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Stephen Cousins reports on Mikhail Riches' Stirling Prize-nominated, super-sustainable retrofit of a notorious estate which targets embodied carbon

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# FROM THE EDITOR



The consultation to the 2025 Future Homes Standard was issued in December last year, to cries of ‘missed opportunity’ from many in the industry, due to undershooting on the energy efficiency targets versus what many had been hoping for. For example, the U-values in the two ‘notional dwellings’ that will be used to measure buildings’ energy use in the standard for English new build homes are based on the same fabric standards as Part L 2021, air permeability is modest, and there’s scarce mention of embodied carbon or thermal bridging.

UKGBC says the consultation posits “a choice between the two weakest options,” and believes that a “further standard” will have to be introduced in short order after the 2025 FHS, meaning more costs in store for developers. However on the other end of the spectrum, some reckon the FHS stores up problems as currently formulated, such as its new Home Energy Model (replacing SAP) drastically underestimating energy use of homes.

As reported in the news this issue, I recently met waste water heat recovery specialists Showersave (now part of Keystone Group), and they think the modelling of hot water demand within an average home is faulty. They say it’s based on dubious or at least outdated data from combi boilers, which did not specify the nature of heat being used, and the consultation must tackle this as it (hopefully) approaches its conclusion.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, agrees that current HEM hot water estimates are “misleading,” being based on occupancy of a five-bed property set at 3.9 people, whereas in PRS projects, for example, this is a minimum of five people. Unaddressed, the risk of drastically undersizing, or underspecifying, hot water provision for many homes, could result in many thousands of snagging issues which will further frustrate Labour’s 1.5 million homes ambition.

There is a long way to go until the Future Homes Standard is ironed out, and somehow it is supposed to come into force as legislation in 2025. It seems to be ‘too little change’ on one hand, and ‘too many fingers in the air’ on the other. It’s a massive opportunity to improve our carbon performance from construction, but hugely difficult to get right in a way that works for everyone.

The question is how much has the new Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government listened to the consultation responses and taken their recommendations on board. And, will the accompanying guidance be prescriptive, or woolly?

We will be keeping a close eye on the prognosis for the standard, in the meantime, please enjoy this issue. We’re delighted to welcome Stephen Cousins back to the fold, who’s put together a great report on the second phase of the Park Hill retrofit scheme in Sheffield. And, our Industry Viewfinder short-form white paper on our recent survey homes in on the changing world of product certification with some revealing findings.

## James Parker, Editor

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### ON THE COVER...

Park Hill in Sheffield, an embodiment of carbon saving refurbishment by Mikhail Riches architects.

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

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## HERITAGE

# Heritage retrofit specialist practice reveals series of new commissions

Award-winning architecture practice SPASE has announced a series of high profile project wins, following the completion of several “milestone” heritage restorations in Dorset. Led by Stefan Pitman, the studio’s founder and an advisor to Historic Royal Palaces, SPASE is bringing some of the UK’s most prestigious homes and country estates into the 21st century.

One of SPASE’s most celebrated projects was the decarbonisation of 500-year-old Athelhampton Manor, resulting in the elimination of approximately 100 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Heralded as the first of its kind in the UK, the project has received many accolades since its completion, including the shortlist of this year’s AJ Retrofit Awards and the RICS Environmental Impact Award.

This year, SPASE has been appointed on six significant Grade I and II\* listed properties; including the 400-year-old Newhouse Estate in Wiltshire, where SPASE is overseeing the sympathetic refurbishment of the 300-acre estate. The brief includes the Jacobean Trinity house, the addition of outbuildings and Net Zero measures. In Oxfordshire, SPASE has picked up a carbon-reduction brief for Waterperry House & Gardens,



The Sherborne – Photo by Brett Charles



The Sherborne – Photo by Brett Charles

working with and integrating the building’s protected features alongside a suite of new eco-solutions.

Stefan Pitman, founder of SPASE, commented; “Work in the heritage sector has really taken off. There has been a decisive shift, from the period before Covid when we were often likely to get tenders

back with the renewables or insulation stripped back from our original design. Renewables were the first thing to be removed from a brief when budgets were tight. Today, with global political instability and higher energy costs, clients are drawn in by the long-term economics and can act decisively to reduce future energy costs and dependency on fossil fuels. Conducting a retrofit upgrade on historic buildings can be an incredibly complex process and is not for the faint-hearted, but with an increasing selection of technology and the appropriate insulation availability, it’s not a question of if it can be done, but how.”

SPASE has also announced the appointment of chartered architect Sarah Small to support its net zero capabilities. With over 20 years of experience in sustainable, low energy design, Sarah brings a “wealth of technical experience on large-scale developments in the education and residential sectors,” said the practice. A certified Passivhaus designer, Sarah achieved certification her own self-built family home, and supports the national network for low carbon homes and Dorset Greener Homes by hosting open days to showcase self-building and low energy design.



Athelhampton Manor



Barnston Manor – Photo by Brett Charles

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## TRANSPORT PROJECTS

# BDP park and ride opens in Cheltenham

The second phase of the new Arle Court Transport Hub, a state-of-the-art park and ride facility in Cheltenham, has been completed.

Multidisciplinary design practice BDP delivered Phase 2 of the project alongside contractor Kier Construction on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. The £33m scheme is a key milestone in the county council's ongoing efforts to deliver sustainable transport options in the county. An important element of the current Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2020-2041 and its Climate Change Strategy, funded by the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), administered by Homes England, and the county council.

Arle Court Transport Hub will transform the travel experience for residents and visitors within, to and from the West Cheltenham area, as well as those arriving from the M5 via long-distance coach travel, by providing enhanced park and ride facilities that are both convenient and comfortable. The scheme has also been designed to offer improved sustainable travel choices and better connectivity to

local active travel, which in turn will reduce congestion, lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improve air quality in the region.

The new hub provides an expanded bus terminal to enable reliable bus services linking Gloucester and Cheltenham hospitals and centres, making public transport a more convenient option for those using the enhanced park and ride facility. It also offers a range of new and improved passenger and active travel facilities, including indoor and outdoor waiting areas, real-time information screens, a customer information desk, toilets, secure cycle lockers, cycle hoops, cycle maintenance tools and shower changing facilities.

The entire site will provide almost 1,000 parking spaces. This includes 860 spaces in the new multi-storey car park. The transport hub is also home to the largest contactless payment EV charging public transport hub in the UK, with a total of 100, 7 kW EV commissioned charge points installed in partnership with Connected Kerb (with a future potential capacity of up to 266 EVs).

BDP's approach has focused on the "passenger journey," and has "delivered a design that creates seamless connections between travel options and a comfortable passenger experience," said the firm. The design was developed to reduce the embodied carbon of the building by 20%, with facilities that are net zero carbon in operation, thanks to the installation of solar PV which offsets the energy requirements as demand for electric car charging expands.

This landmark new building features a striking bronze, aluminium facade with 'twists' within the design to create a wave effect across its length. The hub is surrounded by landscaped green areas including new trees and planting to boost biodiversity.

The third and final phase of the project began in late July 2024 and is due to be completed by November 2024. This phase will add more surface car parking spaces to the existing west car park, dedicated coach and camper/van parking and further enhance the transport hub's sustainability features including the installation of four rapid EV charge points.



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### 35TH ANNIVERSARY

# Innovation is the key to Keystone Group's sustained success

The Keystone Group is celebrating 35 years supplying innovative products to the construction sector, having grown rapidly to a £300m-plus turnover per annum company with over 2,000 employees across its 27 sites. Keystone Group brands include Keystone Lintels, IG Lintels and IG Masonry Support, as well as Keylite Roof Windows, Smartroof, Keyfix, and Keywall, and recent acquisition Showersave, which manufactures waste water heat recovery systems in Holland.

The company's journey began in 1989 when chairman Sean Coyle founded Keystone Lintels in Cookstown, Northern Ireland. His vision was to create "smart construction solutions beyond equal that meet the evolving needs of the construction industry, alongside exceptional customer service." Now the owner of 111 design patents, and with 125 staff dedicated to design and 35 product awards to its name, the company says this focus on innovation is "still at the heart of the Keystone Group 35 years later."

netMAGmedia was invited to attend the Group's head office in Cookstown, and spoke to various representatives from the firm's divisions to hear about how it had innovated over the years to find answers to industry problems and improve construction. We also heard from the group's chief commercial officer (and son

of the company's founder) Sean Og Coyle, about the ambitious plans for this already successful firm.

He ascribed the rapid growth which the Keystone Group has enjoyed down to an approach of "putting the thought and the R&D and the effort into listening to customers, every time we launched something." He said this rigorous approach had seen a series of "step changes" in the Group's success over the years.

Coyle said that the firm was initially founded on the basis of identifying a yawning gap in the steel lintel market, with no manufacturers at the time operating out of Ireland, and began manufacturing "specials" i.e. non-standard steel lintels, and was beating the competition by "turning them around in three to five days." This "took the business to another level," added Coyle, and within a couple of years the firm was the market leader in Ireland.

In 1997 Keystone expanded into England with a manufacturing site in Birmingham, before moving to a major facility in Swadlincote in 2002.

Keystone Group took a sideways strategic move into making roof windows in 2001, launching Keylite after spotting a "huge opportunity in the market," with there being "no other manufacturer of roof windows in Western Europe." Coyle said that currently, roof windows represents

a potential £250m market in the UK and €500 in France alone, giving a hit off further expansion: "It's probably time for Keylite to explore and spread its wings in other countries."

Coyle explained how a large measure of the other "step change" growth came via a strategic partnership with timber innovations firm Wyckham Blackwell Group in 2016. Following a series of further acquisitions this now encompasses 10 sub-brands with their own pre-existing solutions and ranges in the market.

Coyle candidly admitted that in terms of Keystone Group's own product launches, "not all of them always worked," but "we were always innovating, and some really took off." He added: "We never stood still or rested on our laurels."

The company prides itself on succeeding based on "relentless innovation" within its own brands, resulting in 111 patents. However Coyle admitted that this can be "high-risk," based on the investment required in their development, without any guarantee they will succeed commercially.

Showersave, a recent acquisition as an innovative waste water heat recovery product solution, is one example of a pre-existing success which slots in extremely well in the UK context of the upcoming Future Homes Standard, which calls for efficient low carbon solutions.

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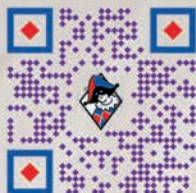


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## SITE LINES

# The secret to collaborative & adaptable projects

Will House of Arup discusses why making a success of BIM requires a culture of collaboration and adaptability, which was put to the test on the project to create Europe's largest cancer treatment and research campus in Manchester

We are in the midst of a technological revolution which shows no sign of slowing down, and which all industries must find a way to keep pace with. While the architectural, engineering and construction industry has long embraced Building Information Modelling (BIM), its quality and technicality continues to advance.

This means that, to truly take advantage of these technologies, teams must be willing to work collaboratively and adaptably across sectors and expertise. If the industry can collectively develop this growth mindset, everyone will benefit. We could harness BIM to enable the digital delivery of projects across their whole design period – from concept, to detailed design, and even to construction and handover.

An example of this approach is the Paterson Building, a new £150m cancer research facility at The Christie NHS Foundation trust in Manchester, and the largest cancer treatment and research campus in Europe. This 'social infrastructure' project has both national and international significance, showcasing what BIM can produce when stakeholders join forces, and offering lessons for future projects.

### Putting collaboration front and centre

The success of the Paterson Building project is due to the prioritisation of collaboration. Three separate client organisations – The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, the University of Manchester and Cancer Research UK – could have been extremely challenging. Each is a leader in its respective field, and had their own requirements and hopes for the project. We were also dealing with a particularly sensitive site, our task being to design a new building due to a devastating fire that had destroyed the original.

The team chose not to see these elements as hurdles, instead proactively choosing to adopt a unified mindset across the full project team and its clients. For example, Arup and BDP Architecture worked together from the very outset of the project.



They were both involved in leading extensive stakeholder workshops, and this collaboration continued throughout the entire project.

### Turning to technology at moments of uncertainty

The Paterson Building's development took place during the global Covid-19 pandemic. As with many other buildings at the time, there was naturally much concern about the risk this crisis posed to the timeline and outcome of the project. But luckily, as with so many industries during the pandemic, technology came to the rescue.

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The team's weekly BIM and design meetings went uninterrupted due to the use of Teams and other virtual engagement tools. Rather than shy away from embracing these technologies, teams which remained adaptable and open-minded were able to quickly embed them into their ways of working. And, while we do not expect a global pandemic to occur in the way this one unfolded again, lessons can be taken from this approach to technological advancement.

These technologies are now embraced as part of everyday working culture, due to the fact they actually accelerated the pace of collaboration. We were able to host short co-ordination calls and share screens, enabling the team to resolve issues with relative immediacy. This may seem obvious today, but we are all working in ways that would have been unthinkable just five or so years ago because we adapted by using new technology.

## Embracing BIM

Qualified digital and BIM experts were on hand throughout the project to rapidly develop concepts through digital design. These BIM leads were essential to its delivery as they improved design and programme certainty. Importantly, they also organised regular collaboration workshops, which alternated with the usual design team meetings, to further embed the values of digital alignment into the project.

Rapid decision making and implementation were also made possible through using BIM technology and native model authoring tools, such as Revit and supporting cloud collaboration tools, as we were able to visualise the many detailed interfaces throughout the building. Having designers alongside modellers who could make suitably considered changes on the fly also accelerated the process. As a result, only the more challenging coordination items were carried over on the agenda for the wider design team meetings later each week, or quickly followed up post-BIM-meeting with sketches, figures and interim model releases to enable continued efficient development of the model.

## Embracing technological advancements and digital delivery is the only way our industry will remain adaptable

Throughout the RIBA Plan of Work Stages 1 and 2, the (planned) early integration of our Arup structural analysis model into the corresponding documentation (Revit) model ensured the designs were aligned from the outset. In parallel, BDP and Arup MEP were developing their respective models, which, when federated together, ensured that the highly constrained and technically packed site was also fully coordinated from the outset. This collaboration allowed us to save both time and cost, whereby we were able to minimise design changes and abortive construction works.

### The future of construction

Embracing technological advancements and digital delivery is the only way our industry will remain adaptable to future global challenges we cannot yet foresee. The Paterson Building proves this approach not only works, but works better and quicker than tried and tested alternatives. However, achieving this relies on BIM being backed by all parts of a team which is willing to work together in a flexible manner.

This has long been a matter of debate, with the 2011 Government Construction Strategy brought in to 'replace adversarial cultures with collaborative ones.' And yet, all too often our industry does not embrace this culture; it certainly takes too long to fully integrate it into our ways of working.



There is no excuse to continue using BIM only sporadically, with many clients now having much higher expectations for projects established using BIM and targets for data and digital often set from a project's inception. To continue creating innovative and exceptional designs, we must therefore accelerate the adoption of technology by utilising BIM experts to realise the technology's full potential.

*Will House is an associate at Arup*

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# ASK THE ARCHITECT

Eliot Postma, partner & group leader at Heatherwick Studio answers *ADF's* questions on how his career has helped shape him as a designer, and what inspires him currently



## WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT?

It goes back to junior school; I still remember looking forward to Wednesdays. It was the best day of the week because after lunch, the only thing you had was design and technology – which was essentially sitting in a small workshop and making stuff.

As I went to secondary school, I continued to pick design whenever it was an option. I always liked the workshop environment and getting to make models and trying to build things, so the natural evolution of that was asking myself what the biggest things one could build were. Becoming an architect went from there.

## HOW DID YOU TRANSITION FROM YOUR FIRST FIRM FOSTERS, AND WHAT WAS IT LIKE ARRIVING AT HEATHERWICK?

I had a break between the two. Being at Fosters was an incredible foundation and introduction into the profession. The organisation works on such an incredible scale, working alongside a thousand other architects in Battersea was a great opportunity.

After Foster + Partners, I went to do my master's and I was pretty sure after that I wanted to work somewhere smaller. I

## I love the idea of working on a typology that's typically unloved, and changing its fate

studied at the Royal College of Art, which is a melting pot of lots of different creative disciplines – it is not an architecture school but focuses on all the arts. I enjoyed this environment – getting to work across departments, learning screen printing or glass blowing, working with people studying design interactions or product design.

I was very much attracted to Heatherwick Studio in the sense that it's not an architecture but a design studio. We embrace all elements of design and work at all scales. Plus, the fact that we were 22 people when I joined felt very different, and I wanted to see what was possible.

## WHAT INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF DESIGN ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I've been very lucky to work on such a great selection of projects, but your first is always special. As it happens, we visited my first project recently, the Bombay Sapphire Distillery in Hampshire. Getting to work on a project from day one of the





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concept, all the way through to completion, is very rare and I got to do that with the distillery. It was a very formative experience that I cherish.

#### DO YOU HAVE A BIG PERSONAL GOAL AS A DESIGNER?

I am not a 'five-year plan' type of person. In my career I have been grabbing opportunities as they appear, and I like the uncertainty of that. There are typologies of building that I would love to work on, but I don't have a specific goal. I enjoyed the not knowing and then finding myself working on a headquarters for a tech company, or a gin distillery, or a boat or a light. Following each of these journeys and being open to them has been amazing and perhaps I would not have done any of them if I had something predetermined in my mind. It might have filtered out opportunities.

That said, I'd love to work on a hospital, train station or stadium. Even before I joined the studio, I had always loved the design for Teesside Power Station. I love the idea of working on a typology that's typically unloved, and changing its fate.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT?

We can all see that housing is a priority for the UK. But quantity should not come at a cost of quality, so we need a mindset shift about new houses. Other than meeting the baseline needs, which is a given, I hope that the new towns announced by the Labour government offer people homes with an incredible sense of joy, sophistication, interest and pride, without costing the earth.

#### HOW WAS YOUR COLLABORATION WITH SPPARC ON LONDON OLYMPIA?

So much of our work is international so we're really used to working with local architects – almost all our projects are collaborations, although less frequently in the UK. Olympia is such a big project and such a complex opportunity that it was quite natural to collaborate with somebody else. The collaboration was smooth, and we had a clear delineation of our roles from the outset. We worked on the overall master plan vision initially, and then we split down the sites with us focusing on some and SPPARC focusing on others. But the design dialogue and the collaboration sessions were great, and we always felt we were pulling in the same direction.



Davidson Park, Milwaukee © Harley-Davidson

#### WHAT IS YOUR NEXT BIG PROJECT?

I've got a couple of big projects in China. One is an opera house, and the other is a very large mixed-use district with hotels, retail, offices, event centres and an amazing landscape. It is a whole ecosystem, which is exciting. I also continue to work in the US, which I have always really enjoyed.

We have worked with Google over the last decade, and now with other clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and NY. We recently opened a community park in Milwaukee for Harley-Davidson. The park was one of the venues hosting the Harley-Davidson Homecoming Festival, a four-day celebration of music, moto-culture and Milwaukee in July.

#### WHAT ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THAT'S NOT DESIGN 'PER SE' AT HEATHERWICK?

It's wonderful to work at such different scales. I am working on a lighting design project which explores an unusual typology of light. We're also designing a glassware range. This is the great thing about the studio – I am working on something like Olympia, or all these huge projects in China, and at the same time get a chance to zoom in and design things that you can quickly prototype one-to-one. Perhaps surprisingly, though, our design processes are quite similar no matter what scale. What we learn at the smaller scale, we end up applying at the bigger scale and the other way round.

#### HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN YOUR POSITIVE Demeanour IN VERY COMPLEX COLLABORATIONS?

Every project of every scale goes through its challenges, particularly when you're trying to do something ambitious, like we are at Olympia. In all our projects we're forever pushing for something ambitious.

I think having an almost unhealthy level of optimism has been helpful, always trying to find the positive when the inevitable bumps emerge. We try to see the challenges as an opportunity that has the potential to change the design in the way that you hadn't expected. Maybe even unlocking something better. So, I guess the answer is – relentless pursuit of optimism.

#### WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WILL FACE AS A PRACTICE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

I think it's fair to say we are in an increasingly uncertain world from a political point of view. The invasion of the Ukraine has a massive impact on the industry, driving up costs, impacting supply chains and stopping a lot of international architects' projects overnight. We work very internationally, so we watch geopolitical changes closely.

We've got a studio in China, for example and right now, it's hard to predict what the future holds, so everyone in the industry will be facing this challenge. We do our best to work in lots of different regions, ride the waves of change and remain optimistic.

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# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

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## GRAND STADE HASSAN II, MOROCCO OUALALOU + CHOI & POPULOUS

The Grand Stade Hassan II, a 115,000-capacity stadium in Casablanca, Morocco has been designed by Paris-based architects Oualalou + Choi and global sports design leaders, Populous – it is projected to be the largest football stadium yet built in the world.

The design draws inspiration from the traditional Moroccan social gathering known as a ‘mousslem,’ with the stadium structure set under a grand tented roof that emerges as a “dramatic intervention in the forested landscape.” At both ends of the stadium bowl, three steep, compact tiers ensure a “vibrant and spectacular atmosphere,” said Populous.

The stadium is covered by a unique aluminium lattice roof, supporting the geometry of the roof and the bowl is a ring of 32 stairways, creating “monumental gateways” that feature gardens positioned on raised platforms, each 28 metres from the ground.

The stadium will be fully compliant for FIFA competitions, with the ability to host the final at the FIFA World Cup 2030, following Morocco’s naming as joint hosts for the tournament alongside Spain and Portugal. It will also serve as the home of two local clubs.

Preparation for groundworks to start is underway on a 100-hectare site in the town of El Mansouria, in the province of Benslimane, 38 km north of Casablanca, after public financing was approved in October 2023.



## SUGAR VALLEY, MUNICH KCAP & SLA

The Sugar Valley project in Obersending, Munich, designed by KCAP and SLA, with input by COBE, is set to create a new mixed-urban neighbourhood designed to host an array of typologies along its central public spine.

The Obersending district is currently undergoing a “deep transformation,” said the architects. Over the last decade, the district has seen many of its old factories and warehouses giving way to contemporary developments. This rapid transformation has made the area a “dynamic and attractive place to live.”

Originally named ‘Wunderkammer’, this new neighbourhood repurposes a 4.7-hectare industrial site into a mixed-use quarter.

Central to this development is a masterplan that emphasises a wide diversity of architectural forms, building heights, and uses, creating a lively and dynamic urban centre for Obersending. “Leading the urban design was the question of how to create a high density urban neighbourhood that integrates seamlessly with its surroundings, while simultaneously providing a high visibility of urban life.”

Running through the centre of the site, is a former rail line which has been repurposed as a pedestrian and cycling path. Drawing further on the industrial and post-war history, the quarter “echoes the raw character of the area,” with materials like exposed concrete, steel and brick. “However, this post-industrial aesthetic palette is also softened by an abundance of greenery.”

The district’s central plaza – flanked by three 80 metre towers – widens in the middle to create “an abundance of space where residents can gather and relax.” The staggered and terraced forms of the towers are a “nod to the industrial silos that once dotted the area skyline.” The expansive plaza is further framed by set-backs and staggers in the perimeter buildings.



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# CPD FOCUS

## FREE RIBA APPROVED CPD FOR ARCHITECTS, PLANNERS & DEVELOPERS



The Police Crime Prevention Academy are running free RIBA Approved CPD sessions on Secured by Design in September, October and November 2024. The sessions, delivered via Microsoft Teams, will run between 12.30pm and 1.30pm on the following dates:

- Friday 27th September
- Friday 25th October
- Friday 29th November

To book a place, please email [info@crimepreventionacademy.com](mailto:info@crimepreventionacademy.com) indicating your preferred date. A Teams invite will be sent to you or your nominated point of contact to share with colleagues.

This CPD will explore the Police Secured by Design initiative, which operates across a wide range of building sectors including residential, education, health, transport, commercial, retail, sport and leisure, as well as promotes security standards for a wide range of applications and products. These principles have been proven to reduce crime risk by up to 87%, by combining standards of physical security and principles of crime prevention through environmental design.

Topics covered include how the scheme is implemented and successes in previous development projects, terminology and how to find secured products that have achieved police preferred specification. By the end of the CPD you should have a greater understanding of:

- Secured by Design as a proven police scheme which reduces crime and creates safer communities
- Relevant legislation, policy & guidance
- Secured by Design as more current than ADQ and other documents referencing security and safer communities
- An overview of property crime trends
- An evaluation of why crime occurs
- How the Secured by Design scheme is implemented
- How an open, welcoming and safe environment can be achieved by incorporating crime prevention design into the layout and landscaping of the immediate surroundings in subtle ways that will be barely noticeable to residents
- Successes in previous development projects & how developments that meet the Secured by Design award are more sustainable
- How SBD keeps parallel with current crime trends and methods

One CPD e-certificate per company is available upon request.

[www.crimepreventionacademy.com](http://www.crimepreventionacademy.com)  
[www.securedbydesign.com/services/cpd](http://www.securedbydesign.com/services/cpd)

## Maintaining and improving professional competence, skills, abilities and knowledge

## ALTECNIC LAUNCH FREE ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM 'ALTECNIC ACADEMY'

Altecnic Academy provides users with access to a range free CIBSE Accredited CPDs, which have been written and delivered by industry experts, available to access whenever and wherever the user wants.

Altecnic Ltd, a leading supplier of hydronic solutions and part of the Caleffi Group, have launched a free online learning platform called Altecnic Academy, which features a range of CIBSE Accredited CPDs.

As an online-based learning platform, the Altecnic Academy has been developed to support members of the plumbing and heating industry by providing easy access to courses that focus on relevant industry topics. The new platform already has a range of courses available for users to engage with, including:

- *Pressure Reducing Valves*
- *Legionella Considerations When Reactivating Buildings*
- *System Design For Efficiency For Using Electronic Heat Interface Units (HIUs)*
- *Expansion Vessels*

All users who pass courses taken on the Altecnic Academy platform will be issued with a CPD certificate and can log the courses as part of their CPD hours. The system also auto reminds users to retake the CPDs when their certificate expires, ensuring that all knowledge is up to date.

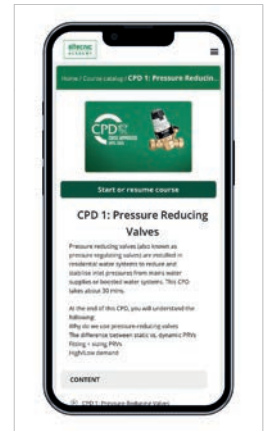
Head of Marketing at Altecnic, Helen Cooper, commented: "At Altecnic, we consistently strive to support customers with more than just high-quality product solutions, but also as a source of trusted knowledge. The Altecnic Academy is a great addition to our technical hub that already contains Idronics UK, the Altecnic Podcast, and our extensive video library. The free of charge training platform, covers anything from industry legislation to more product-specific training courses.

"By developing the Altecnic Academy platform, we are now able to provide a flexible and accessible way for members of the industry to take part in training, no matter what stage of their career, so that they can further expand their knowledge and keep up to date with key industry topics."

Altecnic Ltd is one of the UK's leading suppliers of hydronic solutions. Established near Stafford in 1980's, the company imports and supplies over 5,000 product lines to distributors throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland. The company provides trade merchants, plumbing and heating engineers and specifiers with a comprehensive range of plumbing products, including; thermostatic mixing valves, underfloor heating, sealed systems, dirt and air separation, backflow prevention and vessels and a whole lot more.

Altecnic's mission statement is to deliver the highest quality products and services to its customers, through manufacturing excellence, innovation and education. Their extensive range of products and services are chosen by trade merchants, original equipment manufacturers, plumbing and heating engineers and specifiers.

[www.altecnic.co.uk/technical-hub/training-and-cpds](http://www.altecnic.co.uk/technical-hub/training-and-cpds)



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# CPD FOCUS

## AG LAUNCHES NEW CPD ON ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS (EPDS)



AG, a leading paving and building products manufacturer has announced the launch of its latest CPD (Continued Professional Development) course – ‘*Understanding Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)*’. This 30 minute lunch and learn is aimed at empowering architects and specifiers with in-depth knowledge about the significance, application, and benefits of EPDs.

Earlier this year, AG, which was named Sustainable Manufacturer of the Year at the prestigious 2024 Business Eye Awards, published EPDs for over 370 of its market-leading paving and building products.

EPDs provide transparent, independently verified information on the environmental impact of products across their entire lifecycle, from raw material extraction to disposal. This data is crucial for architects and specifiers, who are increasingly tasked with creating sustainable, eco-friendly projects that adhere to government regulations and pass green building certification standards.

The course is designed to ensure that, upon completion, participants understand the purpose of an EPD, how they are created, the different types available and how to interpret the details within an EPD to effectively utilise them in projects. The face-to-face format, as well as the virtual option via Teams or Zoom, offers an ideal setting to fully grasp the key details surrounding EPDs within a relaxed and informal environment.

Michael Davies, Head of Innovation and Carbon Reduction at AG, commented on the newly launched CPD course, stating, “We recognise that the future of construction hinges on responsible environmental stewardship, and we are committed to equipping professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to make informed, sustainable choices. Together, we can create a built environment that not only meets the needs of today but also preserves the world for future generations.”

Build your projects on a foundation of sustainability and informed decision-making. Register for AG’s ‘*Understanding Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)*’ CPD today or explore its other CPD offerings by visiting [ag.uk.com/professional/tools-services/cpd-sessions](http://ag.uk.com/professional/tools-services/cpd-sessions).

0121 720 9483 [specifications@ag.uk.com](mailto:specifications@ag.uk.com)

## Maintaining and improving professional competence, skills, abilities and knowledge

### PYROGUARD INTRODUCES NEW RIBA-APPROVED CPD



Designed to arm architects with the information they need to get more from their fire safety glass specifications, Pyroguard is pleased to introduce its new RIBA-approved CPD: ‘*Fire safety glazing: a system not a product!*’ The new CPD covers a range of topics, including the role of fire safety glazing in the built environment and the types available, educating the industry on the various factors to consider when specifying a fire-rated system. The CPD also provides clarification on the three fire safety glass classifications and what these mean in real-world terms.

[info@pyroguard.eu](mailto:info@pyroguard.eu) [www.pyroguard.eu/resources/book-a-cpd](http://www.pyroguard.eu/resources/book-a-cpd)

### TURN KNOWLEDGE INTO POWER WITH UPONOR'S NEW CPD



GF Building Flow Solutions (formerly Uponor) has launched a new CIBSE accredited CPD: ‘*Minimise the heat and energy losses of heat networks*’, developed for building services engineers looking to broaden their knowledge. The face-to-face session looks at the importance of community and district heating networks, the relevant legislation, and advises how to optimise their performance through the use of efficient, pre-insulated pipe systems. The CPD will cover the types of heat networks, their role in reaching net zero, the relevant codes of practice and offer valuable insight into the funding available.

01923 381212 [www.uponor.com/en-gb/specification/cpd-page](http://www.uponor.com/en-gb/specification/cpd-page)

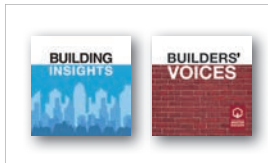
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## INDUSTRY VIEWFINDER

# The changing face of product certification

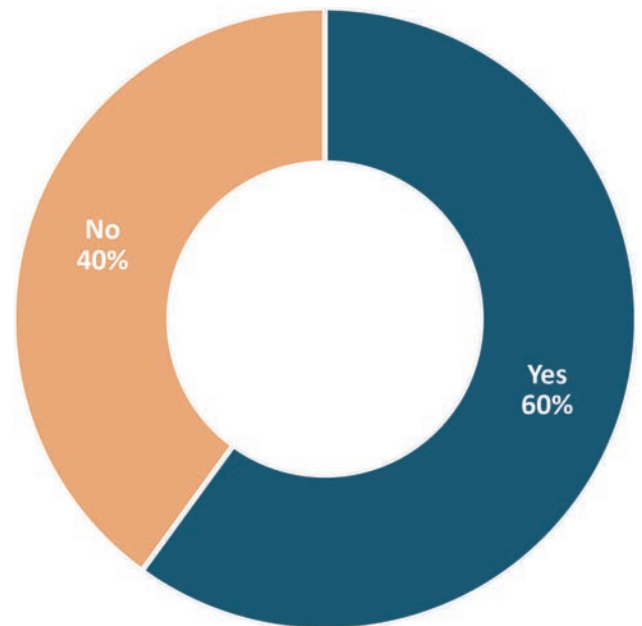
The Hackitt Report threw light on some major issues within product specification, testing and certification in the construction industry, and, following the Building Safety Act, the landscape has changed dramatically. There is a new structure of testing oversight and compliance, and new professional roles underwriting the certification of products.

There is also a National Construction Products Regulator, dedicated to safer specification, but the future of testing and certification – including sustainability aspects like life-cycle analysis and embodied carbon – remains an area of heated debate. We looked at views on these issues as well as certification of durability, and health impacts of products, in a survey of architects, for a snapshot of the changing picture on certification when it comes to the products they specify on behalf of their clients.

The survey we report on here was sponsored by Lamilux, Hambleside Danelaw Building Products, Soprema and Promat. It garnered 152 responses giving insights into the importance of robust certification for architects, and remaining issues in the sector.

Architects and specifiers rely on information on products being rigorous, and credible, not only for tackling safety aspects but also for performance and sustainability, including the important area of durability. Paul Morrell's 2023 review of the construction product testing regime contained serious criticisms of current practice, including that two-thirds of products being used in projects were 'unregulated.' Our research includes a look at the changes on safety, and the need for third-party testing, and how the new testing framework affects suppliers.

Despite the complex testing 'hierarchy' including a wide range of approved bodies, we looked at how manufacturers and the wider industry are working with specifiers to improve credibility of certification, build trust, and develop best practice.



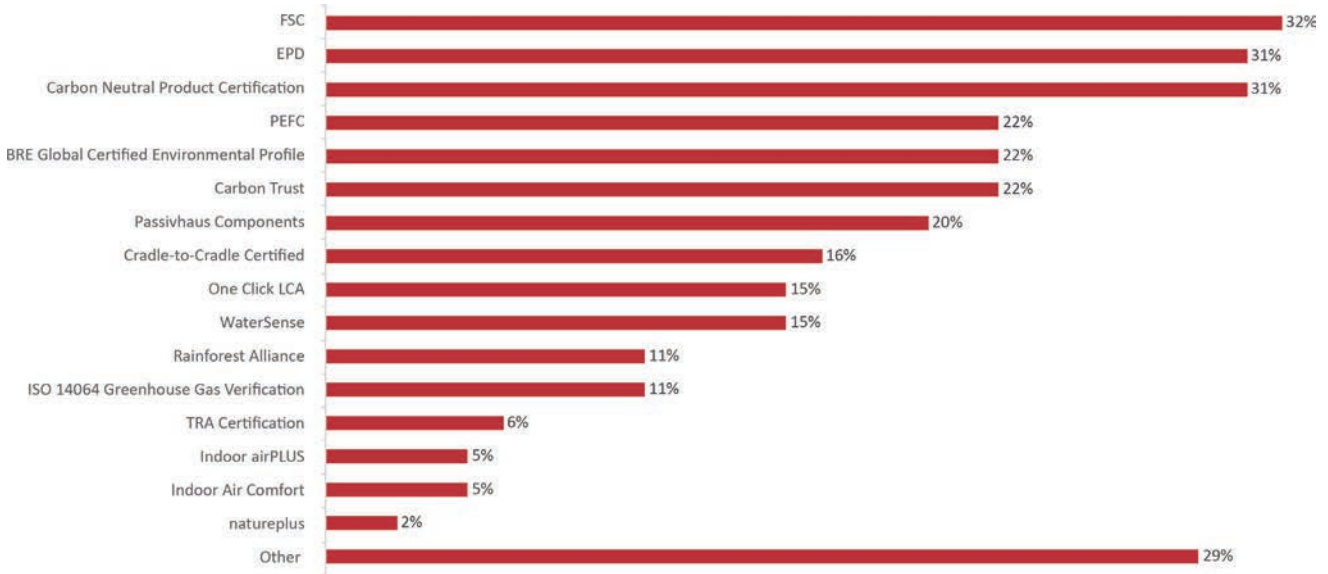
*Do you find it difficult to identify greenwashing or false sustainability claims in building product certifications?*

The independent Government-commissioned report by Paul Morrell and Annelise Day, in April 2023 ('Testing for a Safer Future') identified "serious weaknesses" around the regulation of construction products, which were exposed by the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire. He also attacked the current testing structure in the



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What certifications do you look for when evaluating products' environmental sustainability?

industry where there is a nearly unfathomably complex network of product testing, and a “huge disconnect” between designers, contractors and clients on the one hand, and the people who set standards and test products. Pinpointing a series of major flaws led the authors to a wide-ranging set of recommendations to address systemic problems across the industry.

The post-Brexit landscape

There has been consternation in the industry around the 2023 Government U-turn that saw most other sectors exempted from requirements to UKCA Mark their products following the UK's exit from the EU. They were allowed to continue using the CE Mark until June 2025, however this didn't include construction products.

The situation urgently requires further clarification, as currently the deadline for mandatory UKCA compliance for all products sold into the construction industry in the UK is 31 December 2024. Suppliers choosing to UCKA mark pre-emptively are having to absorb or pass on the administrative and development cost of auditing their product range to ensure it is tested to current UK (not EU) standards, meaning it needs to be tested in the UK. The increased focus on safety and accountability post-Grenfell has made the deadline an even more acute issue.

The Construction Products Association has warned that certain key product areas are facing major challenges on testing capacity including glass, sealants and radiators. The situation may have led to a degree of cynicism in construction about investing in testing and readying products for the change, until absolute clarity is achieved; which potentially requires more legislation.

We asked our architect audience what they saw as outstanding UKCA Mark issues, and verbatim comments included “whether it will come into force is probably the biggest question.” We asked whether a ‘mark’ for a single product rather than a composite or build-up was truly helpful in any case. A commenter said that the EU directives “have always focused on safety testing rather than full type testing,” alluding to the wider problem of not bringing a holistic focus to product certification which we delved deeper into later in the study.

## Safety, performance & sustainability

### Safety first

We gauged how respondents were sourcing specific certification on safety of construction products in particular. The results showed 27% of respondents said they were sourcing the information directly from manufacturers, and only 26% said they were seeking third-party certification.

Interestingly, 17% of architects surveyed said that they were conducting their own research to determine safety performance, and 8% were still using Desktop Studies on safety of products (which don't include specific fire tests). In another question 85% of respondents agreed with the proposition that ‘non-verified Desktop Studies on product safety performance should be prohibited.’

In January 2021, the Government announced that a new National Construction Products Regulator would be created within the Office for Product Safety and Standards, with powers to remove





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a product from market if it presented a significant safety risk.

Dame Judith Hackitt, in her preface to the 2023 Morrell Report said: “We must move from a state where up to two-thirds of products are unregulated, there is lack of clarity around purpose of testing, the fitness for purpose of current standards is questioned and there is no enforcement to implement a process that delivers quality and confidence.” She added that as part of the solution, “conformity assessment bodies must be adequately resourced, independent and impartial to provide confidence,” but that there remained “serious gaps in our current behaviours.”

Paul Morrell pointed out the anomaly that “there is no UK system for testing products for safety,” and we asked our architectural audience (mainly architects and architectural technologists) whether they thought a single national product conformity body would be preferable to the current system of a multitude of different approved assessment organisations. The answer was a resounding ‘yes’ with 66% saying they would prefer a national body supporting all certifications.

We asked our survey cohort whether they believed that the new National Construction Products Regulator would have “the powers and competence to investigate testing regimes effectively.” The respondents to our survey were split 50/50, showing there is work to be done to persuade architects of the regulator’s credibility.

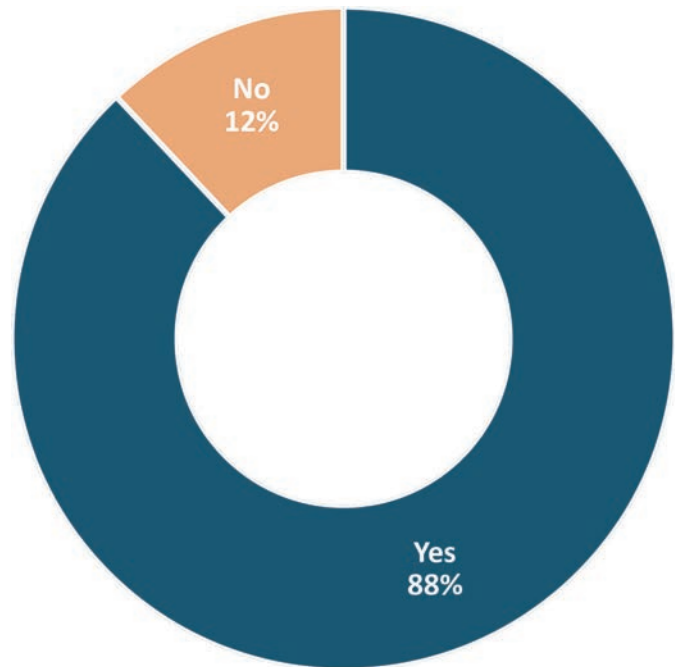
The emerging CCPI (Code for Construction Product Information) method for specifying products was yet to gain traction with our survey sample; only 3% were using it. A later question found only 58% said they were even aware of the CCPI.

### Performance certification

Morrell noted a total of 53 accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) approved by UKAS to assess the conformity of products, including testing labs, Factory Production Control (FPC) bodies, and Product Certification Bodies. This complex picture was exacerbated by the initial tight deadline put in place for achieving UKCA Marks for products, although this may be extended pending further clarification.

Technical Assessment Bodies (TABs) certify products “where there are no designated standards or where the scope of a standard does not cover a particular product,” but this relies on them having “necessary understanding of the regulation, professional ability, technical knowledge and capability,” said Paul Morrell.

Durability is a key part of long-term performance, but how difficult was assessing this within product certifications, for our respondents? Fortunately 59% said that they were not having problems assessing the durability of certified products, however, this figure was further clarified by asking which categories of products were causing more challenges on durability factors within certification. Cladding and wall finishes was well out in front, 74% picking it as a problem area. Second was roofing at 46%, a high figure compared with structural frame, which was less of a challenge for respondents, picked by 20%.



*Do you believe testing and certification of composite product systems should be made a mandatory requirement in the industry?*

### Sustainability certification

Despite the ubiquity of sustainability goals, clients were not requiring specific product certification on sustainability from their architects in the main, according to our sample. Only 40% saying their clients were requiring them to ‘ensure products were certified on sustainability.’ This potentially suggests however that clients regard this as the province of the design team.

Manufacturers are going to be required to include a full range of ‘environmental impact’ data in their Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) by 2030. Our respondents gave resounding support to this in verbatim comments, but adding some important qualifications. These included: “There is a tremendous lack of clarity, transparency, structure and consistency in the environmental reporting and testing of products. There needs to be a standardised suite of product details that are applicable to all products.” Another key comment was “full data transparency and confidence in that data is needed for architects and specifiers to even begin to be sure about the accuracy of whole life carbon assessments.”

We asked which certification methods they were using, and FSC certification for timber came out highest at 32% of surveyed respondents, with EPDs in second (joint with Carbon Neutral Product Certification.) A further 29% said they were using British Standards and BBA for sustainability certification.



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*Do you agree manufacturers having to include a full range of environmental impact data in Environmental Product Declarations by 2030 is the right thing to do?*

The endemic problem of ‘greenwashing’ i.e. false sustainability claims in the industry can occur within certificated products or even within certifications themselves. We asked how challenging the task of identifying greenwashing within certified products was for them, and a solid majority of 60% of respondents said they were struggling to identify greenwashing, a concerning result.

**Third-party certification**

In order to deliver truly credible certification, 84% of respondents said that third-party data was essential for both safety and performance criteria, however sustainability and durability were also strongly backed (79% and 77% respectively.)

We asked our respondents which product types they were requiring third-party certification of products for, to provide objective data across the categories of ‘safety,’ ‘performance’ and sustainability’ for a variety of product types. In total, 57% of respondents said they required third-party safety and performance certification data for cladding and wall finishes (47% for sustainability data). Windows and doors saw a high response of 62% saying they needed third-party data on performance, showing the growing importance of thermal performance and air-tightness requirements (safety came a relatively low second at 49%).

Roofing also showed a difference, with 56% saying they required third-party certification on performance, but only 48% on safety.

Two other contrasting results were plumbing and drainage (36% on performance versus 27% on safety and 26% on sustainability), and HVAC systems (31% requiring third-party certification on performance), reflecting the increased focus on low carbon heating.

We had a variety of verbatim comments in response to the question around third-party certifications being used, including how they sought feedback from within their profession to ascertain the validity of third-party data, and one respondent said they “take advice from CPD providers.” In terms of fire and other safety issues, one commenter said they would seek third-party assessment “if it is outside a manufacturer’s declaration.”

**Data challenges**

We looked at which types of certification and supporting info were proving most challenging to obtain, and the top scores were for performance certification and life-cycle analysis (48% and 46% respectively). Despite performance being potentially a wide remit, this appeared a high score for life-cycle analysis, suggesting that it was disproportionately difficult to source info here. Certification on embodied carbon was a major challenge for many respondents, with 39% saying that it was a challenge to obtain the information needed. Embodied carbon assessment is a component of LCA in many cases, and may represent a large amount of the challenge overall perceived by respondents.



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Do you believe that third-party certification is essential for robust product specification on the following criteria? ■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

Were respondents experiencing clarity and transparency of information within product certifications, and which sources were best and worst on this front? The main offender was 'company literature,' (for 55% of respondents), followed by CPDs on 51%. Not far below were 'direct conversations with suppliers' at 41%, 'editorial in trade magazines' at 35%, and advertising at 29%. Better performing areas were 'contact with certifying bodies' (13%), and 'contact with third-party testing bodies' at 12%.

### Systems & composite testing

The ability of the industry to provide safety, performance and sustainability data on completed build-ups assemblies, replicating real-world specifications on projects rather than just individual products, remains a contentious area. Our results confirmed the importance of this issue for specifiers, with a lack of such testing in the UK currently. A compelling 88% of respondents said they believed 'testing and certification of product systems should be made a requirement.'

However, we asked a question around issues resulting from the incoming UKCA Mark for products, and a respondent said that what was needed was performance accreditation for 'composite products' in various build-ups, but this raised further constraints for specifiers. "It would be good to have a complete performance mark for composite products but as with wall specifications, if only that one build-up or material thickness is tested, then only it can be specified."

## Conclusion

Our survey tackled a wide variety of crucial and challenging product certification issues, and gained some fascinating insights and some surprises, while confirming expectations in other areas. As rigour in project accountability and data increases alongside tighter legislation, we find ourselves in a new era of much greater admin and rigour sitting on the desks of architects and manufacturers, but a resultant general improvement in credibility and trust. The ultimate aim is a transparent and accountable system which will work against the possibility of further tragedies occurring, and increase our chances of meeting sustainability aims.

Major challenges remain – the proliferation of testing bodies with no national overseeing body, a lack of clarity in certifications, and a lack of product certification of the assemblies which are to be used on actual projects. Perhaps under the new Government, the Construction Products Regulator will be given the 'teeth' to really bring a sense of compulsion to testing effectively, and bring the threads together in order to give the clarity and confidence specifiers need. It needs to be near the top of the long to-do list.

For a full report on this survey, including data on availability of certified products, extra background on the new regime post-Building Safety Act and post-Brexit, and more insight into the data obtained including verbatim comments on the changes to EPDs, visit our 'insights' website [insights.netmagmedia.co.uk](https://insights.netmagmedia.co.uk)

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BUILDING  
PROJECTSPARK HILL PHASE TWO  
SHEFFIELD

# The embodiment of sustainable retrofit

Preserving the original structure and character of a notorious estate originally conceived as a ‘vertical garden city’ helped Mikhail Riches’ Stirling Prize-shortlisted redevelopment cut embodied carbon by 61%. Stephen Cousins reports

The Park Hill estate has been a landmark on the Sheffield skyline for over 60 years, and at the time of construction was a true vision of the future. This ‘vertical garden city’ for 3,000 residents had ‘streets in the sky’; raised access routes wide enough to accommodate milk floats, and direct access to shops and pubs on the ground floor.

Designed by architects Ivor Smith and Jack Lynns, the interconnected tenement blocks were positively received by residents, but over time problems with poverty, crime, drug use and anti-social behaviour brought Park Hill into disrepute, and by the 1980s it had a reputation as one of Britain’s most notorious “sink estates.”

There were calls for it to be knocked down, but in 1998 the buildings were saved from the bulldozers when English Heritage granted it a Grade II listing, making it the largest listed building in Europe. Property developer Urban Splash took over the estate, kicking off the regeneration with architect Hawkins\Brown’s ambitious reimagining of three ‘wings’ in Phase One, completed in January 2013. This replaced the original facades of brick panels and timber windows with brightly coloured anodised aluminium panels and large sections of glazing.

Fast forward to 2015 and the brief for Phase Two, a U-shaped block at the centre of the development, called for a lighter touch approach that would preserve as

much of the original building as possible, whilst prioritising energy efficiency. The competition-winning design, by Mikhail Riches, delivers 195 flats and 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of ground floor commercial space.

Alim Saleh, project architect at Mikhail Riches tells *ADF*: “Hawkins\Brown completely stripped the structure back to the concrete frame, gutted everything and started again because that level of internet intervention was needed at that time to really change people’s perceptions of the estate. They did a really good job, but we had to be more sensitive in our approach, in terms of the listed structure and listed status, and from an environmental point of view, to try to keep some embodied carbon.”

The retentionist approach, preserving the original brickwork infills and the majority of the concrete frame, resulted in big embodied carbon savings, while upgrades to the building fabric slashed operational carbon compared to the original building. But finding appropriate and resilient solutions raised complex challenges for the architects, who had to carve out spacious modern flats from a distinctly ungenerous layout, and adapt a structure plagued by tolerance issues and cold bridges.

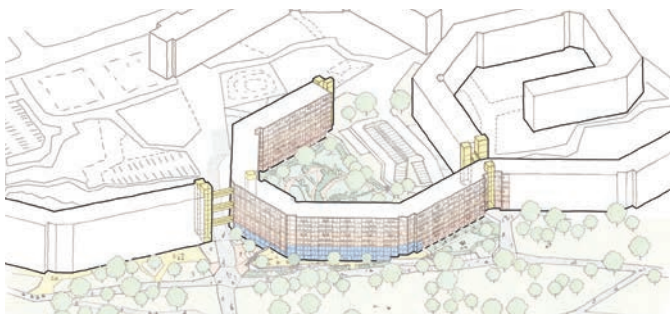
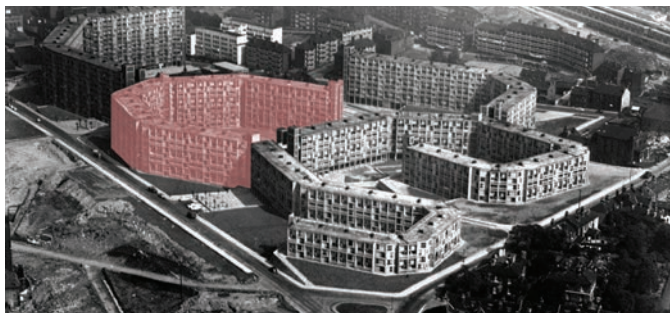
## Unusual lengths

The stark brutalist architecture of Park Hill has always divided opinion and Urban Splash went to great lengths to ensure its



### TEST OF TIME

The building has largely stood the test of time and the only major demolition required was around entrances



## The brief for Phase Two called for a lighter touch approach that would preserve as much of the original building as possible

### INTERCONNECTED

The interconnected tenement blocks were initially positively received by residents

new vision for the estate would be embraced by the city.

The competition for Phase 2 of the project, held in 2015, saw five shortlisted practices each assigned a flat in the derelict building and given two weeks to demonstrate their ideas. The brief called on the architects to “live and breathe” the site and “wholeheartedly commit” to it.

Mikhail Riches’ team was inspired by the remnants of lives lived there, including traces of former inhabitation and the ways residents had made their flats feel more like home. For example, some had painted balcony walls different colours, and laid patterned linoleum on their doorsteps.

Back in the 1950s, when designs for Park Hill were first published, the facade was heavily criticised in some quarters for failing to express individual dwellings within the block, regardless of whether apartments were large or small and who might live inside.

“Personalising their balconies was perhaps a way for people to look up at the building and say, that’s my flat, helping give a sense of individuality in the whole,” says Saleh.

Mikhail Riches’ competition-winning proposal sought to redress this failing, installing patterned ‘door mats’ at each entrance onto open-air access decks (known as the streets in the sky’), and coloured balcony reveals to give each flat its own identity. Otherwise, the building would be

a faithful restoration, keeping as much of the existing fabric as possible and giving it a thermal and acoustic upgrade.

The original Park Hill layout was complex, a bewildering configuration of 37 different flat types and no repeating cluster. Even the drawings were hard to interpret, with notes written in obscure jargon, forcing Mikhail Riches to retain the same team on the job to avoid misunderstandings.

Existing flat sizes and layouts were reconfigured to meet modern standards and ways of living. A ‘typical’ existing floor plan featured a series of single bay-wide flats – dubbed ‘sad flats’ by the architects – were too cramped. These were removed to ensure all apartments have at least a double-bay wide kitchen/ living space.

“When we tessellated that through the scheme, it enabled double bay wide living spaces on the deck access street side, or on the balcony side, which enabled many more flat typologies,” says Saleh.

Although some three-bed units remain at ‘hinge’ points in the U-shaped plan, most were converted to two-beds with an added ensuite; walls between stairs and landings were also removed to open things up.

### Carbon counting

Sustainability was embedded into Hawkins\Brown’s Phase One scheme, which retained and repaired the original 50 year old concrete frame. Phase Two took things a stage further, a key constraint being the





## The architects had to carve out spacious modern flats from a distinctly ungenerous layout

preservation of not just of the concrete, but the bricks too.

A condition survey of the structural frame was crucial for the performance specification and repair strategy, which included removing areas of defective concrete and corroded reinforcement. Where exposed rebar was significantly corroded, bars were locally cut out and replaced with new welded rebar primed for repair mortar.

The building had largely stood the test of time, and the only major demolition required was around the entrance areas, where the removal of flat units opened up space for new double-height lobbies. The bricks were largely undamaged and the original mortar only needed repointing where existing windows had been removed. Nevertheless, some 60 years of weathering, decay and mould-growth made it uncertain how well the bricks would clean up to match the original.

Historic England wanted the fire skin (the outer skin of the brick), left undamaged, which ruled out an abrasive, or chemical clean. Instead, a low-pressure 'Jos' clean, typically used in stone conservation work, removed any staining without chemicals.

The existing concrete frame was also repaired and cleaned as part of the work.

Combustible materials are banned for use in external facades of buildings higher than 18 metres, so apart from the outer skin, the wall build up, including the structural block work and plaster, was removed and replaced with a steel framing system, cavity insulation and new plaster. This made it possible to bring new windows back into the thermal line, with pressed aluminium reveals adding depth to the facade.

Preserving as much as possible for the existing structure, in line with the listed status, raised challenges when trying to resolve issues with thermal performance and cold bridging, and put a focus on insulating every surface of every room. This lowered the already restrictive floor-to-floor height to just 2.215 metre, versus at least 3.1 metres in a modern building.

Extensive thermal imaging work carried out on Phase One and modelled by Greengage, found that the balcony cheeks (side walls) were acting as a major cold bridge, so between 60 mm and 100 mm of Rockwool was applied to the reveals to help insulate concrete beams going back into the structure. Balcony floors and door



thresholds were also upgraded.

A lax approach to the original building's construction raised issues for designers and for contractors on site. The concrete slabs vary in tolerance from floor to floor, sometimes by as much as 60 mm, which informed the installation of cradle and batten floors in flats to create a level surface. Brickwork is not straight or plumb, making it difficult to fit new square windows into unsquare holes.

Removing more of the existing fabric could have made the scheme easier to build and simplified a lot of details, says Saleh. However, it would have had an impact on upfront embodied carbon, which delivered a 61% saving on the equivalent good practice new build. An assessment of post-retrofit whole life embodied carbon revealed a 55% saving over new build.

### Cleaner operation

Turning to operational performance, EPCs for the apartments are generally around C, confirms Saleh, but as a retrofit of a leaky concrete tower block, arguably the 87% improvement in operational carbon over the original scheme is the more important figure to consider.

This was enabled mainly through fabric performance upgrades and degassing the building's heating. The original scheme was connected to a district heating network run on dirty waste heat source, this was stripped out to make way for an all-electric system of panel radiators. Careful analysis identified all the key thermal improvements needed to reduce heat loads and make the electric system viable.

Renewable energy generation does not feature in Phase 2, however plans are in place to retrofit solar photovoltaics to the building, as well as to phases four and five of the regeneration, which Mikhail Riches has been retained to work on.

Sunlight will certainly enhance the subtle palette of turquoises and greens painted on the building's balcony walls and inspired by the nearby Peak District. The 12 new colours match the front doors to require extensive testing and discussion with heritage experts to finalise. "People have different opinions on colour, making it one of the biggest decisions. It took perhaps five years to agree on the approach," says Saleh.

Historic England underlined the need to be able to 'read' the existing brick bands in the facade, which comprised a terracotta

### READING THE EXISTING BRICK

The architects chose a palette of 'cool' colours including turquoises and greens for the facade, while allowing the existing brick bands to still be 'read'







brick at the base, an ochre-type brick in the middle, and a whitish cream brick at the top, denoting the different layers of the 'streets in the sky.'

An early idea to apply a red and yellow palette was rejected in favour of the cooler tones, which work more in harmony with the brick, yet also stand out and give individual flats an identity.

### Social streets

The streets in the sky were originally conceived as an outdoor social space where neighbours could meet and children could play. Hawkins\Brown's design for Phase One stuck to this concept, but entrances to flats were built out into the access decks forming thresholds to each group of four flats.

Phase Two sought to maintain the full original width, which demanded a different approach to define the thresholds. Entrances to two of each group of flats are recessed, and every property has a patterned 'door mat,' referencing the lino mats laid by original residents. There are 12 different decorative patterns, each one embedded into the new surface of resin bonded stone or recycled rubber.

The patterns add visual activity to the street and give each unit an area of personal space, whilst also discouraging people from walking directly past front doors by leading them towards the balustrade.

Problems with crime on the original Park Hill emerged, in part, because residents were closed off from the access decks with no view out. Mikhail Riches has addressed this by introducing a full height side light to front doors to allow passive surveillance as well as enhance natural daylight. Alternate flats feature an internal window, between the hallway and kitchen, so residents can see the street while cooking.

"It's a way of promoting neighbourliness and social interaction, which seems to be working really well," says Saleh.

Once hailed as the most ambitious inner-city development of its time and a visionary piece of modernist architecture, Park Hill failed to match expectations and soon fell on hard times. By paying respect to the aspects that made the building work, and finding effective solutions to those that didn't, Mikhail Riches' sensitive refurbishment should stand the test of time in a way its post-war forebear could not. The project's success was recently recognised by the RIBA, who placed it on the shortlist for the 2024 Stirling Prize as one of only two refurbishments in the running. ■

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saving, while the ventilated air cavity improves thermal and acoustic insulation and helps reduce condensation and humidity.

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# Made to measure – Pendock's bespoke casings

Decorative architectural casings and enclosures have been Pendock's area of specialism for more than three decades, with its Radius column casings and Linea building linings being core products in the company's range of bespoke solutions, which are often combined to give an integrated finish solution.

Two comparatively early examples of where bespoke casings were used to address individual specifications for high profile projects, were at West Cheshire College in Ellesmere Port and Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre (NEC).

West Cheshire College is constructed on a circular plan and Pendock supplied more than 60 bespoke metal column casings, finished in white, which were used on each level within the five-storey building to conceal the structural supports.

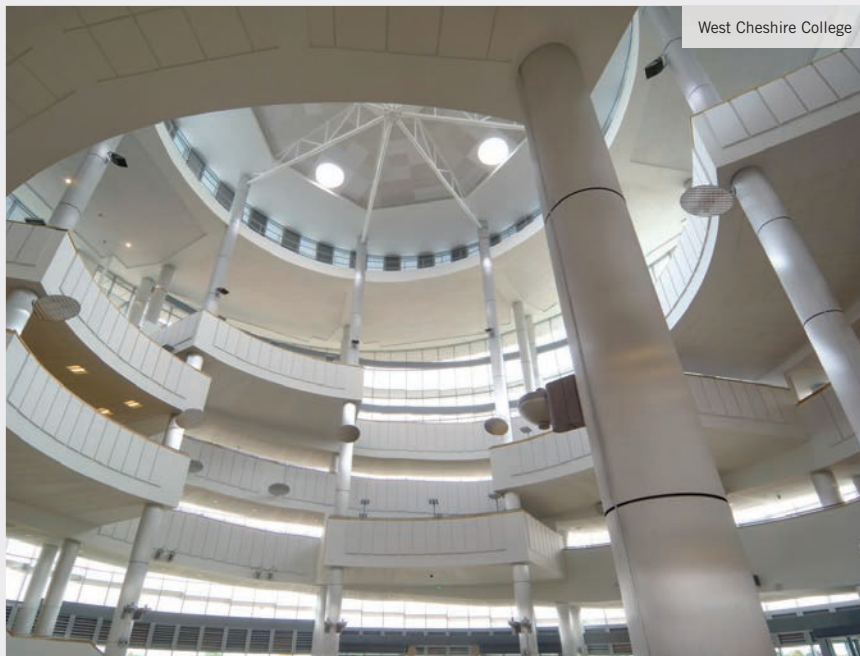
At the NEC, 40 bespoke column casings, finished in grey high pressure laminate (HPL) and standing 4 metres high, were used in the main piazza area to conceal structural steelwork, while a series of slender aerofoil section fins, finished in red (HPL), incorporated large metallic numerals as exhibition hall signalling for visitors.

It's been more than 15 years since the NEC project was completed, which is testament to their durability, but since then Pendock has been involved in countless other bespoke projects, and two of the latest projects each required individually engineered column casing and building lining solutions.

Brushed stainless steel column casings are used to conceal structural steelwork at University College London's East Campus at Pool Street on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford.



UCL East Campus



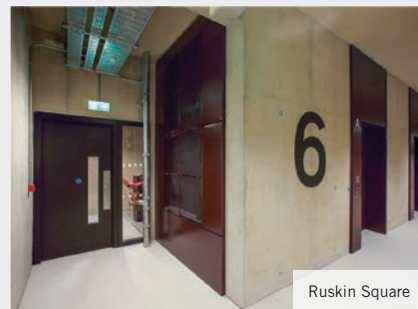
West Cheshire College

Each of the 12 column casings, which are 775 mm in diameter and range in height from 3,215 mm to 3,370 mm, are installed in four external locations on the third level of the university building's two towers, which function as student relaxation areas.



The Spires Health Centre

For The Spires Health Centre in Wednesbury, bespoke elliptical column casings were manufactured by Pendock from 2 mm thick aluminium with a grey RAL 7005 finish to conceal the 6.8 metre high structural steelwork that supports the centre's triangular main entrance canopy.



Ruskin Square

Another recent project is using specialised wall linings from the Linea range to conceal mechanical details surrounding a ground floor feature wall & fire curtain, at Croydon's prestigious Ruskin Square development, while also providing a consistent finish to lift lobbies on each level of the 10 storey building. The bespoke wall linings are manufactured from 3 mm thick aluminium with a RAL 3007 finish and were installed by Pendock using a concealed panel hanging system.

A full range of specification details and product information is available on the Pendock website and online at NBS Source.

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16 – 20 September  
Coventry Building Society Arena



# A precision-made offsite agenda

**A**cknowledged for connecting the offsite supply-chain with architects, engineers, consultants, contractors and clients who want to be “future-ready,” Offsite Expo took place recently in Coventry, boasting educational seminars, interactive panel debates, and factory tours, as part of Offsite Construction Week.

A UK-first, which took place from 16 – 20 September, Offsite Construction Week (OCW) is a multifaceted showcase that revolves around three major industry events – Offsite Expo, the Offsite Summit and the Offsite Awards, with a wide range of parallel activities taking place in the UK and overseas. Uniting industry leaders from different construction and material sectors, the newly-formed Advisory Group has curated the CPD-accredited Masterclass topics and panel debates agendas.

Uniting industry leaders from different construction and material sectors, the newly-formed Advisory Group curated the Masterclass topics and panel debates agendas, and nominated some of the most renowned voices in offsite construction as panel speakers. The Advisory Group acted as an unbiased Ambassador for Offsite Construction, ensuring that the key trends and challenges of the industry were addressed during the series of events that formed Offsite Construction Week.

## Unanimous support

The brainchild of industry associations operating across the sector, Offsite Construction Week presented a unique proposition. Trade bodies, industry alliances and material groups including Buildoffsite (BOS), Building Engineering Services Association (BESA), Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT), Constructing Excellence (CE), Light Steel Frame Association (LSFA), MMC Ireland, Modular and Portable Building Association (MPBA), Offsite Alliance (OA), Steel



Construction Institute (SCI), Structural Timber Association (STA) and others came together to support what was the most comprehensive series of offsite events the country has yet seen.

## Pan-industry collaboration

Offsite Construction Week served as a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration amongst policymakers, clients, contractors



and offsite manufacturers, by bringing these key stakeholders together to address shared challenges and present opportunities in the construction industry. Through a series of panel discussions, seminars, site tours and innovation competitions, participants shared knowledge and best practices, and exchanged project experiences and cohesive strategies to align with evolving regulatory frameworks and market demands.

This concentrated interaction not only enhances mutual understanding and trust, but also drives efficiency across vertical markets, ultimately leading to more collaborative and sustainable construction practices.

### Accelerating the pace

The industry's vertical markets are under ample pressure to deliver some very ambitious projects in the next decade, which requires the creation of production capacity today. Digital technology, including Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) can reduce build time by 50%; however, there is a marked disconnect between clients, specifiers, contractors, and the supply chain. A wider deployment of offsite construction methods requires a shared understanding and a common strategy for navigating the risks and challenges involved in utilising offsite technologies. Offsite Construction Week gave the floor to industry experts to present and discuss strategic investments intended to streamline planning, funding, standardisation, and quality assurance.

### Events & themes

Organisers of the influential Offsite Expo and Offsite Awards have partnered with industry leaders with the specific goal of inspiring strategic collaboration across the offsite construction sector. Offsite Construction Week brought together clients, manufacturers, developers, architects, specifiers, project managers, legislative and accrediting bodies for a week-long series of events, debates, and discussions on how to accelerate sector growth by removing current barriers to MMC implementation. Sharing lessons learned at the Masterclass Seminars and providing insight into international best practices at the International Summit, Offsite Construction Week is a platform for launching common strategies for the wider adoption of industrialised construction.

## Offsite Expo – the most comprehensive showcase of offsite technology in the UK

This year's Offsite Expo had a precision focus on the technologies and trends that are bringing transformative change to the construction industry.

Visitors at Offsite Expo were invited to immerse themselves in the next big breakthroughs in sustainable construction, to experience 2D panelised, 3D volumetric modular and pod technologies and learn how revolutionary digital innovations are accelerating the pace of the industry. In addition to live demonstrations of offsite technologies' success, there were plenty of opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing.

Co-hosting with Buildoffsite (BOS), this year's Offsite Expo ran a parallel two day International Offsite Construction Summit. Featuring talks from global expert speakers and an Innovation Challenge competition, the new Offsite Summit served as a platform for sharing international best practice and strategies for offsite success.

The 'Masterclass Seminars' programme at the Offsite Expo has been established to make accessible all the latest thinking from a comprehensive host of industry trailblazers – it featured those who are shaping the debate and at the forefront of developing panelised, volumetric modular and MEP technologies.

### Knowledge-building environment

With an emphasis on construction industrialisation, kit of parts and platform design, skills and productivity challenges – the event brought together those who are focused firmly on the future. In an era dominated by remote and digital experiences, Offsite Expo offered unparalleled opportunities to escape the virtual world and chat face to face, and look to new horizons to address the sustainability challenges and productivity issues that have plagued the construction industry for decades.

For information about all the events that took place during Offsite Construction Week, view the Programme for the Masterclasses, International Summit and Panel Discussions by scanning the QR Code below.

*Article supplied by Offsite Construction Week*



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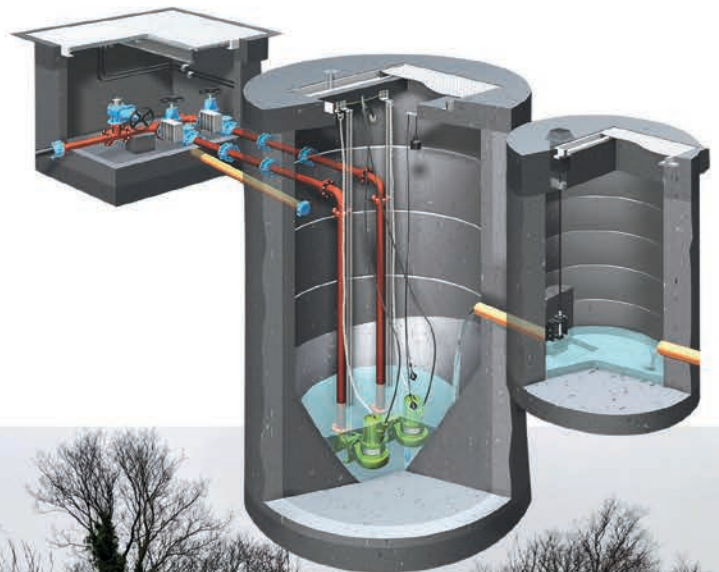
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## Industry 'bible' updated

Voestalpine Metsec has recently published the latest version of its Steel Framing Systems (SFS) Specification Manual, the industry's most comprehensive resource for professionals involved in the specification, installation and use of light gauge steel framing systems.

Widely recognised as the industry bible for SFS, the new 176-page manual is packed with just about every piece of information required to assure the successful design, specification, selection and application of voestalpine Metsec's SFS, based on years of experience, expert technical knowledge and a vast library of independent testing.

The manual is a perfect example of why voestalpine Metsec's SFS light gauge galvanized steel structural framing systems have been successfully assessed to the Code for Construction Products Information (CCPI), introduced by the Construction Products Association.

The manual covers the principles of specifying steel framing systems for a project and the typical processes involved from design, through installation to final

hand-over. It includes the benefits of SFS against alternative building systems, performance standards, professional indemnity, MetWALL Perform 30-year warranty, project timeline, BIM design, CPD presentations and installer training.

Following these broader considerations, the manual features detailed information on the major applications of SFS in infill walling, load bearing situations, continuous walling and high bay walling.

Each application area contains detailed information on relevant performance criteria and the use of SFS with popular sheathing and cladding materials, including fire performance data based on full independent testing. This is illustrated with high quality architectural drawings showing typical wall build-ups and case studies featuring prestigious projects which demonstrate the successful application of SFS in residential, education, health, leisure and commercial situations.

The manual provides the reader with what is probably the most detailed appreciation of steel framing systems in general and,



of course, voestalpine Metsec's renowned SFS in particular. voestalpine Metsec's new Steel Framing Systems (SFS) Specification Manual is available for download from the company's website.

0121 601 6000 [www.metsec.com](http://www.metsec.com)

## Wykamol-Triton Systems waterproof classic car 'cavern'



An 18-month refurbishment and reconstruction project in Kent is set to create a cavernous basement showroom to house a private car collection in stunning and pristine conditions, where a selection of fully compatible products from the Wykamol-Triton range have been specified to completely waterproof the subterranean structure, being built into steeply rising ground. The work on the house, in one of the most desirable districts of Royal Tunbridge Wells, is being carried out by London based Cosgove Design and Build with Structural Waterproofing Contracts being the specialist contractor employing the Wykamol-Triton products including the Sureproof Ultra bentonite carpet, laid across the formation level sub-soil. Then all of the ready-mix concrete is being batched with TT waterproofing admixture, while TT Swell Mastic and TT Waterstop will protect the joints along with Hydrflex Tanking Slurry. Finally, when the structure is complete, the manufacturer's renowned CM8 cavity drain membrane will line the walls to direct any seepage into floor level channels, before the walls are covered by Gypliner metal trays, insulation, Duplex boards and a hard wall plaster finish.

01282 473 100 [www.wykamol.com](http://www.wykamol.com)

## New Ventus & Valetis roof terminals



Ubbink's two all-new terminals offer outstanding performance with increased mechanical ventilation efficiency: The Ventus insulated roof duct is designed for both air supply and extraction, on flat or pitched roofs. It

can be easily adjusted for pitched roofs between 15° and 55°; The Universal Valetis air extraction terminal has been designed to fit perfectly with ventilation systems C and D. It features a low-profile design which overcomes the problem of shadows cast on solar panels – and is suitable for use with slates or tiles.

01604 433000 [www.ubbink.co.uk](http://www.ubbink.co.uk)

## Rockpanel is Cradle to Cradle Certified®



Rockpanel has recently become Cradle to Cradle Certified at the Silver level for their most popular range, Rockpanel Colours. The certification Cradle to Cradle Certified is made on the basis of Product Standard Version 4.0, which is the most ambitious and actionable global standard yet for developing products

that are safe, circular and responsibly made. Jeroen Ebus, Managing Director of Rockpanel, describes it as yet another initiative consolidating Rockpanel's position as a responsible manufacturer.

01656 863210 [www.rockpanel.co.uk](http://www.rockpanel.co.uk)



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GRC 1



GRC 2



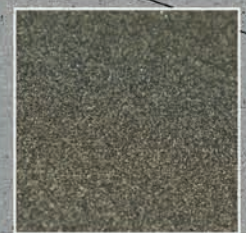
Portland Stone



Limestone



Sandstone



Dark Sandstone



Buff Red 1



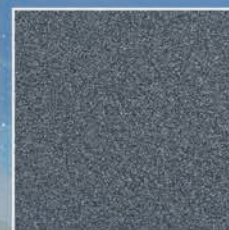
Buff Red 2



Buff Red 3



Light Grey Concrete



Dark Grey Concrete



Dark Granite



[architectural.interpon.com](http://architectural.interpon.com)

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# CCPI: an essential tool for building trust

The Building Safety Act has made it critical for cladding manufacturers to provide accurate product information. Alan Lamming from Valcan discusses how the advent of CCPI is building a sense of trust among manufacturers and specifiers

In today's industry, providing clear, accurate, and transparent information about construction products is essential to ensure that architects make informed decisions about the design of buildings. Architects and main contractors rely on this information to ensure compliance, design, specification, installation, use, maintenance, and disposal of materials on their projects.

Clear and transparent product information also contributes to the overall safety and durability of buildings and facades. Architects need a thorough understanding of the performance characteristics of cladding materials and systems to ensure that they meet the necessary safety standards and regulations. This information is crucial for designing facades that are safe, resilient and can withstand future environmental challenges.

The Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI) was created to promote an urgent and positive culture and behaviour change in the way the construction product manufacturing industry manages and provides information on their products. Created by the Construction Product Association (CPA) in response to Dame Judith Hackitt's review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety after the Grenfell Tower tragedy, this code aims to change how product information is managed and provided.

Dame Judith Hackitt's review highlighted the urgent need for a shift in the way construction product organisations market their products. The CCPI sets out to raise standards in product information and move the industry to a place where product information is communicated clearly, accurately, and effectively, whether it's in a brochure, presentation, website, or social media platform.



By raising standards and promoting transparency, the CCPI is paving the way for a more informed and confident decision-making process for architects and users of construction products. It's all about helping to build a culture of greater trust and reliability in the industry.

## How does the CCPI work?

The CCPI aims to raise standards in product information and its management. By going through a rigorous assessment process, manufacturers of construction products can demonstrate their commitment to providing accurate and consistent product information. This not only helps to benefit confidence among architects and others involved in building design, but also sets a high standard for the UK construction market.

**CCPI is paving the way for a more informed and confident decision-making process**



**It is imperative for companies to align with CCPI to support their efforts and dedication to quality and safety in construction projects and throughout the lifecycle of buildings**

To make it easier for architects, contractors, and clients to identify assessed products which carry the CCPI Mark, the CCPI has created an online product search function on the CCPI website. This directory offers a comprehensive list of products that have been assessed against the Code, all at no cost to users. Furthermore, as the scheme grows, architects will increasingly find CCPI assessed products on specifier search engines and databases.

The CCPI process involves a thorough evaluation of the leadership, culture and ethics of the organisation in relation to prioritising product information management, assessment of information management systems, and assessment of specific product data. Once manufacturers successfully complete this process and can prove conformance with the Code that is independently assessed by CCPI assessors, they receive a CCPI assessment mark for their product information that they have put through the process.

This independent third-party assessment helps to give architects, contractors, and building owners peace of mind that they are choosing a product based on product

information that conforms with the CCPI.

In the coming years, it is expected that clients, specifiers, and users will demand cladding products that provide product information which conforms with the CCPI. With the establishment of the Building Safety Regulator and National Regulator for Construction Products (NRCP), CCPI will play a crucial role in establishing the industry's commitment to addressing safety concerns and meeting regulatory standards in relation to product information. It is imperative for companies to align with CCPI to support their efforts and dedication to quality and safety in construction projects and throughout the lifecycle of buildings.

Amanda Long, chief executive, CPI Ltd commented on the changing culture: "We are focused on raising standards of product information across the industry and moving the industry to a place where product information can be more relied upon. We are delighted to work with early adopters of CCPI, who are showing leadership at this critical time when the industry must engage in necessary change."

*Alan Lamming is director of Valcan*

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# Technical ventilation louvres for any project

While Renson is an international trendsetter in ventilation, sun protection and outdoor living today, it all started with ventilation louvres. The family-owned business develops wall, surface-mounted, window, door, and floor louvres, in every possible size, shape, and colour.

The extensive range of louvres can meet a wealth of technical requirements: acoustic attenuation, burglary prevention, water resistance, fall-through safety to fire resistance, thermal sealing, and specific filter properties. As most ventilation louvres remain visible in the shell of a building, Renson also pays a great deal of attention to their aesthetic aspect: impeccable coatings,



no visibility when looking perpendicular to the louvre, good drainage to avoid water damage, and a completely rust-free and durable finishing in aluminium contribute to the foundation of its success. To make sure you chose the right ventilation

louvres in the minimal amount of time, we built a louvre selector tool. Just enter your requirements and we'll show you the suitable products.

[www.renson.net](http://www.renson.net)

## RMIG SOLUTIONS

### Picture perforation used for a facade depicting landscapes

As the main provider of acute hospital services ample parking space is required at all times. It was decided that a multi-storey car park (MSCP) should be built to keep pace with demand at the Dorset County Hospital.

Due to new and stricter public regulations combined with the desire for aesthetic freedom, the task presented several challenges that required extensive teamwork within our organisation. RMIG Solutions succeeded to merge the creative wishes of the architects to give residents a great impression of the Dorchester landscapes.

01925 839610 • [info.uk@rmig.com](mailto:info.uk@rmig.com) • [rmigsolutions.com](http://rmigsolutions.com)



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[city-emotion.com](http://city-emotion.com)



**Technical characteristics**  
Size of the project: 3,400 m<sup>2</sup>  
Material: Novelis ff3® coil-coated aluminium  
Pattern: RMIG ImagePerf  
Thickness: 3.0 mm

## Pura makes facade specification easy



Pura Facades, part of the national Vivalda Group, has signed up to NBS Source, the trusted platform for specifiers. The move allows architects, designers, developers and contractors to obtain trusted, up to date information and data on the UK's widest range of cladding materials. Pura Facades is part of Vivalda Group, one of the UK's largest suppliers of facade systems. The company provides a total cut-to-size fabrication and just-in-time delivery service. The business not only supplies cladding panels, but also a complete range of ancillary products including fixings, framing, breather membranes, fire barriers and insulation.

[www.purafacades.co.uk](http://www.purafacades.co.uk) [www.vivalda.co.uk](http://www.vivalda.co.uk)

## Seeing the light with a Haddonstone orangery



Orangeries were originally considered a luxury due to the eye-watering cost of glass. Nowadays, these light-filled spaces have become a stylish alternative to conservatories, and a useful extension of the home. Since showing its first orangery at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2001, Haddonstone has been making columns and pilasters for private clients, architects and specialist builders in a range of styles from Tuscan to Gothic, Ionic to Art Deco; plus offering bespoke specifications in virtually any design imaginable.

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

## Garador's tried and tested Carlton proves popular



With a classic design that suits so many different styles of property, Garador's Carlton up & over garage door is one of the most popular garage doors on the market.

The Carlton offers exceptional value for money with a tried and tested design that's both long-lasting and low maintenance, along with a competitive price point. Constructed from high grade galvanised steel, the crisp vertical swage complements modern architecture, but also sits well on traditional builds or alongside other garage doors where there are blocks of garages in a row. The door has a rivet free design meaning the surface of the door panel is smooth and a durable powder-coat paint finish protects the door from the elements.

Garador's Carlton comes in a choice of 20 standard colours, including the ever-popular Anthracite Grey (RAL 7016) plus is available in the full range of sizes up to 5,500 mm wide including standard, made-to-measure and double door sizes.

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

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Full details and downloads of all certification is available on the website; [www.valcan.co.uk](http://www.valcan.co.uk)



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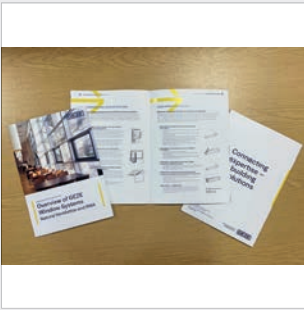


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W: [www.valcan.co.uk](http://www.valcan.co.uk)

## A window on... systems for comfort and safety



GEZE UK, the UK subsidiary of GEZE GmbH, has introduced the Overview of GEZE Window Systems brochure that offers a complete overview of the GEZE window technology range, which includes everything from manual drive systems for natural ventilation to complete solutions for smoke and heat ventilation. The brochure offers advice and guidance on selecting the most suitable system and how GEZE UK can provide tailored solutions. In addition, it explains the benefits of natural ventilation and indoor climate control, and what a SHEV (smoke and heat exhaust ventilation) system is. Ensuring the right solution for a project increases the safety and comfort of those using the building. With a comprehensive overview of all GEZE's products in the window technology range and an easy-to-use table for product comparisons outlining their applications, functions and installation options the brochure is an invaluable tool for everyone from designers and specifiers, through to fabricators and installers in the window ventilation industry. The brochure is available digitally by visiting the company's website or for a printed or digital copy to be emailed. [info.uk@geze.com](mailto:info.uk@geze.com) [www.geze.co.uk](http://www.geze.co.uk)


## StoVentec Glass meets unique design brief as part of £21m renovation



StoVentec Glass installed within the Printworks to reflect the visuals on the ceilings

A glass rainscreen system manufactured by Sto in four different designs has been used as part of the £21m transformation of an indoor entertainment centre. Working in partnership with specialist contractor Craft Interior, Sto helped architects CDA bring their design vision to life using the StoVentec Glass A rainscreen system. This cladding system comprises tempered safety glass which is bonded to a carrier board to produce bespoke composite panels, available in any size, shape, colour or finish. The panels are secured to Sto's bespoke hidden-fix sub-construction, combining both stainless steel and aluminium components. CDA required a modern, robust material which could be customised to create unique patterns and reflect its surroundings. To meet these requirements, StoVentec Glass panels were digitally screen printed with three different graphics. Inside the Printworks, one graphic emulates the appearance of bricks and the other, stone. Both have been designed to complement local architecture, including the Portland stone that features on the building's historic facade. Craft Interior was responsible for the installation and worked with Sto and CDA to finalise the design.

0330 024 2666 [www.sto.co.uk](http://www.sto.co.uk)



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# Proctor Air® delivers performance for the future in historic roof as part of renovation

Proctor Air, the roofing membrane for the future developed by A. Proctor Group, is being installed as part of the renovation of Manchester Town Hall.

Once construction work on the historic building, which is nearly 150-years old, is complete it will benefit from Proctor Air's combination of vapour permeability and air permeability.

At roof level, the restoration efforts include dismantling and rebuilding 30 of the 34 chimneys, and replacing 140,000 roof tiles.

Removing the roof finish has afforded the opportunity to install a new pitched roof underlay. The project architects specified Proctor Air, with Mac Roofing & Contracting Ltd carrying out installation.

A key advantage of Proctor Air, as an air permeable low-resistance (APLR) membrane, is that it removes the need for separate roof ventilation. In fact, it provides a more uniform flow of air in the roof space than normal vents, ensuring there are no 'dead zones'



where the complexity of the roof form could otherwise have restricted air movement.

Air permeability performance is important, but must work alongside good vapour permeability performance. With an Sd value of 0.015m and a vapour resistance of

0.075MNs/g, Proctor Air is one of the highest performing vapour permeable membranes on the market.

Pitched roof underlays are a true 'fit and forget' product. Hidden from view, they attract little interest from building users but play a vital role in protecting people from the elements, and from unhealthy indoor climates.

Proctor Air might be a modern product, but it is preserving the building's heritage in its own way. When the weather-tight wrap and 3700 tonnes of scaffolding are finally removed from the Town Hall, the building and its users will benefit from a reliable, high performance APLR underlay.

Thanks to the selection of Proctor Air, the roof should be capable of facing Manchester's changing weather and climate for many years to come.

01250 872 261

[proctorgroup.com/products/proctor-air](http://proctorgroup.com/products/proctor-air)



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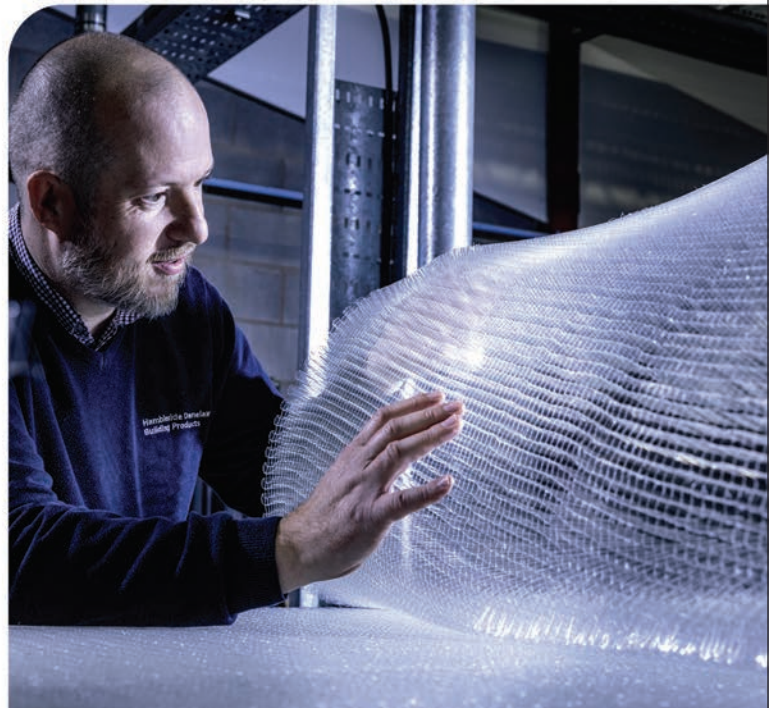
Unlike traditional alternatives, Insulator can deliver extremely low U-Values without compromising light transmission; and with a fraction of the embodied carbon.

And at the end of its service life, Insulator is compostable. The natural choice for low-carbon daylight.



[www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk/zenon-rooflights](http://www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk/zenon-rooflights)

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## Access to Adventure with TORMAX

Creating a welcoming and efficient new main entrance to the fantastical family attraction of Hobbledown in Surrey, TORMAX was recently contracted to install a double set of bi-parting automatic sliding doors, powered by their Swiss-engineered iMotion 2202 door drives. Offering unparalleled reliability and smooth operation, the doors feature advanced motion sensor technology, ensuring optimal energy efficiency and safety. An intelligent control system adapts to varying traffic patterns, minimizing power consumption whilst maximising performance. Aiming to ensure everyone can enjoy Hobbledown, many attractions are accessible to the less able, along with a restaurant, toilets and dedicated parking facilities too. TORMAX is a provider of innovative automatic entrance systems, including revolving, sliding, swing and folding doors. The iMotion range of door operators combines functionality with enhanced aesthetic, creating automatic access solutions that blend seamlessly with the internal and external architecture of the building.

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



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## CUPA PIZARRAS Heavy 3 slates specified for South Yorkshire property



CUPA PIZARRAS Heavy 3 roof slate has been installed on a new self-build home in Cawthorne, South Yorkshire. Specified to echo the traditional style of neighbouring properties, the slate also provides a clean striking finish that complements the home's extensive glazing. Contractor Martyn Taylor from Taylor Development Service Ltd commented: "The CUPA PIZARRAS Heavy 3 slate was recommended to me by Burton Roofing Merchants. I would highly recommend it as it was really nice to work with, so installation was easy. The natural slate complemented the tones of the Yorkshire stone property and those surrounding it, and we eventually installed 400 metres square of the slate. The finish is fantastic." CUPA PIZARRAS Heavy 3 slate comes in blue/black with a gritty texture, replicating traditional Scottish highland slate from Ballachulish, which is no longer available to purchase. It is heavier and thicker than standard slates – 7 to 8 mm thick – which means it has the strength to withstand high-speed winds and driving rain. As a natural slate product, Heavy 3 is also chemical, UV and pollutant resistant as well as non-combustible.

020 3318 4455 [www.cupapizarras.com/uk](http://www.cupapizarras.com/uk)

## Brett Martin's Flat Glass Rooflight receives BBA approval



Brett Martin is pleased to announce that its Flat Glass Rooflights have recently secured BBA Approval. A modern alternative to the Roof Lantern, the Flat Glass Rooflight range offers a stylish means of bringing light into contemporary building designs. As well as more than 100 standard sizes, Brett Martin is now offering bespoke sizing and new colour options, meaning the Flat Glass Rooflight is fit for any refurbishment or new-build project. The Flat Glass square and rectangular rooflights in the range can now be coated in RAL 7016 grey and RAL 9005 black, in addition to the white that was previously available. The company's recently launched Flat Glass Access Hatch is also available in the same colour options, for applications where access is required. All Brett Martin's rooflights are manufactured using laminated glass which is engineered not only to resist breakage as much as possible but – if it does break – to break in a way that is both safe and secure. Constructed from two panes of float glass with an added polymer layer bonded between, laminated glass will not shatter into individual pieces on impact. Instead, it will form a characteristic spider's web pattern, reducing the likelihood of the broken rooflight falling on anyone below.

daylight@brettmartin.com [www.brettmartin.com/daylight-systems/our-products/product/flat-glass-rooflight](http://www.brettmartin.com/daylight-systems/our-products/product/flat-glass-rooflight)

Photo credit: HiFi Cinema

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[www.starceiling.com](http://www.starceiling.com)  
CEDIA MEMBER

## Urban Seam Facade receives BBA certification



Catnic is delighted to announce the British Board of Agrément (BBA) certification for Urban Seam Facade, the limited combustibility wall system for use on buildings over 11 metres in height. This milestone achievement provides assurance for specifiers and contractors that the complete facade system is compliant, helping to simplify the overall process and de-risk projects. Furthermore, it is the result of significant investment and a long-term commitment by Catnic in independent product testing.

029 2033 7900 [www.catnic.com](http://www.catnic.com)

## Saniflo helps installer overcome installation



Some installers shy away from a challenge, but others just embrace finding solutions to seemingly impossible situations. Lee Hammond is one such installer. His customer was looking to create a downstairs cloakroom in a hallway cupboard adjacent to the stairs. Two contractors had already viewed the job and declared it impossible. Step forward Lee, he soon realised that all he was needed was a Saniflo. It was agreed that the perfect unit for the converted space was a Sanicompact.

This compact, cistern-less WC from Saniflo has an integrated macerator and also takes the waste from a basin; the perfect cloakroom solution.

020 8842 0033 [www.saniflo.co.uk](http://www.saniflo.co.uk)

## Dulux unveils True Joy™ as its Colour Of The Year 2025



For 2025, Dulux is asking architects, specifiers and designers to embrace yellow and infuse a sense of optimism, pride and imagination into their projects. As a guiding light to introduce these bold, positive shades to clients, the paint manufacturer has announced True Joy™ as its Colour of the Year for 2025, which is complemented by three versatile ColourFutures™ palettes. Over that last two decades, the Dulux Colour of the Year has been chosen through extensive trend research by Dulux colour experts and international design professionals. The 2025 selection, True Joy™, is a bright and positive yellow that reflects people's desire to break free, reset, and create something new and exciting. As well as embracing True Joy™, Dulux is also encouraging designers to share the joy of yellow and help clients to leap out of their comfort zone – and feel confident in doing so. Yellow shades like True Joy™ can be used as a bold statement colour or an accent hue. However, to help designers advise their clients on the best colour pairings, Dulux has created three supporting ColourFutures™ palettes.

0333 222 70 70 [www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk/en/colour-of-the-year-2025](http://www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk/en/colour-of-the-year-2025)

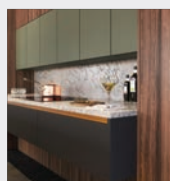
## BT bulkhead just EVOLved to be the best yet



Highly durable and very easy to install, the new BT EVO from Knightsbridge is designed so that the versatile bulkhead fitting can meet the needs of every application, whether it be commercial or industrial, indoor or outdoor. The BT EVO is incredibly flexible, with users being able to customise the fitting by choosing one of three wattages – 9W, 14W or 18W – and selecting a colour temperature between 3000K to 5700K to suit their needs. This configurability is enhanced with a wide range of options beyond standard, including emergency, microwave sensor, emergency microwave sensor, corridor function, emergency corridor function, daylight sensor and, finally, emergency daylight sensor.

01582 887760 [www.mlaccessories.co.uk](http://www.mlaccessories.co.uk)

## The height of luxury with Marbling Moods



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

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

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# Armourcoat launches Limewash – Natural, ecological mineral paint finish

**N***ew highly sustainable surface finish enabling architects and designers to achieve top level environmental and health accreditations without sacrificing aesthetics*

Armourcoat Limewash offers a new natural ecological mineral paint wall finish suitable for residential and commercial design projects targeting BREEAM or LEED certification. Inspired by the soft matt finish and lightly textured aesthetic of traditional lime wash, Armourcoat Limewash is formulated and produced with minimal environmental and health impact; crafted specifically to enable architects, designers and specifiers achieve top level project accreditations.

As an industry first, Armourcoat Limewash is set to be the only lime wash finish on the market to deliver both Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) and Health Product Declaration (HPD) documentation – fully detailing the paint's minimal environmental and health impact data and guaranteeing suitability for architectural projects targeting BREEAM or LEED certification.

Manufactured in the UK using locally sourced raw materials, Armourcoat Limewash is a naturally breathable, low-embodied carbon surface finish. Comprised of slaked lime, Kaolin clay, water and mineral pigments with the addition of natural plant

additives, Armourcoat Limewash delivers a more durable, less chalky surface finish compared to traditional lime wash paint. Once applied, the lime actively absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere whilst curing ensuring significantly lower global warming potential in comparison to other wall coatings.

Achieving Indoor Air Comfort Gold certification, Armourcoat Limewash is free from solvents and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). A naturally high alkalinity provides antimicrobial properties making it highly resistant to bacteria and mould – furthering the creation of healthy interiors. Meanwhile, Armourcoat Limewash delivers an entirely non-combustible finish, achieving an A1 fire rating to meet regulations for buildings requiring the highest level of fire-resistance.

In keeping with the historical tradition of lime wash, Armourcoat's skilled application team use natural bristle brushes to apply the product, achieving a typical installation in just two days. Suitable for application across various architectural substrates, a captivating colour palette of 45 mineral tones facilitates the creation of timeless, elegant interiors comprising contemporary neutral tones to deeper, natural hues.

Armourcoat's Technical & Creative Director, Duncan MacKellar, explains: "Here at Armourcoat we believe material transparency is fundamental to designing beautiful interiors that have minimal impact on our planet. Our goal as creative manufacturers is to reduce both embodied carbon and environmental toxins, and ultimately drive sustainable innovation within the built environment. With our Environmental and Health Product Declarations, architects and designers can be confident that all Armourcoat finishes align with efforts to create environmentally conscious, healthy interiors."

Limewash is the latest addition to Armourcoat's carefully curated, designed range of sustainable luxury finishes, all supplied with third-party certified environmental and health documentation. Via a brand philosophy centred upon sustainability through longevity, Armourcoat apply the most stringent of norms when it comes to product ingredients and



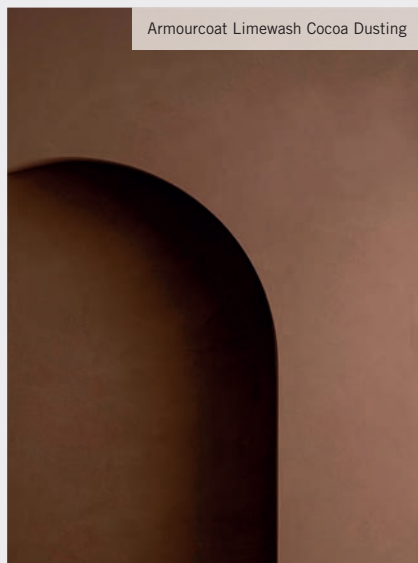
Armourcoat Limewash Restful Waves

formulations, helping architects and designers not only pass but exceed project assessments for globally recognised accreditation systems; and ensuring specifiers need not sacrifice sustainability for aesthetics.

01732 460 668  
www.armourcoat.com

## ARMOURCOAT LIMEWASH – SPECIFICATION DETAILS:

- Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
- Health Product Declaration (HPD)
- Ultra Low Embodied Carbon: EN15804 +A2: 0.05 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Indoor Air Quality [VOCs & Emissions]
- Indoor Air Comfort Gold: Pass
- BREEAM International v2.0 (2016): Exemplary Level
- LEED v4 + v4.1 BETA: Pass
- Fire rating: EN 13501-1:2018: A1/A1f/A1



Armourcoat Limewash Cocoa Dusting



# Using colour to create inclusive spaces

Careful consideration of architectural design is essential for developing spaces that are welcoming, futureproofed, and accessible for all. Dawn Scott of Dulux Trade discusses how colour can transform buildings and improve wellbeing for all

**I**nclusive design is centred on creating spaces that are accessible and usable by as many people as possible now and in the future, regardless of age, ability, or background. It not only addresses physical accessibility but also considers sensory and cognitive inclusivity across all building types, not just specialist spaces.

One of the most influential elements when designing inclusive spaces is colour. Colour affects people's mood, behaviour, and even their ability to navigate. By carefully selecting and placing colours, architects can therefore create environments that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also supportive and inclusive.

## Every individual is different and will react to colours in different ways, so it is always recommended to provide a choice of environments with varying colour schemes

### Using colour to navigate

Everyone uses colour to help with navigation and wayfinding. Using contrasting colours across critical surfaces such as doors, walls, and ceilings makes it easier for people to move through a space. Additionally, applying contrasting colours to trim – including coving, skirting, architrave, and dado rails – can further enhance wayfinding and overall accessibility.

To ensure the best results, Building Regulations Approved Document M, Vol.2, and British Code of Practice: BS8300-2:2018 – which can help to meet the Equality Act 2010 – say that critical surfaces must have a minimum visual contrast of 30 Light Reflectance Value (LRV) points. LRV measures the percentage of visible and usable light reflected from a surface when illuminated by a light source.

### Correct colour choice

When selecting colours, it is important to think about the needs of all building occupants. While any colour can be used, the specific shades and saturations should be carefully considered by specifiers for the particular project.

For example, to compensate for the ageing of the eye and subsequent colour distortion – and to support those with neurodegenerative conditions, such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's – more saturated colours are key. This is because they are easier to see and differentiate, compared to muted tones.

### In contrast, for neurodivergent

individuals, such as those who are Autistic, the design considerations differ. Bold or more saturated colours can create overly stimulating environments that may result in some people struggling to focus or perform at their best. This also includes bright whites and shiny surfaces that create high levels of glare. It is therefore essential for more muted tones with a matt finish to be used in regularly accessed areas to help mitigate sensitivities.

However, every individual is different and will react to colours in different ways, so it is always recommended to provide a choice of environments with varying colour schemes. This will ensure a building caters to different sensory needs and enable people to choose spaces where they feel most comfortable.

### Biophilic design

When selecting which specific colours to use, it is important to consider the emotions that they evoke. For example, using colours that are inspired by nature can help to create a calming and restorative atmosphere. This concept is known as biophilic design, and has been shown to reduce stress and improve mental health. It is particularly beneficial in settings like hospitals, schools, and workplaces, where reducing stress and promoting wellbeing is crucial.

For instance, in a series of four experiments that examined the effect of the colour green on psychological functioning, it was found that exposure to green before conducting a task “facilitates creativity performance.” This is ideal for working environments and showcases the value of correct colour choice in these spaces.

However, it is important to think beyond just green when applying biophilic design principles to projects. All colours can be found in nature, think yellow sunflowers or pink cherry blossoms, so any can be used in buildings to promote wellbeing and inclusivity if the right hues are selected and paired together.

### Colour tools

There are a number of colour tools available to support architects during the colour selection process. These tools can provide valuable insights into how different colours interact and look within a space.

For example, the Dulux Trade Colour Schemer tool we developed allows architects to produce colour schemes for a variety of sectors. After choosing the sector and a preferred start colour, it will show recommended shades in situ based on contrast ratios. It also offers a selection of pre-existing mood boards for giving inspiration to designers.

Inclusive design is about more than just meeting regulatory requirements; it's about creating spaces that enhance the quality of life for all users and ensure spaces work for occupants for years to come. By understanding the impact of colour and using it thoughtfully, it is possible to create spaces that are accessible, supportive, and aesthetically pleasing.

*Dawn Scott is senior colour designer and inclusive design consultant at Dulux Trade*



# Building a brighter future with Vicaima

As we stand on the brink of potentially a major re-focus for the construction sector and a new emphasis upon delivering living, learning, leisure and workspace fit for future generations, incorporating designs to meet ever-changing aspirations, we must not lose sight of the need for maintaining quality, regulatory and environmental standards.

In the realm of fire safety, Vicaima has established itself as a leading manufacturer of timber doors and door kits, setting a benchmark in the industry with comprehensive certification and third-party accreditation. With a commitment to design quality and performance, Vicaima has consistently demonstrated its ability to produce doors that not only meet the needs of current living, but forever look to the future. With an unwavering attention to sustainability goals, Vicaima products integrate seamlessly with the needs of the built environment.

## Lasting good looks

A perfect example of how Vicaima combine tough products with real room appeal is in the use of the recently expanded Dekordor HD Colours range. In a world where skills and labour shortages on site are a constant concern, the argument for using factory assembled door kits and pre-finished products is self-evident. HD Colours presents a high resistance, durable continuous pressure laminate that affords long lasting good looks, with a choice of 14 on-trend colour options. Already extensively used for student accommodation, education and commercial environments, HD Colours has a proven track record, making it a worthy alternative to the ever-present and widely used white door and frame. Fresh for Summer 2024 has been the



Dekordor® HD Volcanic Grey



introduction of four new finishes, including Twilight Blue, Granite Grey, Green Mist and Light Grey. These neutral colours add an ideal subtle touch for rooms. Designed for a brighter future in living and workspaces.

## Sustainability / ESG

The Vicaima Group is committed, within the framework of the ESG (Environment, Social and Corporate Governance) criteria, to making its contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations.

Vicaima acts with the responsibility of providing the market with solutions that have a reduced impact on the environment, are accessible to all and ensure people's safety and well-being and contributing to a more inclusive way of living.

Being sustainable in today's timber doors market, is not just about having all your products covered under FSC certification. While that is the case with Vicaima, their aims and aspirations go well beyond ticking obligatory boxes. As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words and so it is a measure of the importance Vicaima sets in its ESG obligations that it has laid out the Facts and Figures of its path through sustainable.

Most recently, Vicaima announced that Sustainable Production and Consumption was one of its major areas of action, working actively to extend the life cycle of its solutions, by optimising the entire value

chain and minimising waste.

The Vicaima Group's approach to this issue has produced concrete and measurable results. In 2023, a total of 4,139 tonnes of waste was generated, representing a 15% decrease compared to the previous year. From this volume, of which wood waste represents a significant part, 96% was valorised through reuse in new products, recycling or the production of thermal energy.

During all operations, the different waste circuits are continuously monitored and categorised, making it possible to optimise the separation and forwarding of waste for recovery via the various duly accredited waste partners or operators, with the aim of being reused and reintroduced into the value chain, thereby avoiding the final destination to be landfill.

In this context, priority is given to progressively include in Vicaima's manufactured products or those that it integrates throughout the supply chain, renewable materials, high percentage recycled materials or wood-based products made from fast-growing natural fibres, rather than virgin raw materials.

As we look to the future, Vicaima continues not only to lead the way in product performance, but also to ensure this goes hand in hand with design and innovation, for a safe and sustainable environment.

[technical@vicaima.com](mailto:technical@vicaima.com) [www.vicaima.com](http://www.vicaima.com)

# School uses Time Wisely to Protect Interiors with Yeoman Shield

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School based in Kingstanding, just outside Birmingham, took advantage of a quieter time, with the majority of pupils home schooling, to undertake interior wall protection work with Yeoman Shield. Catering for 700 pupils aged 11- 16 the school has corridors and break-out areas throughout the school where walls and corners especially are exposed to marking and impact damage caused by the everyday movement of pupils, staff and equipment.

The damage not only detracts from the smart image the school strives to uphold in all areas, but also becomes a strain on the maintenance budget with constant requirements of repair and redecoration. With the aim to reduce such damage and expenditure, after research and receiving samples, Head Teacher, Robert Swanwick, contacted Yeoman Shield to supply and carry out the installation of a complete wall protection system.



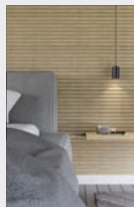
Following strict Covid guidelines throughout the process, Yeoman Shield's directly employed fixing operatives installed Yeoman Shield FalmouthEx Wall Protection Panels, (after boarding-out some of the brickwork to provide an even finish), at 1250 mm high to corridor and dining areas in a Dusty Grey colour to complement artwork decoration applied to the upper walls.

Staircase walls were also fitted with the wall protection panels with the addition of Yeoman Shield 50 mm Dia. Guardian Handrail in Timber with attractive Stainless Steel accessories. Vulnerable wall corners were protected with 75 x 75 mm corner protection in a matching colour and Yeoman Shield 110 mm White PVCu cover over a solid timber core skirting was added.

This full Yeoman Shield wall protection system will abolish the future need for repainting walls and skirting with cleaning being the only maintenance required, reducing budgets spends. The rigid PVCu material that Yeoman Shield products are manufactured from are easy to clean, do not promote the growth of bacteria or mould and are not affected by the use of commercial cleaners, assisting in the up keep of high hygiene standards.

0113 279 5854  
www.yeomanshield.com

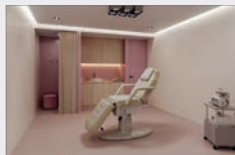
## New colours to Hushwood Flute Collection



Part of the Hushwood Acoustics collection, the new name in acoustic panel solutions for residential and commercial applications, **Havwoods** has expanded its range with the addition of eight new colours to the lightweight Hushwood Flute range. Designed to improve sound quality as well as interior aesthetics, the innovative and aesthetically striking Hushwood Flute products consist of a fluted batten design, made from real wood veneers and a PET backed mineral felt substructure. Hushwood Flute promises exceptional acoustic properties with effective sound absorption material.

01524 737000 [www.havwoods.com/uk](http://www.havwoods.com/uk)

## New, fresh and tonal colour palette



**Altro** Whiterock Satins wall range has an exciting new palette, with a wealth of colour options to promote creativity in any environment, developed in collaboration with prominent figures and leading thinkers in inclusive design. Whether you need light, or

warmth, calm tones, or rich hues there is something for you. Altro has collaborated with designers and architects to ensure a wide array of Light Reflectance Values (LRVs) and Chroma values in its floor and wall combinations, providing an extensive selection.

[enquiries@altro.com](mailto:enquiries@altro.com) [www.altro.com/uk/products/altro-whiterock-satins](http://www.altro.com/uk/products/altro-whiterock-satins)

## Styling black hardware finishes with Croft



A continuation of style is crucial for retaining cohesion throughout the home. To create a truly harmonious scheme, opt for hardware in the same finish across cabinetry and doors. Black finishes are becoming increasingly popular in contemporary homes thanks to their sleek, sophisticated look that beautifully completes minimalist and maximalist interiors alike. **Croft's** range of black hardware offers the perfect solution for rooms in most colour palettes, adding finishing touches that instantly elevate and transform a property.

01902 606 493 [www.croft.co.uk](http://www.croft.co.uk)

## Duoflex: A new window on refurbishment



**Strand Hardware's** Duoflex range of window openers are ideally suited to the changing market – offering versatile, modern hardware for high-level, or difficult to reach top hung opening out windows. The range has variations for timber, aluminium, and PVC-u windows. Each one boasts an adjustable bottom foot bracket, to accommodate different step configurations, avoiding the need for packers or shims, to ensure a seamless look across various window profiles. In addition to its functional excellence, the Duoflex range offers a variety of finishes to match any design aesthetic.

01922 639111 [www.strandhardware.co.uk](http://www.strandhardware.co.uk)

# The importance of specifying the correct floor for dance and dance education.



Whether you are specifying a dance floor for the world's leading dance companies or for classes in schools, colleges or universities, the same fundamental criteria apply. Wherever a student chooses to study dance, it is important to make sure that the learning environment is equipped to professional standards with sprung floors, mirrors, and barres.

Choosing the correct dance floor is vital for dancers' health, safety, and artistic performance. Sprung floors, often referred to as floating floors are not all the same and understanding the differences between the various types of floors available is important.

Experts in biomechanics have established a clear link between the quality of a dance floor and the likelihood of injury, demonstrating that a floor with a consistent response and the correct degree of 'traction' is vital.

Dance creates impact energy. If the energy generated is returned to the body it can result in an array of joint problems, sprains, fractures and knee problems. Lower limb problems such as tendinitis, 'shin splints,'

and ankle strain can all be attributed to incorrectly specified sprung floors and can take several weeks of physical therapy and recovery time to correct. A dance floor that is impact absorbent and provides lateral foot support is essential.

## Ensure correct specification.

Harlequin has led the way in developing and evolving the modern dance floor and has been involved with extensive research into

reducing dancer injury. Innovation is at the heart of all product development which is why Harlequin has become the brand that dancers and performers depend on.

Harlequin offers a turnkey solution for all performance spaces, from initial design and build through to installation, offering advice and guidance every step of the way. All enquiries are handled on a one-to-one basis by our expert technical teams. With over four decades of experience working across a wide range of projects and venues across the world, the Harlequin in-house project management and installation teams can be relied upon to deliver on time and on budget.

All Harlequin sprung and vinyl floor products and ballet barres are easily found and specified through RIBA and NBS.

For further information about specifying the correct floor for dance and the performing arts, visit our website or talk to our team by phone or email: [enquiries@harlequinfloors.com](mailto:enquiries@harlequinfloors.com).



01892 514 888  
[www.harlequinfloors.com](http://www.harlequinfloors.com)

# Woodura® Herringbone from Bjelin brings stylish innovation to hardened wood floors

**B**jelin is launching a durable herringbone floor powered by patented Woodura® technology, which enables it to offer a modern take on a timeless classic.

Woodura Herringbone 2.0 features large panels, which deliver three times the strength of traditional wood options. That's because, like the whole of Bjelin's hardened wood flooring range, it features Woodura technology for improved impact resistance. It also benefits from the superior 5G® floor locking solution with click technology, which provides easy installation. The range has performed strongly in testing in Scandinavian and the company is confident that it will now appeal strongly to UK buyers as well.

"With Woodura Herringbone 2.0 we are bringing our commitment to innovation and creativity to the popular herringbone design aesthetic," says Simon Darbyshire. "So this new range offers all the practical benefits of Woodura, including durability and impact resistance, combined with



the traditional elegance and contemporary appeal of herringbone."

At 91 mm x 546 mm, these panels surpass traditional parquet herringbone sizes, offering a modern feel. Woodura technology not only enables larger panel production, but also optimises the use of the raw materials.

Versatile and creative, this flooring can be installed in multiple patterns, from traditional

herringbone through to double, triple, ladder and blocks. Made with responsibly sourced Croatian oak, the collection is offered in Misty White, Natural and Earth Grey. It comes in a clean Select grading with a tough pro matt lacquer surface treatment for easy maintenance and enduring beauty.

[uk-sales@bjelin.com](mailto:uk-sales@bjelin.com) [uk.bjelin.com/en](http://uk.bjelin.com/en)

## Sustainable Mapei system specified at BREEAM Excellent Forest of Dean Community Hospital



A resilient floor installation has been completed at the new Forest of Dean Community Hospital with a sustainable Mapei system. The installation, which featured designs from Forbo, was completed by Rotherham-based Titan Flooring for Speller Metcalfe. The Mapei specification included floor preparation products and adhesives, each featuring EMICODE: EC1 Plus formulations. The Mapei application spanned treatment and consultant rooms, waiting areas, therapy and recovery rooms, x-ray and ultrasound departments, bedrooms, corridors and stairs, WC's, nappy changing areas, stores, bays and utility, kitchens and server rooms. All Mapei products specified benefit from very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus formulations. They included two preparation products – Latexplan Trade protein-free, low odour levelling and smoothing compound and Eco Prim T Plus, a universal acrylic primer. Flooring was installed with Ultrabond Eco VS90 Plus hard set, highly shear resistant, wet-bed dispersion adhesive. The Forbo specification included Forbo Eternal, Surestep and Surestep 12, Sphera Element and Colorex SD.

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

## Spectacular success for Gerflor's new Taraflex® SL sports flooring at Honiton Leisure Centre



When Honiton Leisure Centre's thirty-five-year-old Granwood floor needed replacing with a more sustainable eco-flooring solution, they turned to international flooring specialist Gerflor to supply 700 m<sup>2</sup> of their new Taraflex® Performance SL (Sustainable Loose lay) sports vinyl flooring in 'Light Cherry'. Honiton Leisure Centre in East Devon is owned by East Devon District Council and operated by LED Community Leisure Ltd. LED, East Devon Council and LED had previously teamed up with Gerflor, for a successful sports hall refurbishment project using Taraflex® in Axminster. Commenting on the project Simon Allchurch, Consultant Building Surveyor with East Devon District Council said: "The Gerflor Taraflex® Performance SL sports flooring is exceeding our expectations by a long way on both performance and durability." Adding further comment to the project Chris Duchenski, Leisure Manager at Honiton Leisure Centre said: "Taraflex® was specified because the quality and the feedback we have had from other customers who have used this floor or have it within their centres has been nothing short of excellent."

01625 428922 [www.gerflor.co.uk](http://www.gerflor.co.uk)

# Closing the carpet loop

ADF editor James Parker reports on how one major flooring firm is embracing the challenges of using recycled material but also full reuse of carpet tiles, to achieve sustainability wins at scale across a range of sectors

The construction industry is steadily raising the bar when it comes to genuinely sustainable flooring options. Architects are looking to suppliers to provide verified data on the sustainable credentials of their products, including innovating their supply chains to bring in more recycled content.

The emergence of measured and accredited approaches like closed loop and cradle to grave manufacturing have shifted expectations, and made enlightened architects, clients and contractors seek such options, as well as full-blown reuse in some sectors. One housebuilder, Cora Homes, has gone the whole way to specifying 100% recycled carpets made from recycled plastic bottles and fishing nets.

Interface Flooring is one company which is ‘walking the talk’ on sustainability, fully embracing the potential of recyclability across a range of customer sectors, on the back of strategic life-cycle analysis of its ranges over the years. One of the leading global carpet tile makers, Interface has been on a “sustainability journey” since 1994, reducing virgin petrochemicals in its widely-specified flooring, and driving reuse of materials. Its ‘mission zero’ strategy in 1996 was targeted at an overall aim to become carbon negative by 2040, and the firm has made huge strides such as 100% renewable-generated electricity for its European manufacturing.

As well as committing to designing “long-lasting products that can be reused,” Interface is increasing its use of recycled and ‘bio-based’ materials in carpet tiles; and reengineering products’ formulations to enable them to be recycled. It says 51% of its ranges (carpet tiles, LVT and nora rubber flooring) are now “recycled or bio-based,” and the firm has managed to achieve 93% recycled content in some carpets.

The company has transitioned to ‘biocompatible’ carpet backings, reducing carbon footprint by 30% in those lines. Pursuing circular economy approaches,



centred around the CQuest Bio and BioX backing ranges, which consist of a mix of ‘biopolymers’ and ‘recycled fibres,’ and are designed to be separated from the carpet post-use and recycled. Alongside this, Interface is heavily involved in reuse projects for its old Graphflex bitumen-backed tiles.

There are a host of challenges for a firm actively pursuing a much greater component of recycled product. These range from ensuring new processes run smoothly in complex supply chains, meaning close collaboration. But are there further business challenges from reusing tiles rather than selling new ones, even for this global firm?

I spoke to Interface’s regional sustainability manager, Becky Gordon, at an event staged by the company at this year’s Clerkenwell Design Week, and asked her where the balance lies from a business point of view, between new and ‘old’?

Gordon accepted that finding the balance between selling new and ‘remanufactured’ products was a challenge, but that Interface’s “direction of travel” was that “we’ve got to do the right thing, but we

**As well as committing to designing “long-lasting products that can be reused,” Interface is increasing its use of recycled or ‘bio-based’ materials; and ensuring its products’ formulations enable them to be recycled**



**“Our main priority is making sure that the new product we’re selling is as good as it can be, using as little virgin petrochemicals as possible”**

Becky Gordon, Interface



want those decisions to be as commercial as possible.” Demonstrating a pragmatic approach to both innovating with more recycled product and facilitating full reuse, she added: “There will always be a place for new product, and our main priority is making sure that the new product is as good as it can be, using as little virgin petrochemicals as possible, and designed in a way that there are options at end of life.”

## Reuse

In addition to greatly increasing the percentage of recycled material in ‘new’ products however, Interface is also working with a range of partners such as Uplyfted to facilitate reuse of used bitumen-backed tiles in sectors such as social housing, with the bold aim that “no tiles go to landfill.” With reuse being critical to developing the circular economy, Interface is going a long way to deliver simple reuse methods, and helping specifiers engage clients and customers in the ‘circular argument.’

This new business model enables social housing and charity providers to improve flats for tenants across the UK, on both aesthetics and comfort. Gordon admitted that the firm is “not yet seeing the demand for reused product on new projects,” but added that clients are looking to retain existing carpet in some refurbishments, and Interface is working with them to combine this with new installations.

The firm’s ‘route 1’ approach, following the end of life of an initial tile specification, is to “explore reuse with local businesses, charities and others who need support,” ‘route 2’ is to recycle the tiles to other industries (in the case of bitumen-backed) or into new carpet tiles. The “last resort,” says Interface, is to incinerate, but even then it will be “converted into energy.”

## A shift in thinking

True circular approaches require a complete shift in thinking on the part of manufacturers with complex supply chains, however Interface has been working hard at this since the 1990s. Gordon explained how they are looking at introducing waste bio-materials from agriculture to help serve the supply pipeline which Interface needs as it ramps up bio-based content in its ranges.

However, as architect Lucy Bagshaw of tp bennett explained at Interface’s Clerkenwell event, supply chains’ complexity is one major reason for the challenges to unravel on increasing recycled content

and recycling. She pinpointed a different circularity that was needed in the industry itself – that it was “up to us as designers, the more of us that ask about it, the more it will influence manufacturers.”

Gordon asserted that “it’s not the case that a product with higher recycled content is going to cost more. When we made the change from a bitumen backing to a biocomposite, we didn’t pass that cost on to the customer.” She adds that economies of scale made this a viable proposition for the business, as demand for bio-based increases.

Bagshaw praised Interface’s approach to examining its existing ranges to drive sustainability, describing it as: “We’ve found a solution, we’re going to look at our existing portfolio and re-engineer it to work with this new information.” She contrasted this with the approach of bringing out ‘more sustainable’ options of products rather than improving existing lines.

At the Clerkenwell event, Interface presented ideas for architects looking to increase products’ recycled content, saying that the key was “ensuring you have as much data as possible is crucial to judge whether a product supports your sustainability ambitions for a project.” They added that EPDs can provide info on carbon footprint, but even once the data is obtained, they advised “asking the manufacturers questions to determine a product’s content and what its end-of-life options are.”

Not all manufacturers will have the bandwidth to combine true circularity with provision of the range of offers that designers will demand for clients (Bagshaw said: “designers have a duty to understand that EPDs are really expensive.”) However the general momentum is pushing the whole industry in the right direction. The question may soon be not ‘can you provide closed loop recycling,’ but ‘why aren’t you?’

As Bagshaw confirmed, collaboration is required to work change through supply chains; between specifiers and manufacturers, and in the form of partnerships between manufacturers and innovative start ups. It also helps avoid greenwashing, she said, but “it has to be a conversation, nobody’s perfect at the moment, but the best projects have been the ones where there is synergy and open conversations within the project team.” Becky Gordon concluded with a key message: “Transparency can be complicated, but it’s the right thing to do.”



### Step Into a brighter future

With loose lay installation, the Intoo 55 range is a positive step toward a brighter future. **Moduleo Intoo 55** is the no-hassle loose lay vinyl floor for office spaces that's easy to recycle through the Recover programme. Made to be installed with tackifier rather than fully bonded, Intoo 55 is fitted in exactly the same way as carpet tiles and compatible with raised access flooring for a no-hassle vinyl floor in receptions, working areas, breakout spaces, canteens, kitchens and tea stations. Fully bonding to the subfloor is not only more hassle, but it also makes it harder to remove the vinyl floor at the end of its life and much more difficult to recycle. More often than not, it will end up in landfill. However, vinyl flooring has the potential to be easily recycled. The problem is not the floor, but the way it is installed. **Moduleo Intoo 55's** loose lay installation solves this complication. The Recover programme works in tandem with the floor's 100% recyclable construction to recover and find life in products like street furniture. Recover currently takes back installation waste, but Intoo 55's loose lay installation also makes it possible to re-use the floor in other projects.

01332 851 500 [www.moduleo.co.uk](http://www.moduleo.co.uk)

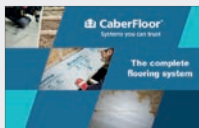
### Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold Certification



The range of carpets from **danfloor** continue to receive the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold certification, a prestigious acknowledgment that underscores their commitment to quality and safety. This certification is significant for **danfloor** as a carpet manufacturer as it confirms that their products meet the highest standards of indoor air quality. The rigorous testing conducted by Eurofins ensures that **danfloor** carpets have low emissions of volatile organic compounds, which can be harmful to health and the environment. For **danfloor**, achieving this certification demonstrates a dedication to sustainability and consumer health.

0333 014 3132 [danfloor.co.uk](http://danfloor.co.uk)

### Fantastic flawless flooring with CaberFloor



Floors can pose challenges for people at times! One of a building's critical components, flooring, can be tricky. **West Fraser's CaberFloor** range is designed to tackle all challenges effectively. Trusted by leading housebuilders and specifiers nationwide, **CaberFloor** products deliver high-quality flooring finishes, preventing issues and saving costs down the line. For assistance in selecting the right flooring system for your project, **West Fraser** offers a helpful flowchart, along with detailed installation guides and videos for each **CaberFloor** product.

[uk.westfraser.com/resources/help-advice/installation-instructions](http://uk.westfraser.com/resources/help-advice/installation-instructions)

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0333 014 3132

## Industrial Steel loft doors from Hörmann – steel and glass in perfect harmony

Inspired by the minimalism of our industrial heritage the range of steel loft doors from Hörmann have been designed to create a feeling of light and space. Providing the perfect combination of large, glazed panels with high quality slim steel profiles, the range offers specifiers and consumers endless opportunities to create stylish doors and room screening for both living and workspaces.

Available in three versions; hinged, sliding and the new pivot option, Hörmann industrial loft doors can be configured with either single or double leaves. The addition of side elements and transoms means that large opening spaces can be created to provide unobstructive views between living or working areas. The flexible nature of the range means that doors-sets measuring up to 5000mm wide and 4000mm high can be achieved, whilst the new frameless pivot door will allow a single door leaf of up to 2000mm in width making it an adaptable, yet



sophisticated choice.

The range offers two slim glazing beads – an angled version with exposed screw heads creates a traditional industrial look, whilst a narrow, angled 15mm bead without the exposed screw heads provides a modern, sleek appearance. The large glazing panels are manufactured from 6mm laminated safety glass and are available in either Clear or Clear white, whilst the steel profiles are supplied in RAL 9005 Jet black matt as standard. Five additional preferred colours, including Traffic white and Anthracite grey,

are available together with the option of RAL colours of choice, whilst textured and pearl-effect finishes provides further opportunity for originality.

Further enhancements to the range include an optional door closer for the hinged doors, which closes the doors gently and a Smart-Stop set for single or double-leaf sliding doors that offers almost silent closing and locks the door leaves securely in the end-of-travel position. Whilst the recent introduction of a Retro-loft sliding door track profile allows for the creation of single and double-leaf retro sliding doors which accentuate their industrial legacy with striking rollers on a track profile.

A comprehensive range of lever handle sets, push-bar handles, and recessed handles, in either Jet black RAL 9005 or stainless steel as standard, completes the industrial styling and design of the range.

01530 516868 [hormann.co.uk](http://hormann.co.uk)

## Palace Chemicals plays key role in award-winning restaurant project



Palace Chemicals' adhesive products have made possible a TTA Award-winning project at the Taj Hotel in London. The long-established and prestigious Awards are the only ones in the sector, providing recognition and celebration for the industry's top products, projects and personal achievements. Richmond Ceramics installed a stunning 143 m<sup>2</sup> floor for the high-end in-house restaurant, House of Ming, which won the Small Commercial Project category at this year's Awards. Coming at a time when Palace is increasingly pushing into the expanding commercial market, this was a timely win for the company. The Palace products, Easi-Flex Adhesive and Anti-Mould Flex Grout, enabled Richmond Ceramics to overcome a number of challenges as they implemented an impressive statement marble floor in the restaurant. The job required carefully placing individual tiles to construct a basket weave design. Palace Easi-Flex is the ideal product for this type of work, as the long 4-hour working pot-life provides fixers with the necessary time to manage time-consuming cutting and develop intricate patterns.

0151 486 6101 [www.palacechemicals.co.uk](http://www.palacechemicals.co.uk)

## BAL launches new Grout-Effect Sealant – for seamless perfection



BAL have launched a new innovative "Grout-Effect Sealant" for seamless transitions. BAL Micromax Grout-Effect Sealant is formulated with a unique technology which provides a textured, matt-finish that blends perfectly with your grout – no more shiny, stand-out high gloss sealant! Colour-matched to BAL Micromax3 ECO Grouts, it provides a uniform finish in colour AND texture, across all joints; whether they are grouted tile joints, sealed perimeter joints, movement joints or internal corners. BAL Micromax Grout-Effect Sealant is waterproof with excellent adhesion and is perfect for sealing between tiles and other materials including sanitary, acrylic, fibreglass, glass, glazed tiles, porcelain and painted surfaces in dry and wet interior and exterior environments. It can even be used in high-traffic areas and is also perfect for external tiling installations for example when sealing between 20 cm porcelain tiles and drain grates. BAL Grout-Effect Sealant is also formulated with long-lasting Microban® antimicrobial protection against black mould – which provides market-leading protection for hygiene areas when subject to the usual cleaning regimes.

01782 591100 [www.bal-adhesives.com/products/bal-micromax-grout-effect-sealant](http://www.bal-adhesives.com/products/bal-micromax-grout-effect-sealant)



# Dialling down noise at Seven Dials Market

Seven Dials Market in Covent Garden is a market and dining space occupying the 19th Century Thomas Neal's Warehouse. Designed by architects Stiff+Trevillion for client Kerb, the scheme comprises 23,680 square metres of food, drink and entertainment space.

Centred around a large open atrium under a large skylight, the two-floor market features a rich and diverse collection of 20 independent food and drink businesses offering cuisine from around the world.

Part of the Stiff+Trevillion's design was to draw on the building's history as a former banana storage warehouse and the resultant space is contemporary in style yet rooted in its heritage. The design of the building retains many original features carefully restored and refurbished including cast iron beams and brickwork arches on a flagstone floor. As with all large, open spaces covered with hard surfaces, controlling acoustics was essential in providing a comfortable space for staff and visitors. As a result, Troldekt wood wool acoustic panels in a black finish were specified for use around the central



Photos: Andy Stagg

skylight to help acoustical performance. This is an excellent example of how acoustic panels can be incorporated into a project allowing architects to design modern, large spaces with hard surfaces but mitigating the problems stemming from long reverberation time and reflected sound.

Troldekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different structures and colours, combining superior sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Troldekt range has a minimum expected life cycle of 50 years coupled with excellent resistance to humidity and tested to meet ball impact standards. The range is available in various sizes and structures, from extreme fine to fine. They can be supplied as natural wood

or finished in almost any RAL or NCS colour. Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively. Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level, Troldekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points.

Samples, case studies and technical guidance are available from [www.troldekt.co.uk](http://www.troldekt.co.uk) or see our product listings on NBS ([bit.ly/3vx0Tfq](http://bit.ly/3vx0Tfq)) or Material Bank ([www.materialbank.eu](http://www.materialbank.eu)).

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

## Residential ventilation for the built environment



Vectaire Ltd – a market leader in the design, manufacture and supply of ventilation products and systems, with over forty years' experience in the air movement industry, provides ventilation solutions which give the best in energy efficiency, comfort and design. Vectaire is active in New Build; Social Housing; Apartment Ventilation; Student Accommodation; Care Homes; Landlords; Private Housing; and can supply products for commercial and industrial markets. Discover the Residential Ventilation Range of MVHRs, MEVs, DMEVs and more. Vectaire offers both vertical and horizontal MVHRs, some with extra low noise levels, and all commissioned by integral or remote LCD. Two sizes of MEVs provide a wide range of ventilation, and the DMEVs are available in several sizes, either axial or centrifugal.

Wherever ventilation is required, helping to cool in summer and saving heat and energy in winter, Vectaire can provide low energy, quiet running units to do exactly the right job.

01494 522333 [www.vectaire.co.uk](http://www.vectaire.co.uk)

## Gilberts is THE choice in hospitality design



The new Social Hub Glasgow symbolises an array of “firsts” and establishes leading independent air movement supplier, Gilberts Blackpool, as a top-grade solution to creating the perfect hospitality ambience. The four-star Social Hub Glasgow is the first community-focussed hybrid hospitality venue in the UK and the first project to be delivered as part of the Merchant City regeneration of the site which has stood derelict for 20 years. At 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> and 494 bedrooms, it is also Scotland's largest hotel. Ventilation throughout the venue – that combines hotel and student accommodation with co-working spaces, plus bars, restaurants and a gym – is being provided by Gilberts' grilles and diffusers. Gilberts has already in the past 18 months alone supplied ventilation delivery and extraction for the first Virgin hotel in the UK, Gleneagles' first urban venue The Town House, and the first W Hotel in the UK. Gilberts has supplied, among others, its bespoke extract PE perforated diffusers, GSR ceiling-mounted fixed blade swirl diffusers, DG square louvred face diffusers in ceiling-mounted four-way blow variant and CV-H exposed ductwork grilles.

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

# The fireplace evaluation. Gas, wood or electric?

An overview by Niall Deiraniya, general manager of DRU Fires UK



DRU Maestro 75XTU Tall gas fire



DRU Virtuo Evolve 130 electric fire

Autumn is a time of crisp, cool days and longer nights. There is no better feeling than returning from a vigorous walk and relaxing next to a warm fire.

Do you choose a gas fire, a wood burning stove or an electric fire? Will you convert your existing chimney or select a fire that requires no chimney? Let's consider the options.

## Gas fires

Gas heating will be here for the foreseeable

future. It provides real flames, comfortable heating and high energy efficiency.

DRU has a range of gas fires that can be installed with or without a chimney, are suitable for modern or traditional homes and offer superior design and performance.

A good example is the DRU Maestro 75XTU Tall model, with its 1.3-metre-high, 3-sided window. Not just a fire but an architectural feature that will make a dramatic statement in your home.

## Wood burning fires and stoves

Wood stoves are a sustainable heating option, with beautiful flames and generous heat.

DRU produces them under its Dik Geurts brand. They include the Ivar, which fits UK chimneys and designer stoves like the Oval, for rural retreats or urban lofts.

The range also includes built-in models, including 2-sided, 3-sided and see-through tunnel fires.

## Electric fires

Today's electric fires have evolved from functional appliances to models with impressive design and performance.

Consumers are turning to electric for its low carbon footprint and compatibility with media walls, which also accommodate gas fires and wood stoves.

DRU Virtuo Evolve electric fires feature realistic flame images, authentic logs and glowing embers, all controlled by an app on your phone. There are no flue connections and they can be used for heating or purely as decorative fires.

To choose the ideal fireplace for your project, visit a DRU dealer. They have a wide selection, in all fuel types, on live display. They will advise you on the best option and offer full design and installation services.

[info@drufire.co.uk](mailto:info@drufire.co.uk)  
[www.drufire.com/cn-gb](http://www.drufire.com/cn-gb)



Dik Geurts Ivar 8 Low wood stove

# Navigating the future of sustainable heating

Peter Mintoft of Charlton & Jenrick explores the future of sustainable heating, focusing on ‘secondary’ heating appliances, and their impact on architectural practice

The importance of integrating energy-efficient solutions within architectural design has never been more critical. As environmental concerns grow, so too does the demand for sustainable building practices. Architects are now expected to create spaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also energy-efficient and environmentally responsible. The challenge lies in balancing these demands with the need for comfort and functionality, especially when it comes to heating systems.

Sustainable heating is a key area where architects can make a significant impact. Traditional heating methods, which often rely on fossil fuels, contribute to high carbon emissions, and are increasingly seen as unsustainable. As a result, the industry is witnessing a shift towards more eco-friendly alternatives. Architects are uniquely positioned as innovators to lead this transition by incorporating the right sustainable heating solutions into their designs, ensuring that buildings are energy-efficient, low emission and future-proof.

The adoption of high efficiency-low-emission heating technologies for the primary heating system now tends to be standard practice in the design process. Heat pumps are excellent at a steady state or low change operation and can capably provide the base heat load requirements for a building. However, practical usage of spaces within the building is often anything but steady state, so a strategic secondary heating appliance allows the user to rapidly tailor the temperatures at times when needed as well as bringing far wider wellbeing benefits to the living area. Electric fires, wood-burning stoves, and gas stoves that meet stringent environmental standards offer architects the opportunity to reduce a building’s carbon footprint while still



delivering effective heating solutions that can provide improved responsiveness and flexibility.

Electric heating solutions have gained traction due to decarbonisation of the grid resulting in their carbon emissions being lower compared to traditional gas and oil appliances. Additional appeal is that they are therefore zero emission at the point of use which may attract certain clients or fulfil a specific brief. Electric fires provide a versatile and clean alternative that can be easily integrated and built into various design schemes. Most units being turnkey or ‘plug and play’ minimises the need for any specialist trade other than a regular construction team. Varying from the functional and simple to the realistic, dramatic and feature rich, they offer the added benefit of being highly controllable, allowing for precise temperature management, which is essential in creating energy-efficient buildings for both

**Sustainable heating is a key area where architects can make a significant impact**



residential and commercial projects.

Wood-burning stoves are another surprisingly sustainable option with a very short carbon cycle that aligns with eco-conscious design principles. Modern stoves, engineered to meet the latest Ecodesign and clearSkies level 5 standards, produce up to 90% lower emissions than open fires and 80% better than their predecessors. Teamed up with a heat pump main system, wood stoves not only contribute to a building's sustainability credentials but also offer architects creative freedom in terms of design aesthetics. Built in or freestanding, there are a myriad of different styles and price levels to fit any brief. Providing a rapid temperature rise in a short time when a room becomes occupied, wood stoves are often paired with heat pumps to provide a very low carbon yet highly flexible overall heating solution.

When combined with high levels of insulation it's possible to use only wood stoves for heating and when used with other systems in less insulated buildings can still displace large amounts of gas, oil or electricity from the mix. The natural appeal of wood as a fuel source and the warmth it provides will enhance the ambience of a space, making it an attractive choice for residential and commercial specifications.

Gas stoves continue to be a popular choice, especially in urban areas where access to wood fuel may be limited or less desired compared to rural areas. Aesthetically they can be built in with minimalistic looks or freestanding with character and crisp modernity. When designed and installed correctly, they can be a highly efficient and relatively low-carbon option. Efficiently heating the immediate area being occupied also has huge benefits in keeping down costs and overall dwelling emissions. Recent advances in burner and firebox technology have allowed gas stoves to become fabulously realistic and achieve higher efficiency rates while minimising emissions, making them a viable option for sustainable design. Hydrogen blending in the grid is expected to reduce carbon intensity of natural gas in coming years.

The integration of renewable energy sources with heating systems is another avenue that architects are exploring. Photovoltaic, electricity storage, solar thermal, heat pumps, and other renewable technologies can be combined with modern heating systems to further reduce a building's environmental impact. Certain

wood stoves are available that can integrate with water based thermal stores, adding to the flexibility and resilience of a building. Electric appliances can operate with very low load using the LED flame effects only – lending themselves to working with electrical storage systems. This holistic approach to design ensures that heating systems are not just efficient but are also part of a broader strategy to minimise energy consumption and carbon emissions.

A related and often ignored benefit of many wood and gas stoves is the fact that they can operate independently of the electricity grid. For areas where supply interruption may be common, having an autonomous wood fired cooking and heating appliance can be a huge bonus in a project or scheme for heat and can often make the difference between occupants staying or having to leave for the duration. A gas fired stove that can operate independently of mains or has battery control back-up is similarly useful when needs arise.

The future of sustainable heating in architecture is promising, but it requires a proactive approach. Architects must stay informed about the latest developments in heating technology, including the huge benefits of secondary heating options, and be willing to experiment with new solutions. Collaboration with manufacturers, engineers and flue system specialists is essential to ensure that the chosen systems are not only sustainable but also practical and cost-effective.

As regulations around carbon emissions and energy efficiency continue to tighten, the role of architects in driving sustainable design will only become more critical. By prioritising up-to-date sustainable heating solutions, including wood stoves and gas/electric fires, architects can contribute to a greener future while still delivering the high-quality, comfortable spaces that clients demand.

In conclusion, sustainable heating, particularly the often-underrated secondary heating appliance, is an integral component of modern architectural design. By embracing eco-friendly heating technologies and integrating them seamlessly into their projects, architects can lead the way in creating buildings that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible.

*Peter Mintoft is managing director of Charlton & Jenrick*





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### Low surface temperature radiators



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on the UK and Irish markets. To see the huge range of styles and options available from Stelrad, head for the Stelrad website.

0800 876 6813 [www.stelrad.com/trade](http://www.stelrad.com/trade)

### Good indoor air quality for SEN School



**Breathing Buildings**, a leading provider of controlled hybrid ventilation systems, has supplied ventilation to High Point Academy, a secondary school for students with complex learning difficulties in Wednesbury, West Midlands. In addition to this specialist learning environment, the two-storey school benefits from Breathing Buildings' NVHR (Natural Ventilation with Heat Recycling) hybrid ventilation units that help provide good indoor air quality and keep the school warm in winter and cool in summer. This boosts comfort and health which is essential for the pupils' learning and wellbeing.

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

### Advanced safeguards Millwall FC Stadium



The Den, home to Millwall Football Club, has been enhanced with an upgraded fire safety system courtesy of Trustee Fire & Security Ltd's installation of **Advanced** panels, providing thorough protection and reassurance for fans, staff, and players. The project involved replacing the existing fire system with Advanced's MxPro 5 panels, meticulously installed across four separate stands. This upgrade not only modernised fire safety capabilities but also integrated seamlessly with the stadium's existing infrastructure providing continuous protection.

0345 894 7000 [www.advancedco.com](http://www.advancedco.com)

### The opinions of the architectural community



As part of netMAGmedia's research offering, **ADF** has been increasingly harnessing the knowledge and views of its focused readership to produce 'Industry Viewfinder' white papers based on reader surveys. These are documents which contain unique insights and data on a wide range of topics that are currently fuelling debate in the industry, from Passivhaus to Part L. This audience research, providing real-world experience, provides us with the opportunity to better understand the needs of our readers and tailor our content accordingly.

[insights.netmagmedia.co.uk/whitepapers](http://insights.netmagmedia.co.uk/whitepapers)

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

## SHORT CHIMNEY = CHIMNEY FAN

Traditional chimney design required a minimum flue height of 4.5 m. In theory, this was enough to ensure sufficient natural flue draught to clear the products of combustion from a wood-burning stove.

Unfortunately, the chimney draught was never guaranteed and the provision often resulted in unsightly tall chimneys when appliances were installed in single-storey buildings and orangeries.

A recent change in chimney design (see source) states that a chimney can be designed using the calculation method in BS EN 13384-2005 which allows for the installation of shorter chimneys, provided sufficient chimney draught can be proved. A chimney fan will guarantee this chimney draught even on a shorter flue design.

*[...] the calculation procedure within BS EN 13384-1 :2005 can be used as the basis for deciding whether a chimney design will provide sufficient draught.\**

Source: Document J Building Control Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems page 30 - 52.8 - "Height of flues"

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# More choice More PACE

**G**EZE UK is delighted to announce several new products have been added to their range of pedestrian traffic control systems, PACE, to give even more choice when selecting solutions that offer safe and efficient control of pedestrians in and out of buildings. All products are supplied and installed in accordance to EN 17352:2022 – the standard for powered turnstiles and speed lanes that was harmonised in August 2023.

New to the range are the SL 550 and SL 900 speed gates with stylish folding high gates and a reliable, robust design that guarantees effective protection of the building making them ideal for banks and offices.

The popular SW 100 range has been extended to include two extra wide options. The SW 100 Wide and SW 100 High Glass Wide both offer a passage of 1200mm perfect for ease of carrying luggage and wheelchair access.

OX S, OX M and OX XL are a new series of aesthetically pleasing turnstiles with ergonomic design and efficient control – ideal for high traffic flow locations.

In the full height category, the HW G / NG with glass leaves and side panels perfectly combine modern aesthetics and functionality for even greater security with high visibility.

More cost effective than manual checks and providing round the clock control in buildings that are operational 24 hours a day, pedestrian access control is ideal for controlling access to any part of a building that requires it, as well as the main entrance.

The PACE range can be tailored to the needs of any specification, compatible with



many control devices - push button, card reader – available as single or bi-directional use, and different lane widths. To complement the design or match automatic doors different finishes can be specified – brushed stainless steel, polished stainless steel, or RAL powder coating.

Where security is a high priority, options include high panels and anti-tailgating functions. IRIS readers, and finger-print or face recognition devices can also be

integrated. But whatever the demand for security, the visual aspect of the building is never compromised.

Controlling large numbers of people entering or leaving a building ensures their safety but, in an emergency, or power failure, all motorised systems can be used freely in both directions.

GEZE UK offers a complete package of pedestrian control that includes access control and automatic doors.

Said Andy Howland, Sales and Marketing Director for GEZE UK “These new products offer even more choice, several of which are like nothing else in the market. Together with GEZE automatic doors and the PACE range of access control we offer specifiers a complete package to control the flow of people in and around a building ensuring safety and security at all times for those using the building”.

To find out more on PACE or GEZE UK’s comprehensive range of automatic and manual door closers visit the website or for a PACE brochure email.

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





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## AFFORDABLE HOUSING BUILT WITH INSULATED PANELS THAT WILL NOT BURN DOWN

The Government is aiming for a significant increase in the number of affordable houses for families being built, but it seems that developers and architects mainly want to design and build executive homes costing £400,000 and more.

Building more affordable homes will mean that more young people or first-time buyers can afford to buy a home of their own for around £150,000 to £200,000, and Enviro Eco Homes have been designed specifically with this in mind. They are Eco houses that can be built in a matter of a few days, at an affordable price. The huge flexibility in design enables any architect to create purpose-built homes within this price range. Contact us to find out more.



SEE OUR DEMO



HOUSE FIRE

## Enfield Speciality Doors completes world-class project for Atlas Copco HQ



A run-down office and warehouse building completely transformed into a modern, BREEAM-rated headquarters for global tech company Atlas Copco has been fitted with more than 120 internal fire doors from Enfield Speciality Doors. The company supplied 126 fire doors in total, delivered over 3-4 phases. This included custom-made timber flush door specifications in full and standard heights – the tallest were 2,638 mm high – with FD30 or FD60 ratings. Most of the doors were supplied with an ash veneer finish with concealed lipping to blend in with the ‘biophilia’ inspired interior design – creating a connection with nature through the use of natural materials, texture and tones. Sustainability was an integral part of the Cat A and Cat B BREEAM accredited project, which included the installation of solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, and a central staircase created from cross-laminated timber – a material with very low amounts of sequestered carbon. To help achieve the BREEAM accreditation, Enfield Speciality Doors provided full FSC certification for its doors.

020 3199 6800 [sales@enfelddoors.co.uk](mailto:sales@enfelddoors.co.uk)

## Protecting an impressive research facility



This impressive 4,000 sqm property with striking modern architecture is one of the core laboratories funded by the UK government to research infrastructure and cities. The unique, purpose built facility creates life size environments such as railway stations or town squares, and can manipulate conditions such as light, sound, weather, temperature, smells and more. As a testing research laboratory, security measures were needed to prevent unauthorised access and theft. Being independently certified by the Loss Prevention Certification Board to LPS 1175 SR2, Xonar 942 shutters from CGT Security were specified for the building. The product features CGT Security’s innovative Self-Locking Technology that enables Xonar shutters to be completely secured without any auxiliary locking mechanisms, so even if it is left partially open, it cannot be forced upwards. The shutter was finished in black to complement the building’s fantastic architectural cladding and stunning appearance. Unlike most security shutters that need to be fitted internally to protect the fittings, the Xonar Bolt-On range is certified for external installation, broadening the range of applications it can be used for.

0330 024 9409 [www.cgtsecurity.com](http://www.cgtsecurity.com)

## Gilberts raises the bar with fire rated ventilation solutions



Gilberts has risen to the challenge of ensuring the balance of ventilation and safety with the development of its fire rated connection box (plenum). The Fire Rated Connection Box (available in both top and side entry versions) achieves 60 minutes’ fire and thermal rating to EN1366-3-2021. It means that fire integrity of ventilation between internal compartments has never been easier to achieve. The new plenum maintains performance integrity when tested at temperatures up to 1,000°C. It ensures that the fire barrier through a masonry or plasterboard wall or ceiling or concrete floor will be retained, maintaining compartmentation. Gilberts believes it is the only plenum of its kind in the UK tested to deliver such high performance. It gives assurance that the two relevant layers of fire safety – compartmentation and structural safety – are addressed. The Fire Rated Connection Box builds on Gilberts’ reputation as an innovator committed to giving clients products that exceed expectation. All Gilberts’ products, standard lines and bespoke solutions, are designed and developed in accordance with BS EN ISO 9001:2015 quality standard.

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

## Firefly® Systems upgrade roofspace of Northamptonshire care facility



One of FIREFLY®’s most active contracting partners has successfully utilised a selection of the manufacturer’s fully tested barrier systems and ancillary products to carry out a rapid upgrade to a property belonging to the Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation, replacing a superseded, mineral wool system which no longer met modern standards of performance, thereby ensuring the safety of staff as well as patients for the foreseeable future. Coventry based KRASI Fire Protection Limited – a specialist sub-contractor well experienced in all types of commercial construction projects and upgrades – completed the installation of the well proven and fully certified FIREFLY® Apollo Lite™ 30:30 and Apollo Horizontal barriers, together with a bespoke access hatch and products such as Collaroll. The standard range of FR 120 FIREFLY® hatches have been stringently tested against EN 1363-1 2020 and are third party certified by IFC, being shown to achieve an impressive two hours fire resistance from either side of a fire compartment. Intended to be fitted vertically, the heavy-duty construction of the Zintec steel door and Unistrut frame ensures the assembly offers a tight and flush fit when closed and rugged performance in use.

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