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Moxon Architects has breathed new life into Coldbath, a formerly derelict farmhouse in the Cairngorms National Park in the Scottish Highlands. Situated at Crathie in the Lochmara Natural Scenic Area, Coldbath is an 18th-century farmhouse that has been sensitively restored as a private home with an extension that draws on the ad-hoc tin shed typology of farm buildings. Moxon strove to evoke the charm and simplicity of the ‘But and ben’ cottages typical of the Highlands whilst creating a flexible family home.

As part of the regeneration, the granite farmhouse has been restored using traditional craft techniques. A low-impact extension is positioned to the rear of the existing building, minimising impact on the topography of the site. The addition creates a U-form plan similar to that of vernacular steadings in the area. This gives a sheltered external space between the original farmhouse and the extension which acts as a micro-climate in the otherwise exposed site. The extension is nested slightly below ground level, giving it a natural relationship with the surrounding landscape. Replicating the volume of the existing farmhouse, the 120sqm addition is connected to the original by a low-slung link volume with a fully planted meadow roof. The new is connected to the old by a frameless band of glass, with the remainder of the addition clad in horizontal and vertical directions to distinguish between fixed and moving panels - fifty percent of the courtyard wall area can be opened up. The result aims to not only reflect the austerity of the existing granite architecture but also continue the use of vernacular materials.

Historical churches around the country are being given a new lease of life, thanks to a restoration process called “re-ordering”. One of the south east’s largest and most respected firms of Architects, Clague, is re-ordering historic and listed churches, giving them a new sustainable use, allowing them to remain or even return to the heart of the community. The process of re-ordering involves renovations and restorations of varying degrees – from major structural repairs, to re-roofing pews and replacing with seats which are more accessible, updating interiors and installing heating and kitchen facilities. Disabled access is also added in some cases – giving the churches not only a new lease of life but new sustainable uses for the benefit of the local community.

One church benefitting from Clague’s expertise is a medieval Grade I listed building in Kingsnorth, near Ashford in Kent. St. Michael and All Angels Church dates from the late fourteenth century, and Clague delivered a sympathetic repair and restoration of the tower masonry, turret roof, window stonework. The team designed and built a new extension to provide much needed modern facilities as well as carrying out the essential re-ordering of the interior of the church itself. Reverend Caroline Mansley, Vicar at St Michael and all Angels church in Kingsnorth, near Ashford in Kent. St. Michael and All Angels Church dates from the late fourteenth century, and Clague delivered a sympathetic repair and restoration of the tower masonry, turret roof, window stonework. The team designed and built a new extension to provide much needed modern facilities as well as carrying out the essential re-ordering of the interior of the church itself.

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Reverend Caroline Mansley, Vicar at St Michael and All Angels church in Kingsnorth, says: “This new lease of life to our beloved church is proving invaluable already. Clague’s vision has meant that the sympathetic re-ordering of our historic building has resulted in a more accessible and warm space for ‘the church’ – the gathered people of God – and has allowed us to welcome new people from our local community and beyond. We now have flexibility to move the pews around for more informal, family-friendly services, a quiet space for prayer or for children to play, and our extension affords modern facilities such as toilets, catering and meeting spaces that create a multi-purpose building which is let to outside organisations such as Ark Drain.”

Masseria Grottone, part of Masseria Maresca Farm-Hotel, built between 1812 and 1860 is an agricultural complex a few miles away from Ostuni. Dipped in 40 acres of centenary olive trees and Mediterranean scrub: a natural combat of extraordinary richness. Abandoned for several years, the restoration and extension project has been assigned to the firm Schiattarella Associati having a long history dating back to 1970s and a know-how linked to some of the most significant projects of the last years such as the Seoul Metropolitan Museum, the Children Museum in Kyonggi, the Art Center in Addirriyah and many relevant projects in Italy as well such as the Spanish School of Archaeology, the Cobe House in the Olympic Village and the Pediatric Ward of the Umberto I Hospital in Rome. Recovery of the historical building has taken into consideration the respectful restoration of volumes and vaulted spaces, in order to preserve its original features in addition to the realization of new expressly contemporary elements that are discreetly placed next to the main structure. Expansion has enabled to build services in the rooms at ground level without modifying the existing structure. The new building, placed in a position not visible from the main entrance, thanks to a high dry stone wall, doesn’t change the overall perception of the historical structure.

Today the estate hosts a luxury farm-resort with 10 rooms, a garden, a swimming-pool, a patio and a solarium. Interiors are intentionally raw and just cleaned; nature with its mighty and thousand-year old olive trees in the surrounding area is the real treasure.

Minimal design for furniture, local finishing material, as the Trani stone, are the theme. Once again, Schiattarella Associati commits to develop a concept of responsible restoration fully respecting history and nature. An intervention that restates Schiattarella Associati vision: an act of responsibility towards the community, where each structural, formal and stylistic innovation, is always addressed to improve experience and relationship inside and urban projects, always respecting content and history in which they are embedded. For more info about Masseria Maresca: www.massieramaresca.com
ISG has commenced work on its first college project procured under the new YORbuild public sector framework – a £14 million scheme to extend Leeds College of Art. This is the largest capital investment the college has ever made and underpins the institution’s ambition to transform itself into the first specialist arts university in the North of England.

The scheme sees ISG construct a circa 65,000 sq ft extension, up to five-stories in height and connecting to the existing Blenheim Walk campus building. The steel frame structure will provide much needed extra capacity for the burgeoning college and accommodate art, design and performance facilities, as well as community spaces including a coffee shop and public exhibition gallery. An enterprise centre within the new building will also allow the college to engage more fully with regional businesses, and the local and wider communities of Leeds.

Designed by architects DLA Design, the extension will feature a striking façade including gold anodised curtain walling, translucent polycarbonate elements and insulated render panels. A central full height street provides flexible breakout space and allows light to flood into the heart of the building, with specialist facilities including a 230-seat auditorium, alongside music, film and photography studios. Acoustic performance is a key consideration in the new extension with acoustic baffles and rafts deployed within the high-specification interior fit out.

Professor Simone Wonnacott, Principal, Leeds College of Art said: “This year promises to be just as exciting for the College as our 170th anniversary last year. As we move forward with our purpose-built expansion, and add new courses to our portfolio, we will attract more students to the city offering them a greater diverse mix of creative courses. Our new build project coincides with our application to become a university, which we hope to make an announcement about later in the year.”

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picture perfect projects:
Craven Dunnill Jackfield 10
Lindapter 12
Tile of Spain 14
Solving The Fleur-De-Lys Challenge At Jamie Oliver’s Barbecoa Piccadilly

Jamie Oliver has opened his second Barbecoa restaurant, in the heart of Piccadilly. The restaurant is accommodated on two floors with seating for 285 diners and a sizable liquor bar. The design style drawn on that of the 1920s, blended with rustic glamour and luxury. The dining area boasts striking, tiled faience walls, bespoke-manufactured by the tile specialist Craven Dunnill Jackfield, which are focal points of the restaurant.

Martin Brudnizki Design Studio (MBDS) was lead designer for the project, taking it from concept through to completion. The company approached Craven Dunnill Jackfield June 2016, having already been in discussions with two other manufacturers which had expressed doubts over their ability to manufacture the magnificent, three dimensional tiles which were to adorn the top of 13 decorative pillars. Craven Dunnill Jackfield is acclaimed for its ceramic expertise and specialist hand-made tile production and was convinced a solution could be found. Its commitment and significant contribution to the project is acknowledged on the Barbecoa website. “In our opinion, the tiles in the dining room are the real showstopper. They started life as a simple 15cm inspiration image on a moodboard and were reproduced and scaled up to the size they are now by Craven Dunnill – the only UK company willing to have a go.”

The building is steeped in history. It dates back to around 1881-83 and when built was officially opened by the then Prince and Princess of Wales. Today, Barbecoa is located on the two floors which were once again to create the vibrantly coloured, crackle finish. The alkaline based glaze was specifically created to produce the desired crackle effect, specified colour and vibrant tone.

Gemma Ball Senior Sales Manager at Craven Dunnill Jackfield reveals it was the fleur-de-lys tiles which proved the biggest challenge, as anticipated. “At 500 x 600mm the tile was the largest, hand-made, 3D tile we had ever attempted to produce and manufacturing 13 matching ones was always going to need innovative and exacting skills. Initially, the plan was to manufacture them hollow and therefore lighter for installation. However, this technique was abandoned when trials resulted in sagging and cracking. We had to re-think the manufacture and decided to make them from solid clay. During trials, several changes to the specialist moulds were required, to accommodate the extraordinary size and phenomenal weight. The final mould when filled with the liquid casting slip weighed more than 100kgs and required several people to lift it!”

Process During trials, several changes to the specialist moulds were required, to accommodate the extraordinary size and phenomenal weight. The final mould when filled with the liquid casting slip weighed more than 100kgs and required several people to lift it! Once biscuit fired, each fleur-de-lys was then dipped in the liquid casting slip weighed more than 100kgs and required several people to lift it! Once biscuit fired, each fleur-de-lys was then dipped in the liquid casting slip weighed more than 100kgs and required several people to lift it! Contacting the restaurant proved to be quite a journey. The discovery of human remains dating back to the mid 1600s and mid 1800s required archaeological investigation and re-homing. In the process of opening up a chimney, a time capsule dating back to 15 January 1925 was discovered. It contained a menu and reservation card for the New Princes’ Restaurant and, subsequently, the New Princes’ Hotel and Restaurant. In the early 20th century these were converted to offices and part of the building became the Pigalle Club, where artists including Shirley Bassey and The Beatles performed in its heyday. Work on the design of Barbecoa commenced August 2013 and building started August 2016.

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The alkaline based glaze was specifically created to produce the desired crackle effect, specified colour and vibrant tone.

Craven Dunnill Jackfield has an enviable portfolio of successfully completed, bespoke tile projects to its name. These include period restoration work, such as that for The Palace of Westminster and London Underground, in addition to a growing number of hospitality projects, including venues such as The Blues Bar at Shoreditch and Brixton, Newcastle Theatre, St. George’s Hall in Liverpool and the Crown Bar Liquor Saloon which is a National Trust property.

For further information about Craven Dunnill Jackfield: www.cravendunnill-jackfield.co.uk  T: +44 (0)1952 886124

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The ‘sky-pool’ is based on the bottom floor of a three-story fitness and leisure complex, allowing residents to swim between the two skyscrapers while taking in the views from high above New York City.

The structure creates a new landmark for the area and sets a new standard for architectural design and innovation. The ‘sky-bridge’ is also a feat of modern engineering as the structure itself is made out of steel trusses that weigh up to 190,000 kilograms.

During the construction, the contractors needed a durable fixing to secure a steel grid to the trusses to form the façade panel framework. The engineers evaluated several connection products before it was decided that Lindapter’s Type AAF clamp was the best choice for attaching the steel grid due to the on-site adjustability and high strength capacity.

The Type AAF is designed to self-adjust to suit the beam flange thickness and it also allows lateral adjustability. This allowed installers to easily move the frame into position before simply tightening the clamps with standard hand tools to secure into position. This allowed a quick and convenient installation process without the hassle of drilling or welding, helping the contractors to complete the project on time. The Type AAF is available now from your local distributor in sizes M12 to M20. www.lindapter.com
Triangles Galore
The language of geometry has a timeless beauty, and the simplicity of the triangle allows for striking effects whether used as a detail or to build a dramatic pattern. Tiles and triangles are a match made in design heaven and Spanish manufacturers are finding multiple ways to put this look into durable and versatile shape.

Playful Pastels
The soft elegance of pastel shades has a perennial appeal, creating a calm yet uplifting ambience when applied to interior design. Advances in tile technology mean that any colour or texture is possible these days and several manufacturers from Spain have embraced a more playful tone for new collections.

Sketch Book Beauty
A hand-drawn impression is a key theme in several new Spanish tile collections, with a sense of the artisan’s own personality sketched into a durable design. Chalk, pencil and paintbrush each seem to have been creatively at work in a variety of tile choices for use either large scale or as a feature section.

Line Dancing
Whether as the subtlest suggestion or as more visibly linear ridges, a number of tile collections from Spain embrace a motif of fine lines. Running closely parallel or criss-crossing at angles, this textured effect can add a hint of fascination to otherwise neutral schemes, and work wonderfully well over a large expanse of wall.

A touch of terrazzo
A classic look in Mediterranean flooring, the Terrazzo effect conjures up a sense of relaxed style while also being an eminently practical and forgiving choice. Now, however, the new Terrazzo comes with a twist...discreet shapes, metallic outlines and unusual colour choices have been added to the mix by brands reinventing a heritage look.

Retro patterns
Interlocking curving shapes and mid-century patterns and palettes have been given a modern edge... several manufacturers are offering a touch of nostalgia in an inspiring range of options for creating the freshest of schemes. In flat or relief, matt or glazed, neutral or colourful hues, these tiles come with all the quality to be expected of Spanish brands.

Tunnel Vision
Combining optical illusion with 3D textures, the visual motif of the tunnel shape is a recurring theme in some recent tile designs. Drawing in the eye with a touch of intrigue, this effect appears on a range of options for wall tiles from Spain, and allows for either subtle accents or pure visual drama.

Flora & Fauna
Nature figures strongly in the latest ceramics, with an exotic interplay of birds, flowers, wildlife and all in a riot of joyful colour. When a strong design impact is desired these new patterns can play a starring role, whether used in full mural form or as a strip of feature effects.
Get the habit of analysis - analysis will in time enable synthesis to become your habit of mind.

Frank Lloyd Wright

opinion!

this months contributors:
Richard Halderthay, Director of Communications, Saint-Gobain UK and Ireland
Tony Gittings, Managing Director, Rinnai
Nigel Blacklock, Technical Director, Bauder

“Get the habit of analysis - analysis will in time enable synthesis to become your habit of mind.”

Frank Lloyd Wright
Younger generations are also quicker to embrace digital technology, which is one of the key drivers for BIM adoption. Clearly, the benefits of BIM are much further reaching than sometimes presumed.

Author: Richard Halderthay, Director of Communications
Title: BIM Drives Collaboration
WWW.SAINT-GOBAIN.CO.UK

BIM holds designers and contractors accountable when design and performance information is shared with operational managers, working to close the gap between design and as-built performance. This is increasingly important as the industry rushes to supply the UK’s housing demand, to ensure that design to process delivery is thorough and complete.

Not only will BIM collaboration lead to greater efficiencies and cost savings within the construction industry. It will also ensure that a whole-building approach is taken. At Saint-Gobain, we believe that a fabric first approach to building is the most sustainable approach to improve the energy performance of a building, as well as providing the public with security over energy costs.

Through a collaborative approach, it is clear that BIM will benefit the architect, specifier, contractor and end user. And as research indicates that BIM adoption is increasing across the industry, there is much our industry can do to support this change, whether it be the implementation of smart methods of construction, including BIM.1 The report established that a lack of collaboration was the main challenge facing the industry, in addition to a lack of demand and low investment in suppliers who can support Smart Construction.

At its heart, BIM is a collaborative tool that reduces waste and risk of error, and facilitates the sharing of detailed information that leads to better buildings, throughout the design, construction and operational phases of a building’s life cycle. And what’s more, its popularity is increasing throughout the supply chain.

This has been reflected most recently by the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM), which has incorporated BIM into the Facilities Management Professional (FMP). Standards to reflect the growing impact it has on the working practices of FM professionals, and the 85% of industry professionals that support full integration.2

Clearly, the benefits of BIM are much further reaching than sometimes presumed. Younger generations are also quicker to embrace digital technology, which is one of the key external drivers that will shape the adoption of smart construction, and in particular, BIM.

WWW.RINNAUK.COM

Author: Tony Gittings, Managing Director
Title: Hot Water Heating Continuous Flow Systems Shows Dramatic Savings – Says Independent Report

Case study 2
This was a system for a shower block in a holiday camp, with six showers and four basin taps. For the continuous flow option, the analysis is based on a configuration of a continuous flow water heaters that each have a nominal output of 48 kW, which, for this particular application, because there is a very short run of pipe work between the water heaters and the fixtures, it is possible for the water heaters to generate water at 40ºC. The risk of legionella is overcome by the regular turnover of the system. For the energy required to deal with the instantaneous hot water demand the analysis assumes that the bulk of the hot water demand would be due to the showers.

Each shower would typically have a flow rate of around 9 litres per minute, which if mixed to 40ºC would equal to an instantaneous load of around 19 kW each, so even if there was only one shower running, the load on a single continuous flow water heater would equal to an efficiency of 95% based on the performance curve. As the hot water demand increases, the modular nature of this particular configuration would allow the 95% efficiency to be maintained for the bulk of the demand. The difference in daily fuel costs between the three systems is around 7%. The usage profile for this case study is particularly suited to continuous flow systems (i.e. high hot in-demand period over the day), which is why there is an advantage in fuel consumption over the storage systems.

Systems Employed in the Study
* Indirect fired storage systems

This consists of separate heat source and storage cylinders, where for this case study the heat source will be gas fired boilers running on 80ºC flow and 60ºC return with gross efficiency of 89%. As the hot water is stored at 60ºC in insulated cylinders there will be standing heat losses, with the heat sources electricity is assumed to be 35kW per boiler, and 80% when operating to cover fan and controls.

Direct fired storage systems
This is where the hot water storage cylinder has an in-line gas burner to directly heat the water, and the key difference with indirect fired storage systems is that they are designed to operate in condensing mode and generally achieve gross efficiency up to 96%. A disadvantage of direct fired storage systems is the standing heat losses are around 3 times higher than indirect storage cylinders.

Continuous flow systems
This is essentially a gas boiler that is designed to instantaneously heat mains water for supply directly to water fixtures without hot water storage cylinders. The key advantages with this type of hot water heating, is firstly saving in space needed for hot water cylinders and the associated standing heat losses. The challenge is instantaneous hot water demand can vary highly for most systems and therefore the continuous flow heating system needs to have a wide modulation range as well as maintaining efficiency over that range.

* The AECOM ‘Life cycle study of continuous flow water heating systems’
The adoption of new technology and processes are always going to be met with a certain degree of resistance, however if BIM delivers all that it promises to, regardless of what your role is in the construction of buildings, it will benefit you. The fundamental benefits outlined by the government are lower costs (through the reduction of waste), faster delivery and lower emissions; but beyond this is the opportunity for greater levels of quality control, collaboration, efficiency, asset and risk management, maintenance, sustainability and exploration of ‘what-if’ scenarios.

These benefits will be experienced throughout the supply chain from designers, surveyors and engineers through to suppliers, contractors and main contractors, but arguably the greatest beneficiary of BIM will be facilities managers who will not only be better informed about the composition of their buildings but also have the opportunity to become more involved in a project earlier on and influence design decisions. Using data provided in the standardised ‘Construction Operations Building Information Exchange’ (COBie) spreadsheet format, the UK government’s chosen exchange for BIM object data, clients and project teams will now be able to compare and select products based on value and life cycle costing rather than just price, which is obviously far a more sustainable approach to construction and something that fully matches our ethos at Bauder.

CHALLENGES FOR BIM

The UK is undeniably at the forefront of BIM development and adoption, much thanks to the lead and support of the government, however for BIM to realise its transformative potential further investment and change must occur. One of the key challenges that needs addressing is the broad gap in BIM knowledge and skills across the industry, with 28% of NBS survey respondents describing themselves as not confident in their BIM understanding or capabilities. BIM is currently being led by the design and construction community, however it is the responsibility of all of us in a position of knowledge to help educate and encourage those who are yet to embrace BIM, so that we as an industry can move forward.

Another significant challenge is the sheer lack of BIM objects currently available and more specifically the lack of bespoke objects available, which may explain why, according to NBS, only 37% of people use the models from project inception through to fabrication, suggesting that for most people BIM is restricted to design stages.

Generic models definitely serve a purpose and for some products are sufficient, however for companies such as ours where many system permutations exist it is paramount that as the project progresses through to construction the objects are entirely accurate and therefore have all the relevant COBie data, which can only be delivered as part of a bespoke model. Obviously specifics can easily allude to objects themselves, however this may have a detrimental effect on associated guarantees unless verified with the manufacturer and also defeat one of the main objectives of BIM, which is to reduce the amount of time and resources needed to complete designs and projects.

BAUDER AND BESPOKE BIM

At Bauder we fully acknowledge these challenges, which is why we actively support our clients and suppliers with the development of their own BIM knowledge and objects, as we realise that this can only be beneficial for everyone involved. This is also why we have created a comprehensive library of BIM objects that includes models for all of our bituminous, single-ply, cold liquid applied, hot melt and green roof system options, which can easily be dropped into 3D models and plans. These objects follow the specific standards set out by NBS that support best design practice and are available for free download in Revit format both on the National BIM Library and our own website.

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At Bauder we fully acknowledge these challenges, which is why we actively support our clients and suppliers with the development of their own BIM knowledge and objects, as we realise that this can only be beneficial for everyone involved. This is also why we have created a comprehensive library of BIM objects that includes models for all of our bituminous, single-ply, cold liquid applied, hot melt and green roof system options, which can easily be dropped into 3D models and plans. These objects follow the specific standards set out by NBS that support best design practice and are available for free download in Revit format both on the National BIM Library and our own website.

Last year we extended our BIM offering with the launch of 10 new generic waterproofing system objects and we can now also provide totally bespoke objects, which incorporate full model data in COBie format and can be accessed in many of the other popular software programmes, such as Vectorworks and Bentley, via a plug in.

In fact, our ever-evolving BIM object library now includes well over 100 models for our single ply waterproofing systems alone, covering every possible build-up permutation. In order to receive a bespoke object and the associated guarantee you will need to register your project with us so that we can in turn provide you with the required technical support to ensure that the object is most suitable to meet the exact requirements of your building. An example of this is providing project specific wind uplift calculations, as they can obviously differ significantly based on a building’s location and surrounding environment.

FUTURE OF BIM

Despite the various challenges highlighted, it is clear that while BIM continues to have the backing and financial support of the UK government it will continue to grow in popularity and adoption both in the public and private sector, with there already being significant evidence of BIM implementation in private housing, offices and leisure. This forecast is supported by the findings of NBS, where 66% of respondents stated that they expect to be using BIM on at least some of their projects in a year’s time.

Now that the Level 2 mandate has been enforced it is natural for early adopters to want to race ahead towards Level 3, which involves full collaboration between all disciplines through a shared project model, however Level 2 should first be consolidated before we as an industry look to take on additional complexities. BIM is still very much in its developmental phase and with 65% of NBS respondents believing it is not yet sufficiently standardised this will clearly be one of the industry’s initial focuses.

This standardisation relates not only to BIM objects but also the development of Product Data Templates (PDTs), which give manufacturers of less complex products that may not want the creation of an actual BIM object the opportunity to provide the necessary information in a standardised format that is required for Level 2 projects.

Another key area of potential development will be in the refurbishment sector, with the focus to this point having been very much on new build projects. Old building stock is the main contributor of energy loss in the built environment so it seems logical that people will soon look to BIM to help facilitate solutions towards this pressing issue.

What’s more, with there already being laser scanning technology available that can create digitised models of existing buildings it seems reasonable to expect significant growth in this sector to occur sooner rather than later. Realising all of the benefits of BIM may not quite be on the horizon, but with the way that the industry is now wanting its data BIM clearly represents the future of how people will be constructing buildings, and it may well get to a point where if you cannot provide data in the required format you simply will not be able to trade.
“Men can do all things if they will”
Leon Battista Alberti
New Innovations And Market-Leading Products On Show At FIT

CRL will be showcasing its wide range of architectural glass fixings and shower door hardware at FIT Show 2017, with many new innovations on display designed to make life easier for installers and fabricators.

During FIT Show, CRL will be adding to its very successful range of TAPER-LOC® frameless glass balustrade systems, with the new TAPER-LOC® ‘Adjustable’ System. Advantages of the new system include adjustable taper sets, which allow installers to adjust the angle of the glass forward/backwards, so they can be aligned with adjacent panels of glass, especially useful when cap and hand rails are not being used.

Available in a wide choice finishing including satin adonised and brushed nickel, the system makes it easy to replace broken and scratched panels. The quickest and safest way to install glass balustrades (with no scaffold required), the new system also enables installation to be completed from the safe side of the balustrade from start to finish.

Installers can also learn more about that CRL COMPACT-X, a compact sliding solution for frameless glass panels. Quick and easy to install, the system combines latest softbrake technology with minimalist design concealed within an upper track and can be used to create a seamless design on domestic and commercial applications.

Throughout the show, the CRL team will also be giving live demonstrations of the company’s Glass Detectors, the simple way to distinguish low emissivity coated glass from ordinary float glass. Fast and simple to use the Glass Detectors are an essential piece of kit for installers to ensure that the coated piece of glass is fitted on the inside of the unit, on the inner piece of glass.

Installers working on bathroom projects can also learn more about the large range of products for creating bespoke shower areas. From minimalistic hardware such as hinges, clamps, handles, door knobs and u-channels, to complete sliding shower door kits, available in a wide range of finishes including matt black, CRL has a full package of hardware and accessories for any space. See CRL on Stand K60 at FIT Show 2017. www.crlaurence.co.uk

KeeLine® Horizontal Life Line provides fall arrest/restraint protection where guardrails are not suitable or when a virtually invisible solution is required. The system can be fitted to most standard roof types including membrane, standing seam, metal profile and composite panel roofs. KeeLine® provides users with complete and continual ‘handsfree’ protection throughout the system and incorporates an inline Shock Absorber to minimise the loads to an acceptable level for both the user and structure in the event of a fall.

- Suitable for use on multiple roof types
- Conforms to EN 795:2012
- Allows spans up to 12m and 3 users
- Designed for horizontal or overhead applications

Fragile Roof Access Solutions / Mobile Man Anchor / Demarcation / Rooftop Walkways / Mobile Valley Frame / Kee Anchor Beam / Ladder Restraints / Self Closing Gate / Guardrails

www.safesite.co.uk

www.crlaurence.co.uk
Stone Show Outing For Ceralsio And CRL Quartz

CRL Stone will be unveiling its new ranges of quartz and porcelain surfaces at The Natural Stone Show. Fabricators, architects, designers, developers and retailers visiting the three-day show, held at London’s Excel, can visit Stand AA1 to see the new collections and to learn about the many advantages that quartz and porcelain offer on all types of applications.

Drawing on its 20 years’ experience in the stone industry, CRL Stone offers more than 60 colours and finishes of porcelain and quartz surfaces. CRL Quartz is a highly durable engineered quartz stone, available in 32 colours, with a polished finish and in thicknesses of 20mm and 30mm. The extra-large slabs measure up to 3200 x 1650mm. Enabling designers and architects to respond to interior trends while meeting the demands of modern living, CRL Quartz is non-porous, stain, scratch, heat and shock resistant.

Ceralsio porcelain is a beautiful, hard-wearing and versatile range, available in 27 colours and three thicknesses – 12mm for a slim worktop, 10mm for floor tiling and 6mm for wall cladding. With its many benefits including a strong resistance to wear and tear, scratch, stain and ultra-violet, Ceralsio is suitable for interior and exterior use.

A new highlight of the CRL Stone will be large displays of Ceralsio in the versatile Calacatta Gris with a Polished finish, that emulate the beauty of real marble, Rio Marron and Marquina, as well as CRL Quartz Colorado, White Water and Mystic Grey will also draw the eye. See CRL Stone on Stand AA1 at The Natural Stone Show, from 25 to 27 April at Excel London.

Aquatiere Launches New Website With A Special Page For Architects

Aquatiere is a supplier of domestic and commercial water filters and water treatment units. Aquatiere blends its own patented filter media with traditional filter media to produce the best possible filtered water in the UK. Aquatiere’s redeveloped website includes a page tailored for architects where a hand picked selection of products for architect specifications is displayed. To make specification as easy as possible, content is arranged into a specific format following architectural advice. The product image is followed by concise text about the products and their features together with installation diagrams and specifications.

Then, so that you can easily add the content to your own specifications, all the product information is available for download in PDF or MS word format for easy attachment or copy and paste into your document. www.aquatiere.co.uk

Infographic Seeks To Help With F-Gas Understanding

Mitsubishi Electric has issued a new infographic on the requirements and repercussions of the F-Gas Regulations to help explain why the legislation has been introduced and what people need to do about it. “We’ve designed this as a simple way of quickly taking in the main points which will be highly relevant to anyone involved in air conditioning, whether an installer, consultant, designer or building owner,” explains Graham Temple, marketing manager for the company’s range of split air conditioning systems. The infographic can be downloaded at a dedicated website, which also includes a short animated video explaining the effect of certain refrigerants on global warming and why new products are being introduced. “We hope this helps increase understanding and are also talking directly with customers to ensure that we as an industry have all the information needed,” ends Temple. To download the free infographic and view the animation, visit www.timeforr32.co.uk/pr3.
Paint Away – The Ultimate Paint Stripper!

Stripping paint and varnish from surfaces can be a difficult and laborious task, requiring time, patience and a lot of elbow grease. Enter Paint Away – The ultimate paint and varnish stripper. The new triple strength, non-drip formula of Paint Away can remove up to 3 layers of paint or varnish from masonry, wood, metals and most common building substrates in just one easy and fast application.

Simply brush the paint on to the painted area, leave for 20 minutes and watch as the paint begins to blister and crack, before scraping the area to fully remove. Paint Away can be used with most paints and varnishes on vertical and horizontal applications. www.everbuild.co.uk

The VEKA UK Group Secures Secured By Design For Three More Years

Industry-leading PVC-U systems supplier, The VEKA UK Group, has been awarded membership once again of the national crime prevention initiative, Secured by Design, for both its VEKA and Halo brands. The VEKA UK Group partnered with Secured by Design several years ago. Secured by Design was established in 1989 and works to reduce crime by bringing Police Forces, developers and planners together at the design stage to include security into the built environment, such as natural surveillance and landscaping, and by encouraging manufacturers of products, such as doors and windows, to attain SBD’s coveted ‘Police Preferred Specification’. www.veka.com

M&S Paving Crowned Installer Of The Year at National Brett Approved Installer Awards

Dan Salt and his team at M&S Paving were crowned as Installer of the Year at the National Brett Approved Installer Awards, held at The Buffy, in an evening that celebrated the hard work of Brett installers across the country. M&S Paving had already won the Installer of the Year award in the North East Region in February, as well as being announced as a Premier Member.

However, going one step further and winning the top national prize marks the high point in a career as a Brett Approved Installer which began with an initial chance meeting only three years earlier. As well as providing a professional service of the very highest standards, using a Brett Approved Installer provides the peace of mind of 5-year Installert Guarantee and the 10-year Brett Product Guarantee. www.brettlaying.co.uk

Hybrid VRF Named Air Conditioning Product Of The Year

Mitsubishi Electric is celebrating further industry success after its innovative Hybrid VRF (HVRF) solution was named Air Conditioning Product of the Year at the ARI News Awards 2017. The awards reward excellence and innovation in the air conditioning and refrigeration sector. Hosted by comedian Ed Byrne, this year’s event at Chelsea Harbour Hotel attracted over 240 guests from around the air conditioning and refrigeration industry.

Mitsubishi Electric’s Hybrid VRF system scaps the Air Conditioning Product of the Year award after an independent panel of industry judges recognised its unique ability to reduce running costs and maximise efficiency in a wide range of applications and environments. The Hybrid VRF solution is capable of simultaneous heating and cooling and because it uses water in a simplified two pipe design, there is no need to install refrigerant leak detection in occupied spaces.

Russell Jones, PR and Communications Manager at Mitsubishi Electric, and Graham Temple, Marketing Manager, were on hand to receive the award from host Ed Byrne and Federation of Environmental Trade Associations (FETA) President Russell Beattie. www.hybridvrf.co.uk

Find Everything Aluminium In AluFoldDirect’s New Brochure

“Everything Aluminium” is the brilliant new brochure from AluFoldDirect, helping installers show their customers what can be achieved in aluminium doors and windows. “We’ve listened to what installers want and created an incredible coffee-table brochure with stunning installation photos, so people can see the possibilities in aluminium windows and doors,” says Craig Milne, Managing Director at AluFoldDirect.

The ‘Everything Aluminium’ brochure features the full AluFoldDirect aluminium range including bi-folding doors, sliding doors, slimline windows, roof lanterns, RD1 Entrance Doors and commercial windows and doors.

Craig continues: “It’s important that the brochure reflects the quality of the aluminium products we make, to help our customers win business. We know that many of our customers work on commercial as well as residential projects, so we’ve added a section showing our range of Secure by Design commercial glazing.”

The 28-page brochure includes details about the hardware available for each product, carefully selected by AluFoldDirect to enhance performance and aesthetics. There is also information on the colour options available, with advice on the most on-trend colours, held in stock by AluFoldDirect for faster lead times. The brochure is available in print or digital format – to request or download the Everything Aluminium brochure, visit www.alufolddirect.co.uk
Panel Systems Makes Major Investment In Spray Booth Technology

Sheffield-based Panel Systems, a leading manufacturer of architectural, decorative and composite panels, has made a significant investment in two new adhesive spray booths to meet the growing demand for its services from the construction industry.

The company, based on Parkwood Industrial Estate, has invested £85,000, which includes a fully automated, programmable system and a smaller manual booth for bespoke projects.

Sue Stafford, Operations Manager at Panel Systems, said: “The new automated spray booth gives better control of spray pattern and adhesive. This will help enhance product performance when bonding panels and also ensures that minimal adhesive is wasted. The system is fully programmable and should save time and improve efficiency in our factory. The manual booth will give us greater flexibility to bond panels using bespoke adhesive to meet customer requirements.”

This latest investment comes less than two years since Panel Systems invested £180,000 in a new CNC punch machine to enable it to expand its metal fabrication services to customers. This equipment meant that the company could create more complex pressed metal components from steel and aluminium for the architectural and O&I (Original Equipment Manufacturer) markets.

Panel Systems provides the construction industry with architectural composite panels which are used by window and curtain walling contractors to create stunning facades for new and refurbished buildings. The company also fabricates a wide range of external cladding boards such as Trepa, Eternit and Rockpanel to complement its architectural panel products. www.panelsystems.co.uk

Pop Up Power Supplies® Offer Retractable Service Units Which Supply Electricity, Water And Air To Public Spaces

Ranging from historic sites, town squares, universities, market places, parks and sports stadiums, Pop Up Power Supplies® offer a range of practical and effective retractable service units which provide a safe, secure and client outdoor power source. Due to their retractable nature, the units can be used in a variety of places that require usability and the ability to disappear when not required. They offer possibilities for more varied uses, giving styling new life long after their planned functions.

A series of standard products are available as well as bespoke units with recessed tops that can accommodate different paving. Pop Up Power Supplies® also supply electricity through In-Ground limits with flip top lids and Street Rollouts in a variety of designs to suit the surroundings. They launched their new range of Flip Lid Power Units at this year’s Civis Expo, part of UK Construction Week 2016.

Featuring a new and improved design, with a new hydraulic system to open the lid, a sturdier case, and a more practical arrangement for the power sockets and cables within the unit, the new In-Ground unit from Pop Up Power Supplies® is an important development for the company. Pop Up Power Supplies® have worked with clients up and down the country, providing efficient, sympathetic utility solutions in busy public areas. wwwpopuppower.co.uk

‘TOPHAT’ - The Ultimate Guarantee Of Lead Quality

In situations where non-BS EN12588 lead has been used there have been documented cases of fatigue cracking. This is why British Standard material has a 5% limit on its thickness for all ‘codes’ and provides a benchmark for quality against which few would argue.

As a result, 2iM group companies Associated Lead Mills and Jamestown Metals, which have long promoted the need to use only material of the highest quality, have introduced a guarantee scheme designed to ensure that the architect, contractor and merchant can benefit jointly from use of British Standard lead and the Lead Sheet Association 50-year material guarantee. However, the ‘TOPHAT’ scheme, a mnemonic for Traceability Of Product, Hallmarking And Transparency of source, goes considerably further than that.

British Standard rolled lead sheet manufactured by another group company, Envirowales, is produced predominantly using material recovered from used car batteries. The capacity of the operation exceeds the large tonnage sold by Associated Lead Mills and Jamestown Metals, which have long promoted the need to use only material of the highest quality, have introduced a guarantee scheme designed to ensure that the architect, contractor and merchant can benefit jointly from use of British Standard lead and the Lead Sheet Association 50-year material guarantee. However, the ‘TOPHAT’ scheme, a mnemonic for Traceability Of Product, Hallmarking And Transparency of source, goes considerably further than that.

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Balustrade
Innovation Brings
More View, For Less

SINCE the early 1900’s, when structural glass was developed, glass balustrades have hardly changed. But now an innovation pioneered in Surrey is making designers think again. A new balustrading system, known as Hybrid®, is opening up design possibilities for architects while at the same time saving money for developers. The Hybrid® is a revolutionary design, using clever engineering within a slim handrail to solve the ever-present conundrum of cost versus aesthetics.

Posts or Frameless

Until now glass balustrades have fallen into one of two categories: laminated structural glass balustrades (known as ‘Frameless’), or balustrades supported by regular steel uprights anchored to the floor. Frameless balustrades are generally seen as the top of the market and have long been favoured by architects designing for high-end clients. The minimalist look leaves nothing to see besides the view. Some people however find the lack of a handrail a drawback, and remain suspicious of leaning on something they can’t see.

Hyper® way

Surrey-based Balconette were determined to find a better way to support glass balustrades, and to satisfy customers who wanted the effect of frameless glass at an affordable cost. The result is the ‘Hybrid®’ system. The Hybrid® breakthrough is the use of a hidden cantilever, encased within a slim anodised aluminium handrail. The design provides excellent stability, but importantly allows much longer runs of glass with no, or few, upright posts.

Since the handrail sits on top of standard 10mm toughened (rather than structural) glass there are several cost benefits: the glass costs less, it reduces weight, and installation is much simpler. Hybrid® systems typically cost about 60% less than structural systems. The choice of 10mm glass also improves clarity, avoiding the heavy green tint often associated with thicker structural glass.

Postless runs of glass up to four metres become possible with the new design and for a three-sided balustrade square, up to 12 metre postless spans can be achieved. Where curves are included the postless length can extend well beyond that, offering new scope to create curves of virtually any radius and ‘S’-shaped bends. The handrail is secured to its ends to a wall or other structural element, with the glass secured by a thin floor-mounted track.

Good feedback

Customer feedback suggests that the Hybrid® look may be even more popular than fully frameless systems, with the presence of a comfortable handrail an important feature for many.

Developers are also adopting the system. Architects Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Inc., specified the system for 377 balconies in a residential block at the $150 million Baltimore Wharf mixed development built by Ballymore Group. The architects originally wanted structural glass to sit on top of steel balcony structures, as a key feature of the buildings’ facades. The Hybrid® design achieved a similar aesthetic effect at a substantially lower cost on the original design. www.balconette.co.uk

Soundsecure Internal Apartment Doorsets From Premdor, Secure By Design

Specifically created to meet the complex and demanding Building Regulations relating to apartment internal entrance locations, Soundsecure fully complies with all performance and legislative requirements where security, fire and noise reduction performance are of paramount importance. The factory hung doorsets are supplied with Premdor’s accredited FD30 or FD60 fire doors, fully tested for fire performance against BSI Kitemark Part 22, fire-rated and are supplied complete with intumescent and combined acoustic, smoke and draught seals as standard. Additionally, the doorsets carry a 10 year guarantee.

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Stikall Is On A Roll With The Launch
Of A New Tape

Just when you thought you’d seen it all from the Stikall range, Everbuild – A Sika Company launch Stikall on a Roll – an invisible double-sided tape with extreme power. Stikall for use when bonding glass or clear surfaces as well as many other applications, Stikall on a Roll bonds virtually all materials with outstanding adhesion, both indoors and outdoors.

Available in 10mm x 2.5mtr rolls. Stikall on a Roll is packaged within a high quality printed hanging sleeve for easy display and features the same instantly recognisable design as the rest of the Stikall range. For information on Stikall on a Roll or any other product within the Everbuild or Sika ranges, contact your sales representative, call the sales office on 0113 240 2424 or visit www.everbuild.co.uk

First FIT Show Appearance For Reynaers

Leading aluminium systems company Reynaers is planning on making a big splash for its First FIT Show appearance at this year’s FIT Show, taking place in Halls 4-8 at the NEC from 23-25 May. Reynaers will be showcasing its range of aluminium window and door products and has some big, brand new systems that will feature on its stand, N10.

Marketing Manager Rebecca Cope said: “We are planning on making a big splash for our First FIT Show appearance at this year’s FIT Show, taking place in Halls 4-8 at the NEC from 23-25 May. Reynaers will be showcasing its range of aluminium window and door products and has some big, brand new systems that will feature on its stand, N10.”

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A Variety Of Choices With Trespa Sunblinds

For over 55 years, Trespa has been using its experience to provide designers, architects and homeowners with solutions on the design and execution of durable facade solutions. It is a company that works on designing buildings and undertaking renovation work, both in terms of energy efficiency and aesthetics. Sunblinds made with Trespa® Meteon® High performance panels meet the criteria and can be installed with the variety and types of system available, providing the perfect solution.

Superimposed Solutions - These are designed with a dual aesthetic and energy comfort function, thus adding an ingenious touch during the design phase which affords the building a unique singularity.

Fixed Systems - Following a detailed study of the building’s location and orientation, together with the lighting needs, these systems are simple in terms of design and application, whilst maintaining an excellent summer-winter thermal balance.

Horizontal Solutions - These are the most common and imitate traditional window blinds. Clearly related to more traditional aesthetic concepts, they are somewhat more effective in improving a building’s energy efficiency.

Trespa® Meteon® is easy to handle and requires no treatment for edges as there is no risk of delamination. Its closed surface practically withstands dirt accumulation, keeping the product smooth and easy to clean. The entire Trespa® Meteon® range has been subjected to extensive durability testing for weather and UV-resistance. This enables Trespa to offer a 10 year worldwide limited warranty. www.trespa.com
Doors, Windows & Glazing

Digital solution

Kalwall Creates Healthy Shelter

Around 8 million people a year are expected to be sheltering under Kalwall at the beautifully-designed new bus station at West Croydon.

Designed by Transport for London Architects, this is an unusual example of how translucent Kalwall can offer many different advantages above its normal use for translucent traditional building cladding and rooflighting.

The normal choice of construction for a translucent and weatherproof canopy would be to glaze the roof with glass. However in-house architect Martin Eriksson and the project team at TfL realised that Kalwall offered a better solution in this location which would not only solve the brief and contribute to a better design but would offer many other benefits over traditional glazing.

For example, since Kalwall is much lighter than glass it meant that the supporting structure needed to be less strong and far less chunky.

In addition, not only would the shelter be less high but the vertical supports would be less obstructive and open up a better view of the environment including the very attractive church nearby which had previously been blocked from the view of waiting passengers.

Unlike conventional glazing, highly insulating Kalwall is far more attractive than glass while eliminating shadows and glare and the stark contrasts of light and shade; improving the experience for passengers below. Also, due to the way it diffuses natural daylight downwards and at night reduces vertical illumination and reflection upwards, it controls light pollution on the surrounding high rise buildings.

www.structura-uk.com/kalwall

Old Masters Protected By Histoglass

Arguably the most important building in the entire canon of British architectural history* (Jane Sidell, Historic England), this shockingly modern building – for its time – was designed by Inigo Jones and commissioned by Anne of Denmark.

Queens House is now part of the Royal Museums Greenwich complex. It houses a stunning collection of paintings, including one by Orazio Gentileschi from the Royal Collection, commissioned by Henrietta Maria and Charles I for the house in the seventeenth century. The new exhibition also includes hundreds of paintings from the Greenwich collection, including works by Canaletto, Hogarth, Romney and Stubbs, and the magnificent Armada portrait of Elizabeth I, once owned by Sir Francis Drake.

In order to help protect these masterpieces, Histoglass supplied its MONO system featuring cylinder glass, including UV and solar protection and increased security ratings. The system achieves an impressive acoustic and thermal energy performance.

www.histoglass.co.uk

As market leaders in digital technology, Schueco have used their technical expertise to produce a Parametric 3D Façade that can be designed as a straightforward system solution, delivering the affordability and cost certainty of a series product. Highly insulated with U values down to 0.5 W/m²K, the surface elements can be transparent or opaque.

Planning tools include ‘intelligent’ façade modules for CAD programs that deliver a 99% reduction in detailing time. For German engineering made in Britain, there’s only one name. www.schueco.co.uk
Schueco UK Introduces Enhanced Version Of Slimline Façade System

Leading sustainable building envelope specialist, Schueco UK, has announced new developments to its unique, ultra-slimline FWS 35 PD panorama design façade system. Shown at BAU 2017, the enhanced system delivers even greater visual elegance and transparency, the option of sun-shading and two levels of burglar resistance. A major innovation is the introduction of an all-glass corner solution whose design obviates the need for intrusive profiles or pull-push rods by transferring the glass load directly to the adjacent mullions. The result is wider unobstructed views and greater transparency from inside and a sleek contemporary look outside.

With Passive House certification for the top Schueco FWS 35 PD 55 version, the range offers thermal insulation levels as low as 0.79 W/m²K and can accommodate double and triple-glazed units from 22 mm to 50 mm thickness. Where ventilation is required, the new Schueco FWS 35 PD façade can incorporate Schueco AWS 114 opening window units; operated either manually or mechatronically with a concealed Schueco TIPTronic actuator.

Also seen at BAU for the first time was the company’s new concept window, Schueco AWS 75 PD SI, an ultra-slim turn-tilt window which can be integrated into the Schueco FWS 35 PD façade. Recognising the importance of solar shading for large glazed areas, the Schueco FWS 35 PD façade offers two newly introduced methods of attachment by means of bolts or brackets. Discreet connection components are able to accommodate a wide variety of shading units despite the Schueco FWS 35 PD façade’s very slim profiles. www.schueco.co.uk

Glassolutions Brings Secure, Sustainable Glazing To Mammoth Elephant & Castle Project

State of the art glazing solutions and a strong understanding of the needs of inner-city dwellers has helped GLASSOLUTIONS to secure a major role in the creation of two new residential and retail spaces in Elephant & Castle, part of one of the largest regeneration projects currently taking place in Central London. GLASSOLUTIONS is working on the latest phase, West Grove.

West Grove aims to create state-of-the-art retail and residential spaces, with GLASSOLUTIONS providing the design and installation of aluminium windows, doors and curtain walling for the phase. With daylight-maximising inset balconies, residential blocks arranged to avoid single aspect north-facing homes and fittings chosen to save on water wastage and fuel consumption, the West Grove development was designed with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind.

The installation was required to be Secured by Design compliant, as well as adhering to the professional values of the Lifetime Homes Standard and DDA requirements. To create the buildings’ envelopes, GLASSOLUTIONS has specified Wicona aluminium systems fitted with SGG STADIP SILENCE acoustic safety glass for both the outer and inner panes. This specification incorporates SGG’s popular PLANICLEAR coating to reduce tinting, maximise light transmission and increase solar gain, improving the overall energy rating of the glazing installation.

GLASSOLUTIONS’ 16mm argon gas 90% filled sealed units will incorporate 1.5mm acoustic clear PVB interlayers for resilience and noise reduction, as well as a black warm edge spacer to reduce thermal bridging. With anticipated U values of around 0.88 and g values of 45%, the specification will provide the ideal internal climate with optimum natural daylight.

For more information, please visit http://glassolutions.co.uk/en-gb/news/glassolutions-brings-secure-sustainable-glazing-mammoth-elephant-castle-project
Saint-Gobain Building Glass Launches Advanced Solar Control Glass

Saint-Gobain Building Glass has announced the launch of its most recent product innovation for the commercial glazing market with a new addition to its popular SGG COOL-LITE XTREME solar control range. SGG COOL-LITE XTREME 50/22 II is a high-quality solar control glass, with the unique positioning of being the most selective triple silver product available on the market. With a selectivity of 2.24 – the best available in Europe - SGG COOL-LITE XTREME 50/22 II enables designers and specifiers to create comfortable working environments with high levels of natural daylight but without the overheating heat of the sun. It also reduces the need for costly and energy-hungry air conditioning systems and can therefore reduce a building’s carbon footprint. The product delivers a high light transmittance (47%) to allow a good amount of natural daylight to illuminate a room, combined with an extremely low solar factor of only 0.21, which blocks 79% of the sun’s heat. It also delivers a low centre pane thermal insulation of 1.0W/m2K, maximising heat retention within the building. Incorporating SGG COOL-LITE XTREME 50/22 II in a commercial building can contribute towards a building’s BREEAM points and boost the overall BREEAM rating.

Exhibition Centre Liverpool is the first UK project to fully utilise the high-performance coating and features the product across the full length of its glass façade. www.saint-gobain.com or www.saint-gobain-glass.com

New Premium Oak Factory Glazed Fire Doors From Premdor

K Range doors are one of three ranges from the Vicaima Classic collection. Classic P, with traditional raised and fielded panels and Classic F, a flat panel design are also available. Download a copy of the new Classic K Range brochure from the Vicaima website. For these and other innovative designs and products from the many Vicaima collections, visit the Vicaima website www.vicaima.com alternatively, call 01793 532313 for additional information.

In addition to the ever popular veneer options, Vicaima have also extended the range to include 6 new factory stained Ash finishes and for that ultra-smooth pure look, a new Satin White finish. All doors are available with fire and security options and can also be supplied as Portaform matching door and frame systems where required.

Jack Aluminium Opens Commercial Doors At Alufoldirect's Design Centre

Exhibition Centre Liverpool is the first UK project to fully utilise the high-performance coating and features the product across the full length of its glass façade. www.saint-gobain.com or www.saint-gobain-glass.com

Park Regis Hotel Specifies Comar

International hotelier Park Regis have opened their first European hotel in Birmingham and Comar Architectural Aluminium Systems were selected to provide the façade with curtain walling, windows and entrances. The key element of design for the Rofuto Sky Bar was to allow diners to enjoy clear uninterrupted views across the city, a double height Comar 6EFT curtain wall was selected as it offers strength with a sleek 50mm sight-line. The profiles where finished in RAL 7016 Matt Grey which seamlessly blends into the mahogany, cream and gold interior. Moving to the base of the building, Comar 6EFT capped curtain walling was used. www.comar-also.co.uk

Interior design like all fashion evolves with the times and so the march of contemporary movement can often seen relentless. Of course a sense of tradition and warmth for the past often shapes our thinking with modern decor and so it is hardly surprising that Vicaima has seen a trend for panelled doors making a noticeable return over the past year. In response to this latest vogue, Vicaima have reinvented their Classic K range to provide a modern twist to an old favourite with some exciting new finishes.

The Vicaima Classic K Range takes elements of shaker styling but with a more up-to-date and appealing look for the modern generation of interior panelled doors. Available in 1, 2, 3 and 4 panel designs, together with glazed options, Classic K doors offer a solid construction with real veneer faces, together with white or printed for on-site painting finish.

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K Range doors are one of three ranges from the Vicaima Classic collection. Classic P, with traditional raised and fielded panels and Classic F, a flat panel design are also available. Download a copy of the new Classic range brochure from the Vicaima website. For these and other innovative designs and products from the many Vicaima collections, visit the Vicaima website www.vicaima.com alternatively, call 01793 532313 for additional information.
Ahmarra have completed a fit-out sub-contract for the bedroom and corridor doors for this stunning 5 star hotel which overlooks Hyde Park. The 5 star COMO Metropolitan London combines sophisticated design and a vibrant prime position on Park Lane.

Ahmarra manufactured and installed bedroom doors for the 144 bedrooms and suites. Pale sycamore veneers were carefully selected by the interior designer, Forme UK, for the bathroom and bedroom entrance doors to complement the light and clean interior of the hotel. The entrance doors also featured a striking bespoke design incorporating a separate matching side panel separated with a band of quarter cut American Black Walnut veneer, which uniquely also have the room numbers inscribed into it. The cool, sophisticated design balances the contemporary and the timeless—a rare achievement for a London modern luxury hotel. The understated style is clean and simple yet warm—light woods and sun-soaked whites with accents of vibrant yellow. Light floods all through floor-to-ceiling windows whilst the uncluttered design and intuitive technology create a haven of calm.

Ahmarra have a long association with the Metropolitan, having completed a fit-out contract for the hotel previously. We are delighted to be associated with one of London’s most prestigious hotels and long may the relationship continue” commented Richard Panrucker, Ahmarra Installation’s Director. As one of London’s premier joinery contractors, Ahmarra have completed a number of projects for iconic luxury hotels including such brands as InterContinental, Mondrian, Hilton, Apex, Grange, Mandarin Oriental and Sol Melia. www.ahmarra.co.uk

Ahmarra Supply And Install Doors For COMO Metropolitan London

Tormax Fit For Gym Access

TORMAX automatic doors deliver outstanding reliability even under near-constant use, which is why they were specified to work with Essential Aluminium Ltd, to supply and install the entrance to the new Pure Gym in Ipswich, which is open to members 24/7. Consisting of two sets of folding door leaves, the contemporary black, TORMAX automatic TOP Folder system opens smoothly from the centre, quickly and silently, every time. Located within the multi-million pound redeveloped Buttermarket Shopping Centre in Ipswich town centre, Pure Gym recognises that the traditional working day of 9-5pm no longer applies. "We are open all day, every day," confirms Gym Manager, Oliver Gordon. "The facility is always busy with members coming and going whatever the hour.”

The TORMAX TOP Folder is a complete, pre-fabricated door system for opening widths between 80-140 cm. With its elegant folding principle, the Folder is a real space-saving automatic door; an ideal application if dimensions of depth and width are minimal. Elegant door profiles optimise sealing and thanks to a well-designed solution, installation time is reduced to a minimum. An intelligent processor control simplifies commissioning and automatically maximises motion performance.

As with the complete range of TORMAX entrances, the FOLDER is fitted with both vertical and horizontal threshold sensors, as well as a sensitive auto-reverse feature, which comes into operation when any obstacle is encountered during opening or closing. With some visitors to the gym being less-able or requiring wheelchair access, it was essential that the facility was fully DDA-compliant. www.tormax.co.uk
Pendock Boxes Clever On Children’s Ward

Middlesex Ltd. has specified six column casings from Pendock, the British casings and enclosures specialist, for a ward in the Newham University Hospital, on behalf of main contractor VINCI Construction. The sub-contractor was looking to create a calming and minimalist environment for Rainbow Ward, which specializes in paediatric and adolescent services including oncology, surgical and medical care.

Pendock’s initial involvement was to recommend and then supply six column casings of varying sizes, which the company advised should be laminated for ease of cleaning and assist with infection control.

To create the two 3000x400mm casings positioned against one wall of the reception area, three sided, 8mm thick profiles were specified in Super White, with the inner collars at the top and bottom of the 2700mm tall structures being finished in brushed aluminium to offer visual contrast.

The full columns – of the same height but using 10 mm thick material – were manufactured in an identical finish, though all are slightly different in shape, this very much being the advantage of specifying casings from Pendock, which is able to create bespoke solutions thanks to its dedicated design team. It should be stressed, however, that Pendock is also able to provide a wide range of off-the-shelf products and accessories that installers can access on a next day basis if required. The column casings for Rainbow Ward were manufactured as pre-formed semi-circles and other sections, which are then laminated at Pendock’s factory. As well as being easy to keep clean, the highly durable construction is also well able to withstand knocks from trolleys and beds. www.pendock.co.uk

Introducing The New Geberit Bathroom Collection

The market-leading sanitary brand which brought you Geberit AquaClean, Geberit Duofix and Geberit Mapress is proud to announce the launch of the Geberit Bathroom Collection.

The Geberit Bathroom Collection offers exciting design solutions for any space, with a wide range of standard and short projection washbasins and toilets, bidets, mirrored cabinets and cleverly designed furniture with generous storage. Function pervades throughout with innovations including Geberit Rimfree® toilets, Geberit AquaClean shower toilets, the Geberit Duofresh odour extraction unit and advanced KeraTect® ceramic glazes.

The collection which includes the sophisticated Geberit Acanto series where the Geberit DuoFresh odour extraction unit and advanced KeraTect® ceramic glazes.

One such material library seeing a growing demand for its services is Innerspace Cheshire, a Nottingham and London based business which operates under a “MATERIALS FOR DESIGN” mantra. In a showcase at London’s recent Surface Design Show, it presented a collection of products which showed the huge diversity currently available to interior designers and architects.

So what’s new? Here’s a snapshot of some of Innerspace’s latest new surface products:

**Naturale Engineered Panel** - Positioned for feature walls and furniture, Innerspace’s natural bark panels continue the trend for biophilic materials, offering easy to specify products in birch, poplar and cork.

**Real Metal Panels and coated fabric** - Another eye-catching feature wall and furniture solution, Innerspace has expanded the metallic possibilities by offering metal finishes of brass, copper, aluminium and iron on virtually any substrate.

**Coluett marble-effect solid surface** - Innerspace has introduced the Coluett series from Markus to bring convenience, practicality and durability of solid surface together with the beauty of a Carrara marble. Again this range is suited to feature walls and furniture.

**Charred timber panels** - An eye-catching finish is promised with Innerspace’s charred timber panels, available in planks and boards with a choice of light or dark charring. One creative way to apply these panels is to use alongside mosaic panels to deliver a beautiful contrast.

**Fresh colours in woven vinyl flooring** - Innerspace’s new, extended woven vinyl collection from 2m2C brings specifiers strong trend colours including sage green, baby blue and chesty greys. These products are suitable for commercial, hospitality and residential floors.

Innerspace Cheshire: Where Natural Bark Meets Concrete On A Roll

Staying on top of the latest trends to deliver visually appealing and original surface finishes is no easy task given the overwhelming innovation that ensures materials manufacturers are constantly bringing new launches to market. This flow has seen the emergence of the ‘materials library’ which, like any good distributor, is important in easing the pressure for hard-pressed designers by reducing the time they need to spend researching and sourcing the latest innovations for client projects.

Knowing and tracking that the freshest ideas can be accessed alongside tried and tested products is extremely valuable.

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Innovations in carpet tiles - Available in mix and match shapes and textures, Innerspace’s new woven carpet tile range provides flatweave carpet in a carpet tile for use in commercial and hospitality applications. The ECO MXD collection from Carpet Concept offers five textures with the scope to create custom floor designs. Innerspace has also introduced new ranges of heavy duty textured carpet tiles from Tesco to coordinate with the best-selling Linear Spirit collection – this offers a designer carpet result without the budget. Ideal for commercial and hospitality flooring, these carpet tiles are all bleach cleanable, heavy duty and come with 100% recycled backing.

Inspire, connect and support - Innerspace’s chief materials librarian, MD Ian Lamb, says: “Our specification and interior design customers love the fact that we can connect them with the superb innovations that manufacturers around the world are bringing to market – which is why our materials library approach works so well for them. Whilst trends and tastes are always changing, there is no doubt that we’ve very well placed to bring a concept to fruition, with a trusted supplier network that the entire supply chain can rely on to deliver the right result, first time, every time.”

Founded in 2006 by Ian and his co-director Richard Russell, Innerspace remains independent and family run, dedicated to its core values. Its collection of products offers architects and interior designers a way to creatively transform both interior and exterior surfaces, with its decorative coatings making it possible to achieve bespoke surfaces designed specifically to realise a vision and artistic intent. www.innerspacecheshire.co.uk
Soundtect: A Sound Solution For Poor Room Acoustics

The popular interior design trends of recent years utilise visually beautiful, functional and durable materials in harmony to deliver workspaces, public spaces, luxury homes with excellent aesthetic results. Glass partitions, hardwood floors, ceramic tiles and the extensive use of concrete to achieve an industrial feel typify contemporary indoor environments as designers seek to maximise visual appeal and approval ratings from building users.

This general trend, however, has seen a growing issue around room acoustics. As softer and textured surfaces have fallen out of favour, some spaces have failed to meet the intended user satisfaction levels because of sound reverberation within the room. ‘Reverberation’ is the persistence of sound in a space after a sound source has been stopped, and it is timed in seconds for the sound decay by 60dB after its source has stopped. Hard surfaces contribute to higher levels of reverberation which can make rooms unbearably noisy or make simple, low level conversations difficult to hear.

Taking inspiration from the design of recording studios in which sound reverberation is minimised, a new generation of interior wall panels is helping architects and interior designers make the most of smooth, hard surface materials without compromising room acoustics. The range of products developed by Soundtect, which provides effective solutions for newbuild and refurbishment projects, adds significant absorption and control properties to a wall or ceiling and in doing so offers design feature potential.

Acoustic panel solution - Unlike addressing sound transmission issues – i.e. preventing unwanted noise entering or leaving a room – which will often involve finding ways to hide insulation between dividing walls and floors, Soundtect’s approach is very much about visibility and unlocking the potential for acoustic panels to add aesthetic appeal. This is achieved by a portfolio of polyester based products which share the common principles of being easy to specify and install, and offer sustainability assurance thanks to their high level of recycled content and post-use recyclability.

Depending on the product, Soundtect’s solutions will achieve a performance level of up to Class A Absorption – that is a noise reduction coefficient of up to 1.0 NRC. This enables designers to tackle even the most challenging applications, with nine products providing different aesthetic and performance options. Soundtect’s latest product, which debuted at the recent Surface Design Show is the Fins. This versatile and lightweight product gives the appearance of waves in wall or ceiling mounted baffles to represent visual movement and eye catching design. The 1000 x 300 x 46mm panels are easy to install and clean, with a fire rating suitable for Class 1 and Class 0 and noise reduction level of 1.0 NRC.

The new Fins product sits alongside established Soundtect’s solutions including Wave, Cubism, Forest and Prism. These products offer different designs around a common principle of being textured, insulated panels. But for applications where more linear, cleaner surfaces are the ambition, the Soundtect Class and Class A products are more suitable. These deliver a high acoustic performance of up to 1.0 NRC whilst offering a smooth surface.

Anna Dawson, Head of Sales and Marketing at Soundtect, says: “Poor acoustics inside a room can be detrimental to how users feel about the quality of the space and its suitability to work, learn, socialise, etc. But, as our products are demonstrating with specifiers and building operators across the world, acoustic issues can be addressed extremely effectively, and in a way that adds to the aesthetics of a room. The ease in which Soundtect products can be specified and installed also means the process to resolve acoustic issues results in minimal disruption to the day-to-day function of a room.”

www.soundtect.com

Interior Film Used On Superyacht Refurbishment Project

Interior Film from David Clouting has been used for many refurbishment applications; from shops and restaurants to hotels and even airports. Its popularity and range of applications recently brought it to the attention of the WISG Group who used Interior Film, which is certified for use in the marine industry, in the refurbishment of a luxury superyacht. The company recently undertook the interior refurbishment of a 38m classic Feadship yacht on behalf of Pendennis, a world renowned custom build and refit superyacht yard based in Falmouth. Interior Film manufactured by LG Hausys, is an innovative self-adhesive, decorative film, quick and easy to install. It’s so versatile it can be applied to almost any interior surface. As part of the refurbishment of the Feadship superyacht, Interior Film was used to refurbish a series of staircases leading to rooms below deck, its excellent flexibility and adhesion provided the perfect finish, even to the complex shapes of the staircases.

www.davidclouting.co.uk

Armourcoat Acoustic Creates A Calm And Inviting Environment

Decorative specialists Armourcoat have introduced a new Acoustic Plaster system designed to optimise the acoustics of interior spaces. From large theatre halls, offices, classrooms, hotel receptions and private residences the use of hard sound reflective surfaces such as glass, wood and stone can cause excessive sound reverberation which leads to unpleasant noise levels. The Armourcoat Acoustic Plaster System offers a clean and smooth mineral surface that can be applied seamlessly over large expanses to both flat and curved surfaces. The correct control of sound can create a calmer and more pleasant environment.

Compriing of a special mineral wool composite panel that is bonded onto the substrate and finished with a seamless layer, the Armourcoat Acoustic Plaster System offers an elegant marble-based plaster finish while allowing sound energy to pass through the surface. The zero VOC system, which consists of 80% recycled material, achieves class 0 fire rating and a Class A Noise Reduction Coefficient rating. An array of global projects for an impressive list of international blue chip clients in the residential, hospitality and boutique retail sectors have established Armourcoat as a leading supplier of high quality surface finishes.

www.armourcoat.com

Solus Ceramics Adds A Touch Of Flavour To Unique Italian Restaurant

Leading tile supplier Solus Ceramics has brought a sense of style and individuality to a new and unique sour dough pizzeria in Crystal Palace, South East London. FOUR HUNDRED RABBITS is a restaurant with an eclectic Adoc twist. Wanting to capture the mood of this unique combination, the designers created an environment that was fun, simple, inventive and a destination that was far from traditional. The design of FOUR HUNDRED RABBITS was kept simple using standard timbers and pegboard to create a layered backdrop to the colour and artwork. Instead of using conventional Italian colours for the aesthetic, the designers specified Solus Ceramics Bright and Modular ranges and opted for a modern approach by transforming red and white into pink and jade. These imaginative colours can be seen in the tile and grout selection, with pink tiles and pink grout applied to the bar front and counter and the jade tiles used in the bathroom.

www.solusceramics.com
Acoustic Panels Aid History

A significant new building project has recently been completed at one of the National Trust’s most popular properties in Hampshire, Mottisfont Abbey. The new development, situated on the banks of the River Test, aims to improve the entrance facilities at this historic priory and country estate – visited annually by over 250,000 people. Designed by Burd Haward Architects, the new welcome buildings are arranged around a central courtyard, raised above ground level to avoid risk of flooding and impact on the existing flood plain.

Their form and materials, including extensive use of internal acoustic panels, make reference to agricultural structures typically found on the edge of a large estate. The prefabricated engineered timber structure is clearly expressed internally, with bold and reductive detailing which allows the buildings to be understood as contemporary interpretations of these familiar forms.

Externally the shop is clad in weathering steel, the WCs in timber boarding, while the entrance area is glazed with deep timber fins allowing views through to the river and gardens beyond. In this very busy reception, the deep reveal theme is continued across the internal acoustic panels, make reference to agricultural structures typically found on the edge of a large estate. The prefabricated engineered timber structure is clearly expressed internally, with bold and reductive detailing which allows the buildings to be understood as contemporary interpretations of these familiar forms.

Complete Reverberation Solutions From Hush

Reverberation noise is produced when a sound source stops within an enclosed space. Sound waves continue to reflect off the ceiling, walls and floor surfaces until they eventually die out. These reflected sound waves are known as reverberation.

Reverberation is becoming an increasingly common problem owing to recent trends in modern interior design, for example sound absorbing products such as carpets and curtains are being replaced with hard flooring and blinds. These are highly reflective surfaces and as a result will increase the reverberation time, thus amplifying the ambient sound levels of a room. Hush Acoustics offers a range of solutions to reduce reverberation noise levels, one of which is the Hush Absorber range.

This range of acoustic absorber panels have a Class A absorption rating and comply with UK Building Regulations Approved Document E (England & Wales), Section 5 of the Scottish Building Standards (Scotland) and Approved Part G (Northern Ireland) as well as with BB93 Standards for Acoustics in Schools. Robert Crampston, Managing Director of Hush Acoustics, commented, “Our Hush Absorber range is a really popular option with our customers. One of the worst cases of reverberation noise problems I have ever encountered was in a primary school, in particular their multi-use hall and dining area. After we carried out a site inspection, we recommended the use of our Hush Absorber Panels. After installation, there was a noticeable difference in the levels of reverberation noise and teachers found it easier to present assemblies.”

www.hushacoustics.co.uk

Mapei Wood Flooring Products Used In Prestigious Westminster Apartment Development

Mapei UK has specified and supplied products for the installation of wood flooring on an area of 13,000m² throughout the prestigious Berkeley Homes Abell & Cleland Westminster apartment development.

The apartment building comprises 1, 2, 3 and 4 bed apartments and penthouses which have been completed to the highest specification and using Eco-rated products from Mapei’s range of resilient products, for substrate preparation ready to receive the engineered wood flooring.

At Abell & Cleland, Eco Prim T was used throughout before applying Latexplan Trade to level and smooth the substrate, ready to receive floor coverings.

Ultrabond Eco S940 1K is Mapei’s one-component, solvent and isocyanate-free sililated polymer adhesive with extremely low emissions of VOCs can be used with all types and sizes of engineered wood flooring, hence it’s suitability for the installation at Abell & Cleland. Throughout all apartment flooring in the development, Mapesonic CR sound proofing mat was laid directly below the wooden flooring to offer a 17db sound deadening reduction.

The Project Director from Loughton Contracts Plc, the flooring contractor responsible for the supply and installation of floor finishes at Abell & Cleland, said: “The Mapei products were easy to handle and move about with the difficult daily logistical issues we faced, and confidence in application during install was high.”

Jason Mortenson, Project Director from Berkeley Homes (Central London) commented “We have used Mapei’s Eco Prim T primer with great success, giving us a high quality base before starting our flooring works with the key benefits of being safe, sustainable and easy to use.”

Mapei’s Eco Prim T is a water based and low VOC solvent free primer for interior use, ideal for priming before installing levelling compounds.

www.mapei.co.uk

Interiors
Yeoman Shield Keeps Walls Fit And Healthy At Fife Leisure Centres

With the responsibility of 14 leisure centres in the region, Fife Sports & Leisure Trust have the continual duty to keep their venues damage free and presentable to the public whilst keeping a close eye on the maintenance budgets.

As part of the maintenance of their centres Fife Sports & Leisure looked to Yeoman Shield for a solution to the continual marking and damaging of walls. Caused by the every-day use of the facilities, by visitor footfall, the movement of cleaning equipment and the use of sports apparatus, the resulting damage can be expensive to repair.

Yeoman Shield’s 2.0mm thick FalmouthEx wall protection panels at 1250mm high were installed by Yeoman Shield’s directly employed fixing operatives to walls in corridors, sports halls, gyms and changing areas in 5 of Fife Sports & Leisure Trust Gyms. These were complemented with the fitting of Yeoman Shield Corner Protection Angles to vulnerable corners. FalmouthEx panels are manufactured usingVinylac, a specially formulated PVCu material that is developed to be resistant to impact and abrasion, which is exclusive to Yeoman Shield products. Once the panels are in place, the walls will be protected from every day wear and tear for many years to come, halting the expensive cycle of repair and redecoration. Easy to clean the wall panels are inherently hygienic and as they are a rigid PVC do not support the growth of bacteria or mould.

Due to Yeoman Shield’s extensive colour range the leisure centres were able to choose colours that fitted in with the environment, either blending in with colour schemes or used to denote different zones of the sports centres.

“We are very pleased with the outcome of fitting the Yeoman Shield wall protection which I can see will save us money on maintenance throughout the centres over the years to come.” commented Gym Manager, Stuart Blizzard. “The choice of colours has enabled us to bring the centres to life, with the easy clean, protective surfaces helping to maintain a pristine image for our clients.” www.yeomanshield.com

Marmox Multiboards Pivotal To Grosvenor Place Project

A high specification refurbishment and conversion project in one of the capital’s most desirable areas has seen the specialist fit out contractor making extensive use of Marmox Multiboards, chosen for their outstanding stability and ease of use as a tile backer board.

Much of the work within the period property located in South-West London’s Grosvenor Place, is being carried out by a Kent based building contractor, which has employed Multiboards for a variety of challenges in both commercial and residential developments, going so far as switching specifications where inferior alternatives had been proposed by the design consultant or main contractor. In this case the 6 and 12 mm Multiboards were secured down across new and existing sub-floors to take out differences in level, prior to laying ceramic floor tiles in bathrooms, wet-rooms and the cloakroom.

The managing director of the company, who did not want to be named due to his blue chip clients’ desire for privacy, and himself a time served tradesman, explained: “We have used Marmox Multiboards for a number of years – especially where tiles are going to go on top, because they provide such a stable background – but they have a lot of different applications. These include in office reception areas where all of the cabling is laid between the pedestals of a raised access floor system and the architect is concerned about very heavy loads being imposed, say by pallet trucks.”

“We screw the Multiboards down over the metal floor pans instead of using plywood because it doesn’t move, it doesn’t shrink and you get a perfect key for adhesive. Multiboard is a really good product and when we find something which works we stick with it.” www.marmox.co.uk

Howe Green Makes A Splash At East Riding Leisure, Bridlington

Howe Green Ltd supplied access covers for a new £25 million Leisure Centre - East Riding Leisure in Bridlington. The contractor, BAM Construction Ltd North East, appointed tiling specialists P.Plunkett Tiling Contractors to carry out the installation of the ceramic tiling to the outside of the pools and the tiling and mosaic to the inside of the new centre’s three pools.

Nine of Howe Green’s Medium Duty 7600 316 Grade Series Stainless Steel Floor Access Covers were fitted into the ceramic tiled floor around the pool surround in the main pool hall area.

The access covers were infilled with anti-slip porcelain floor tiles to provide a flush finish, both functional and aesthetically pleasing. The seamless fit ensures the reduced risk of slips and trips in an inclusive swimming pool environment designed for a variety of end users. The floor access covers ensure that access for the maintenance and upkeep of the pool sumps and pool balance tanks located beneath the tiling is quick and easy resulting in minimum disruption to the operation of the facility.

All Howe Green access covers are available with a double sealed option which ensures the highest levels of security and hygiene and helps to prevent the ingress of water. Suitable for internal and external use the Medium Duty 7600 Series 316 grade stainless steel option is non-corrosive and will not rust, even in a swimming pool environment where it is constantly being exposed to water, chemicals, and varying humidity and pH levels. www.howegreen.com
Knauf Boasts Full Ceiling System Solutions For Wet Indoor Areas And External Applications

Knauf AQUAPANEL® cement boards are combined with high-quality products to provide a full exterior and interior ceiling system supplied by a single manufacturer – Knauf, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of lightweight building materials and systems. Knauf provides a one-stop-stop for ceiling design and specification where protection against high humidity and chemicals is required. The new Knauf AQUAPANEL® cement boards are water-resistant and made from inorganic materials which prevent mildew from spreading.

Both Knauf AQUAPANEL® Exterior and Interior Systems are simple to install and allow for the creation of spectacular ceilings. The introduction of these ceiling systems now allow Knauf to offer complete solutions for walls and ceilings in interior and exterior environments. www.knauf.co.uk

NEW Fast Track Bespoke Drain Service From CCL Wetrooms

CCL Wetrooms have launched their NEW Fast Track Bespoke Drain Service, enabling customers to order any length of wetroom drain up to 2000mm, using their new 2-3 day manufacturing service. The service applies to all stainless steel drains in a Solid or Stone-Infill finish.

Thanks to the quick turnaround, the service will offer house builders the flexibility of ordering a full width bespoke wetroom drain once the tiling has been completed on site. The NEW Fast Track Bespoke Drain service complements CCL Wetrooms’ standard range of grills which has grown from nine to fifteen standard lengths and offers customers an increased choice of finishing touches for their wetroom.

The standard range of linear grills is available from 600mm to 2000mm lengths. www.ccl-wetrooms.co.uk. Follow on Twitter @CCLWetrooms

Thermostatic Showers From Showering ‘One Stop Shop’

MR Group’s impressive ‘one stop shop’ range of shower and bathroom products continues to be welcomed by those looking for high quality, reliable products for new developments and refurbishment projects.

The response to the new products has been phenomenal with current and new customers keen to find out more about the extended offering that features in the ‘MR Collection’ catalogue, available in printed form or online by visiting the MR web site. Shower trays, electric showers, thermostatic showers, shower enduraces, taps and mixers and shower accessories – it’s a huge range of products.

MR has launched an impressive new range of thermostatic mixer shower valves, offering its usual combination of quality, great looking product, excellent warranties and keen pricing. From stylish and modern to the more traditional single lever options, they are all fully thermostatically controlled and suitable for both high and low pressure systems. www.ms-group.com

A Burning Passion For Fire

The German premium manufacturer of firing technology Spartherm proudly presents an exclusive range of bioethanol fireplaces branded ebios-fire® which are now also made available for the discerning customer in Great Britain.

Made And Tested In Germany – in order to provide an optimum of customer service, the extensive range of ebios-fire® models comprises both standard and made to measure built-in fireplace models in almost any thinkable layout.

Great versatility, product safety and outstanding German quality are key values at Spartherm’s production facilities where all ebios-fire® models are originally designed, crafted and tested by passionate, skilled craftsmen. Test certificates issued by TÜV Germany further underline the outstanding safety of ebios-fire® bioethanol fires, which feature a wide choice of manual and automatic bioethanol burners.

Versatility Is key - The ebios-fire® range of products is available in a vast variety of finishes meeting the requirements of architects and interior designers on an international level. Spartherm – The Fire Company www.spartherm.com
P C Henderson Products Specified For High-End Hotel In Tianjin, China

The Four Seasons in Tianjin, China is a 45 storey, 259 room hotel in the heart of the city’s Central Business District. Currently the tallest building in the metropolis, the high-end hotel is the first skyscraper in Tianjin to achieve LEED Gold certification for its extensive use of sustainable building products and construction methods.

A range of P C Henderson’s sliding and folding door hardware products were specified by the project’s Architectural Hardware Consultant to meet bespoke design needs. The main requirements were for large, heavy doors that offered a distinctive grandeur, while portraying the luxurious look and feel desired by the end user.

It was also important that the chosen hardware could cover a variety of sizeable apertures for different uses within the large development. This included conference rooms, a signature Italian restaurant, mock-up rooms for Four Seasons’ branded residences, a grand ballroom and also in the hotel’s lavish 3,434 sq. ft. Presidential Suite. The Presidential Suite is designed with many large openings to provide guests with expansive city views from the highest floors, as well as to create flexible and abundant spaces for entertaining.

A total of 31 Flexirol Straight Sliding systems from P C Henderson were installed as room dividers in the Presidential Suite and as sliding doors in the hotel’s conference rooms. The company’s Soltaire 120 hardware was employed in the grand ballroom, with 2 sets of Henderson’s popular Securefold 150 folding door systems fitted in the hotel’s Italian restaurant. The project was also the first time P C Henderson’s a flagship product, Securefold 150, had been installed in China.

Phase 1 of the build also included the installation of 32 Husky 100 sliding door hardware systems, complete with soft close mechanisms, in mock-up rooms for the hotel’s branded residences. The 2nd phase of the development will see the fit out of 143 branded residences within the same tower.

Andrew Royle, Sales and Marketing Director at P C Henderson, commented: “Our Flexirol Straight Sliding hardware systems were specified as they met the project brief which required hardware that could carry heavy doors weighing up to 300kg, while matching the opulent look and feel of the huge presidential suite and grand ballroom. Doors of this size must adhere to stringent safety requirements which our products conform to due to the rigorous testing we carry out. The unique capabilities and recognised quality of our Husky, Securefold and Soltaire product ranges ensured further specification in other apertures within the development where sliding and folding door hardware was required.”

The hotel was completed and opened to the public in January 2017. www.pchenderson.com
Why Hydrogen Rich Water In Your Home?

Over the last few hundred years, hydrogen gas has demonstrated a therapeutic effect on over 150 human diseases, as well as enhanced health and wellbeing. As revolutionary as this may be, what exactly is hydrogen? Furthermore, why should hydrogen be included in your water?

The people of Japan have been bathing in Hydrogen Rich water for centuries, their natural hot springs, known as Onsens, are sought after for their salubrious and invigorating effects. It is well documented that dissolved Hydrogen gas is what gives the waters of Nordenau, Germany and Tlacote, Mexico, their medicinal prowess. 1978 marks the earliest record of hydrogens’ medicinal properties, where cases of inflammation were successfully treated. The topic did not gain true popularity among scientists until 2007, when an article on the benefits of hydrogen was published in the prestigious journal of Nature Medicine.

Hydrogen is colourless, odorless, tasteless and non-metallic. It is the lightest and simplest element in our known universe, expressed as the symbol ‘H’. It is comprised of just a single electron and proton. Under regular conditions it exists primarily as molecular hydrogen (H2 gas). In this form, hydrogen has been shown to exert an extensive range of therapeutic effects.

When H2 gas is present in water it is referred to as Hydrogen-enriched water and is simply conventional water (H2O) that contains dissolved hydrogen gas (H2). For example, there are carbonated soft drinks such as sodas and sparkling waters that contain dissolved carbon dioxide gas (CO2). In contrast, water that contains dissolved hydrogen gas, is the best bet for a longer, healthier life.

Paragraph Footnote: * We do not recommend those types of beverages for improving health.

Hydrogen is the smallest molecule in the universe; this minuscule proportion allows for a smooth diffusion into the sub-cellular compartments of the mitochondria and other locations in the human body. www.aquatiere.co.uk

Tetrosyl’s HQ Gets A Little Extra Polish From Encasement

The extensive reception and showroom area at Tetrosyl’s recently opened headquarters in Rochdale is using ‘Forma’ bespoke ‘aerofoil’ shaped column casings from Encasement to conceal the building’s structural columns while adding to the high performance interior design theme.

Tetrosyl, Europe’s largest manufacturer and supplier of car care products and the company behind a range of well known brands, including T-Cut, CarPlan and Carlube, has spent £3 million transforming the eight-storey former tax office building into its new HQ following after relocating from Bury.

An important part of the extensive refurbishment and upgrading of the city centre building, was the creation of the spacious new reception foyer, which not only presents Tetrosyl’s business to UK and international visitors, but also showcases the company’s key products and its long involvement with motorsport.

As the entrance foyer design needed to accommodate a number of existing concrete structural columns, Tetrosyl chose to turn them into a feature of the new interior by using elliptical aerofoil shaped casings from Encasement, which are manufactured from 3mm thick brushed aluminium.

In total, eight column casings from Encasement’s Forma range, were designed, manufactured and installed by the company, which measure 500mm wide by 1,575mm long and range in height from 3 metres at the rear of the reception area, up to 5 metres at the front where they flank the main entrance doors.

To accommodate the differing heights and locations, the column casings were manufactured using slightly different profiles, so that they didn’t occupy useful floor area unnecessarily. In addition, three of the casings incorporated a stepped design, to allow for a change in ceiling height.

Encasement’s Managing Director, Martin Taylor, commented: “During our 10 year history we have been involved in a diverse range of prestige projects and Tetrosyl’s HQ is one of the most striking, as it demonstrates how a unique column casing design can not only provide a practical solution for covering structural supports, but also add to the quality of the finished interior.” www.encasement.co.uk
The Accoya® Cladding That’s Exciting Architects

As the UK’s biggest independent distributor of timber and panel products, James Latham has announced the latest addition to its portfolio, a new range of charred Accoya® cladding.

James Latham has been a leading distributor of Accoya wood in the UK for more than six years and has seen its popularity grow to the point where it is now becoming the material of choice for exterior applications as it can be used for virtually anything, from windows to doors, decking to cladding and siding. James Latham has been a leading distributor of Accoya wood in the UK for more than six years and has seen its popularity grow to the point where it is now becoming the material of choice for exterior applications as it can be used for virtually anything, from windows to doors, decking to cladding and siding.

Richard Mosson, Group Cladding and Decking Manager, James Latham, explained, “The reaction from the market and our customers who have seen Shou-Sugi-Ban is astonishing, it really has the wow factor and the enquiries we are receiving are growing by the day.”

“Charred timber cladding is becoming increasingly popular in the specification market and this is a modern application of the ancient Japanese art of burning timber to provide a beautiful and long lasting wood cladding. Traditional techniques are used to give uniqueness to each individual project and there are lots of finishes and textures available for both interior and exterior projects – from the traditional, highly charred, heavily textured looking cladding to the sleek and contemporary finish.”

Shou-Sugi-Ban Accoya Cladding is available across Latham’s nationwide network of depots in finished dimensions of 39mm x 145mm (planed tongue and groove profile) and in three charring styles – Shosai, Shizen and Tenki. Other section sizes and profiles are available on request. www.lathamtimber.co.uk

Light Brush Accoya - Shizen

Heavy Brush Accoya - Tenki

Air Conditioning As Primary Heat Source In Home Counties Victorian Home Refurbishment

A recent refurbishment project on a Victorian detached home in the Home Counties has seen the interesting use of multi split air conditioning equipment to provide the primary heating source for the home as well as comfort cooling in the warmer months of the year.

The project is an interesting joint venture between air conditioning manufacturer LG, M3R Climate, an air conditioning specialist from Milton Keynes and air conditioning contractors KV Cooling from Stannmore.

As a result of a range of refurbishment activities, the home stands out from surrounding houses on the leafy road close to the M25 and as soon as you enter the property its apparent the owner has been keen to incorporate a wide range of renewable and energy saving elements to the home.

Triple glazed window units, the air conditioning system with a traditional condensing boiler ‘back up’ heating system, underfloor heating downstairs and high levels of insulation make this sizeable property very cosy. Add to this solar panels on the south facing roof and you begin to get a feel for this impressive home.

The homeowner says the LG ARTCOOL Gallery units, heats and cools brilliantly and uses less energy than a boiler providing very rapid response from the remote controls that come with the units. Two Multi-split condensers (Model ref: MUX4M25.U43 and MUX3M19.UE3) are wall mounted outside the property each connected to two Artcool gallery units indoors – two in the lounge and two upstair – one each in the master bedroom and in the children’s bedroom. The upstarts Artcool units can deliver a cooling capacity of 2.64 kW and a heating capacity of 2.81kW whilst the downstair units can deliver 3.52kW of cooling and 3.87kW of heating.

“‘We’re being asked to supply significantly more of these units to provide primary heating and summer time comfort cooling in domestic applications” says Ryan Kontoh from M3R Climate. “We work closely with LG and recognise the warmth that customers have to a brand that is so well known, albeit for TV and mobile phones. There is an expectation that the equipment will be top of the range and it is. They are genuinely impressed with their purchase and decision.”

“It’s certainly something we are seeing across the country,” says LG’s Andrew Slater, LG’s Technical and Research Senior Manager. “There is a growing awareness of the flexibility of our equipment and a willingness to see what we sell as air conditioning equipment is owned by many customers as a heating system that has the capability to provide comfort cooling in the summer months. It’s just a case of interpretation.”

Rish Vaghela managing director and Yovan Popov, senior engineer at KV Cooling were both impressed by the ease of installation of the LG equipment and its performance once it was up and running. “We haven’t installed a lot of LG equipment before but have to admit it was pretty impressive,” says Rish. “The performance statistics are good and the feedback from the customer is very encouraging – we like to have happy customers and that’s what this system has given us in this case.”

www.lg.com/business
Environmental Control

Trend New IQ®VISION Keeps Energy Savings In The Line Of Sight

Trend Control Systems, the leading international manufacturer and supplier of state-of-the-art Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS), has announced the availability of its next generation IQ®VISION monitoring and management solution. The successor to the pioneering 963 Supervisor, IQ®VISION integrates Trend controllers, third party smart devices and internet protocols into a centralised software platform that is designed to manage buildings at an enterprise level, and give building owners and managers the ability to identify issues and optimise their systems. Packed with features that allow users to get the very best from their BEMS and save energy in real time, IQ®VISION provides graphical information to standard internet browsers. Flexibility is built into IQ®VISION with the ability to integrate ‘Third Party’ devices using open standard protocols such as BACnet, Modbus, Mibus and XML.

New Easyfit All-In-One High Flow Kit

The new Tapworks Easyfit all-in-one kit has been launched in the UK offering a clip on integrated bypass and push fit hoses to the already simple to install Tapworks water softener range. This new kit is unique and available only to Tapworks installers and their customers. It’s good news for homeowners living in hard water areas. But even better news for installers looking to build on the income stream offered by water softener installation across the 60% of the UK that has hard water problems. The new bypass connector fits straight on to copper pipe and fits all ½” valves on the ultrasonic 9 Easyflow, AD1 Easyflow and Infinity Easyflow softeners in the range. For larger homes with 28mm plumbing, the Tapworks NSC40UD1 offers a solution where this high flow softener is normally sited in a utility or boiler room.

Bespoke Valve Configurations On Site As Early As Seven Days

For any building service contractor, the key to a successful project is the efficiency of the installation – in short, time spent on planning and onsite. Leading Integrated piping solutions manufacturer, Pegler Yorkshire, has developed a unique service that delivers bespoke valve arrangements (modular valves solutions) for fan coils in a significantly reduced lead time from the merchant’s order. Service, lead times and planning are seen as afterthoughts but do have a major impact on projects if not met. The process works by uploading drawings for take off preparation, Pegler Yorkshire’s technical team can offer direct guidance on optimisation for efficiency and the most cost effectiveness for your proposal. The preferred merchant receives the quote and once the order is received it will be fulfilled in line with the installation schedule. This unique service provides a bespoke solution made up of a variety of interlinked multi-functional valves and components, manufactured from DZR brass and, includes intuitive handles, union joints to allow valve orientation to be changed onsite and an additional test point to allow signals to be measured across the coil.

Effective Control For Heating Systems

The selection of programmers and timers available today are many and varied and range from the simple to the far more complex. ESI offers a range of programmers from a simple 1 Channel version to a 3 channel Multi-Purpose Programmer which enables the installer to comply with Part L of the Building Regulations by providing separate timed heating control for living and sleeping zones in a house, whilst also providing timed control of hot water. However, the ESI range all offers 24 hour 5/2 day and 7 day programming options for each channel. And these programmers also feature a “Sendfor” option to encourage social housing tenants to allow access for annual maintenance.

New Wilo-Stratos Maxo Launched

Wilo has launched the new Wilo-Stratos MAXO. The successor to the Wilo-Stratos sets new standards in system efficiency and user-friendliness. The Stratos MAXO is the world’s first true smart-pump. The addition of the green button is a new feature for the Wilo-Stratos MAXO. The new Green-Button-Technology is the successor to Wilo’s red button and combines proven handling with new and optimised functions, creating a completely new level of user-friendliness. Its high degree of connectivity makes the Wilo-Stratos MAXO an extremely flexible solution, when it comes to integration into a wide range of applications. The analogue and digital interfaces, which are still an optional feature only available via SI-MoSafe for the Stratos, will now come as standard for the Wilo-Stratos MAXO. The latest communication interfaces – Bluetooth - enable it to be directly connected to mobile devices while “Wilo Net” offers a new standard interface for connectivity among Wilo products.

Rinnai Builds Business With O’Neils

Rinnai, manufacturer of the EnergySaver energy efficient range of gas fired wall heaters, recently pulled out all the stops in collaboration with Ayr-based installer O’Neill Gas Services to keep the congregation warm at St Mary’s Church in Saltcoats, Ayrshire. The company has built a reputation for quality, reliability and value among its 14,000 domestic and commercial customers return time and again for their gas and plumbing needs. O’Neill’s install Rinnai heaters for its commercial customers in a range of applications. “We choose Rinnai heaters because they are reliable, and easy to work on, as well as being efficient. O’Neill’s use only the best as back calls can be expensive and so installing the Rinnai heater range within commercial installations is an obvious choice, and makes for happy customers,” says O’Neill’s installer manager Ross McWhirter. “We have used Rinnai heaters in many churches – for example St Mary’s – because of their efficiency and ease of installation.”

“We have installed Rinnai continuous flow water heaters in Adabi Foods for the same reasons. We choose Rinnai products in such installations simply because no other product could provide the result we and more importantly our customers expect and want. This along with the excellent customer service provided by Rinnai, mean that their heaters and water heaters are always our choice.” McWhirter first made the decision to go with Rinnai’s 1040T gas fired wall space heater for the St Mary’s Church, Saltcoats project and it is a decision he is pleased he made. “We used six Rinnai 1040T units siting them in the best location for effectiveness and for the convenience of the customer. Everyone I have spoken too at the Church since we completed the installation has said that it has never been as warm as it is now.” www.rinnaiuk.com

Expertise From SE Controls Forms Part Of Innovative Energy Saving Building Research

A new research project being undertaken by the University of Sheffield into the use of predictive modelling to save energy in non-domestic buildings, is drawing on expertise and data from leading smoke and environmental ventilation specialist, SE Controls, to help support the study. Funded by a grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the new research programme explores the potential of making energy savings of up to 25% through the development and use of Model Predictive Control (MPC) in commercial buildings.

The project will use advanced machine learning techniques, a branch of artificial intelligence, to construct a building control system that produces good internal conditions while using the smallest amount of energy possible, allowing more sustainable design and usage. This knowledge and expertise of controlling natural ventilation was one of the reasons behind SE Controls being invited to form part of the project steering group for the MPC research. SE Controls’ Design Manager, Dr. Chris Zidorn, who will attend the steering group meetings, explained: “Non-domestic buildings, such as office spaces, currently account for 18 per cent of the UK’s carbon emissions and between 40-90 per cent of this is energy consumed in the heating and cooling of buildings. Also, data from The Carbon Trust estimates that around £500 million worth of energy is wasted by commercial buildings every year, so this research into more effective building control and management is essential.”

In addition to the involvement of SE Controls, academics from the university’s departments of Civ & Structural Engineering, Electronic & Electrical Engineering and School of Architecture are also working with other leading industry partners, including Arup, Burn Happend, LHB and Trend Control Systems as part of the process of exploring methods to make MPC economically viable for building energy management.

www.secontrols.com
Environmental Control

Studor Develops Unique Solution For Unique Building

It was local council concerns of the perceived risks from SARS and other airborne viruses that resulted in an innovative, new drainage solution at the iconic O2 arena. Greenwich Council dismissed the option to use open stacks within the tested area of this iconic London landmark. It was down to the UK’s best plumbing engineers to resolve the issue. Studor, with their deep knowledge of drainage ventilation systems, worked together with ME Engineers and a team at Heriot-Watt University. The Studor System solution incorporated Studor Air Admittance Valves (AAVs) coupled with P.A.P.A. (Positive Air Pressure Alternator) units. The P.A.P.A. acts like a shock absorber, dissipating pressure waves and stopping them bouncing around the plumbing system, thereby eliminating the need for roof penetrations at the O2. “The O2 was a difficult project because it was breaking new ground and no typical model existed,” explained Studor expert Steve White. “The data we produced included flow calculations, flow rates and pipe sizing to deal with air and transverse pressures.”

The university team which worked alongside Studor, determined that any gas build-up would follow the water flow. By placing all urinals on a twelve-hour flush cycle they greatly alleviated the potential of any gas build-up problem. This resulted in the world’s first sealed drainage system, totally without the need for any open vents. While inside the O2 the full drainage and ventilation systems are generated within the complex. www.studor.net

Omnie Underfloor Heating Features In Offices-To-Flats Conversion

The conversion of a former office property into half a dozen high specification apartments in the sought after Tooting district of South-West London has featured the specification of a low profile underfloor heating system from the range of OMNIE, as part of a space-saving building services strategy.

The development in Althorp Road, SW17 has been focused on a three storey commercial unit which the contractors have successfully reconfigured to form six similar sized flats that are expected to command purchase prices in the £750,000 price bracket (Zoopla values a two bed flat at £797,000 on the same road).

While OMNIE’s design department provide detailed layout drawings for the project, along with other comprehensive technical guidance, all of the installation work has been carried out by Locksbury Services Limited from Biggin Hill in Kent. Locksbury Services’ operations installed the 35 mm deep FoilBOARD panels across the building’s existing sub-floors: the lightweight boards, manufactured from extruded polystyrene, which has a very high compressive strength perfect for floating floors, were easily cut to fit the bay windows and the rest of the rooms’ layouts.

Then 400 metres or more of the 16 mm diameter heating pipes were pressed into the unique OMNIE multi-directional channel designs, which simplified the onsite installation eliminating the need of assembly loop and straight panels, prior to being connected back to the OMNIE manifold, which distribute the flow from the home’s boiler. While the slightly more complex Flat 3 required a six-port manifold, the rest of the dwellings feature five-port versions supplying primary water at 150°C to different zones.

Together with the appropriate controllers and room thermostats from the OMNIE range, this arrangement will offer occupants excellent comfort levels and controllability, while getting optimum performance from the Electromax boilers and helping to deliver energy efficiency.

The Trelonea range of underfloor heating systems offered by Omnie can facilitate installations in almost any situation, including between existing timber floor joists, across concrete sub-floors or even for retrofit situations, where the overall depth has to be kept to an absolute minimum, also all OMNIE products have been tested independently at BSRIA for heat output performance. www.omnie.co.uk

Rinnai All A-Twitter With Real News

Rinnai, designer and manufacturer of the E.E.P labelled A-rated Infinity range of continuous flow gas fired water heaters (including the new Infinity Solo with storage), has been at the centre of a Twitter flurry on social media. Installers and contractors are giving a new meaning to ‘digital’ media as their fingers glide across Smart phones to post glowing reports on their experiences with Rinnai’s units and customer service.

For example, one Twitter follower tweeted; “Rinnai products are hard to beat! Others should aim to be half as good!” while another said, on the subject of space heaters “Rinnai leads the field in energy efficient gas fired space heaters for large spaces with this: “I wouldn’t consider any other space heater in a church or hall – also the little SIRFR (space heater) is working a treat!”

And it’s not just Twitter that is acting as a conduit for installers talking about Rinnai. LinkedIn is also playing its part. One contractor simultaneously used the platform with Twitter to post a pic of an Infinity 16i water heater installation with the comment “Awesome bit of kit!”

Chris Goggin, Associate Director, Rinnai UK comments: “I couldn’t get off Twitter one night because of the positive conversations and feedback. Most of the time people go on to social media to moan or complain – unions there is something great to talk about. Obviously as a group we are doing something right. He goes on to say; “In the office we are focusing on customer satisfaction and the bedding in of the expanded sales team.

This kind of feedback is heightening our service levels. “It is good to know that installers recognise Rinnai is not only supplying the UK with the most reliable individual units on the market, it is also offering end-users the peace of mind that comes with having chosen the most efficient, cost effective and reliable hot water systems, too.” www.rinnaiuk.com

Installers and contractors are giving a new meaning to ‘digital’ media as their fingers glide across Smart phones to post glowing reports on their experiences with Rinnai’s units and customer service.

The university team which worked alongside Studor, determined that any gas build-up would follow the water flow. By placing all urinals on a twelve-hour flush cycle they greatly alleviated the potential of any gas build-up problem. This resulted in the world’s first sealed drainage system, totally without the need for any open vents. While inside the O2 the full drainage and ventilation system is sealed, the outside pump stations are on pillars with open vents that are spaced 300 metres apart to dispense any odours generated within the complex. www.studor.net
Thomas Dudley Ltd has been manufacturing in the West Midlands since 1920. The market-leading Dudley range of bathroom products is BIM compliant and are the products of choice for specifiers.

Ideal for domestic bathrooms and commercial washrooms, Dudley’s new flush plate, Wave S3™, is attractively styled, simple to install and set-up and has been designed to reduce water consumption while offering a modern, advanced touch-free alternative to traditional flush plates. The new flush plate displays interactive icons and is available with square or soft edges. Dudley’s flush plate range also includes Reef™ and Coral™ which present a chrome plated finish and are compatible with furniture and tiles. Dudley also offers dualflush pushbuttons such as the round Dia and square Piazza which can be positioned up to 750mm from the cistern.

Dudley’s popular Electroflo® range encompasses infra-red WC flushing, urinal controls and taps which have been developed to save water and maintain hygiene. The WC sensor comes in either stainless steel or chrome plated finishes, is interactive and indicates when full or reduced flushes are being delivered and when the cistern is refilling. To add, it provides a perfect solution to areas whereby a hygienic touch-free sensor may be required.

Recently launched, Kinetic® is an intelligent water-saving ‘all-in-one’ electronic urinal control, offering quick and easy installation. With digital precision set-up and guaranteed accurate water-savings, Kinetic® is suitable for any washroom environment. The innovative product offers a choice to be installed onto pipework, wall or ceiling. The contemporary urinal flushing valve has been designed to save-up to 80% of water in comparison with traditional petcock and automatic cistern installations. It is aesthetically pleasing and comes in both glossy white and grey finishes. It can be powered by mains or battery and is suitable for water pressures of 0.1 – 10 bar.

The UK based manufacturer’s extensive portfolio of water-saving products under the Dudley brand also includes Vantage® and Miniflo® concealed cisterns that offer 6/4, 5/3 or 4/2.6 litre dualflush to maximise water efficiency. Both products are approved by the European Water Label Scheme.

Dudley’s ‘Vantage’ is a high-quality cistern, designed specifically for use in bathroom furniture. It comes with WRAS approved Dudley Niagara flushing valve and Dudley Hydroflo quiet inlet valve which only allows the cistern to start refilling once flushing is complete. To add, it comes complete with a polystyrene insulation jacket and provides easy servicing with front and top access. Whereas the Miniflo® is more compact and is ideal for use behind tiles and partitioning and in most other concealed applications. With top access only, it also comes with the Niagara flushing valve and Hydroflo quiet inlet valve.

Dudley Resan™ provides a range of damage resistant sanitaryware and controls, suitable for the most challenging environments. Stylised like ceramic, this aesthetically pleasing product is shatterproof, dent proof as well as chemical resistant. Resan™ products are best suited in the following sectors; hospitals, mental health facilities, prisons, hotels and leisure, sports stadia and more. A full range of WC pans, basins, urinals and accessories are available.

For more information please visit www.dudleybathroomproducts.co.uk and for Dudley Resan™ visit www.dudleyresan.co.uk.
Magply The Safe Option For
Oakworth Homes Customers

A timber frame manufacturer, serving both the self-build and wider development sectors, includes high performance Magply boards within its standard details and brochures, to ensure its customers can be offered fail-safe fire resistance wherever the circumstances demand it. Oakworth Homes has established its Benchmark Selfbuild service to help individual clients fulfil their creative aspirations. The company’s energy efficient and very flexible designs all being based on the Varytherm platform which can provide a variety of different wall constructions with U-values down to 0.10 W/m² K.

Each option in the Oakworth range includes the choice between conventional OSB or Magply fire check boards for the outer cladding to Varytherm timber frame elements.

The design team accordingly recommends the use of Magply whenever the site survey and pre-contract assessment identifies a specific risk to adjacent properties in the event of a fire during the construction stage. The Magply boards also offer resistance to racking loads, both as part of the completed structure and during the installation process. As a high performance, multi-functional board, Magply features a Magnesium Oxide formulation, to offer a fire-safe and environmentally friendly alternative to conventional plywood or OSB products. Additionally, the unique production process keeps the chloride content to just 0.01%, enhancing both stability and long-term durability. Crucially, Magply carries internationally recognised accreditations confirming the boards’ ability to deliver 90 minutes integrity and insulation under test conditions.

Advanced Panels Protect
World Class Chemical Plant

The performance, ease-of-use and backwards compatibility of its MeCro 5 multiprotocol panels has seen Advanced chosen to protect a major UK chemical plant owned by manufacturer, Victrex, a world leader in the high-performance polymer solutions. The company focuses on serving a diverse range of markets that use VICTREX™ PEEK polymer, including smartphones, aeroplanes, cars, medical devices, oil and gas operations.

The fire system installed at the Victrex Hillhouse site, in Lancashire, is built around MeCro fire panels from Advanced. The systems was recently expanded with new MeCro 5 panels being added seamlessly onto the existing MeCro 4 network allowing Victrex to keep costs down and take advantage of existing networking features. An existing MeCro 5 system supports two new technologies: The TouchControl touchscreen repeater and AlarmCalm complete false alarm management system. TouchControl is a 10” HD touchscreen that offers dynamic reporting and control via a unique interface that includes Active Maps and zone plans. AlarmCalm uses Advanced’s fast hardware, updated configuration software and optional loop verification devices to deliver a system that allows the false alarm strategy for any building to be quickly and easily programmed and managed, increasing safety and reducing false alarms.

For further information please call 01277389700 or visit www.advancedfire.co.uk

For Magply please visit Magply.co.uk
Forbo’s New Flotex Planks: A Choice Not A Compromise

As modular formats continue to increase in popularity, Forbo Flooring Systems has developed a new Flotex Plank collection, allowing users to create stunning, contemporary floor designs for areas where safety, hygiene and well-being are priorities.

Combining the comfort of carpet, the durability of a resilient floor covering and the design versatility of a plank format, the new design collection lends itself perfectly to contemporary workspaces, as well as high traffic areas such as hotels and transport hubs.

Offering six new designs: Triad, Box-cross, Lava, Seagrass, Concrete and Wood, in a 1000x25cm plank, the collection provides endless design possibilities, from colourful and complex layouts to minimal, sophisticated patterns.

Forbo’s stated ambition is to design and manufacture floorcoverings that benefit every individual by helping to provide safe, hygienic and comfortable living and working environments. The Flotex Plank collection contains 67% recycled content (by weight) and is 100% waterproof, which means that only water and standard materials are required for an effective clean, using minimal hazardous chemicals that would have a detrimental effect on the building’s environment.

For more information please telephone 0844 822 3928, email info.flooring.uk@forbo.com or visit www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/flotexplanks

Omnie Renewable Heating Selected For Church Hall

Following years of fundraising and planning consultation, the congregation members of a Church near Plymouth in Devon are witnessing the construction of a stylish new hall, complete with a TorFloor underfloor heating system linked to an advanced eco-friendly heat pump, supplied by Exeter based Omnie.

The project to build the oak-framed meeting and function hall alongside the stone and slate All Saints Church in Sparkwell is being led by the locally based design practice of Le Page Architects, with AD William Building Contractors carrying out the main construction work. Rod Smith Plumbing & Heating, meanwhile, is the specialist sub-contractor undertaking the installation of a LWD70/54 Air Source Heat Pump as well as the high efficiency TorFloor pipe and carrier panels.

These are being laid within a ‘sports floor’ buildup, which features oak boards fixed down over 45 mm square timber battens and height adjustable Juniors New Era cranks. Celotex PIR boards provide a layer of insulation beneath the TorFloor system, ensuring the maximum amount of heat rises to create an even temperature profile throughout the occupied space.

Le Page Architects Director and project leader, Simon Crosbie, commented: “We have used Omnie before on a couple of projects because the company offers a great system with very good technical back up. In the case of the All Saints Church Hall project in Plymouth it just made economic and design sense to utilize the TorFloor in combination with one of Omnie’s air source heat pumps. The green oak frame by Carpenter Oak has been up for four or five months and the underfloor heating is being installed now by Rod Smith, who we have also worked with before and things are getting on well.”

Specifying the award winning TorFloor underfloor heating system instead of conventional radiators can not only offer greater efficiency in terms of heat delivery, reducing energy bills by as much as 30%, but also improve the SAP rating required for Building Regulations compliance. TorFloor panels are suitable for use in all suspended and batten floor installations with the 22 mm thick, pre-routed flooring grade particleboard being fixed down across the timber supports in the same way as standard flooring. The unique pattern is profiled to accept the 12 mm Omnie pipe that is then connected back to the utility or plant room, normally via one or more of the manufacturer’s custom made manifolds.

For the Plymouth project there is a 12-port manifold distributing low temperature water from the Omnie LWD70 heat pump. Impressively, an output of just 7kW will be enough to create a warm environment in the worst of the winter weather, with offering high COP figures and low running costs. The new All Saints Church Hall is expected to be used for wedding parties and social functions, as well as for committee meetings and by other groups, all of whom can be assured of a warm and comfortable environment for their activities. www.omnie.co.uk
Floors

Decorative, Adhesive-Free Altro Cantata
Hits The Right Note

Altro has revealed its latest innovation: decorative, adhesive-free Altro Cantata® flooring – designed to create maximum impact with minimum downtime. Altro Cantata’s 16 soft-shade shades, which range from subtle naturals to beautifully vivid, allow you to create just the right tone with endless design possibilities. Using Altro’s award-winning adhesive-free installation method, with Altro Cantata you can halve installation time compared with a traditional floor. No adhesive also means there are no odours. Altro Cantata is a durable 2.2mm floor that can tolerate medium to heavy-duty traffic, meaning that it performs in busy spaces as you would expect from an Altro floor. It is also easy to clean, so its striking shades look good long-term. Altro Cantata holds as effectively as an Altro floor installed using adhesive, with no rocks or movement. It carries the Altro 10 year guarantee: At the end of its life, it can be removed quickly and reused or recycled. www.altro.co.uk

Remmers Award Winning Flooring Installation

A brand-new state of the art building has been constructed by bringing together two existing aging facilities at LDS Selshill. This advanced aerospace manufacturing, research and development facility produces engine control systems for a range of applications, including the Rolls-Royce Trent family of aircraft engines. The flooring needed to fulfil the Clients high standards and requirements which consisted of - Chemical Resistant Flooring with Chemical Resistant Wall Render; Epoxy Conductive Flooring System with an Anti-Slip Textured Finish; and finally, Remmers Self Smoothing Epoxy Resin with a Slip Resistant Seal Coat. A total of 9,600m² of Remmers resin flooring was installed. To complement the floors, 3500m (2.1 miles) of Remmers Epoxy Cove Skirting were also installed. Remmers have won the FeRFA Large Industrial Project of the Year Award for this complex installation. www.remmers.co.uk

Micro Joints – The Discreet New Way To Protect Tiles Installed Over Underfloor Heating Systems

The popularity of underfloor heating systems has increased significantly in recent years, as they provide a cost-effective, comfortable, unobtrusive heating solution for millions of homes. However, these systems often cause movement between the subfloor and the floor finish in the form of expansions and contractions. Failing to accommodate for this movement will almost certainly result in cracked tiling surfaces. Dural UK are proud to have developed a solution in the form of Micro Joint Infill, which provides discreet stress protection for tiles and natural stone on heated floors.

Benefits of Micro Joint Infill for tiles on underfloor heating systems - UK Building Regulations, in particular BS5385, stipulate that expanses of hard flooring as a finished surface material have to conform to various aesthetic and functional standards. To achieve compliance, it is essential for 40μm or above flooring installations to have some sort of movement protection in place, to absorb movement being transferred between substrates thus protecting the surface tiles. Micro Joint Infill has been specially developed for tiled flooring installations which are laid over underfloor heating systems, particularly for residential developments. It provides effective movement protection for tiles and natural stone on heated floors. It means a tiled flooring installation with Micro Joint Infill is used is able to effectively absorb the movement energy transferred from the subfloor, protecting the tiles from cracking and loosening. www.colouredmovenentjoints.co.uk

Looking For A Whitewashed Floor?

Bona White is a new wood floor primer designed to produce an on-trend bleached look when used in conjunction with a Bona polyurethane lacquer. The intensity of ‘whiteness’ is dependent on how many coats are applied. This client wanted a whitewashed look to their original Victorian floor boards to tie in with the soft greys of the kitchen. This was achieved by the application of two coats of Bona White under two coats of Bona Traffic HD lacquer. The works were part of a complete renovation of a Victorian town house in Bath and were carried out by Bona Certified Contractor, TWF Bath Ltd, who specialise in the restoration and fitting of traditional wood floors. Before treatment, the TWF team fitted large gaps using reclaimed pine wedges and then sanded the floor to 100 grit abrasives.

Small gaps were filled using Bona Mix & Fill, which is mixed with sanding dust from the floor to ensure the filled areas blend in with the rest of the surface. The floor was then sanded using 120 grit abrasives before the application of the first coat of Bona White. The floor was then abraded using a Bona Scraad Pad to remove any grain raising from the surface before the application of the second coat.

To produce a highly durable, easy to maintain finish, two coats of Bona Traffic HD lacquer were applied. Traffic HD is Bona’s toughest lacquer. The very low VOC content and low odour mean there is no need for homeowners to vacate their property while the works are being carried out and there is no lingering smell. Its fast cure time means the floor can be in full use just 12 hours after treatment – making it an ideal choice for commercial floors too where there is little available downtime for renovation. TWF’s clients chose the Matt version of Traffic HD for their kitchen floor. SilkMatt and Extramatte sheens are also available.

As a Bona Certified Contractor, TWF Bath is part of Bona’s network of highly trained wood floor specialists - independent wood floor companies who have received extra in-depth training in the use of Bona’s wood floor finishing products. www.bona.com
Alucobond: Façade Innovations Open New Design Possibilities

The richness of innovation in façade design and creativity is constantly giving architects exciting new options to deliver visually original buildings which push the aesthetic boundaries. And many of the most interesting new façade solutions so far in 2017 are originating out of southern Germany from ALUCOBOND, a market leader in aluminium composite panels.

Amongst the company’s new developments is a solution for delivering a façade with a matt sheen or light reflection with a 3D visual effect. ALUCOBOND® terra is a product inspired by iridescent stone, with its surface reflecting daylight in a way that achieves elegant or sometimes earthy iridescent hues, plus a special three-dimensional effect.

Importantly, ALUCOBOND terra unites the texture and crystalline surface typical of stone slabs with minimal material thickness which offering high levels of flexural strength, tensile strength and impact resistance. Even the largest format panels can be easily processed and installed, and the high-quality coating system is colourfast and UV-resistant.

The range of applications suitable for ALUCOBOND terra surfaces is broad thanks to its availability in A2 fire classification, ensuring its suitability for tall buildings. The product offers structural advantages too, with its low surface area to weight ratio and great flexural strength ensuring the chosen design.

As authentic replicas of materials that are normally affected by corrosion, they are extremely durable thanks to the high-quality lacquer systems used for UV and weather resistance. For architects, ALUCOBOND vintage offers the chance to deliver an immediate nostalgic effect but enable the very look to be retained for decades. The unpredictability of natural processes is removed without compromising the appeal of the very effects that are so popular.

Two further innovations from ALUCOBOND that enable architects to unlock the true potential of metal in architectural come with two new surfaces in its ALUCOBOND® naturAL range, naturAL Manhattan and naturAL Havanna MG are designed to showcase the natural beauty of metal with the interplay between metallic sheen, light reflection and absorption. A bronze gloss is offered with naturAL Havanna MG and naturAL Manhattan is an anthracite grey gloss – both reflect the urban character and spirit of the time in large cities, and are in line with current trends either in large-scale surface areas or as highlight elements.

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Trespa Provides Pura Class For The Rise SEN School

Located in Dungannon, The McAvoy Group is an off-site construction provider specialising in modular and panel system builds. Since 2015, it has been working with Trespa Pura NFC® cladding on several school projects across the country.

When The McAvoy Group was chosen to build the new Rise SEN School in Feltham, the project planning already included detailed requirements on the materials that had to be used to clad the façade. “The project had been passed by planning with a ‘timber effect’ composite board,” says Keith Anderson, McAvoy’s Contracts Buyer.

The cladding needed to be easy to maintain and to install, be available in various colours and to have a high impact resistance and colour stability. It also needed to have a fast delivery programme.

“Trespa Pura NFC® was one of the materials could meet all the requirements. With Trespa, we had the expectation that this product would come with an excellent service and client management,” explains Anderson.

By working jointly with Trespa, The Dungannon based company managed to meet the tight timescales, from date of order to delivery of the product. The Rise SEN School was completed in April 2016. Since then, McAvoy has finished three other modular school buildings clad with Trespa Pura NFC® - www.trespa.com/uk

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London’s Riverwalk Incorporates Passivhaus Standard Schöck Isokorb

On the north side of the Thames in central London, the three riverside embankments, Chelsea, Victoria and Albert, are the result of extensive civil engineering works that reclaimed marshy land, narrowed the width of the river and provided a large-scale new area of development during the late 19th century. Today almost 150 years later, much of the area is once again being transformed as the result of a scheme designed to replace many of the outdated buildings which have characterised these areas for so long. There will be high specification property construction, promenades and parks; and at Millbank, one of the major residential riverfront developments in Riverwalk.

The design focus at Riverwalk is on light, space, service and exceptional views across the Thames. Architecturally the buildings are enhanced by horizontal bands of limestone on the curving facades between the glazing and ceramic panels, with the stonework wrapping around the lower parts of the balconies to create a continuous organic shape.

With such a high specification development, early consideration was given to the avoidance of the thermal bridging at the critical balcony connections. Thermal bridges would result in higher heat transfer through the assembly and colder surface temperatures on the warm side of the connection. Some of the consequences of this being higher energy use for heating and cooling, non-compliance with UK Building Regulations, potential building structure corrosion and the risk of mould growth and associated health concerns from respiratory problems. To help minimise any risk of thermal bridging, the structural thermal break module specified throughout the Riverwalk development is the latest generation Schöck Isokorb for concrete-to-concrete applications, the type KXT.

This latest example of Schöck engineering means even better performance, which is critical in meeting the increasingly stringent EU guidelines and the imminent need for nearly zero-energy building standards. The Schöck Isokorb type KXT pushes the technical boundaries in meeting these demands.

In addition, through close collaboration with its clients, Schöck has now optimised the load capacity of the Isokorb range. As a result, the load capacities most frequently in demand have been identified and appropriate refinements applied to the product portfolio. The range now provides planners with a structurally optimised product solution for the construction of cantilevered components, and cost advantages as well.

The product offers such a high level of insulation, that in Germany the Passivhaus Institute in Darmstadt has awarded the product with the low ‘thermal bridge construction’ certificate and confirmed its suitability even for Passivhaus construction. The product has also just been awarded the very latest BBA certification. All units meet full compliance with the relevant UK building regulations, which require that the temperature factor used to indicate condensation risk (fRSI) must be greater than or equal to 0.75 for residential buildings.

The range also provides Local Authority Building Control Registration and there is compliance too with the UK government Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) concerning CO2 emissions from buildings and respectively heat losses through non-repeating thermal bridges. Here, the lambda values of the Schöck Isokorb enable energy loss in various connective situations to be reduced by as much as 84% to 91%. For a free copy of the Schöck Thermal Bridging Guide and/or the Thermal Bridging Solutions brochure – contact the company on 01865 290 880 or visit www.schoeck.co.uk

Back To The Drawing Board

In an ingenious adaptation, an IT training room at Birmingham University features an SIG moveable wall system from Style, that has been installed with the sole purpose of providing an occasional white board. “The room benefits from ample natural light thanks to a wall length window at the front and the university didn’t want to lose this,” explains Mike Fine, the director for Style in the Midlands. “However, they did need to find space for a white board.” By installing a very simple but effective moveable wall system, Style delivered a flexible solution that can be opened and closed with ease, catering for the changing teaching requirements each day.

Deviated to the teaching of postgraduate courses, the Alan Walters Building opened at Birmingham University’s Edgbaston campus in September 2016. The £10m development includes a Harvard-style lecture theatre as well as communal areas for studying and group work. “This is an unusual variation to our core business”, confirms Fine. “Normally our walls divide a room into separate areas, however on this occasion the objective was quite different.” When opened, the partitioning panels run the full length of the window and, being finished in a wipe-clean surface, can be used just as a traditional white board would be.

To complement the modern interior design of the room, a ‘pure white’ moveable wall was deemed too stark and so a blend of two different tones of brown create a stunning effect. Only the middle section is a writable board where the lecturer can write notes, draw diagrams and communicate with the students.” www.style-partitions.co.uk

Laminates Create A Colourful Campus

Abel Laminati’s MEG exterior grade laminate has been used to colourful effect at a new Academy in Birmingham which specialises in preparing students for careers in Health & Social Care, Enterprise and Creative Technology. Designed by international design practice Scott Brownrigg, with the exterior supplied by SIG Building Systems, the new purpose built premises spans several buildings all clad in grey and orange laminate from Abel Laminati’s exterior grade high pressure laminate collection. MEG is a perfect choice for this kind of high demand environment where durability meets design. MEG is a self-supporting high pressure laminate (HPL) for cladding the exterior of buildings, balconies and other applications. It features high resistance to temperature, climate shock, weathering, UV light and impact. The range is available in over 91 colours in a mix of traditional plain colours, wood finishes and simulated-concrete colours. MEG is also able to incorporate Abet’s digital printing technology. This means that almost any design, photograph or pattern can be reproduced in stunning detail to give architects and designers unparalleled freedom to create unusual and dramatic building facades. www.abetuk.com

www.birmingham.ac.uk
Energy Efficiency Of 1960’s Housings Improved With Roofshield

Roofshield, the unique vapour and air permeable pitched roof underlay, has been specified as part of an exciting new project to demonstrate how the UK’s vast stock of 1960’s housing can be upgraded to become energy efficient, healthy, high quality homes of the future.

The West Wittering Beach House, near Chichester in West Sussex is an exciting new project by 50 Degrees North Architects based in London. The beach house is a typical 1960’s brick and block building, and will be upgraded to vastly improve the property’s energy efficiency, and reduce CO2 emissions.

Roofshield’s patented structure allows high levels of airflow, in addition to the transport of moisture vapour, making the formation of condensation in the roof space virtually impossible.

In addition to Roofshield, contractor Bartos Building installed Procheck 500, a strong reinforced, polyethylene, vapour control layer. Procheck 100 is a highly effective vapour control layer, for use within roof and wall constructions to prevent warm, moist air escaping from inside the building and condensing within the insulation and also creates an air tight seal.

Roofshield, Procheck 500 and 100 were selected for the project due to their proven track record, ease of application, ease of use, minimising disruption to the building, and the offer of a long-term warranty on the performance.

For more information on Yeoman Rainguard’s full range of rainwater systems go to www.yeomanrainguard.com

Kemperol Cures Roof Ailments At Poole Hospital

Kemperol 2K-PUR solvent-free and odourless waterproofing membrane has been used to refurbish the roof of Poole Hospital’s outpatient department, ensuring that the project avoided any odours that could become a nuisance to staff and patients in the unit or the surrounding wards. The cold-applied liquid membrane was installed by contractor, Hi Tec Roof Systems, overlaying the existing single ply membrane on the 480m² roof.

The Kemperol 2K-PUR membrane was selected for the scheme to ensure minimum disruption at the hospital as it is completely odourless throughout the installation process, required no strip out of the existing roof substrate, no hot works and no wait time between applications of resin.

Hi Tec Roof Systems cleaned and prepared the roof, applying a fungicidal wash to completely remove any contaminants before applying a Kemperol primer. The Kemperol 2K-PUR resin was then applied in a single wet-on-wet process in which the resin is first applied to the substrate; reinforcement fleece is then laid directly on to the wet resin, immediately followed by more resin on top. This ensures complete saturation of the reinforcement fleece. Once cured the resin forms a seamless, elastomeric waterproof membrane that cannot delaminate, is UV stable, and bonds directly to the substrate.

As a result, instead of scabbling smooth the old covering of asphalt and chippings on the Bishops Stortford buildings, RT Roofing proposed to simply sweep away any loose material and then begin the over-roofing with a layer of trowel thick Magnup, bonded down in hot bitumen. This then offered a sound flat surface on which to install a Langley build-up felt system.

For information and news about the RNLI, please visit: www.RNLI.org.uk.

A new building was required to house Scarborough RNLI’s (Royal National Lifeboat Institution)’s new arrival—a Shannon class all-weather lifeboat, which is larger than Scarborogh’s outgoing Mayway class lifeboat. The charity’s new purpose-built lifeboat house not only boasts a modern and practical interior, but also a robust, low maintenance, weather resistant exterior.

Having to use building materials which can stand up to the coastal elements, Yeoman Rainguard GRP downspipes were chosen to complete a hardy rainwater system with their 100mm diameter GRP downspipes in Black being installed to the exterior of the new building.

The through coloured GRP downspipes are not susceptible to erosion from sea salt or indeed to colour bleaching from the Sun’s ultra violet rays ensuring that the Station will remain looking as good as new for many years to come. For information and news about the RNLI, please visit: www.RNLI.org.uk.

For more information on Yeoman Rainguard’s full range of rainwater systems go to www.yeomanrainguard.com

Elements At Scarborough’s New RNLI Lifeboat Station

Yeoman Rainguard GRP Downpipes Weather The Roofing Contractor Keeping Quiet About The Advantages Of Magply

A Colchester based roofing contractor has been using Magply Recovery boards as part of a high specification build up, which provided its operatives with a relatively quiet as well as safe means of carrying out roof re-covering works to school classrooms during lesson times.

RT Roofing Services specialises in the education sector and carries out up to 20 large scale upgrade projects for premises across London and the South-east each year, with its current contract focussing on Pets and Essex High School in Bishops Stortford.

While much maintenance work around school and college campuses has to be scheduled during the long summer holidays, the pressure this puts on the re-roofing works means some operations have to carry on during term time, as long as noise and disruption are kept to an absolute minimum.

As a result, instead of scabbling smooth the old covering of asphalt and chippings on the Bishops Stortford buildings, RT Roofing proposed to simply sweep away any loose material and then begin the over-roofing with a layer of trowel thick Magnup, bonded down in hot bitumen. This then offered a sound flat surface on which to install a Langley build-up felt system.

The owner of RT Roofing Services, Richard Tebbutt commented: “We wanted to avoid the noise and dust of scabbling the existing asphalt surface and chippings, so instead the team just brushed off the loose material and thoroughly prepped the surface before bonding the Magply sheets down in hot bitumen. Because Magply is non-combustible, any excess bitumen can simply be burned off before the vapour barrier is installed.”

www.magply.co.uk

A Colchester based roofing contractor has been using Magply Recovery boards as part of a high specification build up, which provided its operatives with a relatively quiet as well as safe means of carrying out roof re-covering works to school classrooms during lesson times.

RT Roofing Services specialises in the education sector and carries out up to 20 large scale upgrade projects for premises across London and the South-east each year, with its current contract focussing on Pets and Essex High School in Bishops Stortford.

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www.magply.co.uk
Platform Drainage At Historic York Railway Station

The original York Railway Station was built within the City Walls, adjacent to where the current station now stands. Opened in 1839 by the North Midland Railway, the structure only served trains to and from the south and the northern coalfields. However by 1873, as more passenger and goods lines were built into York, a larger station, from which trains could gain access from all directions, was needed.

Opening in 1877, the new York Station took three years to rebuild. Designed by the North Eastern Railway’s architect Thomas Prosser, the curved 800ft-long train-shed roof, supported by iron columns, arched 42ft above the platforms. The station was immediately hailed as one of the great buildings in Victorian era. At the time, it was the largest railway station in the world with four massive arches and thirteen platforms.

Today, the structure still impresses. Serving the busy East Coast mainline route, primarily between Glasgow Aberdeen, Edinburgh and London it is also a vital cross-route link between Glasgow, Manchester and Liverpool. The station currently copes with around 800 trains and thousands of passengers each week. With so many passengers using the station, the extended platforms, which project out from the original arched structure, are as busy as ever. The platform surfaces have been designed to gently slope inward away from the track so any surface water naturally drains towards their centre. Effective drainage of these roofed and un-roofed “outer” areas was a major safety consideration.

Hauraton RECYFIX® STANDARD 100 channels were chosen for the slightly curving platforms – see photographs. The 271 metres of channelling installed were made from the company’s tough recycled Polyethylene-Polypropylene (PE-PP), all fitted with Class C 250 ductile iron “heel-safe” gratings finished in a Black anti-oxidisation coating. As each one metre unit only weighs just over 6kg, including the grating, contractor C. Spencer Limited was impressed with the ease and speed of installing the channels as all the units used easily complied with manual lifting regulations. www.hauraton.co.uk

Sika Sarnafil Branches Out With Unique Garden Room Project

In possibly the only building of its kind in the UK, Sika Sarnafil single ply membrane has been used to waterproof a garden room with a live tree growing through it. Hackney-based architect, Andrew Leckenby, specialises in working with private clients to improve their homes. But when it came to extending his family home, Andrew became his own client.

Living in an urban area meant imagination was required to increase his living area. Deciding to make the most of his home’s outdoor space, Andrew settled on a garden room, but the rear of the garden contained a beautiful false acacia tree, which he did not want to remove. Andrew drew up plans for a room that would incorporate the tree, making it the focal point of the space. Andrew explained: “There are countless examples of trees being integrated with architecture – but these are generally found in countries where it doesn’t rain quite as much! To be able to achieve the same effect in the UK, we needed a roofing membrane that was flexible enough to allow the tree to sway and grow, and durable enough to keep the building watertight.”

Andrew had specified Sika Sarnafil on many extensive commercial projects during his career working with larger architectural practices, so knew that the product would meet his requirements. “Faced with a challenging roof design, I instantly thought of Sika Sarnafil. After decades of specifying it for corporate clients, I was confident that I could trust its quality and durability. Sarnafil’s Registered Contractor scheme allowed me to identify an installer that had the training and experience to do the job – essential for detailing of this nature.”

The finished article is a striking, yet homely multi-functional space, used as a garden room that extends the summer season, a home office – and not to mention a unique sleepover location for Andrew’s son. A member of the Sika Sarnafil technical team inspected the project once complete and awarded a 15 year guarantee on the roof. The low maintenance membrane means Andrew only has to check the waterproofing once a year to ensure the detailing around the tree is still sound. A small price to pay, says Andrew, for such a fantastic family space.

For information on Sika Sarnafil’s products and services, call 01707 394444, email sarnafilroofing@uk.sika.com or visit http://gbr.sarnafil.sika.com.

Visit the Leckenby Architecture website www.leckenbyarchitecture.com for details on Andrew Leckenby’s architectural design and consultancy services.
Yeoman Rainguard Rainwater Systems Chosen By Persimmon Homes For Luxury Renovation

Nestled in the foothills of the South Pennines near Rochdale, Lancashire, is the restoration and conversion, by Persimmon Homes, of the old Birch Hill Hospital into stunning apartments and town houses. The use of the beautiful historic building, grace Rochdale’s landscape since 1877, has certainly changed starting out originally as a workhouse then run as an NHS hospital for many years.

The dilapidated hospital, imposing clock tower, chapel and rectory required sympathetic restoration techniques by Persimmon Homes’ team to maintain and restore the buildings grand architecture and design. Yeoman Rainguard’s XL Aluminium rainwater systems, with traditional style, textured finish and colour, were chosen to mirror the grandeur and original buildings but offer an extremely functional and durable rainwater system which will give 50 years and upwards of maintenance free service.

Andrew Clarke of Persimmon Homes commented “The quality and authentic, traditional feel to Yeoman Rainguard Rainwater Systems reflect the quality of products and workmanship that Persimmon Homes have put into this prestigious development.” www.rainguard.co.uk

The Chapel has been tastefully remodelled into 2 semi-detached properties and now sports XL Aluminium 125x100mm MG gutter and 100mm dia. downpipes. Finished again in Grey the rainwater system dovetails perfectly with the overall exterior design. The systems, all installed by a Yeoman-Rainguard directly employed fitting operative, not only complement the character of the original buildings but offer an extremely functional and durable rainwater system which will give 50 years and upwards of maintenance free service.

The extensive use of the Chapel and the rest of the hospital was completed through the use of Yeoman Rainguard XL Aluminium gutters and downpipes. Finished in RA7012 Basalt Grey, 150 x 100mm MG XL Aluminium gutters were fitted with the addition of 100mm dia. downpipes. A bespoke GRP fascia detail, skillfully manufactured by Yeoman Rainguard at their facilities in Leeds, sits stylishly below the gutters.

The most recent of The Portman Estate’s refurbishment projects, is the Gloucester Place development. Most of the buildings along Gloucester Place were built between 1877 and 1972. The terraces were added later and completed in 1820. The original windows, which were thermally inefficient and allowed noise in, could not be altered as the buildings are Listed. Owing to a long-standing working relationship, The Portman Estate sought advice from Selectaglaze on the best secondary glazing application for their requirements.

Selectaglaze installed 80 secondary glazed units. The Series 90 was used on the larger windows which were up to 3m high and used up to 10.8mm thick glass. When thicker glass is used, coupled with a gap between the primary and secondary glazing of at least 100mm; they stop the glass resonating and allowing sound through. Using an acoustic laminated glass helps to absorb the sound, resulting in noise reductions of at least 46dB.

All the secondary glazed units were fitted with low-E glass, which provides U-values of around 1.8, to help reduce heat loss throughout the building. Selectaglaze secondary glazing units match existing sight lines allowing sound through. Using an acoustic laminated glass helps to absorb the sound, resulting in noise reductions of at least 46dB.

The contract was complicated by having large radius heads on the ground floor arches, and with Wrightstyle’s advanced systems having to seamlessly match with other non-rated aluminium areas.

Wrightstyle is currently completing a residential project in Wigmore Street, with further contracts underway on London’s bus and Underground network. Last year the company completed a major refurbishment of Carlone House, a large residential project that was featured in Lord Sugar’s Apprentice. “Our systems ranges give us enormous flexibility in being able to accommodate different thicknesses of glass in different configurations,” said Tim Kempster, Wrightstyle’s managing director. “It means that we can design, fabricate and install complete facades, or integrate advanced glazing areas with non-fire areas,” he said. www.wrightstyle.co.uk

Yeoman Rainguard Rainwater Systems Chosen By Persimmon Homes For Luxury Renovation

Grade II Listed Townhouses Refurbished For Use As A Hotel In Marylebone

Six Grade II Georgian Townhouses in Gloucester Place, London have been renovated into a comfortable and peaceful hotel with the assistance of Selectaglaze secondary glazing.

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VMZINC® Adds Bespoke PIGMENTO Colours

VMZINC is well known for its distinctive PIGMENTO shades of red, green, blue and brown but for 2017 has introduced bespoke shades of orange, beige, grey, yellow and purple. It is also offering a colour matching service against specific RAL shades, a recent example of which was a grey produced specifically for the extensive Fulham Wharf development. PIGMENTO grey produced specifically for the extensive shades, a recent example of which was a colour matching service against specific RAL

Why Klober Membranes Scored For Grand Designs

Klober membranes have been used in Carol and Paul Rimmer’s zero carbon eco-home which featured in the latest series of Channel 4’s Grand Designs. The five-bedroom, 4,300sq ft, timber frame building on the West Pennine moor has Wallint® 50 on the warm side of the building’s thermal performance by preventing lateral air movement. Wallint® 50 has superior airtightness performance qualities compared to other membranes on the market today. The installation met Network Rail’s design and to provide safe access to maintenance teams accessing electrical boxes along the train track. This installation forms part of a project to improve commuter times into London from Bicester and Oxford. See Systems supplied 8,000 metres of Kee Klamp® fittings and 10,000 units of BoxBolt®. They were installed to prevent pedestrian and vehicle access into off limit areas and to provide safe access to maintenance teams on either side of the railway line. The installation next Network Rail’s design requirement for 125mm high guardrail achieving a 400 n/m design load for the project. www.keesystems.com

Kloeber provided a bespoke specification combining a railed Juliet balcony design with its contemporary glass balustrade to meet the aesthetic requirements of a prestigious development of luxury apartments in Sevenoaks, Kent. Klober’s Self-Adhering vapour permeable Air Barriers (TermoAir) meet the requirements of BSEN13821 but are supplied in a lightweight weight format ideal for use in the residential market across a broad range of developments. The Pembroke required a bespoke railed solution which demonstrates the design versatility of our technical team.”

Wraptite-SA, the only self-adhering vapour permeable air barrier certified by the BBA, was applied directly to the concrete walls behind the Grespania Coverlam porcelain external cladding. The introduction of Wraptite-SA made a significant contribution to the building’s thermal performance by preventing lateral air movements. www.proctorgroup.com/air-barriers

Marmox Thermoblock Separates Surrey House From Its Super Basement

The technical challenges of tackling linear heat loss at the interface of a very large, traditionally built house from its fully insulated precast concrete “Super Basement” have been addressed through the inclusion of Thermoblock units, from Marmox (UK) Limited. The exclusive individual property offers its purchasers a stunning 17,000 square feet of usable space. However, despite utilising a proprietary precast concrete, sectional system with integral waterproofing and insulation measures, the design and build contractor’s architectural consultants still had to specify an effective means of controlling heat loss at the ground floor perimeter. The detail would not only be required to satisfy Part L of the Building Regulations, but also be able to carry the weight of the outer elevation. The answer came in the form of 104 Marmox Thermoblocks – measuring 100 mm wide by 65 mm high and 600 mm in length - and each one of which incorporates small cylindrical columns of high strength concrete within their low lambda value insulation. The loadbearing composite product has been developed to be incorporated into various wall constructions as a horizontal layer, equivalent to a course of bricks, in order to address a critical area of heat loss, thereby reducing energy bills and making a significant contribution to SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) calculations. Each Thermoblock is comprised of ultra-high performance XPS insulation, encapsulating miniature columns of concrete, while the top and bottom are covered by alkali resistant glass-fibre mesh, retaining a surface of fibre reinforced polymer concrete to facilitate bonding. www.marmox.co.uk

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Neaco supplied a bespoke specification combining a railed Juliet balcony design with its contemporary glass balustrade to meet the aesthetic requirements of a prestigious development of luxury apartments in Sevenoaks, Kent. Klober’s Self-Adhering vapour permeable Air Barriers (TermoAir) meet the requirements of BSEN13821 but are supplied in a lightweight weight format ideal for use in the residential market across a broad range of developments. The Pembroke required a bespoke railed solution which demonstrates the design versatility of our technical team.”

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