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Issue 24 2021 £3.95

BEXLEY PEEP

A forever family home
filled with light

BRETT LANDSCAPING

Putting Birmingham landmark
on a pedestal with new
roofing systems

COVER PROJECT

THE OPEN PLAN KITCHEN

HAS COME OF AGE IN 2021



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A FOREVER FAMILY HOME FILLED WITH LIGHT



It was far from love at first sight when Hannah and Duncan looked around a 1970s house in Sussex. “We were moving from a period villa with sizeable rooms, high ceilings, lots of original features and a seaside feel,” explains Hannah. “When we came to view this house, the low ceilings, unorthodox layout and slight feeling of neglect were a bit dispiriting.”

What changed their minds was the potential to create the light-filled, open-plan living space that they were looking for. “It was essentially a blank canvas, and we saw that we could create something more modern and attractive and that really, there was nothing standing in the way of that ambition.”

The couple had been slightly hesitant to leave their urban life so the house in Sussex needed to compensate for a lack of big-city amenities by providing exceptionally high-quality family living space. “We wanted an expansive,

Open-plan feel to the whole ground floor and to have a minimal transition between the garden and the interior. We were looking for a generous, light-filled space and the ability to simply throw open the back of the house and wander in and out effortlessly, so if we fancy breakfast in the garden – it’s easy.”

The couple assembled their project team and architectural designers Sloane and Brown understood their vision straight away. "When I first saw the property it was clearly a house that had not been updated in a meaningful way for some considerable time," says project architectural designer Phil Brown. "They are a young family who wanted a more contemporary home suitable for modern living but without entirely losing the character of the original building.

"Working closely with the client, we agreed that the primary objective was all about inside-outside living – creating one big usable space at ground floor level rather than a series of separate spaces."

The three huge sets of bi-fold doors (the largest measuring 4900mm X 2200mm) across the back of the house were fundamental to this vision, as they create a seamless transition between the outside space and the kitchen, dining room and living room. These generous areas of glass are echoed on the first floor by French doors and glazed balconies.

Absorbing what was the garage into the ground-floor footprint of the house and adding a first-floor extension could have created an unsatisfying asymmetry to the rear so there needed to be some common design features to bring the whole project together.

Specialist contractor Euro Aluminium recommended the use of Schüco bi-fold doors and windows throughout the project. "We used the ASS 70 FD system for the large bifold doors" recalls MD Gabriel Andrisan. "It has an elegant, slim 120 mm profile and we were able to use the same system for



the French doors on the first floor. All the other windows throughout the property were designed using the AWS 70 SC system so there is a common aesthetic which helps this project really come together.

"It was a challenging project, but I think the blend of contemporary and

"It was a challenging project, but I think the blend of contemporary and period details works in complete harmony. The result is a coherent design that really works."

Although it perhaps ended up being a larger project than Hannah and Duncan had initially set out to tackle, the result is everything they were looking for. "We spent a long time thinking about what we wanted to achieve and top of the list was the integration of the indoor and outdoor living space.

"We had done our homework and considered Schüco because of the design and quality of their products. However, Gabriel from Euro Aluminium really showed us the flexibility of the systems and suggested how to design all the windows and doors to provide both the function and look we were after.

"There is so much glass that even when all the doors and windows are closed, the house is flooded with light and even in midwinter the slightest glimmer of sunshine keeps the whole space feeling warm and welcoming."

www.sloaneandbrown.co.uk/



WORKS UNDERWAY ON £6.5M EXPANSION OF COVENTRY SECONDARY SCHOOL



Midlands contractor G F Tomlinson has commenced works at Barr's Hill School in Coventry to expand and remodel existing buildings and create a new teaching block for year seven pupils.

The school, which has some of the strongest academic results in the midlands and was rated 'Good' in its most recent Ofsted report, currently offers 655 places for children aged 11-16, plus sixth form students, and has an expansion plan to ensure it provides a total of 900 places in five years' time.

G F Tomlinson is delivering the £6.5million scheme on behalf of Coventry City Council, which comprises the construction of a new two-storey, seven classroom teaching block known as 'The Bridge' for January 2022 – a dedicated space for year seven pupils, which will be designed to help 11 and 12-year-olds benefit from a smooth transition into secondary education.

Expected for completion in September, works will also see the school's science department extended and refurbished, new classroom spaces created in existing blocks, improved facilities added to the sports changing/multi gym and external play spaces and additional dining space

to accommodate the school's expansion over the coming years.

Procured through Pagabo's National Framework for Medium Works, this is the second scheme G F Tomlinson has been awarded through Pagabo in the West Midlands region - the first being the £3.7million development of Cardinal Newman Catholic School in Coventry, also for Coventry City Council, which is due for completion this summer.

Andy Sowards, managing director of G F Tomlinson, said: "We are pleased to be working on a second project through Pagabo's National Framework for Medium Works, and with Coventry City Council once again, to provide Barr's Hill School with the expansion and improvement works necessary to meet growth plans to offer 245 additional places.

"The school is dedicating space to year seven pupils to help them prepare for and adjust to secondary education and the new teaching block complete with seven classrooms and high-quality facilities will enable them to do just that. Other important extensions and renovations, including works to the ICT suite, science department, dining facilities and gym - will provide new and improved learning

and activity spaces for all pupils and staff members, and will accommodate a significant increase in the number of places available to children in the future. We look forward to seeing works progress on site this year."

Emma Hesbrook, Midlands regional relationship manager at Pagabo, said: "We're really pleased to see work in motion for Barr's Hill School to provide all-important additional pupil places for the area and a dedicated space for students to comfortably transition into the secondary education environment. Creating environments that benefit all users – in this case pupils and staff – is central to what we do at Pagabo, so we're exceptionally happy to be playing a part in delivering excellent facilities for the education of the professionals of tomorrow.

"We are delighted that we have been able to appoint the right delivery partner for the scheme. Procuring services from G F Tomlinson ensures that the client is in a safe pair of hands, something that is incredibly important given the constraints and complexities of the existing site.

"This is the second appointment in the West Midlands for G F Tomlinson via our frameworks, with the first also being a school for the same client in Coventry. We look forward to seeing work progress on both of these sites, ultimately adding to the education provision for the City."

Headteacher Chris Jupp said: "We are delighted and excited to be embarking on this project with GF Tomlinson. Coventry Local Authority have asked the school to expand slightly our pupil numbers due to our recent successes and popularity with parents, alongside the need for more pupil places locally in the coming years.

"The investment will give our students some fantastic new facilities including a brand-new bespoke building for 'The Bridge' – our mini school just for Year 7 pupils which ensures a smooth transition to secondary school."

G F Tomlinson is delivering the project alongside Seymour Harris Architects, BWB Consulting Ltd and ABA Consulting.

For more information, please visit www.pagabo.co.uk



GARADOR ADDS 4 NEW COLOURS TO SECTIONAL GARAGE DOOR RANGE

Garador are launching four exciting new colours for their sectional garage doors range. These new colours will be available, as part of the standard colour range, across their Georgian and Linear door models.

There are now 16 colours to choose from in the standard colour range, including the four new colours: Basalt Grey (RAL 7012), Quartz Grey (RAL 7039), Slate Grey (RAL 7015) and Titan Metallic (CH 703).

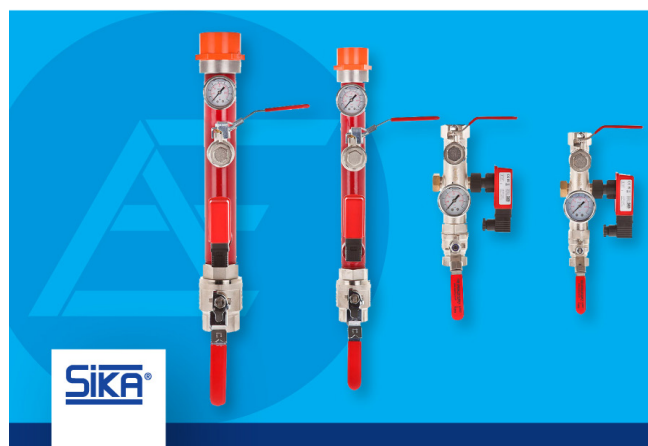
These new shades are ideal for contemporary residential architecture and designs, which often incorporates more neutral colour palettes. In addition, Anthracite Metallic (Noir 2100 Sable) has also been added as non-standard colour on sectional garage doors.

To find out more about Garador's sectional garage doors and the full range of colours available, please visit www.garador.co.uk

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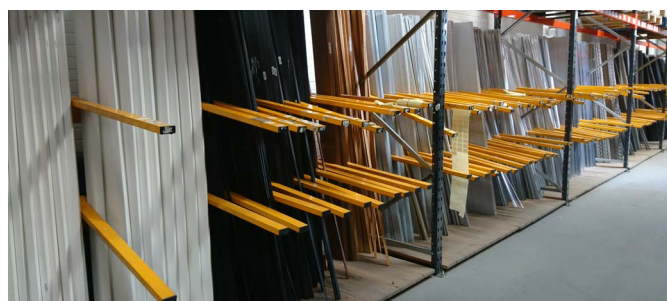


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A CONTEMPORARY, LIGHT-FILLED SPACE LOCATED IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

This London townhouse underwent a major refurbishment which saw the original townhouse and neighbouring mews property become one luxurious family home. Located in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, this home is now a contemporary, light-filled space.

Three pane minimal windows sliding glass doors were used to connect the main home and end of garden office to the courtyard garden. The family living room and kitchen benefit from a huge influx of natural light thanks to the ultra slim frames on the sliding patio doors.

Externally the home maintained the historic 19th century façade, while the inside of the home was completely transformed from a dark and dull space into an open plan layout which follows a modern and neutral interior design style.



The use of warm neutral tones gives the family home a sense of comfort and combined with the vast amount of light helps the space to appear bigger. The slim sliding doors can be opened in warm weather to create an indoor-outdoor living

space which is becoming increasingly sought after. Even with the doors closed the slim aluminium frames offer clear views of the outdoors and aid in forging a connection between the interior and exterior spaces.

www.iqglassuk.com

Architects: **Nash Baker Architects**



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CASE STUDY

ABOUT

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

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



Company Name

Highfield Group www.highfield.co.uk

Location

Doncaster

Sector

Education

THE SITUATION

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

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

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



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



DELIVERING ELEGANCE THROUGH BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Tasked with designing a residential extension that blurred the distinction between inside and out, One-World Design embraced the challenge to deliver a multi-award-winning project in the heart of Wandsworth. Here, we take a look at how biophilic design and using rainwater as part of the solution resulted in a visually-striking home extension.

“Our aim is always the same: to adapt, to improve, and to craft buildings in a way that serves people and the environment to the best possible effect”, says Chris Medland RIBA, Director at One-World Design. “This means asking difficult questions and generating a shift in how we perceive our homes, workplaces and infrastructure. Ultimately, we seek out opportunities for ecological enhancement.”

This amalgamation of nature and the built environment is a theme that permeates throughout One-World Design’s portfolio. It’s a sentiment that has won numerous accolades and awards over the years, with the latest being a Wandsworth Design Award that celebrates the implementation of this ethos into a home extension in Herondale, Wandsworth.

THE PROJECT

Tasked with designing and project managing the complete refurbishment and extension of a 5-bedroom family home, the stand-out element of the project was the visually-striking open plan kitchen-dining and entertainment space at the rear of the property. The focus was on blending the relationship between the garden and the interior, to reflect the homeowner’s outdoor lifestyle.

Large glazed sliding doors were installed along the length of the back wall, a living wall established to blend inside and out, and extra light was brought into the space through the use of two half-barrel-vaulted sedum roofs. These vaults were extended beyond the sliding doors to frame the view of the garden and provide shade and shelter.

Chris explains: “It essentially comes down to how we allow the materiality and visibility of a space to merge across the separating layers that keep the elements out of the house. You want the distinction between garden and home to be minimal, yet there are practicalities associated with keeping the cold and wet elements out of the house. This is where drainage design becomes absolutely critical.”



Robert Butcher, Design Services Manager at ACO Water Management, comments: "The ACO HexDrain® Brickslot is ideally suited to this kind of project, where style truly must meet substance. Manufactured from recycled polypropylene and with a 10mm tapered inlet slot to achieve maximum discretion, it is perfectly suited to the principles associated with this type of project. The channels also clip together for quick and easy installation, ensuring minimal disruption to live projects."

As part of the Wandsworth extension, the HexDrain® Brickslot channel was installed using a concrete slab and screed both internally and externally, to support the ceramic tiling adjacent to the channel. In-keeping with the overall theme of the project, Chris approaches drainage with a compelling mindset:

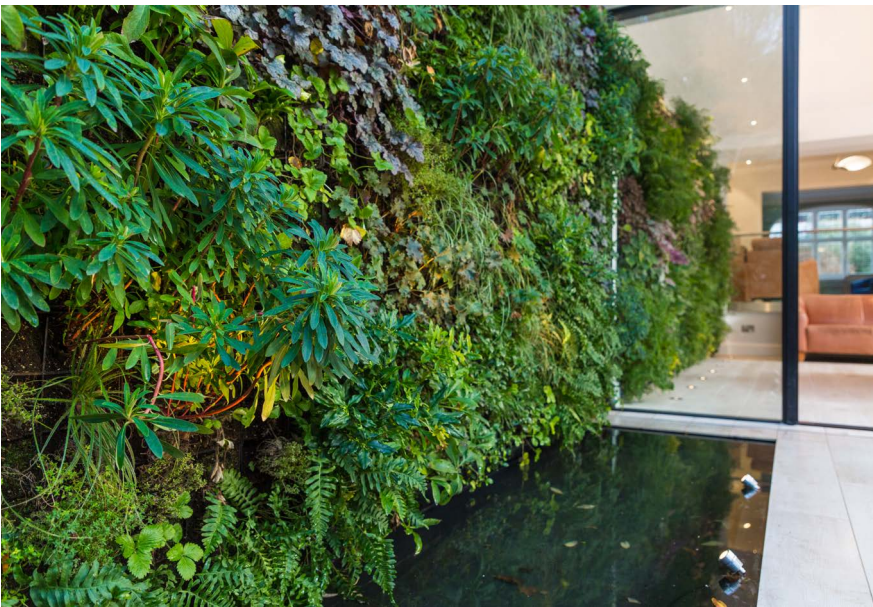
"I think that the word 'drainage' can often be an unhelpful phrase, conjuring images of overflowing gutters and blocked sewers. It's better to think of this process as rainwater management, and to embrace the movement of water as a key part of a design, as opposed to seeing it as an obstacle that must be overcome."

"Think about how water can improve a site by using ponds, natural drainage, and retaining water wherever possible to reduce flooding downstream. And when products are used, consider how the look and feel of drainage channels can complement the overall design and ethos of a project. By way of an example, we're currently working on a new carbon neutral home in the South Downs, and have specified HexDrain® Brickslot as part of the rainwater management solution."

A DESIGN TO BE PROUD OF

Alongside a Wandsworth Design Award for Residential Extension, the Herondale project has also been granted a Structural Engineering Award from the Institute of Structural Engineers, and a commendation in the Architects Journal Specification Awards. It is indicative of a growing trend within architecture to sustainability at the heart of designs, and evidence of the importance of integrating nature, rather than fighting it.

The role that drainage – or rainwater management – plays in controlling the significant amount of rain means it is an integral part of any project. It is this type of project that helps to illustrate the benefits of biophilic design and adopting a holistic mind-set to building and landscaping. It's a philosophy that continues to inform the work of One-World Design, expressed most spectacularly in projects such as Herondale.



HARNESSING THE ELEMENTS

Ensuring that rainwater did not infiltrate the property was naturally an important consideration, and yet it was crucial that the drainage channel chosen would be

unobtrusive, and contribute to the aesthetic melding of inside and out. Owing to its minimalistic design and strong hydraulic performance, the decision was made to opt for ACO HexDrain® Brickslot.

For more information on ACO's range of water management solutions, please visit: www.aco.co.uk/inspire_me

To keep up-to-date with One-World Design's projects, please visit: www.one-worlddesign.co.uk/



GARADOR INTRODUCES WIRELESS OPTICAL SENSOR FOR GARAGLIDE

Garador's new electrically operated roller garage door, the GaraGlide, is now available with a wireless optical sensor as an option.

The wireless optical sensor is built into the floor seal and utilises light beam technology, so the door will automatically stop if the light beam is broken by an obstruction in the door curtain's downward path. The new wireless optical sensor means there is no spiral cable required to connect the safety edge to the separate

control panel housing; batteries are required.

The entire garage door fits into just two double-wall cardboard boxes for quick and easy delivery. Choose from 16 colours and 2 timber-effect finishes, plus either standard (433 MHz) or Bisecur (868 MHz) hand transmitters.

Find out more about Garador's new GaraGlide roller door by visiting www.garador.co.uk

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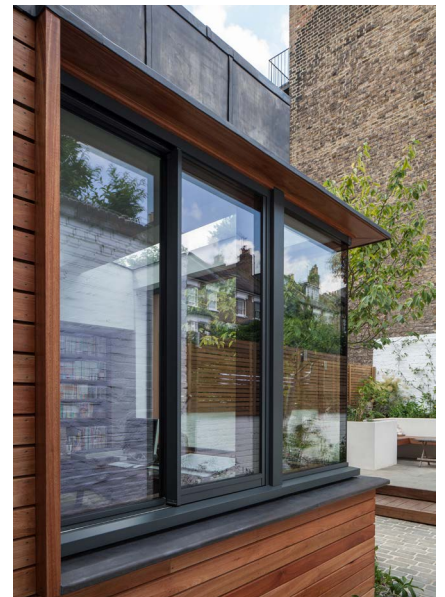
AR ARCHITECTURE

Our clients, a middle-aged professional couple comprised of a Japanese graphic artist and a British psychologist, appointed us to refurbish their 1900s' maisonette in Gospel Oak, North-West London. They wanted to build an artist's studio in lieu of the existing rear conservatory and make a number of internal alterations, all on a very tight budget.

Our idea was to create a bright and transparent space, seamlessly interconnected with the garden and the sky. There were some constraints: the footprint of the new extension was limited to that of the existing conservatory, the height at the boundary could not exceed 3m, and the narrow North-facing gap along the other boundary risked becoming a dark and damp passage.

To achieve our objective and overcome the limitations, we came up with a simple but elegant solution. The studio is comprised of two volumes. One is a low redwood-clad cube attached to the boundary wall, extensively glazed on two sides, with a frameless corner and a large flat skylight on the top. Crowning it is the second volume – a lead-clad, sedum-roofed prism set away from the boundary, with a West-facing window taking in the daylight and conveying it to the passage on the other side. The raised roof and the window of the second volume increase the internal height of the studio and fill it with daylight.

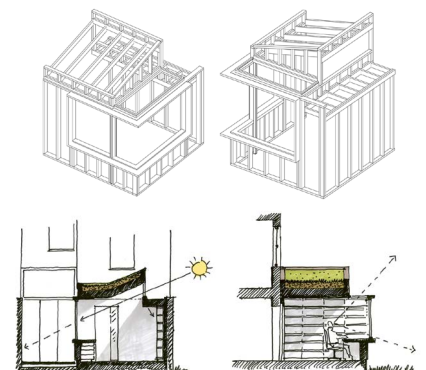
Structurally, the studio is a timber frame on a raft foundation. All elements were modelled and detailed in 3D.



Internally, the studio features an L-shaped desk with drawers and concealed cable trays. One wall is full-width, full-height bookshelves. Three plaster-in wall lights illuminate the sloped ceiling.

The artist working in the studio enjoys uninterrupted views of the tranquil garden, entirely remodelled with paved and gravel surfaces, raised decked areas, white-rendered retaining walls, evergreen shrubs and flower borders.

www.ar-arch.co.uk





KITCHEN LIVING

"With so much scope for personalisation and design freedom, the open plan kitchen has come of age in 2021, with 'kitchen living' very much in-vogue this year. Creating a flexible and dynamic space for the family to enjoy together with dedicated areas for cooking, dining and relaxing has become increasingly important in light of the pandemic and we have all had to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic with new pressures like working from home and home schooling" says Julia Steadman, Head of Operations at Brandt Design.

Establishing what 'kitchen living' means to you in terms of the interplay between cooking, dining and social spaces is vital so that you can work with the proportions of your space and decide if an island unit or dining area is required. Julia finds that being honest about your preferences, leisure activities and cooking style can help you find your perfect match and has put together a short list of three popular kitchen layouts chosen by Brandt Design customers to fire up your imagination and help you to visualize the possibilities:

Island design: custom made arrangement of kitchen furniture in a rectangular formation with ample worktops for food prep, drawers and cupboards for storage and space for integrated appliances. Dining areas can be

included so that you can sit and chat at the island, if required with plenty of room on the working side of the island so two can cook comfortably together.

Open plan: a Shaker-style kitchen in a bold contemporary blue connects a contrasting island unit for dining and entertaining with the living area a few steps away for relaxation. Easy living is a given thanks to dedicated bespoke storage and a walk-in larder and utility room,

Peninsula style: clever space planning ensures a dedicated u-shaped kitchen with bar-style seating on the outside and appliances and cabinets on the inside. Ideal for making the most of natural daylight from a garden room.

Kitchen living is a very personal choice so it makes sense to establish your priorities before contacting a kitchen designer so that you can gather some ideas and even potentially create a moodboard of ideas to discuss in person or virtually. We like to know what matters to you as a person as well as cook or host when creating your kitchen and invite you to consider the following questions? How often do you cook from scratch? How many people do you usually make meals for? Do you like to cook with other people or prefer to get on with food prep by yourself? Have you got



young children or older relatives you need to consider and keep an eye on? How much storage do you need in your kitchen and what interior style do you prefer? "As soon as we have built up a picture of who you are and what matters to you in the kitchen, we can move to the next stage of creating the perfect blended kitchen and living space to suit you and your family," says Julia.

Go large – A kitchen island unit can be a welcome addition to a ground floor which is open and flexible to accommodate a busy and sociable household. Keep on top of storage by installing floor-to-ceiling tall units to frame built-in fridge freezers so there's room for everything. Choosing bespoke kitchen furniture ensures that you can colour match it to other elements in your ground floor scheme so that the whole kitchen living area has a cohesive feel and flows nicely. Consider all aspects of kitchen lighting from skylights to bring plenty of daylight in all year around to well-placed spotlights and pendant lighting so that you can create the perfect ambience with ease.

Easy living – If you're a sociable cook then seating for your guests is bound to be at the top of your wishlist so that you can enjoy their company while you crack on with the meal. Having an open environment with clear sight lines means that you can enjoy a conversation and others can also lend a hand with food prep. An induction hob ensures safety first in a busy family kitchen complete with a concealed extractor, and a mixture of deep drawers and top units increases storage options without encroaching on social space.



Comfort first – A linear open-plan kitchen can complement a new extension and effortlessly bring entertainment to the kitchen with custom media units and integrated digital screens. A functional and aesthetically pleasing run of units can easily blend into a living room depending on your style and I would certainly recommend you budget for a high-performance extractor fan to combat any cooking smells. There are some very quiet models available on the market and your kitchen designer will be able to calculate

exactly which ones are best suited to for the size of your room, so that you can keep it well ventilated. Remember that every detail counts in a kitchen living room so make sure that you consider how the look and feel of your kitchen brassware and appliances will work with the rest of your décor.

www.brandtdesign.co.uk





STARON INTRODUCES FOUR NEW COLOURS TO ITS SURFACE COLLECTION FOR 2021

Staron is delighted to introduce four new contemporary colourways to its solid surface collection for 2021. Designed with modern living in mind, the premium surface brand's new hues provide a refined finish that's guaranteed to enhance any space.

Choose from the strikingly bold shades of Forest and eye-popping Ultramarine for an interior that makes a statement, or opt for the delicate softer shades of the aptly named Artic White and Rotor Cloud finishes for a soft, bright and elegant marbled-effect finish that's perfect for on-trend abodes.

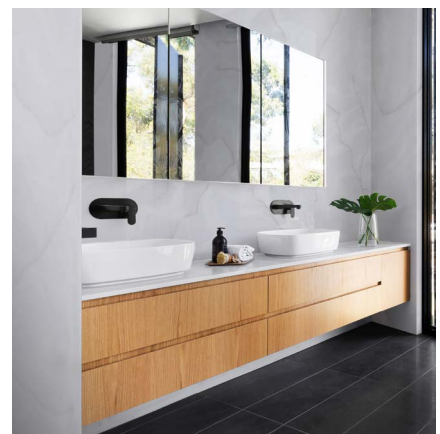
"We're delighted to be expanding our surface collection in 2021 with four beautifully modern shades. We've added darker options for those looking to move away from the traditional look, with new marbled variations for those wanting to inject light into the home." Doyeon Kim, Marketing Assistant Manager, Staron

Perfect for use in kitchens and bathrooms, due to superior anti-scratch, anti-bacterial and heat resistant qualities, solid surfaces



from Staron provide seamless and exquisitely smooth surfaces through indistinguishable joins.

Combining a sophisticated blend of natural minerals and thermosetting acrylic polymers, Staron offers total flexibility when it comes to design, making it ideal for commercial use too. From reception desks



to shop display tables, its pliable structure allows any shape to be created, providing specifiers with unlimited design capabilities.

www.staron.com

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THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL STONE IN THE BATHROOM

Delivering on both practical and visual levels, Lundhs Real Stone's 100% natural materials are guaranteed to perform in the bathroom. The ideal surface choice for bathrooms of all sizes and configurations, the unique Norwegian stone boasts exceptional resistance to water, scratches, UV rays and

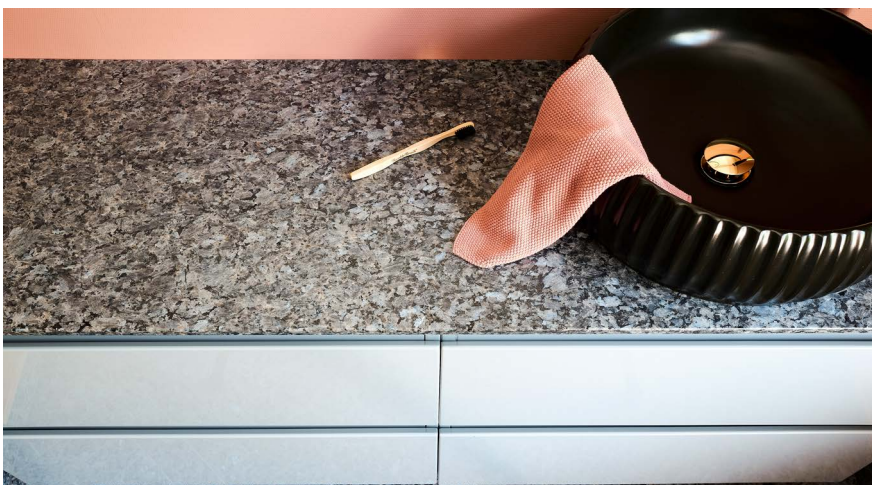
stains, ensuring it is able to withstand the wear and tear of everyday use.

From vanity unit countertops and integrated basins to bath and shower surrounds, Lundhs Real Stone is both durable and striking. Thanks to its extremely low

absorption properties, homeowners will not have to worry about any damage or change in appearance to the surface over time.

Choose from the dark tones of Lundhs Emerald and Lundhs Blue to the lighter hues of Lundhs Royal, or the exquisite brown shade of Lundhs Antique, to create a bathroom interior design scheme to be admired.

The largest producer of natural stone in Northern Europe, Lundhs extracts rough blocks of high quality stones from its own quarries in Norway and exports the materials to stone factories around the world. With a portfolio of seven natural stone types, Lundhs works with a select network of distributors around the globe, with each product traceable from quarry to end product.



www.lundhsrealstone.com/uk



EARTHBORN PAINTS PASS THE LATEST TOY SAFETY STANDARD

Earthborn is known for its distinctive paints that are better for the environment and healthier to live with. And its environmentally friendly formulations are now certified as child safe paints too!

Independently tested to meet the latest Toy Safety Standard (EN71-3:2019), this means they are safe to use in babies' and children's rooms as well as on toys and furniture.

The standard tests coatings to ensure there are no elements that could harm a child or release anything harmful into the atmosphere.

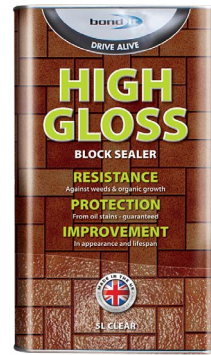
Many people choose Earthborn paints because they're free from harmful emissions and nasty paint smells. Two things that are hugely important

when looking for child safe paints. More than that, Earthborn's paints are Eco Label accredited and virtually VOC free.

Earthborn's Claypaint, Eco Chic, Lifestyle and Eggshell no 17 have all passed the most recent Toy Safety Standard test, making them ideal for children's bedrooms, nurseries, wooden toys, cots and other furniture. In addition, Earthborn's wall glaze, furniture glaze and wax have all been approved.

So whether you're preparing a nursery or revamping children's furniture following years of wear and tear, you can be assured that Earthborn's paint finishes are child safe and healthy.

www.earthbornpaints.co.uk



SOMETIMES ITS GOOD TO GLOSS OVER THINGS

Bond It, which ranks as one of the UK's fastest growing manufacturers of sealants, adhesives, fillers, waterproofing compounds and other building chemicals has recently launched a new High Gloss Block Sealer for enhancing and protecting concrete paving. To compliment the Drive Alive range, Bond It have now developed a ready-to-use, high gloss, solvent based sealer to provide a clear, glossy protection barrier against oil staining and weed growth. Suitable for use on paving, blocks and patios, the sealer is hard wearing and resistant to chipping. It boasts long lasting weather resistance, even against UV, water and ice and once cured enhances the colour

of the substrate, offering a glossy enriched finish.

The product also stabilises and reduces weed growth between sand joints meaning less interim maintenance is required. Supplied in 5L tins, High Gloss Block Sealer is a simple application by brush, roller or squeegee, it is quick curing and can be applied all year round. Its deep penetrating properties provide a long lasting protective finish for up to 2 years and will maintain the performance life of the substrate.

For more information on Bond It contact our Sales Team on 01422 315300 or visit www.bonditgroup.com



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superior flexibility, superior initial grab, superior setting speed, superior bond strength, or a combination of these characteristics in both clear and coloured varieties.

We would like to celebrate our 25th Anniversary with you, which is why we have a whole host of product releases, packaging innovations and national promotions lined up for 2021.

For more info visit: www.soudal.com



VERDUN AUDITORIUM

The major transformation of the Verdun auditorium and the Denis-Savard Arena is a project to completely rebuild the Denis-Savard arena and revalue the historic architecture of the auditorium by peeling off its metal envelope while modernizing the interior of the complex.

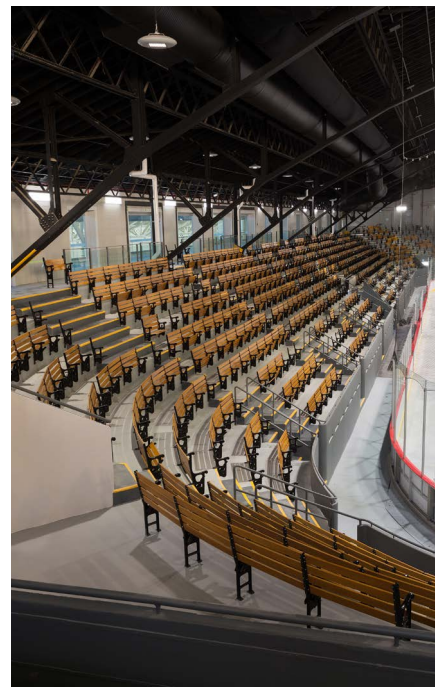
The intervention attempts to create a dialogue both temporal where the ancient meets the modern and geographical, where the River borders the city. Thus, the meeting of the architecture takes place in an emblematic axis of this double dialogue, the foyer, from where it is possible to observe the two ice simultaneously while circulating from the city to the river.

The project also aimed to equip the complex with a new energy-efficient refrigeration system as well as obtain LEED Gold certification. Among the various strategies used, we note the reduction of water consumption in the operation of the arena, the efficiency of the mechanics, and the construction of a high-performance envelope for Denis-Savard.

Concept

The iconic Verdun Auditorium is located at 4110 LaSalle Boulevard, on the banks of the St. Lawrence River right by the Verdun urban beach at the convergence of three significant roads in the borough: Avenue de l'Église, LaSalle, and Gaétan-Laberge boulevards.

Its location on the river and in the historic center of the district makes it one of the most important landmarks of Verdun. It is one of the many recreational and cultural facilities located along the Saint-Laurent river including the Arthur-Therrien pool, Verdun urban beach, Verdun Natatorium, and the Saint-Dizier Nivard House. It is also part of the civic facilities of the former municipality including the parish complex of the church of Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs, the Verdun Hospital Center, and the current Verdun borough council. The surrounding area is mostly residential except for a few shops scattered on Avenue de l'Église and Boulevard LaSalle. It is a typical district of Verdun in that it's composed of rectangular islets with an alley.



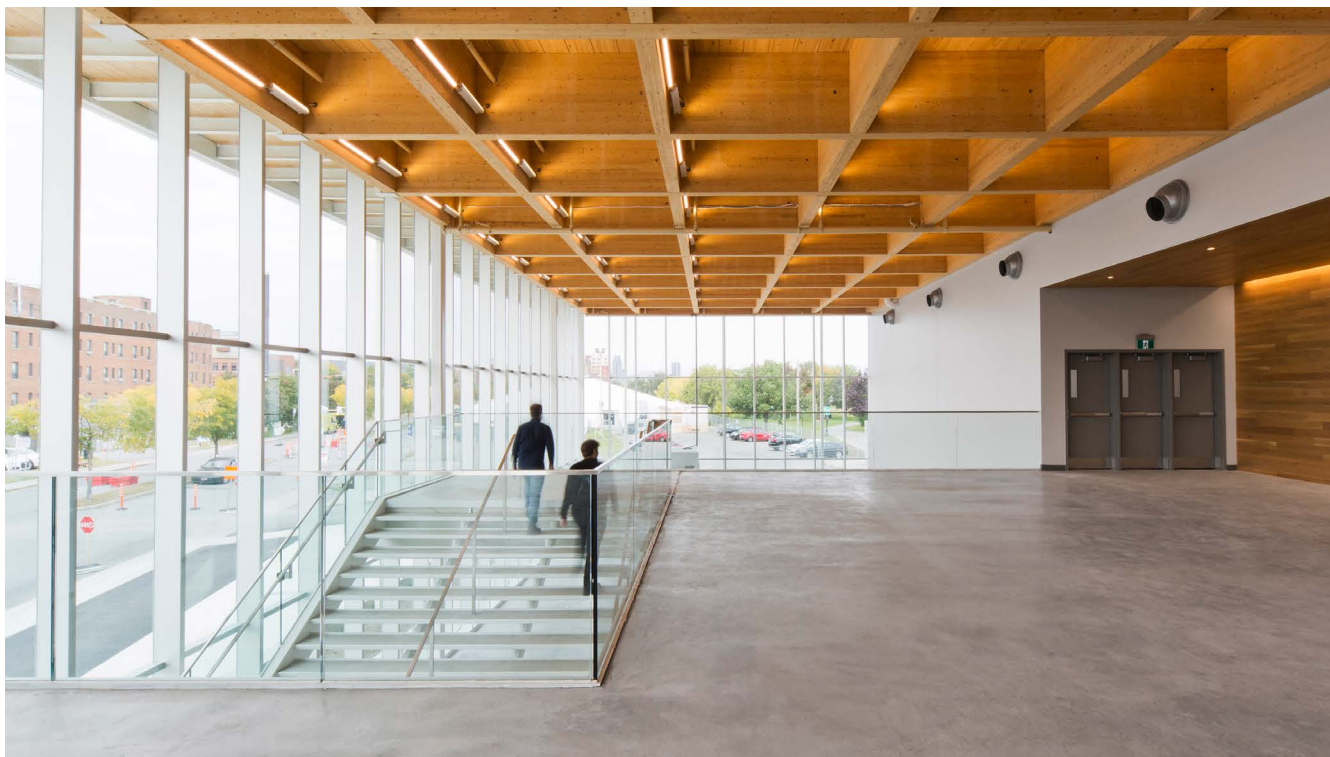
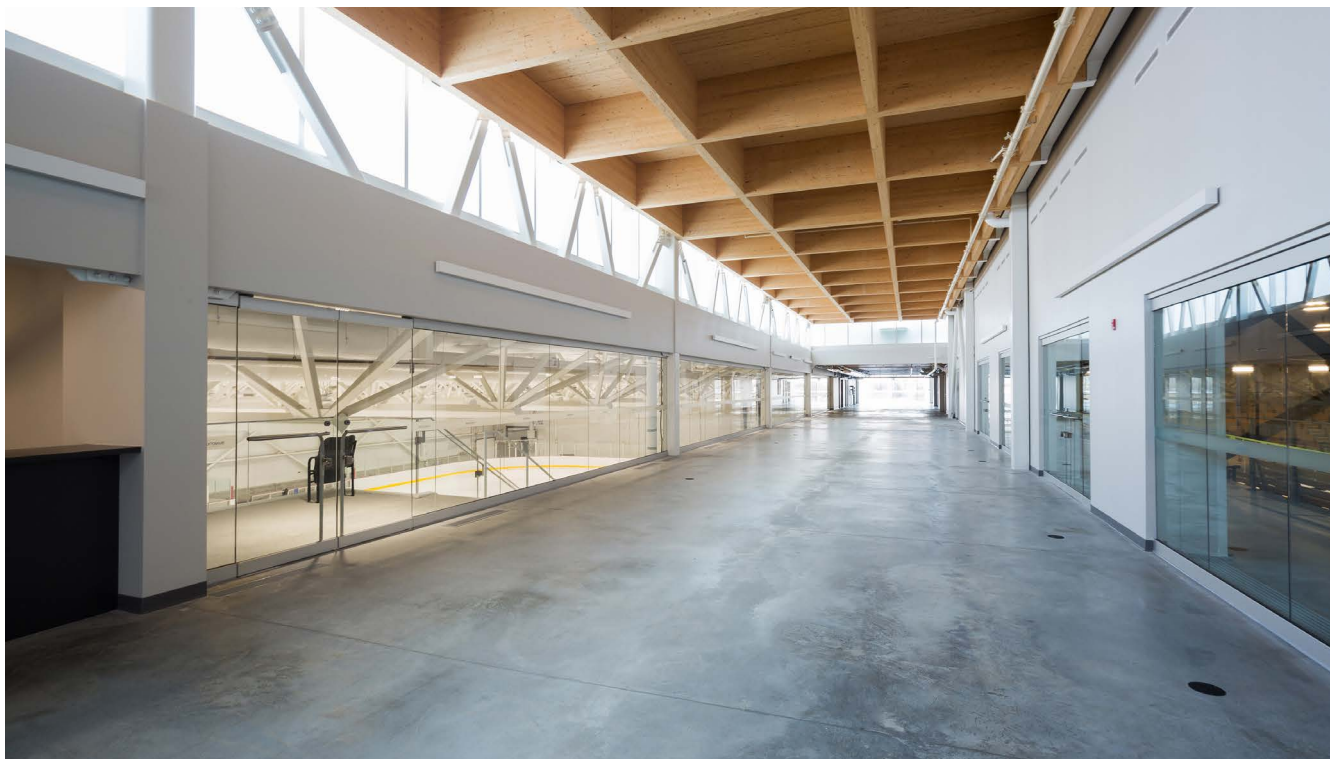


Inaugurated on November 28, 1939, the Auditorium of Verdun is an atypical building. It boasts a rich history in sports and cultural heritage of the Verdun and Montreal residents. Its frame, built in the early 20th century, is made up of adjoining duplexes and triplexes in clay brick, and more recently, housing towers. The original Verdun Auditorium has architectural qualities that make it a good Montreal example of the Art Deco style, characteristic of the 1930s. Used from the end of its construction by military authorities during the Second World War, it opened its doors for hockey and skating in 1946. It was home of the Verdun Maple Leafs, in which Maurice Richard played in his early days, as did the Montreal Canadiens before the construction of the Bell sports complex in Brossard. In addition to Maurice Richard, famous hockey players such as Denis Savard, Pat Lafontaine, Mario Lemieux, Claude Lemieux, and former coach Scotty Bowman have graced its halls.

With a seating capacity of nearly 4,000, the Verdun Auditorium became a venue for important political events (the 1980 and 1995 referendums) and rock music concerts (Bob Dylan, Nirvana, The Cure, Pearl Jam, and Iron Maiden). The auditorium left an indelible mark on the citizens who frequented this emblematic place during their youth.

Over the years its facade has been covered with metal siding and a second rink, the Denis-Savard arena, has been added. The mandate the FABG architects were given involved the demolition and reconstruction of the Auditorium, preservation of the Denis-Savard arena, and a complete upgrade and replacement of the Freon refrigeration system, an environmentally harmful gas while aiming for LEED Gold certification.

Rather than destroy the historic landmark, FABG architects proposed the enhancement and restoration of the auditorium and the demolition & reconstruction of the Denis-Savard arena by arranging between the two a foyer from which it is possible to observe the two rinks from the city towards the river along the axis of a new urban beach. The asphalt surfaces around the building were reduced to promote a better relationship



with Parc J.-Albert-Gariépy and the ecosystem along the river.

The public spaces feature a cross-laminated timber roof chosen as much for its contribution to carbon sequestration as for its contribution to the definition of a simple and robust architectural language for these spaces. Particular care has been taken to restore and maintain the character of the interior spaces of the auditorium. This was accomplished by restoration of the original masonry facade and of the wooden benches, which are complemented by the mixed structure (wood and steel) of the roof.

Verdun Auditorium will continue to play an important role in Montreal's public spaces;

now including 3,181 square meters of additional halls, public spaces, meeting rooms, etc., which unify the two arenas and reaffirm its sports, convention, and multifunctional vocation.

Awards and recognitions

Prize for heritage development, OAQ - 2021

Technical Sheet

Project name: Verdun Auditorium
 Location: 4110, Lasalle boulevard, Verdun, Qc
 Commissioning date: October 2020
 Customer name: City of Montreal, Verdun borough
 Name of the architect: - Les architectes FABG

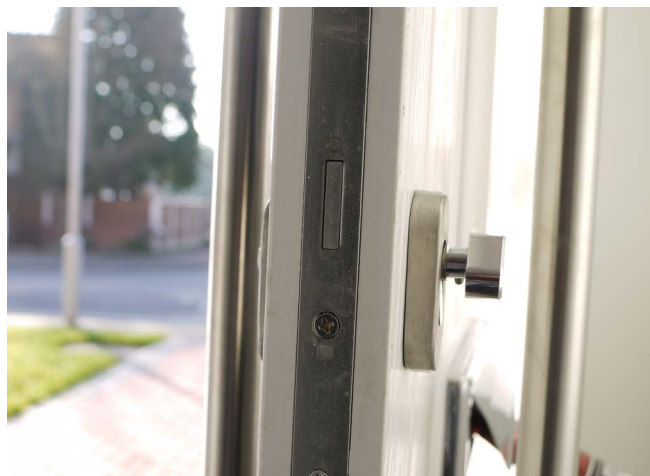
Persons involved in the design and implementation : - André Lavoie, senior architect (project manager)
 - Éric Gauthier, senior architect (designer)
 - Anna Kreplak, architect
 - Dominique Potvin, bac. arch.
 - Vincent Désy, architect
 - Simon Gaudet-Lavallée, technician
 Other professionals and consultants who have collaborated on the project: -
 Contractor: Groupe Axino inc.
 Engineering: Tetrattech

www.arch-fabg.com/project/arenaverdun
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UAP LAUNCHES INDUSTRY LEADING FULLEX KINETICA+ K4 LOCK

UAP, the leading manufacturer of security and fire safety hardware for doors and windows, has launched the Fullex Kinetica+ K4; a state of the art locking system that combines advanced, patented features to deliver one of the most secure 3* cylinder locks ever produced.

In addition to product testing, UAP has also carried out a number of product trials with locksmiths, including Martin Pink from Rapid Locksmith, who comments: "I found the Kinetica+ K4 locking system very

easy to fit and virtually impossible to penetrate once installed. It provides the quality and ease of installation I have come to expect from UAP's products and the Fullex range, but raises the bar when it comes to combining security features for robust performance. I am very surprised that it is possible to purchase a lock of this quality with so many features at this price."

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 Email: Kamila.Kasperowicz@uapcorporate.com

NEW SMART TECH ROOF WINDOW UPGRADE FROM VELUX® IS DESIGNED TO HELP INSTALLERS REAP THE BENEFITS

Leading roof window manufacturer VELUX® has introduced a new promotion which is set to make it easier for installers to promote the benefits of VELUX INTEGRA® to their customers.

Starting in August and running until the end of the year, homeowners purchasing VELUX INTEGRA® electric and solar powered roof windows* can receive a free VELUX ACTIVE with NETATMO kit worth £220. This complimentary upgrade will make it easier for installers to showcase the impact INTEGRA windows will have on their clients' projects.

VELUX INTEGRA® is an innovative system of roof windows, blinds and shutters that can be controlled with one touch of a pre-paired wall switch, with rain sensors automatically closing roof windows at the first sign of a downpour.

VELUX ACTIVE with NETATMO takes the INTEGRA® range to the next level, offering total indoor climate control. Smart sensors continuously monitor temperature, humidity and CO2 levels in customers' homes and adjust their roof windows to create a healthier indoor climate.

Windows can even be controlled when customers are on the go, thanks to the VELUX ACTIVE app, which is compatible with voice-controlled virtual assistants such as Apple's Siri and Google Assistant.



The ACTIVE kit can be delivered to the property where the windows were installed and comes ready to fit and with full instructions included. This means that once it arrives, home owners can install the kit themselves, saving installers time ahead of their next client project.

Grant Sneddon, Product Manager at VELUX, said: "As homeowners everywhere adjust to their new normal, improving our indoor spaces has never been more important, especially in busy areas of the home such as the kitchen or dining room which are ideal places for a VELUX INTEGRA and ACTIVE combination.

"We hope that this offer will give installers a chance to upsell some of our products and drive revenue for themselves in the process."

Installers can help customers take advantage of this offer until the end of December 2020, simply by creating a VELUX Rewards account and uploading their invoice. Approved purchases of VELUX INTEGRA roof windows will automatically generate an email with instructions to claim a free ACTIVE kit.

Up to £30 in VELUX Rewards per roof window will also be available, which can be spent with top-brand partners including M&S, Argos, TK Maxx, H&M and many more.

*- One free VELUX ACTIVE kit will be offered per invoice where a purchase of VELUX INTEGRA® electric and solar roof windows has been made. Terms and conditions apply, see velux.co.uk/activeupgrade for more details.



TOP TIPS TO CREATE **KERB APPEAL**

Clare Higgins, Product Manager at REHAU, offers her top tips to give your home kerb appeal:

REPLACE YOUR WINDOWS

"There aren't many updates that can make such a difference to the exterior of a home than replacing windows. Although some properties may benefit from maintaining original features, updating windows in a considerate way can enhance the overall look of a property – without impacting its heritage.

"Not only will new windows give your exterior a new lease of life, they can also help to improve the overall insulation of your property. Opt for double glazed options to ensure that your home is as efficient as possible and personalise with an individual colour finish, such as a traditional Turner Oak or Slate Grey.

"The style is also an important consideration

– for example flush fit casement windows, such as the Rio range from REHAU, are a great all-rounder that can suit any property. The great thing about this range is that it provides the aesthetics of a high-end, traditional timber design, with the benefits of modern, uPVC performance."

"For added peace of mind, particularly in locations open to the elements, consider choosing a range that boasts severe weather performance credentials, making it a durable solution that will stand the test of time."

PERFECT YOUR FRONT DOOR

"Regardless of the size of your front garden, selecting a new front door, or renovating the one that you already have, can create a frontage that will be the envy of the neighbourhood.

"Ensure you choose an option that is in keeping with the design of the rest of your home, however don't be afraid to experiment

with finishes. Opting for a colour option that complements your existing windows will create a consistent aesthetic, with an oak-effect offering timeless appeal that will last the seasons. However, it's also a great chance to go for a contrasting or more daring look, such as Racing Green or Ruby Red, that reflects your personality and offers a standout feature for your frontage.

"If a quick refresh is what you're looking for, then consider updating your front door hardware, such as the knocker, handle, house numbers and letter plate. These can be easily replaced to incorporate a stylistic flair to your entrance. Chrome pieces will add modernity, whereas vintage, antique black options will suit a more traditional scheme."

ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR

"Refreshing your colour palette is a straightforward way of transforming the style of your home, without carrying out extensive DIY.



Painting the exterior facias and walls of your home can have a huge impact and instantly refresh the overall look of your home – particularly when opting for a lighter hue.

“When it comes to selecting colours, opt for complementary shades that will work together, including a neutral tone for dominant areas such as rendering or masonry, then accent colours for doors.”

WALK THIS WAY

“Not only does your pathway take your guests on a journey to your home, it is also a view that you see every single day. Although your pathway may be easy to disregard, particularly if it is one that you inherited, a simple resurface could be the difference between a front approach that you love and one that you adore.”

“Concrete is a cost-effective solution that will stand the test of time, however selecting unique paving will give your front garden a personal touch. If you don’t feel comfortable doing this yourself, then call in a local professional, who will be able to advise on the best option, depending on your budget.”

“Alternatively, if your path simply requires some TLC, then a pressure wash could make a big difference. This will remove any debris and caked in dirt from years’ worth of grubby shoes and surrounding soil – revealing a fresh surface in moments. Restoring edges by removing invading grass will also create an instant fix, along with restoring any cracks before they grow into a bigger issue.”

THE POWER OF PLANTS

“Never underestimate the power of plants to totally transform a space. Botanicals are becoming more popular than ever inside the home; however, many homeowners overlook the benefits of introducing and maintaining flowerbeds in the garden.”

“Begin by introducing evergreen shrubs that will inject colour across your garden all year round. These will create the foundation for your garden, which can be enhanced by adding vibrant perennials that will bloom every year.”

“For smaller frontages, or instances where low maintenance is key, opt for containers that offer versatility and are easy to update. Herb planters such as lavender and rosemary can also be incorporated, which will not only add beautiful scents to be enjoyed, but practical ingredients that can be used in your cooking, too.”

“The joy of working on your own garden is that you can be as creative as you like, however symmetry always works well to give an organised and modern look.”

For more information about REHAU's range of windows and doors and to find your nearest installer, visit www.rehau.uk



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

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.

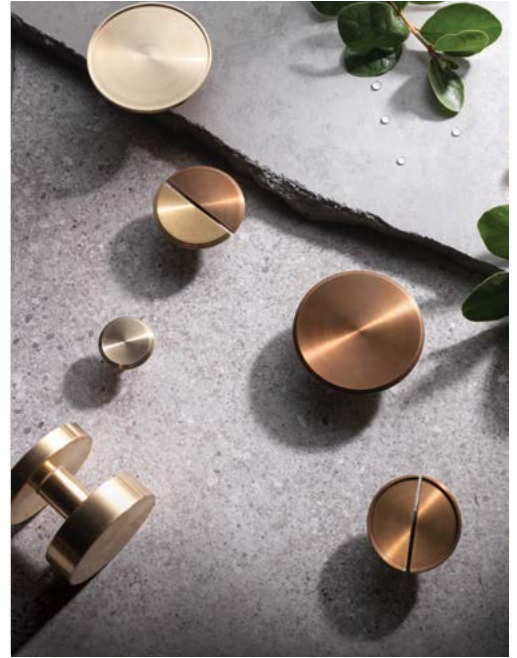
The range of products supplied by Touch date from circa 1640 French (Louise XIV) and cover all subsequent periods (Georgian, Edwardian & Victorian), art deco and contemporary pieces also make up the product ranges. In addition, Touch showcases the very best of British manufacturing; the best ranges are 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
showroom visit please call 0207 351 2255 or alternatively
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Touch combine traditional skills with modern manufacturing techniques to produce the most beautiful, quality fittings, built to stand the test of time.

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

Olaria, available from Touch Ironmongery

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





UNDERFLOOR CLIMATE MANAGEMENT SERVICE LAUNCHES TO PROVIDE HVAC DESIGN EXPERTISE

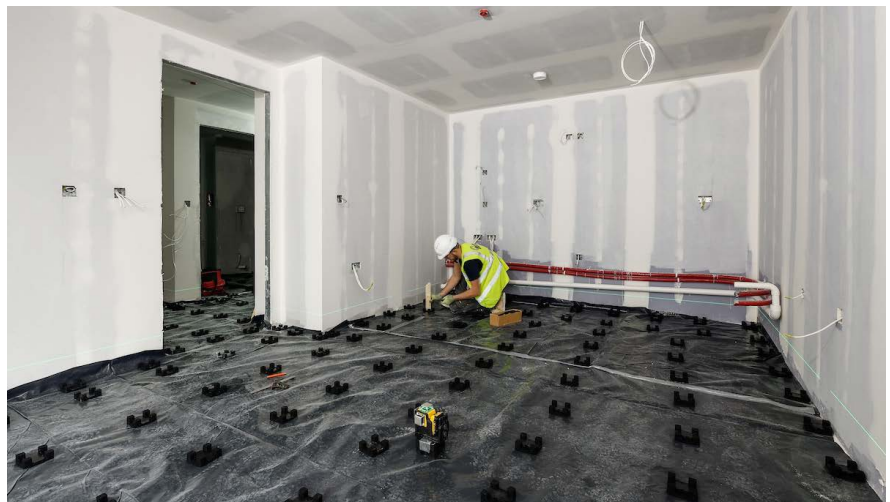
An experienced team of HVAC technical specialists is launching a new service to provide design expertise and systems for commercial developments.

UnderFloor Climate Management (UFCM), which is a part of the Polypipe group, will work with architects, developers and contractors to help deliver integrated underfloor heating systems for commercial projects including residential apartment buildings, hotels, student accommodation and office developments.

The service is headed up by Rachel Smith, UFCM managing director, who has a wealth of experience within the built environment sector. Andrew Coy, who has years of experience in developing heating products and systems for the residential and commercial heating market, joins the team as Commercial Director.

UFCM has been developed as a solution to the fast evolving landscape of the HVAC sector with Net Zero Carbon targets, a move towards more renewable energy sources and a changing building design process drastically affecting the demands on heating design. These elements will impact on the requirements of developers looking to maximise the opportunities of the population growth and fast evolving skylines across the UK's major city centres.

There is now a concerted move away from legacy heating systems that are offering diminishing performance towards systems compatible with the available smart control technology, renewable heating sources such as ground and air source heat pumps



and the design demands of achieving the most living space for sale on increasingly small building footprints.

The UFCM team will work with architects, developers and contractors to advise on project design and specify the best design solution using a comprehensive range of underfloor heating systems for the project brief.

Rachel Smith, managing director, UnderFloor Climate Management:

"UFCM is here to work with architects and consultants to design and deliver sustainable, usable and comfortable heating systems for the new generation of residential tall buildings, and large developments that are transforming how

we live, work and socialise in UK cities. "Our team offers technical expertise unrivalled in the industry, tried and trusted systems and a thorough understanding of commercial construction markets. We are already working with some of the UK's major developers who see the value and longevity in using new technology and design methods and our team is going to be delivering large building heating systems that are fit for modern living and comfort and the changing face of office work."

The new website is available at www.ufcm.co.uk/ and the team can be contacted on: ufcminfo@polypipe.com

Warmup



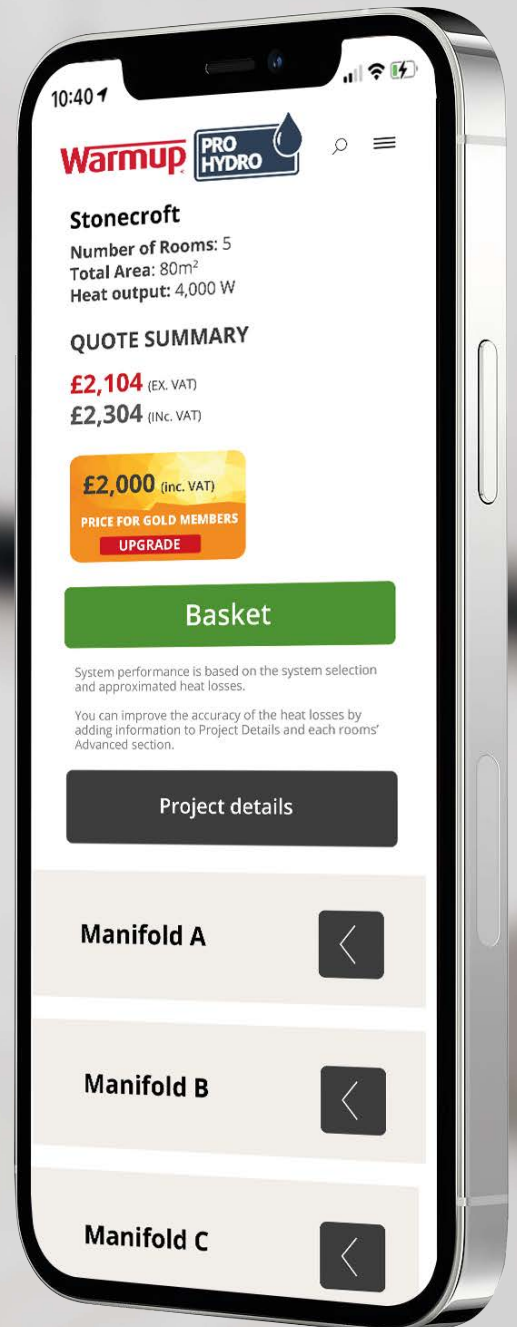
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CONSERVATORY ROOF INSULATION

Fad or Necessity? We look at the facts...

Over the past twenty years or so there has been enormous growth in the sale of domestic conservatories and it is quite easy to see why.

Over the past twenty years or so there has been enormous growth in the sale of domestic conservatories and it is quite easy to see why.

Apart from the fact that they do add a certain style to your home, they are also really great spaces to relax and enjoy quality time in.

As a result of the easing of town planning laws and building regulations, many home owners are at liberty to extend their living space without any of the usual cost and red tape involved in applying for approval for a conventional extension.

Local authorities have eased planning permission and building regulations.

So for the home owner it really does look like a win-win situation but there are of course some drawbacks.

Despite the many, many advantages, conservatories in general are not very thermally efficient. This can result in situations where the cost of heating is extremely high in the winter and reducing the summer heat gain is next to impossible.

Many conservatory owners have, over the years purchased blinds in an attempt to deal with this very problem and although they do offer some small benefit, they are largely ineffective.

In the last ten years there has been the emergence of a few specialist companies that can provide a real answer to the problem.

These companies fall broadly into two categories; Those that remove the entire conservatory roof and replace it with a tiled roof system and those conservatory roof.

In most circumstances both methods will provide good thermal insulation, making the conservatory usable every day of the year.

The down side to the roof replacement method is that one may need to obtain building regulations approval, the cost of the replacement roof system will be quite high and it is not a very quick installation.

The upside of the roof replacement is that a conservatory with an existing roof that is beyond economic repair can be given a new lease of life.



On the other hand, if the existing roof is serviceable, then having an insulated ceiling installed will convert the conservatory into the beautiful haven that had been hoped for but at a fraction of the cost - usually within one or two days.

So to answer our own question - Fad or Necessity, in most cases conservatory owners will need some form of insulation in summer if their conservatory is south or south westerly facing.

And regardless of direction, they would certainly benefit from lower energy costs in winter if they installed an insulated ceiling or replacement roof.

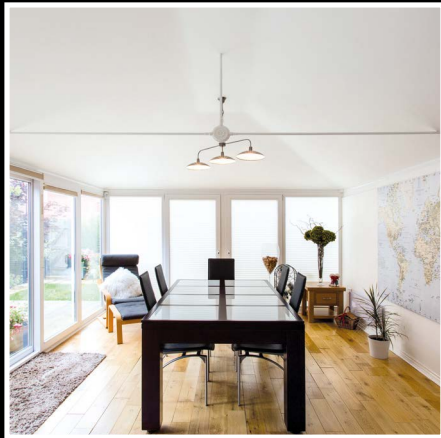
The government seems to agree and allows these companies to charge the energy saving reduced VAT rate of just 5%.

The government allows these companies to charge the energy saving reduced VAT rate of 5%.





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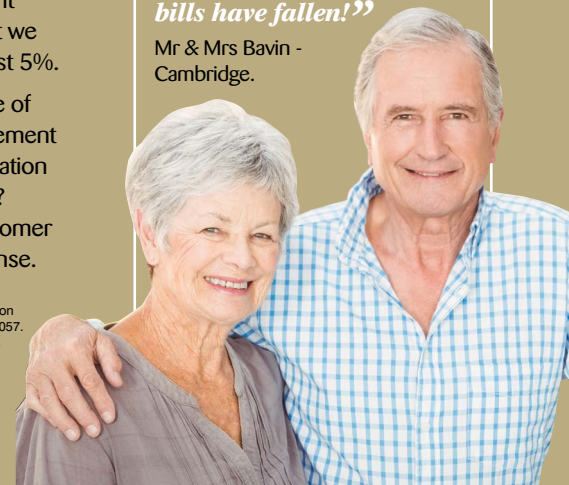
Want something to lift your spirits? Rundle & Dorey can turn your conservatory into a comfortable and quiet living area or home office, next week - **YES next week**. Our fast turn-around service, undertaken by our in-house installation team will make sure all measures are taken, to keep you Covid safe.

Plus as an installer of a government recognised energy saving product we are authorised to charge VAT at just 5%.

Also available is the Pinnacle range of lightweight, solid, tiled roof replacement - fully approved and building regulation certified. What are you waiting for? Contact a member of friendly customer care team for an immediate response.

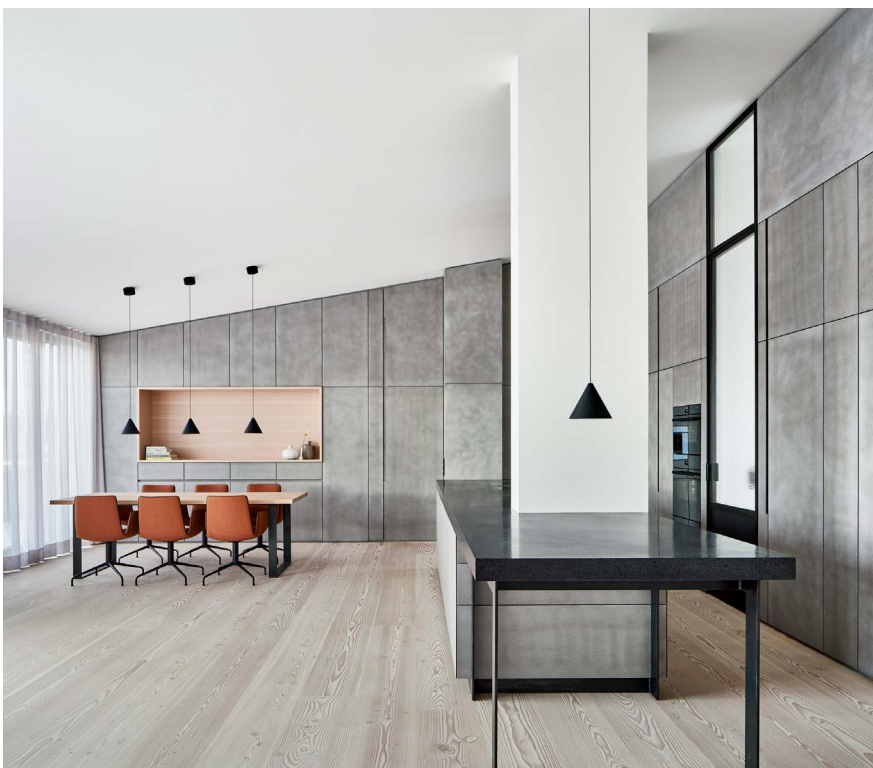
“Since having the ceiling installed, we’ve noticed an increase in the use of our conservatory. Now we can enjoy a normal range of temperatures throughout the year, and our heating bills have fallen!”

Mr & Mrs Bavin - Cambridge.





FROM RUBBER FACTORY TO CONTEMPORARY LOFT APARTMENT WITH GIRA



Gira, one of the world's leading full-range suppliers for intelligent building design and systems solutions, reveals how its range of products have helped transform a former rubber factory into a contemporary loft apartment: www.gira.com/en/en/inspirations/references/loft-h

Moving house often presents a lot of big changes, especially when transitioning from a conventional family home to an apartment in a converted industrial building in Cologne.

A place where minimal living and maximum functionality go hand in hand, Gira and its world-famous E2 Design Line for switches and sockets, which are sleek and distinct, help to underpin the industrial look in this contemporary home whilst enhancing the form and function of the overall interior space.

Architect Jochen Reetz and his team at DIIP were commissioned to convert a 170m² loft in Nippes, Cologne, into a completely customized living space reflecting the owners' desire for large open-plan spaces while also providing all-important spots to retreat and relax.

Mark Booth, Managing Director, Gira UK says "As a business, we are very proud that we can work with architects to bring the latest home technology to older properties worldwide, as our cities continue to evolve and building stock shifts from commercial to residential. Loft H in Cologne is a superb example of a highly personalized interior which is enhanced with the iconic Gira E2 collection so that the lighting controls elevate the luxe feel of the interiors and provide a common thread running through the whole project. Thanks to the robust plastic housing, the owners will be able to enjoy their Gira E2 switches for many years to come as well as having the freedom to easily connect them to a Gira smart home system in the future, if required."

Jochen Reetz, Founder and Owner, DIPP says, "Due to the rapid pace of digital development, clients can often find it difficult to choose a technology in the knowledge that it might be completely out of date just a few years after installation. Many clients continue to struggle to weigh up the security concerns, costs and maintenance needs against the added value that these systems bring. Planners and professionals play a huge role in the decision-making process and can help to guide home-owners towards an individual and appropriate solution based on factors such as the clients' priorities, budget, property size, technical expertise and current situation."

Loft H is divided into three distinct zones comprising a spacious living and dining area, a bedroom area with an open-plan shower room, and a guest and relaxation area for everyday life and work. The uncomplicated and minimalist style of the loft features rich surfaces and bold



contrasts, embracing its industrial past. In the living and dining area, steel, glass and Beton Ciré concrete create a seamlessly co-ordinated look. Ensuring a neat and tidy aesthetic is crucial so the homeowners have a generous amount of cupboard space distributed around the large kitchen island.

Materials such as steel and glass, combined with a concrete-effect finish, create a clear industrial aesthetic around the large work table in the living and dining area. Opposite the dining table and bathed in natural light, you can find a small and cosy sitting area ideal for reading or intimate conversation with guests. Thanks to integrated storage, the home owners can keep this space clutterfree. On the free wall, the black switches are an eye-catching contrasting feature in the four-metre-high space

The concept is the perfect backdrop for the clearly defined shapes of the Gira E2 design line. "The Gira E2 design line is streamlined and timeless. It represents pure function, so the person looking at it or using it does not question its role in the design concept. Contrast is always easier for us than complete co-ordination. It creates authentic and elegant accents," explains architect Jochen Reetz, who opted for black matt switches and socket outlets from the Gira E2 design line throughout the apartment. The streamlined, square aesthetic of the Gira E2 design line blends in perfectly with the black window frames and black ceiling lights, without stealing the limelight from the rest of the interior.

The bedroom features a unique combination of natural materials and industrial accents with white-washed Dinesen floorboards, light mosaic tiles and industrial-style furniture made from Douglas wood create a calming atmosphere. The industrial look extends to the bathroom in a softer form with the black ceiling lights and the Gira E2 switches providing the only gentle reminders of the heritage of the space.

SOURCEBOOK

Installed Gira products: Gira E2 Design Line
 Architect: DIIP Architektur | Aachener
 Strasse 310 | D-50933 Cologne | Tel +49
 (0)221 846 5980-1 | Email hello@diip.net |
 Website www.diip.net
 Photos: Annika Feuss,
 www.annikafeuss.com

www.gira.com



LALIQUE INTERIORS

Lalique, the jewel in the crown of the French crystal industry has been widely used to much acclaim in commercial and residential projects worldwide. When considering the use of crystal in the home both as an architectural feature and decorative item, there is no better example of its use than at Maison Lalique's five star hospitality establishments. Villa Rene Lalique, the former family home of Rene Lalique, now a 5 star hotel and 2 Michelin star restaurant recently celebrated its centenary. A celebration and showcase of Lalique from the wine glasses to the door handles and Damien Hirst artworks lining the cellar it is a perfect example and showcase of what can be bought or made bespoke to suit your schemes from our London boutiques.

BOTANICA 2

From decanters, glasses, vases, furniture and other decorative items, nature has always been a source of inspiration for Rene Lalique, the founding father of Lalique, whose creativity was inspired by the three F's - Femme (women), Flora and Fauna which are ubiquitous in all his designs.

Botanica is the latest collection and an exploration of the Japanese cherry tree - its blossoms symbolising the ephemeral character of life. The Fleurs de Cerisier vase, limited to 88 pieces is created in the hot glass 'souffle' technique of blown crystal with carving work in cold glass to hand sculpt each petal and remove imperfection. Each petal is stamped with pure liquid gold and black and white enamel requiring more than 3 hours of



craftsmanship and then fired overnight at 510 degrees centigrade.

Available in purple, clear and amber crystal. It makes a stunning centrepiece for any interior and is part of a wider collection in soft pinks and warm hues with prices starting at £55.

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GOOD VIBES ONLY: 6 SIMPLE STEPS TO RE-ENERGISE YOUR HOME

Yes you've cleaned, and had a cupboard clear out, but after a year of Lockdowns, and spending more time in the house than ever before, it's probably time to go further and to give your home an 'energy re-boot'... using 2021's hottest principles.

Applying a mix of Feng Shui fundamentals, the practice of living in harmony with our environment, Marie Kondo's Japanese art of tidying, and new wellbeing technology these are the top six ways to re-energise your home, 2021-style according to a leading wellness expert.

"While our home décor is a reflection of who we are and what we like, similarly any negative energy in the home can reflect back on its occupants whether you realise it or not," says Lucy Blyth, wellbeing expert and founder of energydots.

"From working, schooling, exercising, relaxing, virtual socialising and so much more – the demands that we have been placing on our homes, and added clutter, tech and noise that comes with it, will undoubtedly have had an adverse impact on its overall energy... and perhaps not in a positive way as we all struggle to cope with the stresses of the pandemic.

"Which makes now the perfect time to give the 'energy' in your house some TLC – by removing anything that may be promoting negative energy and making some small changes to help you get that good energy flowing."

Here are my top tips that everyone can apply to help to re-energise and re-boot a home's frequencies

1. Kick start with a Kondo clear out

Marie Kondo advocates keeping only things that spark joy and that this will make you feel much lighter psychologically and spiritually. From a Feng Shui perspective, decluttering will help positive energy flow through your home.

With life slowly starting to return to normal, it's time to get on top of the clutter by throwing away absolutely everything that you don't need. The process of discarding these things will be cathartic enough, but you will be amazed at how less chaotic and stressed you feel once you have a tidy living and working space.

Key items to focus on include:

- The piles of paperwork and clutter that build up around the home – sort through these, file away what you need and throw



away what you don't. You can opt to switch to non-paper banking and many important documents such as insurance renewals are available online so you may not need paper versions of these

- Anything that is broken and can't be fixed – toys, ornaments, furniture etc
- Old electricals, mobile phones, gadgets and chargers – you can often trade these in online
- Clothes that no longer fit or that you no longer wear – be ruthless. You can sell these online or take them to a charity shop

2. Begin with your bedroom

Often in a mixed household, it can be hard to control how tidy a house stays but your bedroom is a place where you can create your own sanctuary and a place to re-charge.

Start by making your bed every morning – again this can set the tone for the day to help you start in a positive and organised way. Your bedroom shouldn't be cluttered and overcrowded but you should use it as a place to display your favourite things and most treasured possessions – this can help to provide an additional protection from negative energy. Keep the room light and



bright with soft fabrics. The belief is that your possessions absorb good energy and then share it with you while you sleep.

3. Harmonise the home

Designed to work alongside Feng Shui principles, a spaceDOT is a room harmoniser, which has been developed to rebalance energy, as well as realign any geopathic, historical, architectural or emotional disturbances. At its centre is a low-powered magnet that has been programmed with resonant frequencies, which are designed to uplift any environment. Simply attach a spaceDOT to an object in your home and it will work within a five metre radius to rebalance your space. And if your home has become a haven for laptops, tablets, consoles and mobile phones then you could be experiencing energetic disturbances emitted by wireless radiation. For this add smartDOTs to devices to retune frequencies at their source.

4. Benefit from biophilia

Introducing more house plants into your living space will not only freshen up your interior, but there are lots of proven wellbeing, productivity and physical health benefits too. What is more, having something to care for and nourish can be extremely uplifting – having a positive knock-on effect on the energy in your home. When choosing new plants, there are many species which are said to bring or increase the positive energy in your living space. These include Orchids, Jasmine, Bamboo, Money Plants, Peace Lilies, Sage and Aloe Vera. So if you're thinking of buying a house plant as a gift then these could provide the added benefit of good energy.

5. Use mood enhancing colours

Natural light is a huge energy and mood booster and can improve how your living space makes you feel. Make sure that you open blinds and curtains every day to let

as much natural light in as possible, and think about how you can add more light with lamps and light fittings that increase light flow - changing to brighter and more natural-light bulbs. If you are redecorating or buying new home accessories then consider the colour and how that can lift your mood. Yellow is a hugely uplifting colour so introducing yellow touches and accessories can help to bring good energy in. Pink is also a joyful colour and green is great for energy. Of course, only use colours that you really love or this will have the opposite effect on your mood and energy!

6. Welcome positivity in

Our front doors, hallways and front gardens are really key when it comes to Feng Shui and applying these principles makes a lot of sense – especially as we have been spending a lot of time socialising at a distance from our doorstep! According to Feng Shui, your front garden represents your future so it should be kept beautiful, well maintained and tidy. Your front door represents wealth so it should be in good condition and your hallway is crucial for letting energy flow through your house so it should be kept clutter free. Of course your front garden, door and then hallway are the first things you see when you return to your home, so making them as welcoming, well maintained and tidy as possible will mean that you enter your house with positivity and good energy. There is nothing worse for your mood then falling over a pile of coats and shoes every time you come in your house! "As we take steps towards life returning to normal re-balancing and re-energising your home really can make a huge difference in how you feel emotionally and physically. Now is the perfect time to make these positive changes and reap the rewards."

For more information visit [energydots.com](https://www.energydots.com)



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MIRROR MANIA's products work in all kinds of residential and commercial projects, and for all eras and styles of architecture, whether a hyper-modern build or a listed building.

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A modern living and dining area. In the foreground, a grey fabric sofa is adorned with a bright yellow textured pillow and a yellow blanket. A glass coffee table with a silver base sits in front of it. Behind the sofa is a dark wood sideboard with a silver mirror, a gold lamp, and a stack of firewood. To the right, a dining table with a white base and dark chairs is set with gold and silver decor. The room features a concrete wall and floor, with several large green plants. The word "dwell" is written in large white lowercase letters across the top of the image.

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REFURBISHMENT TRENDS

By Laura Marino, founder of interior design practice Studio L, London

1 - CANDY FLOSS COLOURS;

We still think you'll be seeing a lot of pastels but mixed with slightly more saturated and (in instances) acidic hues, especially when we head towards spring and summer. Curved furniture will still be very big and especially attractive in colours such as mint green, acid or lemon yellows, dusty or hot pinks. Just imagine going into your favourite bakery or candy store - this trend is evocative of a simpler, more innocent time."

An example of this trend can be seen at Westminster Fire Station, where interiors will be completed by Studio L, London

2 - OLD FASHIONED BEDDING

"We predict seeing a rise in handmade items, authentic looking bedding like crocheted blankets and afghans, eiderdowns, quilts, floral patterned sheets, coverlets and in general a more 'folksy' type

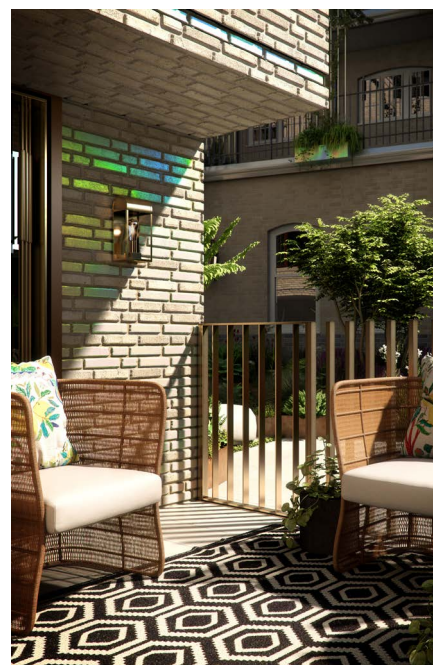
of layering, reminiscent of when bedding was made for function rather than just decoration."

3 - DRIED FLOWERS AND GRASSES

"This is already trending but it hasn't hit the tipping point yet. Again it's a part of this whole 'Cottagecore', 'granny chic' vibe. People want their places to look homegrown and crafty to a degree - completely authentic. Natural elements and comforting textures remain very important to help people feel connected to something real but also nest in their home surroundings. It's easy to do yourself as well which makes it particularly attractive. Don't be surprised to see wheatsheaf, dried pampas grasses, pussywillows, craspedia, pharlaus, largarus - you name it, in people's homes."

4 - CHENILLE

"While Boucle and coloured Boucle are still very popular, Chenille is on the rise as an alternative. It's not just for your grandma's sweater anymore! We're seeing chenille in all sorts of textural variations and colourways



to make it more modern and attractive to touch. "

5 – TILE ALTERNATIVES & SUSTAINABLE SURFACES

"To get that aged, tactile and comforting look of patina, I think we'll be seeing more with paint and plaster techniques and ones that can also be used in wet spaces and are sustainable. Things like Béton Ciré, Tadelakt and marmorino."

ADVICE FOR REFURBISHMENTS

1. "Framing the view

While I don't advise going out at all, if you can, get a paint delivery of samples (VOC free to avoid fumes), smaller head sponge brushes and wallpaper lining. Paint large samples on those and tape up on window and door architraves to see if you'd like to frame your view. If you can't or don't want to frame your view by decorating, you could add some off the shelf curtains you love from Anthropologie or the like. We always use window treatments to link and enhance the view outside."

2. "Use scent by burning candles, incense, cedar or other outdoorsy scents to help calm and soothe as nature does."



3. "Design cohesively and make the connections - Create electronic mood boards (use PPT, InDesign, Photoshop or the like). Just allow yourself to play and don't judge it. Ask yourself questions about why you do and don't like something until you refine your look and are ready to go."

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CARIBBEAN BLINDS PATIO AWNINGS PROTECT FROM THE UK SUMMER - RAIN OR SHINE!

With foreign holidays still currently banned and the earliest possible date to travel given as 17th May, the majority of Brits are once again choosing to holiday at home and transform their outdoor spaces in to their own little piece of paradise.

Being outdoors in the UK requires shade, be that from the blazing sun or the pouring rain and for that reason, high-quality patio awnings that provide solar shading protection is a garden essential and Caribbean Blinds has everything you need. Their practical and stylish, retractable awnings provide instant shade and shelter offering full protection from the elements, resulting in the ultimate al-fresco living space.

Whether you live in a house, bungalow or apartment, on a two-storey or single storey façade, in the countryside, inner-city

or coast, the Caribbean Blinds outdoor retractable patio awnings are designed for every application, requirement and budget extending your living space outside with full protection from the elements. And with their ability to design and build bespoke brackets, there is no application in the UK where they cannot install an electric patio awning.

With a selection of awnings and pricing, there is something for everyone and four models to choose from. Prices range from £2,950 to £14,950 and include VAT, installation and a 5-year guarantee as well as unrivalled customer service.

The awnings are made from fabrics which come in a wide range of colours to suit every taste and have these key features:

- Fade resistant, solution dyed, dimensionally stable fibres

- Self-clean effect coating to ensure a clean visual appearance
- Certified to UV std 801, offering a minimum 95% UV block

All of the blinds are natural cooling, sun safe, anti-glare and provide shelter.

Caribbean Blinds prides itself on offering truly superior and innovative products that will outperform and outlast. Finishing touches and attention to detail including colour co-ordinated stitching and concealed fixings set their products apart, whilst their expert advice and knowledge ensures the right external shading system for your application, requirements and budget.

To find out more about our awnings, visit www.cbsolarshading.co.uk/patio-awnings or alternatively speak to Caribbean Blinds team on 0344 800 1947



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CUBA - PATIO AWNING |



BRETT LANDSCAPING PUTS BIRMINGHAM LANDMARK ON A PEDESTAL WITH NEW ROOFING SYSTEMS

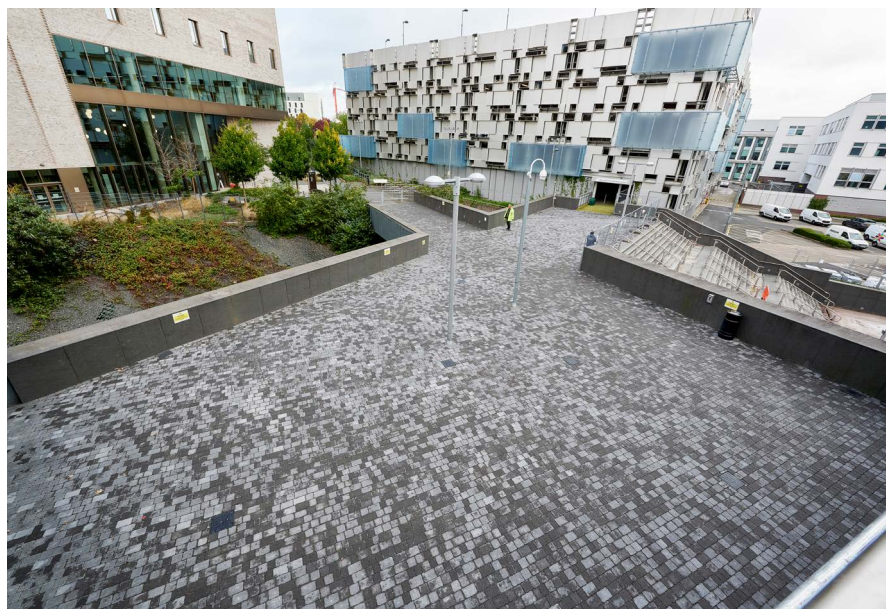
Birmingham's Millennium Point is benefitting from two upgraded paving systems, improving the access and public space areas at the popular tourist attraction.

The award-winning city centre landmark opened in 2002 and is an events venue, meeting place and is home to Birmingham City University. Millennium Point is getting ready for an increase in footfall as travel and visitor restrictions are due to be relaxed during the course of 2021.

Brett Landscaping has worked with roof-scaping specialist Zoontjens and contractors Derwent Roofing Services Ltd. to replace the existing paving on the raised decks around the Millennium Point building with Brett Alpha Flow block paving. Dreen® paving flags have been used to improve the roof terrace used by the public and staff at the site.

The roof terrace area was installed using Brett Landscaping pedestal systems, which supports the use of expansive paving systems over large, roofed areas. By using pedestals the load weight of the paving is mitigated to ensure the supporting roof structure is not placed under undue strain.

The project was split into two different installations, both with the design objective



of improving the areas that were leaking, and where the decking waterproof membranes needed to be replaced.

Alpha Flow permeable paving was installed on a suspended podium deck system which is used as the entrance to the building. The original granite paving was lifted out and working with contractor, it

was decided that all of the existing peaks and troughs would be levelled to improve access to the building.

The original design contained undulations which were designed to manage the removal of surface water from the paved areas into linear drainage.



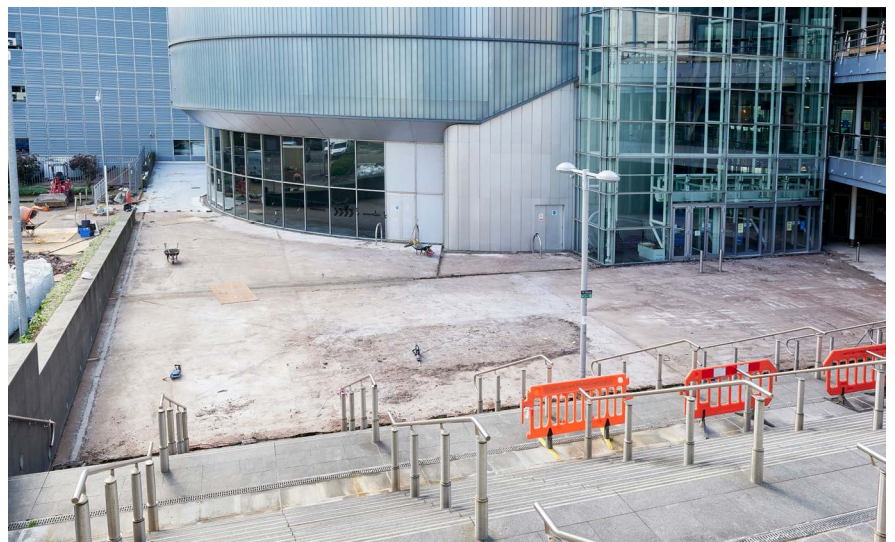
New waterproof membranes were installed to follow the contours of the original concrete slab covering the podium deck, however these were removed with the laying course and 1,610m² of 60mm Alpha Flow was laid on top of the 2-6.3mm grit (which is compliant to BS 7533-13:2009 Table A.2.)

Surface water from rain can now pass through the laying course to the drainage outlets below the pavement.

On the building's roof terrace, Brett Dreen® paving slabs were selected to sit on the Dreen® Fixed Plate Pedestal system. This system is designed for roof areas where access for maintenance may be required. As the system allows the placement of paving flags with interlocking corners, horizontal movement is eliminated while enabling sufficient water drainage through the open joints of the paving.

Jamie Gledhill, Engineering Technical Manager, Brett Landscaping, said: "This project demonstrates the versatility and possibility of using pedestal systems to create spacious, level, safe paved areas in modern building designs.

"The shape and design challenge of this landmark building meant that we had to carefully select the systems we used to provide Millennium Point with a long-lasting, hard wearing paving solution that could also competently manage surface water without springing leaks that could damage the supporting roof systems."



Matthew Hoddinott, Business Development Manager, Zoontjens, adds: "We were very confident that the systems Brett Landscaping supplied would be able to upgrade the SuDS capability of the two public spaces. Using Alpha Flow and the Dreen flag paving on roof pedestal systems provides Millennium Point with two large spaces ready again for public use, and as an asset to the entire site."

www.brettlandscaping.co.uk





SAFE, STYLISH, SUSTAINABLE

THE ADEK EVOLUTION

The Grenfell disaster shone a light on the immediate need for fire resistant, fit-for-purpose outdoor flooring in all high-rise buildings. The result has been the introduction of new building regulations, which mean it is now a legal requirement for any material used in the construction or refurbishment of high-rise buildings of 18m or above to be A2FL s1 fire rated

In response, Ecodek, part of the Epwin Group Plc, has developed Adek, an engineered lightweight aluminium flooring system specifically created to meet the new directives. With A2FL-s1 fire certification, the Adek system is ideal for both residential and commercial projects.

Adek is available in standard lengths and can also be manufactured to project specific bespoke lengths, dramatically reducing the cost of materials by decreasing the amount of waste generated and increasing the speed of installation. Adek is available in two board widths; a wide 295mm for large expanses, such as roof terraces, that can be ripped lengthways for a perfect fit, and a narrower 147mm board which is ideal for smaller areas and refurbishment projects. With a point load of 4kN, both Adek profiles are safe, simple and durable.

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

The Epwin Group Plc and Ecodek understand the challenges faced by

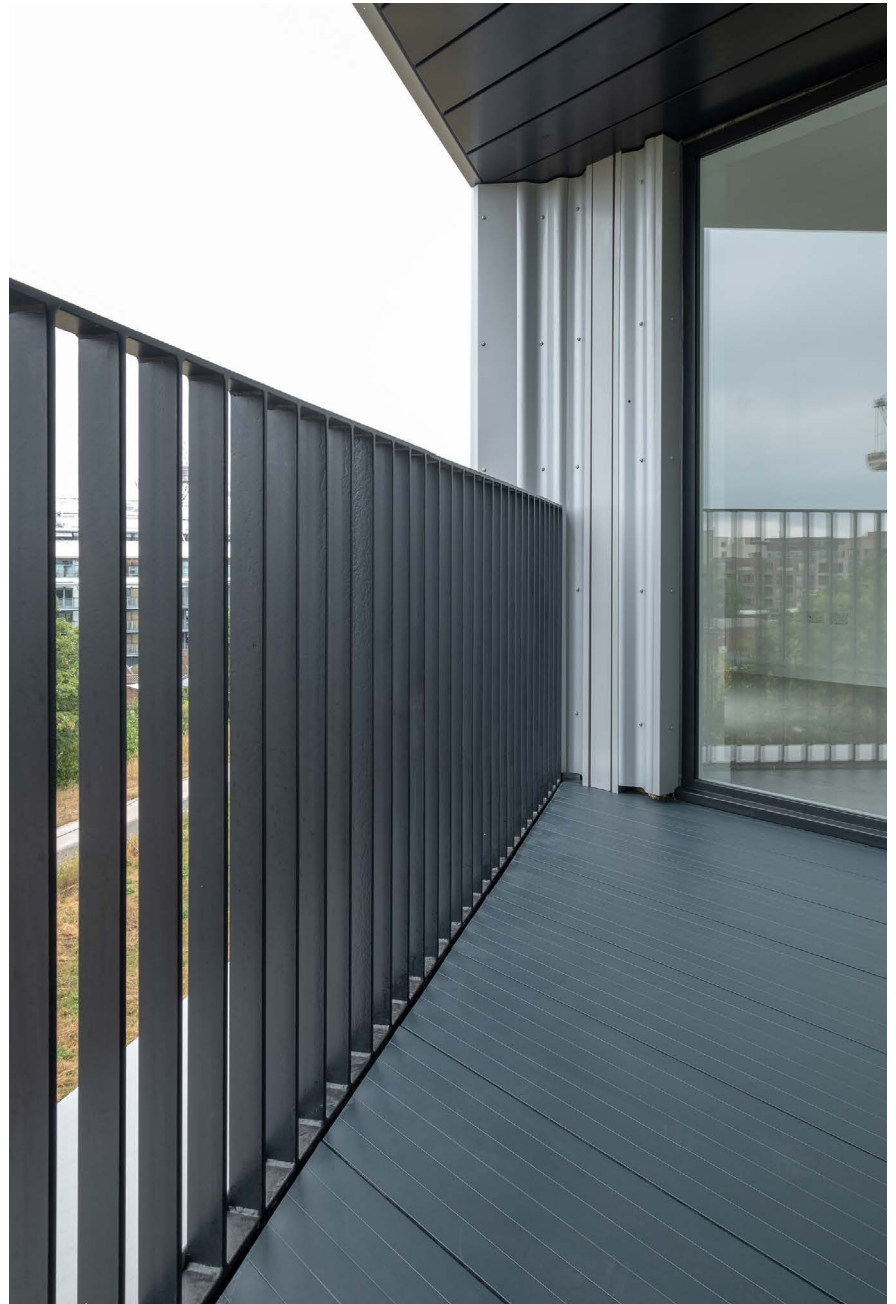


contractors working on new build and refurbishment projects at height. This has led to the development of a complete fire rated system that is extremely easy to install. With a concealed face fixing system and extra wide board, installing Adek could not be simpler or more efficient.

In addition, its unique wide channel can accommodate a lifting eye bolt so balconies

can be constructed off-site and craned into position. A full range of different height aluminium pedestals and bearers also provide flexibility to project requirements.

“The events of 2017 highlighted the importance of utilising only the most appropriate materials in the development or refurbishment of buildings, particularly multi-storeyed dwellings.



It led to the Government implementing a legal requirement for all building owners to replace non-Class A materials as soon as possible," explains Felicity Hodgkinson, Marketing Manager at Ecodek. "We have developed the Adek system in response to this, to assist the industry in attaining these new regulations, whilst still maintaining the highest level of quality and style sought by residents."

EASY ON THE EYE – AND THE FEET

In addition to ensuring industry-leading fire-resistant credentials, Ecodek has also bought user experience and aesthetics to the fore. Adek's innovative design has resulted in a smooth surface, which together with its anti-slip coating makes it safe and comfortable underfoot, even for bare feet, and the perfect choice for residential structures of any height.

Its sleek, contemporary appearance and minimalist, yet timeless design means Adek blends seamlessly into any building making it ideal for retrofitting and refurbishment projects.

TAKING ON THE RECYCLING RESPONSIBILITY

Made from 100 percent recycled aluminium and being fully recyclable, Adek's environmental credentials also make it an attractive proposition, as Felicity explains:

"Adek is the first decking system available in the UK that is made from 100 percent recycled aluminium. This ties in with the Epwin Group's philosophy of developing products that have a low or negative carbon footprint.

"Recycling aluminium is an extremely environmentally sound process. The production of recycled or secondary

aluminium uses approximately five percent of the energy that it takes to produce the same weight of primary metal – and, more importantly, the modern technology used in the production of Adek boards means there is no loss of quality or performance in our recycled material."

In addition to the importance of meeting Government regulations and the need to meet its own environmental aspirations, Ecodek also understands the significance of the supply chain to its customers.

PUTTING CERTAINTY INTO THE SUPPLY CHAIN

"In these unique times having trust in your supply chain has never been more important but we're confident that choosing Adek will give customers the peace of mind they are looking for," continues Felicity. "Adek has been designed, engineered and evaluated by a cross-functional team of technical manufacturing experts at Ecodek, who have a long-established reputation for supplying decking into commercial high-rise buildings.

"In turn, Ecodek is part of Epwin Group Plc, one of the UK's largest manufacturers of building products. As such, the development of Adek has benefited from not only years of outdoor flooring expertise from Ecodek but also years of manufacturing knowledge drawn from the wider Epwin Group Plc. - and as part of this, Adek has the financial stability and reassurance required from a supply chain."

Felicity concludes: "Adek has been a collaborative creation, bringing together the knowledge and expertise of everyone at Ecodek and the Epwin Group, and we are extremely proud of the product we have developed. It fulfils all of the necessary building requirements, whilst maintaining our environmental credentials and providing the industry with an expertly designed, technically advanced, quality product."

01978 667 840
www.ecodek.co.uk



A 1980S HOME IS OPENED UP TO CREATE A LIGHT AND INVITING SPACE

Once dark and cramped, this 1980s home was in need of a refresh when the homeowners headed to Houzz.co.uk – a platform that connects renovators with home improvement professionals – to find a designer who could make it feel light and spacious. Previously, the ground floor was a maze of closed-off rooms, which meant most of it was underutilised. An old conservatory at the back of the property, previously used as a dining space, was also difficult to enjoy, as it was often too cold in winter and too warm in summer.

The homeowners contacted Mia Spencer, owner of House by Mia via Houzz, explaining that they wanted to open up the ground floor, creating a bigger kitchen and dining area and better connection with the conservatory. Coming from a commercial build background and understanding the complexities of a project like this the

homeowners knew they would need an expert to assist.

“We started with the floorplan and wanted to make sure that would work. The home had previously felt cramped so the first priority was to connect the kitchen with a dining space,” explains Mia. “Previously this space didn’t really have a function and had been dark and uninviting, but by opening it up to the kitchen we were able to allow so much more light in.”

Walls were knocked down between the dining room and kitchen, and an old utility room was removed, creating a larger open-plan kitchen and dining space. To avoid losing the utility room altogether, Mia was able to steal some space from the garage, which had just been used for storage previously.

To maximise the light in the kitchen, Mia suggested a light colour palette. A soft cashmere was selected for the cabinetry and the walls were painted in a delicate shade of off-white, which was carried through into the dining and living area, connecting the spaces.

“When you have quite a neutral space with no bold colour, the details need to be special so the scheme doesn’t feel too flat,” explains Mia. “We used handmade oak handles on the bank of cabinets and a really beautiful Japanese tile on the walls. These little details really help to elevate the design.”

In the bank of cabinets at the back of the kitchen, Mia was able to hide away the functional kitchen appliances. To the right of the kitchen, she created a breakfast nook. “The clients wanted a really clean, modern look and clutter-free work-tops.





The breakfast nook is great as it means the kettle, coffee machine and toaster can all be tucked away and hidden from view when you walk into the kitchen," she says. To avoid needing an extractor fan on the wall a hob with an integrated extractor was used.

The couple had previously used LVT (luxury vinyl tiles) throughout the home and loved how hardwearing they were. When it came to selecting the flooring they knew they wanted to go for a tile-effect LVT and the pale grey colour complemented the neutral palette perfectly.

To add a touch of drama to the room, a row of globe pendants were positioned over the breakfast bar. "The glass globe and brass fittings provide some glamour and we were able to source a similar style of light for

both the wall lights in the dining area and the ceiling light in the living room which really helps tie the spaces together," says Mia.

To help regulate the temperature in the conservatory, Mia suggested replacing the glass ceiling with a fixed roof. Repositioning the dining table into the new dining area means the conservatory now serves as a garden room that can be used year-round as an extra seating area and has a beautiful view out on to the garden.

Tall bookshelves had previously provided storage in the living room, but these felt overpowering in the space. Mia suggested a wall of built-in joinery that would store everything they needed. "By painting this in the same colour as the walls it allowed the piece to blend in," explains Mia. For the top of the cabinets, a piece of black walnut

was used, adding another detail to the room and referencing the same wood as the dining table. Subtle flashes of mustard and cobalt are peppered throughout the dining area and living room which also helps to visually connect the rooms.

The artwork throughout the open-plan space was selected by the couple once the project had been completed. After going through the renovation process and working alongside her, Mia explains that the couple felt much more confident in making their own design decisions and picked pieces that work perfectly with the scheme.

www.houzz.co.uk/



GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE EXPECTATIONS OF OUR CLIENTS

NEG Earth is probably the leading, independent, British based live entertainment lighting and rigging hire company in the British live entertainments industry including feature events such as Glastonbury and most internationally famous solo Artists and live rock bands – operating in the UK and internationally including the USA where they recently supported the Rolling Stones tour.

The company's core philosophy is to deliver a "one stop" entertainment lighting and rigging service. They offer premium levels of support and value for money through the provision of skills and advice in project management, design, fabrication, installation and maintenance – together with the supply of crew for large scale music festivals, tours, ceremonies, sporting events, theatrical production and corporate events.

The original building experienced a fire which caused extensive damage to the warehouse and offices and as a result, the building had to be demolished.

This was devastating for NEG Earth but they quickly secured temporary premises and re stocked equipment.

Because of the previous fire and the closeness of adjacent buildings and proximity to the Grenfell building tragedy, being only approximately 2 miles away as the crow flies, the Client and Insurers were absolutely adamant that the building was re-clad to the highest fire standards requiring fire performance of 60 minutes insulation and 60 minutes integrity as per the through wall specification requirements.

Following discussions with NEG Earth and the Main Contractor, SPV, were appointed in early 2019 under a sub contract of almost £1.5 million to carry out the refurbishment of the building to the correct standards.

SPV's remit was to strip the existing assembly down to the existing liner trays and reseal and re-fix correctly then re-fix the existing APL Tritherm sub-frame grid system incorporating Tritherm Helping Hand™ brackets utilising the inbuilt 24mm adjustment for correct line/level alignment for the new 7000m2 Architectural Profiles external AP45HR half round profiles laid horizontally.

Between the inner and outer skins SPV installed multi layer semi-rigid Flexislab stonewool insulation laid chequerboard joint and secured with special 80mm hexagonal washers at approximately 3 No per m2 per layer.

This was a most challenging project as the building remained in full occupation throughout. With the value of equipment within the building totaling over £50 million, the project had to be completed in sections with the highest levels of security on a 24 hour basis – added to this were the difficulties of the general 14m eaves height



with particular large studio areas where the 'stage sets' are pre-built being 20m high.

It was imperative that no disruption was caused to the business throughout the duration of the works. SPV fully delivered on this with no complaints received over the 9 months on site.

As is usual with London projects - space at the site was extremely limited and with a service road adjacent to the building, SPV had to arrange road closures and also undertake night work so there was minimal disruption to both the operation of the building and adjacent businesses.

The project completed ahead of schedule and all as per agreed budgets.

We also had great feedback from the client, main contractor and manufacturer

The Client and manufacturer made a particular point to thank the team them for their considerable efforts and complementing them on the standard of work achieved and their cooperation in phasing the work to suit the Neg earth ongoing requirements of a busy and active business.

"Now the Neg Earth project is complete, I wanted to write and inform you how impressed I have been with your supervisor Shaun and your team of operatives throughout the project

As you and I Both know, it has not been the

easiest of projects, not just because of the building being occupied but also due to the politics involved of the various parties. Shaun and the team have not only delivered a quality project but Shaun has very diplomatically managed the scheme.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to Paul, who without his assistance throughout the project I would have found even more challenging.

I would be grateful if you could pass on my gratitude to the team for their diligence and professionals throughout the project and hope we will work together in the future in less challenging circumstances "

- Marbank Construction

"We thoroughly agree with the Clients comments and feel both Shaun and Paul should be complemented for their efforts on this job which is an extremely good reflection on the SPV business

Also Dean should be complimented on his supervision and his actual fixing and detail work which was done first class, particularly on the corners

Thank you to yourself and all at SPV for a very satisfied customer who now says his faith has been somewhat restored in the construction industry due to SPV's efforts'- Architectural profiles

www.spv-uk.co.uk/



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CREATING A NEW GENERATION OF RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

As the government's Future Homes Standard continues to encourage construction professionals to adopt a more sustainable approach to the building materials they specify and the methods they utilise, Chris Piper, Sales Director for Housing Developers at Ibstock PLC, which includes the market leading Forticrete brand, shares his thoughts on the role concrete roof tiles play in supporting a more ecological, yet efficient, approach to construction.

Aiming to achieve an uplift in the thermal performance and overall sustainability of new build properties, the Future Homes Standard highlights the responsibility and opportunities that industry professionals have to create a new generation of residential dwellings that deliver the highest standards in energy efficiency.

When specifying sustainable building materials for residential dwellings, professionals must first consider the environmental credentials of the products themselves. However, the proficiency

of the installation method and ongoing maintenance requirements must also be addressed, to ensure the long term performance of the property.

With regard to roofing products in particular, specifiers should choose roof tiles that have a reduced impact on the environment through their material composition. This can be achieved by specifying lightweight and durable alternatives to natural slate roof tiles, such as concrete.

As the amount of quarry aggregate used is significantly reduced when compared with natural slate, the impact on the surrounding landscape is effectively minimised, whilst the manufacturing methods for concrete tiles also requires less energy throughout the production process.

The result is a roofing tile that has much lower embodied carbon, but does not compromise on the quality, aesthetic or performance benefits associated with other materials.

To support specifiers in taking the principles outlined within the Future Homes Standard one step further, Forticrete has substantially reduced the embodied carbon within its popular Gemini® concrete roof tiles by using Lafarge Cement's SustainaCem. The result is the creation of a more durable and environmentally friendly tile that delivers superior longevity and minimises product waste.

Due to Gemini's® innovative 'double cambered' design, the interlocking roof tile also require fewer tiles to cover the same area, when compared to a conventional double lapped plain tile.

This further reduces the environmental impact of a new build development, whilst simultaneously minimising overall build costs, as the speed of installation is significantly increased, whilst the volume of materials required is subsequently decreased.

The need for building products that accelerate the rate of building is another leading consideration that specifiers are addressing in relation to the construction of new build properties, as 2020 saw unprecedented disruptions to the industry.

This was due to lockdown causing a significant backlog in the construction of new developments, which was swiftly followed by a rapid increase in demand caused by the extension of the Stamp Duty holiday and the confirmation of the Affordable Homes Programme.

To support an amplified rate of building, without compromising on the sustainable credentials of the property, large format concrete roof tiles are rapidly growing in popularity. The Forticrete SL8 large format roof tile delivers superior coverage benefits when compared with traditional large format roof tiles, with a 20% reduction in the number of tiles handled and laid, significantly increasing the efficiency of installation.

However, aesthetics and durability also remain leading considerations throughout the initial design and specification stages, as specifiers are increasingly searching for new roofing materials that offer an enhanced or unique visual appeal, without compromising on quality and energy performance.



This includes large format concrete roof tiles that feature a thin leading edge, to not only improve building processes and reduce the quantity of building materials required, but provide enhanced visual effect that supports the creation of unique yet cohesive properties across an entire development. Again, the Forticrete SL8 has considered this newly attractive feature, offering both large format and thin leading edge in a single package.

As technology continues to advance, the ability to create a tile that replicates a

natural aesthetic at a lower cost, combined with enhanced installation efficiencies, is paving the way for a new generation of concrete roof tiles that reflect the principles outlined within the Future Homes Standard, whilst helping to meet the rise in demand for new build properties.

For further information on Forticrete's market leading offering, visit: www.forticrete.co.uk or call 01525 244900.





ONLY THE BEST FOR THE BEST

British Olympic gold medallists Laura and Jason Kenny CBE recently refurbished their conservatory with a WARMroof solid roof – the award-winning system from Prefix Systems.

Their old conservatory was in desperate need of some TLC due to the bad leaking and extreme temperatures so they decided to upgrade to a system that would allow them to enjoy their conservatory all year round.

Our trade customer who installed the WARMroof commented "The WARMroof is the best solid roof on the market. It is a true warm-roof construction and such a great

system to install – we can have it watertight in just one day. Laura and Jason were over the moon with it and it's not hard to see why – it looks fantastic!"

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Langley Waterproofing System Ltd's TA-30 Flat Roofing System is a premium quality and durable solution for the commercial, education, healthcare and housing sectors, suitable for both new build and refurbishment projects.

It is compliant to the highest fire rating classification; Broof(t4) and has been extensively tested with varying insulation types, thicknesses and roof decks, for a system that is compliant yet versatile, to suit the client's requirement. This has been independently tested by the BBA (British Board of Agrément) and further certified by LABC with LABC Assured accreditation.

The system is only installed by Langley's vetted Approved Contractor network to ensure a high quality installation. Once installed, it carries an independent insurance-backed guarantee of 30 years for materials, design and workmanship. It is a long-term solution with a life expectancy of at least 40 years.

This system is also available as a BIM object on the NBS BIM library.



E: enquiries@langley.co.uk
W: <https://bit.ly/3bMgfub>

SIKA SARNAFIL EXPLOSIVE SUCCESS FOR ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS HERITAGE ROOF REFURBISHMENT



The Royal Gunpowder Mills heritage site had Sika Sarnafil products installed to guarantee a stunning aesthetic and durable roofing solution.

A historic and archaeological treasure, the Royal Gunpowder Mills heritage site in Waltham Abbey, Essex, has been given a new lease of life with a stunning and sympathetic roof refurbishment.

Consisting of listed buildings, ancient monuments and natural aspect features, the site is a well-loved attraction. A busy hub of activity, it attracts thousands of visitors every year, with exhibitions and a programme of hands-on activities for school groups.

With previous roof coverings across the site's buildings close to derelict, a new roofing system was needed that would both guarantee a durable solution and fit with the aesthetic of the heritage buildings. To meet those needs, Sika Sarnafil G410-15EL FSA Lead Grey was specified alongside Sarnavap 1000E air and vapour control layer.

The high-quality roofing system was chosen after the project's main contractors Courtenay Builders Limited were impressed with the results from similar Sika Sarnafil projects. They also entrusted Contour Roofing with the specification and installation after seeing its award-winning track record with Sika Sarnafil.

As a site once home to tonnes of explosives and with visitors in throughout the refurbishment, the project proved challenging, requiring extensive attention to health and safety. A strict ban on naked flames and hot works meant that the plywood boards had to be primed immediately after installation and before exposure to any wet weather. The specification therefore considered this and the original system, which would have needed a completely dry substrate, was switched to a loose laid polyethylene air and vapour control layer that was more equipped for a faster installation in the expected conditions.

Securing a 20-year Sarnafil guarantee, the newly refurbished roofs have not only met the client's need for a stunning aesthetic, but have also provided a durable weatherproof roofing system – upholding the heritage charity's mission to conserve the site for the benefit of the general public.

gbr.sarnafil.sika.com



METSÄ WOOD: WOODEN ROOF OF MACALLAN DISTILLERY RESONATES AUTHENTICITY AND HONESTY

The Macallan Distillery and Visitor Experience in Craigellachie, Speyside in Scotland is a stunning sight. Five meadow-covered hills hide the undulating roof of the distillery. The contemporary building combines a wooden roof with glass and steel. Fast, light and green Kerto LVL (laminated veneer lumber) was used as part of the prefabricated roof.

The building includes a Visitor Experience centre, three still houses and a mash house with a common roof and fully glazed wall. This

reflects the wishes of the Macallan Distillery, a premium brand, whose single malt whisky production dates back to 1824. The goal was a contemporary facility celebrating phasing, authenticity and honesty.

"Kerto LVL is a very good engineered wood material, because you can trust the material dimensions," says Johannes Rebhahn, Sales Director International Timber Projects at Wiehag, who was responsible for the roof construction.

www.metsawood.com

Introducing
the new sliding
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Our new SKY Flatglass offers a sleek and functional approach to natural smoke ventilation whilst also offering roof access and natural daylight for a room, stairwell or corridor.

The sliding cover is both stylish in design and practical in exposed areas where a hinged opening is impractical.

Meeting the requirements of building regulations document B and tested to EN12101-2 as a natural smoke vent, why would you specify anything less?

HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR LOFT CONVERSION WITH A PITCHED ROOF WINDOW

Peter Daniel, Product Innovation Director at The Rooflight Company, discusses how to get the most out of a loft conversion.

Loft conversions are becoming increasingly popular amongst homeowners who want to add space to their property but either don't have the budget for an extension or don't want to deal with a lengthy planning and building process. Loft conversions neatly fit the brief by increasing the living space of a home without physically making the property bigger. They add value but can be straightforward to renovate, therefore presenting a cost-effective way to create versatile and functional spaces out of otherwise unused square metres in the roof.

With homeworking predicted to be part of a long-term cultural shift following the pandemic, loft conversions offer an option for a home office with the added benefit of work being on a separate floor, making it easier to separate work and family life. But equally, the additional space could be used as a bedroom, playroom, or even a gym.

Dependent upon your property and location, a significant benefit could be that you may not need planning permission for a loft conversion, as they sometimes fall under the 'permitted development' category, but you should always check this with your local authority or via your architect or loft conversion specialist.

When it comes to letting in natural light to a loft conversion, there are a couple of different options for homeowners. The first is a dormer window; the second is a roof window or rooflight.

A dormer is a window and roof combination, used in areas of a home with vaulted ceilings, such as a loft conversion. They tend to be the more expensive option partly due to the unit itself, but they are also more labour intensive to install.

Rooflights provide an alternative solution that often do not require any planning permission provided you adhere to specific requirements relating to protrusion and height. The requirements are quite clear and easy to achieve with the right product. Nevertheless, whatever decision you make, you should always seek advice and be aware of the details set out in Building Regulations.

The biggest challenge with installing a rooflight to a pitched roof is the structural work. In a typical space, homeowners will need to cut at least one rafter. But the more light the space needs, the larger the rooflight, the more rafters will need to be cut to accommodate it, so a structural engineer will need to be involved to make sure the weight of the roof can still be borne safely.



This will be particularly important if it's a period property where the rafters are most likely to be hundreds of years old.

The other thing to consider is the underlay of the roof itself. The underlay is imperative because it protects the roof against condensation and leaks. There are two common types, impermeable (type HR) and vapour-permeable (type LR). If the roof uses type HR, care needs to be taken during the installation process as the roof window installation can easily block the ventilation paths which can lead to cold bridging, condensation, and damp issues. However, using a builder familiar with installing rooflights to a loft conversion should mitigate these problems. If in doubt, the manufacturer of the product will always be able to offer installation advice.

By and large though, the most significant difference between using a rooflight over a dormer window is the aesthetics. Rooflights are very much an extension of the design of the interior, whilst seamlessly fitting into the silhouette of the exterior. Admittedly, not every rooflight is the same so research is key, but there are products out there that offer a clean view out with zero sightlines,

marrying aesthetics with functionality. Like our neo rooflight, for example, which invites the outside in with a thin steel frame which sits flush to the roof tile on the exterior. It also benefits from a low U-value, allowing for great thermal performance.

Conversely, dormer windows can be clunky and, although they add light to a room, it isn't the same beautiful framing quality that a rooflight can achieve with uninterrupted light from above.

Loft conversions present a unique opportunity for homeowners. No other renovation will add space in the same way without needing to build upwards or outwards. The challenge comes with configuring the space to work for your needs, and ensuring it receives enough light and ventilation, something a rooflight is perfect for.

To learn more about the Rooflight Company and how rooflights can transform your project, please visit <https://www.therooflightcompany.co.uk/>



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SPA IN WEST JUTLAND, DENMARK

REFURBISHED WITH FOCUS ON AESTHETICS

Following a refurbishment, Hotel Fjordgaarden in Ringkøbing now boasts an exclusive new spa that is already attracting visitors from near and far. Aesthetics were a top priority in this project which is reflected in the luxurious solutions chosen; these include the elegant linear drains, covered with custom-cut tiles that blend almost invisibly in with the flooring.

West Jutland has a new attraction to tempt tourists. Situated next to the Ringkøbing Fjord is the Hotel Fjordgaarden; originally built in 1967, the hotel has undergone an expansion and total refurbishment and now includes a luxurious new spa.

COVID-19 and travel restrictions may have slightly affected visitor numbers, but guests have still been flocking to Fjordgaarden,

and the hotel recorded its busiest summer ever. The majority of this success can be attributed to the spa, which opened in June and was officially inaugurated in August.

“With the refurbishment, we wanted to attract a new segment of customers to the hotel; the spa definitely helps with this. We want our guests to feel that Fjordgaarden is worth the journey, and we think they will when they see our new super-elegant spa,” says Fjordgaarden’s manager Brian Madsen.

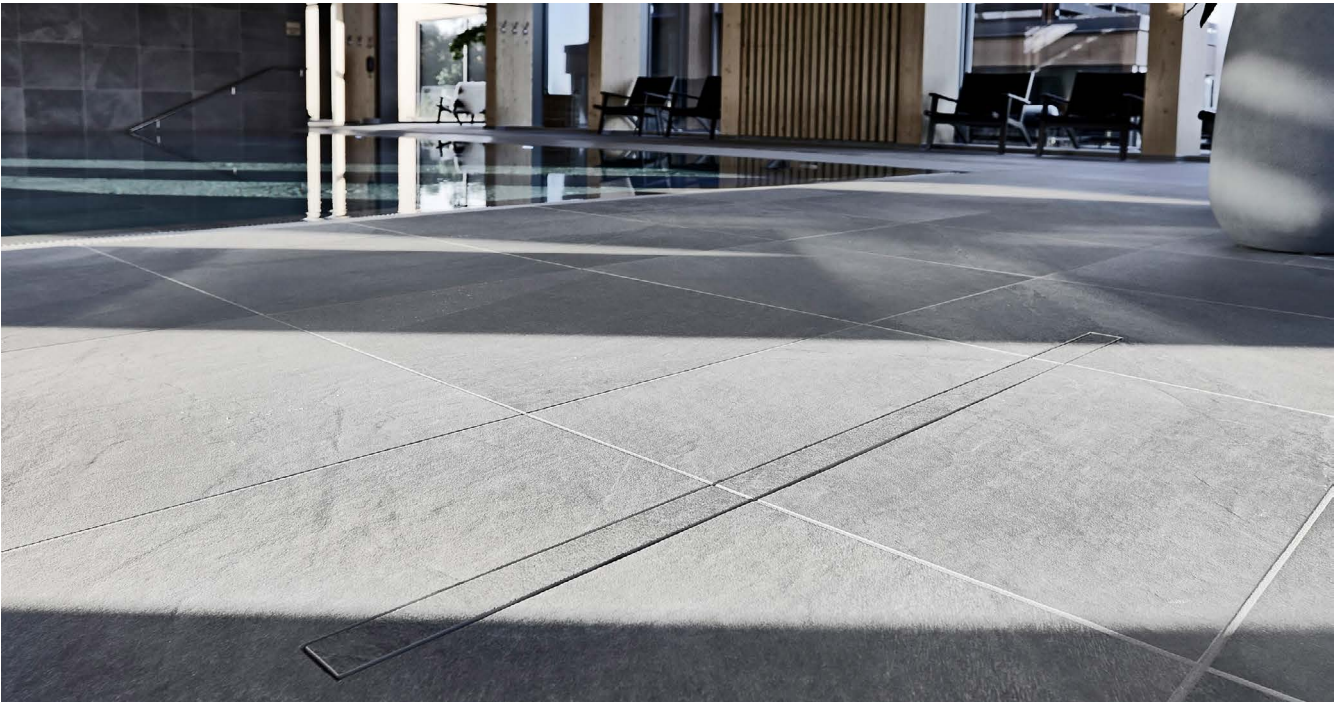
LUXURIOUS STYLE – EXCLUSIVE DETAILS

According to Brian Madsen, every detail of the spa has been carefully considered. The style is well thought-out, with large, rustic tiles, wood panelling as well as sand and lyme grass:

“The refurbishment has a strong focus on aesthetics; from the outset this was the top priority throughout the hotel. We want visitors to experience sheer luxury and elegance; this is reflected both in the design and the materials used. We’re delighted to report we’ve already had a lot of positive feedback from the guests.”

The spa was fitted with linear drains from the design company Unidrain, which is renowned for its stylish, minimalistic products.





The hotel chose Unidrain's HighLine Custom drain, to suit the spa's fashionable look.

"INVISIBLE" LINEAR DRAINS PROVIDE A STYLISH FINISH

The solution provides a discreet drain, where the familiar grate is replaced by custom-cut tiles that match the surrounding floor:

"We're extremely pleased that our drains were chosen to help create the right experience in the spa. Our Highline Custom drain with the tile covering produces an elegant finish and a beautiful style. It's barely noticeable, because it slopes so discreetly into the floor," says Anders W. Christensen, Unidrain's Area Sales Manager.

The discreet drain has been installed around both the pools as well as in the sauna and

shower areas. The lounge area is also equipped with the stylish linear drains, which have been placed with great care:

"Based on drawings of all the rooms, we made recommendations on the length and number of the drains. We also provided advice on their optimal location. The focus was on creating a result that merges form and function. We took water drainage into account to make sure the drains had the right capacity. In addition, we took care to create the right slope without cutting the tiles into pieces. This creates a solid, seamless look that's extremely stylish," concludes Anders W. Christensen.



www.unidrain.com/



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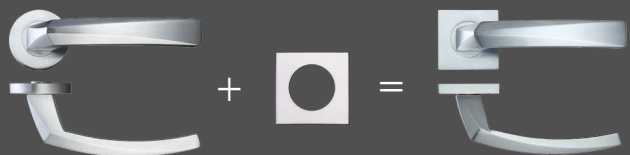


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