



Kitchen design in 2021 Contemporary conservatism creeping back into kitchen design



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MODERN LUXURY EPITOMISED

Guy Phoenix's £4.75m The Knoll comes to market

Located in one of the East Midlands' most soughtafter villages - Colston Bassett in the Vale of Belvoir, Nottinghamshire - is award-winning developer Guy Phoenix's latest creation, The Knoll.



Known for his bespoke, multi-million-pound, turnkey homes, which feature ultimate luxury, style and scale, Nottinghambased Guy approaches every property with a meticulous level of detail and consideration.

The five-bedroom The Knoll, which is being marketed by award winning agent FHP Living, under its 'Distinctive Homes' brand through its Nottingham and West Bridgford offices, is a unique and distinctive design, featuring clean, sharp lines with a Californian influence.

Set within 1.4 acres in a secluded clearing, hidden behind mature trees, the property's woodland setting runs throughout the home, with its interior styling featuring subtle accents of nature.

Potential home owners have nearly 9,000 sq. ft. of luxury living to enjoy, including five-bedroom suites with balconies, a swimming pool complete with cascading waterfall, changing room, sauna and steam room, a large open-plan kitchen and dining area with separate formal dining area, a utility room and cloakroom space.





A major feature of The Knoll is its impressive lower ground floor entertaining space, boasting a floor to ceiling home cinema. The home boasts a 94% thermal efficiency performance, achieved through state-of-the-art products and installations.

Surrounding the 'one-of-a-kind' property is a silhouette of mature trees, providing total privacy, whilst allowing sunlight to stream through.

"Set within 1.4 acres in a secluded clearing, hidden behind mature trees, the property's woodland setting runs throughout the home" The expansive, beautifully landscaped garden has plenty of stone patio areas for outside living and entertaining, and an elegant glazed detached treble garage is located within the grounds, which could double as a home office.

Surrounding nature and the ambience of the property has been carefully considered at The Knoll, with owl and bat boxes added to the surrounding trees, and subdued lighting which has been installed in and around the property to gently illuminate it - providing a striking approach as guests drive through the bronze gates and up the driveway.

Clad in aluminium and stone - with each piece hand cut multiple times to create the perfect size and shape - The Knoll has a distinctive dark grey façade, which exudes style but further enables it to sit comfortably within its natural surroundings.



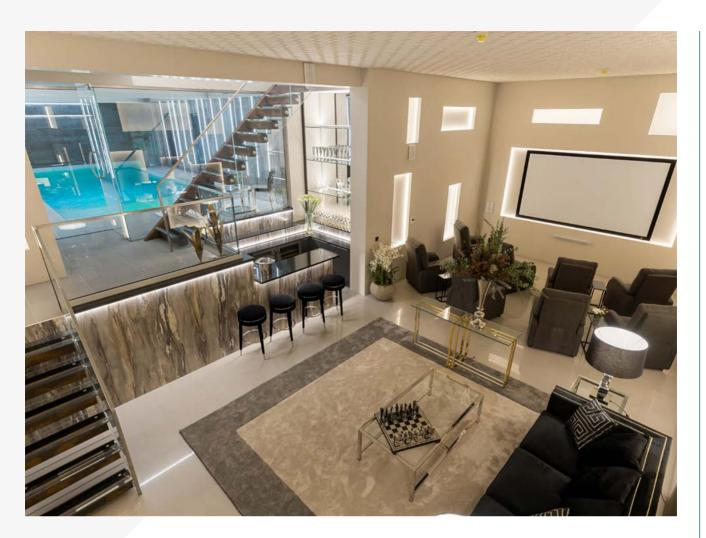
""We are incredibly proud of The Knoll which is built to a different standard, and its peaceful, wooded setting adds another layer of interest as does its closeness to nature.""

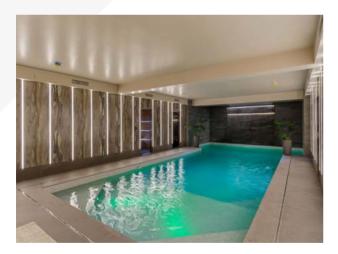
The property features a state-of-the-art security system, two gated entrances and particularly desirable in today's climate; a high-spec antibacterial air conditioning system, which is one if not the first to be installed in a residential property in the UK. The system helps eliminate most bacteria including that of COVID-19.

Speaking of the The Knoll, Guy Phoenix, said: "We continue to hold the accolade of building the finest and most desirable homes in the East Midlands and beyond, and I believe The Knoll is our best work to date. This comes from over 20 years of experience and research into the very best of high-end homes and interiors. Our properties give the luxuries our buyers want but on a completely different level.

"Every aspect of this luxury development has been taken into consideration to create an exceptional finish that our clients come to expect. From the quality of the interior styling, to the spec of appliances, to the positioning of each balcony to optimise sunlight, to the vast entertaining space, no detail has been overlooked. It's taken two decades to get to this level and each property we build improves.







"The Knoll, as with all our homes, is inspired by incredible places and spaces I have visited and love across the globe, which can be anywhere that inspires and provides a unique experience.

"We are incredibly proud of The Knoll which is built to a different standard, and its peaceful, wooded setting adds another layer of interest as does its closeness to nature."

Steve Parker, director of selling agent FHP Living, said: "The Knoll is the latest and surely the best Guy Phoenix home to date. It is distinctively different to his other signature properties and stretches the boundaries of uber luxury and contemporary living.



"With all the magnificence that you would expect in a Guy Phoenix home, The Knoll has improved on what we thought before unimprovable, with the finishes and spec taken to a whole new level. The property is simply spectacular and will make an incredible home for buyers looking for the most modern luxurious living imaginable in a peaceful, private setting in the highly desirable Colston Bassett."

As Guy makes plans to move his product to the South of France, The Knoll is likely to be the last Guy Phoenix home ever built locally.

For enquiries, please contact FHP Living on 0115 8411155. www.fhpliving.co.uk | www.guyphoenix.com

PLASWOOD PROVIDES BUILDING SOLUTION FOR RAINFOREST RESTORATION PROJECT



Specialist plastic lumber from Plaswood, a brand of Berry Global, is proving to be an ideal building material for a major ecosystem restoration programme in Indonesia.

Restorasi Ekosistem Riau (RER) comprises 150,693 ha of peat swamp forest, situated in two landscapes on Sumatra's eastern coastline. Operating under five ecosystem restoration concessions (ERCs) issued by the Indonesian government for a 60-year period, the RER restoration area is about the size of London. The purpose of an ERC is to restore a degraded forest to a balanced condition, and to ensure that it can provide ecosystem services such as water storage and supply, carbon storage, fisheries and non-timber forest products.

Plaswood lumber, made from recycled plastic, is being used in the construction of pontoons, jetties, bridges and platforms. These will allow the research and conservation teams access to the remotest areas of RER, which comprise degraded tropical peat swamp forest on the Kampar Peninsula and Padang Island in Riau Province, Sumatra.

Plaswood is a particularly suitable building solution for the wet and swampy environments of a tropical rainforest. The material's waterproof properties and longevity mean that it will not rot or degrade once the structures have been built. As a result, there will be no need to disturb the surrounding area again to replace decaying materials as would be the case if traditional timber had been selected.

Brad Sanders, Operation Head at Restorasi Ecosistem Riau said: "Plaswood has proven itself very well in that it remains strong, un-weathered, and essentially unnoticed by visitors as being plastic; indeed, they are quite surprised to learn it is recycled plastic." The next phase of the project involving Plaswood will be the construction of elevated platforms in remote areas to provide outposts for safari tents and research camps.

"This is a very important and ambitious project, and one of which we are all proud to be part," commented Katherine Lorek-Wallace, General Manager at Plaswood. "Considering the scope of the challenge and the scale of the task of restoring and protecting this versatile landscape, the use of Plaswood sustainable building materials that are longlasting, durable and safe for the rainforest environment is a logical choice. Unlike timber, Plaswood will not rot and deteriorate with time, which means that this diverse ecosystem will not need to be disturbed again to carry out replacement and maintenance works."

To learn more about the project visit www.rekoforest.org

To find out more about Plaswood sustainable materials visit www.plaswood.eco





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Refurbishment and basement extension of a Ground Floor flat near Belsize Park in North-West London

The Client owned this 85 sqm ground floor as an investment asset. Faced with the choice of whether to sell and buy a bigger property or extend and improve, they chose the latter. The project was fulfilled on a very tight budget and required a lot of innovative thinking. The resulting 160 sqm maisonette now comprises three bedrooms (one of them en-suite), two bathrooms, a guest WC, ample living/dining space across both levels, utility room and storage.









"The feeling of openness has been achieved by introduction of a double-height space facing the rear garden, stepping down to the lowerground level."



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The feeling of openness has been achieved by introduction of a double-height space facing the rear garden, stepping down to the lower-ground level. The kitchen has received a 4m long skylight above its entire length. The rear façade, featuring a subtly detailed double-height slim-glazed opening, maintains the appearance of the building in the conservation area.

TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO THE VIRTUAL WORLD OF WATER LEISURE



Ever wanted to incorporate water into a project but didn't know quite where to start? Designing with water, whatever its context, begins and ends with a visit to SPATEX Virtual - the UK's ONLY dedicated international water leisure show, now entering its 25th year.

For the safety of its visitors and exhibitors, the exhibition is moving online from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday February 4th. This makes SPATEX Virtual the most accessible water leisure showcase and shop window in the world and FREE to everyone with internet from the comfort of office or home. It's a show aimed at house builders, building contractors, quantity and building surveyors, interior designers, property developers and key decision makers within the leisure sectors.

Featuring the virtual booths of the world's top water leisure manufacturers, suppliers and installers you can source 2021's latest models and innovations of water features, swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, enclosures, saunas and steam rooms, all their associated equipment, such as plant room equipment, and much more. Energy saving was a big feature of SPATEX 2020 and this theme will be further explored in 2021.

SPATEX Virtual will be accessible from all laptops, desktops and tablets and does not require a webcam or Zoom.

WHAT CAN I DO AT SPATEX VIRTUAL?

Interact with international water leisure professionals from the comfort of your desk. Time Saving — at a real-life event it can be difficult to see everything on offer and there is usually something you miss because you simply run out of time.

- Chat with exhibitors via audio, video and text message and network in chatrooms.
- Use a virtual shopping bag to collect product manuals, demos, brochures, videos on your computer which you can then email to yourself or others.
- Hold one to one real time meetings with exhibitors

Gain inspiration - There's few projects that can't be enhanced with the addition of water. Whether for artistic effect or leisure, water adds another dimension, both in sound and vision. Stay abreast of the Industry's latest innovations -SPATEX Virtual covers every conceivable aspect of designing with water for both the domestic and commercial sectors.

Attend free workshops - delivered by industry experts, on the latest design techniques. Pose questions in live Q and As about your own projects or dip in and out of the talks, whilst also popping into the expo area for meetings with exhibitors or leaving the event for a while to carry on with your own tasks. Access to all sessions that are streamed live are available on-demand for 30 days after the event concludes along with all the show's content.

Tap into a unique pool of free expertise for your projects

- SPATEX Virtual is fortunate to count the Industry's many esteemed associations amongst its supporting partners such as SPATA (Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association) and BISHTA (British and Irish Hot Tub and Swim Spa Industry Association). There's no better place to seek advice from an expert, and all for free and on a one-to-one basis. The virtual show gives you the chance to have all of your questions answered uninterrupted.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR FREE VISIT: WWW.SPATEX.CO.UK OR CALL +44 1264 358558

HOUSES FOR THE FUTURE



CONSTRUCTING SUSTAINABLE AND DURABLE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

In a survey by Home Quality Mark, over two thirds of respondents said sustainable features are important in a prospective property. For a home to be sustainable, it must have elements that lower environmental impact, but must also be built to last. Here, Nick Cowley, managing director at aluminium building product supplier, Endurawood, explores how to construct sustainable and durable new builds.

Government research has found that the UK needs to build up to 345,000 new homes per year to fulfil demand. While new homes must be produced quickly and sustainably, housebuilders must not compromise quality. Therefore, property developers need to examine new build features that both lower the environmental impact of a home and increase its lifespan.

LOCATION

The location of new builds can be as important for sustainability and durability as building methods and materials.

With UK flooding becoming common in recent years, housing area drainage must be considered. Flooding can cause structural damage, electrical faults, mould and debris. To prevent flooding, property developers can incorporate specially landscaped natural drainage points, such as ponds and ditches, which minimise the risk of flooding while creating a varied wildlife habitat.

Trees are another natural feature that reduce flooding by intercepting rainwater as it falls and evaporate it back into the atmosphere before it reaches the ground. Their roots help infiltrate water into the soil, reducing water runoff. This can also be reduced with permeable paving, such as pervious concrete and interlocking grass pavers.

ENERGY

Another consideration when constructing sustainable new builds is energy optimisation. Solar power is a renewable energy source that produces zero water or carbon emissions during operation. By incorporating solar photovoltaic (PV) panels into new builds during the construction process, the components can be bought in bulk, which saves money, and the technology can be incorporated seamlessly into the home as opposed to retrofitting later.

Solar panels also appeal to those that want to save on energy bills. A typical home solar PV system can save up to 1.6 tonnes of carbon per year and can supplement between 20 to 30 per cent of a home's electricity needs.

It's also important to build with high energy efficiency in mind. Any appliance installed into the home should have at least an A energy rating, and using light emitting diode (LED) bulbs can save up to 90 per cent of energy compared to traditional bulbs.

Energy efficient windows and doors can also boost energy efficiency, by trapping heat inside and keeping rain and wind out. This weatherproofing increases the durability of the house by protecting it from damage, while improving energy efficiency.

BUILDING MATERIALS

The building materials used to construct a home are arguably the most important factors in its durability. In this area, it can be harder to strike a balance between being environmentally friendly and long lasting.

Aluminium strikes the balance of environmental and superior durability benefits. It has one of the highest recycling rates of any metal due to its ability to be melted and reformed without any loss in quality, and the recycling process of aluminium requires only five per cent of the initial energy consumed to create it.

Fortunately, the exceptional properties of aluminium can be combined with the traditional aesthetics of wood. Endurawood is an aluminium building material with a woodgrain finish. Endurawood is 100 per cent recyclable, and uses volatile organic compound (VOC) free coatings and lead-free finishes.

Furthermore, Endurawood is non-warping, corrosion resistant, non-porous, and frost resistant, proving a weatherproof material. It's also insect proof and stain and scratch resistant, displaying ultimate durability that is suitable for a range of building projects, such as decking, fencing and cladding.

While many house buyers are looking for environmentally friendly features, they also want homes that are built to last. For property developers to satisfy both sustainability and durability requirements, they should carefully consider the home's surroundings, energy usage and building materials. By building with the future of both the property and environment in mind, homes can be beneficial for all.

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From acoustic to thermal comfort, Nesite's new floor is a 100% sustainable solution and available in a wide range of finishes, including customizable, natural and more contemporary.

For its extraction it is not necessary knocking down any tree, its environmental impact is zero and it has excellent mechanical and physical characteristics: cork is historically linked to the world of design, thanks to its "green" orientation.

Nowadays it is reinterpreted for interior finishes by Nesite, an Italian company specialized in the production of raised floors, which after years of research and development presents Cork, a collection of cork surfaces in twenty different finishes available in the catalogue, also customizable. Cork is a solution available in several sizes and with a thickness of 4 or 5 mm that, thanks to the honeycomb structure, is able to absorb sound waves (more than 50% than laminate) and improve the acoustic comfort of environments, also ensuring considerable insulation properties, with consequent energy savings. Comfortable to walk on, cork does not attract dust (it is antistatic) and is waterproof, with excellent response to chemical agents.

Its shades and textures, as well as its fascinating raw appearance, finally take on a contemporary look in the ten "design" finishes proposed by the company, which add to the "natural" proposals also the grey palette, between warm and cold shades.

Nesite Interior, a brand that represents the evolution of Nesite in the contract world, finally proposes cork also as a wall covering, with the possibility to customize the finish.

www.nesite.com | www.simonepiva.com

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ACOUSTIC IMPROVEMENT - thanks to its honeycomb structure (40 million capsules of air / cm3), cork absorbs vibrations and sound waves. Tests confirm that the use of cork reduces the noises up to 53% compared to laminates.

THERMAL INSULATION - the heat conduction coefficient of this material is 0.037-0.040 W / (mK). Cork maintains insulating properties at a wide range of temperatures with consequent energy saving.

ANTI-STATIC - the cork surface doesn't accumulate electrical charges, therefore the phenomenon of attraction and accumulation of dust is not there. Cork surfaces are easy to maintain and clean.

FOOTFALL COMFORT - studies certify that after 45 minutes of walking on different surfaces, cork offers greater comfort, reducing the feeling of fatigue compared to linoleum, laminate and ceramic

WATER-REPELLENT AND NON-ABSORBENT - this feature is caused by the presence of suberin which represents the 39-45% of the cork mass. This substance increases the water-repellent properties, strengthens it and acts as a thermal insulator.

GREEN –100% RECYCLABLE - the wasted material is used to produce agglomerates for construction, clothing and much more.

CREEN CO2 ABSORBTION - cork is able to absorb CO2, the main cause of the greenhouse gas, up to 5 times its weight.

A SUCCESSFUL 2020 FOR CONNECTORS AND FASTENERS?



Despite the unprecedented nature of 2020 the construction industry remains robust, and we've been working hard to bring you exciting new innovations across our product ranges.

In January our Connectors for Timber and Masonry Construction catalogue introduced the new Gable Panel Connector, a high movement timber frame tie, decorative and heavy duty post bases and an adjustable mini hanger.

Our mascot Rusty advised customers that building requirements only advocate the use of austenitic stainless steel or PVCu beads in UK external rendering applications, not galvanised. In March we introduced our Premium Fasteners range; Europe's leading range of superior nails and screws, with structural options, including the new the SSH screw for use with connectors where high load capability is required, and a choice of superior stainless steel fasteners.

The range also features our Quik Drive collated fastening system, now available with a lifetime warranty, launched with a viral video game style feature on social media that saw almost 2 million views.

In May we published our Connectors & Fasteners for Cross Laminated Timber Construction catalogue featuring new structural angle brackets, hold downs, concealed beam hangers, and a timber frame Quik Drive solution.

Autumn saw the release of our popular Building Safer Structures CPD webinar, followed by our Light Gauge Steel catalogue. Included in the range is the brand new LGSSC Splicing Clip, designed to connect the over–sail LGS studs to the primary structure, and the new RCKW Parapet Wall Bracket, designed to resist an over-turning moment at the base of exterior knee-walls and parapets.

"It's been an exciting year, with the launch of new products across our ranges" explains Sales Director Jon Head. "Coupled with new catalogues and first rate technical and customer support, we really do have everything you need to build safer, stronger structures."

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LOCAL SHOPS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE...

During the current pandemic, now more than ever local retailers (and businesses) need your help to continue to serve the community. Small and independent retailers are important to the economic fabric of our society and are at the heart of our communities, it is important that we get behind them and show our support - we all play a part in their existence.

Why does The IPG support Independents?

With a network of over 200 carefully selected member locations nationwide, The IPG encourages, plumbers, installers, and homeowners to shop locally and buy all their plumbing, heating, and bathroom goods from their local independent retailers (online and offline).

Why? Because local independents can be like a breath of fresh air, bringing much-needed originality and variety into communities. They are the backbone of our economy, run by local people, and you cannot beat the personal touch of an owner who knows the area. They tend to learn more about their customers and are much more likely to go above and beyond the call of duty, helping when they can, often giving you more choice and variety. Working with many brands from across the plumbing, heating, and bathroom sector, The IPG members can provide the same types of deals, if not better, then many wellknown chains. What is more, when spending with local independent retailers, the money tends to stay in your community, which means other businesses and people in the area benefit.

Small independent businesses are much better at acting fast and adapting to a changing market and IPG members are no exception. They have been able to change their plans or strategy much faster than larger competitors, with many demonstrating some amazing examples of reworking their businesses to offer essential services or goods during these unusual times.

Nike Lovell, IPG's Head of Marketing said; "It is testament to the resolve of our members that they reacted quickly to Covid-19 challenges, adapting their businesses so they could continue to service and support their customers. Many have implemented ingenious new ways to continue trading and to evolve, whilst safeguarding customers and staff."



How can you help? If you have a local store that you support, look them up on social media platforms and follow and share with your friends and family, this will help grow their exposure. You can also help your independent to build trust with others, by giving a review on-line.

It takes passion and dedication to run a small independent business, so shop local, buy from an independent and support your community.

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GUNNING LONDON DRIVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



Gunning London, the chartered building company specialising in internal and external refurbishments, has added a new electric vehicle – the Polestar – to its fleet.

The Polestar joins a Tesla, Audi e-tron and Nissan Leaf to become Gunning's fourth electric vehicle, with charging points to be installed at the company offices in Dagenham and employees' homes.

Matthew Nash, Business Development Manager at Gunning London, explains that this is part of a broader sustainability strategy: "The Polestar is the latest development in our plan to have a fully electric fleet by the end of 2021.

"Whether it be managing site waste with recycling schemes for paint cans and old timber doors, or becoming a paperless office, sustainability is at the heart of everything we do, and we are constantly thinking of new practices to integrate into our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System."



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Over 5,000 people die in the UK each year due to asbestos related diseases.

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ABOUT

Founded in 1982, The Highfield Group are now global leaders in qualifications, end-point assessment, training materials, e-learning and work with some of the world's most recognisable companies.

As an awarding organisation Highfield offer 250+ qualifications delivered by over 20,000 trainers spread across 50 countries covering multiple sectors such as retail, health and social care, finance, customer service, rail and engineering, hospitality, logistics, aviation, and many more.

THE SITUATION

Highfield Group were moving into new premises in Doncaster. The Icon building which was located at one of the main entry points into Doncaster town centre would be the location for their new business headquarters.

Highfield approached Visual Group as they were requiring new signage throughout the building and as a key landmark from the M18 via White Rose Way, it was paramount that signage had to stand out and be eye catching.

Working alongside their Creative Director and colleagues, the project included a number of ideas which covered not only the signage for the exterior of the building, but also how to bring the office interior to life.

THE SOLUTION

This project saw Visual Group undertake a large works contract including manufacture and installation. The sign for the exterior of the building, which is black by day & changes colour by night, saw the Highfield Group logo created as a 10.5m x 2.32m sign, made from fabricated aluminium, acrylic and internal RGB LED illumination.

The interior of the building however took a very different design, incorporating themes about who Highfield Group are, what they stand for, what they do and where they are based in Yorkshire. These designs saw some truly amazing concepts delivered, all to be manufactured on wall vinyl.



THE RESULT

of that".

Shelley Houlbrook - Director of Communications & Strategic Partnerships commented "Thank you Visual Group for all your hard work on this project. The office and building look amazing! Visual Group certainly met our expectations, we have been very impressed with the service, advice, quality and installation. During the planning stages there was excellent advice on achieving the look required, working closely with our team, Visual Group provided that expert eye to bring our requirements to life. This was a big project that the team worked very hard on, consisting of a wide range of office interior wall vinyls as well as a 10.5m x 2.32m colour changing exterior sign for the front of our building which is a predominant focal point as you first come into Doncaster".

Nigel Spencer - Director at Visual Group commented "This was a fantastic job to work on, the creativity for the interior of the building was truly innovative and the team really enjoyed working with Highfield Group on this project. Located on a main entry point into Doncaster, this building was traditionally known as the Icon building, but now will be known as the Highfield building, and we are proud to be part

T: 01302 800 250 | E: sales@visual-group.co.uk www.visual-group.co.uk

Photography: Ben Harrison Photography (www.BenHarrisonphotography.co.uk)





CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATISM CREEPING BACK INTO KITCHEN DESIGN

The trend in kitchen design is following the three 'S' s - smart appliances, subtle colours and finishes, and sustainability – according to award-winning experts Kitchens International, as they explain what's on trend for 2020 and 2021.



Kevin Buchanan, Design Director for KI said: "Trends in kitchen design evolve more slowly than the fashion industry but we are seeing a move towards subtler designs that can flow easily into other living spaces and the rise of smart appliances to make lives more efficient and sustainable. Better waste disposal with special units and multi-recycling bins are seen as a 'must have' along with LED and mood lighting and a lower energy footprint throughout the kitchen."

The biggest developments in kitchen design for 2020 are the Cube Quooker tap which dispenses still, sparkling, chilled and boiling water, removing the need for large Americanstyle fridge freezers and kettles. Along with venting hobs, which means no overhead extraction, and the use of sliding or pocket doors to conceal storage are all new developments that are seen increasingly in most kitchens that KI designs.

BATHROOMS & KITCHENS

LAYOUTS

Open plan kitchens or transitional kitchens linking into the living areas continue to be far the most popular with fitted integrated seating or bar stools on the 'must have' islands. However, bar stools are no longer simple stools but comfortable chair like seating that has a more living room appeal. Bookcase style shelving, designated bar areas and multi media units all point to the rise in the living kitchen. Kevin added: "Clients often opt for fitted furniture for their dining area or for their lounge to create a connection to the kitchen, as well as to achieve a very fluid design and colour scheme for the space as a whole."





"Better waste disposal with special units and multi-recycling bins are seen as a 'must have' along with LED and mood lighting and a lower energy footprint throughout the kitchen"

COLOURS, FINISHES AND WORKTOPS

Subtlety is the trend for colour and finishes with darker subtle matt colours gaining popularity, along with greys and concrete finishes. Timber veneer finishes or simply warmer tones as accent areas work well to give that more subtle contemporary look. Coming in are shaker doors with modern layouts and colours. Engineered stone, such as Dekton, Silestone or natural look quartz offer durability and variety for worktops and are still dominating although a mixture of thicknesses works well across the kitchen.



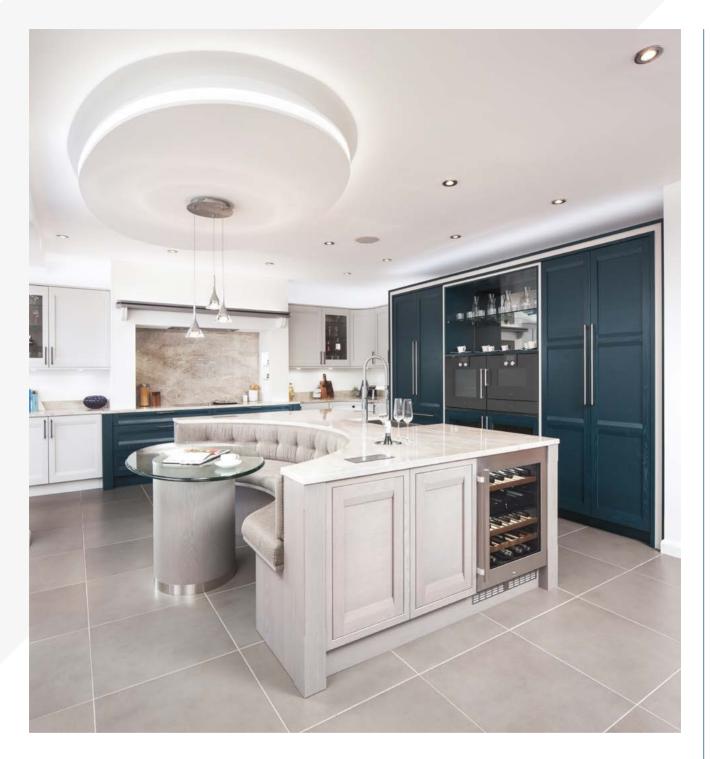
STORAGE

Large drawers are overtaking traditional door fronted cabinets in popularity while clever concealment of larders, pantries and workstations with sliding or pocket doors, allows for more 'hidden' storage. Kevin says: "Wherever possible we are maximising storage with tall, often ceiling height, cupboards and pull outs for all areas, including clever Le Mans carousels for corners."

MUST HAVE

The KI designers' list of essential kitchen items now includes a boiling water tap (more efficient energy-wise and removes the need for the kettle); a steam oven (a healthier and more versatile option than a microwave); excellent zoned lighting; a warming drawer, which does far more than just warm plates; and two big double bowl sinks eliminating the need for a drainer on the worktop.







EXTRACTION AND LIGHTING

Where these used to be the after-thoughts of the kitchen they are now key areas. Extraction has evolved with a big increase in in-built hob extraction and downdraft extraction. Lighting design is an art in itself so often KI will bring in expert lighting designers to ensure the lighting illuminates each area appropriately.

Since kitchens are only replaced about every 10 years or more, and especially in these changing and challenging times, designers will ensure that at the design phase every minute detail will be discussed and developed to allow for the longevity, style and functionality of the kitchen far beyond the next 12 months.

www.kitchensinternational.co.uk



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We are proud to have collaborated with many leading architects, interior designers, building contractors, surveyors, landscape designers and private clients. Attention to detail, quality of performance and integrity are the core of our company values, as is achieving fabulous results for our customers. The bespoke Arabescato marble vanity pictured above was designed by one of our clients and expertly crafted and installed by our master masons, and is just one example of how we can take your inspirations to the next level.



Be it a beautiful book-matched marble bathroom, a sweeping stone staircase, an elegant stone floor or even a private (or commercial) wellness spa, we are here to make your life easier.

We have even made a bespoke five-seater stone jacuzzi for a client before, so feel free to give us a challenge! At Trajan Stone we pride ourselves at keeping up with all the latest products and design trends, so even if you need a Dekton kitchen work surface or a Neolith feature wall, we're always on hand to help.

www.trajanstone.com



LUXURY KITCHEN DESIGN – THE MYERS TOUCH

Designers: Keith & Helena Myers, The Myers Touch

THE MYERS TOUCH KITCHEN BRIEF

The clients specific design objectives were for us to incorporate both aesthetics and functionality into their design. With 2 young girls and a huge Great Dane dog, materials needed to be very durable and consumables kept well out of harms way!



With 90% of their eating to take place in the kitchen, careful consideration had to be given to the style, position and comfort of the seating. Preferring a modern minimalist look but with a warm and inviting feel, we were to avoid creating places, which could accumulate clutter whilst avoiding a feeling of blandness. Importantly was the use of state-of-the-art technologies that would be a joy to operate and would capture the hearts and imaginations of the user.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge was to create focus and flow in what is a particularly large space, which serves the combined purpose of kitchen, casual dining, study, casual lounging and the dogs sleep area.

We designed a very practical kitchen in view of the young children and of course their exceptionally large dog! Accessibility and layout incorporated clever storage (including a hidden pantry) that makes it easy for everyone to have a space for the things that matter to them whilst ensuring that food is protected within dog-proof zones. The kitchen defines the best use of space and to safeguard the 'cook' from the flow of traffic generated towards other areas of the room.

THE OUTCOME

The owners are now able to capitalise on the beautiful garden views as well as awareness of the corridor of traffic from other areas of the house. The selection and combination of materials used results in a warm and hospitable environment that attracts the family to spend time together in this one place rather than being a purely practical space, which is often abandoned once the meal is over and each family member leaves to a more relaxed area. The chosen cabinetry was SieMatic S2 in Agate Similaque and Pine with 12mm Neolith Iron Moss worktops. Wolf Appliances were chosen with a Kohler sink, Zoe Mixer Tap and Quooker Boiling Water table. A key feature of the kitchen was the Hidden Larder Cupboard.







"Accessibility and layout incorporated clever storage (including a hidden pantry) that makes it easy for everyone to have a space for the things that matter to them"

www.themyerstouch.co.uk | 01962 600 700

Photography Credit Martin Gardner

CLAYPAINT TRANSFORMS LISTED PROPERTY

Paragon is a grand Grade 1 Listed Georgian Terrace designed by Thomas Attwood and built in 1768. Situated in Bath city centre, it is surrounded by period architecture. Guinness World Record holder and Britain's fastest snowboarder Jamie Barrow, decided to take on a slower challenge to fully renovate a two storey apartment in the terrace.

Jamie re-plastered the apartment in lime to ensure it remained breathable. He said: "In the basement of a Grade 1 Listed building, there were obviously some damp issues. As we were not allowed to damp proof these buildings we had to use breathable materials, which is why we used lime plaster on the walls."

Jamie decided to use Earthborn Claypaint due to its high level of breathability, thick creamy consistency and ease of use. He added: "We initially used a lime wash as this is what was suggested but after many coats it just wasn't covering well.



This is when I looked into what breathable paints are available and came across Earthborn Claypaint. I decided to give it a go and after just I coat it covered amazingly and gave a really nice luxury feel. That is why I am now using it on my other projects."

www.earthbornpaints.co.uk

RELOAD - THE RE-USABLE SILICONE CARTRIDGE - BEING **GREEN AND SAVING MONEY!**

A key issue in building conditions nowadays is the issue of site waste. Not only does it impact heavily on the environment which is reflected in your credentials, the shear costs associated with waste disposal is phenomenol. Site Waste Management Plans are becoming statutory practice for building projects over

£300,000, recording the types of waste and the volume of waste generated per job which you as construction workers will be responsible for

Bond It's responsibility, as one of the UK's fastest growing manufacturers of sealants, adhesives and building chemicals, is to contribute



where possible in making this achievable by introducing innovative, environmentallyfriendly, sustainable packaging! By Introducing the new re-usable Reload sealant cartridge system, Bond It feels this is the answer to the landfill issue. It cuts down on waste, it cuts down on time. and it cuts down on costs!

For more information on Bond It contact our Sales Team on 01422 315300 or visit www.bond-it.co.uk.



SILANCOLOR TONACHINO PLUS BY MAPEI

Mapei's Silancolor Tonachino PLUS is a fibre-reinforced silicon resin-based coating, ideal for internal and external surfaces that can be affected by the growth of algae, mould and fungi. It comes in a paste form with good filling capacity, making it perfect for a contemporary finish.

Silancolor Tonachino Plus is particularly ideal for protecting deteriorating or north-facing facades due to its excellent repellence to water

and its resistance to UV rays, cracking, and ageing

Available in various grain sizes, including new 1.5mm, it combines the advantages of mineral coating materials for high breathability, as well as those of synthetic coatings for a uniform colour. excellent adhesion to old paintwork (depending on its condition), and is available in a wide range of colours.

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We also work closely with established manufacturers, offering both UK and Offshore designed systems, with lead times as quick as one week on specific items.

We have many years' of experience in overcoming the technical difficulties involved in designing, manufacturing, and installing, a bespoke product.

Our full on-site survey ensures that we can work with the timescale required, and will assist with any technical issues your builders, architects or project manager may have. Together with this technical support we have in place, our fully trained 'In-House' Installers, and also the support we give our trade customers, this gives us the confidence to promote the best overall package available in the market today. Whether your project is big or small, we can help you achieve your glazing vision; you dream it, we'll deliver it!

Call us on 0208 997 2448, or email marcus@lstfoldingslidingdoors.co.uk



Keylite Roof Windows take Margate housing development to new heights

Over 60 Keylite Roof Windows have been installed to new homes and flats in the Brooke Close housing development in Margate offering clean and modern aesthetics as well as peace of mind for the building contractor, PCR Projects Ltd. Designed by architectural firm Urban Surveying and Design Ltd and built by wellrespected local contractors PCR Projects, the development required 60 Keylite Polar White PVC Centre Pivot, Thermal Glazing Roof Windows to be installed in each of the houses, and two Keylite White Painted Centre Pivot, Thermal Glazing Roof Windows, with Smoke Ventilation Kits in each of the block of flats. Scott Ridgen, Managing Director at Urban Surveying and Design Ltd said: "We are very much a design led practice and so the aesthetics of Keylite Roof Windows really appealed to us, especially knowing how they would sit on the roof lines and create a point of differentiation for this particular project."

For more information about Keylite Roof Windows, please visit www.keyliteroofwindows.com, call 01283 200 158 or email info@keyliteuk.com.



Garador Launches New Garaglide Roller Garage Door

The new GaraGlide roller door from Garador is electrically automated, so homeowners can open and close their door at the touch of a button. The door itself is powered by a tubular drive motor and is supplied with two remote hand transmitters as standard, with the option of either a standard (433 MHz) or bisecur (868 MHz) hand transmitter design.

The door features a wired optical sensor built into the floor seal to ensure that the door curtain stops, in the event of an obstruction. The optical sensor utilises light beam technology, whereby when the beam is broken the door will stop.

The GaraGlide has been designed so that it is quick to fit and easy to transport to site; the entire garage door fits neatly into just two double-wall cardboard boxes. Choose from 16 colours and 2 timber effect finishes.

Visit www.garador.co.uk or call 01935 443722 for details.



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With an extensive range of beautifully crafted stylish doors, Déanta offers a solution for every space. The Déanta Collection features real North American Oak, Walnut and Ash veneers, as well as white primed doors ready for a one-coat finish.

Déanta Architectural offers a wide choice of sleek internal flush doors, aperture options and glazing types for commercial settings. Déanta Architectural fire doors are Certifire accredited and acoustic tested up to 3IdB.

Déanta accessories are the perfect partner to any Déanta internal door. Complete the look with elegant, contemporary handles, locks and latches and choose from a range of coordinating skirting, architrave and door frames.

All Déanta doors are made to the highest standard using only the finest materials. Unlike other UK door companies, Déanta doors are manufactured in our very own facility, guaranteeing consistency across our entire range.

www.deanta.co.uk



Yale DWS prioritises hygiene with BioCote[®] partnership

In a time where hygiene and cleanliness are of the utmost importance, Yale has partnered with market leading antimicrobial additives provider, BioCote, to launch the Quartus combi door handle range with a coating that will reduce up to 99.99% of microbes on its surface.

Proven effective against many common microbes including bacteria, mould and fungi; this technology will protect the Quartus door handle from colonisation, and significantly reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

The industry leading Quartus door handle is manufactured in stainless steel exterior as standard on metallic finishes and zinc based on powder coated finishes, giving ultimate corrosion resistance and comes with an impressive 25 year guarantee* on all finishes.

To find out more about Yale DWS' antimicrobial protected Quartus combi door handle, visit www.yaledws.co.uk or call 01902 366800. For product information and updates, follow @YaleDWS on Twitter.

*Guarantee subject to correct installation and maintenance



Oxfordshire estate boasts more than 1000 steel windows

When Steel Window Association member, Cotswold Casements, (www.cotswold-casements. co.uk) was approached to look at a tender for a brand-new housing estate in Oxfordshire, the scale of the project was immediately apparent – over 1000 steel windows! The Station Road Development at Bletchingdon, comprising 61 properties with architecture commissioned by the Duchy of Cornwall, is a collection of exceptionally charming homes in a rural setting a stone's throw away from the centre of Oxford.

Steel windows were selected as the preferred option due to their environmentallyfriendliness; the steel sections themselves are manufactured from recycled steel. In addition, steel windows look amazing, are designed for long-life and enjoy optimal performance.

The windows are from the W30 range, with modifications to comply with Part Q, and over 1000 windows have been installed.

For further information on the Steel Window Association, please visit www.steel-window-association.co.uk or call 020 3475 8049.



82% OF BRITISH HOMEOWNERS ARE MORE OPEN TO INVESTING SAVINGS IN THEIR HOME SINCE FIRST LOCKDOWN

The Express Bi-Folding Doors survey reveals changing views of homeowners

Research undertaken by Leeds based Express Bi-Folding Doors, the leading name in bespoke bi-fold & sliding doors and windows, has highlighted the changing attitudes of UK homeowners because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The survey showed that a staggering 82% of British homeowners are happier to spend money on their homes since lockdown*.

79% of homeowners claim that lockdown has made them notice issues with their house, with 69% claiming they have become more house proud as a result!

With many people having to work from home, a huge 81% say that space at home has become a more valuable concept for them, with a further 86% saying that their appreciation of an outdoor / garden space has also increased.

Steve Bromberg, Managing Director at Express Bi-Folding Doors, commented: "Lockdown has resulted in the nation spending much more time at home, and when this happens, you tend to notice aspects and 'wear and tear' concerns with your property, that had perhaps gone under the radar for years.



"We wanted to see how the public perception has changed when it comes to things like house proudness, and a desire to improve and invest in their properties.

"While there are lots of important things going on in the world at the moment, for those who can, it seems now is the time to invest in your home for many householders, as money that would have been spent on experiences is diverted to improving the home. We are seeing that the money people would have spent on holidays, is being spent on creating an improved home environment both for living and working home solutions."



"79% of homeowners claim that lockdown has made them notice issues with their house, with 69% claiming they have become more house proud as a result!"

Express Bi-Folding Doors recently completed a stunning refurbishment for a client in York. The project saw them fit new doors and windows throughout the property, with the aim of modernising the home, without losing the character of the property.





Sera Sekerci, homeowner, commented: "We had wanted to refurbish our home for a while, but the lockdown made us notice things that we previously hadn't, so accelerated the process. Spending so much more time in the home makes you notice things that aren't happy with, but equally, it makes you appreciate the space and what you can do with it.







"The job that Express Bi-Folding Doors have done is exceptional, and it makes you realise what a big difference some home investments can make to the way your home looks, and how you feel in it."

Sara's home journey can be followed on Instagram @rugrats.and.renovation.

If you want to find out more about Express' products or take a virtual showroom tour, visit www.expressbifolds.co.uk.

VICAIMA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE STRENGTHENING THE USER'S EXPERIENCE



Always aiming to build the perfect online experience for its customers and partners, Vicaima, one of the largest European players in the production of sophisticated solutions for interior doors, wardrobes and panels, has just launched a new website, which aims to improve the ease of navigation for its users, providing spontaneous and differentiating interaction with all features and tools. Yet another innovation, from a company which is continuously investing in a close, modern and intuitive digital footprint.

Among the new features, Vicaima highlights the speed of the platform and the contemporary, functional and responsive redesign, strategically created to facilitate the search process for users, in line with their intentions, needs and desires.

Thus, the new website is characterized by dynamism, accompanied by carefully selected content, as well as a wide range of products, performance and solutions, with a view to boosting the digital presence of the brand in the national and international arena.

This redesign includes aesthetic improvements allowing for more immersive experimentation and improved navigation, which allows visitors to easily find the information they need.

"After many months of work and dedication by our entire team, we are very pleased with the launch of the new Vicaima website. This latest step reflects the company's ability to anticipate trends, innovate, propose complete and exciting proposals to the market. With the new website, the user can easily and intuitively access the commercialized products, news, catalogues, technical information, projects



and news, as well as request the download of BIM solutions from Vicaima, quickly and effectively. We believe that we will strengthen our position as one of the dominant players in the market. With the new design, we expect an increase in the number of visitors and consumption of content on our page. We look forward to feedback and the new and exciting developments to come ", stresses Antonio Moutinho, Director at Vicaima Group.

The new Vicaima page thus highlights the company's willingness to invest in a digital sphere that provides the best user experience for its customer. The renewal follows, precisely, the thought provoking attitude of the brand towards the different markets in which it operates. This is also related to an integrated multichannel strategy, which reconciles the company's multiple digital tools, placing it, once again, at the forefront of the sector.

Vicaima is currently one of the biggest European players in the design and production of sophisticated solutions for interior doors, technical doors, frames, wardrobes, panels and furniture parts. Its positioning is based on the ability to develop integrated and customized solutions, oriented to different sectors, namely housing, hotel, health, education and commercial. Innovative and trendsetter, Vicaima has a constant concern for sustainability, being the first Portuguese company in the sector to obtain FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) certification. Founded in Portugal, it has a direct presence in countries such as the United Kingdom and Spain and exports 95% of its production to markets ranging from Europe to the African continent, passing through the United Arab Emirates and the American continent.

For further information, visit the Vicaima website www.vicaima.com



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THE PERFECT TOUCH

Touch Ironmongery is one of London's leading Architectural Ironmongers Established in October 1982

riginally called "A Touch of Brass", the firm changed their name in 2003 in reaction to slowly advancing market changes in architectural ironmongery which is no longer supplied solely in brass, and to also reflect the broader range of product and finishes that they sell.

In fact today, Touch can supply a wide range of finishes including Brass, Satin Brass, Polished Chrome, Polished Nickel, Satin Nickel, Copper, Bronze – solid and plated, BMA, Antique Brass, Black, Pewter, Ceramic, Leather, Stainless Steel, Satin Stainless Steel, Gun Metal, and the list keeps growing. Whatever finish you require, Touch can help you get the right look.

Touch occupy their recently refurbished showroom at 210 Fulham Road, Chelsea, where they display a vast range of their 5,000 products. With a customer base including Interior Designers, Builders and Individuals who are interested in the quality end of the Ironmongery market, Touch mainly supply to residential premises but hotel and office properties also contribute to their vast clientele. The company also have a healthy export market to all corners of the world, namely the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. Touch's owner and founder, Bill Benham, has 38 years' experience in the ironmongery trade, as do his colleagues Jim Haselup and Alan Blanchard. Saleem Qureshi is the newest member of our team and has 10 years' experience, meaning their knowledge is unrivalled in this industry.

The range of products supplied by Touch date from circa 1640 French (Louise XIV) and cover all subsequent periods (Georgian, Edwardian & Victorian), art deco and contemporary pieces also make up the product ranges. In addition, Touch showcases the very best of British manufacturing; the best ranges are still produced in the Midlands by craftsmen in factories dating back 200 years or more.

Touch Ironmongery have recently become suppliers for Designer Doorware (Australia) who have beautiful products with a cutting edge design Metal , Wood and concrete. We also have the exclusive rights to sell the Olaria (Barcelona) range in the UK. Olaria make all our bespoke products, they have incredible levels of workmanship. Touch also sell European manufactured goods which is considered to be of a very good quality and in recent years they have introduced some of the far eastern made products, albeit in a limited range but cost effective. With trends continuously evolving new innovative products are constantly under development. Touch understand that keeping up with the fashion-shifts is imperative in order to provide every customer with the best solution for their requirements.

Ironmongery can be a difficult and complicated aspect od a building project, as a result Touch aim to take this awkward aspect and make it user friendly and clear to understand by offering an on-site service where they carry out a detailed door by door, window by window, room by room Ironmongery schedule, highlighting all requirements and identifying any items that can be refurbished. Refurbishment is a large part of the business; Touch will undertake complete ironmongery refurbishment projects, and can restore old paint covered door furniture to their former glory, looking as new, at a fraction of the cost to replace.

For more information about Touch Ironmongery or to arrange a showroom visit please call 0207 351 2255 or alternatively visit www.atouchofbrass.co.uk







BRITISH & EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS SUPPLYING THE FINEST QUALITY IRONMONGERY

Touch combine traditional skills with modern manufacturing techniques to produce the most beautiful, quality fittings, built to stand the test of time.

As well as specialist bespoke items, Touch supply over 1000 products, available in 23 different finishes to furnish high end residential and commercial properties, royal palaces, government houses, historic castles and stately homes.

Olaria, available from Touch Ironmongery www.atouchofbrass.co.uk & www.olariabarcelona.com











MINIMALIST HOME FRAMES SEA VIEW WITH ALUMINIUM GLAZING

Nestled away on the Isle of Wight, Island Rest is a contemporary home which makes for the perfect hideaway to enjoy the surrounding views.

Supporting the building to seamlessly connect with its environment while equipping occupants with everyday functionality, aluminium glazing plays a pivotal role.

Inspired by its natural surroundings, Island Rest is designed to be a family escape offering unique views across the Solent – a 20-mile stretch of water separating the Isle of Wight from mainland England. Helping the building to nestle into its surroundings, the low-profile single-storey pavilion is clad in larch wood, while large expanses of glazing create layers of transparency and reflection, minimising the visual impact on its setting while contributing to the striking aesthetics of the contemporary building.

Often, the location of a home is mostly a functional consideration. Here, the location has been so influential on the building's design that its impact can be seen in every

aspect. Located on a creek, the building maximises the potential of its natural environment to enhance its owners' family time, emphasising communal areas to provide easy access to the water just as effortlessly as it provides unrivalled views of the Solent.

CONNECTING WITH SURROUNDINGS

Glazing plays a critical role in softening the barriers between inside and outside spaces. With floor-to-ceiling windows throughout the property, views of the Solent are maximised and natural light is able to flood each room. In addition to providing views through the house and beyond, the glazing also enables it to blend into the landscape. Equally, in the building's communal areas, these windows can be opened up to facilitate a connection with the surroundings and allow easy access to the water.



To achieve this, without compromising the building's minimalist aesthetic, a glazing solution which offered minimal sightlines was required. Offering infinite views, Hi-Finity – an ultra-slim design from Reynaers Aluminium – was selected for the project. Capable of effortlessly moving glass panels of up to 750kg, the system is perfectly suited to creating large architectural glazing features, without the need for obtrusive framing.

At Island Rest, Hi-Finity is utilised to create a variety of features, from full-height windows which frame the spectacular views, through to large sliding doors which open up living spaces onto a courtyard and landscaped gardens.

James O'Callaghan of structural design practice, Eckersley O'Callaghan, said: "There are many layers to Island Rest which enable the building to blend into and celebrate its beautiful environment. Glazing is a key part of this, enabling the surrounding views to be enjoyed from every room, or opened up to bring the outside in.

"We selected Hi-Finity from Reynaers because it delivers everything we needed – from scalability and slim lines through to quality and functionality. The aluminium frames in particular really suit the architecture of this building, and their slender profile size further maximises the presence of the large expanses of glazing to achieve an elegant appearance."

In modern homes, glazing plays an instrumental role – not just in terms of aesthetics and performance, but in the functionality which it provides for occupants.



"Capable of effortlessly moving glass panels of up to 750kg, the system is perfectly suited to creating large architectural glazing features"



With the ability to wrap itself around any building, be it a seaside structure, high-rise hotel, or urban home, Hi-Finity delivers ultimate design freedom, without compromising performance.

Find out more by visiting www.reynaers.co.uk Photography: Hufton+Crow

MAGNIFICENT MAGNA: THE RAISED-ACCESS FLOORING SOLUTION BY HAVWOODS

The latest innovation in raised-access flooring, MAGNA® is designed specifically for use in commercial spaces offering high-quality functionality without compromising on visual appeal.

Providing access to under floor services that cannot be installed within the wall cavities, the versatile solution from Havwoods has many practical benefits and delivers an ease of installation for commercial workspaces. Significantly quicker to fit and install than traditional glue or underlay applications, Magna reduces downtime during refurbishments.

Additionally, just like a conventional Havwoods wood floor, the boards can be sanded and maintained in exactly the same way to ensure a long-lasting, aesthetic floor surface.





Each plank consists of an Oak surface layer and engineered core, the magnetised and foam-sealed wood boards provide a secure connection to the supporting pedestals which can be conveniently disconnected using a suction lifter for enhanced access.

As each board is individually magnetised, you can easily replace and remove individual boards allowing access to a specific area rather than removing the whole floor surface.

With a range of beautiful designs available including the on-trend herringbone pattern, design possibilities are endless with the Havwoods Magna raised-access flooring solution.

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TERRAZZO TREND FOR MASTIC ASPHALT FLOORING AND PAVING

Mastic asphalt is ideal for construction projects where a seamless, waterproof, durable surface is required. Commonly associated with roofing, tanking, flooring, paving and screeding projects due to its ability to offer total waterproof protection, the Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC) has recently seen a trend emerging of the use of mastic asphalt flooring incorporating terrazzo.

The long and rich history of terrazzo, with archaeologists discovering terrazzo as far back as 8000 years ago, is testament to its status as a construction material that stands the test of time. Modern interpretations of terrazzo have been created by combining decorative stone chippings with mastic asphalt, which is then polished to create infinite possibilities in any design situation.

Some perceive mastic asphalt terrazzo as having a distinctly 'retro' look and no two installations are ever the same, as the aggregate is exposed as part of the finishing process. Other finishes can also be created such as matt or smooth - as opposed to the highly polished effect normally associated



with terrazzo. Different visual effects can be created depending on the size and type of aggregate added at the mixing point to create a bespoke finish.

Mastic asphalt terrazzo offers the durability and distinctive features of terrazzo and consists of a traditional mastic asphalt base with a modern finish. Slip and skid resistance can also be incorporated into the wearing course of the mastic asphalt. In addition, mastic asphalt terrazzo is suited for both internal and external applications. Web: www.masticasphaltcouncil.co.uk Email: info@masticasphaltcouncil.co.uk Tel: 01273 242778



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HOW TO USE FLOORING TO ENHANCE INTERIOR SPACES

Charles Taylor, sales director at Composite Prime, discusses how flooring can be used to enhance the appearance of an interior space.

Upon entering a room, the first interaction is visual but the first physical interaction with a room is the floor. Choosing the right material for a space is essential for creating a unique and personal design that not only stands out from the bottom upwards, but also remains in harmony with the rest of the home.

Room to room symmetry is key when looking to make the space look and feel larger. Looking for flooring that can be installed across an entire level of a home, can extend the area and give the house a greater sense of spaciousness.

If there are dark furnishings in the room, consider using a lighter colour flooring, this will give it a more open and natural ambiance making the space appear larger. Using larger tiles also serves to make a room feel more spacious. Smaller tiles or busy patterns give the uncomfortable illusion that there is too much going on in a small space, thus making the room feel smaller.

Selecting a flooring material for high traffic areas can be challenging, especially if the areas are prone to water exposure, high footfall or UV damage; but choosing the correct material will ensure the flooring remains looking it best for years to come.

Whilst solid wooden flooring has been a popular choice for decades, it can be very expensive and prone to wear and tear, which causes a rapid deterioration of its appearance. It is essential that the flooring material selected for a home or commercial build is suitable for its environment, not just in look and feel, but also in it's durability.





Waterproof credentials are important and will enable the material to be used in damp spaces, without encouraging mildew or 'blow' unlike traditional wood flooring. Ensuring the product is protected under warranty will also guarantee that it is covered for many years to come; some products include up to a 25 year residential and 15 year commercial warranty.

Textured 3D surfaces can also deliver the aesthetics of solid or engineered wood flooring and are suitable for kitchens, living rooms and bathrooms. Many tiles now come with an integrated UV layer to protect from fading and discoloration.



"It is essential that the flooring material selected for a home or commercial build is suitable for its environment, not just in look and feel, but also in it's durability."

It is also useful to consider a material that provides easy installation; some flooring materials provide a drop-lock installation system and the ability to score the surface and easily snap each tile to cut, therefore eliminating the need for specialist tools. This allows the material to be cut to size and laid on top of any material, uneven surfaces and gradients; removing the need to detach pre-existing flooring and speeding up the fitting process further.

To find out more about Composite Prime or where to buy it's flooring products, please visit www.composite-prime.com/composite-product/ touchstone-flooring/

HOME IS WHERE THE HEARTH IS



COME HOME TO A WARMING HEARTH THIS WINTER WITH ONE OF THESE LATEST STOVES

 Sleek and contemporary, the Vogue 700 Inset woodburning fire from Stovax combines stunning looks with high efficiency heating. A stylishly contoured cast iron door features an integrated handle that sits cleanly within the door frame. The Vogue 700 Inset's Ecodesign Ready combustion systems ensure this low emission wood burner is suitable for even the most urban of settings.
 Stovax Vogue 700 Inset, priced from £1,695, stovax.com.

2. The Sheraton 5 Electric, from Gazco, offers the ambience and presence of a designer stove with all the ease of electric. Elegant cast iron details include a bevelled door and tasteful cornicing, with sweeping cabriole legs to complete this modern take on the traditional wood burner. Inside, Chromalight Immersive LED systems create mesmerising flame and ember up-lighting visuals, for a strikingly realistic display, all easily controlled with the stove's advanced Eco Handset. A range of interchangeable fuel effects allows this electric stove to be customised to suit your home. Gazco Sheraton 5 Electric, from £1,095, gazco.com.

3. Providing 180° flame visuals thanks to its three-sided firebox, the Vogue Midi T Gas stove from Gazco creates a stunning focal point in any setting. Tall flames dance among a highly realistic log effect, mirrored by a polished EchoFlame Black Glass lining for enhanced visuals. Available in plinth, Midline, Highline and even wall hung versions, a range of mounting and flueing options ensure this gas stove will suit a wide range of homes. Vogue Midi T Gas stoves come with a Programmable Thermostatic handset for easy control from the comfort of your sofa.

Gazco Vogue Midi T, from £2,225, gazco.com.



4. The Lotus Jubilee 10 brings Nordic styling to British homes, providing a compact take on the popular cylindrical stove design. Cutting-edge woodburning combustion technology makes this 4kW Ecodesign Ready stove suitable for town or country homes alike. Three different door handle options alongside leg, hearth, wood store and wall mounting options, let you tailor the Jubilee 10 to fit your living space. **Lotus Jubilee 10, from £1,539, lotusfires.co.uk.**

5. Inspired design and striking originality make the ME, from Nordpeis, a truly unique woodburning stove. Offered with a huge range of fitting options, the stove's wealth of installation choices are testament to its versatile design. Choose from pedestal, steel or glass log stores, benches and even ceiling hung options to name a few. The ME can be selected with side windows for panoramic flame visuals, capping off this avant-garde stove.

Nordpeis ME, from £2,295. nordpeis.co.uk.



6. Not only a stove, but an iconic centrepiece for any interior, Dovre's Vintage 35 effortlessly balances contemporary chic with retro aesthetics. Vintage woodburning stoves can be selected in various finishes including Pure White and Matt Black to suit a range of interior styles. A larger size is also available for increased heat output.

Dovre Vintage, from £2,395, dovre.co.uk.

7. The Varde Bornholm, with its large front and side windows, grants an extraordinary view of the burning logs. Powerful Airwash jets keep the glass clear, and form part of this high-efficiency stove's innovative triple airflow system. Designed with an integral log store and high capacity ash pan, this tall log burner has presence and practicality in equal measure. Steel handles add a note of contrast to the matt black exterior, and an open log store model is also available. Varde Bornholm, priced from £1,255, vardestoves.com.



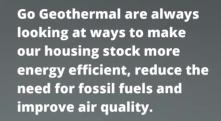


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TOP 10 HOUZZ HOME DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2021

It goes without saying that 2020 has thrown everything off course, and that includes design.

From more hygienic materials to reconfigurable spaces, 2021 will bring a generous dose of trends impacted by our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as fashions prompted by other global concerns and influences.





With a community of millions of homeowners and home design and renovation professionals, Houzz has unique insights into how people are renovating their homes and we are able to provide insights on the latest home design trends. We searched through Houzz data, browsed hundreds of home design photos, reread past articles and talked to the Houzz Pro community to create this collection of materials, colours and other home design ideas that you can expect to see a lot more of in 2021.

1. OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT SPACES WILL REIGN

Unsurprisingly, given the restrictions in place over the summer, there's been huge interest in outdoor spaces on Houzz. Our COVID survey showed that hands-down, the garden was the area most of us wanted to improve, with 30% of those surveyed wanting to make upgrades.

On Houzz, homeowners have increasingly been searching for 'summerhouses', 'firepits', 'hot tubs' and 'outdoor kitchens, which have all risen in popularity as search terms this year. We expect to see more of these features in gardens next year.

And it's not just for the summer months, professionals on Houzz report an increase in demand for designs that will extend the garden's use later into the evening and year. Particularly dining outdoors, with pizza ovens a popular request for 2021.

2. THE RETURN OF THE ALL-WHITE KITCHEN

It seems this neutral, light-enhancing choice for the hardestworking room in the house is growing in popularity, with searches on Houzz for 'white kitchen' rising significantly this year compared to 2019. We're also seeing many popular photos on Houzz that have white worktops and we expect to see more in 2021, perhaps reflecting a pandemic-fuelled desire for clean-looking cook spaces.

3. NATURE-INSPIRED PALETTES

The incorporation of nature into our interiors looks set to continue, with colour experts on Houzz predicting that warm earth tones, such as burnt umber, terracotta and clay and contrasting forest colours like sage, pine and turquoise will be strong choices for 2021. These colours are perfectly complemented by natural materials such as rattan, jute, wood and concrete which have all featured heavily in the most-saved photos on Houzz lately.



4. HEALTHY AT HOME

On Houzz, we're seeing homeowners search for 'home gym' and 'garden gym' ideas, which have both risen dramatically in popularity this year. In 2021, we expect to see more exercise equipment that fits seamlessly into interiors or furniture that doubles up. We may even see pieces that have stain-resistant, waterproof, warming or anti-odour properties coming to the market.



"Houzz has unique insights into how people are renovating their homes and we are able to provide insights on the latest home design trends."



5. COLOURFUL BATHROOMS

While white kitchens grow in popularity, we're seeing our community starting to go in the opposite direction in their bathrooms, with homeowners instead filling their ideabooks with designs bursting with colour. Standing out in that mostsaved list were a variety of examples, noticeably designs featuring pink cabinetry, gold grouting, pastel sanitaryware and rich zellige tiles. Meanwhile, 'pink bathroom', 'navy bathroom' and 'gold bathroom' were brand-new additions to the most popular search terms on Houzz in the latter half of 2020, with designers predicting further growth for these trends in 2021.

6. LUXURY VINTAGE

Sustainability, climate change and the impact we have on our planet continue to be a big theme for next year. Professionals on Houzz are reporting a growing interest in high-end, second-hand furniture, which aligns with the interest in sustainability we've seen on the platform.



7. MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SPACES

This year changed how many use their homes, with households having to live, work and play in one space during lockdown. As a result, we're starting to see professionals incorporate more hybrid designs, detachable units, and convertible pieces to create a home suited to the 'new normal'. One example, which saw a surprising rise in popularity as a search term this year, is

'murphy bed' (a pull-down design), suggesting a need for homeowners to hide away large pieces of furniture in bedrooms or spare rooms during the day, so they can double as offices while many of us work from home for the foreseeable future.

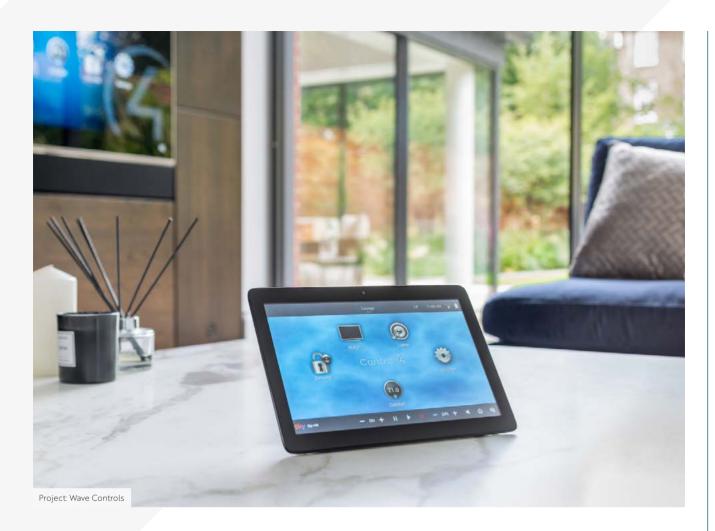
8. INTERESTING BATHROOM FIXTURES

In the most popular bathroom photos on Houzz, we're seeing homeowners stray from standard chrome tapware, leaning towards brass, matt black and rose gold instead. Professionals on Houzz predict this deviation will only continue, suggesting that matt white as a finish for fittings will gain popularity in the coming year.

Antimicrobial tap materials are also gaining traction, as homeowners look to increase hygiene amidst the pandemic. Professionals report a rise in requests for copper-based fixtures, which benefit from these properties.







9. SMARTER HOMES

The search term 'smart home' has seen a dramatic rise in popularity on Houzz this year and has been growing as a priority for homeowners in recent years, according to Houzz research. As technology continues to innovate and more household items can be controlled remotely, we expect to see voice recognition tech used more commonly in the home, avoiding the need to touch switches, household appliances and remote controls, all common germ hotspots.

No-touch technology is likely to become more sought-after for the bathroom, too, with professionals on Houzz reporting sensor-controlled taps and lights rising in popularity.

10. GROWING YOUR OWN

Another new addition to the most-searched terms on Houzz this year, 'vegetable garden' speaks to a rising interest in all things horticultural, with many dabbling in growing their own vegetables for the first time.

We expect to see this trend continue into next year, as those with even the smallest amounts of outdoor space, make use of window sills, balconies and planters to enjoy the benefits of home-grown produce.

www.houzz.co.uk

"No-touch technology is likely to become more sought-after for the bathroom, too, with professionals on Houzz reporting sensor-controlled taps and lights rising in popularity."



CONTEMPORARY INDUSTRIAL THE NEW METALLIC FLOOR & WALL COLLECTION FROM CTD ARCHITECTURAL TILES

Inspired by the colours and finishes present in steels and metals the Metallic collection will bring contemporary industrial style to life in all types of residential, commercial and hospitality projects. Available in a selection of reliefs and colourways, Metallic has three wall tile formats - 450 x 1200mm, 350 x 1000mm and 350 x 700mm as well as a 600 x 600mm floor format, making it a versatile choice for designers and specifiers.

Replicating the coloured oxide layers that occur over time in metals through exposure to corrosion, the range of glazed porcelain floor tiles and ceramic wall tiles will leave a lasting impression in kitchens, bathrooms,



retail spaces and hospitality projects alike. From the lighter tones of Platinum to the richer hues of Carbon and Rust, the Metallic collection allows design professionals to add true character to interior schemes, blending superior functionality with exceptional appearance and style.

www.ctdarchitecturaltiles.co.uk | 0800 021 4835

CELEBRATING THE NATURAL WORLD





My latest collection of paintings, titled 'Course of Events' is a celebration of the natural world. These works incorporate materials collected while out walking or visiting various locations. Natural minerals such as earth, limestone, rocks, slates and tiles are ground to produce subtle colours. Applied to canvas or linen by pouring and smearing, fascinating textured surfaces are achieved. It can even be possible to integrate a small element of a building or location into the painting. An interest in ancient rock art and geology has influenced my approach to landscape painting. I wanted to produce landscapes which have a close connection to the land, exploring it's particular qualities of colour, consistency and transformations undergone through the processes of time.

These works ideally suit the contemporary home or corporate space, being both decorative and contemplative. Commissions are welcomed and in many cases materials from site specific locations can be integral to the work.

Barbara Karn – Artist www.barbarakarn.co.uk mail@barbarakarn.co.uk (44)7929249154



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Providing the most natural looking stone alternative within the high-quality quartz surface market, Radianz offers eye-catching surfaces designed to suit a multitude of interior schemes.

Characterised by intense rich colours with stunning intricate detail, the complex patterns within surfaces from Radianz are guaranteed to add drama to any space. To create a true statement kitchen, pair a dark surface with on trend graphite or grey cabinetry and a beautiful black splashback. Add interest to the space by choosing brass handles, which perfectly complement the bronze and gold speckled details within the more intricate surfaces.

High-density, non-porous composite quartz from Radianz is suitable for a number of applications, such as flooring, wall cladding, kitchen tops and bathroom furniture. Delivering the sophisticated feel and appearance of natural stone but with excellent scratch, heat and stain resistant qualities, Radianz quartz is designed to last for years to come.

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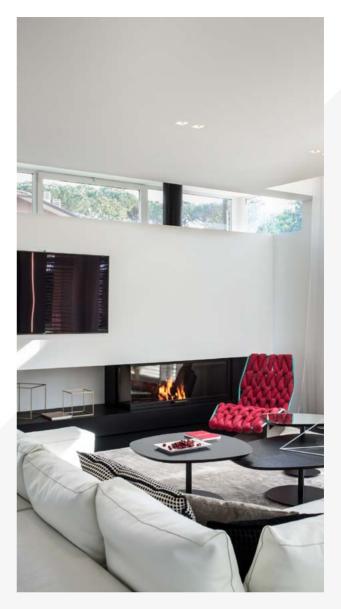


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STUDIO SVETTI ARCHITECTURE

The private house G103 in Arezzo is made from the fusion of white and black, the yin and yang inside an interior design project and interpreted as colours of transformation and evolution. The same transition the owners experienced from a couple to a family translates into the union of the two colours, and in the balance, the Tao.



The choice to base the design of this house on these two antithetical colours is not simply a style exercise but is rooted in an aesthetic, symbolic and even archaic imagery. It only unconsciously resonates inside, transmitting a sense of extreme strength from which everything originates and is transformed.

The house, originally a single-family house was the subject of restructuring with the subsequent division into two property units. The subject of the division was the southern part of the building. In order to generate a residence that unfolds on three different levels, articulating the various daily phases of the family unit, the basement with service spaces and garage, the ground floor for daytime activities (living, kitchen and dining area) and finally the first floor, entirely dedicated to the bedrooms. The ambience is distinguished by white surfaces with a velvet touch and wooden oak floors painted with deep black satin. It is characterized by the extreme formal rigor and cleanliness of lines, creating at times natural moments of chaos through the inclusion of studio designed furniture.

"The ambience is distinguished by white surfaces with a velvet touch and wooden oak floors painted with deep black satin."





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STONE-EFFECT PORCELAIN STONEWARE: THE TOTAL LOOK BY CASALGRANDE PADANA

Casalgrande Padana has drawn inspiration from the allure and the most beautiful images of stones, with their inexhaustible power and luminous beauty that highlights traces of memory anchored to the past.

We have used this inspiration to create a wide range of stone-effect porcelain stoneware tiles featuring technological innovation and sophisticated design, made up of 21 collections, 120 different textures, 6 surface finishes and 18 formats (from 15x15 cm up to 160x320 cm).

From floorings to coverings, from indoors to outdoors, each surface is covered with porcelain stoneware tiles that take their inspiration from the natural elegance of stone; combining comfort and practical appeal, the total-look effect will bring extraordinary continuity to the style of your settings, allowing you to create single-material spaces with an engaging, timeless charm.

MINIMAL OR URBAN CHIC STYLE? GO FOR PORCELAIN STONEWARE

The various collections of stone-effect ceramic tiles by Casalgrande Padana open the door to a wide variety of combinations able to satisfy any furnishing style, from the most traditional to the ultra-contemporary, modern minimal or urban chic style.

Rigour, elegance and modern appeal are the hallmark features of minimalist style; a small number of functional furnishing items that complement one another perfectly, with squared lines, wall-hung units and bathroom fittings, pale, smooth colours, floors and coverings in the stoneeffect stoneware Casalgrande Padana offers in its Pietre di Paragone and Pietre Etrusche collections.



The colour of choice for an industrial-style home is grey: in all its endless shades, it provides the perfect complement for both the metal of the lamps and the white, beige or black colours of the furnishings, walls and floors. For the living area, Casalgrande Padana offers the stone-effect porcelain stoneware tiles of the Pietre Etrusche collection, which in the colour Tuscania teams beautifully with the neutral colour of the walls and the rest of the furnishings, creating a bright, no-frills setting.

Characteristic of industrial chic stile is the open-space loft apartment, the hallmark features of which are the large open spaces, high ceilings, large windows and a number of industrial elements maintained, such as the raw concrete finishes and exposed bricks. To give the settings the charm and character typical of metropolitan style, Casalgrande Padana solutions offer continuity between the flooring and covering materials, with the porcelain stoneware tiles in the Pietre Etrusche collection, in the colour Sovana, inspired by the beauty of warm, earthy colours.

Extremely adaptable from an aesthetic point of view, thanks to the reduced thickness of the tile (4.9 mm and 6.5 mm) and the versatility of the large formats (from 60x120 cm up to 160x320 cm), Casalgrande Padana porcelain stoneware is suitable for covering all kinds of walls and work surfaces, including tops and tables; it is also an excellent choice with underfloor heating systems.



"Casalgrande Padana porcelain stoneware is suitable for covering all kinds of walls and work surfaces, including tops and tables"





THE OUTDOOR LIFE

Outdoor areas provide a sensation of wellbeing that expands the limits of the interiors, so gardens, patios, verandas, terraces and balconies become an extension of our homes in which to spend alfresco evenings in good company for an aperitif or dinner, enjoying the heady aroma of fruit ripened in the sun, or the sweet fragrance of lavender. Thanks to the natural surface for interiors and anti-slip finish for outdoors of the stone-effect ceramic tiles by Casalgrande Padana, a sense of visual continuity can be created, shaping an interesting, smooth total-look effect. A carefully balanced range of warm colours, in which behind each veining pattern lies a story able to enrich the setting with a vintage allure, combining smoothly with all kinds of furnishing styles, from classic to modern, as well as country and rustic, restoring a fresh, original look to each setting.

Casalgrande Padana offers a wide range of stone-effect monolith tiles selected from the collections Amazzonia, Pietra Baugè and Pietre di Sardegna: with a thickness of 20 mm, perfectly squared and rectified and with an anti-slip finish, they are ideal for all sorts of project requirements, creating continuity between interiors and the flooring of outdoor areas such as terraces, patios, verandas or walkways, laid both on grass and gravel. Thanks to the 20 mm thickness, Casalgrande Padana tiles can be laid on screed with glue, guaranteeing excellent resistance to loads, or dry-laid directly on sand, gravel or grass, thus obtaining a flooring that can be walked on immediately without the need for screed or the use of mortar and glue. Finally, thanks to the dedicated polypropylene (PP) supports available in a number of different heights (fixed or adjustable), it is possible to create raised flooring for outdoors, and to install electrical and plumbing systems in the gap created beneath the floor.







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EXCELLENT TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Available for both traditional installation on screed with glue and dry interlocking installation, Casalgrande Padana porcelain stoneware tiles do not age and are easy to install and to clean. They are non-allergenic, fire-resistant, unalterable, non-absorbent, and have excellent bending strength and resistance to temperature fluctuations.

AN EFFECTIVE COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Casalgrande Padana porcelain stoneware tiles are made exclusively from natural raw materials and contain no glazes, plastic or harmful substances. They are manufactured with a closed-circuit production process featuring sophisticated anti-pollution equipment that allows us to recycle and recover all components and virtually eliminate emissions and dispersion: 0% harmful emissions, 100% reduction in water impact, 99.5% of waste recovered, 74% self-generated energy and 100% environmentally friendly packaging. Casalgrande Padana has also adopted an environmental management system that complies with the EMAS Regulation, in order to continuously improve our environmental performance. We have also published an environmental statement validated by the certification body.

"Casalgrande Padana porcelain stoneware tiles do not age and are easy to install and to clean."



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Trex Protect works by shielding the tops of joists, rim joists, ledger boards and beams from moisture. It also acts as a barrier between wood and galvanized metal commonly used in construction hardware such as joist hangers. Additionally, Trex Protect seals deck fasteners and helps deck screws hold longer and stronger by preventing moisture penetration and defending against splitting that can result from seasonal freezing and thawing Available in two widths -4.13cm for joists and 7.94cm for beams - Trex Protect works on horizontal and vertical surfaces and is applied as a 'cap' (vs. wrapping), which allows the wood to breathe. The butyl-based selfadhesive also won't bleed, dry out as quickly, or curl up and hold water like many asphalt-based tapes.

For more information about Trex Protect visit www.trexprotect.com.







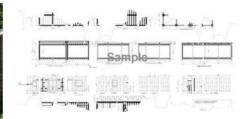
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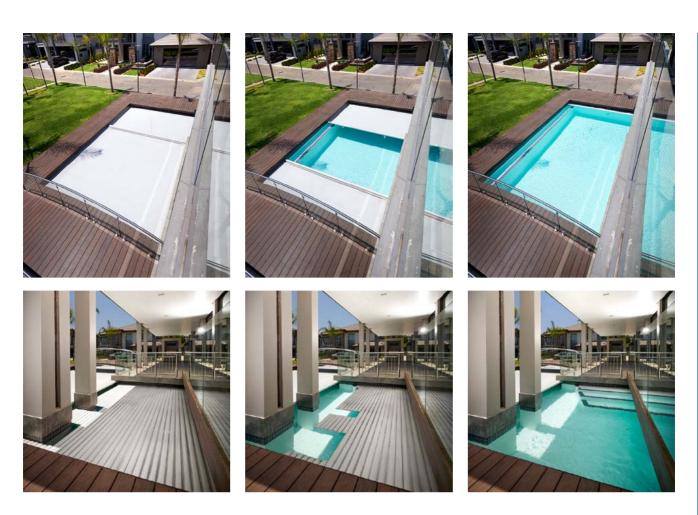


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To cover the pool surface on this very particular design of pool, PoolLock supplied one automatic slatted cover and three automatic safety covers, including a customized V4XXL safety cover system spanning an 11m width. Thanks to its many years of experience designing and producing automatic covers, PoolLock is able to work with customers and architects to create tailored solutions to cover almost any kind of pool.

PoolLock's unique hydraulic-drive system means that you do not need any electrical components near your pool. The electrical power pack used to operate the cover and drive the two hydraulic motors can be placed as far from the pool as required. Opening and closing the pool is as easy as turning a key switch, which means that the cover (and the pool) are actually used once installed.

PoolLock safety covers provide a solid barrier between the water and surrounding area, effectively preventing any access to the water and making them the safest covers on the market. In addition, all PoolLock covers will reduce the amount of heat, water and chemicals lost through evaporation, which means pool owners can save money on electricity and chemical usage. In addition to the standard fabric options, PoolLock also offers HeatLock Thermofoam canvas with enhanced insulation properties. Thanks to the foamed insulation layer applied to one side of the canvas, heat transfer across the membrane is reduced by a factor of 3 when compared to standard fabrics for similar applications. HeatLock's closed-cell foam structure ensure that PoolLock covers are not only the safest, but also the most energy-efficient available on the market.

PoolLock Automatic Covers offer you the safest, most convenient, most reliable and energy-efficient way to cover your pool.

With over 30 years of experience, and installations in over 20 countries, PoolLock is one of the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of automatic safety and slatted covers for swimming pools.

www.poollock.com





THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSITE PRODUCTS IN INCREASING GARDEN VALUE

Encouraged by the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers are now spending an increasing amount of time in their homes and gardens.

This has resulted in homeowners reevaluating their exterior space and gardens being utilised as an extension of the home by significantly investmenting in outdoor spaces.

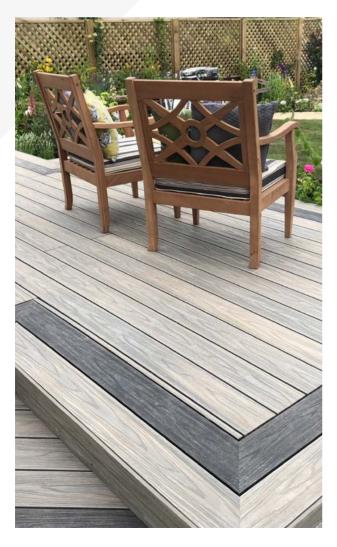


In order to maximise garden value, it is critical that an outside space is easy to maintain, whilst also being liveable. Most homeowners seek to create a garden that is practical and utilises a range of solutions to make outdoor living a reality.

When it comes to choosing the right materials to source for a residential project, composite decking is an ideal option due to its low maintenance and durable properties. It also has the ability to stay free from cracks and splinters, increasing its lifespan and making it bare-foot safe.

Composite decking's versatility in colour and texture also allows people to create completely bespoke designs to tailor their outdoor living areas. Although traditional timber decking has been the preferred choice of many for years, it's a high maintenance product which requires annual painting and staining. Composite decking however is a simple, no fuss alternative due to its unique formula, which makes it more durable than traditional products.





"Most homeowners seek to create a garden that is practical and utilises a range of solutions to make outdoor living a reality."

Furthermore, composite decking can be levelled to match the inside of a house to create greater accessibility and an easier transition between spaces. In addition, numerous safety aspects such as fire ratings, slip resistance and nosplintering also attracts people looking for a product to meet any requirement.

When considering composite decking, it's important to understand what to look out for, as product specification can vary dramatically. Ultraviolet inhibitors, recycled graded 21q a HDPE and end of life FSC hardwood timber are all markers of high-quality products that have been designed to last.

Making sustainable choices when it comes to developing and designing gardens is crucial to ensure we begin to combat the growing crisis around waste. Composite decking has a number of environmental benefits; as a result, consumers are choosing to switch to composite materials instead of using plastic, as they provide a much more sustainable and genuine alternative to timber.

To find out more about Composite Prime please visit www.composite-prime.com/where-to-buy

CASE STUDY: THE HOCKLEY PROJECT



Hot tubs and swim spas have been the ultimate garden accessory during the 2020 lockdown period and can provide a tonic for everyone.

But now that winter is here, what happens to them?

In August 2020, Caribbean Blinds installed one of their award-winning Outdoor Living Pods™ (the Deluxe model) to protect a six-metre swim spa and hot tub so that it can be used all year round.

As a family with a focus on health and wellbeing, the client wanted to fully enclose their hot tub/swim spa structure so that even on the coldest and wettest days they could be in their hot tub.

The Deluxe model was selected as one single structure can cover up to seven metres in a single module. As the maximum width of the side screens on this model is 6 metres, the area for the back and front screens of the structure has been split so that a central upright allows for two x 3.5 metre screens to span the 7 metres.

This Deluxe model Outdoor Living Pod™ has screens on all sides so they can close the space in, shutting the roof and dropping the sides down for full protection against incumbent weather but also against hot, glaring sunshine, by positioning the blinds accordingly. Everything on the structure is individually controlled so the user has complete flexibility.





"The Outdoor Living Pod has transformed this area completely. We are now able to use both the hot tub and the swim spa all year round....It has provided us with so many options to accommodate the typical British weather." Wylsie - Hockley, Essex

The Caribbean Blinds Outdoor Living Pod™ provides the ultimate luxury, all-weather, outdoor living space that gives the customer complete, year-round control of the elements. Key features include:

- Innovative rotating louvered roof permits the user to play with light and shade
- Open-air alfresco feel when left fully open
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- Optional windproof screens, ambient LED perimeter lighting and instant infra-red heaters for a cosy environment
- Constructed from super strong, corrosion resistant, powder coated aluminium for durability and longevity

To find out more about the award-winning Outdoor Living Pod[™], visit www.cbsolarshading.co.uk/outdoor-living-pod or alternatively speak to the Caribbean Blinds trade team on 0344 800 1947 about incorporating the Outdoor Living Pod into your garden designs.



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BESPOKE ROLLING LADDERS

Our rolling ladders are not just a simple access solution, but they are a key design feature in their own right. Often spotted in city centre cocktail bars as well as around other commercial and even domestic applications, our rolling ladders offer style and substance to even the trickiest of access solutions.

Over time we have revolutionised our rolling ladder system to enhance the look of our ladders in different environments. We don't only provide captive rolling systems but also offer a hook on ladder for ultimate simplicity.

Both our rolling and hook on ladders are hand crafted with sustainable handpicked timbers that are carefully selected, to allow us to use only the finest of timbers.

Our handcrafted rolling

ladders are available in Oak, Ash, Maple, Redwood and Walnut.

We've also recently designed a timber and stainless steel rolling ladder, which is perfect for modern spaces!

Customisable options on our rolling ladders are endless, don't forget our rolling ladders are hand crafted specifically for you. Choose from a range of tread inserts for additional security and for the perfect finsh we can paint, oil, lacquer or stain your rolling ladder for you, to protect the wood and match your decor.

If you are looking for a stylish access solution for your book shelf, mezzanine or any other application don't hesitate to get in touch.

For working at height help and advice or for more rolling ladder options give us a call on 01204 590 232 or visit our website.



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See our website for our full range of rolling ladder options and configurations.

-BESPOKE ROLLING LADDERS-



Our rolling ladder systems are designed by engineers and created by craftsman.



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Captive Rolling Ladder System With Handrail





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7 KEY LIGHTING TRENDS FOR 2021: FROM INVENTIVE CEILING LIGHTS TO LED BULBS

Lighting is one of the things in our homes that gets replaced fairly infrequently and so should be a well considered decision.

As the 2020 pandemic has forced us all to spend more time at home, lots of people are looking to update their fixtures. It's important to choose lighting that you are going to be happy looking at for the next few years.



Valentina Gori, the lighting expert at Smart Lighting Industries and has put together her predictions for the biggest trends in lighting coming up in 2021.

"This year we are going to see an increase in simple to use home automation in lighting, allowing us all more freedom with our lighting choices. As lighting technology advances, we will see a rise in small-scale DIY lighting, using products such as LED strip lights to create a professional finish on a budget." says Valentina.

"We are seeing increasing demand for bespoke lighting, LED strip lights, industrial lighting fixtures and LED street lights and flood lights."

INVENTIVE CEILING LIGHTING

"This year will see ceiling lighting becoming the focus of rooms rather than being merely functional. There will be elegant and extravagant light fittings coming through for every style, from contemporary to cottagecore."

"Thoughtfully placed, cleverly designed and carefully crafted ceiling lights will transform rooms. Lighting will become a starting point for design rather than being left until last.



"Don't be afraid to go bold with your ceiling lighting, larger spaces can take more daring pieces but don't shy away from unconventional light fittings in smaller spaces, especially if you dial back some other design elements."

CONSCIOUSLY DESIGNED BESPOKE LIGHTING

"With mindfulness becoming ever more important in interior design, and many of us spending more time in our homes, now is the time to invest in bespoke lighting and create a piece that is entirely unique to your home.

"This 'trend' is almost an anti-trend, as it encourages decorations which are built to last a long time. Choose something which can go with multiple different colours or styles, which will allow you to change the decoration around the room while leaving the light fitting in place.

"Despite the pandemic, we have seen searches for bespoke lighting increase by 17%, which shows people are looking for more conscious and lasting decor.

"Buy better but buy less' is fast becoming the interior designers mantra, with bespoke lighting allowing for totally personalised and lasting design. Working with designers to design a one-off piece for your home is an incredibly rewarding experience, and there's a lot of exciting new technology to take advantage of."





""Despite the pandemic, we have seen searches for bespoke lighting increase by 17%, which shows people are looking for more conscious and lasting decor."



OUTDOOR LIGHTING

"The way we live our lives has changed so much this year, and we are starting to see the way we design our homes catching up with this. With an increasing amount of our social time being spent outside, even in the winter months, we expect to see people getting really creative with their outdoor lighting.

"LED lighting is a great option because it is low energy but creates really bright light which is perfect. We expect to see street lights begin to make an appearance in people's gardens, especially vintage style street lighting.

"For those looking for more understated but effective lighting we think LED floodlights will be huge, they will provide bright lighting meaning people can enjoy their gardens well into the night. They also double as a wonderful safety feature."



STATEMENT STANDING & TABLE LAMPS

"Standing lamps are going to be huge in 2021, the more sculptural the better. Not only do they act as an ornament as well as a light source and create a dramatic look, they also help create soft and relaxing lighting which can transform a room from day to night.

"With more of us than ever spending additional time at home, using light to transform a space has never been so important. Using carefully placed lamps to carve new elements to a room allows spaces to be used for more than one thing, which is especially important for anyone working in a smaller space.

"We love standing lamps because they can be moved from room to room, meaning you can keep the same lamp for years but find endless different uses for it."



GEOMETRIC LIGHT FEATURES

"We have seen geometric patterns come through in interiors for the past few years, in fabrics and wallpapers, and it's finally putting its stamp on lighting. Geometric lighting will be huge in 2021, with simple, repeating shapes and strong lines creating drama in minimal spaces. There has been a 30% increase in searches for geometric lighting this year, and this looks set to continue rising.

"While traditionally, we would have seen striking geometric lighting in large, minimal spaces, we are now seeing it come through in more traditional homes. People are getting braver and braver about mixing contemporary and classic decor.

"The clash between contemporary geometric and more traditional design is a strong look that won't be right for every home, but for those looking to be a bit more adventurous, it's a great opportunity to experiment."





""We love standing lamps because they can be moved from room to room, meaning you can keep the same lamp for years but find endless different uses for it."

CREATIVE LED LIGHTING

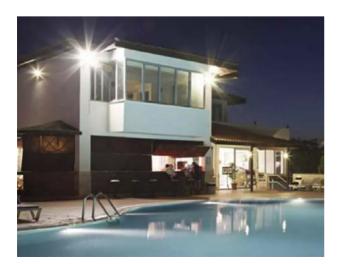
"Besides being incredibly energy efficient, LED lights are fast becoming incredibly popular thanks to their multi-purpose capabilities. Available in bulbs, strips and panels, they sit perfectly with any decor.

"LED bulbs come in multiple different styles, from vintageesque to ultra modern. The large glass LED bulbs which cast a soft orange glow have been incredibly popular over the past few years, and it doesn't look like they are going anywhere soon.

"This year will see a great increase in the amount of shapes and styles of these types of bulbs available. They look instantly chic on a low-hanging light fitting and add a touch of glamour to any home.

"It looks likely there will be an increase in LED panels, which are a great option for larger spaces seeking a minimal finish, or for spaces in need of extra lighting."









HEALING SALT LAMPS

"Himalayan salt lamps have been popular for the past few years thanks to their warm orange glow and their reported healing properties. There are 38.6K posts about salt lamps on Instagram, proving how popular they have become.

"Salt lamps are believed to help clean the surrounding air, act as mood boosters and aid deep sleep. Whether or not you believe this, they look beautiful and create a lovely ambient light which is especially calming in bedrooms."

RETRO LAVA LAMPS

"After the horrible year that has been 2020, it seems people are seeking a touch of nostalgia, with lava lamps making a comeback, with 17.7k Instagram hashtags and searches for them increasing by 56% in the past month.

"No longer just for teenage bedrooms, lava lamps tie into the retro trend and of course, must be styled accordingly. Colour is always important in interiors, but where the colour comes from changes with trends.

"We are seeing more stripped back interiors, with coloured lighting bringing a new dimension to the room. What we love about this is that depending on what the rest of the room is like, coloured lighting creates totally new shades and moods."

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The largest privately owned lighting manufacturer in the country

Dextra Group plc, the largest privately owned lighting manufacturer in the country, designs and manufactures quality lighting products, both standard and bespoke design, from its purpose-built factory in North Dorset. The company has its own logistics facility, delivering product via its own fleet of vehicles and offers a recycling service to clients in line with current WEEE legislation as a registered AATF. Dextra Group has a strong commitment to reduce the environmental impact of its business operations.

Founded in 1978, the company policy has always been to consistently upgrade machinery and manufacturing technologies and industry leading service is supported by the company's 'just in time' manufacturing ethos.

Dextra Group's investment in UK manufacturing places the company at the forefront of the British lighting industry.

Dextragroup.co.uk Enquiries@dextragroup.co.uk 01747 858100



Authentage

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Our experience with lighting over many years helps us to create fixtures that produce amazing lighting results in a very broad scope of applications.

Instagram: Authentage_official www.authentage.be



New Up/Down LED Ceiling Panel for design-conscious interiors

Utilising the latest LED technology, Goodlight have expanded its LED Panel range with the release of Arc, a sophisticated, surfacemounted Up and Down LED Ceiling Panel. With its polished curves, sleek lines and flawless body, Arc is a direct replacement to modular luminaires, delivering a beautiful, soft balance of light thrown above and beneath it, or ideal for new builds. Delivering a bright 100Lm/W efficacy, the Arc meets UGR<19 for comfortable, workplace lighting.

Commenting, Saima Shafi, Sales and Marketing Director at Goodlight said, "Our new Up and Down LED Ceiling Panel with its stunning curved lines achieves cutting-edge lighting performance where you need it, with softer highlights across the ceiling. One-directional LED Panels are too commonplace, our customers love the look and performance of our Arc range plus it is very easy to install with simple fixtures that twist and lock into place."

www.goodlight.co.uk | www.lightboss.co.uk

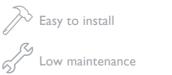
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SHH DESIGNS COMPACT, PLAYFUL FAMILY HOME IN TUNE WITH HAMPSTEAD'S CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

SHH has completed the re-creation of a family home in Hampstead.

The brief was to replace a former energy and functionally inefficient house, which was deemed architecturally insignificant to Hampstead's Conservation Area, with a wellappointed and beautifully detailed contemporary home on a re-arranged, slightly larger footprint. The discreet approach that SHH took through the proposed design maintains and contributes to the landscape by bringing particular attention to building materials, landscaping, screening and privacy.

A number of changes were introduced to the construction of the house, including a shift from a 'square' footprint to a form which allows the South facing garden to become more relevant by bringing more fluidly to the western garden. Subsequently the bulk of the house has been redistributed from the southern corner to the western facade, allowing an influx of natural light. The house has been designed with split levels, linking several spaces to the outside and ensuring that the setting on a sloping site becomes an asset rather than a setback, with exit to the outside spaces from three levels.

The newly formed house follows the natural slope of the site's landscape which drops approximately three metres from the entrance to the rear garden. SHH provided a full architectural and interior design service on the project from concept, planning and layout to detailed design. Pawel Nawojczyk, Associate Director at SHH, said of the design approach, "our goal was to create a more comfortable and modern home in harmony with the surrounding landscape by responding more appropriately to the shape, slope and orientation of the existing site. Our main challenge was how to comfortably nestle the property by cleverly optimising the gradient of the plot whilst not losing the functionality of a welcoming yet distinctive family home".



The building's two-volume structure consists of a steel and timber framed upper part and a sunken, concrete lower half. The layout follows a two 'winged' horizontal split, with each wing running in parallel to the site. The central core is where the vertical circulation occurs with floor voids creating a triple-height volume with a stunning full height glazed curtain wall and slot rooflights. Each floor is arranged in a split level to concur the natural grade of the site. The ground floor is divided into informal and formal spaces, with the kitchen, family living and family dining areas all situated on the western wing. Adjacent to the entrance are cloakroom facilities as well as a guest bedroom. "The building's two-volume structure consists of a steel and timber framed upper part and a sunken, concrete lower half. "

The eastern wing comprises of the master suite as well as formal living and dining rooms with all major windows orientated away from the neighbouring gardens for more privacy. Skylights have been introduced into several rooms where windows were removed in order to mitigate overlooking issues.

The lower ground floor provides extensive leisure facilities including a contemporary swimming pool which leads out to the lower garden level, through a guillotine window, allowing for both indoor and outdoor swimming for yearround enjoyment. A modern gym has also been appointed next to the pool. A multifunction playroom and cinema area have been allocated on the lower ground floor benefitting from a light well for necessary light and ventilation.





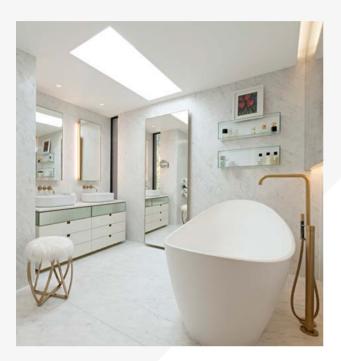


The use of natural shade renders, low maintenance and enhanced longevity mock timber cladding and extensive fenestration kept the overall aesthetic simple and versatile. A fairly minimalist and crisp material palette was adopted to contrast the natural setting including warm hardwood flooring, white walls for the core, ground and lower ground floors as well as timber finish slats. Green roofs were also introduced on each wing to enhance natural habitat creation as well as helping the building blend in the large garden, particularly from neighbouring higher vantage points.





One of the aspirations and conditions for granting the planning consent for this project was the enhanced energy efficiency of the building itself. David Spence, founding partner at SHH, comments: "We were appointed by the owner to deliver a contemporary interpretation of a single-family residence. Our aim was to replace the energy inefficient and architecturally insignificant existing structure with a well-appointed and energy-saving home, finished to the highest standard, both inside and out. The property makes a timeless architectural statement whilst remaining sympathetic to the natural surroundings." "The property makes a timeless architectural statement whilst remaining sympathetic to the natural surroundings."







A number of passive measures were introduced, such as highly efficient insulation materials to floors, walls and roof (including the ultra-efficient Optim-R panels to terraces), minimised air permeability and the use of high spec modern efficient fenestrations, the performance was further enhanced with high efficiency installations such as LED lighting throughout including lighting control system, high efficiency appliances and fireplace, as well as the inclusion of energy and building management system. In relation to sustainable elements, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) water management system has been installed enabling the use of rain water for irrigation; along with the green roofs that also promote habitat creation, this system ensures the water runoff is minimised and regulated. The ambient in the house is supported by the inclusion of cutting edge CHP (combined heat and power) boilers, whilst cooling and heating boost is provided via acoustically insulated air source heat pumps.



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The development follows news that the existing 18 metres height limit for combustible materials in high rise multi-occupancy buildings is to be further reduced to 11 metres, extending the scope of the regulations to buildings over 4-storeys and affecting the vast majority of new flats, hospitals, residential care premises and student accommodation. This has again increased the focus on fire safety with contractors and developers looking to future-proof their buildings.

Connectors are available in a range of types, including Ancon Isotec for concrete to concrete applications, Ancon STS for anchoring steel balconies to a structural steel frame, and Ancon STC for steel to concrete fixing.

For further information or advice contact Ancon's Technical Team on 01142755224 or email tech@ancon.co.uk.

SCREWSHOP



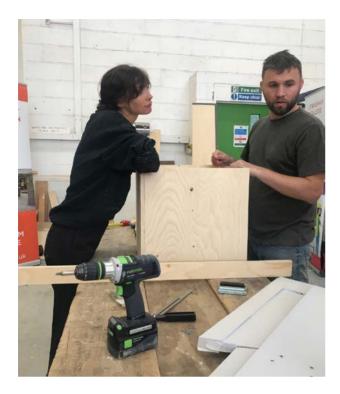
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BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: CREATING FURNITURE FROM V&A PACKING CRATES



As part of the V&A Museum's commitment to sustainability it has developed two exciting furniture upcycling initiatives using surplus stock of its exhibition pack crates. These initiatives demonstrate how waste materials can be given a meaningful life beyond a limited purpose.

In one initiative, nine designers were partnered with clients from the 999 Club, a homelessness charity in London, to cocreate a piece of furniture that can be taken into temporary accommodation. The other gathered designers to create tables and chairs, also using the waste packing crates, for a Food Waste Feast that was held at the Day of Design event.

Throughout the project Festool power tools were used. James Wilson, Marketing Manager at Festool UK said "We are delighted that Festool products were part of this sustainability initiative, that has enabled expert designers/ makers to share skills with people who have experienced homelessness enabling them to create unique pieces of furniture."

The project had a five-week turnaround time from design and creation to exhibiting at the Day of Design Festival that was part of the London Design Festival. The short time around time for the project meant that the power tools used needed to be sturdy, reliable and deliver accurate results, fast.

Furniture designer and maker, Tom Olesen (@tomtedesign) joined the project to mentor one of the 999 Club's clients. "It is the small innovative features of Festool tools that make life easier. For example, on the router OF 1010 the spindle stop means that changing cutters is simple, so we can get the job done quickly" Tom explained.





Zoë Louizos, Sustainability Co-ordinator, V&A said: "We are thrilled to have been able to use Festool products. This project makes valuable use of our surplus materials and showcases creative solutions to waste and provides a platform to support a diverse community of designers and makers, demonstrating design solutions to environmental and social issues we currently face."

Festool is a manufacturer of premium power tools for professional tradespeople. To discover more about Festool please visit www.festool.co.uk and for more on the project please visit

https://www.vam.ac.uk/blog/design-and-society/upcyclingour-waste-crates-in-response-to-ldfs-day-of-designchallenge



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Gismos, Gadgets & Good Design



IT & business innovations from beyond the housing sector

In the early 'noughties' I ran a seminar for 'Constructing Excellence' on 'Safety by Design', followed a few years later by one on 'Designing Out Waste'. The purpose in mentioning them is to emphasise the fact that, despite new products and new and updated regulations, like those dealing with high speed electronic communications networks (Approved document 'R'), the house-building industry has made little progress so far this century.

Back then I argued for buildings to be designed via 'partnerships' that embraced site constraints, programmed out risk, and ensured good immediate and ongoing communications with present and future stakeholders. I pointed out that to do so required 'design teams' who not only knew their legal duties & responsibilities, but who understood how the job would be done. In turn this meant grasping the logistics, getting to grips with handling and 'Temporary' works, as well as embracing snagging and maintenance along with the lifetime risks of the building both in construction, in use and decommissioning. Stressing that 'good design' is SAFE I also urged participants to accept their responsibility for making others aware of all of these risks.



While today it's pretty easy to specify IT related products for any building, like visual or fingerprint recognition access, remote video surveillance, cell-phone heat and light control, and so on, doing so efficiently remains a major challenge. Indeed, arguably this is more important than these 'nice to have' gismos and gadgets themselves. Home buyers and renters alike remain more concerned about the cost and speed efficiency of new home construction, their comfort, running, and maintenance costs.

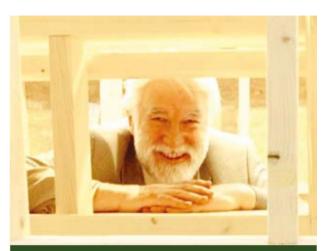
In several respects 'Designing Out Waste' was an extension of the earlier attempt to introduce business innovations from outside the construction industry. Techniques and disciplines like 'Six Sigma' and 'Kaizen' were applied across the whole design and build process to cut out waste in design time, scheduling delays, and prototyping errors, as well as material waste, etc.

Once again an important element of this was the acceptance that building design needed to become a collaborative exercise, rather than the God given domain of any one person. As in the motor, aircraft and ship building industries, for example, recognition of the increasingly complex nature of the building enterprise was seen as increasingly important.

Designing with partnering in mind emphasises communications, the importance of avoiding delays, and the need to programme out errors. It also recognises the need to really know what stocks & other 'industry standard' materials are readily available, how jobs will be done in practice, and the need for a better and fuller understanding of the building and manufacturing tasks involved.

Grasping the totality of the logistics involved was seen then, and remains today, of major importance. Getting to grips with transport, 'Right First Time' and 'Continuous Improvement' processes were and are obvious candidates for expanding the horizons of the design team. Equating the notion of 'Lifetime Costs' with the avoidance of delays and the need to programme out errors, along with a sound knowledge of materials, processes and procedures remains vital. Although accepting that good design avoids waste, then and now many 'professionals' used to a more relaxed regime - found and find this an unpopular constraint. Few, it seems are ready even now to accept responsibility for, and bear the cost of, any waste caused by them.

As we move further toward 'factory built' Homes, clients and their professional advisors and consultants must understand that, to produce a building in the factory, requires all elements to be determined in detail before work commences, rather than muddling through trying to resolve complicated design issues as a project progresses. While this is possible using sloppy 'wet' trade building techniques, where adjustments can be made in-situ, complex off-site manufactured elements are much more difficult to alter. Failure to understand this is both prejudicing MMC and costing clients and builders' small fortunes to correct. Partnering for the whole design,



Professor Dr Michael Benfield

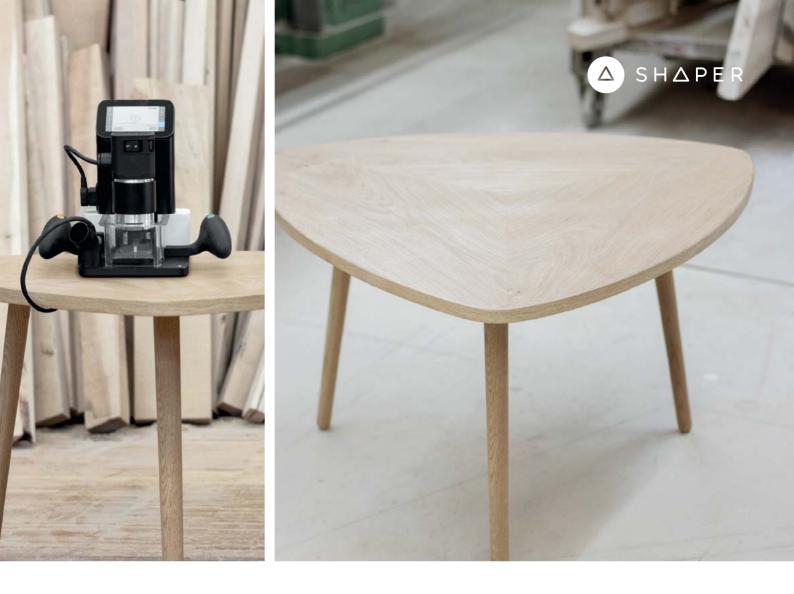
supply and construction chain is a vital process that must be developed to correct this.

Consequently, whilst moving with the times to incorporate all that is best and wonderful and time saving and comfortable, and desirable, in any building design we undertake, manufacture, or build, I still find myself 'shouting at the wind' for fundamental shifts in professional attitudes. However, the 'winds of change' are blowing and I do detect small shifts. As construction moves 'off-site' into the factory these will greatly improve efficiency, quality, and affordable delivery of all levels of social and private housing.

Michael Benfield 2017



Prof. Dr. Michael Benfield is a Chartered Environmentalist. He predicts that current pressures for more housing will increase demand for Off-Site Production and MMC (Modern Methods of Construction) leading to new standards of professional capability, project design and the development of new management tools for the housebuilding and construction sector. Listing Chartered Builder, Chartered Surveyor and Chartered Manager amongst his credentials, he is an Affiliate of the RIBA and chairs leading UK timber engineers Benfield ATT. Based in Caldicot, Monmouthshire, they are a 'full service' timber Design and Build group using 3D design as a key efficiency tool.



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