

# building construction design

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

AUTUMN 2024

Appointments & news	02
Building products	18
Interiors	20
Exteriors	32



Cover image: Andy Stagg  
See page 13 for details



## 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)

## A.Proctor Group collaborates with park home manufacturer to deliver fire safety

**F**or Lissett Homes, a manufacturer of premium park homes and lodges, one customer's request to use a different style of cladding had ramifications beyond the aesthetic appearance of the building. Minimum heights and distances are a key feature of fire safety regulations, and it is no different for park homes and lodges.

"The Caravan Act requires a six-metre gap between buildings," said Chris Close, Design Director at Lissett Homes. "It can be possible to build closer than that, but it depends on the fire classification of the products used in the build-up."

For the new 'Bainland' homes, the customer requested a type of vertical cladding, treated with linseed oil, which only achieves Class 4 when tested to the same standard. That meant looking at incorporating a fire-rated vapour permeable membrane behind the cladding. "I've worked with A. Proctor Group for seven or eight years," said Chris, "so they were our first port of call and



together we found the right solution."

In wanting peace of mind that the new specification could offer the right level of fire safety performance, Lissett Homes benefitted from A. Proctor Group's high level of technical support.

That support started with a recommendation to use Fireshield®, a vapour permeable membrane offering Class B-s1,d0

reaction to fire when classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-1:2002 Fire classification of construction products and building elements. Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests.

Find out more on the website.

01250 872 261

[proctorgroup.com/products/fireshield](http://proctorgroup.com/products/fireshield)



Family metal merchants since 1889

SAVE  
**5%**

on your next  
web order\*

Use Code  
**HBAUG24**

# Building dreams, not just homes.

## It runs in our family.

Everything you  
need to elevate  
your next build,  
all from one  
supplier.

WPC & Aluminium Fencing  
from £112.00 p/m

Glass Balustrade  
from £122.00 p/m

Composite Decking  
from £22.00 m<sup>2</sup>

Raised Garden Beds  
from £151.00 each

WPC Decking | Aluminium Decking | Decking Subframe |  
WPC Fencing | Aluminium Fencing | Structural Steel |  
Handrailing & Balustrade | Juliet Balconies |  
Garden Edging and *much, much more!*

**fhbrundle.co.uk | 0808 134 20 86**

\*Discount applicable to web orders only. Strictly limited to one use per customer.  
Minimum order value £75. Expires 30.09.24. See Ts&Cs [fhbrundle.co.uk/lp/5pcad/](https://www.fhbrundle.co.uk/lp/5pcad/)

Rated Excellent by our family

4.7 ★★★★★

★ Trustpilot



**F.H. BRUNDLE**



# F.H. Brundle's steely resolve



**F**ounded in 1889 by Fredrick Henry Brundle, F.H. Brundle remains family-owned and is currently managed by Fredrick's great-great-grandson, Michael Brundle. The company is well-known among housebuilders for its extensive range of steel products, including mild steel box sections, steel tubes, universal columns and RSJs. Its offerings also span non-metal products, ensuring it meets diverse construction needs. Quality is paramount, with all steel products manufactured to grades S355, S275, and 500B, ensuring strength and durability. The company's dedication to quality is further evidenced by their willingness to

produce test certificates for specifiers, building trust across its product range.

## DIVERSE PRODUCT RANGE & UNIQUE DIFFERENTIATORS

Serving over 100 industries, F.H. Brundle offers nearly 11,000 products. While traditionally known for metal products, it has expanded into GRP, wood plastic composites (WPC) and toughened glass, enhancing its traditional offerings. The company supplies a wide array of products, from steel welded mesh and stainless steel handrailing to metal flooring and stair treads. Its market includes

residential and commercial construction, as well as metal fabricators, who rely on F.H. Brundle for timely and cost-effective material solutions.

The company manufactures its own products as well as acting as a distributor for other manufacturers. Key product brands like Pro-Railing™ and Fortitude® are designed, engineered and distributed by F.H. Brundle. The company also partners with complementary manufacturers, offering an exclusive range that no other UK supplier can match. This extensive range allows F.H. Brundle to offer significant quantity discounts and competitive pricing.

## MEETING HOUSEBUILDERS' NEEDS

F.H. Brundle caters to a wide market, from self-builders to large contractors. It offers impeccable service, including free expedited delivery on orders over £150 (excluding VAT) and 98% stock availability, usually fulfilling orders within 48 hours. Regional branches with knowledgeable experts, free CAD and specification tools, and a live configurator enhance the company's service offerings. Reliability and excellent customer service are why many housebuilders depend on F.H. Brundle for their developments.

The company's website is continually improved to enhance the customer experience, featuring online tools for specifiers, architects, and estimators to calculate needs and







**F.H. BRUNDLE**  
SERVING THE TRADE SINCE 1889

**OUR CUSTOMERS ARE OUR EXTENDED FAMILY, AND THEY ARE FRONT AND CENTRE OF EVERYTHING THAT WE DO**

costs including:

- Calculators: [fhbrundle.co.uk/calculators](https://fhbrundle.co.uk/calculators)
- Glass Selector: [fhbrundle.co.uk/glass-select](https://fhbrundle.co.uk/glass-select)
- Live Configurator: [liveconfigurator.co.uk](https://liveconfigurator.co.uk)

#### ADDRESSING CURRENT CHALLENGES & FUTURE OUTLOOK

F.H. Brundle helps housebuilders navigate the current challenges they face including pricing and compliance. The company ensures its products meet Building Regulations and provides necessary testing certificates. Competitive pricing and the ability to quote on significant projects helps its customers secure contracts and maintain profitability.

The company focuses on delivering products that meet the demands for style, durability, safety, and sustainability. Its range includes long-lasting fencing and decking products, glass balustrading and structural glass. It also prioritises sustainability, offering recyclable products like aluminium decking and steel ground screws, which provide eco-friendly foundation solutions.

A standout project saw the company supply toughened glass and composite decking for The Hermitage, a luxury home in Nottinghamshire, built to precise specifications. Customer needs are key in shaping the company's future, with a commitment to maintaining outstanding relationships and delivering exceptional service.

#### ADVICE FOR THE HOUSEBUILDING SECTOR

F.H. Brundle advises housebuilders to consider all aspects of a build, including non-structural elements, when seeking regulatory approval. It encourages early consultation to avoid delays and ensure compliance with Building Regulations.

F.H. Brundle's dedication to its customers is unwavering, viewing them as an extended family and placing them at the centre of its operations, striving to exceed expectations in every project undertaken.

0808 134 20 86 [www.fhbrundle.co.uk](https://www.fhbrundle.co.uk)

#### UNRIVALLED RANGE

- Light Structural Steel for low level construction: Perfect for housebuilders, readily available and on site when you need it.
- Balustrades: From frameless glass and stainless steel, to traditional powder-coated steel and aluminium styles – we offer the largest range of domestic balustrade for internal and external use in the UK.
- Handrailing: Great for homes where safety and accessibility is paramount – we offer the widest range of handrailing systems.
- Toughened Glass: Stocked standard sizes and made-to-order, with one of, if not the shortest lead times in the country. See more at [liveconfigurator.co.uk/products/bespoke-glass](https://liveconfigurator.co.uk/products/bespoke-glass)
- Fencing & Gates: From ornate, designer aluminium garden fencing through to popular steel estate and bow-top fencing. Gate kits, pre-made steel gates and made to order pedestrian gates. We don't just sell the gates, we also stock and supply all of the hardware and automation a customer will need.
- Decking: A full range of premium WPC decking solutions, on top of a range of subframe systems including innovative steel ground screws allowing housebuilders to erect decking or other structures on difficult terrain. We also provide two aluminium decking systems which are compliant with EN 13823, EN 13501 and EN ISO 1716 making them ideal for high-rise homes where fire-resistant materials are now mandated.
- And so much more: From metal flooring, grating, stair treads, channel support for multi-tenancy and high-rise homes as well as our exclusive distribution of Straightcurve landscaping products.



## Metsec underlines commitment to accurate product information

Voestalpine Metsec has become one of the earliest adopters of the Code for Construction Products Information (CCPI), introduced by the Construction Products Association in response to Dame Judith Hackitt's review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, set up following the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

CCPI assessments are undertaken by Assessors from Construction Products Information Ltd. and are carried out on a manufacturer's specific products and systems, not the company as a whole. As such, an organisation or brand cannot, in itself, gain assessment or make any claims of conformance beyond a specific product set.

To date, voestalpine Metsec has successfully achieved assessment for four of its key construction systems; SFS light gauge galvanized steel structural framing systems and Metframe pre-panelised framing system from its Framing Division, dry lining metal framed components for gypsum plasterboard

systems from its Dry Lining Division and roof, side rail and mezzanine floor systems from its Purlins Division.

Alan Harris, Quality and BIM Compliance Director at voestalpine Metsec, states, "Continuous investment in independent performance testing and quality assurance is what keeps our construction solutions at the forefront of the industry.

"Ensuring that the data and information derived from these tests is conveyed in a clear, unambiguous fashion is key to providing specifiers, installers and users with more confidence in the systems' capabilities and suitability for their projects. Successful assessment to the CCPI confirms we are doing things right and underlines our commitment to the industry's needs."

CCPI aims to address the stipulation from Dame Hackitt's review that construction product information needs to be communicated in a clear and accurate way. Its aim is to help organisations drive



for higher standards in the presentation of construction product information, with a priority on building safety.

voestalpine Metsec has set up a rigorous information review process to ensure that messaging from all divisions is based on accurate, verifiable data and that this information is presented in a clear and accessible manner, which can be easily found and assimilated by its intended target audience.

[metsec.plc@voestalpine.com](mailto:metsec.plc@voestalpine.com) [metsec.com](http://metsec.com)

## Altecnic release heat pump focused issue of Idronics UK

The sixth issue of Idronics UK offers guidance on heat pump design and componentry selection, aiming to enhance the knowledge of the industry and support the shift to low-carbon heating solutions.

Altecnic Ltd, one of the UK's leading suppliers of hydronic solutions, has launched the sixth issue of technical journal, Idronics UK. This latest edition focuses on heat pump systems, providing essential information on air-to-water heat pump design, advice on componentry and relevant updates for the industry.

The lead editorial offers detailed guidance on the design of efficient air-to-water heat pump systems. With the use of detailed diagrams, critical aspects such as system layout, component selection, and performance optimisation, are all discussed. Readers will benefit from expert advice on overcoming common challenges and maximising the benefits of air-to-water heat pump technology.

Throughout the new edition are a range of practical instructions for installing key components of heat pump systems. This includes step-by-step installation guides and technical focus pieces for anti-freeze valves and the Caleffi XF dirt and air heat pump filter, both crucial for maintaining system integrity and performance.

As hybrid heating systems become more prevalent, understanding how to integrate them effectively is essential. A feature in the latest edition of Idronics UK explores the key factors to consider when combining different heating



technologies, such as compatibility, component selection, and end-user comfort. It provides insights into designing systems that leverage the strengths of multiple heat sources, ensuring reliable and cost-effective heating solutions for various applications.

Also included in the latest edition of Idronics UK is a range of information on Altecnic's extended product offering for heat pump solutions, including the newly launched iStop® PLUS compact anti-freeze valve, the range of Series 569 Buffer Tanks, Caleffi XF dirt and air heat pump filter, and the latest 5516 High Efficiency Deaerator (HED®).

Helen Cooper, Head of Marketing, commented, "Altecnic are dedicated to aiding the industry's transition to heat pumps, promoting sustainable and energy-efficient heating solutions for the future. With this, we wish to use our expertise to advance industry knowledge in this area and support the continuous professional growth of our customers."

"Idronics UK, along with our digital learning

platform, Altecnic Academy, are proving invaluable resources to assist us in our aim. This latest edition offers support for professionals seeking to stay at the forefront of the heat pump industry, providing a blend of technical expertise and practical advice."

The issue of Idronics is now available digitally and can be accessed when subscribed via the link [www.altecnic.co.uk/technical-hub/idronicsuk](http://www.altecnic.co.uk/technical-hub/idronicsuk).

Alternatively, you can request a physical copy by emailing or by sending us a DM on one of our social pages.

Altecnic Ltd is the UK's leading supplier of hydronic solutions. Established near Stafford in 1987, 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.

[marketing@altecnic.co.uk](mailto:marketing@altecnic.co.uk) [altecnic.co.uk](http://altecnic.co.uk)



## A. Proctor Group creates new Head of Global Sales Modular Offsite role



A. Proctor Group is proud to announce the promotion of Adam Salt to the position of Head of Global Sales Modular Offsite, effective immediately. The newly-created role sees Adam promoted from his previous position as a Business Development Manager within the Group, and reporting directly to Managing Director Keira Proctor. Adam is now responsible for overseeing the export division, growing and developing key accounts, researching potential new distributors, and building a significant customer presence internationally. This pivotal role will also see Adam spearheading the company's modular strategy on a global scale, driving growth and innovation in this rapidly evolving sector. As part of his new responsibilities, Adam will maintain links with the UK modular sector. He said: "I am honoured to accept this position and lead our global sales efforts. A. Proctor Group is known for its commitment to quality and innovation, and I'm eager to work with our talented team to expand our reach and continue delivering exceptional value to our customers. The A. Proctor Group is a 4th generation family business with a history of technical innovation, promoting good practice, and developing products that contractors and offsite manufacturers want to use."

01250 872261 [www.proctorgroup.com](http://www.proctorgroup.com)

## ARDEX Group UK Invests in Sustainable Energy



The ARDEX Group UK has commissioned more than 1600 solar panels at its manufacturing facilities in Stoke-on-Trent and Haverhill. The high-performance photovoltaic (PV) systems have been installed on warehousing and manufacturing units at both sites and will generate approximately 30% of the ARDEX Group UK's electrical power requirements. The installation of solar panels is part of a global sustainability initiative in which the company is investing around 3 million euros globally. Installation of 1332 panels were completed at ARDEX UK in Haverhill in September last year and since commissioning, more than 269,686 kWh of solar energy has been produced – equivalent to the consumption of 100 houses. A more modest 334 panels were installed at the Group's Stoke-on-Trent facility – Building Adhesives Ltd in Trentham – with commissioning completing in March this year. This is due to limitations for more panels from the local grid, however plans remain to invest in more panels at Building Adhesives Ltd once the local grid has been updated and allows this to be done. Since March 50,080 kWh of electricity has been produced – which is the equivalent of taking 9,814.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere or planting 594 trees. It meets 14% of total energy needs at Building Adhesives.

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

## 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)



## CMS Danskin's acoustic saddle system fulfils brief for striking new hotel

CMS Danskin Acoustics supplied its Smartspan saddle system for the W Edinburgh, an eye-catching new addition to Edinburgh's skyline. Part of Marriott's luxury W Hotels brand, the striking 12-storey 'ribbon building' required a floor specification to provide effective impact and airborne sound reduction, under floor access for cabling and precise levelling of concrete subfloors.

BAM Construction delivered the interiors. CMS Danskin Acoustics worked closely with BAM sub-contractor MMM Joinery Ltd whose remit was to install the floors and other aspects of the interior finish in guest rooms, the sound suite and public areas in the main W Edinburgh 'ribbon building', so described as it is crafted from a winding bronze-coloured steel 'ribbon'.

The installation of the CMS Danskin Acoustics' saddle system created a void for services and it was used to level the floors to counter the 5-10 mm tolerances of concrete

subfloors. The project involved over 50,000 saddles. This dry floor solution eliminated wet trades, so enhancing efficiency on site.

Acoustics performance was key. The acoustic approach had to meet the requirements of Section 5 of The Building (Scotland) Regulations, but also the very high standards set for this prestigious new hotel.

CMS Danskin Acoustics' saddle system uses structural flooring boards, C16 strength graded timber support bearers and saddles with an integral acoustic resilient layer to construct a floating floor on top of a base floor, in this case concrete. The system should fit between the highest point of the base floor and the desired finished floor level. Packers and, where necessary, elevating blocks are used to level areas below the high point. Flanking strips prevent sound passing into the space at the perimeter of the floor.

The installation of over 6,700 m<sup>2</sup> of CMS Danskin Acoustics' Smartspan flooring board, a high density (1500 kg/m<sup>3</sup>), Class



A1 non-combustible (to EN13501-1) board, which spans between the support bearers of the saddle system with minimal deflection, added to the acoustic performance of the saddle system at W Edinburgh.

CMS Danskin Acoustics also designed and supplied a Kinetics® RIM system floating floor for the W Hotel's sound suite recording studio. The system included REGUFOAM® vibration 680plus cut into blocks and inserted into the glass fibre rollout with SmartSpan on top to create the final floor.

01925 577711 [www.cmsdanskin.co.uk](http://www.cmsdanskin.co.uk)

## Gaia to install more underfloor heating as new UK government confirms housing targets

Underfloor heating experts – Gaia – are expecting to install even more underfloor heating in new-build developments as the new Chancellor announces plans to “get Britain building again.”

Following Labour's win at the UK general election, Starmer's government is reintroducing housebuilding targets, with Chancellor Rachel Reeves unveiling their plan to build 1.5 million homes in England over the next five years.

With underfloor heating already an increasingly popular choice for new-builds, these changes will inevitably create more opportunities for underfloor heating installations.

“With 1.5 million new-build homes on the way, we're predicting that even more developers will choose to install underfloor heating – particularly as these homes will be built in adherence with recently changed Part L regulations and the upcoming Future Homes Standard,” states Steven Rooney, director of Gaia Underfloor Heating.

Part L Building Regulations outline that all new-build homes must produce 31% fewer carbon emissions than was previously acceptable, to help meet the UK's 2050 Net Zero targets.

Industry experts have identified underfloor heating as a key solution to low carbon heating for future new-build homes, due to its energy



efficiency and low operating temperature.

“Underfloor heating is up to 30% more energy efficient than radiators! Plus, it can be paired with heat pumps, another low carbon heating solution – making it the ideal option for the proposed new-build homes,” adds Steven.

Gaia have extensive experience designing, supplying and installing underfloor heating for large-scale residential projects.

They have worked with a number of developers across the UK, including Taylor

Wimpey, Berkeley Group and Hambridge Homes.

“We're proud to have worked with so many leading developers. These housebuilding targets will certainly be positive news for them – and for the underfloor heating market too. We're looking forward to continuing to be the underfloor heating partner of choice as Britain gets building again!” concludes Steven.

01359 242 400 [www.gaia.co.uk](http://www.gaia.co.uk)



## More choice More PACE

GEZE 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)





## 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 galvanneal 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)



### Multiboard helps Mango Mosaics

Caroline Jariwala is still keen to learn from other members of the artistic community, though in this instance the piece of wisdom was about how to overcome the physical shortcomings of the plywood she regularly used as a substrate for her commissions. While trying to be as sustainable as possible in making use of reclaimed tiles and distressed ceramics as the raw material for much of her work and teaching sessions, the backing materials, or substrates, are normally new sections of board and with an increasing demand for her to create mosaics which will be exposed to the weather, the reason she decided to experiment with the use of Marmox Multiboard, was the specialist tilebacker board's resistance to repeated wetting. Caroline commented: "It was just over a year ago that I heard from other artists on a mosaics social media forum that they were successfully using Multiboard as a base for their work, because it is so easy to cut and offers such a good bond for different types of adhesive – and it is totally waterproof."

01634 835290 [www.marmox.co.uk](http://www.marmox.co.uk)



### Kent self-builder shields basement structure

The comprehensive product range offered by waterproofing and timber treatment specialist Triton Systems, part of the Wykamol Group, has proved to be the perfect fit for a Kent self-builder undertaking his first self-build project in challenging ground conditions. Internally, the walls are lined with the BBA approved Wykamol-Triton's CM8 Waterproofing Membrane, while a layer of CM20 will be laid across the top of the floor slab. Both of these products are made from high density polyethylene and are installed with their 8 mm or 20 mm studs against the face of the concrete. Sureproof Ultra comprises a very stable polyethylene film offering a consistent reaction to longitudinal and transverse forces, having been developed for the waterproofing of basements, foundations, walls and flat or ventilated roof structures. The self-adhesive material is self-sealing and forms an effective barrier against methane and radon while being resistant to chemicals and physical damage. As well as being ideal for protecting concrete and masonry, Sureproof Ultra is also compatible with metal substrates.

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



## Stonewood Homes and AeroBarrierUK bring airtight homes to the South West

Stonewood Homes has partnered with AeroBarrierUK, a pioneering technology company renowned for its innovative solutions in ensuring airtight building envelopes. AeroBarrierUK's ground-breaking approach to air sealing is raising the bar in airtightness at Elm Grove, Stonewood Homes' 52-house development site in Somerset. In keeping with the UK construction industry's growing commitment to sustainable, future-proofed living, Stonewood homes' collaboration with AeroBarrierUK underscores the critical importance of airtightness in sustainable construction.

All 52 homes at Elm Grove are meticulously designed and constructed to meet the stringent criteria of Passivhaus. The Passivhaus Standard is the world's leading solution for offering exceptional comfort and low running costs to residents all year round. The Standard necessitates high levels of insulation, ventilation systems and an airtight building envelope to ensure residents enjoy optimal thermal comfort with minimal energy consumption.

The stringent airtightness target of 0.6 ACH50 that Passivhaus demands is met through high-performing materials and high-quality construction. AeroBarrierUK's position as the lynchpin to Elm Grove's airtightness strategy takes this development to another level; The state-of-the-art sealing system uses a blower



door system to pressurise the building before releasing a non-toxic sealant mist drawn directly to areas of air leakage, sealing them in real-time. Airtightness levels are monitored and measured and reduced throughout the process, offering real-time data to ensure reliability.

The System can close gaps ranging from as minuscule as a hair width up to 12 mm and is highly efficient, requiring less time and labour

than conventional taping methods, whilst eliminating the risks of human error. Through the integration of Passivhaus principles and cutting-edge technology, Stonewood Homes and AeroBarrierUK have their sights firmly set on the future of UK construction.

01432 513 499  
aerobarrieruk.co.uk

## 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 Hydraflex 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 appointment strengthens Palace Chemicals' position in the specification sector



Palace Chemicals is delighted to announce that Nick Bratt has recently joined the company as national technical sales manager. This is the latest in a number of initiatives designed to strengthen Palace's position in the fast-growing commercial and specification sector. It is an area where the company already has a significant presence, but it believes that, due to the strength of the Palace product range and current market trends, there is a big opportunity to grow the business. Nick joins Palace, following a career of 30 years in the tiling industry, 17 of which were at Norcros Adhesives in a technical sales role, working closely with specification customers. Prior to Norcros Adhesives, Nick was at BAL for ten years and Marlborough Tiles and Stone & Ceramic before that. This wealth of experience and the depth of his contacts within the tiling industry are second to none. Alongside Nick's appointment, the company, which is a member of NBS, is taking a number of other initiatives such as working with Glenigan, and it has also recently completed a RIBA-certified CPD.

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



# CPD FOCUS

## PALACE INTRODUCES RIBA-APPROVED CPD PRESENTATION FOR THE SPECIFIER MARKET



Palace Chemicals has introduced a new CPD presentation entitled 'Successful Specification of Wall and Floor Tiling and how to avoid Common Failures'.

Developed for architects, specifiers and large contractors, the new presentation provides important information in these key sectors where there is often a lack of information readily available and answers questions frequently asked by architects when contacting Palace's technical department. It's also a great way to keep CPD qualifications up to date.

The main topics covered are as follows:

### Considerations when specifying tiling for floors

- Tiling over timber-based substrates.
- Tiling over different screed types.
- Best practice floor tiling installation.

### Considerations when specifying tiling for walls

- Weight loading limits of substrates.
- Correct preparation.
- Best practice wall tiling installation.

### Environmentally friendly adhesives

The contents are RIBA-approved, so anybody viewing the presentation can be confident that the information is accurate, up-to-date and not commercially biased. The CPD is being delivered as a face-to-face seminar, either at the customer's premises, at Palace Chemicals' training facility in Liverpool, one of Palace Chemicals customer locations or virtually over Teams.

"With one of the widest ranges of tiling adhesives and preparation products on the market, we know we have a lot to offer the specification sector," says Steve Ball, Commercial Director. "Our new CPD presentation is one of a number of initiatives we have taken recently to demonstrate our competence and enhance our offering, and we are really looking forward to presenting it to members of the influential A&D market!"

Anyone interested in booking a seminar should contact Nick Bratt, national technical sales manager, at [nick.bratt@palacechemicals.co.uk](mailto:nick.bratt@palacechemicals.co.uk).

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

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

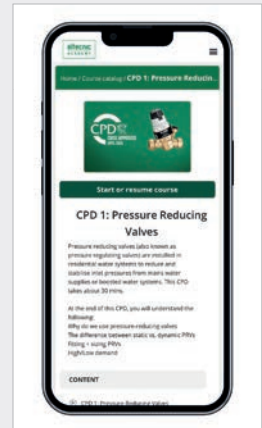
## ALTECNIC LAUNCH FREE ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM 'ALTECNIC ACADEMY'

Altecnic Academy provides users with access to a range of 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.

Helen Cooper, Marketing at Altecnic, 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)

Visit [www.architectsdatafile.co.uk](http://www.architectsdatafile.co.uk) to subscribe to the CPD Focus newsletter – featuring the latest CPD courses, seminars and documents for architects



## Decoding roof voids

Following on from his seminar presentation at this year's Fire Safety Event, held in April at Birmingham's NEC, Dr. Kartbick Govarthanam, General Manager for FIREFLY®, explores some of the issues surrounding fire risk in roof voids.

We have been assured in recent years by mainstream media that our firefighters' main role nowadays is in educating the public as to the risks they face in their homes and installing smoke alarms. Yet the UK fire and rescue services were called out to 627,553 incidents out of which 67,014 of those involved primary fires in the year ending 2022. Between 2006 and 2008, at least 10,000 of these primary fires originated from the attic occurring in pubs, care homes and schools. Under fire conditions, smoke can travel at an alarming rate of 120 to 420 feet per minute. It's no surprise, then, that 57% of all fire-related fatalities occur outside the room where the fire started, according to insurance giant Aviva. It is crucial then that Building Control Officers and others responsible for overseeing

alterations in premises such as care homes and apartment buildings, turn their attention to roof hazards – with the most common being faulty electrical wiring, ceiling insulation, flammable roofing materials and leaky roofs. The latter could cause electrical wirings in the ceiling or attic to malfunction. Indeed, 41% of fire-related deaths in Great Britain were caused by the victim being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes – and it can take as little as 2½ minutes for a home to be entirely engulfed in flames.

To mitigate against these lethal risks there are of course legislative requirements governed through the building regulations. These regulations state that there should be a means of warning and escape, both horizontal and vertical with details on, for example, where a cavity barrier should be sited to ensure a protected stairway enclosure remains safe – especially relevant to flats and HMOs. In fact, upgrading roof spaces within local authority and housing association properties has become a regular application for FIREFLY's range of passive fire protection systems.



The most commonly used Fire Barriers are FIREFLY® ZEUS Lite™ which offers 90 minutes integrity and 30 minutes insulation and FIREFLY® ZEUS Horizontal™ affords a combined 60 minutes insulation and 30 minutes integrity. For compartmentations within a building where just the integrity is required, as smoke and flame entrapment systems, FIREFLY® PHOENIX Lightweight™, flexible fire rated smoke & flame barrier has been designed to provide, offering up to 120 minutes integrity only, when tested to BS 476 Parts 20 & 22 and BS EN 1364 Part 1. PHOENIX Horizontal™ also offers up to 120 minutes integrity.

info@tba-pt.com www.tbafirefly.com

## 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.

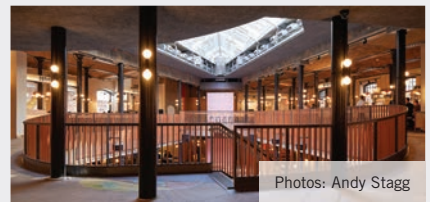
Centred around a large open atrium under a large skylight, the two-floor market features a rich and diverse collection of 20 independent food and drink businesses offering cuisine from around the world.

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



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



Photos: Andy Stagg

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 or see our product listings on NBS (bit.ly/3vxoTfq) or Material Bank (www.materialbank.eu).

www.troldekt.co.uk



## proteQ10 guarantee is simplified

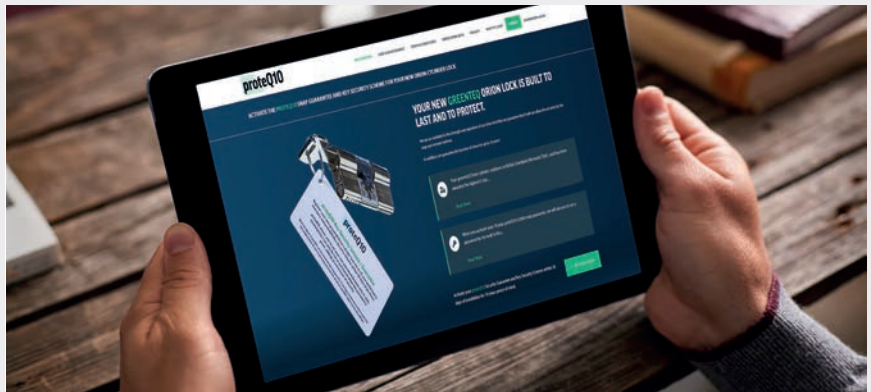
VBH, the specialist behind the greenteQ hardware range, has made improvements to the registration process for its proteQ10 profile cylinder anti-snap guarantee.

Under the guarantee, which covers the popular greenteQ Orion TS007 3 star profile cylinder, consumers can expect a payment of £2000 should an Orion snap to allow a successful break in.

VBH has launched a completely new registration process to make it 'even easier' for the end customer to register their cylinder.

The information card that comes with each cylinder has now been updated to include a QR code that takes the customer directly to the registration page of a new website.

The easy-to-use site takes the visitor through the simple registration process in just a few clicks. Once registered, the cylinder's 10-year anti-snap and function guarantees are activated. In addition, by setting a Key Security Password during registration, the user activates the free Key Security Scheme, which prevents additional keys from being ordered via the key number unless the



password is provided.

Dan Powell Head of Brand at VBH, says: "We have had over 18,000 individual registrations since launching the proteQ10 guarantee and security scheme.

"These improvements to the key card and website make product registration easier than ever. greenteQ Orion is the obvious choice for installers and lock replacement specialists, as it is easy to explain the benefits of the cylinder

and the process of registering for proteQ10 to potential customers.

"Once the cylinder is registered, VBH takes over responsibility for all dealings with the end user in the unlikely event of an issue, saving our customers the potential headaches and costs of call outs and providing replacement products."

01634 263263 info@vbhgb.com

## Marmox answers the call at London Build 2024 with A1 rated Fireboard

With the findings of the Grenfell Inquiry continuing to reshape building practices across the UK, the annual construction show at the capital's famous Olympia venue is this year doubling in size and being refocused as the London Build Fire & Security Expo (November 20-21st) with insulation specialist Marmox UK Ltd on hand to demonstrate its recently launched Fireboard product on Stand L42. The Marmox Stone Wool based product shares the unique Marmox honeycomb surface structure with its XPS forerunner and is suitable for both internal and external wall insulation (IWI/EWI) applications.

Externally the A1 non-combustible certified Fireboard can serve as a weatherproof render-backer, or be used internally across walls and ceilings to take a plaster finish, while providing sound absorption properties, along with thermal insulation. The 600 x 1,200 mm Fireboards are available in thicknesses of 20 mm, 50 mm and 100



mm and with the polymer modified mortar honeycomb coating applied to both faces. With a nominal density of 150 kg/m<sup>3</sup> the boards' core material offers a compressive strength of 90kPa (9 tonnes/ m<sup>2</sup>), while its high insulation performance will help combat thermal-bridging and the formation of surface condensation, as well as having the potential to cut energy bills.

The Marketing Manager for Marmox, Grant Terry, commented: "As a regular exhibitor at London Build and other major

trade shows, we endeavour to ensure the products we showcase are as relevant as possible to both specifiers and installation specialists; and believe that Fireboard is an ideal offering to help meet the multiple challenges presented by the Building Safety Act as well as Part L of the Building Regulations. The introduction of Fireboard into our range significantly enhances our offer to the construction industry, meaning we have an A1 non-combustible backer board for internal or external use, which can safely be installed across masonry as well as timber or steel framing systems."

As detailed in its A5 technical brochure which can be downloaded, Marmox Fireboard has been tested to prove compliance with BS EN 1182, EN 1716 and EN13823 (Resistance to fire test) conducted by UKTC, along with other testing completed by the BRE.

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

## Pump Supplies acquires UK market leader in wastewater pumping stations



Pump Supplies Ltd (“Pump Supplies”) supported by its parent company - Vestum AB (publ) (“Vestum”) has today acquired all shares in PDAS Holdings Ltd (“PDAS”). During the fiscal year 2023/2024, PDAS generated sales of just over £14.5M and an EBITA margin in line with the Vestum Group. The purchase price was financed through own cash and existing credit facilities.

PDAS was founded in 2014 and is a UK market leader in proactive maintenance and intelligent monitoring of wastewater pumping stations. The company specialises in packaged pumping stations, storm attenuation tanks, first-time sewerage schemes, station upgrades and refurbishments. A significant part of the offer consists of intelligent monitoring systems through remote telemetry and cloud-based technology for service and maintenance of pumping stations that allow self-employed experts to monitor customers’ products in real-time with the aim of streamlining maintenance work. PDAS has 63 employees and is headquartered in Surrey, England.

Founded in 1982, Pump Supplies is one of the largest suppliers in the UK of electric submersible water pumps. The offer includes desludging, drainage, sewage and slurry pumps as well as an extensive range of accessories and pipe systems. Pump Supplies operates through five depots in England, Wales and Ireland. Pump Supplies has 90 employees and is headquartered in Gloucester.

Vestum’s CEO Simon Göthberg, said: “I’m proud to announce the acquisition of PDAS, which constitutes an excellent add-on acquisition to Pump Supplies. With its strength in intelligent monitoring systems, PDAS can leverage the broad customer network built by Pump Supplies over the past 40 years to further accelerate growth in recurring revenue. There are concrete synergies on both the revenue and cost side, and the acquisition strengthens Vestum’s position within water infrastructure in the UK.

“The acquisition of PDAS is Vestum’s first acquisition in two years and demonstrates our strategy to grow the Water segment, both

through high organic growth and acquisitions. Our ambition is to grow the Water segment to become Vestum’s largest segment.”

Luke Beattie, Managing Director of Pump Supplies, adds: “PDAS is a leading pumping station specialist which complements the Pump Supplies business and I’m delighted to welcome the entire team to the family. This strategic move is aimed at promoting stability, fostering growth, and strengthening our position in the marketplace. The acquisition won’t disrupt our operations or alter the core values that customers have come to associate with us. Instead, it positions us for even greater success by leveraging synergies and expanding our reach. We are confident that this new chapter will bring about even more opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth.”

Grant Thornton provided financial advice and Things has acted as legal advisor to Pump Supplies in connection with the acquisition.

[sales@pumpsupplies.co.uk](mailto:sales@pumpsupplies.co.uk)  
[www.pumpsupplies.co.uk](http://www.pumpsupplies.co.uk)





## PRACTICE PROFILE

# Holmes Miller

*ADF's Kim Neville traces the evolution of multi-award winning Glasgow practice Holmes Miller, from its modest origins 70 years ago to overcoming a series of challenges which equipped it to deliver further future growth*

**H**olmes Miller was established in 2011 following the merger of Holmes Partnership and The Miller Partnership, but its origins can be traced back more than 70 years.

The firm was initially founded in 1951 in Glasgow by Jack Holmes, who graduated from the Royal Technical College in 1940 before serving with distinction in the Highland Division of the Royal Engineers during World War II. After the war, Holmes oversaw the Hamburg City Architects Office for the army for two years before returning to Scotland to start his own practice.

In 1955, after Jack married architect and planner Kirsteen Borland they extended their relationship into their work, forming Jack Holmes & Partners, with Kirsteen as a partner. The firm became Holmes Partnership in 1981 with the introduction of a second generation of owners.

The firm's headquarters are still in Glasgow but the business has continued to grow, broadening its reach by adding UK and international studios. "We have experienced significant growth since our humble beginnings," reflects Callum Houston. Holmes Miller has an expanding presence in its St Albans studio, bringing the UK staff total to more than 70, and it has a studio in Guangzhou, China, increasing the overall headcount to nearly 100.

Aligned to its continued growth plans, the practice has also recently established a base in Leeds from where it will service clients and opportunities in the North of England. Reflecting on the past seven decades, Houston identifies some of the key challenges the firm has addressed. "Technological advancements, like the transition from manual drafting to CAD and the adoption of BIM, have completely transformed project design and management." Holmes Miller, like many practices, has also navigated the complexities of fluctuating economic conditions and an ever-evolving regulatory landscape.

A significant focus for the company has been aligning its aims with the UK's 2050 net zero ambitions, but investing in being ahead of the curve. "As the country moves towards net zero, designing sustainability has become increasingly crucial. However, by continuously learning and staying ahead of industry trends, we have consistently adapted and thrived."

The firm's culture has also evolved to foster greater collaboration



### PAISLEY TOWN HALL

The refurbishment was an example of how the practice can blend heritage with modern functionality, to create a "vibrant civic hub"

and openness among its team. "Our management culture is characterised by openness and collaboration," Houston asserts; "many senior team members have progressed through the ranks." The design studios have been transformed from traditional private offices to a range of informal breakout spaces, actively promoting interaction and the exchange of ideas amongst members of staff.

### Ethos in practice

Their ethos is to create an environment based on mutual respect, where "everyone is valued and actively encouraged to use their voice to help shape the most productive and supportive workplace."

Their sector-specific teams (Holmes Miller has a strong track record in sport and leisure, health and wellbeing, justice, public



#### HMP & YOI STIRLING

Holmes Miller's "pioneering custodial facility" in central Scotland was designed for "mental wellbeing and trauma-informed care"

buildings, residential, and education) share their experience and knowledge with staff through training and mentoring, ensuring the firm retains and passes on expertise.

More recently, the firm has made significant strides to align with causes and bodies that reflect its core values. Notably, a partnership with the Passivhaus Trust, which advocates for energy-efficient building practices and sustainable development, "marks a significant shift towards environmental activism," says the firm.

Rather than following a distinct design signature, the practice adopts a "bespoke, people-focused" approach for each project to harmonise with the local community to help it feel organically integrated into its surroundings.

#### Exemplary

One of Holmes Miller's standout sustainability-first projects is Scotland's first Passivhaus leisure facility, the Blairgowrie Recreation Centre. The practice is acutely aware of greenwashing concerns and aims to put sustainability at the core of every project through a "dedicated sustainability charter" which incorporates user wellbeing goals.

Sciennes Primary School is Scotland's first Passivhaus primary school, opened in Edinburgh in 2023 with a £3.2m CLT-constructed two-storey extension to the grade B-listed existing building in the Marchmont conservation area. It exemplifies a harmonious blend of sustainability and modern functionality, as detailed in a report in the January 2024 edition of *ADF*.

Holmes Miller aims to go beyond industry standards on sustainability, incorporating Passivhaus principles into designs "even when certification isn't a project goal." They developed an in-house tool for assessing embodied carbon, now used on all projects.

Other key recent projects include a pioneering prison, HMP & YOI Stirling, designed to focus on mental well-being and trauma-informed care which picked up a 2024 Scottish Design Award for its "innovative approach." The Allander Leisure Centre, which opened in March 2023 in East Dunbartonshire is "another strong example of the practice's understanding of the role public buildings play in fostering community cohesion and enhancing quality of life," and places a focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability.

The firm says that having "passionate staff" leads to better outcomes, so they actively encourage their team to align their personal interests and strengths with project commitments. A great

## The firm is navigating increased demands for expanded sets of 'deliverables' and project scope, particularly regarding BIM, without corresponding fee increases

example is the Early Years Centres for East Dunbartonshire Council it has designed, with project lead Mark Ellson drawing inspiration from his experiences with his young family to create an enhanced secure play area. This space exceeded defined standards by 50% and has "ensured that children have a safe, active environment that caters to their developmental needs."

Collaboration is vital for fostering an environment where ideas can flow freely, and Holmes Miller found this basic requirement of architecture tested post-pandemic, as "Teams calls can only go so far." They believe nothing compares to the effectiveness of face-to-face interaction.

Holmes Miller introduced a nine-day, 72-hour working fortnight last year following an employee-led consultation. This offers a slight reduction in hours with no loss of pay, "resulting in more effective project collaboration, and a stronger office culture," as well as a better work-life balance. The firm has also integrated remote working flexibility, "prioritising health, well-being, and performance."

Although the firm has made numerous contributions to the built environment over its 70 years, Houston regards the introduction of the nine-day fortnight as one of its most significant milestones achieved to date.

#### Current challenges

Like many architectural firms, Holmes Miller faces several current challenges, including uncertainty in project pipelines, extended project durations, and pressures on client budgets. They are also contending with the rising costs of professional indemnity insurance, software, and general living expenses. Additionally, the firm is navigating increased demands for expanded sets of 'deliverables' and project scope, particularly regarding BIM, without corresponding fee increases.

In response to this, the firm is "focusing on enhancing efficiency and streamlining processes to deliver projects more effectively within budget constraints." It says a key measure for achieving this is "emphasising clarity in project scopes from the outset, for mutual understanding of deliverables and expectations."

The practice wants to offer its staff "fair compensation" for their work in a tough market, and has identified part of the means to this as "cultivating sustainable partnerships with clients who value their services," in order to support both "creativity and business objectives."

As well as contributing to tackling the carbon reduction challenge, Holmes Miller is "focusing on increasing their involvement in projects that positively impact society." By collaborating closely with local communities, the firm aims to enhance well-being and quality of life through thoughtful, inclusive design.

These clear strategies show a commitment to pushing architectural boundaries while creating lasting value for clients and communities. It's focused on driving positive change both in society and the environment for the next 70 years! ■



# **marmox** fireboard

Fire Protection • Sound Absorption • Thermal Insulation

**A1 Certified**  
*Render/Plaster Board*

- **A1 Fire Protection**
- **Sound & Thermal Insulation**
- **Thin & Lightweight**
- **Easy to Cut & Install**

**NEW PRODUCT**

Available in 20, 50 & 100mm.

Use on masonry, wooden  
or metal structures!

**marmox**  
Waterproofing & Insulation Solutions

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

T: 01634 835290

T: [sales@marmox.co.uk](mailto:sales@marmox.co.uk)

# FUTURE HOMES STANDARD IS A STARTING POINT

The upcoming Future Homes Standard represents an important step towards more sustainable housing but should be viewed as a foundation rather than a 'ceiling' according to Simon Garbett of Wienerberger

There's little doubt that the homebuilding industry still has a mountain to climb in achieving its net zero targets. In late 2023, the first update of the UK Net Zero Whole Life Carbon Roadmap – the built environment's action plan to 2050 developed by the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) – revealed a significant lack of progress and policy gaps in the sector's net zero journey. One of the most noteworthy acts of legislation, the forthcoming Future Homes Standard, aims to change this by ensuring new homes built from 2025 produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes delivered under the previous regulations. However, following its industry consultation, the standard has not made quite the impact that was hoped.

An industry letter drafted by the Good Homes Alliance, Bioregional, the Low Energy Transformation Initiative, the UK Green Building Council, plus 250 other industry leaders, was recently sent to the UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities. The letter stated that the Future Homes Standard is 'not a definitive Future Homes Standard, but rather a positive step towards it,' and requested further iteration to ensure a higher specification is met by 2028.

It's clear the industry remains at the beginning of its journey and while legislative landmarks like the Future Homes Standard are welcome, they are merely the foundation, rather than a ceiling. The FHS identifies some key renewable components but does not provide guidance on how to combine and optimise these different systems together effectively. To unlock its full potential, the industry must adopt a more holistic and integrated approach, whether legislation dictates this or not.

## AS SUSTAINABLE AS THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

Specifying more sustainable materials and renewable technologies is a welcome



starting point – but a building is only as sustainable as the sum of all its parts, both inside and out. A higher standard should be used to inform the next iteration of Building Regulations by 2028.

Homebuilders looking to make a difference and 'go beyond' legislation should be exploring complementary technologies that work in harmony with each other to provide greater sustainability benefits. An example is the synergy between integrated in-roof solar photovoltaic systems and air source heat pumps. When specified together for new builds, harnessing solar power could allow homeowners to primarily run heat pumps from this renewable electricity source, significantly reducing reliance on the grid.

Intelligent monitoring and control are key to such integrated builds, managing the system to maximise self-consumption of solar power and further drive down

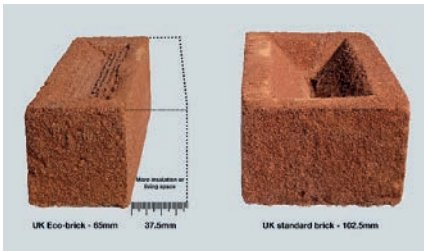
emissions and energy costs. Such a system could seamlessly divert solar electricity to heat water cylinders during the day for use in the evenings without drawing from the grid.

However, renewable technologies can only achieve their full impact if implemented in conjunction with a 'fabric first' approach, optimising the entire building envelope. No matter how efficient the heating system is, a poorly insulated and draughty home will bleed energy and money.

'Eco-bricks' assist in this fabric first method. With a slimmer brick profile, they allow for a 31% reduction in upfront embodied carbon compared to standard bricks, while boosting thermal performance thanks to their ability to accommodate more insulation.

Upfront investment into insulation and airtightness pays dividends over decades of lower energy costs.





## AN INTEGRATED, HOLISTIC APPROACH ACROSS THE ENTIRE HOME IS NEEDED FROM THE VERY START OF THE DESIGN AND BUILD PROCESS

It provides flexibility for the future too. As heating systems evolve, an already efficient and solar-powered building can adapt easily. Cutting corners on insulation or renewable generation commits that building to always consuming excessive energy, regardless of future improvements.

### DIGITALISATION, ELECTRIFICATION & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The intersection of digitalisation, electrification and energy efficiency will be vital for decarbonising housing at the pace required. Combining ultra-efficient building envelopes with solutions like in-roof solar PV, air source heat pumps and intelligent control unlocks enormous sustainability potential.

A key missing piece from the Future Homes Standard is guidance on how to effectively integrate and optimise the various renewable technologies and energy efficient components as a cohesive system. While the legislation identifies important products like air source heat pumps, solar PV, battery storage and wastewater heat recovery, it does not address how these can be seamlessly linked together. From a consumer perspective, there needs to be an intelligent way to manage and coordinate these components to ensure they operate

efficiently in tandem, rather than as isolated widgets. Without a holistic, integrated approach, we risk delivering more expensive homes that simply layer on disparate technologies haphazardly.

The Future Homes Standard is a step in the right direction, but for construction to reach net zero we must go beyond just ticking standardised renewable technology boxes. An integrated, holistic approach across the entire home is needed from the very start of the design and build process.

While any new legislation guiding industry on the right path is welcome, often it does not go far enough on its own and homebuilders should always be aiming to build beyond minimum requirements. More coordinated policies incentivising this integrated approach across the entire residential sector will be required to drive the necessary transformation.

With the urgency of climate change and keeping energy affordable for all, optimising both the building fabric and renewable systems from the outset ensures new homes are truly future-proofed and sustainable over their whole lifecycle.

Simon Garbett is category manager for roofing at Wienerberger

## Firefly® Systems upgrade roofspace of Northamptonshire care facility



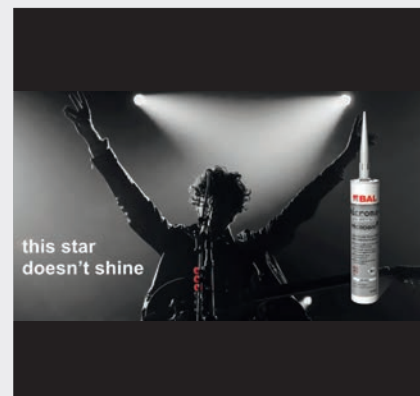
One of FIREFLY®'s most active contracting partners has successfully utilised a selection of the manufacturer's fully tested barrier systems and ancillary products to carry out a rapid upgrade to a property belonging to the Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation, replacing a superseded, mineral wool system 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.

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

## BAL launches new Grout-Effect Sealant

BAL – market-leaders for full tiling solutions – 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. BAL Micromax Grout-Effect Sealant will be available from BAL stockists, with a total of 25 contrasting or complementary colour tones, providing a seamless colour-matched grout and sealant solution for every tile colour or type.

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



# 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

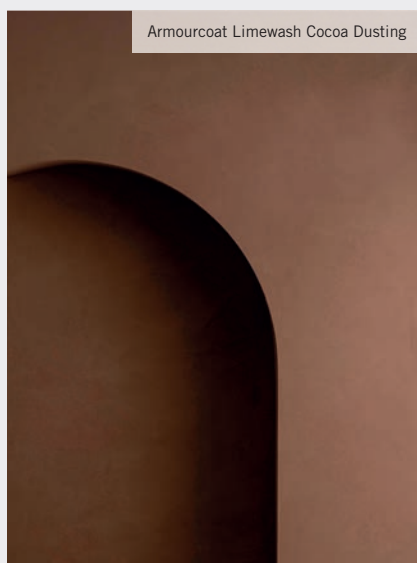


formulations, helping architects and designers not only pass but exceed project assessments for globally recognised accreditation systems; and ensuring specifiers need not sacrifice sustainability for aesthetics.

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





# CPD FOCUS

## BJELIN INTRODUCES CPD PRESENTATION FOR THE SPECIFIER MARKET



'Woodura® Hardened Wood Flooring – Innovation and Specification' is a new CPD presentation from Bjelin, a market leading hardened wood flooring manufacturer.

Designed to provide critical information for architects, specifiers and interior design professionals, the CPD covers all technical and aesthetic aspects of this fast-growing flooring solution.

Available both as a PowerPoint presentation and also as a video hosted on Bjelin's website, the CPD introduces a professional audience to the following key areas:

- An introduction to hardened wood flooring and how it is different to engineered wood.
- Woodura Technology and 5G Dry®.
- The fire resistance of hardened wood flooring.
- The technical performance of hardened wood flooring.
- The different plank sizes, finishes and colours of Woodura hardened wood flooring.
- The sustainability and well-being aspects of hardened wood flooring.
- The installation, care and maintenance of hardened wood flooring.

"We are finding really strong levels of interest within the A&D community for our hardened wood flooring range," says Simon Darbyshire, managing director of Bjelin UK. "This was very obvious at Clerkenwell Design Week this year, and with the launch of our exciting Contrast Collection. However due to this still being a relatively new concept to the UK market, with a number of unique aspects, we are aware of the need for a comprehensive CPD to provide technical information for a professional specification audience."

The benefits of Woodura Planks 3.0 are increasingly winning support among flooring professionals, because of their aesthetic appeal, ease of installation, sustainability credentials and 5G Dry® water resistant technology. The CPD now gives professionals further knowledge and insight into the technical aspects of the products, to enable them to specify Bjelin products with confidence.

uk-sales@bjelin.com uk.bjelin.com/en/cpd

Maintaining and improving professional competence, skills, abilities and knowledge

## CONVENIENT AND PAPER-FREE



Enjoy reading *ADF* but find it's not always convenient to have the printed magazine? Or has your workplace turned paper-free? The Digital Issue offers you the same content, delivered straight to your inbox and accessible via smartphone, tablet and desktop computers. Be among the first to read all the latest features, comment, interviews, and more, before the print issue has even been delivered! What's more, the Digital Issue includes interactive links to featured companies. Subscribe for free now.

[www.architectsdatafile.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.architectsdatafile.co.uk/subscribe)

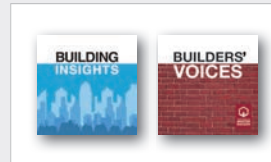
## LATEST NEWS, VIEWS AND MORE



If you like to be kept informed of all the latest news, views, and promotions for the architectural community, the ADF email newsletters can offer you regular updates straight to your inbox. The weekly Editor's Choice newsletter includes top news stories curated by the ADF editorial team, while the monthly CPD Focus and fortnightly ADF Newsletter offer updates on products, services, events, and learning opportunities available from a wide variety of manufacturers and suppliers.

[www.architectsdatafile.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.architectsdatafile.co.uk/subscribe)

## OUR COLLECTION OF PODCASTS



In a constantly changing environment in which content is consumed in so many different ways, our collection of podcasts enable *adf* readers to stay informed and keep up-to-date with changing trends and topical issues. Published via netMAGmedia's Building Insights brand, our collection of podcasts are available through [architectsdatafile.co.uk](http://architectsdatafile.co.uk) and through most podcast hosting platforms.

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

## 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)

Visit [www.architectsdatafile.co.uk](http://www.architectsdatafile.co.uk) to subscribe to the CPD Focus newsletter – featuring the latest CPD courses, seminars and documents for architects

# 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.



Dik Geurts Ivar 8 Low wood stove

info@drufire.co.uk  
www.drufire.com/en-gb



## Moduleo Roots Herringbone brings the Vibe touch

**M**oduleo Roots Herringbone wood-effect luxury vinyl has given a new look to offices designed by Vibe Business Interiors, a commercial interior design and build, fit out and refurbishment company. Used throughout the teapoint and breakout areas, as well as a border to frame Mohawk Group carpet tiles in the boardroom, the striking floor brings the outdoors in with a finish that's durable and easy to maintain.

Vibe Business Interiors opted for Moduleo Roots Herringbone in Classic Oak because of its hardwearing and practical nature, and its ability to be both professional and refreshing.

Cydnee Glenn, interior designer, Vibe Business Interiors, says: "I chose to fit Moduleo Roots herringbone in the teapoint and breakout areas as I wanted to create spaces that felt bright and refreshing. I wanted the meeting rooms to be more fun but also create a professional environment, so I

used the LVT to echo the other areas in the office and create a visual feature that brought an additional element of excitement to the office, which was easily done with Moduleo flooring. The floor achieved the desired effect while bringing unity to the space."

Made in Belgium, Moduleo Roots Herringbone Classic Oak is a high-quality luxury vinyl floor that's ready for the task of busy office environments. Hardwearing thanks to its 0.55 mm wear layer, water-resistant, fade-resistant and scratch and stain protected; the floor met the all-important practical objectives of the project while remaining soft, quiet and comfortable to walk on.

"We needed to ensure longevity of the finish, so I was positive that the floor would withstand any fading and scratches from foot traffic as well as the obvious spills that occur in a busy office environment," continues Cydnee. "The great quality of Moduleo Roots gives us the confidence to recommend



it as a finish that would still look as great after five-years as the day it was fitted."

A total of 182 m<sup>2</sup> of Moduleo Roots Herringbone was used alongside carpet tiles to give Vibe's project a unique look ready to withstand commercial use.

01332 851 500 [pro.moduleo.com](http://pro.moduleo.com)

## HydroPro Floor Paint – Fast and versatile

**H**MG Paints Ltd has announced the launch of its HydroPro Floor Paint, an easy to apply, single pack, water-based product that provides an excellent result in the shortest possible time.



The latest addition to the Manchester-based firm's growing Hydro-Pro range of products, the Floor Paint is formulated for either interior or exterior use and can be applied over new, aged or previously painted floor areas in either domestic, workshop or factory situations.

It dries in 30 to 45 minutes and can be overcoated after one hour. Offering excellent coverage and obliteration, this high-performance, cross-linked coating is hard wearing and designed to withstand light industrial traffic so it will cope with occasional forklift use.

Ideal for shop fitting and refit, two coats can be applied in a short space of time so the client can get back to full business use with minimal delay. Also, the lack of odour means the floor can be painted while people are still working in the vicinity.

HydroPro Floor Paint is formulated for use on bare or previously coated concrete, tarmac and wooden floors, but not decking.

Superior adhesion and durability are the hallmarks of the HydroPro range with resistance to oils and grease. The product



can be applied by brush or roller. It is available off the shelf in light, medium or dark grey, yellow, tile red or mid blue while other colours can be provided in batch size quantities.

0161 205 7631  
[shop.hmgpaint.com/products/hydropro-floor-paint-5-litres](http://shop.hmgpaint.com/products/hydropro-floor-paint-5-litres)

## 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)

## Playfully stylish, perfectly practical

Team, communal, and school sports shower installations are often limited by budget, leading to cheap, uninspiring fittings that compromise both aesthetics and functionality whilst presenting challenges in cleaning and maintenance. Where user experience is affected, care of the fittings may also suffer and further shorten the lifespan of the installation.

The Horne Dušo shower column offers a stylish alternative to typical group showers, which often use fixed heads, and exposed or recessed pipework. While 'recessed' setups look cleaner, they're harder to maintain.



Surface installations can be unsightly, difficult to clean, and potentially risky where hot water pipes are exposed near the floor. The Dušo combines the cost benefits of exposed installations but with more elegance and minimal visible pipework.

With its sleek, slender design, the Dušo features a polished chromium-plated head, brightly anodised aluminium body, and robust injection-moulded polymer spray-plate and actuator paddle. Available in aquamarine, grey, yellow, and black, the Dušo complements interior designs aimed at creating an inviting and bright shower space.

Designed for optimal user satisfaction, the taller-than-average column, and easy-to-use paddle operation caters to both adults and children. The shower runs for approximately 60 seconds per actuation, reducing wear and preventing user frustration. The coloured spray plate and paddle can also indicate water temperature, for example denoting a separate cold temperature option, or to assist users with limited sight.

Constructed from robust and durable materials, the Dušo is built to last, whether



installed inside or out. Its smooth surfaces and flexible silicon rubber nozzle array make cleaning easy, while the easy-access flow control cartridge and protective strainer ensure minimal maintenance.

The Horne Dušo shower column offers an attractive but durable, and practical solution for communal showers. Its robust design, ease of installation and maintenance ensure long-term performance at a relatively low cost, making it a smart choice for any project. Specify via NBS Source.

01505 321455 [www.horne.co.uk](http://www.horne.co.uk)



## Bradite proves a boon for community café

Bradite's One Can has helped create a bright, airy and welcoming atmosphere in a South Croydon community venture. Boon Café Croydon was conceived,



in the words of its founder Georgina Arsalides, as "a space for families to enjoy, a place for groups to meet and new friendships to form."

The non-profit enterprise has been transformed in appearance thanks to One Can paint, 50 litres of which were donated by Bradite.

"While putting together our vision for Boon, we saw Bradite One Can and were able to choose a beautiful sky blue colour in their RAL colour range," says Georgina. "Bradite was happy to gift the paint which we are so very grateful for, and the vision came to life."

Friends joined Georgina to do the decorating. "I was amazed at the coverage and how far the paint went. All the painting volunteers found the paint easy to use and were equally impressed with the two-coat prime and paint system." She adds: "we had a quick turnaround of the renovation period, and the fact that the paint dries quickly and doesn't have a strong odour was hugely beneficial. It was great that we didn't have an overpowering smell whilst painting, which made the process more enjoyable



and comfortable!"

Boon Café provides a hub for community activity and, in addition to the teas, coffees and tasty cakes, provides space for family storytelling, creative workshops and parties. And the colour scheme has not gone unnoticed. Georgina says: "I have had so many compliments on the colour of the room. People have been asking where it's from, as they want to redecorate their house in the sky blue!"

01248 600 315  
www.bradite.com

## Aruba: A trusted ceiling tile for generations

Trusted by generations of architects and installers, Aruba is specified throughout the UK almost every single day. With impressive sound properties, and a range of colours available it is an incredibly versatile range that can be found everywhere from hotels and offices to classrooms and retail environments.

The range has been named after the white sandy beaches of the Caribbean due to the finely sanded finish of the tile's surface. The Aruba tile also reflects the vibrancy and colourful nature of the Caribbean, as it is available in 35 colours, the largest option of standard colours available on the UK market. For further design creativity, the Aruba family can be specified in alternative shapes such as the Aruba Triangle. Additional tiles with enhanced performances are available within the Aruba family including Aruba hH, Aruba Max and Aruba dB, each bringing unique performance capabilities.

### Aruba

The Aruba tile is incredibly versatile, with a number of attributes that deliver



a thorough solution. Combining Class C sound absorption with a sound attenuation level of 34 dB, the tile controls background noise levels whilst allowing sound to travel, creating an acoustically comfortable setting. It contains up to 44% recycled content, is 100% recyclable and is scratch resistant.

Recently specified for an industrial site in one of the UK's most important manufacturing areas, the coloured Aruba tile was able to meet the aesthetic, functional and acoustic requirements set out for the project.

### Aruba hH

The Aruba hH tile offers enhanced high humidity resistance, making it ideal for areas such as changing rooms. It also has the same acoustic qualities as the Aruba tile; but can remain stable in conditions of up to 99% Relative Humidity (RH).

### Aruba Max

The Aruba Max is a more robust variation of the standard Aruba tile, designed for interiors that require a higher technical performance. With an increased tile thickness, it offers higher sound attenuation levels of 35 dB, and is perfect for settings such as classrooms where sound still has to travel but in a controlled manner.

### Aruba dB

For internal settings that require extra levels of privacy such as meeting rooms and small offices, the Aruba dB tile offers the highest sound absorption rating at 39 dB and reduces sound transmission through the ceiling void.

0800 371 849 [www.zentia.com/en-gb](http://www.zentia.com/en-gb)

# 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)



## Innovative concrete veneer acoustic wall panels create industrial look



CMS Danskin Acoustics has launched an innovative new concrete veneer wall panel to provide an ‘on trend’ industrial look combined with acoustic benefits for commercial interiors, such as hotel lobbies, retail outlets and exhibition and meeting spaces.

Xapa, pronounced shapa and meaning veneer in Catalan, is a routed slat, PET felt sound absorber panel faced with a decorative, authentic concrete veneer. It is a lightweight alternative to solid concrete walls, providing a fashionable concrete appearance, without the reverberation issues associated with hard wall surfaces.

Xapa panels are available in smooth or travertine finishes, both in a range of four colours - taupe, charcoal, light travertine and dark travertine.

“There are concrete-look, vinyl covered panels on the market, but Xapa is different. It has a concrete veneer that feels and looks like concrete, because it is concrete,” said Andy Turner of CMS Danskin Acoustics’ product development team.

“Solid concrete walls present reverberation issues, making spaces noisy even to the extent of making conversation or concentration difficult. Xapa gives the desired minimalist concrete look with the benefit of good acoustic performance,” he added.

Xapa is available in two standard thicknesses - 14mm or 26mm, offering a choice of acoustic performance. Used with a CMS Danskin Acoustics coreboard, Xapa achieves up to Class A sound absorption. CMS Danskin Acoustics provides a free

reverberation calculation service as well as full technical and on-site support.

The Xapa concrete veneer panel is one of a range of veneered acoustic panels being developed by CMS Danskin Acoustics. CMS Danskin Acoustics products also include a timber veneered slat acoustic wall panel, also in a range of colours.

A data sheet and installation guide is available at: <https://www.cmsdanskin.co.uk/general-construction/absorption-reverberation/xapa/>

Part of the Performance Technology Group, CMS Danskin Acoustics produces and sources insulation products advising on all matters relating to sound reduction materials and noise reduction strategies, including floors, ceilings and walls, to combat airborne and impact noise. Notable projects include the Bank of England, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, The Shard and the W Edinburgh.

01925 577711  
[www.cmsdanskin.co.uk](http://www.cmsdanskin.co.uk)



# Making a visual splash

From innovative fixtures to minimalist, seamless designs and natural colour palettes, Hayley Bowman of Frontline Bathrooms explores likely trends for 2025 in the bathroom to help inspire your choices

As we near the end of the year, we start to think about what 2025 will bring for the world of bathrooms. 2024 will no doubt be remembered as the year of the so-called 'spathroom', with warmth, tranquillity, and character considered the must-have bathroom trends. Looking into next year, expect these styles to remain popular and very much in style.

To create the feeling of an at-home spa, more consumers have been incorporating things like mood lighting, vanity units perfect for pampering, towel heaters and even heated flooring into their bathroom renovations. It's clear that homeowners want to indulge themselves a little and create spaces that keep them feeling relaxed and rejuvenated.

Another top trend the industry expects to see more of in 2025 is the dominance of earthy colours and natural materials such as marble, wood, ceramic and clay. These sort of shades and textures help to create a more raw, pared-back bathroom style.

Not only is choosing the right bathroom important for you when it comes to living in the home, it's also worth noting that bathrooms can add up to 5% onto the value of a property.

## MUTED COLOURS

Bathroom manufacturers are seeing a shift in popular colours and patterns being used in a bathroom space as white



and grey finishes are slowly moving towards more muted tones. Taking Frontline Bathrooms' Midi Furniture range for example – in 2023 matte white made up 60% of sales, however this year, it's decreased to 42% with taupe and graphite closely behind.

Colours such as soft grey and cashmere will continue to trend as they provide colour to the bathroom without overpowering it; providing more natural, muted and earthy tones to create a feeling of sanctuary.

Providing a timeless feel that suits every design style, shades such as taupe and beige can also create the perfect backdrop, adding a cosy and warm atmosphere in the bathroom. Complementing those colours with bolder bathroom tiles and materials like wood, rattan and stone can also be used to add a more organic feel.

## TASTEFUL TEXTURE

The trend for texture continues; the demand for knurled brassware and handles is constantly growing. The Azar brassware range, for example, has seen sales of the matte black basin mono increase almost 175%, from 22 units a month to 60 units a month. It's predicted that this will be the case throughout 2025, but with softer shapes and grooves which are much less domineering than the slats trend of 2024. While wall panelling itself may be nothing new, this traditional design has made its way into bathrooms with vertical slats in the tile providing texture, while maintaining a stylish 'tone-on-tone' colour palette.

Instead, it's thought we'll see the emergence of seamless finishes, with arches and curves contributing to a softer and more fluid bathroom design





which breaks down the monotony of straight lines and angles, adding a touch of elegance. The best-selling Kyoto vanity unit range with soft fluted curves is one of our most popular furniture launches ever; not only has it out-sold other vanity units two-to-one, but it's generated 17% of overall furniture sales this year to date.

We also predict that the mitred tile trend will carry over from this year to

next, as customers look to create fewer joins and lines in their bathrooms. Chamfered doors, for example, help to create that perfectly smooth, sleek handleless design.

#### LET THERE BE LIGHT!

LED lighting and flash plates also add to the ambiance of a bathroom, reflecting light around the room beautifully. A popular way to get this look would be

to use adhesive LED strip lighting which is super easy to install and can really transform a space without making any major modifications or work.

Mirrors with lighting around the full perimeter are also very popular right now, particularly those with colour-changing controls and built-in heated demisters which add more depth and ambiance.

#### LUXE FOR LESS

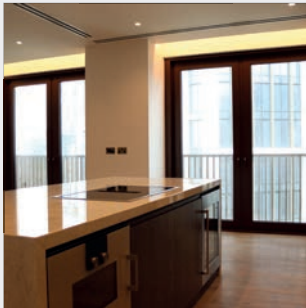
Amid the cost-of-living crisis, customers are looking to achieve the luxe look without spending the earth. As we head into 2025, it's anticipated sales will increase on larger vanities of 1,000 mm+, along with stone wall mounted basins, which are great for creating a boutique hotel look at home for a lot less than you think.

#### WALK-IN SHOWERS

Finally, we expect that walk-in showers and wetrooms will see a continued upward curve in their popularity next year. While baths – particularly free-standing models – remain very much on trend, shower enclosure sales have soared recently.

*Hayley Bowman is marketing manager at Frontline Bathrooms*

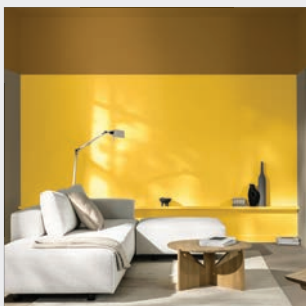
## Gilberts elevates the standard in ventilation @ Nine Elms



A brownfield industrial site along the banks of the River Thames is going from “rags to riches”, where even the background detail of ventilation is being given a high-end finish. Nine Elms is being completely transformed into a new mixed-use area, including the addition of 20,000 homes. One of the latest structures being delivered is Building N6, a 19-storey premium residential block. To achieve the high-end finish, Gilberts' grilles and diffusers, supplied via DBA Air Solutions have been installed throughout all the apartments by ESG (Essex Service Group). A combination of Gilberts HSL high-capacity slot diffusers and LN linear bar grilles ensure efficient supply and extract of ventilation in bedrooms, and open plan living spaces and kitchens for the central MVHR and 10no fan coil four-pipe heating & cooling systems, with the strategy validated by BIM. The HSL diffusers deliver high capacity – up to 150 l/s/m – of smooth, accurate airflow which makes them particularly suitable for integration into a fan coil strategy. With the multi-function LN grilles, which can attain up to 77% free ventilation area, the directional bars are manufactured level with the surrounding flange.

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

## 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)

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

## The ambassador for quiet acoustics at Embassy Gardens

Architects Common Ground Workshop, recently named as one of the 16 emerging practices in Landsec's new retail framework, completed a new hospitality development at 6 Embassy Gardens in Nine Elms, London. The projects forms part of a wider urban realm masterplan comprising 5,000 square metres of commercial and retail spaces for client Ballymore.

Adjacent to the American Embassy, 6 Embassy Gardens includes a restaurant, bar and events space that blends hard and

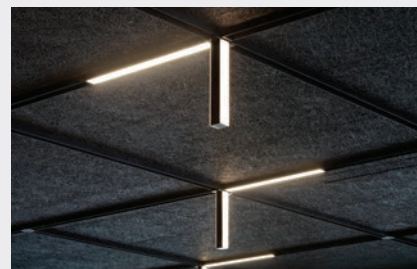


Photos: Jack Hobhouse

soft landscaping into a material palette filled with tactile and textured surfaces set against harder more industrial finishes and reminiscent of the burgeoning infrastructure landscape at Nine Elms.

Troldtekt wood wool acoustic panelling with a black finish was specified throughout the space, punctuated by a bespoke lighting track with drop-down custom-made LED light battens further emphasising the urban and industrial aesthetic look. Troldtekt panels were specified for their excellent acoustic properties and ability to dramatically reduce sound reverberation as well as their superior environmental credentials.

Troldtekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different structures and colours, combining superior sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Troldtekt 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, Troldtekt 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 Troldtekt. See the product listings on NBS ([bit.ly/3vx0Tfq](http://bit.ly/3vx0Tfq)) or Material Bank ([www.materialbank.eu](http://www.materialbank.eu)).

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



## AG launches EPDs for over 370 products



**F**ivemiletown headquartered Paving and Building Products firm, AG, has reinforced its position as a market leader in sustainable construction through the publication of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for over 370 of its products.

The firm, which has manufacturing locations in Fivemiletown, Toome, and Carryduff, already has one of the lowest carbon footprints in the industry and is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations to an absolute minimum.

Created to encourage transparency across the construction industry, an EPD is a standardised formal document that quantifies a product's environmental impact. It is based on a detailed life cycle assessment and verified by an accredited third party.

Recently awarded Sustainable Manufacturing Business of the Year at the prestigious Business Eye Awards, AG's EPDs reflect the company's dedication to innovation and its ongoing carbon reduction efforts.

Michael Davies, Head of Innovation and Carbon Reduction at AG said: "For

many years, we have worked tirelessly to reduce our environmental impact and we are delighted to publish our Environmental Product Declarations.

"A reflection of the continuous innovation we've employed to date, our EPDs will provide our customers with essential data that will enhance the sustainability credentials of their projects and provide them with a comprehensive overview of their scheme. We are extremely proud to be able to say that our facilities and products boast some of the industry's lowest embodied carbon statistics."

From 2019 to 2023, AG reported a 47.8% reduction in its Scope 1 and 2 emissions, a significant achievement considering the firm's extended operational hours and the construction of a new £3 million factory in 2023 to meet increased product demand. Additionally, AG reduced its Scope 3 emissions by 4.67% from 2021, underscoring its commitment to a greener future in construction.

Verified by EPD Hub, AG's Environmental Product Declarations represent the latest in the firm's series of sustainability initiatives. These efforts include a longstanding

commitment to producing a significant portion of their product range using recycled aggregate and locally quarried materials.

AG's commitment to energy efficiency is reinforced through regular reviews of its systems and procedures, driving continuous improvement. As part of its CSR strategy, the company has recently made a significant investment of over £5.4 million to modernise its plant, equipment, and technology, underscoring its dedication to sustainable practices and cutting-edge innovation.

AG's CEO, Stephen Acheson commented, "At AG, sustainability isn't merely a responsibility but a guiding principle that fuels our innovation and shapes our operations. Our EPDs mark a major milestone in our journey to reduce carbon emissions, providing transparent and comprehensive insights into the environmental footprint of our products. These documents and the data they contain underscore our commitment to creating high-quality, sustainable products, solidifying AG's reputation as a leader in low-carbon solutions."

0121 796 3022  
ag.uk.com

# Advances in post-installation anchoring challenge cast-in's dominance

**L**IEBIG Ultraplus heavy duty anchors have demonstrated in a project to create a new lifting bridge over the River Yare in Great Yarmouth that post-installation anchoring can offer performance equivalent to that of cast-in anchors, whilst also being better suited to the complexities of modern construction processes.

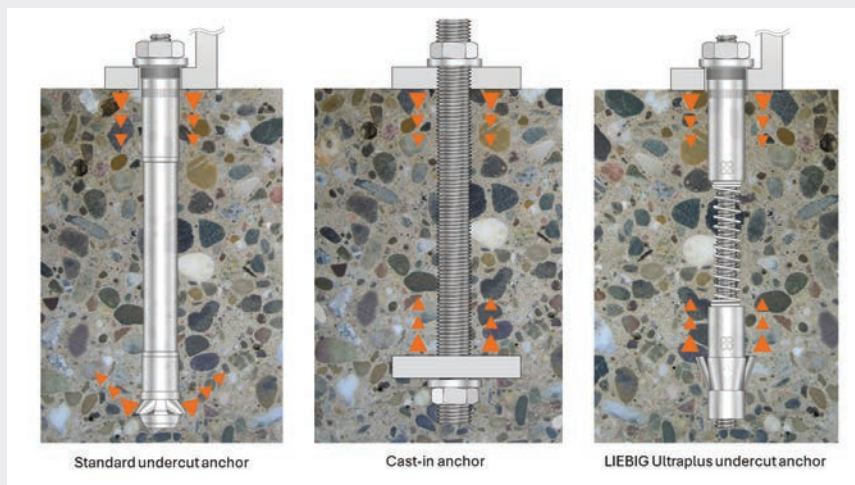
The £121m Herring Bridge project is an excellent example of how the application of innovative products is enabling major civil engineering projects to be delivered more efficiently in a shorter timescale.

The twin bascule bridge's construction process involved building cofferdams on both banks of the river. These house the machinery and mechanism required to lift, hold and lower each leaf of the bridge, all of which had to be securely anchored to the concrete.

As with many major civil engineering projects involving the kind of 'design and build' process used here by main contractors BAM Farrans, the team did not have the luxury of the 'ideal world' approach where anchors are cast-in to the concrete. Construction of the cofferdams had to commence as soon as the project received the green light, which meant there was no scope for the extended design time that cast-in anchors would have demanded.



LIEBIG Ultraplus anchors securely angled to support the hydraulic mechanisms of the bridge decks as well as the tail locks that hold the Herring Bridge in its raised and open position.



How three recognised anchoring approaches compare – left to right: a standard undercut anchor provides compression of the concrete by partial expansion forces being created at the bottom of the anchor. A typical cast-in place anchor allows compression of the concrete to be achieved between the cast-in washer plate and the concrete. With a LIEBIG Ultraplus Anchor, compression of the concrete is achieved between the undercut and the concrete surface.

The design team, therefore, explored the potential for a post-installation anchoring solution to attach the baseplates of the bridge's operating mechanism. Crucially, any anchors would have to be suitable for the concrete conditions within the cofferdam design and offer a very high load capacity.

Yorkshire-based engineering specialists Qualter Hall were consulted to help identify a post-installation anchor that would meet this demanding criteria, which they found with LIEBIG Ultraplus anchors.

For the Herring Bridge project, the design required EJOT to produce and deploy possibly the largest post installed mechanical anchors ever used in a civil engineering project. Two lengths of M36 size Ultraplus anchors were produced, with the longest being 1.45 m in length and the shortest 1.09 m, with both lengths being used on the same baseplates in an unconventional yet successful design approach.

It was an approach that, despite being incompatible with the product's ETA (European Technical Assessment), satisfied the requirements of the globally respected ACI (American Concrete Institute) Building Code.

The Ultraplus anchor's design is unique in the way that it transfers stress into the

concrete extremely effectively. It also does this in a way that differs significantly from 'normal' post-installed anchors and other undercut anchors, including those intended to work like cast in anchors.



Demonstrating compliance with the ACI Building Code enabled Ultraplus anchors to be deployed in this bridge construction project with confidence and ensure a post-installation approach could be utilised. The advantages that stemmed from this meant the bridge's design and construction time could be reduced, with subsequent cost benefits.

01977 687040

[www.ejot.co.uk/cast-in\\_vs\\_post-install\\_anchors](http://www.ejot.co.uk/cast-in_vs_post-install_anchors)



## Senior brings light and shade to new hotel scheme

Dual coloured and slim framed aluminium fenestration solutions from Senior Architectural Systems have helped bring architectural interest to the external facade of a new multi-storey hotel in Coventry whilst ensuring the interior spaces benefit from plenty of natural light.

Constructed by main contractor Bowmer and Kirkland, Hotel Indigo Coventry has been designed by architects Chapman Taylor and boasts a striking exterior which features Senior's popular SF52 aluminium curtain wall system and SPW600 aluminium windows throughout. The leading manufacturer's



SPW501 aluminium commercial entrance doors were also specified, with the full glazing package fabricated and installed by specialist contractor Acorn Aluminium.

Senior's in-house powder coating service was instrumental to achieving the desired aesthetic for the hotel's exterior facade which required the aluminium fenestration systems to complement the use of striking silver-blue metallic cladding. Opting for a dual colour finish, Senior's aluminium fenestration systems were powder-coated in anthracite grey on the exterior and grey-blue to the interior of the frames. The SF52 curtain walling has been installed in columns that run the length of the building, with the metallic cladding installed in between. The darker colour of the aluminium curtain wall and inset windows add depth to the building, with the recessed columns of glazing complementing the lighter shade of the facade material.

In addition to design flexibility, the slim frames of Senior's SF52 curtain wall



system and SPW600 aluminium windows have helped to create a comfortable interior environment by maximising the flow of natural daylight and providing exceptional thermal-efficiency to achieve the desired U-values.

To discover more about Senior's extensive range of aluminium windows, doors and curtain wall systems, as well as details of the company's state of the art powder coating facility which is located at the company's South Yorkshire site. Please visit the website or search for Senior Architectural Systems on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

01709 772600  
[www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk](http://www.seniorarchitectural.co.uk)

## 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)

## 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)

## Matching colours should not involve different shades of opinion

Making sure you have the right colour for decorating projects is not always straightforward.

HMG Paint has researched the subject of colour matching very thoroughly and has now issued a detailed guide to help both the user and the decorator to get it right first time.

Shade cards and wall charts can prove misleading so HMG offers some sensible do’s and don’ts. Colours can vary slightly throughout shade cards and that can be as



a result of the printing inks used. Cards can ‘yellow’ over time, matching one batch with another can be tricky and observing colours under different sources of illumination can be misleading.

HMG ensures that every colour in its library is standardised in digital format, all are allocated unique library codes and every colour produced is measured against the standard using a spectrophotometer. The firm’s batch cards are also stored for up to five years in a dark storage area so previous batches can be checked.

Simple advice to the end user includes always make sure you use the same batch on the same job and when ordering colours be specific. HMG makes the point that ordering, for example, Ford Gentian Blue is not specific but ordering Ford Gentian Blue XSC1146 is.

Orders should also be placed against standard RAL or library codes and users should bear in mind that colours are a matter of perception. One person’s view of



“one shade lighter” can differ from someone else’s view. A physical sample is a better bet.

HMG reinforces the point: “has the colour been observed in natural daylight?” HMG match all its colours under natural daylight.

The comprehensive Guide to Achieving the Correct Colour is available via the HMG Paints website, part of the company’s comprehensive Knowledge Base of informative articles covering various aspects of decorating from paint application to problem solving.

0161 205 7631

[www.hmgpaint.com/knowledge/knowledge-base/302/hmg-guide-to-achieving-the-correct-colour](http://www.hmgpaint.com/knowledge/knowledge-base/302/hmg-guide-to-achieving-the-correct-colour)



## FabSpeed launches CMS40, the lightweight brick facade system.



Introducing the CMS40 Facade System by FabSpeed, a Michelmersh Group brand, in collaboration with fellow industry leaders, Cladmate Facade Systems.

The CMS40 is a lightweight, easy-to-install, cost-effective system that integrates mechanically fixed, non-combustible brick slips to offer the beautiful clay aesthetic that we all know and love. It is suitable for multiple construction projects, ranging from volume high or low-rise projects to new builds or retrofit applications and can be applied to both indoor and outdoor facades. By seamlessly blending traditional brickwork aesthetics with advanced rain screen cladding solutions, CMS40 sets a new standard in architectural versatility and performance.

CMS40 offers numerous benefits, including

reduced on-site labour meaning shorter project durations, installation cost savings, improved production safety and quality procedures, enhanced precision and environmental advantages through waste reduction, system recyclability and re-use.

Pairing the innovative CMS40 system with the durability and longevity advantages of clay bricks, in an easy-to-install system, reinforces its appeal in the wider construction industry. Renowned for their strength, fire resistance, thermal and acoustic performance and beauty, clay bricks provide enduring quality alongside their famed long-life expectancy. With a variety of colours and textures, clay brick slips offer unparalleled design flexibility and adaptability which can evolve over generations whilst also complementing change in architectural vision. With confidence in CMS40's versatility, why not choose a less standard brick bond or even projecting brickwork patterns to give your facade more depth?

Furthermore, the CMS40 support system incorporates 70% recycled aluminium as its primary component and as such is fully recyclable, promoting circular principles, similar to its clay brick counterpart. Its dismantlable and reusable nature coupled with clay brick slips, can ensure a full aesthetic revision with only mortar replacement, ensuring it aligns with sustainable building practices and makes it an ideal choice for secondary applications.

CMS40 stands ready to be adorned with a wide selection of clay brick slip products from Michelmersh's core range. Additionally, FabSpeed's team of skilled craftspeople can customise slips from various manufacturers' clay products, providing tailored solutions to meet every project's challenges.

Certified for fire safety and environmental standards, CMS40 has undergone rigorous testing, including BS 8414-2:2020 and CWCT standards, with BBA certification covering both Parex lime-based and Instamac cement-based mortars. This lightweight framework system

not only reduces structural load but also boasts an A1 non-combustible rating, ensuring safety throughout its lifecycle.

CMS40 is available through FabSpeed with components which can be supplied directly from Cladmate to offer an efficient and reliable supply chain. FabSpeed's integration within the Michelmersh Group and its decades of readily available expertise on brick finishes and design aspects will ensure that designers looking for a lightweight and innovative prefabricated facade system will be in safe hands.

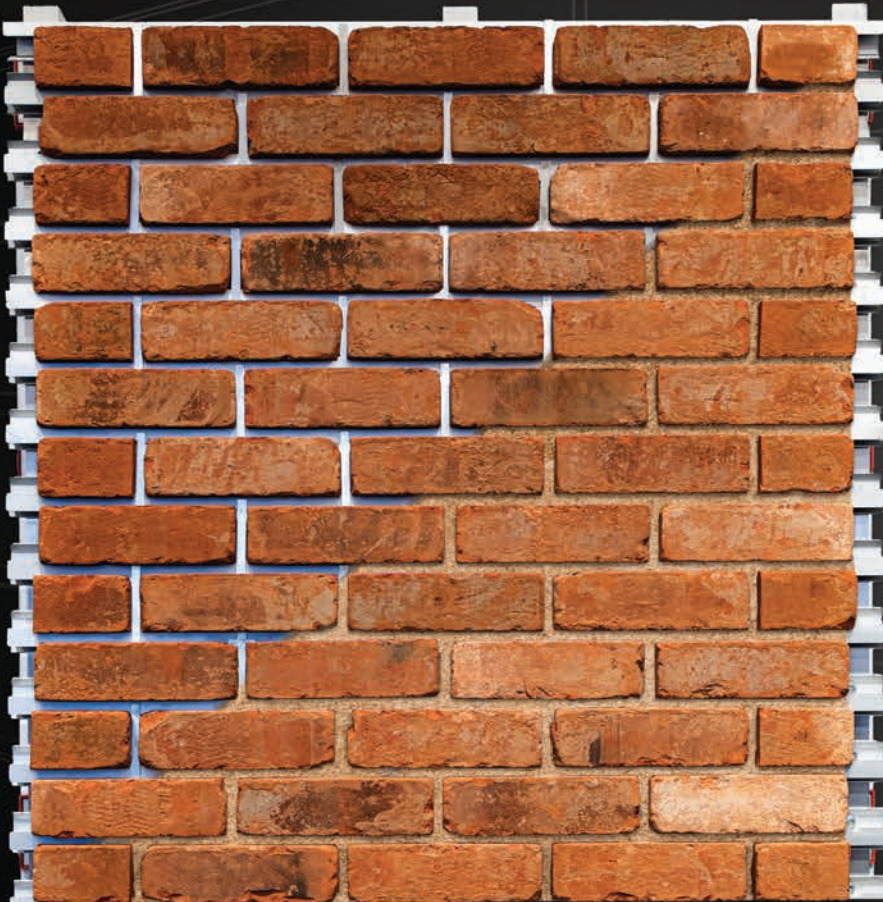
If you would like to discuss your desired aesthetics or further details on our CMS40 facade system, please contact FabSpeed.

0844 931 0022  
[www.mbhplc.co.uk](http://www.mbhplc.co.uk)





# Making brickwork lightweight



The clay brick façade and aluminum bracket system offer an A1 non-combustible rating.

Tested to the Centre for Window and Cladding Technology (CWCT) standards and BS 8414-2 tested in accordance with BR135.

BBA certification of the CMS40 system, covers both Parex lime based mortar and Instamac cement based mortars.

Easier and quicker, non-weather dependent on-site installation.

Accuracy of installation when using pre-spaced mortar joints and mechanically fixed slips.

Lightweight framework system reduces structural load.

Slim system allows for reduced wall thickness for external retrofit applications or increased floor space.

The system components and facing brick slips can be re-used and recycled.

A wide selection of clay bricks of varying textures, styles, sizes and colours can be cut into slips by FabSpeed and used on CMS40.

CMS40

## The advanced brick façade system

In conjunction with industry leaders Cladmater, FabSpeed has co-produced the CMS40 Façade System. CMS40 uses mechanically fixed non-combustible brick slips, in a lightweight, easy-to-install, cost-effective product. Suitable for volume high or low-rise applications, newbuilds or retrofit projects, internal and external use, CMS40 fuses traditional brickwork façade aesthetics with the latest advanced rainscreen cladding systems. Speak to FabSpeed today.





## Unique facade concept with wind-resistant and multicoloured fabric sun protection

In Aspholz, a seven story student residence has been built to accommodate 332 students in 30 apartments and 11 studios, making it the largest of its kind in Zurich. For the project, Darlington Meier Architects had Iranian-born Swiss artist and photographer, Shirana Shahbazi, design the external screens.

Darlington Meier Architects used tall and wide windows to increase the amount of sunlight able to reach the kitchens and living rooms from the forward loggias. The Fixscreen vertical blinds from Renson are

correspondingly sizeable with the largest measuring around 22 m<sup>2</sup>.

White polyester fabric Soltis 86 was chosen as the base for the colourfully designed west side of the building. For the exact colour coating of the fabric, the artist developed a facade plan to reveal the geometric patterns extending across the entire facade. Each blind is a standalone colour composition, which combines with the adjacent blinds for an extended artwork.

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



## Sapphire overcomes complex logistical challenges to deliver balconies to Huntley Wharf development

Early engagement between Peter Brett Associates, PRP Architects, and Berkeley Homes ensured that Sapphire could supply balconies that reflected the architectural vision and historical significance of the Huntley Wharf site. Historically the site was home to the former Huntley and Palmer biscuit factory (famously supplying millions of biscuits to Allied troops during WW1 and WW2), today it is the new waterside destination in central Reading.



Through innovative design solutions, Sapphire was able to manufacture offsite brick columns for corner balconies, inset balconies, and balconies with brick slip fascias. These components were mechanically fixed offsite with brick slips, enabling them to blend effortlessly with the rest of the brick facade, mirroring the industrial aesthetic of the former factory.

One of the project's challenges was the proximity of one of the tower crane locations to a stack of balconies, which punched through the podium slab. This could have necessitated the costly and disruptive relocation of thousands of pounds of M&E ductwork. Sapphire's site support team devised an inventive solution, proposing the use of a compact spider crane to install the balconies from below. This approach not only preserved the integrity of the existing infrastructure but also reduced costs and simplified the installation process, showcasing Sapphire's ability to overcome complex logistical challenges through creative problem-solving.

The Huntley Wharf project stands as a testament to the collaborative spirit and innovative solutions that Sapphire Balconies brings to modern developments, marrying historical reverence with contemporary design and functionality. Through their early and proactive engagement with project stakeholders, Sapphire ensured that the



balconies contributed meaningfully to the architectural narrative, enhancing the living experience while honouring the site's rich heritage.

Berkeley Group PLC Technical Coordinator Mara Dumitru said: "I found the Sapphire team to be very professional, proactive and helpful. We have had a very good collaboration throughout and felt the team at Sapphire successfully managed to meet both architect's and client's expectations."

For more information about Sapphire Balconies and their architectural balcony solutions, visit <https://balconies.global/case-studies/huntley-wharf-reading/>

[sales@sapphirebalustrades.com](mailto:sales@sapphirebalustrades.com)  
[www.sapphirebalustrades.com](http://www.sapphirebalustrades.com)

## New shootbolt options from VBH

Hardware specialist VBH has introduced two new greenteQ shootbolt systems for outward opening casement windows.

greenteQ iQ Intellect is a non-crop shootbolt that speeds up the fitting process and generates no wasted hardware through offcuts.

It covers sash rebate sizes up to a door-like 1800mm.

VBH advise that adjustable mushroom bolt cams in the middle of the window and adjacent to the projecting shootbolts ensure exceptional weather proofing and effective burglar resistance to the PAS24 security standard.

Intellect utilises modern, strong, low-friction materials, and a clever keep design guides the mushroom bolts into position. Coupled with projecting shootbolts manufactured from steel-reinforced ultra-low friction polymer, this makes for a combination of extremely smooth operation and high strength.

The second newcomer, iQ Superior, combines two bi-directional hooks on the gearbox with adjustable mushroom-headed cams and shootbolts on the extensions to provide exceptional security performance and weather proofing on windows with sash rebate sizes up to 1500mm.

Like iQ Intellect and the original greenteQ Invicta shootbolt, iQ Superior has been independently tested to the PAS24 security standard. Both new shootbolts are approved for use on Q-secure PREMIUM Plus installations.

greenteQ shootbolts are available in industry-standard 20 and 22mm backsets,



so are compatible with most popular PVCu profile systems.

VBH also advise that, as with all greenteQ iQ products, both Superior and Intellect work with Kubu to link windows to a smart home network. This gives the user a host of benefits, including a live check on the open/closed status of windows, security alerts, weather alerts and more. The windows can even be linked to other elements in the network, so the heating can be set to turn off in a room if a window is opened, for example.

Dan Powell, Head of Brand at VBH says, "Our

original iQ security espagnolette proved so popular that it was an easy decision to introduce more casement lock options that are compatible with Kubu.

"Including our original Invicta product, we now have three greenteQ shootbolts for fabricators to choose from. This will increase to four later this year when we unveil another Invicta variant. I'm looking forward to telling you more nearer the time!"

01634 263300  
info@vbhgb.com

## 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



# Retrofit for zero carbon

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund provides one way for social housing providers in England to improve the quality of homes for their tenants although bidding teams may need support in working out the best way to treat older properties – says Caroline Bowler of SIG Distribution



**T**he application window for funding under Wave 3 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDC) is expected to open this summer. The Fund was set up by the government to enhance the energy efficiency of socially rented homes in England.

Of the 24 million homes in England, 4 million are social homes. Of these, 1.4 million are below Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C; with 1.2 million EPC D; 105,000 EPC E; and 40,000 EPC F and G. The government's target is for as many homes as possible to achieve an EPC C by 2035. This makes social landlords responsible for decarbonising a significant proportion of England's homes if England is to reach its net zero target by 2050.

In addition to helping move towards net zero, upgrading the energy efficiency of social housing will also bring significant benefits to tenants. Social housing is some of the least energy efficient in the country, forcing tenants to spend more to heat their homes, so improving their energy efficiency will also reduce heating bills helping to lift households out of fuel poverty. To reduce fuel poverty the government has set a target for fuel poor homes to achieve an Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) C by 2030.

Although meeting energy efficiency standards will bring significant environmental and social benefits, retrofitting energy efficiency improvements can be expensive and technically challenging. The SHDC was introduced to help social landlords make energy efficiency improvements by making funding available in a series of waves. Bidding for Wave 2.2 closed to applications in January 2024. The bidding window for Wave 3 is expected to open in summer, so now is the time to start planning.

Landlords looking to take advantage of this fund will find a huge amount of advice on how to access the fund on the government-backed service social housing retrofit accelerator.

Social housing is made up of a wide variety of house types, so it is unlikely

Social housing is made up of a wide variety of house types, so it is unlikely one solution will fit all

one solution will fit all. Eligible measures are energy efficiency and heating measures compatible with the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP), which includes cavity wall, loft and external insulation, ventilation improvements, the installation of heat pumps and window and door replacement.

All retrofit projects should consider the whole-house (envelope, heating, ventilation and energy systems) and not individual elements in isolation. It is also important to remember that retrofit measures don't have to be delivered all in one go and can be phased.

Bidders for funding are encouraged to use fabric first principles, based on reducing the heating demand for a home before installing new heating systems or energy systems to avoid oversizing or inappropriate renewable energy systems being installed.

Government statistics show that to the end of November 2023, the majority of measures installed under Wave 1 and Wave 2.1 funding were insulation measures (59% under Wave 1, 69% under Wave 2) with loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation all featuring. Other significant measures included the installation of energy efficient doors and windows and solar PV.

As with any retrofit project, however, the real challenge lies in the variation in individual properties. For example, in North Devon, £4.8 million has been allocated to bring some 3,500 properties up to EPC level C over a four-year period. This area has a huge range of house types, each presenting their own technical issues. Many are solid walls, some have flat roofs and a



particular challenge is the Cornish House design – notoriously difficult to bring up to standard. Pressure on the teams responsible for designing, planning and executing the upgrade work is huge and the homes can be technically challenging.

The National Housing Federation and Local Government Association's report *Hard to decarbonise Social Homes*, identified a number of characteristics that make homes harder to decarbonise. In addition to those issues mentioned above, they include housing on the coast or at risk of flooding; heritage homes; constrained sites that may preclude the use of external wall insulation or heat pumps; and homes with bespoke features such as bay windows, which will need particular expertise to manage.

Some of these issues need complex solutions to produce improvements in energy efficiency without producing unwanted side-effects that can actually damage the fabric of an older property. The best technical support for the teams

tasked with such upgrades needs to be both comprehensive and competent.

Individual product manufacturers will give advice on their own products, but for product-neutral advice, a distributor will be best placed.

The benefit of this joined-up approach between housing provider and distributor is that it saves social housing providers having to deal with a multiplicity of material suppliers. It also means that if a particular product is in short supply, they can suggest suitable alternatives.

The climate emergency means that the demand to retrofit all homes, not just social housing, is likely to accelerate. All of which means that the diversity of product solutions and depth of technical expertise offered will become increasingly important in helping the country move towards net zero.

*Caroline Bowler is head of public sector framework partnerships at SIG Distribution*

### CaberDek weatherproof flooring



CaberDek, from **West Fraser**, is well-suited for the unpredictable climate in the UK. It combines their leading particleboard flooring with a durable, waterproof, and slip-resistant film. Meeting BS EN312: part 5 standards, CaberDek provides a secure working surface with its robust film that withstands impacts, punctures, and tears common on construction sites. For optimal bonding, CaberFix D4 adhesive is recommended for securing flooring to joists and within tongue and groove joints, as

well as along exposed edges. CaberDek holds full BBA approval for up to 42 days of exposure when applied according to instructions. CaberDek, together with CaberFix D4, achieves an impressive 44dB sound reduction.

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

### Selfbuilder & Homemaker website



The Selfbuilder & Homemaker website is an online provider of past and present products and news items for all those involved in and working on a self-build project. [www.sbsonline.co.uk](http://www.sbsonline.co.uk) is a one-stop source for all the latest press releases, providing visitors with access to information about products and services that they may require. From the website, you can find links to digital issues that have live links to advertisers' sites, as well as daily email alerts to keep you as informed as possible. You

can also subscribe to receive regular copies of the printed and digital versions of the magazine, or sign up to the monthly Selfbuilder & Homemaker newsletter.

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

**Follow adf on LinkedIn**

[LINKEDIN.COM/SHOWCASE/ARCHITECTS-DATAFILE-ADF](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/architects-datafile-adf)

The smartphone screen shows the ADF website with the following text:

**adf**  
**ADF - Architects' Datafile**  
 Monthly magazine providing architects with the latest industry news, opinion, and insights since 1994.  
 Architecture and Planning • Marketing • Cost Control • 3D Software

**About**  
 Architects' Datafile (ADF) is an established media brand, having been published in print form since 1994. We are dedicated to bringing architects the broadest range of coverage on the industry, insights and opinions on key issues, product information, and industry news. As well as the monthly... [View more](#)

**Page posts**

**adf** - Architects' Datafile  
 Architects' Datafile (ADF) is an established media brand, having been published in print form since 1994. We are dedicated to bringing architects the broadest range of coverage on the industry, insights and opinions on key issues, product information, and industry news. As well as the monthly... [View more](#)

**adf** - Architects' Datafile  
 Architects' Datafile (ADF) is an established media brand, having been published in print form since 1994. We are dedicated to bringing architects the broadest range of coverage on the industry, insights and opinions on key issues, product information, and industry news. As well as the monthly... [View more](#)





Cover Image: Andy Stagg  
See page 13 for details