reynolds is chief executive of the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (BMA)

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Make more of Herringbone with IVC Commercial

Moduleo Roots 55 Herringbone is the luxury vinyl herringbone floor from IVC Commercial.

With a natural look and texture and a performance construction, Moduleo Roots 55 brings interiors closer to nature with a floor finish that's durable and easy to look after.

Now, with Moduleo Roots Herringbone, projects can benefit from the quality and affordability of IVC Commercial's Belgian-made LVT floors in two dryback herringbone plank formats. Moduleo Roots 55 Herringbone is the ideal solution for housing developments and commercial offices wanting a herringbone look in a finish that needs to deliver a tough and easy to look after floor.

Herringbone Classic (40.6 x 10.7 cm) is a versatile plank that's ideal for housing projects, while Herringbone Short (63.2 x 15.8 cm) stops large areas looking too busy. Both sizes are available in a range of natural wood looks, matched to Moduleo Roots 55 standard planks. Selected designs are also available with EIR (embossed in register),



where the texture mimics the wood grain pattern for improved realism.

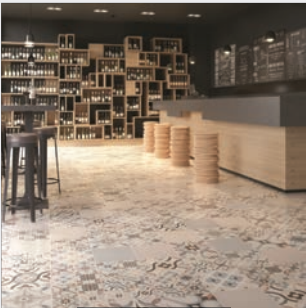
Every Moduleo floor is designed and made in-house, so that every aspect of its quality can be controlled. Moduleo luxury vinyl tiles feature up to 30% recycled content from production waste, processed in the industry's

largest in-house PVC recycling facility. Using IVC Commercial's ReCover programme can also ensure that installation waste is recovered and recycled.

01332 851 500

www.ivc-commercial.com

Sustainable design without compromise



Granorte's Vita Décor collection combines the natural and sustainable attributes of cork with looks that capture classic and modern flooring looks. The Vita Décor collection comes into its own as an alternative solution to natural cork finishes. It still incorporates the sustainable and renewable values central to Granorte's range, but through direct to substrate digital printing techniques, Vita Décor explores the aesthetics of heritage parquet patterns, contemporary mosaic, tile, cool stone and trim styles. "Choosing sustainable design should not be about compromising on individuality," comments Paulo Rocha, product and R&D manager. All Vita Décor floors share the same performance, harnessing cork's unique attributes to ensure excellent sound absorption, underfoot comfort and thermal insulation. Equipped with WEARTOP® for a durable and easy to maintain surface, as well as Uniclic® for rapid installation and Microban® for antibacterial protection; Vita Décor is a floor packed with innovation. Available in 22 designs, Vita Décor achieves a Class 32 Light Commercial rating, making it suitable for light-traffic retail, hospitality, and commercial projects.

01952 443 555 www.granorte.pt

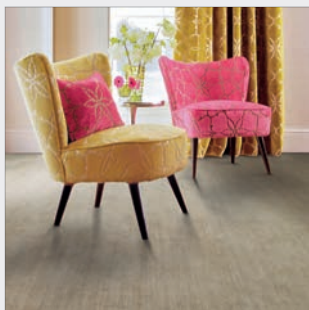
First UK Mapecrete jointless floor system installed in the UK



Mapei UK's first Mapecrete jointless floor system has been installed at P1 The Plasterers One Stop Shop & Plastering Superstore, in Cheltenham. The seamless finish was installed over the 440 m² floor area, which will be used as new warehouse space. Concrete was supplied by Flowmix and pumped by Max-Pump. Suitable for all environments – from commercial and industrial to residential – the Mapecrete system provided benefits including enhanced durability, reduced maintenance and a fast-track installation. Fibre-reinforced concrete (FRC) jointless slabs represent a significant advancement in concrete technology, offering numerous benefits over traditional reinforced concrete (RC) slabs. The Mapecrete FRC jointless system is based on a shrinkage compensated concrete technology where contraction is compensated by restrained expansion through structural reinforcement. The modular system consists of four Mapei products which work in synergy to create a jointless finish: they include Dynamon XTend W300 N, Mapecure SRA 25, Expancrete, Mapefiber ST42 and Mapecure E30.

info@mapei.co.uk www.mapei.co.uk

Riviera Home brings the quality of handmade carpets to Design Central North West



Interior designers from across the North West experienced the unique quality of handmade carpets from **Riviera Home**, as it exhibited at Design Central North West. Making fine quality carpets by hand, Riviera Home lets homes and businesses enjoy exquisite carpets created with the care and attention that can only come with artisan craftsmanship. A GoodWeave® certified business, every Riviera Home carpet is produced ethically with a conscious effort to be responsible, supporting education programmes and ensuring decent work for communities. Richard Moore, sales & marketing director, says: "Our two-days at Design Central North West were well spent and the interest we received in ranges such as Monaco, Milano and Capri was nothing short of uplifting. The event gave us the chance to showcase the unique quality of these styles first-hand and to tell our story of ethical handmade carpets made with natural materials. We're looking forward to building on these new connections and helping to create beautiful interiors with Riviera Home carpets at their foundation."

01299 871446 rivierahomeuk.co.uk

Luceco's safe lighting at Leigh House



Luceco has recently supplied anti ligature luminaires to Leigh House Hospital, an acute psychiatric facility within the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, providing treatment programmes for young people experiencing mental illness. Anti-ligature Atlas bulkheads were installed throughout the hospital, particularly in corridors, bedrooms, and recreation spaces. Anti-ligature luminaires prevent vulnerable people from accidentally or intentionally self-harming. They are designed with reduced apertures between the diffuser and body of the fitting with minimal protruding or moving elements and rounded peripheries to prevent attachment points. Anti-ligature Atlas is ideal for personal spaces such as bedrooms or bathrooms offering dimmable, emergency, and self-test variations, and being wall or ceiling mounted with flush anti tamper screws ensuring only engineer access to the luminaire. Linear Climate Anti-ligature was used in therapy rooms and various stores and plant areas. Suitable for use in secure environments due to its IK10 rated steel body with UV stabilised fire-retardant polycarbonate diffuser and tamper resistant screws, Climate Anti-ligature offers an efficacy up to 143 Llm/cW.

01952 238 100 www.luceco.com/uk

Knightsbridge reaches new highs



The new Potentia LED high bay range from **Knightsbridge** provides an ideal solution for industrial applications requiring versatility, flexibility, durability, control and performance. The high bays, which come in two sizes, incorporate tri-wattage and dual-CCT functions along with other innovative features to

deliver long-life and powerful illumination. The high bays feature a selectable CCT switch, allowing users to adjust the colour temperature between 4,000 K and 5,000 K according to preference.

01582 887760 www.mlaccessories.co.uk

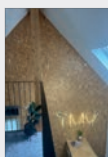
Drawing inspiration from the natural world



Altro continues to innovate with the launch of Altro Illustra™ – a class-leading safety floor with stunning natural aesthetic designs and the option to go adhesive-free to save carbon, money and time. The latest development from Altro draws inspiration from the natural world with a range that delivers visual texture and softness yet provides all the performance characteristics you'd expect from the long-established surfaces innovator and authority on safety flooring. Altro Illustra is available in both adhesive-free and traditional adhered options, providing versatility and flexibility.

01462 489 516 www.altro.com

The 'wow' factor with SterlingOSB Zero



In need of a bigger space to work from, TMV architects harnessed its own team's design and build skills to create an office using a combination of **West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero** and corrugated metal. The panels consist of a 140 mm insulating foam core sandwiched between two SterlingOSB Zero sheathing boards. The result is a building system that is extremely strong and energy efficient. Eleanor Stamp, senior architectural designer at the practice says that, although the office had to be a cost-effective build, its open-plan design and the natural feel that the SterlingOSB Zero brings to the space makes it a great place to work.

uk.westfraser.com

Fibo wall panels in energy-efficient housing



DMDmodular has successfully completed a fully energy-efficient housing project that tackles the industry's most pressing challenges, with **Fibo's** waterproof wall panels used throughout. Manufactured from layers of PEFC certified plywood and high-pressure laminate, Fibo's wall panels offer a sustainable alternative to tiles, with a carbon saving of 40%. The panels have been installed in a classic Denver White tile effect design, across areas where high-strength, durability and quick assembly were required, such as bathrooms and kitchens.

fibomodular.com www.dmdmodular.com

Cutting details down to psi

Jonathan Ducker from Kingspan Insulation GB explores how the industry has developed a range of details to assist specifiers pursuing higher thermal performance



There is a raft of manufacturer-created and industry-created details and guidance now available, reflecting actual build-ups and performance, complete with associated psi values

As part of the recent updates to the energy efficiency requirements in the Building Regulations and Standards in England, Scotland and Wales, there has been a notable effort to close the performance gap between the design and actual energy performance of buildings. This gap can be significant, with testing showing that total energy use from some new homes can be as much as 250% higher than expected. In particular, the new regulations look to raise practice around addressing thermal bridges – implementing a range of measures to encourage the use of designed insulation details for junctions and to ensure that the original specification is carried through into the final building.

Why thermal bridges matter

Thermal bridges (also known as cold bridges) are areas where materials

which are more conductive to heat than the insulation, are allowed to form a ‘bridge’ between the internal and external parts of a construction. These can act as a fast-track for heat to escape and can account for as much as 30% of total heat losses from a property. This means addressing them is a key step to ensuring a good level of fabric performance.

Thermal bridges typically occur because of gaps or inconsistencies in the insulation layer and are common in areas such as junctions between the wall, floor and roof; junctions around openings such as windows; and at penetrations such as pipework.

The heat losses at these junctions are measured as psi-values (Ψ). Heat losses at penetrations through layers can also be measured as chi-values (χ). A lower value represents lower expected heat losses.

A global γ -value can also be calculated, representing the percentage of overall heat losses from a building associated with thermal bridging.

What's new in the regulations?

The updates to Part L of the Building Regulations in England and Wales, and Section 6 (Energy) of the Building Standards in Scotland implement a number of key updates designed to raise practice around junctions and thermal bridges. In the design phase, these changes encourage the use of details and associated ψ -values where possible.

As under the previous regulations, when modelling a property within SAP or SBEM, energy assessors still have the option to use a default ψ -value for a junction where no detail is provided. However, this default value has been notably worsened. Similarly, where a default global γ -value is available, this has also been worsened. This means that other areas of the specification may have to be significantly improved to reach compliance when using these values.

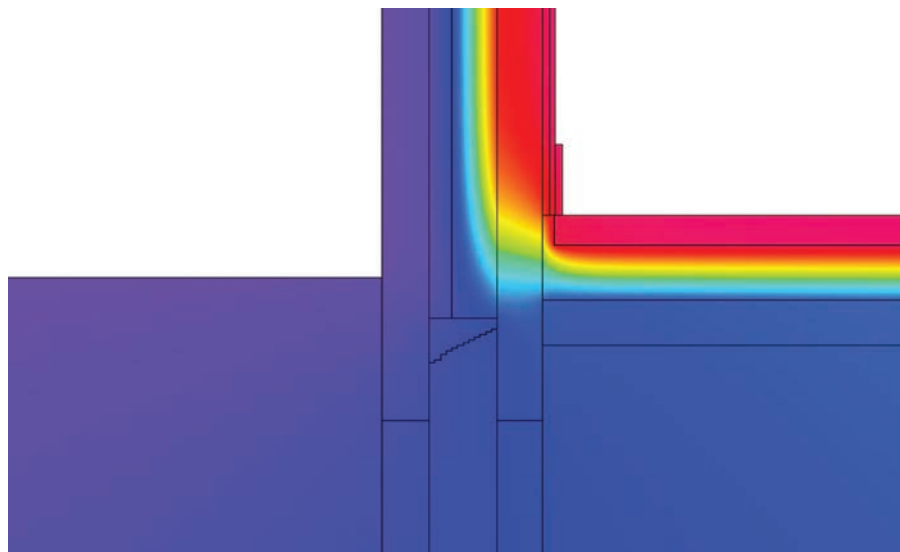
The use of PV and WWHR is also essential to meet the carbon emissions and primary energy targets. This means using the default ψ -values or the new global γ -value may significantly increase the cost of reaching compliance.

It is also important to note that the Accredited Construction Details (ACDs) have now been removed in England and Wales. These were first developed back in 2002 and provided standard details and ψ -values for a range of common constructions. However, it was felt these had become outdated and were no longer fit for purpose, as the details modelled were for less well insulated constructions. Scotland has a separate set of ACDs with modelled ψ -values for each junction, which are more up-to-date and have been retained.

Reaching compliance

There is a raft of manufacturer-created and industry-created details and guidance now available, reflecting actual build-ups and performance, complete with associated ψ -values. These include reputable non-government databases containing independently assessed thermal junction details.

In practice, however, these will not cover every scenario so it may be necessary to produce bespoke details with calculated



ψ -values. When developing these, it is important that all junction details are reflective of real constructions, with good thermal performance to minimise losses, but that also represent good practices and are buildable on site.

It's also worth noting that the use of bespoke or industry-created details may help to reinforce specifications in England and Wales. This is due to the new requirement for project teams to submit design stage and as-built compliance reports. These reports include the energy modelling carried out in SAP/SBEM and require any changes from the original specification used in the design stage report to be clearly detailed.

As factors such as the insulation product's thermal conductivity are incorporated into ψ -value calculations, this can prevent insulation products being substituted with lower performing alternatives.

An eye for details

Closing the performance gap is a key priority for everyone within the construction industry. By utilising bespoke or industry-generated details and associated ψ -values, it should be possible to limit heat losses at building junctions. This can help to support a best practice fabric-first approach, allowing properties to use heat efficiently and therefore limiting both their operational carbon demand and heating costs.

Jonathan Ducker is head of regulatory affairs at Kingspan Insulation GB

By utilising bespoke or industry-generated details and associated ψ -values, it should be possible to limit heat losses at building junctions



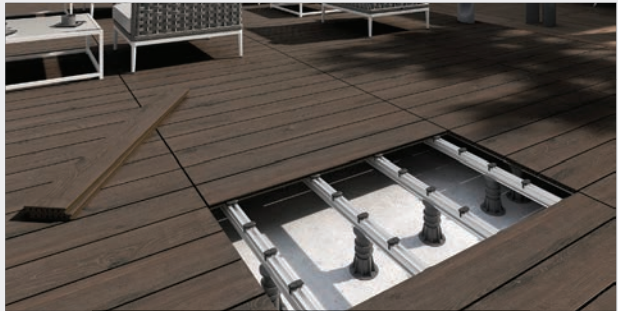
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CGT Security launch a new range of high-performance industrial shutter doors



As an industry-leading manufacturer of innovative security shutters, CGT Security are known for delivering quality solutions that are beyond the traditional shutter door. So it is no surprise that their new product, 'Intimidator' presents the most comprehensive range of high security industrial shutter doors, successfully combining maximum performance with multiple third-party accreditations. The Intimidator range is certified to security level LPS 1175 Issue 8, by the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB), with the product portfolio IR1 to IR4 covering A1 (SR1) to D10 (SR4) requirements in addition to having Secured by Design approval. The innovative Intimidator industrial doors have excellent thermal and acoustic performance options as well as hurricane wind-load resistance, making them ideal for a much wider range of industrial and commercial applications. Available as single skin profiles with optional perforation, or double skin profiles with a choice of insulation materials, the Intimidator also allows manual or automatic locking selections giving complete versatility for all types of industrial purposes.

0330 024 9409 cgtsecurity.com

Class 1 Magply boards withstand real life fire test on Surrey home



A potentially catastrophic blaze, which consumed the garage containing a parked vehicle adjoining a £1M house in rural Surrey, was stopped in its tracks thanks to the use of 12 mm A1 non combustible Magply being chosen as the render substrate board on the contract, the property was constructed using a Structurally Insulated Panel system construction (SIP) with A1 non-combustible Magply being used on the exterior of the building as the substrate panel for the proprietary render system. Magply is a multi-use A1 non-combustible board with an impressive library of testing for fire applications, in the offsite and timber frame sector the board is designed and specified to contain fire and support the emergency service with added crucial time! Although the emergency services were quick to attend the fire, which happened in August, it had taken sufficient hold that the large timber framed garage was totally destroyed with just some sections of the frame still standing. However, the gable end to the house which features a relatively thin, weatherproof finish of the silica-based K-Rend suffered only surface damage.

01621 776252 www.magply.co.uk

New Marmox Fireboard offers ideal EWI and IWI substrate



Marmox has introduced the highly versatile Fireboard into its range for both internal and external wall insulation (IWI/EWI) applications. The Marmox Stone Wool based product shares the unique Marmox honeycomb surface structure with its XPS forerunner, Multiboard, to create an A1 non-combustible certified render-backer which is fully waterproof. It can further be used internally across walls or ceilings to take a plaster finish, while providing sound decoupling and acoustic absorption properties, as well as thermal insulation. The Marketing Manager for Marmox, Grant Terry, commented: "The introduction of Fireboard into our range significantly enhances our offer to the construction industry, meaning we have an A1 non-combustible backer board for internal or external use, which can safely be used across masonry as well as timber or steel framing systems. The Stone Wool the boards are made of is formed of molten rock, meaning it is impossible for the fibres to absorb moisture, so they will not degrade no matter what weather they are exposed to."

sales@marmox.co.uk www.marmox.co.uk

Sherwin-Williams brings home the bacon for Danish Crown



Sherwin-Williams, leading global manufacturer of paints and coatings, has announced that its innovative solutions are being employed at Danish Crown's new £100m bacon production plant in Rochdale. The cutting-edge facility is being constructed using 1,500 tonnes of internal prefabricated structural steelwork from Cambridgeshire based SDM Fabrication. Colin Hepworth, area sales manager at Sherwin-Williams, said: "Our Fire Engineering and Estimating Team (FEET) carried out a structural analysis of the steelwork under fire loading. After FEET had crunched the numbers, it recommended that SDM Fabrication use FIRETEX® FX6002 for the prefabricated steel, along with FIRETEX® C69 primer." Colin continues: "Ultra-fast drying and durable, it gives the shortest possible time from application to handling for fire resistance periods up to two hours. It can be handled in as little as one hour, providing a highly durable and aesthetically pleasing finish, while its excellent mechanical durability minimises transport and installation damage." Further information is available at bit.ly/3ioyJNg

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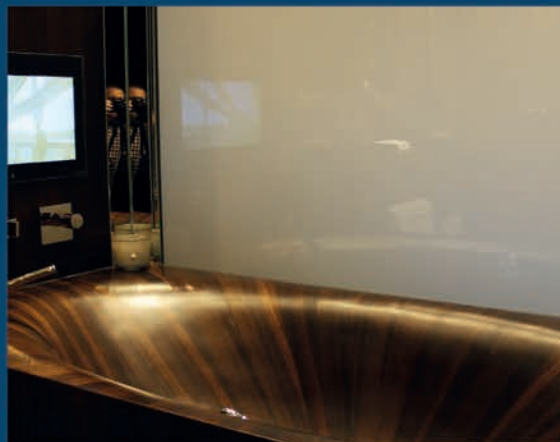
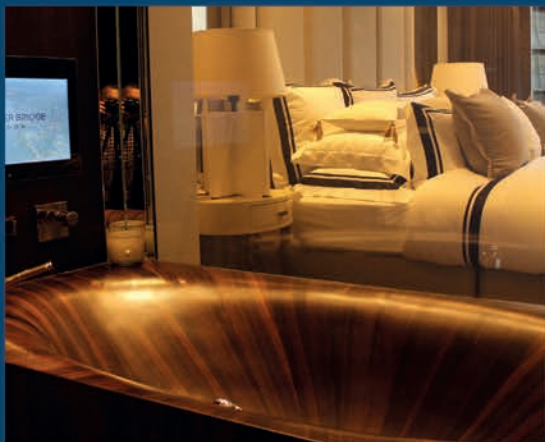
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