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Issue 45 2020

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62 **Concrete blockwork & Render board materials:** Parex Ltd
Main Contractor: Optic Realm Ltd, Islington, London
Architect: Lees Munday Architects, Gomshall, Guildford, Surrey
Rendering Contractor: EnviroREND SE Ltd, Rye, East Sussex

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A LOS ANGELES RESIDENCE CELEBRATING ART AND NATURE

Nestled into Santa Monica Canyon, this residence seamlessly fits into its wooded locale while serving as a backdrop for a world-class art collection.



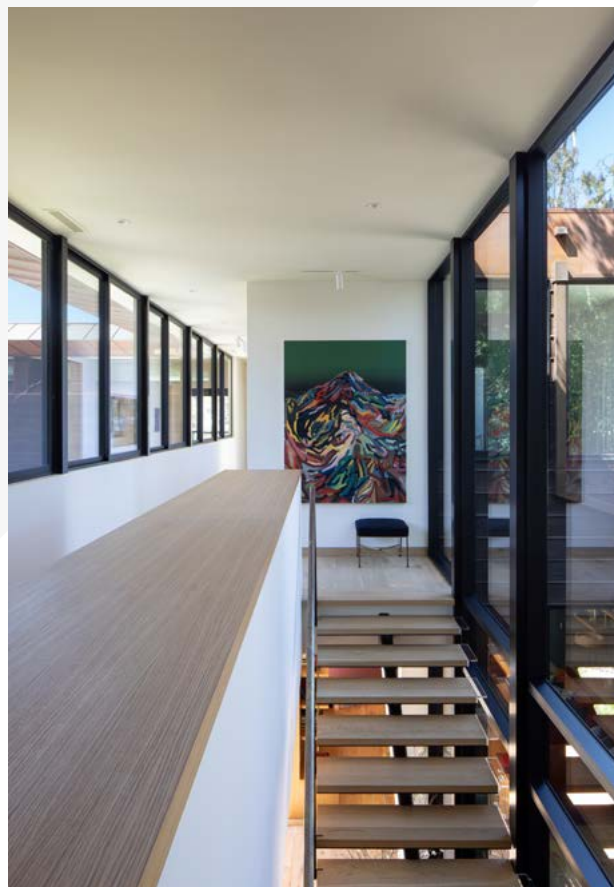
CONNER + PERRY ARCHITECTS

Organic architecture experts Kristopher Conner and James Perry of Conner + Perry Architects were commissioned by a deeply-rooted Los Angeles couple to design a home that seamlessly fits their family and lifestyle, while also showcasing a world-class art collection and effortlessly blending into a beloved section of Santa Monica Canyon.

Taking cues from the property's surrounding Oak and Eucalyptus trees, the firm designed a residence that allows for reflection, openness, and serenity. Key design features include windows that frame the magnificent trees, extended canopy-like, cantilevered eaves, and fully pocketing glass



exterior walls that open to a central courtyard to offer the perfect balance of indoor-outdoor living. Every view in the house was designed to captivate with either nature or art. Initial plans by John Lautner protégé, architect Duncan Nicholson, set the stage for Kris and James, formerly with Nicholson's office, to complete and enhance the project, despite his untimely passing.

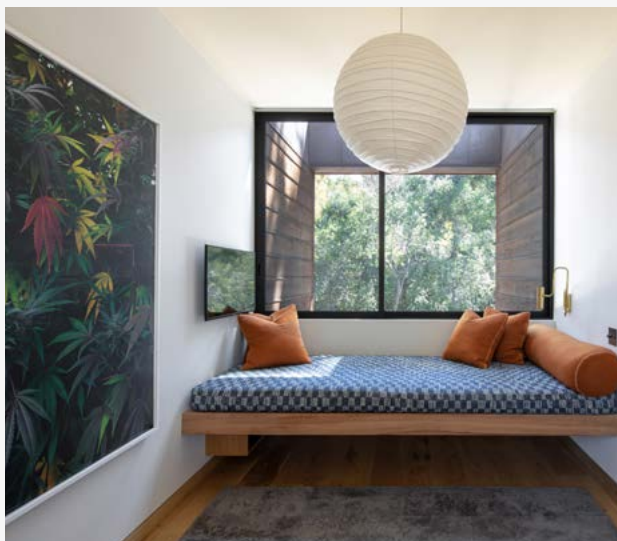


"Every view in the house was designed to captivate with either nature or art."

The property was formerly home to a modest California 1940's era cabin situated on a wooded lot that began as a test station for the Forestry Service during their Eucalyptus tree testing in the 1910-20s. It was important for the clients to honor this history and salvage as much of the original house as possible.



Given their love for the neighborhood and its majestic trees, they repurposed felled Eucalyptus wood found on the property into outdoor furniture and key elements within the house, including the grand entry doors. In keeping, exterior materials for the new home were selected for their organic nature, ability to age in place, and compatibility with the climate, such as charred wood siding (Shou Sugi Ban), copper, exposed steel, and concrete. Interior materials were chosen to reflect the nature outside, including a mix of massangis grey limestone and french oak for the flooring, weathered brass, blackened steel elements, and a variety of marbles and tiles, including art tiles by Lubna Chowdhary.



"For the clients, who both grew up in the neighborhood, the chance to collaborate on the design process and build a space for their impressive art collection was a dream."



For the clients, who both grew up in the neighborhood, the chance to collaborate on the design process and build a space for their impressive art collection was a dream. For Conner + Perry, the home represents exactly what the clients were seeking — a quintessential California indoor/outdoor experience where everything feels open and unified.

"Each of them has described the house as having a magical or mystical quality, allowing light in at the right moments, as well as the shadows of the trees, and a calming mirroring effect," says principal, Kristopher Conner.

www.conner-perry.com

Photography: Taiyo Watanabe

TECHNICAL SHEET

Architects: Conner and James Perry, Conner + Perry Architects

Interior Designers: Olivia Williams, Olivia Williams Interior Design and Matthew Merrell, Merrell Design Co.

Builder: Michael Robinson, RAM Development and Construction Company, Inc. and Dick Minium, Dick Minium Construction

Landscape Architecture: Case Fleher, Landscape Workspace



CUTTING-EDGE LUXURY DESIGN FROM AMARA PROPERTY



These developments are made even more impressive by the eco-credentials, as the industry's focus grows on the importance of climate change, Amara Property leads the way by identifying innovative ways to ensure sustainability sits at the core of its design approach.

Smart build techniques such as opting for recycled materials and increasing the construction fabric of the building dramatically minimises waste, while the installation of solar roof panels and Ecotricity meters creates long-term low carbon footprint homes. By further harnessing this green energy through the use of Tesla Power Walls, from which devices can be charged using stored solar power, electricity costs at its Kingwood development in Hadley Wood were reduced to as little as £6 per month.

Winner of an International Property Award, Amara Property's latest build, Aria, is an enviable £5million flagship home in Hadley Wood that pushes the boundaries of architectural construction and fuses luxurious living with state-of-the-art technology. Designed with entertainment in mind, the property features an expansive basement leisure complex that includes a home cinema with surround-sound system, games room, swimming pool complete with bar area, gym, steam and sauna rooms, all of which can be controlled remotely from a Gira central hub. Gira is an intelligent home automation system that Amara selected in line with its commitment to tech-focused design, allowing everything from temperature to security to be conveniently operated via a smartphone or tablet, proving yet another example of Amara Property's attention to detail.



Aria is an exceptional property that perfectly exemplifies the company's core vision of combining contemporary luxury, sustainable living and technology through both traditional and modern design techniques.

Currently, Amara Property are creating Waterside Mansions, a development of three exquisitely designed five-bedroom detached homes situated on Gordon Avenue - one of Stanmore's most prestigious roads.

Blending luxurious family living with contemporary architecture and carefully crafted design, Waterside Mansions are created with Amaras values in mind, and offer the lucky residents elegant light-filled interiors where classic form meets stylish functionality, and lavish finishes blend seamlessly with a sense of relaxed refinement.

www.amaraproperty.co.uk

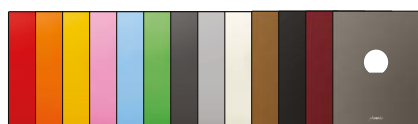
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HELIFIX MICRO-PILE FOUNDATIONS INSTALLED IN JUST ONE DAY



Investigative work for a single storey workshop extension showed that load bearing depth and soil composition varied across the whole area of the proposed site.

These observations and the need for economical and reliable foundations to be installed quickly, whilst causing minimal disruption, resulted in the specification of Helifix Micro-piles as the solution. Not only would the Micro-piles provide rapid, cost-effective structural support for the new building, they would cause much less disruption compared to traditional high volume concrete pours.

The installation was so rapid that the foundations were installed in just one day, with no spoil removal, vibrations or major interruptions to the existing commercial property.

Each of the six Micro-piles required were simply 'screwed' vertically into the ground, at the appropriate locations, using a hydraulic drive head.

➡ **To find out more about Helifix Micro-piles for new build or foundation stabilisation visit www.helifix.co.uk or contact our team at sales@helifix.co.uk**

ANCON OFFERING ENHANCED NON-COMBUSTIBLE BALCONY CONNECTOR RANGE



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.

Ancon is leading the way in developing solutions to meet the Government's tough new fire safety requirements for buildings, with the launch of an upgraded range of non-combustible insulated balcony connectors.

The development follows news that the existing 18 metres height limit for combustible materials in high rise multi-occupancy buildings is to be further

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](tel:01142755224) or email tech@ancon.co.uk.**

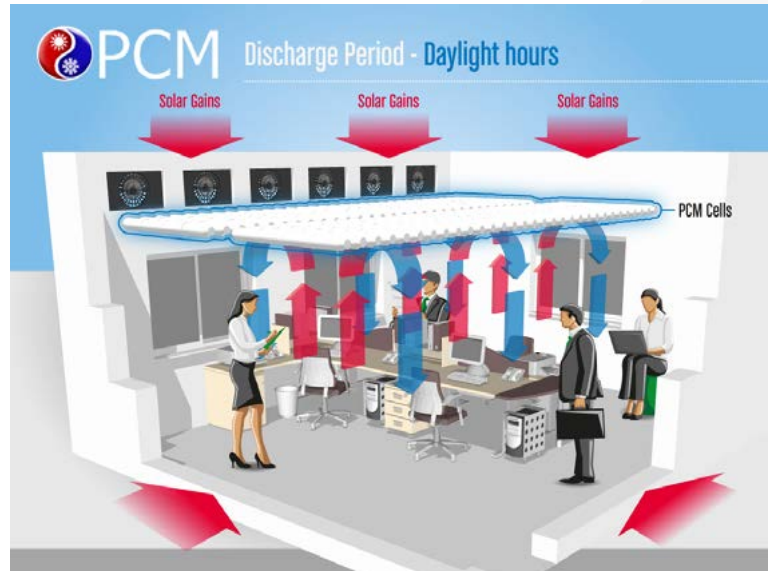
PASSIVE COOLING THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE

WHY BUILDING ENVELOPE TES?

PCMs can be selected so that they freeze and melt at the appropriate temperature to ensure that the building doesn't overheat or overcool. By introducing PCM into the building envelope it is possible to vastly increase the thermal mass of a building, helping ensure that rooms are maintained within the thermal comfort zone.

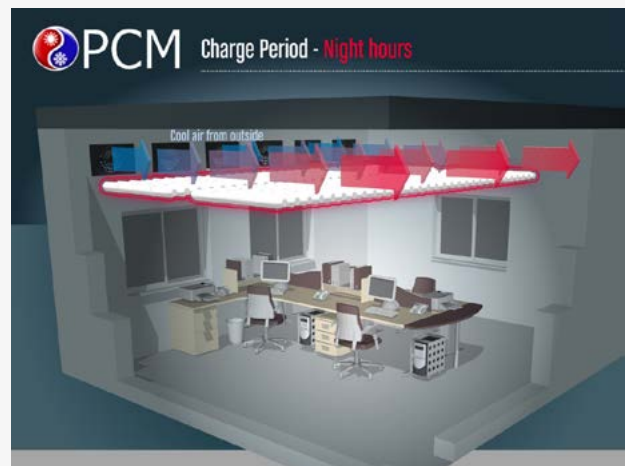
By installing PCM modules inside the building fabric itself, the end-users gain the thermal and performance benefits of PCMs without even being aware that they are in place.

As the PCM module is a static system with no moving parts the passive cooling concept is considered to be a maintenance and energy free option for improving the internal conditions of any built environment applications.



BUILDING APPLICATIONS

- Air Conditioning
- Free Cooling
- Passive Cooling
- Fabric TES
- Solar Systems
- Tri-generation
- Electronic / Shelter Cooling



Passive cooling takes advantage of the naturally occurring temperature swing caused by day & night. The excess coolth available in the night can be stored in the PCM, which is then released during the day, absorbing internal and solar heat gains.

"Passive cooling takes advantage of the naturally occurring temperature swing caused by day & night."

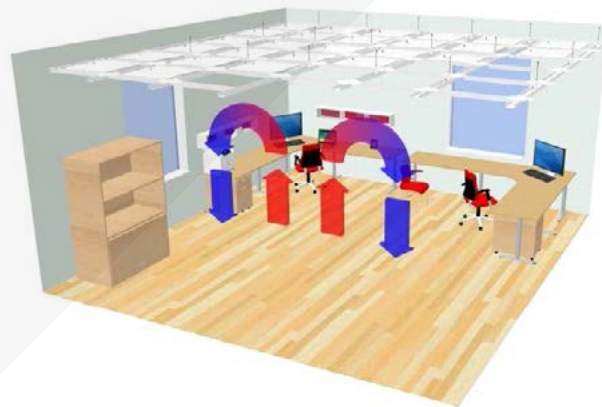


TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL COOLING

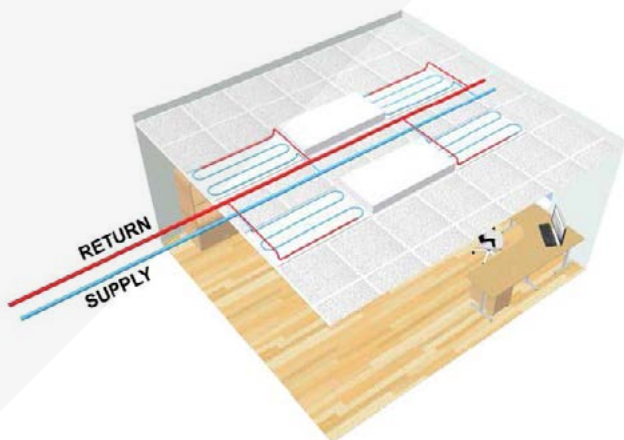
ThinICE modules can be installed at high levels so that heat goes up but doesn't come back down. This cooling effect can provide relief to building inhabitants or for electronic equipment.

If the site is located in a region where there are large day-night temperature swings, then it is possible to provide free cooling by ventilating the room at night to freeze the PCM modules by the morning. The size of the cooling machinery could then be greatly reduced leading to lower emissions, reduced maintenance costs and reduced operational costs.

For a standard 595x595mm ceiling tile, two ThinICE modules can be installed offering up to 0.96 kWh/m² of energy storage. At an installed weight of up to 24kg/m², most suspended ceilings are more than capable of handling this additional load. These are ideally fitted above a perforated metallic suspended ceiling. For more lightweight systems contact our sales team.



"ThinICE modules can be installed at high levels so that heat goes up but doesn't come back down."



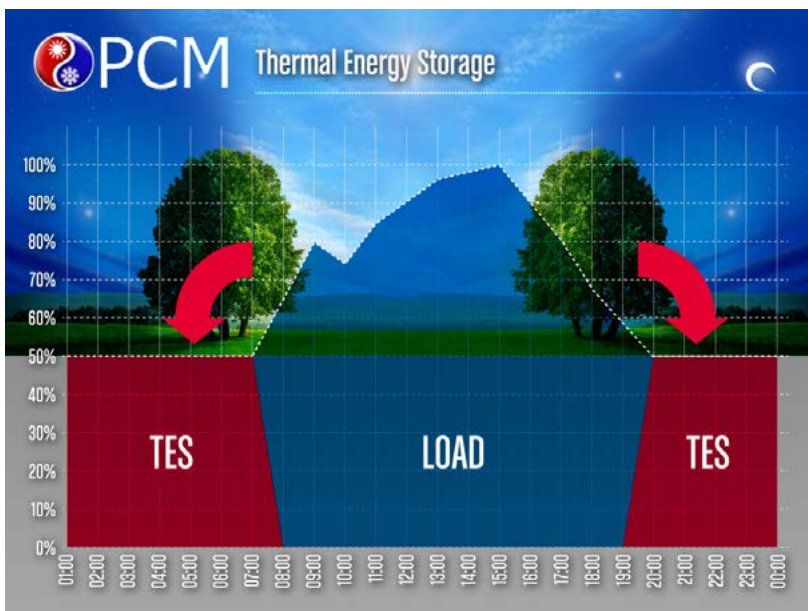
ACTIVE COOLING WITH A PASSIVE SAFETY NET

It's easy to upgrade these passive cooling systems into an active chilled ceiling. This greatly improves the flexibility of a conventional HVAC system. Should, for any reason the HVAC machinery fails the frozen PCM modules offer an uninterruptable emergency relief cooling system giving the facility maintenance team an opportunity to react.

This also offers load-shifting capabilities. Load shifting is a strategy, where a proportion of the peak cooling capacity of a system is shifted into off-peak periods.

The benefit of shifting cooling into the nightly off-peak is twofold, firstly it is possible to gain access to cheaper electricity tariffs and secondly, the refrigeration equipment can be operated in lower ambient conditions leading to a higher COP.

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STUDIO LOFT: A UNIQUE REMODELING PROJECT WITH A GAINED TRIPLE FUNCTION

In today's world where efficient and creative use of space has become a necessity, the idea of remodeling existing structures has received growing interest and enthusiasm.

Moreover remodeling designs that manage to accommodate and mingle several functions are increasingly being sought after.

'Studio Loft' is an example of the transformation of a double flat in an existing five-story building in a densely populated neighborhood of Izmir into a multifunctional duplex space. Above all it is simultaneously a workspace, a 'photographic studio' and a residential space, a 'loft' to live in. The client who is a famous photographer and an artist based in Izmir

worked closely with the architects of Yerce Architecture & ZAAS in the designing and creation of a new 'home' for himself, which he wanted to be something more than just a place to live and work in.

Hence an exhibition area was incorporated into the studio space enabling the owner, as well as local talents, to display their photographic work, which would serve as an alternative art exhibition spot in the center of the city where art galleries are rather scarce.

The entrance zone of 'Studio Loft', once two separate flats is now a duplex unit and an open spacious area with a double-height ceiling. Entering 'studio loft', one steps right into the photographic studio and exhibition space. On the same floor at the back is a guest bathroom with a vaulted ceiling that solves the height restriction problem. Material choices of the bathroom with their reflective surfaces give one a sense of being inside a futuristic space, which also serves as an out-of-the-ordinary photography setting. A sculptural staircase, designed with no railing on either side to highlight the dynamism and rhythm of circulation inside the space, connects the ground floor to the upper floor. While the ground floor is designed to fulfill the needs of a photographic studio and an exhibition space, the upper floor is planned to host office space, kitchen area, sleeping and private resting zones at the far end of the open plan living space. Reflecting on the owner's lifestyle who loves to cook for his guests, the kitchen is a social space for cooking, eating, and relaxing.

Next to the kitchen is another spot with a cozy fireplace for gathering with friends and resting. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer bright panoramic views to the greenery outdoors.

The upper floor has also been designed to serve as an additional space for photo shootings if wanted, as one of the targets of the project was to maximize the space for photographic work. The result has been the creation of a 'loft' space that serves multiple functions, intertwined with each other, under the roof of a photographic studio. This is the outcome of how the architects approached the challenge, stated by Nail Egemen Yerce, founder of Yerce Architecture as "Answers were sought to questions such as how could space initially constructed as a typical, standard apartment be transformed into a multifunctional area serving different functions and forms of living while maintaining permeability within these functions."



"The paving material of the ground floor was extended to cover the patio and the sidewalks, leading to the integration of the whole space."

Ayça Taylan, the co-founder of ZAAS, adds that "the project also reached out to the public, that is the outside world, through the exhibition space incorporated into the photography studio." Viewing the outside world and the inner space as a continuum, the architects transformed the open space in front of the apartment, formerly used as a car park into a patio. The paving material of the ground floor was extended to cover the patio and the sidewalks, leading to the integration of the whole space.





"Floor-to-ceiling windows offer bright panoramic views to the greenery outdoors."

Furthermore, the sliding glass doors of the facade, which could also be completely folded up at the sides, contributed to the fusion of the inner space with the urban space in an exhibition event. Taylan continues that "the street flowing into the inner space and vice versa enables a passer-by to have a look at the exhibition without a filter." On an exhibition opening night the wide sidewalk, integrated with the patio in front of the loft, becomes extended outside social area for the visitors.

Despite the difficulties encountered in the construction process, most notably in time and budget, Studio Loft materialized as a new urban dwelling and working space typology with the additional function of being an exhibition place. Meeting the challenge of serving a triple function in the same space and time, this unique remodeling project stands out as an example of architectural wizardry.

www.egemenyerce.com | www.za-as.com

TECHNICAL DATASHEET

*Big See Ljubljana Best Residential Interior Design of the Year – Winner 2019

*Finalist in 'Creative Re-use' Category at World Architecture Festival INSIDE 2017

*Selected to Turkish Architecture Annual 2016

Location: İzmir, Turkey

Design: Yerce Architecture & ZAAS

Design team: Ayça Taylan, Nail Egemen Yerce

Contractor: Nano İnşaat – Hilmi Aydın Niğdeli

Area of project: 250 sqm

Photographer: Yerce Art Photography - Emin Emrah Yerce

Filmmaker: Can Tanyeli

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Simpson Strong-Tie Sales Director Jon Head explains: "We only recommend the use of stainless steel or PVCu products for external applications. Galvanised steel beads should not be used externally, unless secondary protection against corrosion is provided.

Although it's generally known for its corrosion-resistant properties, galvanised steel can react with the chemical components in render, which will lead to quality issues, from unsightly rust stains, to



the degradation of the bead and possible cracking in the render.

Simply put, galvanised steel in external rendering may rust, which will reduce the lifespan of your work and can be costly to put right. But the good news is it's easily avoided.

For rendering and plastering made simple, download the Simpson Strong-Tie 2020 catalogue which is packed with handy tips and installation guidance... and make sure you stay away from Rusty!

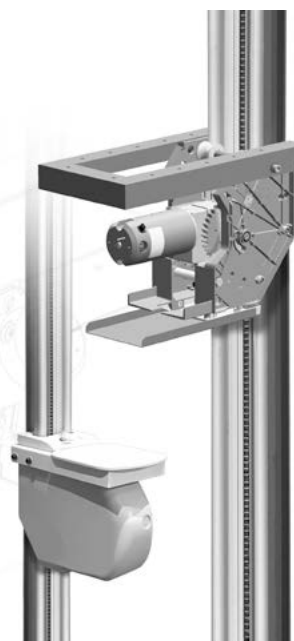
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Originally called "A Touch of Brass", the firm changed their name in 2003 in reaction to slowly advancing market changes in architectural ironmongery which is no longer supplied solely in brass, and to also reflect the broader range of product and 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 of 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
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Olaria, available from Touch Ironmongery

www.atouchofbrass.co.uk & www.olariabarcelona.com





TOP TIPS FOR CHOOSING BI-FOLD DOORS

Neil Ginger, CEO at Origin, offers his advice for choosing the perfect bi-fold doors for your property.

1. INVEST IN MATERIALS THAT LAST

Before purchasing bi-fold doors, it is vital to consider materials. There are three materials that tend to be used for bi-fold doors – uPVC, wood and aluminium. Each has their benefits. For instance, uPVC is often the cheapest option, but comes with thick sightlines and can warp over time. Wooden frames look fantastic on period properties but require regular maintenance to keep them performing well.

By contrast, aluminium offers a perfect combination of strength, durability and weight, allowing for narrow frames and making it a fantastic option for those looking to maximise the amount of light let into a property and create the ultimate ‘wow-factor’.

Aluminium is also resilient to flexing and expanding and is the most low-maintenance option, meaning it offers the best return on investment in the long-run. What’s more, the Origin Bi-Fold Door comes with an industry-leading guarantee of up to 20 years, offering ultimate peace of mind.

2. CHOOSE A DESIGN THAT SUITS YOUR PROPERTY

Opting for completely customisable bi-fold doors will allow you to create the perfect design to suit your home, whether it’s a period property, a newbuild, or anything in between.

High-quality aluminium doors can be powder-coated in a huge range of colours, including authentic wood grain finishes and two-tone options, so consider whether you want your new doors to blend in or contrast with the rest of your property.

It is also important to consider the best configuration to suit your home and lifestyle. Bi-fold doors can be installed to open from one side, in the middle or at various other points. They can also be created to fit bays and corners, making them more versatile than any other type of patio door.



"As bi-fold doors are likely to link to the outside of the property, it is vital to prioritise security."

3. CHECK THERMAL EFFICIENCY RATINGS

Before purchasing bi-fold doors, it is important to consider thermal efficiency. The best indicators of thermal efficiency are U-Values which show the amount of heat lost in watts per square metre of material. The lower the number, the better the thermal efficiency. For instance, Origin doors achieve U-Values as low as 1.2, which far exceeds UK requirements.

High quality doors will also feature a polyamide thermal break in the profile, which is designed to improve energy efficiency, allowing homeowners to enjoy the room all year round.

4. PRIORITISE SAFETY

As bi-fold doors are likely to link to the outside of the property, it is vital to prioritise security.

For maximum safety, check that the system conforms to PAS 24:2016 security standards. Opting for doors that incorporate heavy-duty zinc hinges and a cylinder lock will also ensure that they are resistant to attacks for potential intruders. For ultimate reassurance, homeowners should opt for doors that are accredited with the police-approved Secured by Design standard.

For those with young children in the house, we always recommend choosing doors with finger-safe gaskets to stop little hands from getting trapped and magnetic catches that can help hold the doors in place whilst you're operating them.



► For more tips on choosing the right bi-fold doors for your home, visit our Advice Centre www.origin-global.com/advice-centre

THE HAWTHORNS



The glass box for this contemporary extension was installed with both structural glass walls and a structural glass roof.

Glass box extensions are the ideal addition to a home, as natural light is invited into the glass box and the existing building it connects to. The large panes of glass also allows greater appreciation of the client's garden landscaping, beyond the opaque walls of the home.

The garden facing wall of the extension was created using one piece of insulated glass measuring 3.5m wide and 2.3m tall (7.9m²). The resulting glass weight is nearly 500kg but allows greater appreciation of the client's garden from inside.

Jake, Commercial Director at IQ says, "Glass box extensions are the ideal addition to a home, as natural light is invited into the glass box and the existing building it connects to. This type of glass box design is very popular with home owners who want to add an more space to their home."

The steel framing and pressings installed to this design were Polyester Powder Coated in the same RAL colour as the minimal windows sliding doors, resulting in a cohesive design. Parts of the glazing were also back painted in order to give the design an immaculate finish; Jon, Designer at IQ describes it as "an 'all glass' design with light reflecting surfaces."

In keeping with the minimalistic framing of the glass box extension, the minimal windows sliding doors' thin sightlines help to further the outdoor-indoor environment. The sliding door system employed by IQ uses a flush threshold, which allows for a sleek transition, rather than an abrupt switch, between home and patio.

www.iqglassuk.com





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Members of the Steel Window Association offer a UK-wide service for the repair and replacement of various types of old metal windows, doors and screens, as well as being able to manufacture new fenestration which fully meets the requirements of the building regulations. Choosing an SWA member to manufacture and install your steel windows and doors ensures that you are receiving the highest standard of fabrication, installation and customer service.



➤ For further information on the Steel Window Association, please visit www.steel-window-association.co.uk or call 020 8543 2841.

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN



Image courtesy of Lightfoot Windows (Kent) - www.lightfootwindows.co.uk

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This really does mean that Pegler has become the only manufacturer to offer a truly integrated piping system. With our breadth of experience and knowledge we can offer solutions and products from plant room to bathroom and beyond," said Phill Jackson Business Development and Marketing Director.

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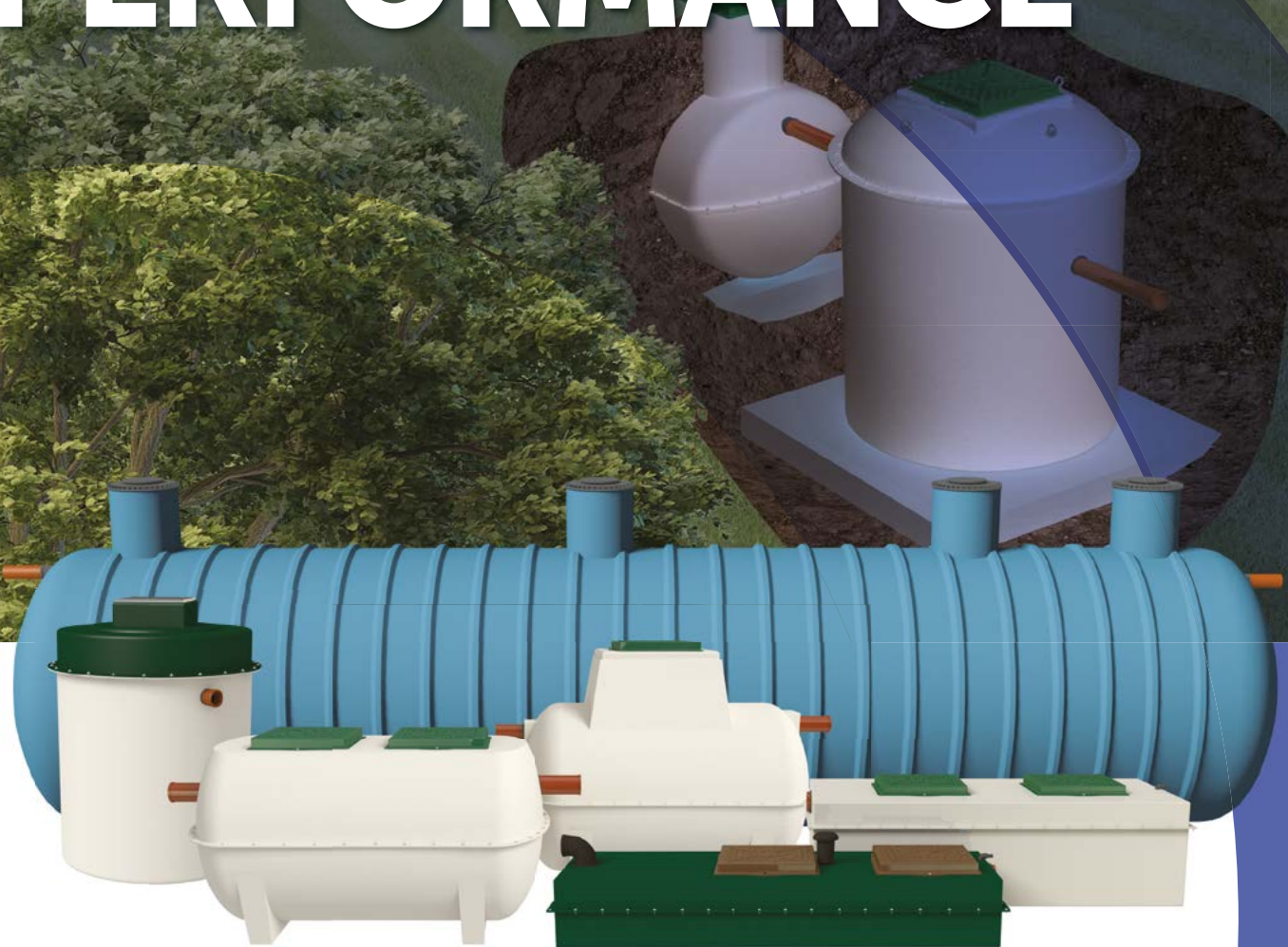
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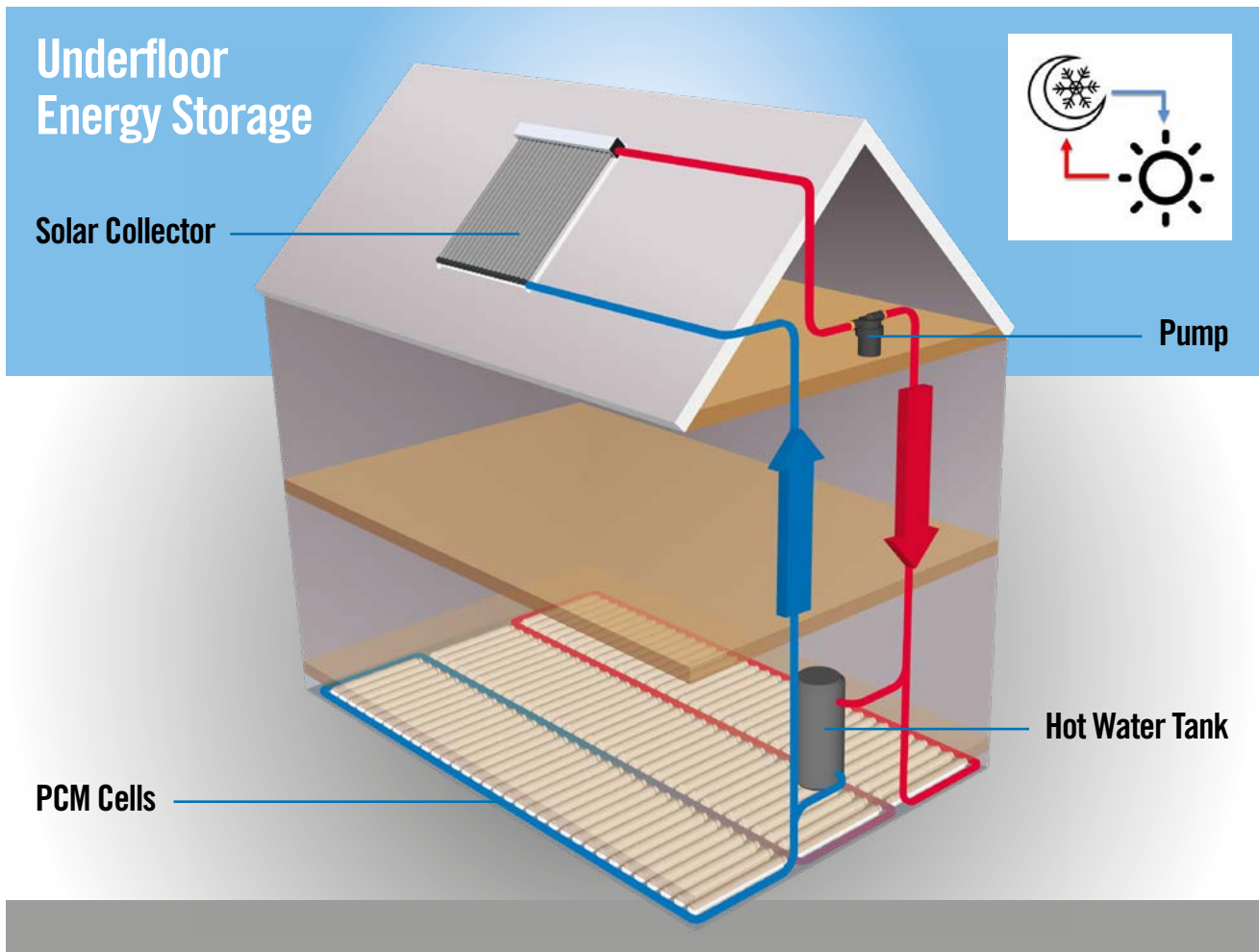
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UNDERFLOOR HEATING



THINICE APPLICATIONS

By introducing eutectic products into a radiant heating system, it is possible to capture excess heating during the day time and maintain that heat into the cold of night. 27°C (81°F) phase change material (PCM) is sealed inside HDPE modules. This material captures energy by melting and releases it when it freezes. All conventional floor finishes are rated to handle these temperatures.

Each module features a number of grooves which are optimally spaced out for runs of underfloor heat pipes, this close contact with the PCM ensures the best heat transfer

"Once installed, the thermal mass of a building may be increased by as much as 10-15 times."

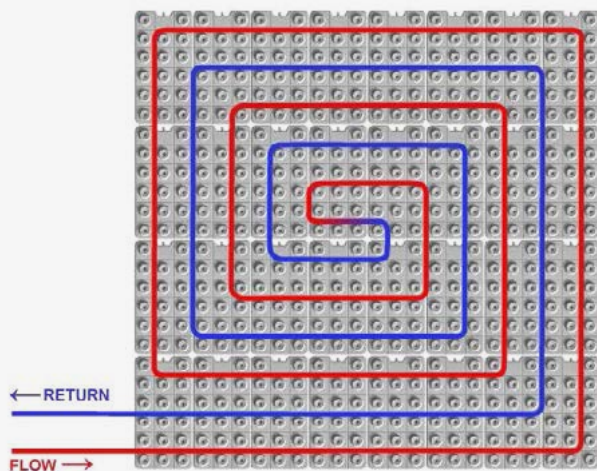
possible. They allow for pipe lengths to be easily held in place during the installation process requiring no specialist skills. Once installed, the thermal mass of a building may be increased by as much as 10-15 times. Thanks to there being no moving parts, PCM TES is effectively maintenance free and once installed it simply becomes part of the building.

For the best results, this can be paired with a ground source heat pump (GSHP) or other renewable heating systems so that the entire PCM TES can be charged with free energy and then discharged nightly.

INSTALLATION

At normal conditions the PCM will be in solid form, making the modules very robust. Rows of modules can be laid directly on top of the insulation layer replacing conventional castellated panels. This creates a grid which allows the heating pipe to be laid easily, holding the heat pipe in place throughout the screeding process to ensure that the finished underfloor heating system will distribute heat evenly.

MAINTENANCE FREE
NO MOVING PARTS
FULL STANDBY CAPACITY



THINICE MODULES

An individual PCM module is known as a ThinICE. They are filled with 1.6 litres of PCM solution which is then triple sealed for maximum security. It is possible to install these modules in the ceiling and other locations as a means of thermal energy storage.

It is possible to fill these modules with any of our S-range PCMs, not only S27. Consult our sales team for any custom applications.

SYSTEM SIZING

Eight PCM modules can be installed per m². This allows for up to 0.995 kWh/m² TES.

For installers, it is important that the heating system has the appropriate power. This can be easily estimated using the below:

$$Q_{ins} = \frac{995.5 \text{ Wh/m}^2}{t} + \frac{Q_{peak} \times K}{A}$$

Where:

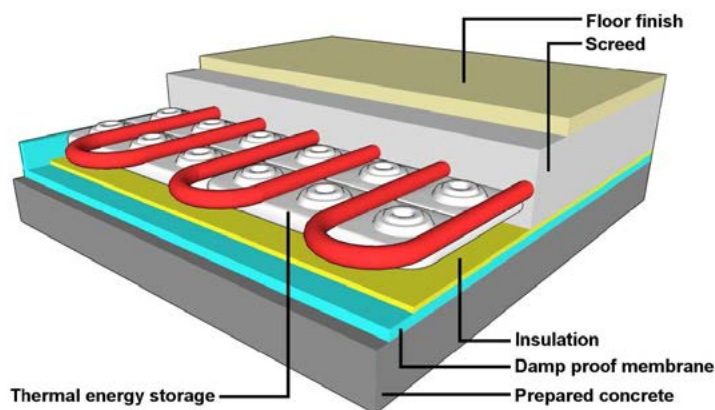
Q_{ins} = heating system power (W/m²)

t = charging period available (hrs)

Q_{peak} = peak heat load (W)

K = diversity factor (usually 0.6)

A = area of underfloor heating (m²)



EXAMPLE

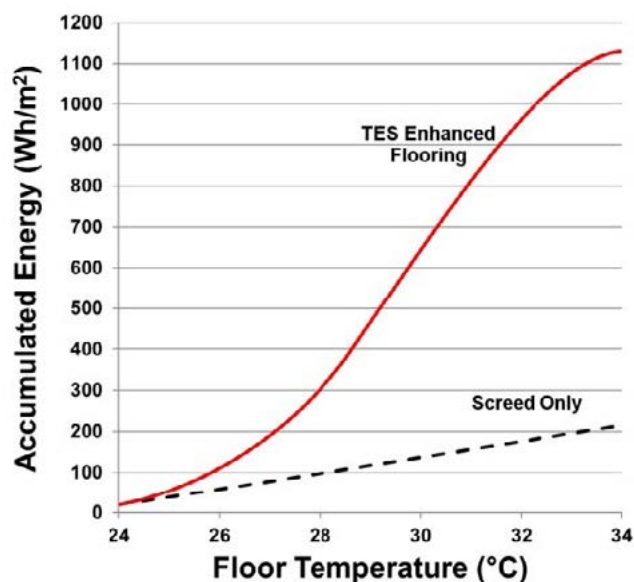
An underfloor heating system is planned for an 25m² room. There is an anticipated peak heat load of 1400W and there is a 10 hour charging period available. Using the above, we know that approximately 200 PCM modules could be installed. The heating system power can also be estimated:

$$Q_{ins} = \frac{995.5}{10} + \frac{1400 \times 0.6}{25} \approx 133 \text{ W/m}^2$$

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INCREASED THERMAL MASS

RINNAI HOT WATER – RELIABLY INSTANT, ENERGY EFFICIENT AND LOWER FUEL COSTS FOR UK HOMEOWNERS



Rinnai's range of ErP A-rated continuous flow gas-fired hot water heaters now includes models specifically aimed and designed for the UK domestic market. The units guarantee high efficiencies and low running costs combined with consistent water temperatures seven days a week.

Rinnai's range of continuous flow water heating units are being specified and installed in the whole range of domestic properties – studios, flats, houses, high-end residential houses – as installers and end users become aware of the ease of installation, and the energy & cost saving benefits.

Rinnai manufactures over 2million water heaters every year and as such is at the forefront of creating unit cost advantages for installers. Competitively priced, the units offer all technological advances and innovations, all at a similar cost to lower specification competitor models.

The reason for the increase in popularity is that continuous flow heating systems are proven to be more energy efficient than conventional ones and are now the preferred method of hot water provision. Rinnai units meet the demands of any size of home and are ideal where high volumes are demanded at intermittent times of the day, delivering safe temperature useable hot water.

Rinnai's multipoint 17i water heater, for example, eliminates the problem of sudden changes in water temperature, resulting in cold showers or scalding hot baths – the water temperature you set is the water temperature you get. So, if somebody is happily showering at 42°C and a tap is turned on to draw a bath elsewhere in the property, the temperature does not vary, and there is no chance of either user running out of hot water.

The Rinnai 16i interior model measures just 675 x 370 x 139mm and weighs in at 18kg - a one-man lift. The room-sealed unit has a temperature range of 35°C to 60°C with direct electronic ignition. Gas consumption ranges between 4.7kW-6.5kW for Natural Gas and 4.9kW-36.8kW when using propane. Hot water delivery flow is an impressive 16ltr max flow. Nominal operation pressure is 1-7 bar and it uses a 230V AC 50Hz 1ph power supply with an electrical consumption of 68W.

Meanwhile, where an external installation is required, the Rinnai 17e external multipoint water heater offers greater flexibility at the design stage and offers a viable solution where flue runs are problematic or internal space is not available. Capable of flow rates of up to 510 litres per hour at a 50°C rise, the 17e is suitable for multiple applications and can be specified for use with Natural Gas or propane.

The 17e has full frost protection and is available with a range of external ancillary items, including pipe cover box – and security cage where necessary.

For smaller properties, the Infinity 11i interior unit differs from the 17i as it weighs 2kg less at 16kg and consumes 6.10kW-21.60kW of Natural Gas and has an 11-litre maximum flow.

Key features of the 24kW Rinnai 11i are: Compact & lightweight unit for easy installation; Robust, durable heat exchanger; User friendly digital controls; In-built frost protection; Ideal replacement for large obtrusive and bulky cylinder; Compact design to fit a limited space.

➡ For more information on the RINNAI product range visit www.rinnaiuk.com



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MORE SPACE WITH KITCHEN PLINTH HEATER?



As we know when it comes to the kitchen, every home owner likes to have more usable space. This may be for extra kitchen cupboards or worktop areas but the kitchen is already full so finding that valuable extra space may prove to be difficult. Sometimes the only space available is where the radiator is fixed to the wall.

Once the radiator is removed to free up the space it brings another challenge as there now needs to be an alternative heating option installed to heat the kitchen. Underfloor heating is one option, however the cost of installing this in the old existing kitchen could prove to be very expensive. The floor would need to be excavated, new insulation boards have to go down and the under floor heating pipes secured. The pipe loops are then connected to an appropriate manifold and finally the screed goes down.

A much more cost effective solution is installing the hydronic plinth heater (fan-assisted radiator).

This has become a great choice for home owners when either replacing kitchen radiators or planning a new kitchen. Plinth heaters can not only save space, they are so much cheaper to install compared to under floor heating. Hydronic plinth heaters can be directly connected to two pipe central heating system.

A Thermix plinth heater that's controlled by a wireless thermostat not only provides consistent temperature control in the kitchen, it also allows the user to set different on /off time periods to the plinth heater. There is also an option available to control the heater using a smart phone or Alexa.

With the help of their low water content, plinth heaters provide faster heat response and leave much less residual heat when the heater turns off. This feature not only provides comfort heating to the user but also saves energy by not heating the room when not in use.

 www.thermix.co.uk

THERMIX 



Oni-EL in Mid Blue

COMBINING CUTTING-EDGE RADIATOR DESIGN WITH SUSTAINABILITY

If ever there was such a thing as the perfect marriage between heating and design, then aluminium is the ideal match-maker.

Vasco's 100% recycled aluminium radiator collections: Oni, Beams, Bryce, Mono, Alu-Zen and Zaros deliver unique technical advantages including excellent heat conduction, high output in low temperature systems, light material and eye-catching designs – not to mention they're sustainable too.

Vasco process, melt and extrude aluminium waste to create unique new designer radiators, such as the aluminium Oni and Beams Mono collections, which are also now available as electronic versions -EL. These provide an alternative cost-efficient and user-friendly solution to traditional hydronic heating solutions and save money as they operate on a Plug & Plays-system which is not linked to a central heating installation.



"Comfortable, stylish design combined with sustainable manufacturing to deliver an innovative 360 degrees approach."

Vasco's innovative portfolio of designer radiators, which have been honoured with internationally renowned design awards, such as the iF award, combine energy-efficient heating and functionality into state-of-the-art design, suitable for all rooms within the home or commercial environment. Comfortable, stylish design combined with sustainable manufacturing to deliver an innovative 360 degrees approach.

Oni remains Vasco's thinnest radiator even in its new electric models with a depth of just 8mm, whilst Beams Mono combines all the benefits of electric heating with purity of design - a real must-have for those who love a minimalist look! During the development process of the Beams Mono-EL, Vasco designers had to pull out all the stops to be able

Beams Mono-EL in three vertical profiles in Grey Blue, Forest Green and Jade Green



to integrate an electrical resistance in the sleek vertical profiles (width 150 mm). Beams Mono-EL designer radiator can be displayed as a single profile up to three vertical profile installations. The profiles have been fitted with additional fins to increase the heat output.

Both the Oni-EL and Beams Mono-EL meet strict European Ecodesign standards for electrical appliances. Oni-EL models provide an impressive heat output of 750 watt at 1400mm height or 1000 watt at 1800mm height and the Beams Mono-EL delivers 950 Watt per 150mm wide profile.

ALUMINIUM DESIGNER RADIATORS SAVE ENERGY IN 3 WAYS:

Fast reaction time – The core of an aluminium radiator contains only two litres of water, whereas a classic radiator will easily contain ten litres. As a direct result, an aluminium radiator will react almost instantly to the heating temperature set on the thermostat, yielding a much higher efficiency.

Maximum heat output – The optimal conductivity characteristics of aluminium radiators ensure maximum heat output, even in low temperature systems. A low water temperature setting automatically reduces energy consumption.

Excellent radiation heat – The optimum combination of convection and radiant heat in aluminium radiators creates a comfortable feeling of warmth in the room.

Stylish, pure and beautiful to look at, Vasco designer radiators are available in 56 contemporary colours, including new Noble colours: Pink, Silver, Pearl Beige, Gold Curry and Bronze. Finding the perfect accent or statement colour designer radiators has never been easier and with optional complementing towel rails available in a variety of colours and styles, these further enhance the functionality of the radiators, demonstrating the perfect blend of design and functionality.

With the new Vasco-Inspiration app, which utilises Augmented Reality, it is now possible to visualise your Vasco radiator and seek inspirational ideas. Using a multitude of customising options; colours, styles and collections to choose from, the Vasco-Inspiration app brings your interior design vision to life.

www.vasco.eu



RELAXED COASTAL VIBES THE PAINTED FURNITURE COMPANY

Although we may not be able to go on those much-loved holidays to the coast at the moment, it doesn't mean we can't create a holiday feel in our homes. The Painted Furniture Company's laid-back designs and cool colours make this easy to achieve, whether we're dreaming of a Cornish fishing cottage or a New England beach house.

Cool blues and soft greys are a popular choice for interiors and work perfectly to create a relaxed coastal ambience. Shown above and below with furniture from the Amberley Collection, these elegant pieces have an understated timeless style. Combined with sumptuous, comforting soft furnishings, it's easy to imagine returning here after an afternoon spent enjoying a cream teasor crabbing off the pier.

The Amberley Collection features furniture for the bedroom, living and dining rooms, making it easy to keep the clutter at bay and retain a feeling of calm. Every piece is made to order in the UK and is available in a wide range of contemporary colours to suit a coastal palette.

Travelling further afield across the pond, why not try creating a cool New England interior to bring a bit of classic American style to the home. Think simple white and nautical blues, tongue and groove panelling, and beautiful furniture and you'll be transported to a Rhode Island Summer in no time.

The Island Breeze Collection works particularly well to achieve this look with its solid appearance and tongue and groove features. These carefully crafted pieces are hand built to order in the UK so if customers need a particular size, wardrobe layout, or other special request, the team will do their best to help.

So as you can see, whether its a relaxing bedroom scheme or a cool, comfy living room, The Painted Furniture make it easy to create a cool, nautical interior and not a seagull in sight!

► 01285 656 041 | www.paintedfurnitureco.co.uk

B D D W

TYLER HAYS



THE FREEHAND COLLECTION BY CTD ARCHITECTURAL TILES

New for 2020, CTD Architectural Tiles introduces the Freehand collection. Replicating the spectacular shading and craquele effects typical of traditional Raku ceramics, the high-impact wall tile range will create standout design statements within any manner of residential or commercial space.



A celebration of colour, structure and depth, the high gloss tiles are available in seven colourways at a 200 x 200 x 7.5mm size. Whether adorning the walls of a restaurant or a residential bathroom suite, the Freehand range is guaranteed to help specifiers, architects and interior designers deliver a truly unique aesthetic.

Part of the Saint-Gobain family, CTD Architectural Tiles specialises in the supply

of high quality ceramic tile finishes and tiling solutions across all sectors in the UK commercial specification market. With unparalleled expertise and technical knowledge, the team works with industry leading, innovative manufacturers to offer a complete portfolio of ceramic and porcelain tile ranges to suit the architect, interior designer, developer and specification professional.

www.ctdarchitecturaltiles.co.uk | 0800 021 4835

FITZROY OF LONDON AT THE NED



The Ned in London has quickly secured its status as one of the most iconic and luxurious hotels in the city. To ensure a five-star experience for all guests, Fitzroy of London was contracted to provide premium quality accessible bathrooms for this landmark project.

The brief was to create luxury, accessible bathrooms that not only fully met compliance requirements in accordance with building control and regulations, but were also perfectly consistent in luxury, quality and style with all other areas of the hotel.

Offering an unrivalled range of luxurious finishes and bespoke possibilities, Fitzroy of London was able to provide a unique

solution to The Ned, with a carefully curated selection of products used from its stunning Portland collection.

Creating an equally luxurious experience for every single guest, regardless of any additional requirements, Fitzroy of London ensured all necessary fittings were correctly installed whilst guaranteeing perfect consistency with the rest of the design. The end result is arguably the most well designed accessible rooms for a luxury hotel in London.

By creating luxurious, high specification spaces that can be used by anyone, these bathrooms combine unmatched quality, design and functionality to provide a desirable retreat for customers of all abilities - ensuring all guests will enjoy the full Ned experience.

www.fitzroyoflondon.com

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MOSA LAUNCHES NEW CANVAS COLLECTION



THE ULTIMATE CERAMIC TILE SURFACE FOR HIGH TRAFFIC, MULTI-PURPOSE PLACES

At Mosa, we believe that every surface is a canvas where life can unfold. The latest addition to our product portfolio, Canvas, celebrates this and design as an everyday work of art. These ceramic floor tiles are designed to be versatile and subtle, featuring a delicate glimmer effect and a tactile finish that doesn't favour a specific direction through patterns that guide the user's gaze. Together with its relief design and unique coating, the tiles create a low maintenance surface with anti-slip properties.

Designed to be adaptable

Mosa Canvas was especially designed to provide a dedicated setting for everyday life through its simplicity, natural look and discreet character. The tiles are designed to be adaptable and work with other colours and design features around them. These characteristics make Canvas the ultimate floor surface for high traffic, multi-purpose places, such as retail interiors and public spaces.

All tiles feature a granulate mix and ceramic flakes in a variety of sizes and pigment tones, so that the whole may feel smoothly uniform from afar, but in fact is the result of rich, complex layering of details.



Colours and sizes

Canvas tiles come in two practical sizes - 30 x 60 and 60 x 60 centimetres - and a range of nine colours that are inspired by nature. The colour palette spans from cool white to ivory black. While Canvas has been especially designed to avoid favouring a specific direction through patterns that guide the user's gaze, the 30 x 60 centimetres option is offered to lead the eye to a certain direction should the designer need it. Or to use it to compose a pattern or accent in combination with the 60 x 60 centimetres version. The collection also includes stair tread and skirting products.

Sustainability

Sustainability is one of the main pillars of Mosa, and Canvas is no exception. The tiles are made of the purest materials in a sustainable design and production process, and Cradle to Cradle® Silver certified. We are committed to fostering respectful relationships around people and nature in all our manufacturing methods and services. Canvas' natural feel and pure ceramic character reflects this.



Discover Canvas yourself here.

Or book an appointment in our Mosa Design Studio London: 020 7490 0484.

For more information visit www.mosa.com

Mosa.



CAN YOUR BEDROOM DESIGN HELP YOU SLEEP BETTER?

Tempur guide on updating a bedroom for a good night's sleep

During these testing times, it's only natural that our sleep may suffer. From the change in our daily sleep routine, less outdoor time and less exercise, to juggling work and children or worrying about vulnerable family members, good sleep hygiene has never been more important.

Good quality sleep has multiple benefits: it reduces stress, boosts our mood, ensures we concentrate better, reduces anxiety, and allows the body to better rest and repair.

As the place where we lay our heads every night, the bedroom is an easy place to start when it comes to improving our sleep. From a soothing colour scheme, to the role of Feng Shui and symmetry, there are several design features to consider creating a bedroom environment for optimal sleep.

Ahead of DIY season and given we're all spending more time at home, Tempur Sleep Expert and chartered psychologist Suzy Reading has compiled a guide on how to rework a bedroom for better sleep.

Suzy says: "The bedroom is the ideal place to start when considering how to improve our sleep environment. It sounds simple, but without careful consideration, a bedroom can inhibit good sleep.

"Loud, brash colours in a bedroom can inadvertently keep us more awake, while gadgets emit blue light and prevent us feeling drowsy in the run up to sleep.

"Good bedroom design needn't cost a fortune; it's about making small changes to improve the space and boost its sleep-inducing qualities."

Read on for Suzy's sleep-inducing bedroom design tips.

Colour scheme

In interior design, colour groups fall into two categories – cool colours and warm colours. For the best night's sleep, use cool colours in the bedroom as these help the body to unwind, ready for sleep. Light blue, moss green, soft yellow and dusky grey all work well. Choose a colour that has meaning to you. If you love green, it will work better for you than blue, for example.

Warm colours, on the other hand, can have an adverse effect and have been shown to raise the heart rate and blood pressure, increasing our likelihood of staying awake. Avoid using red, purple or any bright colours as these prevent melatonin release, which the body produces to wind down ahead of sleep. If you are really set on using a bright colour, try adding as an accent colour, rather than one overpowering block of colour. Include colours in artwork or cushions, for example.

"As the place where we lay our heads every night, the bedroom is an easy place to start when it comes to improving our sleep."

Feng Shui

Feng Shui is based on the principles of adding balance to a space for added calm. In a bedroom, this means implanting a design based on symmetry and pairing items together. For example, place two bedside tables on either side of the bed or install a pair of paintings. You could also add matching potted plants for more impact.

Feng Shui also means keeping a space clear and devoid of clutter, so be selective with furniture and keep clutter and ornaments to a minimum. Take a 'less is more' approach and keep the bedroom clean and tidy, as this will only improve sleep long-term.

Plants & greenery

Consider adding greenery to your bedroom. Plants can boost air quality, increase air circulation and extract chemicals. Spending just five minutes in nature has a calming effect, so why not bring the outdoors in?

Ferns, succulents, bamboo, aloe vera and ivy plants are easy care varieties for green-fingered beginners. Match the plant type to the level of light and ensure your plants are well watered and dusted frequently, as dust prevents sunshine absorption needed for good plant health.

Block light & sound

It sounds obvious, but ensure all chinks of light are blocked, as sunshine is a natural indicator to our body to wake up. Use blackout blinds and ensure curtains are fully closed before sleep. Similarly, use earplugs to block out any noise. Remember that a bedroom should be like a cave for optimal sleep, so ensure it is cool, dark and quiet ahead of sleep and throughout the night.

Bedding & nightwear

Avoid using synthetic materials such as polyester bedding and instead use linen, silk and cotton for the most natural bedding types. These breathable fabrics allow the body to both cool better and stay warmer. Invest in a natural duvet type, such as feather-down, and again avoid man-made materials as these can irritate the skin. The same goes for nightwear, so choose cotton, silk or linen for a more comfortable sleep experience. Keep an extra blanket close by should the temperature drop in the night.

Natural remedies

Adding essential oil fragrances into your room can aid sleep and create a soothing environment. Try spritzing your sheets with a light layer of lavender spray before sleep or use a diffuser with a natural scent such as mint or lemon. Taking a warm shower or bath with essential oils before bed can also make us feel more naturally tired, along with a hot drink (non-alcoholic).

Banish blue light

Blue light emitted from gadgets, computers, phones and screens is an instant signal to our brains and bodies to stay awake. Place these items in a different room and use a traditional alarm clock rather than a phone alarm. When it's dark, we release the chemical melatonin, which is crucial to trigger sleep as it makes the body relax and feel naturally drowsy, so don't let blue light prevent you from dropping off.

Invest in a good quality mattress that suits your needs

We spend up to a third of our lives asleep, so investing in a quality mattress can really make all the difference to your sleep quality. A good mattress will gently support your entire body while keeping your spine in a neutral position. This will not only help improve your quality of sleep - the more comfortable and supported you are, the less you will toss and turn - but will also help muscles recover overnight and alleviate any aches and pains.

► For more information on Tempur, visit www.tempur.co.uk





BEAUTIFUL BESPOKE BILLIARD TABLES

The craftsmen at Sir William Bentley Billiards’ workshop, in Marten, England, have designed and made some of the world’s most beautiful bespoke billiard tables.

With nearly 40 years of experience in Antique Billiards restoration and reproduction, they have become experts in their craft. Their aim has been to continue the Victorian tradition of Excellence in billiard table manufacture by restoring and reproducing designs of that era whilst applying the same attention to detail and focus on quality to the creation of bespoke contemporary tables for Snooker, Pool, French & Russian billiards, as well as dual-purpose dining tables, matching accessories and billiard lighting.

The family-run business is committed to providing a truly bespoke, personalised service, producing unique furniture of the highest quality, from the finest materials. Each piece is handmade to order, with every detail subject to the client’s individual specifications – or that of their interior designer. Once finished, the tables are meticulously assembled on-site and set-up by the company’s experienced fitters.

This truly bespoke approach, and the quality of its work, has led the company to be widely known within the Interior design industry, Internationally, as well as in the UK. Many of their tables have been uniquely specified by top Interior and are as likely to be found in a Luxury hotel in the far East, or boutique Bar in Dubai as they are in a private Alpine Chalet or a Mayfair basement.

As a result, their table designs have become increasingly diverse and contemporary, and the finishes, craftsmanship and attention to detail are subject to the scrutiny of this most discerning audience. The appeal to these clients is clear – every table is meticulously made to match the interior design of the property it’s being made for.

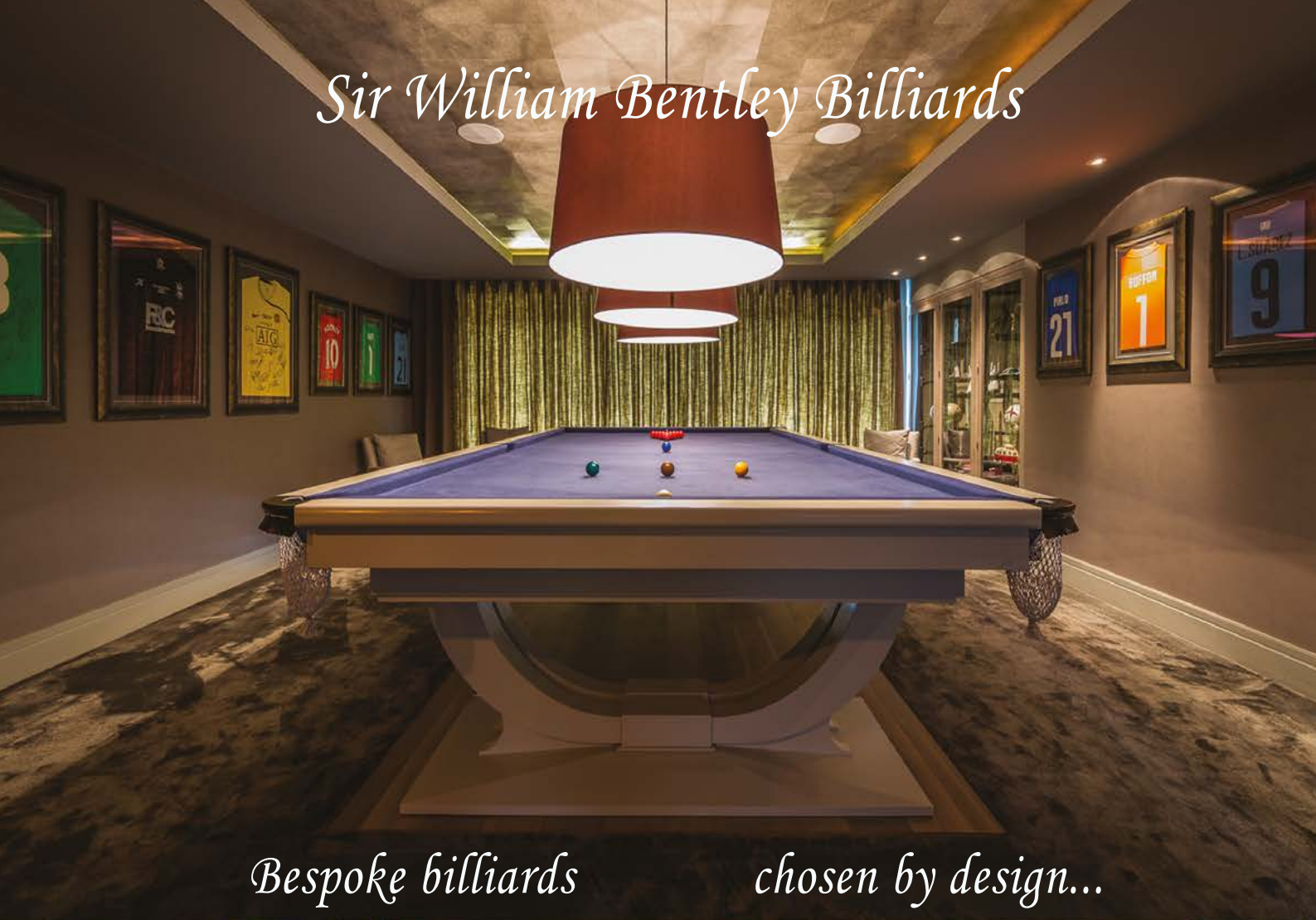
In recent years, working with commercial clients such as luxury Property Developers and boutique Hotels, the company has also started to offer their unique tables on a lease, rental or sale or return basis. Developers can therefore furnish their property with a stunning piece of furniture, and hotels and bars can offer a luxury feature - beautifully suited to their space, possibly offering alternative use of this space – without the capital outlay typically involved in owning such a piece of furniture.

► **If you’re interested to find out more, the company welcomes visitors to its workshops and showrooms by appointment.**

Call 01264 731 210 or visit www.billiards.co.uk



Sir William Bentley Billiards



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www. billiards.uk
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MARTINI INTERIORS: PROJECT IN CHICAGO (IL)- USA

Martini Interiors, the historic Made in Italy furniture brand, is constantly looking for new challenges that allow it to satisfy the tastes of an increasingly demanding international customer.



It does so by focusing entirely on the realization of high-level total home projects that are having a particular response especially in the US.

The specialization in custom-made furniture and the realization of personalized projects are, moreover, already present in this brand's DNA, which has established itself over time as one of the leaders in the classic luxury furniture segment.

Indeed, the Martini Interiors proposal is not limited only to the creation of furnishings, but expands to the realization of personalized projects that fully reflect the customer's lifestyle, design and personality and that accompany him from the conception of the project to the on-site installation.

A unique experience that offered by Martini Interiors which in this way guarantees not only the excellence of the final product but also the quality of the service.

The projects are curated by interior designer, specialized in contemporary and classic Luxury Design.



"Martini Interiors has established itself over time as one of the leaders in the classic luxury furniture segment."



The project villa in Chicago has seen the Italian brand involved in the design and construction of different rooms of the villa, among which the living area and the kitchen stand out. The latter, in white lacquered and with steel details, is arranged in a horseshoe shape and is equipped with a large central island, an imposing hood and marble worktops.

The living area, on the other hand, is characterized by marble and lacquered wood furniture in pastel tones and is completed by sofas, armchairs and home accessories that give the room a unique style and a metropolitan vibe, but always in a luxury key.

info@martinimobili.it | T. +39 045 7100784
www.martini-interiors.com



HEALTHY KITCHEN DESIGN

Dean Weston from Commodore Design offers advice on how you can create kitchens that meet the growing demand for healthier living.

Now worth £3.5 trillion, the global wellness industry is rapidly growing as more and more people across the globe seek to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. This wellness mega trend is filtering through many aspects of our lives, including the design of our homes.

Kitchens, in particular, offer huge potential for housebuilders and developers to help their customers feel healthier and happier. Here are just some of the ways in which this can be achieved.

MULTISENSORY DESIGN

Multisensory design is already being used in workplaces and urban planning but can be reflected across the home too. It's a concept that acknowledges people experience and react to space in many ways, using all of their senses. This can affect the way we feel, our behaviour and physical and mental wellbeing.

For example, the colour of a kitchen will appeal to our sense of sight but there is also strong evidence that colour schemes can affect our mood. Research linked to colour chromotherapy, which is believed to affect body vibrations, has highlighted that different shades can trigger a variety of emotional responses.

In the kitchen, this means a splash of the right colour could make a significant difference to the owner. Shades to consider include yellow, which can brighten a person's mood and increase energy, and blue which can increase a sense of calm and relaxation.

INCREASE NATURAL LIGHT

Lighting can be complex in a kitchen where functionality and comfort must combine, but it's another important consideration when designing for healthier living.

Too much artificial lighting can cause headaches and eye strain so different options such as dimmable lights must be weaved into the final design. However, one of the most beneficial solutions for our wellbeing is to flood the space with natural light.

Skylights and bifold doors work particularly well but if these aren't feasible then consider how kitchen finishes could be affected by light. For example, light coloured worktops can help to disperse light more evenly whereas darker ones will absorb more light. Gloss cabinets can also make the most of natural light.

ADD NOISE MINIMISING FEATURES

Open plan spaces are here to stay, but sociable living needs to be balanced with high levels of comfort, including minimising noise.

This could involve zoning larger spaces using screening to help contain the noise or installing products and systems specifically designed to absorb noise. Recent innovations include acoustic panels printed with patterns for floor to ceiling applications as well as adjustable acoustic beams that can be applied to both ceilings and walls to absorb sound and are available in 17 colours.

The choice of kitchen appliance is also important to keep the peace and there are several products worth considering in this respect. Kitchen appliance manufacturer, Novy, has launched a range of products aimed at providing silent power in the kitchen. Its cooker hoods have been designed with an advanced soundproofing system and a double-walled bottom plate, which make them quieter than whatever is cooking.

"Kitchens, in particular, offer huge potential for housebuilders and developers to help their customers feel healthier and happier."

Miele also offers an extractor fan with a specially insulated motor, chimney and cooker hood canopy for effective sound proofing. The same product diffuses one of three selected scents and changes colour helping to appeal to more senses as part of a multisensory design approach.

CLEAN THE AIR

A study commissioned by environmental charity Global Action Plan revealed that indoor air pollution is 3.5 times worse than outdoor air pollution and at its peak can be up to 560 times higher.

Although there are various ways homeowners can help to reduce air pollution, such as air purifiers, housebuilders can also play a part.

Many building products emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These are toxic gases which are partly responsible for an increase in respiratory and other serious health conditions. Choosing materials at the design stage that are rated as low/no VOC can therefore significantly improve air quality. These include natural construction materials for countertops such as stone, recycled glass, reclaimed wood and stainless steel.

A HAPPY HOME

There is no denying that wellness is a global trend. With a rapidly rising number of people taking action to improve their wellbeing, housebuilders and developers must move quickly to keep up.

From the application of new technologies and natural building materials through to more considered design concepts, there are many ways to create a bespoke kitchen that ensures homebuyers are not only happier but healthier.

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A BESPOKE BARN CONVERSION WITH STUNNING PROPORTIONS

The owners of this 16th-century timber-frame barn and cottage fell in love with the property in the Essex countryside

However, the property was left in an awful state of disrepair following a storm. As a result, the whole property needed some serious TLC to help restore it to its former glory. Two decades later the homeowners decided to move the original kitchen from the cottage to the attached barn, creating a spacious room with stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

Opting for Davonport's Tillingham shaker-style furniture, the homeowners wanted to ensure the original Aga from the cottage was incorporated into the new design.

"The greatest challenge was working out where the kitchen was going to go, as it depended on how the internal structure of the barn was altered," says founder and designer, Richard Davonport.

Fully glazing the gable end of the room allowed for the beautiful sea view to become a focal point of the room, while sealing one of the original barn doors created the perfect L-shaped corner for the kitchen. Additionally, this meant that the room was easily accessible from where the barn joins the main house.

In a room with a ceiling over 4 meters high, getting the proportions of the furniture right was essential. 3D renders of the room allowed greater understanding with regards to how much each element needed to be increased in height.



"Opting for Davonport's Tillingham shaker-style furniture, the homeowners wanted to ensure the original Aga from the cottage was incorporated into the new design."

Maintaining original features, such as the timber door from the gable, helped add character and charm to the new kitchen. In addition, the original Aga continued the traditional theme throughout the kitchen and is a perfect reminder of the original barn.



From a practical perspective, the large pantry is the true statement piece in the room. With bi-fold doors that reveal a stunning mirrored backdrop that reflects the fully-glazed gable opposite. The pantry is the ultimate storage solution with space for storing dried food goods, concealing a toaster, and phone charging point.



The final result is a breathtaking kitchen of staggering proportions. Large shaker-style cabinets surround a stunning island that features a white fantasy granite top and internal oak drawers. A pollarded burr oak bar and burnished brass accessories are a nod to the original building while everything is brought together with a classic colour palette of handpainted navy and grey creating a gorgeous coastal theme.

Photography: Darren Chung.

www.davonport.com
0845 468 0025 | info@davonport.co.uk



JOHN LEWIS OF HUNGERFORD

John Lewis of Hungerford created the first painted kitchen cabinetry in the UK back in 1972.

47 years later we are still supplying beautiful, handcrafted cabinets for the kitchen, together with our collection of painted wardrobes, bespoke dressing rooms and free-standing furniture.

As well as working directly for the client on their own kitchen or bedroom we also work with a range of architects, interior designers and high-end developers, helping to create, high impact, visual spaces for our clients and their customers.

Designed in a personal, customised and unique way, no two designs are the same.

The end result is a stunning installation which enhances the value of the property.

Our involvement in the design of the kitchen can depend on what stage of the process we join at and the overall budgets.

If a client is having building works and we enter at an early enough stage, sometimes we can influence the room layout to achieve the best possible kitchen design. If the location of services such as gas fittings or plumbing have already been decided by the client/contractors then we work with their scheme to design the kitchen layout.

Using a well-known brand with a good reputation for quality and design service will always yield a superior result for the project, while you may save money using a more budget specification you may not be able to get exactly what you want and may not get the personal tailored touch that your room deserves. There is also the longevity of the furniture to consider, as a well-made, well-designed kitchen should last for years without any maintenance, which means that the increased price initially pays for itself in the long run.

As an established, high-end brand we offer a quality product of robust construction to provide longevity for years to come. Our services of designing, manufacturing & installing far exceed the levels of low budget high street brands, and therefore we are able to fulfil the requirements of our client's needs and desires when it comes to a more discerning choice.

Our current products include 5 styles of kitchen, from traditional to contemporary as well as 4 styles of fitted wardrobes and bespoke dressing room solutions. We have over 80 colour choices and offer a colour matching service too. Our designers are also the single point of contact throughout the entire process from initial concept to finished installation..

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* Wardrobe collection also on display



‘FUSION KITCHEN’ WITH NEW BRONZE & CUBAN OAK FINISHES BY DAVAL

Daval, leading British designer and manufacturer of quality fitted furniture unveils a new sense of kitchen-artistry with the launch of two special textured finishes:

Bronze: a supermatt metallic finish with stone surface texture - exclusive to Daval

Cuban Oak: a rich woodgrain effect with the look and feel of natural wood - laminate solution

Designed for the contemporary kitchen and ultramodern homeowner, each new finish has been introduced so that Daval can answer the growing trend for combination interiors, which present a fusion of different raw materials, finishes and textures.

Simon Bodsworth, Managing Director at Daval Furniture explains “Open-plan living continues to influence the latest kitchen designs and with the space needing to serve a variety of disciplines like cooking, dining, entertaining and more recently home office work, mixing materials is a great way to create a zonal scheme that is well-panned, custom engineered and urban in style.”

“In terms of colour then darker surface textures, metallic accents and warm timber effects continue to rival more subtle options and in the kitchen, are being used to create an industrial-glam look like the featured Bronze and Cuban Oak kitchen” says Simon.

The new Bronze finish is seen upon the contemporary Mayfair furniture collection by Daval, and is designed with slab doors and knurled industrial bar handles in Brass. Extremely versatile, Mayfair Bronze is seen here as a flush-fitting, double wall unit with full height doors and space to house a twin-set of appliances with low-level custom drawers. Exclusive to Daval, Bronze boasts a rich metallic finish that changes its appearance when different levels of ambient or natural light hit the surface.

Perfectly paired with the metal-look Bronze finish is the new Cuban Oak wood décor, as shown on Varenna. Defining the work area of this u-shaped kitchen are striking white worktops and new Cuban Oak finish seen across three handleless wall units, a run of base cabinets, island end panel and outward-facing credenza. The new Cuban Oak finish not only breaks-up the distressed mirrored splashback, it also provides high contrast when compared to the black marble effect peninsula that creates a two-person breakfast bar, as pictured below:



"The new Cuban Oak finish not only breaks-up the distressed mirrored splashback, it also provides high contrast when compared to the black marble effect peninsula that creates a two-person breakfast bar."



The featured kitchen furniture includes:

- Mayfair Kitchen Furniture Collection - Supermatt UV lacquer finishes, vertical striations = Cashmere, Charcoal, Dove Grey, Frost White + NEW > Dust Grey, Marine Blue, Hunter Green, Talpa and Bronze, as pictured
- Varenna Kitchen Furniture Collection - Wood effect laminate finishes, horizontal woodgrain = Blonde Wood + NEW > Alaskan Oak, Grey Oak and Cuban Oak, as pictured
- Brass details: knurled bar handles, vertical & horizontal and C-spout kitchen mixer
- Lighting: under-cabinet spot lights, peninsula feature lighting and LED suspension light
- Colour matched cabinets: this feature avoids additional cladding on the end panels for a highly luxurious finish

Built from sustainable materials and precision engineered in Britain, every kitchen by Daval is made-to-order and made-to-measure. Its Mayfair & Varenna Kitchen Furniture is priced from £10,000 +vat.

► For further information, please contact Daval Furniture:
 01484 848 500 | enquiries@daval-furniture.co.uk |
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Apollo® Recycled Glass is a stunning new Quartz style worktop available in two styles - Grey Shell (Pictured) and Blue Star, with new variants coming soon in 2020.

Sheridan are the only UK company with Recycled Glass worktops in batch production. This new style of material has a similar strength & appearance to large-chipped Quartz worktops; but with glass fragments up to five times the size.

This glass is reinforced with Quartz crystals and resin binders to create a worktop with literal depth of character; and the quality to last for years to come.

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INTRODUCING SUPREME CONCERTO THE NEW MOTTLED STONE-EFFECT SURFACE FROM STARON

Added to Staron's vast array of premium solid surfaces at the beginning of 2020, Supreme Concerto is guaranteed to enhance any interior. Whether used in residential homes or within the commercial sector, the unique stone-effect surface is designed to make a statement.

Supreme Concerto joins the brand's Supreme Collection, which is comprised of fourteen individual finishes. Inspired by nature, the collection is made up of veined patterns, smooth colours and sporadic wave-like markings in muted tones to offer a versatile surface designed to work in any interior.

Featuring wash-effect shades of brown, ash, white and grey with minute textured flecks, the detailed surface provides a beautiful stone-like structure. Pair with light coloured kitchen walls and units, or white washbasins in bathrooms for a striking contrast.

Perfect for use within the home as well as in commercial spaces, the award-winning



sophisticated blend of natural minerals and thermosetting acrylic polymers ensure non-porous, heat and scratch resistant qualities for the ultimate hygienic surface. Offering complete design flexibility, Staron is widely used across hotel, office, restaurant and retail sectors due to its exceptional qualities.



Staron is priced from £350 per m² (based on a fabricated kitchen worktop to a basic specification with upstands)

www.staron.com

THE FIGHT FOR MARKET SHARE – MAN-MADE OR NATURAL!



There is a debate raging in the stone industry.

With the increase of market share by man-made materials, in areas traditionally occupied by natural stone, the choice for the consumer has increased. But not always in the full knowledge of what the choices contain and how they perform. What are the true ecological credentials of either and should we be using them at all?

The main battlefield is kitchen work surfaces. Traditionally made from natural marble, and in more recent years granite, limestone and slate - man-made quartz (or engineered quartz) has taken a large chunk of the market.

Is the natural stone industry just bleating about a successful rival, when they have long neglected to promote natural stone in any meaningful way themselves?

And if man-made quartz is the all singing, all dancing alternative to natural stone, why does it have to assume the names of natural stone, claim it is a version of stone and try to look like stone?

Man-made quartz (not to be confused with quartzite, which is a natural stone): a composite made from quartz mineral (approx. 75% by volume), bound together with a binder resin, (approx. 24% by volume), and then coloured with pigments, (1 to 2%). Heated, calibrated and polished. The finished product tends to come in singular colours, some with sparkles. Manufacturer's claim it is chip resistant, moisture and stain resistance and hygienic. There are warnings about placing hot pans directly on the surface as they may crack the material or leave burn marks.

The market is becoming saturated with choices and there is an unhealthy market for unbranded material, without the manufacturer's mark printed on the back, appearing as a cheaper alternative, and therefore without the manufacturer's guarantee.

There is also another man-made product on the market called Lapitec which is a "sintered stone", available from the Marble and Granite Centre in Rickmansworth, which uses 100% natural products, is inert, recyclable and has excellent ecological credentials.



Natural granite is igneous rock, formed at high temperatures in the earth's crust, made up of varying quantities of feldspar, quartz, and mica. The name is applied to a variety of igneous rock, similar in structure, but not all the same. Generally, it is hard wearing, heat resistant and can be sealed to resist liquid ingress, which makes maintenance simple. It can be highly polished or honed. Colours can be uniform pinks and creams - salt and pepper or wild and unique.

Marble and limestone are increasingly specified for high end luxury apartment work-tops. These look beautiful, but the materials are calcium carbonate based and can be susceptible to acid etching from citreous fruit, wine and household cleaners. Though some prefer the natural patina that develops on the surface of these stones with age and use.

What can you do with all those the old work-surfaces once you decide to replace them in 10 or 20 years' time? Will an indestructible pile of inorganic resin bonded material pile-up somewhere, like the fridge mountains of earlier this century? What is contained in the resin that binds the man-made quartz together? Certainly Lapitec and all natural stones can be crushed and returned to the earth, naturally.

More questions than answers? Ultimately, the beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Perhaps, like imitations gone before, natural stone will shrug off the competition in time. After all, its been around for millions of years and will probably be around for a few more. Will its rivals?

What's your choice?

Robert Merry is a Director of the Stone Consultants. A member of the Stone federation of Great Britain, Chartered Institute of Building and the British Standards Institute. The Stone Consultants offer specialist advice and guidance on all aspects of using stone, both natural and "unnatural", as well as expert witness services.

▶ **Contact: info@stoneconsultants.co.uk or visit www.stoneconsultants.co.uk**



THE MOST IMPORTANT KITCHEN DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2020 ARE SIMPLY A STATE OF MIND

A global pandemic may be an unlikely kick-starter for an interior revamp, but after weeks indoors and no expensive holiday on the horizon, a fresh start could be on the cards for many of us.

And whilst we may be delighted when stay at home becomes a choice rather than a necessity, our experience of downtime, whether together or alone, is something we are unlikely to want to give up completely. According to the design experts at InHouse, this extraordinary period is likely to kick start a desire to redesign our interiors and right now, our design preference could have more to do with our personality than our style.

"The choices we make in kitchen style comes down to so much more than merely following fashion, and whilst it's not something that we pay much attention to in normal times, we're likely to be making more considered choices than ever before", says Wayne Dance, MD at InHouse.

"The kitchen is at the heart of the home, it's where we feel safe. This feeling of safety, of being in control, is what we seek to create in our homes and never more so, than right

now. Kitchen design echoes what's going on in society and in our lives, and our style choices are likely to reflect an emotional response. We all respond to stress in different ways and this period of staying at home, has seen us all think and react differently. It may be complex psychology but it's a really simple principle.

"Whilst it's a little too early to see the design innovation that is sure to follow, we'll broadly lean towards one of two design camps: contemporary or traditional and it's pretty clear to see both have equal merit. The rest is detail, the little things that make up the bigger picture. There is no truth in the expression 'You don't know what you need until you see it - you have to notice that need first. Creating the perfect kitchen isn't about ideas, it's all about solutions. And right now, problems are going to be up-close and personal, presenting the perfect opportunity to redesign a space that propels us into a confident new future."



WHEN CONTENTMENT IS CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN DESIGN

Whilst social distancing and staying home presents the perfect opportunity to iron out current niggles, this unprecedented period could see many of us looking for a completely fresh start and this could mean a switch from classical to ultra-contemporary. These kitchens take clutter free-living to a new level – with beautiful clean lines and cubist designs creating calm and consistency in the home. And let's not forget handleless fronts that can be opened and closed with a mere nudge of the knee.

Without visual clutter, peace descends and it is this feeling that could be the calling for many of us. Let's not forget that the most contemporary designs have their roots firmly in the Bauhaus ethos, with modernist design that stemmed from some of the darkest periods in European social history. These contemporary designs make a strong statement for anyone that wants to look to the future.



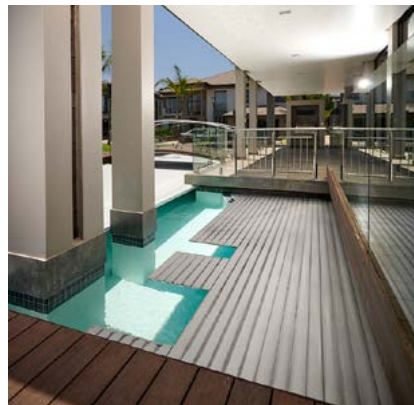
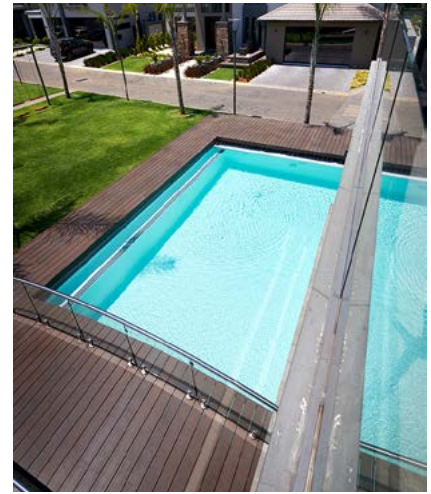
"Whilst we love the look of period design, we are not tradition slaves and we certainly don't want old fashioned functionality."

LOOK BACK AND HANKER – TRADITIONAL STYLE KITCHENS DESIGNED FOR THE FUTURE

Styles and trends come and go, but there is something about heart-warming classical designs that keep us hooked. In times of uncertainty, we always reach out for that 'oh, so heart-warming, feel-good factor' that comes from past times and never have we needed that more, than right now. These period looks remind us of old-fashioned values, when families looked after each other and communities appeared more united. These kitchens represent traditional, classical design, with detailing that creates balance and harmony. Shaker style fronts and period style designs are ideal for injecting a sense of light and space that creates an instant feeling of calm.

Whilst we love the look of period design, we are not tradition slaves and we certainly don't want old fashioned functionality. What we really want is a traditional feel, with bang up to date functionality, high tech, low maintenance finishes, and a multitude of creative storage solutions. The Coronavirus pandemic may well have made us feel vulnerable, but the modern, traditional style kitchen will be exactly what some of us need in order to inject that much needed feeling of emotional security.

► The next125 and the schüller.C collection are available through a network of independent network of retailers. For details please contact InHouse Inspired Room Design at www.inhousetld.co.uk or call 01661 842304.



1 SWIMMING POOL... 4 POOLLOCK AUTOMATIC COVERS

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.

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Today's high-performance composite deck boards, like those from Trex, are warranted to last for 25 years or longer. But what about the substructure material underneath? If the posts and beams that support the deck are made of wood, they are likely to deteriorate long before the decking warranty elapses. Now, there is a simple and cost-effective solution to combatting the damaging effects of nature and time. Trex® Protect™ Joist and Beam Tape is a self-adhesive butyl tape designed to protect wooden joists and beams from moisture that can lead to rot, wood decay and the loosening of deck screws and fasteners.

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.

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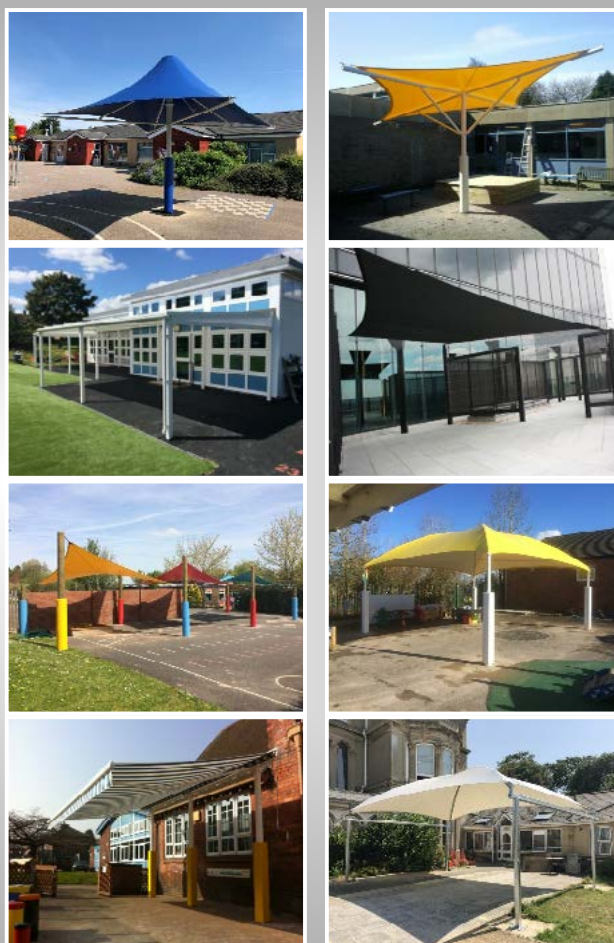
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MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

With the majority of us staying at home, every bit of space is becoming increasingly important and with warmer and longer days approaching gardens become our extra room.

Hudson Valley Lighting Group (HVLG) have a range of outdoor lighting that can make the most of your outdoor environment what from balconies to landscaped gardens.

Hudson Valley Lighting Group has been designing and manufacturing luxury lighting for the American market for more than thirty years. Renowned throughout North America for elegant design which spans a multitude of styles, the collections transform a space whether it has a contemporary, traditional, or industrial aesthetic.

Ben Marshall, Creative Director of Troy Lighting and Corbett Lighting, part of Hudson Valley Lighting Group talks to AI Lighting about how to implement good lighting design outside.

CONSIDER STYLE

The first thing to consider when it comes to outdoor lighting is the exterior of your home. Is it Mid-century, Tuscan, Craftsman or Traditional? Selecting the proper fixtures to adorn your space is key to creating a welcoming atmosphere that makes sense and is also inviting. Post exterior lights are a nice addition to a home that's often overlooked. They add a grounding presence to the front of your home.





"Hudson Valley Lighting Group has been designing and manufacturing luxury lighting for the American market for more than thirty years."



SIZE MATTERS

Most exterior lights come in what we call "families"; different sizes of the same design. I recommend taking the basic measurements of the fixture you are considering on the surfaces as to which it will be installed. Proportions are key. Selecting lighting that is either too large or too small will make your space look awkward.

TAKE YOUR TIME

As long as J-boxes are in place or you are replacing existing lights, most fixtures can be installed by yourself or with two people. Naturally take the right precautions, turning off the power being the main one. If you are adding new non-existing lights to your home then an electrician is key.

WHERE ARE YOU?

When looking for outdoor lighting it is important to look for finish materials that will hold up in the appropriate environment. Beach homes can be tricky as the salt in the air can destroy and weather cheap fixtures. Be sure to look for wet location labels. It is important especially with pendant fixtures that you are adding to an exterior living space. If the patio exposed to weather a damp location fixture won't work.

▶ Discover Hudson Valley Lighting Groups range of outdoor lighting at <https://intl.hvlgroup.com/Products/Exterior/All>

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17TH CENTURY 4 STAR LUXURY SPA HOTEL 24 HOUR BESPOKE LIFT INSTALLATION

In the heart of the market town of Ambleside are 57 elegant en-suite rooms, a restaurant and several reception areas encased in an enchanting 17th century building entertaining both leisure and business clients. Due to the age of the building they had no lift and no room to integrate one, having heard of iKONICs service the hotel approached our team.

iKONIC Challenges

The company required the minimalist down time of the stair way and impact on their guests possible, the period of the building meant it had many original features and the lift needed to complement the surroundings. The removal of the roof also needed careful planning to enable the new lift shaft to be lowered into the stairway

iKONIC Solution

Utilising the inner core of the dog leg, spiral staircase as the shaft footprint – creating an aesthetic feature of the lift shaft.

The lift car was clad in Alcantara leather with removable panels so whilst at the time it perfectly reflected the luxury of the architecture of its surroundings, it is also easy to update to match new decor. The roof of the hotel was taken off and the lift was placed in the designated space by a crane resulting in only a 3-hour block on the staircase.

iKONIC Results

The lift solution was installed in just 24 hours, with minimum impact on the guests and thoroughly reflected the luxurious, traditional atmosphere of the hotel. Utilising sophisticated thinking and planning allowed our team to achieve our clients brief within the time frame and budget.

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MAKING WORKSPACES SAFE - WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW BEFORE INVESTING IN AN AIR PURIFICATION SYSTEM

Providing a fresh, clean, healthy workplace has always been important for businesses to ensure staff are kept in safe, productive environments. This is of even greater importance now as the COVID-19 lockdown eases. But health experts are worried that conventional air purification systems won't actually provide the protection required.

They highlight the concerns surrounding conventional 'Passive' air purification, where air needs to pass through a filter in order to be purified. These filters are usually in devices, which, in reality take many, many hours to pass all the air in a room through it, if at all in poorly circulated spaces. As soon as someone enters the space, the air is then immediately exposed to contamination, so the likelihood of all air being treated is extremely remote.

They also warn how filter based systems don't sterilise surfaces – pathogens like Coronavirus, E.COLI and Listeria can survive for hours on uncleaned surfaces, putting occupants at risk. There's also concern that these harmful viruses, germs and bacteria can continue to thrive in filters, which means that the task of changing and cleaning filters can also carry its own risks.

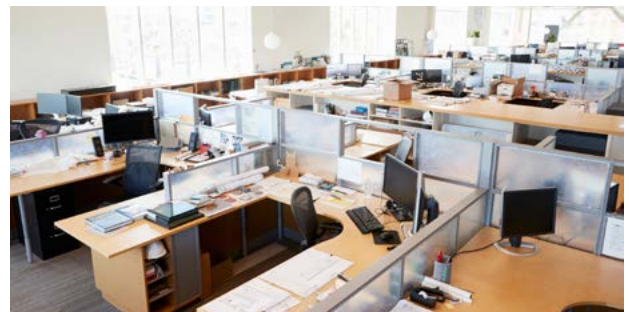
After extensive research, ASHRAE, the worldwide trade association for HVAC professionals, have now come forward to recommend that building owners consider UVGI (Ultra Violet Germicidal Irradiation) combined with autonomous circulation fans to protect staff and customers from viruses, such as Coronavirus and other harmful pathogens.

These types of system use PHI (Photohydroionisation) Cells which are integrated into fans to 'Actively' clean the air by flooding indoor environments with Ionised Hydro-Peroxides. These are referred to as "mother nature's cleaning agents" by the scientific community, as they occur naturally and are the reason the air smells fresh after a thunderstorm.

In independent research, results showed that PHI fan technology eradicated up to 99% of all known viruses and pathogens. It also showed that with an active in-room PHI fan, over 99% of the germs in a human sneeze are neutralised before they can travel 2 metres.

So, for anyone investing in air purification technology it might be worthwhile considering ASHRAE's advice and looking into the simple-to-install, ductless, PHI fans as an approved, safe and tested solution.

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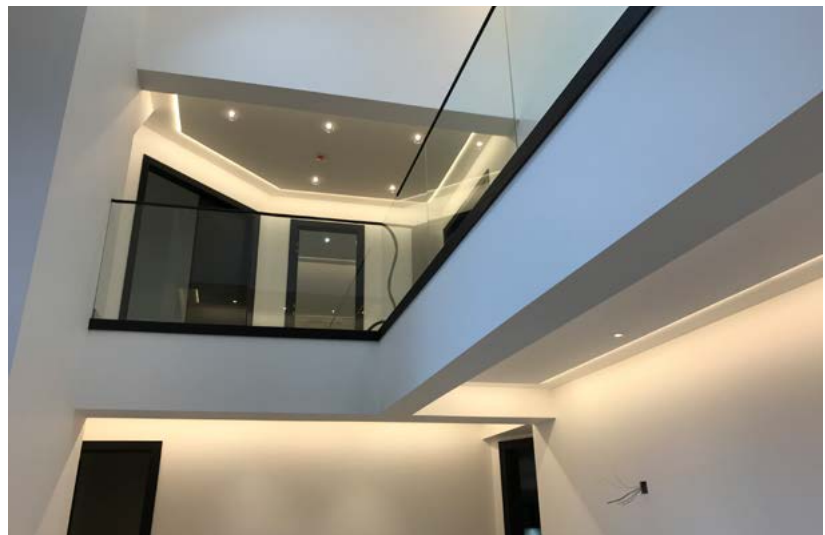
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Enhancing an interior can be an expensive task but not utilising our unique LED edge lighting profiles. Designed to be cost effective yet create stunning results. These profiles become the key component to a lighting concept.

Options being for a flat ceiling or a corner detail the aluminium trims form a sharp edge perfect for plastering to. The aluminium also acts as the perfect heat sink for LED keeping the running temperature low.

For the LED strip, simply select the colour temperature and output, whether it is single colour, dim to warm or colour changing the options are many. After selecting the LED, select the driver, either switched, triac, DALI, 1-10v, DMX, 12v or 24v, the choice is yours.

Typical applications are washing light round cornices, coffering, roof light wells, light panelling, beam edges, skirtings and wall recesses. When switched off the edge trim blends into the interior almost unnoticeable.



When on, the room is washed with soft reflected light, the perfect way to illuminate a room and to avoid the error of too many down lights.

Available in 3m lengths for ease of transportation and installation, these trims will transform the way you see light being used to enhance a room giving it added value and exclusivity.

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TOP 5 BENEFITS OF RENDERED FAÇADE SYSTEMS

Steve Belcher, Product Marketing Manager at Parex outlines the benefits of render and façade systems.

For contractors wishing to find a façade material or system that will not only look great but also offer long term protection against the elements, render has become the façade material of choice.

Whilst the elements of a building's fabric will always play a critical role in both protecting occupants and regulating the indoor environment, a building's external surface or façade is an integral element of its overall design and is for many, one of the reasons for rendering a property.



"A rendered finish will protect any underlying masonry substrate against wind, rain and the extremes of temperature and humidity."

AESTHETICS

This outer skin adds personality and character to a building and is one of the principal ways a designer can make their mark on how their creations are perceived by occupants and visitors. When specifying render and façade systems, it's possible to create pretty much any colour you like with pigments simply mixed in with the render. Colour and texture will vary depending on the type of finish or solution selected whilst the application method, such as a scraped hand finishing or a machine sprayed textured finish, can have a noticeable effect on the appearance. Lime renders have also made a resurgence in recent years, not least due to their added breathability and versatility, but on account of the fact they add distinctive character to new buildings, as well as in the restoration and decoration of traditional buildings.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

At a time when the UK needs to improve its woefully energy-deficient building stock, one of the most significant benefits of modern renders is that they can be combined with insulation to not only improve the aesthetics on the outside but also significantly improve a building's thermal performance without affecting the interior space. Wrap-around solutions such as Parex's Parextherm External Wall Insulation (EWI) systems will significantly reduce heat loss through the external envelope and ensure a warmer more comfortable internal environment, whilst at the same time creating a better-looking exterior.

PROTECTS AND WEATHERPROOFS

A rendered finish will protect any underlying masonry substrate against wind, rain and the extremes of temperature and humidity. A good render will look good for longer and its durability will therefore reduce maintenance requirements. Parex is a render manufacturer with systems that are accredited to LABC and Premier Guarantee Zone 4 rating and meet the standards required by the NHBC. This means they can withstand the extremes of the UK climate, including the most exposed coastline areas.

BREATHABILITY

Our everyday living means that we create large amounts of moisture inside our homes which needs to escape. What we do not want is condensation and damp inside a property which is costly and time-consuming to remove. A breathable, decorative render will make for an attractive exterior, and at the same time assist in optimising the comfort of the occupants' living environment.

VERSATILITY

Whatever the substrate there is a render to suit in a wide range of styles, finishes and colours. Rendered façades are a versatile, efficient and cost-effective system for any building regardless of the type or age of construction. They have potential to improve the outer skin of a building, update the aesthetics, adding limitless kerb appeal and are an important step in improving a building's long-term thermal efficiency.

► **For more information about the wide range of Parex render systems or for technical guidance visit Parex www.parex.co.uk/Render_Systems**



MAKITA ADDS TO NEW XGT 40V RANGE WITH NEW DRILLS AND DRIVERS



Makita UK has introduced its new XGT range of cordless high-performance 40V Max tools, with the addition of two models of rotary hammer, a new combi-drill and an impact driver – ideal for heavy duty applications where cordless may not have previously coped. All four new products benefit from Makita's advanced brushless motor technology.

The HR003G and HR004G 40V Max Brushless Rotary Hammers offer outstanding performance with speeds up to 980 revolutions per minute (rpm) and up to 5,000 blows per minute (bpm) of hammer action. They feature a variable speed trigger and three function options - rotary hammer, rotary only and hammer only – making them versatile and easy to adjust to each task. The HR004G is also equipped with a Quick Change Chuck to make switching between drill bits fast and simple.

Both machines include Makita's Anti-Vibration Technology (AVT) for improved operator comfort and safety. When hammer drilling into concrete the HR003G and HR004G have vibration levels of just 7.0m/s² and 6.5m/s² respectively for increased safe trigger times. To protect users from dust inhalation during operation, the rotary hammers are compatible with the DX12 (HR003G) and DX14 (HR004G) dust boxes.

The highly versatile HP001G Combi Drill is compact and easy to handle. It has a variable speed trigger and two mechanical gears with a broad range of clutch settings – 41 in gear one and 21 in gear two. This makes it easy to finely adjust the output for the task at hand. The HP001G has a capacity of 20mm in steel and masonry and 76mm in wood. In high gear it has a speed of 2,600 rpm and delivers up to 39,000 blows per minute when in impact drilling mode. To ensure the safety of the user the machine features Makita's Active Feedback Sensing Technology (AFT) that turns off the motor if the rotation speed suddenly slows. This protects the user from injury if the drill bit jams in the material.



Also added to the Makita range, is the powerful TD001G Brushless Impact Driver. It delivers up to 220 newton-metres (Nm) of torque with the choice of four power modes (Max, Hi, Mid and Lo), selected using a simple one touch control, in addition to six assist modes. In the highest power mode, it has a maximum speed of 3,700 rpm and delivers up to 4,400 impacts per minute.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK commented: "Our XGT platform offers solutions for high demand applications where corded electric tools have traditionally been required and the new rotary hammers, combi drill and impact driver all provide the highest levels of performance, ease of use and operator comfort and safety."

➡ To find out more about the new additions and the rest of the Makita XGT range visit www.makita.com.





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Andy Wain, Head Gardener at Euridge Manor, with the **STIHL HLA 65** hedge trimmer

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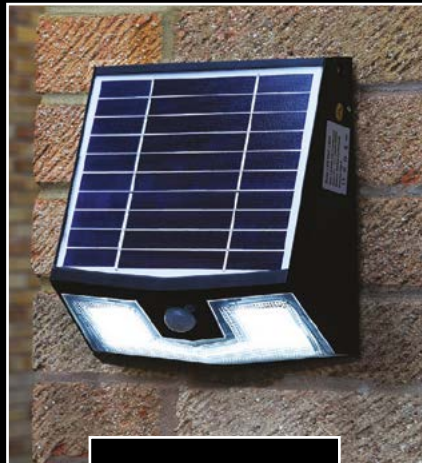
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