

building construction design

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SUMMER 2026

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Cover image: BEWI
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Hard landscaping made easy with Create & Construct



John O'Gaunt Golf Club

Designing effective hard landscaping schemes is rarely straightforward. With this in mind, in December '25, Tobermore launched Create & Construct, the most comprehensive hard landscaping support hub on the market. Here, Lisa Gow, Head of Specification at Tobermore, looks at recent projects to see how architects, landscape architects and specifiers have used different elements of the service to overcome design and specification challenges.

Bringing ideas to life

Working on a site that contains both new builds and listed buildings adds complexity because hard landscaping materials must be carefully chosen to ensure the scheme feels cohesive. This was the case at The Old Brewery in Salisbury, which saw the construction of a new residential development against a backdrop of listed 15th-century buildings.

It was important that the paving for pedestrian walkways and resident parking bays aligned with the historic appearance of the location. However, it can be difficult to visualise what products will look like in situ.

Here, the project benefited from paving

visualisation support. Using a 3D project visual from the architect, Barclay & Phillips, Tobermore presented a selection of paving options for the communal courtyard and paths. This enabled the developer, Derek Warwick Developments, to envision how the hard landscaping could complement the project. The 2D and 3D Landscape Design Service for commercial projects is a popular element of Create & Construct.

Tobermore's vintage themed Tegula block paving in Charcoal was chosen as the primary hard landscaping material. The product's antique appearance helped maintain the location's historic character, offering an aged yet traditional style finish. Due to its durability, Tegula was suitable for both the walkways and parking bays.

Specifying permeable paving for a SuDS scheme

Climate crisis has increased the intensity and frequency of rainfall in the UK, so to mitigate the risk, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be utilised on housing and public realm schemes where possible. Architect and developer firm Vabel chose

Tobermore's Hydropave permeable paving for the residential development in Lawrence Road, Seven Sisters, London.

Senior Architect at Vabel, Tommy Devine, explained how the project benefitted from elements of Tobermore's Create & Construct approach: "We received excellent support from conception to completion, including expert guidance on SuDS. The 'Virtual Sample Studio' was invaluable in reducing the number of physical samples we had to order – a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach. The process was inspiring, project-focused, and gave us complete confidence in specifying their products."

As a result, Tobermore's Hydropave Braemar & Hydropave Fusion products were selected for their aesthetic and performance characteristics.

Using laying patterns to deliver form and function

Well-designed hard landscaping can help with wayfinding, add character, and create delineated spaces for leisure and socialising. Berkley Group's The Green Quarter demonstrates how this can be achieved.

One of the UK's most biodiverse developments, with 50% open green space and parkland, the hard landscaping design at The Green Quarter needed to tie in with the vibrant nature of the area. A functional yet aesthetically pleasing solution was required, ensuring commuter-friendly paving options.

Tobermore worked closely with architects, Applied Landscape Design and groundworker Kings Landscapes throughout the design process. They provided complimentary paving visualisations, bespoke sample panels and laying patterns – services which all form part of Create & Construct.

This provided confidence in the final product selection, and Artro block paving was laid in an interesting five-way colour mix of Heather, Bracken, Autumn, Slate and Carbon in a trendy herringbone pattern. Other pedestrianised zones feature Artro in warm clay-like tones of Heather and Autumn in a stretcher bond laying pattern. Artro's ability to create unique design patterns by seamlessly blending various colour tones adds originality and personality to the scheme.

Creating valuable space with retaining walls

Sloping sites can be problematic for hospitality operations such as John O'Gaunt Golf Club, which wanted to create a new outdoor seating area beside the clubhouse.

The project architect had specified a single gabion wall to retain the expanded patio area. Keen to look at alternatives, the management team consulted Tobermore's experts about the Secura mortarless retaining wall system. As part of the Create & Construct service, Tobermore offers a range of services to



support Secura products, ranging from retaining wall design and materials and labour pricing tools through the Secura Portal to toolbox talks on installation best practice.

To address both functionality and visual appeal, Tobermore's retaining wall team proposed a tiered retaining wall approach using the Secura Grand retaining wall system in Bracken. This created space for a more expansive patio area. For the main patio surface, Mayfair slabs in Silver, along with Sienna Setts in Silver, were recommended, adding a sleek granite aggregate finish that enhanced the overall modern feel of the space.

"Tobermore's team played a pivotal role, not only transforming the initial concept into a fully realised design but also guiding us through the process," said Gordon MacLeod, General Manager, John O'Gaunt Golf Club.

As we've seen, Create & Construct helps take the hassle out of hard landscaping design and specification. The Create element combines 19 services at the moment, designed and curated to support projects throughout the detail design and specification stages, encompassing everything from easy-to-use online tools to access to Tobermore's in-house design and technical experts. This comprehensive support helps specifiers, architects and designers deliver projects more efficiently and with greater confidence.

Simply visit Create & Construct, move the slider to select your project's stage, and discover how Tobermore can help make hard landscaping easy for you.

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Wood fibre insulation: Is it suitable for mainstream housebuilding?



Yes, wood fibre insulation is suitable for mainstream housebuilding. It can be used to insulate the walls, floors and roof, and is available in air-injected or rigid board form.

It is formed from at least 80% wood fibre and this naturally derived raw material comes from PEFC certified forests. Insulants like wood fibre are often seen as materials suitable for projects whose main focus is sustainability but that is changing fast.

HOW CAN WOOD FIBRE INSULATION HELP REDUCE EMBODIED CARBON FOR MAINSTREAM HOUSEBUILDING?

With the government's target for the UK to become net zero by 2050, there's an increasing pressure on housebuilders to play their part in reducing the embodied carbon of new homes.

Embodied carbon is currently unregulated, even though it makes up 20% of the UK's built environment emissions. However, there is growing talk of legislation being introduced to regulate embodied carbon – and the

construction industry has already drafted a potential Approved Document called 'Part Z'.

HOW WOOD FIBRE INSULATION CAN HELP REDUCE EMBODIED CARBON

When developers need to determine the carbon contribution of construction materials as a measure of their sustainability, they look at each product's Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). Due to its composition, wood fibre insulation can contribute to climate protection making it a viable option when looking to reduce embodied carbon.

On top of this, its insulation properties can help increase the energy efficiency of a building and reduce its associated carbon emissions.

HOW WOOD FIBRE INSULATION CAN HELP MITIGATE OVERHEATING

Wood fibre insulation doesn't just keep the heat in during the colder months. It can also help to keep heat out during hot summer days and evenings.

Wood fibre insulation is characterised by a high raw density. This means it can offer greater resistance to heat radiation due to its higher heat storage capacity.

HOW DOES WOOD FIBRE INSULATION HELP HOUSEBUILDERS WITH MOISTURE CONTROL?

Control of moisture in buildings is a requirement of 'Approved Document C: Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture' of the building regulations. The document references the standard BS 5250:2021 Management of moisture in buildings.

Wood fibre insulation materials are diffusion open allowing water vapour to safely pass through the material. Vapour control layers (VCLs) are used to help control the level of internal moisture entering the building fabric.

HOW CAN WOOD FIBRE INSULATION CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED INDOOR AIR QUALITY?

As we spend 90% of our time indoors, and the average Brit spends 53 years of their life inside it's important that the indoor environment is one that promotes health and wellbeing. There is a pressure on housebuilders to ensure that new stock does not suffer the same fate as existing stock in the future.

Due to its density and composition, wood fibre insulation helps to keep noise pollution out of the home. Dense batts are used to insulate between timber studs, joists or rafters. These batts reduce the risks of gaps in the building fabric which can lead to cold spots and condensation issues. This helps to maintain the thermal integrity of the insulation layer. To find out more about wood fibre insulations and how they can benefit mainstream housing developments contact STEICO's expert team for advice.

steico.com/uk/contact-service
steico.com/uk



Advanced's MxPro 5 4-loop panels achieve Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

MxPro 5 four-loop fire alarm control panels from Advanced now hold an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), providing independently verified data on the products' environmental impact across their full lifecycle.

Issued in accordance with EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 and ISO 14044/14025, and verified by BRE Global, the EPD delivers transparent, standardised environmental performance data to support sustainability-focused specification and whole-building assessment.

Environmental Product Declarations are increasingly used across the construction and building services sectors to provide comparable, verified data on a product's environmental impact. Developed using a life cycle assessment (LCA), an EPD quantifies impacts across each stage of a product's life, from raw material extraction and manufacturing through to transport, use, and end-of-life treatment.

For the MxPro 5 four-loop panels, the EPD presents cradle-to-grave environmental data,



including carbon footprint and other impact indicators, allowing consultants, designers and building owners to better understand how fire safety systems contribute to the overall environmental performance of a building or infrastructure project.

The declaration applies across the full range of MxPro 5 four-loop panel configurations, including standard and deep enclosure formats, cross-listed variants, and Axis EN software variants, ensuring consistent environmental data is available regardless of configuration or

compliance requirements.

Beyond supporting external specification, the EPD is also valuable in supporting Advanced's drive for continuous improvement and responsible product design. By identifying where environmental impacts occur across the product lifecycle, the assessment provides insight informing ongoing product development, material selection, manufacturing efficiency and energy use during operation.

The MxPro 5 range has been developed with longevity, flexibility and upgradeability in mind, helping to extend system life and reduce waste over time. The addition of an independently verified EPD for the four-loop panels gives specifiers and end users the data they need to consider fire detection and alarm systems as part of a wider, more sustainable building strategy.

The EPD is valid for five years and will remain in force until March 2031, subject to the terms of the BRE Global verification scheme.

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Expanded AIM technical team supports customers in face of increased regulatory pressures

As the construction industry adjusts to tougher technical demands following Grenfell, AIM Acoustic & Insulation Manufacturing is expanding its technical function to offer even greater customer support and meet growing demand for its fire, thermal and acoustic barriers.

AIM's technical support manager Kevin Blake is joined by Tashan Johnson as technical support executive to form an experienced team dedicated to advising customers on compliance, specification and correct installation. They will provide a market leading end-to-end service, says AIM.

Not only is the technical support team tasked with ensuring AIM's product range is compliant and fit for purpose, together with the company's specification team they assist architects and contractors at the design stage, giving guidance on the selection of fire, thermal and acoustic insulation products based on in depth understanding of product performance, testing, materials, applications



and regulations.

"Expanding the technical support desk demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the correct specification and use of AIM products," explains Kevin Blake MIFSM, TIFireE. AIM's technical support manager for seven years, Kevin sits on the Association for Specialist Fire Protection's TG3 Fire Stopping and TG14 Fire Protection in External Facade Systems task groups and he contributes to British Standards.

"The biggest challenge with modern construction is finding the correct fire resistance certification. All too often fire testing standards are not representative of today's built environment, so proving a product's performance can be challenging. I work closely with regulatory bodies and approvers to find solutions to complex building designs," Kevin adds.

Tashan Johnson has moved from a senior role in AIM's technical sales team to concentrate on technical support working with Kevin. Tashan achieved the Institute of Fire Engineers Level 2 Passive Fire Protection qualification in 2024.

"My new role also involves engaging with installers, providing onsite training and advice and undertaking observation visits to check installation is in line with product guidance," explains Tashan. "We also deliver technical presentations in support of CPD."

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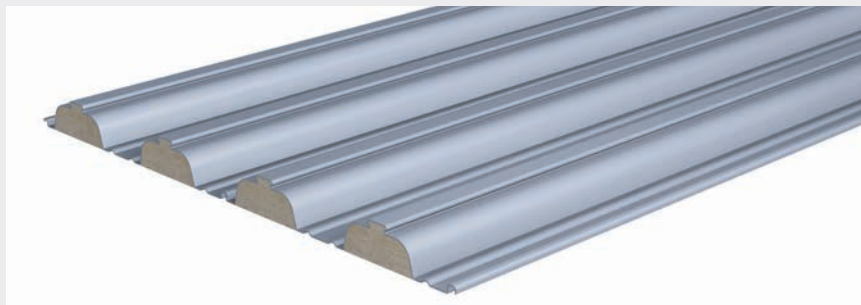
AIM doubles fire stop block capacity

Investment in additional CNC technology at its Crawley manufacturing facility has increased AIM Acoustic & Insulation Manufacturing's Fire Stop Block production capacity by 50 per cent. "This significantly greater CNC capability supports AIM's position as a Fire Stop Block category leader," says commercial director Ian Exall. "Earlier spend on further testing means we have one of the most comprehensive ranges of fire tested FSBs in the market."

Used to maintain fire compartment lines and act as a barrier to the movement of smoke in floors, walls, partitions and roofs, FSBs are also known as Trapezoidal Fire Stops.

Typically, a Fire Stop Block is installed at the junction of a metal deck concrete floor and a wall that has a fire resistance requirement. The Fire Stop Block is used to fill the space under the floor where it is located on the wall. They also contribute to acoustic performance.

AIM uses CNC technology to produce precision, compression fit Fire Stop Blocks with 60- and 120-minute insulation and integrity options. Blocks cut from an ablative batt are also available and are typically used where fibre migration from the blocks (or other items in the



vicinity of the wall) has to be eliminated, such as in the construction of hi-tech buildings, for example data centres.

The acquisition of new plant and a major refurbishment of existing capacity follow AIM's 2024 investment in additional test evidence to cover a wider range of applications. Tested to the principles of BS EN 1366-4:2021, AIM's Fire Stop Blocks achieved IFC Certification Ltd third-party certification.

AIM's Fire Stop Blocks are available in CNC cut standard profiles to suit major metal deck producer profiles or are cut to customer specifications. The latest CNC technology ensures

accuracy even for more challenging profiles with rounded shoulders. Compression fit means sealants are not required for most applications.

"We manufacture Fire Stop Blocks to pretty much any profile, or customer defined dimensions. Indeed, we often get the proverbial "back of an envelope" drawing from which to create the CAD files required for production of the finished item" adds Ian Exall.

AIM's Fire Stop Block technical datasheet explains the application scope and test evidence.

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aimlimited.co.uk/solutions/fire-stop-blocks-2

Thermomur® ICF from BEWI features in new build property with outstanding thermal performance

When engineer Andrew Brash and his wife were looking to build a forever retirement home in the Suffolk village that they love, Andrew was immediately attracted to the elegance of an Insulating Concrete Formwork (ICF) solution.

It was the thermal performance and simplicity that particularly appealed. He also liked the durability of ICF: "If we were going to build a house with our name on it, we wanted something that was going to be around for a long time," he says.

'Mouses' is a build of 330 m² on a 0.6-acre plot, which was completed in just 14 months, despite the large size of the building, reflecting the ease with which projects can be carried out using ICF.

The product selected was BEWI's Thermomur® 350 Super, which is designed to provide an outstanding thermal performance (with a U-value of 0.15 W/m²K), and has full NHBC and BBA approval, while also



enabling a fast and efficient build. The cost/performance equation was viewed as a key benefit, which could provide the thermal performance necessary to gain a Passivehouse rating. The house also easily achieved its airtightness target. From a practical point of view, the ability to screw into the sides of the blocks and the way they all fit together also makes for a more straightforward build

than with other systems, while generating less waste.

"We find the performance of the completed house to be absolutely fantastic," says Andrew. "When combined with triple glazing, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, solar panels and a heat pump, we estimate that our total electric costs each year for everything on this large house will be less than £200."

The flexibility of the system meant that the team were able to deal with challenges as they arose on the job. Two recommendations which Andrew has, having completed his project, are to design any ICF self-build around the block dimensions as far as possible, to minimise cutting, and also to take maximum advantage of the training which is provided by BEWI for contractors without ICF experience who use the company's Thermomur® system.

0870 600 3666 www.bewi.com/uk

CCF champions collaboration and greater accuracy in ESG reporting

National interior building products distributor CCF has joined forces with manufacturer supply chain partners British Gypsum and Isover to highlight the growing importance of accurate carbon data within the construction supply chain.

Held at the Saint Gobain Solutions Centre on Portland Street in London, more than 30 main and subcontractors attended, including sustainability specialists Construction Carbon and environmental leads from across the UK. The event was part of CCF, British Gypsum and Isover's wider Focused on Building for Good campaign, which promotes greater supply chain collaboration between manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and project teams.

Several speakers took the stage, with British Gypsum, CCF and Construction Carbon sharing insights into the challenges and opportunities surrounding carbon reporting. The session explored the increasing regulatory and commercial pressure on manufacturers to provide verified Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs), and the complexities involved in producing this level of detailed product information.

A key challenge highlighted during the event was the limited availability of reliable carbon data, with many organisations still relying on generic industry averages rather than



verified manufacturer information. Discussions throughout the day reinforced the need for greater transparency and traceability across supply chains to enable materials to be tracked from manufacturer through to installation on site.

Speaking on behalf of CCF was Head of Customer Sustainability Solutions and Sales Phil Monkman who outlined how the company has been working closely with subcontractors, main contractors, industry specialists and the wider Travis Perkins Group to develop CONNECT, a carbon calculation tool designed to provide more accurate reporting than anything currently available in the market.

Representatives from CCF's customer base were also in attendance, with BPC Interiors, an early adopter of the CONNECT tool, sharing first-hand experience of using CONNECT and how

gaining access to more accurate product data is helping them manage waste, support early project acceptance and access rebate payments linked to carbon reduction.

Phil said: "CONNECT has been shaped in partnership with the people who will use it every day, so hearing from early adopters like BPC Interiors is invaluable. By combining verified manufacturer data from partners such as British Gypsum and Isover with CCF's own supply chain insight, CONNECT gives contractors a clearer picture of their carbon impact and the confidence to make better informed decisions at every stage of a project."

The discussions also explored how better carbon data can support pre-construction planning, giving project teams the ability to evaluate environmental impact earlier in the design process. Feedback from attendees showed strong demand for accessible sustainability reporting tools, particularly among contractors and subcontractors navigating increasingly complex ESG requirements. The event reinforced that carbon reporting is becoming a strategic priority for the construction sector, supporting both compliance and more sustainable project delivery.

01604 825800

ccftd.co.uk/content/focused-on-building-for-good

ORION ICE keeps criminals out in the cold

VBH has developed the greenteQ ORION ICE 3-star profile cylinder for UK door manufacturers.

The cylinder is fully accredited to the latest TS007:2024 kitemark, providing protection against thermal (freeze) and glue attacks, picking, drilling, bumping and snapping, all without the need to add supplementary security devices.

ORION ICE is available in key/key and thumb turn options, in singles and keyed alike pairs, and each cylinder is supplied with five keys as standard, which is a real benefit to end users.

VBH's proteQ10 security guarantee has been upgraded for customers using ORION ICE. It will pay the end user an increased £5000 in compensation if a break in within the UK is achieved as a direct result of an ORION ICE cylinder being snapped.

ORION ICE is recognised by Secured by Design as a Police Preferred Specification product.

Richard Gyde, managing director at VBH, says, "ORION ICE is the first of our ICE range of security products, which will protect users In Case of Emergency long into the future.

"Our original Orion 3-star has been a great



success and is hugely popular within the door and locksmith markets. Companies who use ORION ICE benefit from the fact that the cylinder builds on the qualities of Orion, and features additional innovative technology that protects against the new thermal (freeze) and glue attack methods.

"We know that ORION ICE not only passes

the testing required to meet the requirements of TS007:2024, but that it keeps criminals out in the cold in the real world, too. Door manufacturers who fit ORION ICE can be confident that they are achieving the highest standard of door security."

01634 263263 www.vbhgb.com

MxPro 5 delivers reliable fire protection for Royal Marine hotel

The Royal Marine Hotel, County Dublin, has completed a significant upgrade of its fire alarm system with the installation of Advanced's MxPro 5 fire panels.

The hotel comprises guest accommodation, bar and restaurant areas, a pool and spa, underground car park, kitchens and plant rooms. Its previous fire alarm system was removed as it was no longer meeting the operational needs of the site, with ongoing reliability issues and false alarms causing disruption for guests and staff. A modern, networked solution was required to improve performance and provide greater control.

TEE Fire Safety Solutions were appointed to carry out the upgrade. As the system was networked, all five panels had to be replaced on the same day to maintain continuity and minimise disruption. The new installation is based on Advanced's MxPro 5 analogue addressable fire panels, providing a robust and scalable platform well suited to the



demands of a live hospitality environment.

The system includes a combination of eight-loop, four-loop and two-loop MxPro 5 panels, supported by a fully functional repeater panel. All panels are networked using standard network cards and configured across seven network nodes, with a total of 1,813 devices programmed throughout the site.

Reducing false alarms was a key objective of the project. Using the MxPro 5's advanced configuration capabilities, TEE Fire Safety Solutions implemented a tailored false alarm management strategy, including verification and hold times designed specifically for hotel operations. Heat detectors, manual call points and linear detection were excluded from false alarm management to ensure full responsiveness to genuine alarms.

A staged alarm strategy has also been programmed, allowing reception, management and maintenance sounders to activate initially before escalating to a full evacuation if the alarm is not cancelled by trained staff.

The installation also provides a future-proof platform, with plans already in place to add an additional single-loop panel to support a forthcoming extension.

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Amtico explores calm and connection with 'The Amtico Retreat' at Clerkenwell Design Week

Amtico returns to Clerkenwell Design Week in 2026 with The Amtico Retreat, marking its first appearance at the festival in seven years. Taking over Paxton Locher House, the British flooring designer and manufacturer presents a space designed to offer a more considered pace within one of the industry's most high-energy design events.

Clerkenwell Design Week is known for its energy, with installations, talks and experiences unfolding across the district. Rather than stepping away from that intensity, Amtico reinterprets it – creating an environment that balances activity with moments of pause, allowing visitors to slow down, reset and engage more meaningfully, in a way that suits them.

The concept is underpinned by Amtico's guiding theme for Clerkenwell Design Week – where beautiful spaces grow through collaboration, creativity and choice – brought to life through a series of interconnected



spaces and experiences. It centres on creating a calm, open and welcoming environment that works for a wide range of needs, recognising that not everyone engages with or experiences spaces in the same way. From the moment of arrival, the layout of Paxton Locher House guides visitors through a more intuitive journey, encouraging them to stop, interact and spend time within the space rather than moving quickly through it.

Inside, the experience unfolds through a series of interconnected spaces that bring together Amtico's core themes of collaboration, creativity and choice. The Amtico in-house design team will create sector-focused displays styled to reflect real commercial environments across workplace, retail and hospitality. These life-sized, moodboard-style compositions combine flooring with furniture, lighting and material palettes, demonstrating how pattern, colour and texture come together within a scheme.

A more hands-on approach will run throughout the three days, inviting visitors to engage directly with materials. A collaborative luxury vinyl tile (LVT) display will evolve over the course of the event, allowing visitors to reposition individual LVT elements and explore how subtle changes in colour, wood or stone can transform the overall feel of a design in real time.

0121 745 0800 [amtico.com/commercial](https://www.amtico.com/commercial)

AIM adds to specification strength with two appointments

Acoustic, fire and thermal insulation manufacturer AIM Acoustics & Insulation Manufacturing has expanded its sales and specification team with two new appointments. Karen Viccars has joined as Specification Manager for the Greater London area and Campbell McGregor as Specification and Sales Manager for Scotland and northern England.

"These two new roles reinforce AIM's commitment to fully support customers in making the correct choice of fire, thermal and acoustic insulation products," said AIM's Commercial Director Ian Exall.

Recruited to provide additional capacity, Karen and Campbell add to AIM's external sales team.

In addition to Karen and Campbell, the external sales team includes Chris Dale who is now Business Development Manager for the Central region, Phil Reynolds Business Development Manager West and AIM is recruiting for the South East region.

Specification is now covered by Campbell across Scotland and northern England, by Karen in the London area with Simon Mayes as Specification Manager for the rest of England & Wales.

Karen and Campbell bring considerable experience. Karen's career in the construction industry spans over 30 years. Involved in facades and rainscreen cladding for commercial and residential high-rise buildings, she has liaised closely with architects to support them in the face of new safety regulations.

"The specification process has changed so much over the last nine years. The requirement for technical input is far greater," Karen comments. "AIM provides an exceptional degree of customer support and it's great to be part of that."

Campbell's construction industry career began aged 16. He joins from Rockwool where, as a regional manager, he worked with architects and contractors. He has



L-R: Phil Reynolds, Chris Dale, Karen Viccars, Campbell McGregor and Simon Mayes

been involved in specifying large projects, including Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, Edinburgh University and the Department for Education's schools rebuilding programme, spanning student accommodation, leisure complexes, high rise buildings and re-clad schemes. "AIM has an excellent reputation in the industry. With compliance so important, it's good to be with a business that gives customers product advice that is second to none. This role involves building commercial relationships with early stage correct product specification – a great combination for me."

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BEWI announces new staff appointments to strengthen civils market capabilities

BEWI, a leading manufacturer of insulation and construction products, is announcing senior staff appointments which strengthen the company's focus and capabilities in the growing civils sector.

Civils and structures solutions specialist Simon Roberts joins the company as national infrastructure manager – civils and structures. He is well-known in the sector, having held various technical roles at Cordek Ltd over a period of 20 years. His aim at BEWI is to raise the profile of the brand in the product specification sector with engineers, designers and concrete specialists.

"We are seeing growth coming from a range of civils sectors, including infrastructure, road building, concrete frame, industrial construction, educational and health sector building, as well as high rise residential," says Simon, "and we have a lot to offer to the sector from our HeaveMaster GHP, FormMaster and FillMaster ranges, as well as our piling products.



"Strengthening the business further we have Stephen Broadhurst, who is our technical director, overseeing a team which includes Martin Harragan as head of specification, Stuart Cox as specification manager, Stefania Cappiello as new product development manager and Miguel Jaen as technical manager building systems. His team also includes: Paul Hodge, thermal floor systems design manager; Arkadiusz Kusz,

design estimator; Brent Lofthouse, technical support & design manager."

"We believe we now have the strongest team in the business and that BEWI is well-placed to win new business in this dynamic sector and to support our customers in their civils projects," says John Cooper, managing director of BEWI UK.

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NEWS FEATURE



Why grout selection matters on commercial projects

Nick Bratt, national technical sales manager at tile adhesive and grout manufacturer Palace Chemicals explains that the specification of appropriate grouts is critical to the success of any commercial project.

While tile specification is the main focus for architects and building designers during the design and procurement process of a building, the selection of grouts will also be a key factor in the long-term performance and appearance of any commercial project. Since they are both a functional and an aesthetic component, grouts can influence durability, hygiene and visual appearance of tiled installations within commercial environments.

Commercial spaces place unique demands on tiled surfaces. High foot traffic, frequent cleaning, exposure to moisture and chemical attack can quickly expose weaknesses in poorly specified grout systems. Selecting the appropriate grout should therefore be considered an integral part of the overall design strategy, rather than something to be viewed solely as a colour consideration in the final stages.

Performance is key and traditional cementitious grouts remain widely used due to their cost-effectiveness and versatility. However, in demanding environments such as healthcare facilities, commercial kitchens, laboratories, swimming pools and public areas, higher-performance solutions may be required. This might include grouts with inbuilt additives designed to inhibit the growth of black spot mould, such as Palace ANTI-MOULD GROUT. Epoxy grouts offer exceptional resistance to staining, chemical and moisture penetration, making them particularly suitable for areas where hygiene and durability are paramount. Hybrid and advanced polymer-modified grouts also provide enhanced flexibility, colour consistency and resistance to cracking.

Aesthetic considerations are also important. Grout colour significantly affects the visual impact of tiled surfaces, either highlighting tile geometry through contrast or creating a seamless appearance with complementary tones. Large-format porcelain tiles, increasingly specified in commercial developments, often benefit from carefully selected grout colours that minimise visual interruption and reinforce a clean, monolithic aesthetic. Some manufacturers offer enhanced grout ranges which include a full palette of colours and alternatives to OPC cement, allowing an efflorescence-free finish, such as the Palace COLOUR-LOCK range.

Grout systems that resist deterioration and require less frequent replacement can also contribute to reduced lifecycle costs and lower environmental impact. Additionally, some manufacturers now offer products with lower embodied carbon or containing recycled content. Specifiers are therefore advised to check the Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions of grouts which are being specified on a project. Manufacturers are increasingly able to provide this information.

Supplied by Nick Bratt, national technical sales manager for Palace Chemicals

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Why brushed wood flooring should be on your specification list

For housebuilders and developers, flooring is one of the most visible specification decisions you make. It sets the tone for every room, influences how a property photographs for marketing, and plays a significant role in how buyers perceive quality and value. Brushed wood flooring is emerging as a specification choice that delivers across all these areas, combining the authentic character of natural timber with the durability and practicality that modern residential development demands.

A FINISH THAT ADDS VALUE WITHOUT ADDING COMPLEXITY

Brushed wood flooring is created by gently removing the softer wood fibres from the surface of the timber, enhancing the natural grain and adding a subtle texture. The result is a floor that looks and feels genuinely premium.

"With its subtle texture and depth, highlighting the natural structure of the wood, this flooring brings warmth and quiet sophistication to living spaces. The textured surface provides a balanced combination of elegance and performance, making it ideal for family homes."

That combination of elegance and performance is particularly relevant for residential development. Woodura Planks with a brushed finish are engineered for long-term stability and everyday resilience, making them well suited to new-build environments where properties need to perform from day one and continue to look their best through years of occupation.

VERSATILITY ACROSS PLOT TYPES AND PRICE POINTS

One of the most practical advantages of brushed wood flooring for developers is its flexibility. Light brushed oak tones work well in smaller rooms and north-facing spaces, maximising the sense of light and openness. Deeper, richer tones create atmosphere in larger living areas and open-plan kitchen-diners, which remain one of the most in-demand features in new-build homes.

This tonal range means a single flooring specification can be deployed intelligently across different plots and house types within the



same development, maintaining a consistent quality feel while allowing for variation between homes. It also photographs exceptionally well, which matters enormously in an era where the majority of property searches begin online.

ALIGNED WITH HOW BUYERS WANT TO LIVE

There is a growing expectation among homebuyers for interiors that feel considered, natural and connected to the materials around them. Brushed wood flooring sits squarely within the trend towards biophilic design, bringing an authentic, organic quality to a space that buyers increasingly associate with wellbeing and quality of life.

"Homeowners increasingly seek natural materials that add authenticity and character. The finish feels tactile and genuine, supporting the growing trend towards biophilic design and nature-inspired interiors."

For developers looking to differentiate their product in a competitive market, that connection to natural materials is a meaningful selling point, one that resonates with a wide range of buyers from first-time purchasers to those trading up.

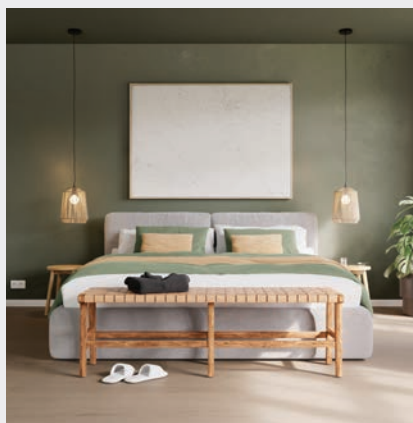
A SMART SPECIFICATION FOR SHOW HOMES AND SALES

Brushed wood flooring also performs particularly well in show home environments. The way the textured surface interacts with both natural and artificial light creates a sense of warmth and movement that staged photography and CGIs often struggle to replicate. Getting it into a show home means buyers can experience it directly, which tends to be far more persuasive than any specification sheet.

Its timeless quality means it will not date as interior trends evolve, reducing the risk of a development looking tired before all units have sold. For volume housebuilders and developers alike, brushed wood flooring represents a specification decision that supports both the quality of the finished product and the strength of the sales story.

For more information on Bjelin and Woodura Flooring contact UK National Sales Manager – Richard Banham:

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Designing for every generation: How KEUCO's CARE collection is shaping inclusive bathroom design



As multigenerational living becomes increasingly common, the bathroom has emerged as one of the most important spaces in the home. Rising housing costs, less affordable housing, and the high cost of care homes means families are now living together for longer, which has led interior designers and architects alike to rethink the use and layout of the bathroom from stylish and functional to a long-term investment in comfort, safety, and independence. The central challenge is clear: how can designers create bathrooms that support all ages and abilities without compromising on style?

KEUCO's CARE collections, including PLAN CARE and AXESS by PORSCHE DESIGN, offer a new perspective on accessible bathroom design. These ranges blend ergonomic intelligence with refined aesthetics, proving that future-proofing can be both discreet and beautiful. Designed for both private homes and project environments, KEUCO AXESS by Studio F. A. Porsche is a sustainable, cross-generational concept crafted from high-quality materials with a timeless design language. While supporting those with reduced mobility or specific care needs, it delivers comfort-enhancing features that benefit users of all ages – such as the added ease of seated showering.

PLAN CARE is built around a simple yet powerful principle: accessibility should feel natural, not clinical. It achieves this by

stepping away from the institutional look traditionally associated with care products, KEUCO has created a collection that integrates seamlessly into contemporary interiors. Clean lines, elegant proportions, and finishes that include a glossy chrome or matt aluminium allow PLAN CARE elements to sit comfortably alongside premium furniture, lighting, and fittings.

This shift reflects changing attitudes towards a long-term lifestyle. Families want bathrooms that feel both inviting and personal, that don't date and yet provide reassurance and support. PLAN CARE enables designers to achieve this balance, combining strong visual identity with robust engineering. Precision-engineered grab rails and handrails are tested to support up to 115 kg, while multifunctional corner rail systems can serve as grab rails, shower bars, and secure mounts for folding seats. A hookable folding shower seat, that can be hidden away after use or a bathroom stool, both offer flexibility and comfort for seated use, yet enable a bathroom to maintain a clutter free, minimalist aesthetic.

Thoughtful details further enhance usability such as detachable soap holders on angled grab rails, they are easy to reach, while extended-handle accessories such as toilet brush sets improve accessibility and dignity in everyday tasks. These are not afterthoughts or add-ons; they are integrated design tools that allow designers to anticipate

needs rather than react to them later.

One of the greatest challenges in multigenerational design is balancing long-term functionality with present-day style. PLAN CARE addresses this by offering products that feel at home in any setting, from contemporary apartments to traditional family homes. By incorporating accessibility from the outset, designers can protect the integrity of the scheme while ensuring the bathroom remains safe and usable as needs evolve. The result is peace of mind for clients and creative freedom for designers.

Inclusive design goes beyond mobility – it is about dignity, independence, and emotional comfort. With warm, tactile materials, unobtrusive forms, and intuitive placement, KEUCO's CARE collections support natural movement and create bathrooms that feel welcoming rather than medical. The outcome is a space that works beautifully for children, adults, and older generations alike, without signalling that it was designed for any one group.

As lifestyles continue to change, the most successful interiors will be those that embrace flexibility, inclusivity, and longevity. KEUCO's CARE collections demonstrate that accessible bathroom design can be elegant, intelligent, and enduring.

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Furlong Flooring extends Trident range with trend-led Plains and modern Heathers

Furlong Flooring has launched a contemporary refresh of its bestselling Trident twist carpet range, introducing a sharper palette of plains and heathers designed to reflect current interior trends and deliver greater versatility across the home.

Manufactured in the UK by Furlong Flooring under its Regency Carpets brand, Trident remains one of the industry's most reliable, high-performing twist carpets.

The refreshed colour palette has been developed to align with today's design preferences, offering a versatile spectrum from calm, understated neutrals to richer,

more characterful tones. This new additions to the range support both classic and contemporary interiors, making Trident an ideal whole-house solution.

Heather shades include Semolina, Pandora, Bathstone, Twilight, Mercury, Ash, Maple Leaf, Rusting Oak, Soft Truffle, Woodland Trill, Drifted Stone and Velvet Sand. Plains are available in Quicklime, Pebble, Cicogna, Graphite Silk, Coral Cove, Taupe, Sage Whisper, Amber Clay Driftwood Hue, Silver Frost, Oyster shell and Antique Ivory.

Trident features Furlong Flooring's award-winning Combi-bac® backing. Providing a flexible yet robust structure it makes the carpet easier to transport, handle and fit. The range is stain resistant and bleach cleanable, moth and insect proof and offers excellent appearance retention, with colour fastness to light rated 4/5.

Engineered for long-term performance, Trident meets Class 23 Heavy Domestic and Class 33 Heavy Commercial classifications to BS EN 1307. Its tufted cut pile construction uses 100% recycled yarn, balancing durability, comfort and sustainability. A 10-year wear warranty and dependable UK manufacture ensure consistent stock availability, a hallmark of Furlong Flooring's service model.

"Trident is one of the industry's most loved carpet ranges and the additions of the new Plains and Heathers further reinforces its wide



market appeal," commented Ian Collacott, sales director at Furlong Flooring. "Trident

Plains and Heathers are ranges that offers practical benefits to the installer as well as meeting the trend-led aesthetic desires of the homeowner."

With its latest update, Trident reinforces its position as a practical, proven favourite, designed to support the trade with performance, consistency and simplicity, while offering homeowners a stylish, whole-house flooring solution.

01322 628 700 www.furlongflooring.com



Cafe Portrait, National Galleries Scotland: Portrait

The National Galleries Scotland: Portrait in Edinburgh, a grand, neo-gothic listed building, offers visitors a journey through the country's past and present with a remarkable collection of paintings, sculptures, photography, and film. The cafe, managed by Heritage Portfolio is a popular destination for visitors, set in a light and spacious area.

Space Solutions led the design and refurbishment of the café, to modernise the space while preserving the historic character of the building. The aim was also to create an improved user experience in a multi-purpose space that could easily host casual day-time visitors, serve as a destination for small groups and meetings, and transform at night to host larger gatherings and events.

The open-plan cafe had ongoing noise issues that needed to be addressed, requiring innovative solutions to control sound without compromising aesthetic. As a listed building, securing a ceiling solution

directly to the soffit was not permitted. The challenge was to create a modern, visually appealing environment that harmonised with the building's heritage while enhancing acoustic performance.

Solution

Space Solutions designed three art installations in the existing lighting tracks that could also function as acoustic rafts. Featuring multi-coloured panels at different angles, these rafts not only address acoustic challenges but also complement the Gothic architecture.

The acoustic rafts were made up of three Zentia Sonify Tilt canopy rafts, delivering on both aesthetic and functional requirements. The Sonify rafts are rated Class A in sound absorption and were chosen for their ability to control reverberation and noise levels in the cafe's open-plan layout. The rafts were specified in a mixture of YE3 (pale yellow), RE5 (soft red), and WH1 (white).



To comply with the building's listed status, a primary Unistrut structure was used to suspend the grid system sufficiently, ensuring that no alterations were made to the soffit.

The installation, carried out by 2T Joiners Ltd, was completed in January 2025. The Sonify Tilt canopy rafts have improved the acoustic quality of the space while maintaining the design's artistic integrity. The rafts provide better sound management, ensuring a more pleasant experience for the cafe's customers.

This project exemplifies how thoughtful design and modern solutions can transform a historic space without compromising its original charm.

0191 497 1000 www.zentia.com/en-gb

AG strengthens brick offering with clay-like range

AG, a Tyrone headquartered, manufacturer of low carbon paving and building products, has launched Heathfield, a new clay-like concrete brick range designed to challenge long-held assumptions about what brick should be.

Developed in response to growing pressure on traditional clay supply, rising energy costs and increasing demand for consistent, reliable materials, Heathfield delivers the authentic appearance of clay with the performance, availability and sustainability of precision-engineered concrete.

The launch marks the latest step in AG's continued investment in innovation that gives developers and specifiers greater confidence in an increasingly unpredictable market.

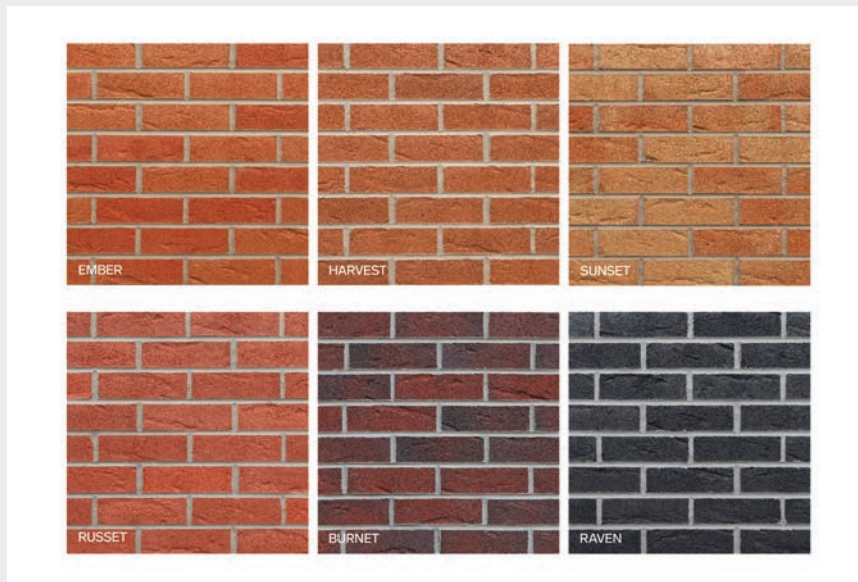
Each brick is moulded directly from clay samples, with varied embossing applied across each slice offering 27 unique patterns to replicate the natural, irregular surface of clay.

This creates a non-repetitive, organic finish across elevations, delivering a timeless aesthetic while avoiding the common challenges of traditional clay.

Produced in the third generation company's state-of-the-art facilities using Enduur 1 advanced concrete technology, Heathfield offers enhanced strength, durability, UV resistance, and hydrophobic performance.

Two teardrop-shaped perforations also enhance density and structural strength compared with traditional three-holed bricks. With water absorption around 6% much lower than clay's 15-20%, and no soluble salts in the mix, Heathfield significantly reduces the risk of efflorescence on site.

Cured with renewable energy, the range is more consistent in size than traditional clay, creating uniform bedding joints,



sharper finishes, and quicker, more reliable installation while avoiding the uneven joints caused by warped, energy-intensive kiln-fired bricks.

Sustainably produced using aggregates from AG's own quarry, including limestone to enrich colour, the range delivers consistent tones throughout each brick. Currently offered in six traditional colourways, with more planned, the collection provides architects and developers with flexible design options across housing, education and commercial projects.

Building on the success of AG's Woodward bricks, named Responsible Product of the Year 2025 by Business in the Community, Heathfield delivers the same innovative, high-performance qualities as an alternative to traditional clay bricks.

Backed by a 60-year guarantee, Heathfield is produced locally in the UK, with typical lead times of just three to five working days, giving builders and specifiers confidence even in unpredictable markets.

With energy prices and global supply chains under pressure, many construction materials face significant risk. AG's low-energy, UK-based manufacturing avoids that exposure, ensuring reliable supply, consistent quality, and a partner customers can trust for the long term.

The newly launched range is also part of AG's broader portfolio of building

products, including paving and walling solutions, providing specifiers and developers with a complete, one-stop solution for external materials.

Commenting on the launch, AG CEO Stephen Acheson said:

"The success of our Woodward range proved that concrete bricks can genuinely compete with, and in many cases outperform, traditional clay. Heathfield builds on that momentum and represents a further step forward in how the industry thinks about brick."

"We set out to create a product that delivers the character and warmth of clay while removing many of the challenges that developers, specifiers and bricklayers experience on site. Every detail has been carefully engineered, informed by close collaboration with the people who use our products day in, day out."

"As the market continues to rethink material choices in light of cost, availability and sustainability pressures, Heathfield offers a confident alternative. We believe products like this will play an increasingly important role in the future of construction, and we are proud to be leading that shift."

Samples of the Heathfield range are now available.

028 8952 1275
ag.uk.com



Heathfield



+ Every face
tells a story



Introducing **Heathfield**, AG's new perforated concrete facing brick with a creased, clay-like finish. Designed to capture the timeless character of traditional brickwork, without the compromises.

AG.UK.COM

EJOT CROSSFIX raises the bar on rainscreen facade performance

EJOT's all-stainless steel facade substructure system CROSSFIX can play an instrumental role in the delivery of higher performing, more sustainable and stronger rear ventilated or rainscreen facades.

This complete framing system, backed with a comprehensive European Technical Assessment (ETA) to independently confirm its performance, is compatible with all types of building substrates, insulation materials and cladding. It is supplied as a package by EJOT UK including all the brackets, rails, anchors and fasteners, plus the 'Powerkey' to optimise load distribution between anchors, required to assemble a robust sub-frame that achieves significantly higher load-bearing capacities than other substructures.

Discover CROSSFIX at Zak World of Facades

Attendees at the Zak World of Facades event in Manchester in June will be able to find out more about the contribution that CROSSFIX can make to facade projects. The EJOT UK team will be exhibiting to give architects and facade designers the opportunity to discuss the technical characteristics of the system and its design features in depth.

Reduced thermal bridging + greater strength = less material use

One of the major advantages offered by CROSSFIX is its stainless steel composition, which offers low thermal conductivity compared to aluminium. As each bracket in the substructure provides the potential for a thermal bridge to develop, by reducing the amount of thermal transfer through the brackets, heat loss can be cut.



Stainless steel brackets have an additional advantage given the material's relatively higher strength. This means, compared to facade substructures created using standard aluminium systems, fewer brackets are required with CROSSFIX – and with fewer structural connections from the building substrate to the outer sheet, a further reduction in thermal bridging is achieved.

These thermal efficiencies can enable a reduced insulation depth without compromising Uvalues, potentially decreasing the wall thickness, increasing usable floor space and reducing insulation volumes. Combined with stainless steel's recyclability and verified EPDs supporting BREEAM, LEED and Passivhaus, this makes CROSSFIX well suited to projects with more ambitious sustainability targets.

Designed for both vertical and horizontal systems

The design of the CROSSFIX Konsole bracket means it can be used with both vertical and horizontal rails, offering greater design flexibility and allowing rail orientation to suit cladding formats and joint alignment.

Its dual capability simplifies adaptation to complex geometries, facade setbacks and mixed cladding systems, and it is especially valuable where materials change late in the design process. It also enables designers to select the most efficient load path without redesigning layouts or switching

substructure systems. In addition, CROSSFIX provides generous tolerance compensation for uneven substrates, making alignment easier on site, reducing shimming and rework and delivering cleaner facade lines with faster installation.

First rate fire performance

Being manufactured from stainless steel, CROSSFIX is well suited to modern fire safety requirements. The material maintains good strength at high temperatures, retaining around 55% of its strength at 700°C. As a result, the system achieves an A1 fire rating under EN 135011, making it a robust, noncombustible alternative to aluminium or hybrid substructures.

01977 687040 www.ejot.co.uk/CROSSFIX



Senior opens the door (and window) to greater transparency with new EPD releases

Senior Architectural Systems has expanded its suite of independently verified Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) to give architects and contractors even greater confidence and clarity when assessing the environmental impact of some of the manufacturer's most popular fenestration systems.

Following the publication of the EPD for its SF52 mullion drained curtain wall, Senior has now released new declarations for its PURE® Commercial Door, PURE® Casement and PURE® Tilt & Turn aluminium windows, plus the zone drained version of its SF52 curtain wall system.

Senior has been keen to challenge the traditional format of EPDs, and specifically those for aluminium fenestration systems, which has been underpinned by the company's pledge to customers that 'what you see is what you spec'.

The new publications continue Senior's commitment to providing transparent, specification-ready data that reflects the true performance of the fenestration systems being designed into a project and each new EPD follows the same methodology that set the SF52 mullion drained curtain wall EPD apart. By removing insulated glass units from the calculations, the data focuses solely on the aluminium system itself. This prevents artificially low carbon figures and gives a more accurate representation of the product's impact per square metre.

Architects and contractors working across a range of building types also benefit from the non-linear scaling approach used throughout Senior's suite of EPDs. Instead of relying on a single reference size, multiple system sizes for each product have been independently verified and consolidated into one document. This allows for more precise modelling at the early design stages and supports more robust comparisons between facade options.

Another key way that Senior is taking a different approach is by ensuring the new EPDs all include the environmental impact of profile extrusion and non-aluminium components such as thermal breaks, gaskets and fixings. These elements are often excluded from conventional EPDs, yet they can significantly influence the overall footprint of a facade system. Their



inclusion gives architects and contractors a more complete picture of the materials they are specifying and supports more accurate whole-building assessments.

The PURE® Commercial Door, PURE® Casement window and PURE® Tilt & Turn window systems all feature Senior's patented expanded polyurethane thermal break, delivering high thermal performance without compromising design flexibility. The new EPDs provide verified data that further supports the proven thermal performance of the PURE® system which has the potential to deliver low U-values that exceed current building regulations.

Commenting on the publication of the company's new Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), Senior's UK sustainability lead Luke Osborne said: "The expansion of our EPD portfolio reflects Senior's long-term commitment to responsible manufacturing and meaningful sustainability reporting. Our latest EPDs give the level of clarity and detail we know our customers are looking for to make informed

decisions at concept stage and throughout the specification process. By including all product elements as part of our EPDs we're able to produce much more accurate data and I'm proud that this approach makes them deliberately different to other EPDs for comparable systems.

"Our commitment to providing greater transparency is matched by our desire to help specifiers to better understand the complex information presented in the EPDs. We are always on hand to answer any questions that any of our customers may have to ensure that our EPDs truly are a helpful and reliable resource."

All new EPDs are available to download via Senior's NBS Source profile or directly from the company's sustainability team.

For more information, please visit www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk or search for Senior Architectural Systems on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

01709 772600
www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk

Proctor Group launches new fire-rated external wall membrane

Facadeshield® FR Class B is the latest addition to Proctor Group's range of external wall membrane solutions. The new vapour permeable membrane can serve as the breather membrane in external wall build-ups. Applications range from low-rise timber and steel frame structures to high-rise rainscreen facades, as well as offsite modular systems.

Key to Facadeshield FR's development has been ensuring the right balance of fire performance, water hold out and ultraviolet (UV) resistance – all in addition to vapour permeability that meets the definition given in BS 5250:2021.

Classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-1, Facadeshield FR achieves a reaction to fire of Euroclass B-s1,d0 and supports projects in meeting the fire safety requirements of national building regulations.

Assessed against the test methods in BS EN 13859-2, the membrane achieves the highest water resistance classification of W1.



Facadeshield FR's monolithic construction ensures its water hold out performance is unaffected even after months of UV exposure.

This is far longer than other similar membranes offer and is the biggest differentiator of Facadeshield FR compared to similar solutions in the marketplace. The membrane has been tested to 5000 hours of UV exposure.

"Delays are an unavoidable reality on many projects today," said Adam Salt, head

of business development at Proctor Group. "That's why specifiers, main contractors and installers need certainty that, if a delay arises, the breather membrane on a building's external walls can remain in place without costly removal and reinstallation."

Proctor Group supplies recommended tapes to support the installation of Facadeshield FR, and is on hand to provide expert technical support and toolbox talks. The membrane can be installed with a range of sheathing board substrates, including the company's own Proctor A1 Cement Board.

Keira Proctor, managing director of Proctor Group, added: "Facadeshield FR completes our comprehensive range of external wall membrane solutions. It sits alongside solutions like Wraprite®, our fully self-adhered, vapour permeable airtightness system; and Facadeshield A2, for projects that need additional fire performance."

01250 872261 www.proctorgroup.com

Hörmann UK delivers high-performance garage door solution for YouTuber's dream workshop

Hörmann UK has successfully completed a striking installation of three RollMatic 2 roller garage doors together with a matching side door for well-known automotive YouTuber George Austers. With a growing audience of over 100,000 subscribers to his 'Everything Cars' channel, George has been documenting the creation of his ideal garage and workshop through his popular video series, 'Dream Car Workshop Build'.

The installation forms a key part of a bespoke three-bay oak-framed garage and workshop, designed to combine premium aesthetics with high functionality. Hörmann UK was selected for the project due to its renowned German engineering expertise and strong reputation within the garage door market.

The project features three RollMatic 2 roller shutter doors and a matching side door, all finished in Jet black RAL9005. The bold finish provides a contemporary contrast that



enhances and complements the natural oak structure of the building.

Specified and installed by Hörmann UK's technical door team, the choice of roller doors was driven by both practical and visual considerations. With plans to install a car lift in one of the bays, space efficiency was critical. Unlike traditional up-and-over or sectional doors, the RollMatic 2 system eliminates the need for internal horizontal

tracks, maximising usable space within the garage. Maintaining a cohesive aesthetic was also a priority, leading to the selection of matching materials and finishes across all doors, including the side entrance door.

Each roller shutter door is equipped with advanced features, including wind locks, compensation fitting kits, and integration with Hörmann's 868 MHz BiSecur remote control system. Additionally, the doors benefit from built-in Bluetooth connectivity, enabling operation via the Hörmann BlueSecur app on smartphones and tablets.

For added reliability, the doors are spring counterbalanced, allowing easy manual operation in the event of a power failure – eliminating the need for cumbersome crank handles.

A step-by-step video of the installation process, presented by George Austers, is available to view by scanning the QR code.

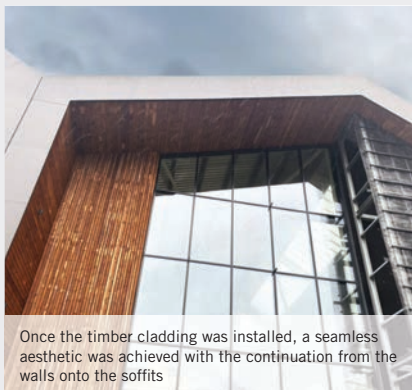
01530 516868 www.hormann.co.uk

EJOT CROSSFIX provides ready-made overhanging soffit fixing solution

The EJOT CROSSFIX facade support system has enabled Kovara Projects to securely and efficiently install a complex timber cladding feature for a large new building created at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus near Didcot.

The system, which will be showcased at the Zak World of Facades event in Manchester in June, has been used in the construction of Tech Edge West. Delivered by main contractor Glencar, this will provide 70,000 ft² of mixed use office space, supporting a growing community of scientists, engineers and innovators.

The building's eye-catching design features a sawtooth roof with dark standing seam roofs and outer walls combining with naturally finished timber cladding to complement the natural setting. Each unit features a recessed facade at the gable ends formed through incorporating cantilevered purlins. This design required a continuation of the exterior wall's Thermopine timber



Once the timber cladding was installed, a seamless aesthetic was achieved with the continuation from the walls onto the soffits

cladding on the soffit of the roof overhang. Here, EJOT CROSSFIX provided a 'plug-and-play' solution for this distinctive architectural feature covering 24 m² across the eaves of the recessed facades.

CROSSFIX is an advanced, stainless steel substructure system designed for mounting

rainscreen facades and bespoke cladding, offering sustainability and thermal efficiency advantages over aluminium alternatives. It is supplied with a complete support package by EJOT UK to ensure a specification including the full engineering calculations is provided quickly to avoid project delays.

Scott Norris, Kovara Projects' design director, said: "By utilising the CROSSFIX system in conjunction with EJOT's technical support, the system's enhanced structural and spanning capabilities were identified and incorporated into the design, enabling a reduction in the quantity of material required for the soffit installation when compared with a traditional bespoke fabricated support framework. This was achieved while maintaining a fully engineered, structurally robust solution and reducing the practical and ergonomic challenges associated with overhead installation works."

01977 687040 www.ejot.co.uk/CROSSFIX

Edinburgh high school looks forward to Passivhaus certification with help of Wraptite®

As of May 2025, construction of the new £65 million Currie Community High School in Edinburgh is nearly complete, meaning it can be assessed for Passivhaus certification. A host of schools currently being built across Scotland are aiming to achieve the standard, many funded in part through the Learning Estates Investment Programme (LEIP).

"A key element of the Passivhaus standard is airtightness," said Cameron Galloway, site manager at Kier Construction. "The Proctor Group's Wraptite® membranes were therefore key products for us."

A preliminary air test carried out in early 2025 achieved a result of 0.44 air changes per hour (ach) – standing the school in good stead to surpass the Passivhaus requirement of 0.6 ach.

Currie Community High School has been designed to provide 1,000 student places across three floors, with a focus on daylight, indoor air quality and healthy, natural



materials, plus spaces for outdoor learning. The community aspect of the project features amenities including a library, sensory garden, and public allotments. As well as the comfort benefits that come from attaining Passivhaus accreditation, the building's low energy performance is designed to contribute to the City of Edinburgh Council's net zero goals.

Sport and leisure facilities on the site include a swimming pool, meaning the school will have one of the few Passivhaus certified pools in the UK.

While most of the high school is of steel frame construction, the pool hall uses a cross laminated timber (CLT) structure.

"We wanted to protect the timber kit as soon as possible," said Cameron, "so for that part of the building we used Wraptite UV. It offered us a longer exposure time than the standard Wraptite, meaning we could complete that part of the building early on."

Wraptite UV is typically offered for use behind open-jointed cladding, but in this instance supported the specific goals of the project following advice from the Proctor Group technical team.

Wraptite membrane was then used across the rest of the site. Both Wraptite products offer a combination of airtightness and vapour permeability, helping to meet low energy goals without increasing condensation risk in the structure. The self-adhered nature of the two membranes creates a consistent airtight seal without the need for a primer, saving on labour and material costs.

01250 872 261
proctorgroup.com/products/wraptite

Proctor Group provides an 'Air' of luxury on new home development

The first site development by a new luxury housebuilder is benefiting from Proctor Group's Proctor Air® underlay on the pitched roof.

Braddus Homes is a small housing developer set up by childhood friends who wanted to offer something different to the volume housebuilding companies they had previously worked for. Their first development is Priory Fields, a site of four homes, each with five bedrooms.

The company has set out to deliver excellence as standard and needed to ensure the materials they sourced would match their premium approach to housebuilding, right from their very first project. Their homes are marketed as luxury, exclusive and high specification – and they needed every detail to meet this high standard to ensure complete customer satisfaction.

For developers of small housing sites looking to differentiate themselves in the marketplace, offering a high-end product means spending money in the right places. That includes using the best products that provide the performance they promise.

For the pitched roof specification, Braddus Homes therefore chose to use Proctor Group's air permeable, low resistance underlay Proctor Air.

As an air permeable, low resistance (APLR) underlay Proctor Air allows the passage of both



air and moisture vapour. This combination of qualities reduces condensation risk in roofs and avoids the need for separate roof ventilation products, as the underlay provides a more consistent flow of air than standard roof vent products.

Proctor Air has a BBA certificate, and has been assessed against the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI). The underlay is also one of six Proctor Group products covered by an

environmental performance declaration (EPD).

Furthermore, as developers and housebuilders grapple with best practice around using solar PV on new homes, Proctor Group has published industry leading guidance around the use of Proctor Air with integrated solar panels.

01250 872 261

proctorgroup.com/products/proctor-air

Installing contractor puts forward Wraptite® membrane for Manchester PBSA development

The installing contractor at a high-rise PBSA (purpose-built student accommodation) development has shown their confidence in Proctor Group's Wraptite® external air barrier by putting the product forward for use on the facade.

The Echo Street development in Manchester comprises three towers, of 16, 21 and 27 storeys, with 11 and 15 storey links between them. A total of 1224 rooms, provided across 38,350 m² (142,000 ft²) of floor space, are complemented by extensive indoor and outdoor amenity spaces for working, socialising, dining and exercising. Completion is due in July 2026.

As part of regenerating a gateway site in the city centre, the finished scheme is targeting a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating. Air source heat pumps and solar PV panels form part of an all-electric approach. In addition, the linking sections have green roofs.

COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL SUPPORT KEY TO ONGOING RELATIONSHIP

The willingness of Eire Facades, the installing contractor, to propose Wraptite as an alternative to the specified membrane shows the extent of their trust in the product.

This confidence is rooted in their relationship with Proctor Group and the technical support the manufacturer has provided across multiple projects – including Echo Street.



Delivering building performance means getting the most out of quality products. To that end, Proctor Group gave toolbox talks to three project managers. All were receptive to the training, and it was clear from the Proctor Group's subsequent site visits that the information was followed. The standard of installation was very good across the entire development.

"What truly sets Wraptite apart is the support behind it," said Shaun Farnhill, project manager at Eire Facades. "The technical support team is incredibly knowledgeable and responsive, whether providing guidance during installation or helping to troubleshoot unique project challenges. We know we're backed by a team

that values precision and performance as much as we do."

"The product is outstanding," added Shaun. "Durable, reliable, and easy to work with. It provides excellent airtightness and weather protection, helping us meet stringent performance standards without compromising on installation efficiency."

Wraptite provides a consistent airtight seal that contributes to meeting a project's airtightness target, while also being highly vapour permeable. That vapour permeability allows the passage of moisture vapour out of the structure, avoiding any increase in condensation risk.

In its external location, Wraptite can act as the sole air barrier in a facade build-up, although Echo Street also features an internal membrane layer.

For installing contractor, the self-adhered nature of Wraptite means there is no need to use accessories like primers or adhesives to achieve a secure installation. The introduction of additional components would risk costly delays for the main contractor, lower confidence in the fire safety of the facade, and potentially compromise the airtightness and permeability of the external membrane.

01250 872 261

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Hörmann SPU F42 door delivers reliability and performance for RNLI Lifeboat Station

Hörmann UK industrial trade partner, Norwich-based Cooks Doors, has successfully completed the installation of a Hörmann SPU F42 sectional door at the RNLI Lifeboat Station in Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Designed to perform in some of the UK's most demanding environments, the new door provides the RNLI with a robust, reliable, and highly efficient solution to support its vital operations. Measuring an impressive 7,500 x 3,650 mm, the SPU F42 sectional door was specified for its strength, durability, and consistent performance in what is a challenging coastal setting. Manufactured from galvanised steel with a solid, double-skinned construction and a high-grade polyurethane foam core, the door offers excellent thermal efficiency, helping to maintain a stable internal environment within the lifeboat station. With a thermal insulation value of 1.2 W/m²K, the door helps reduce heat loss, supporting energy efficiency and



creating a more comfortable working space for the RNLI crew.

Given the exposed coastal location, resistance to the elements was a key consideration. The SPU F42 achieves Class 3 performance for both wind load and water tightness, helping to protect the station interior, equipment, and lifeboats from harsh weather conditions. Additional corrosion protection has been applied to the door fittings to further enhance longevity, ensuring reliable operation despite constant exposure to salty sea air.

The door is finished externally in Gentian blue (RAL 5010), complementing the lifeboat station's appearance, while the off-white interior finish (RAL 9002) helps to brighten the internal space. Two rows of vision panels were incorporated into the design, allowing increased natural light into the building and improving visibility without compromising strength or security.

Operational reliability is critical for the RNLI, where rapid response times are essential. The SPU F42 is powered by a 400v three-phase operator, providing smooth, dependable day-to-day operation. In the event of a power failure, a manual hand chain ensures the door can be operated, maintaining access at all times. Safety has also been prioritised, with an integrated safety edge that automatically stops the door if an obstruction is detected, helping to protect personnel, vehicles, and equipment.

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