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## FIVE WOOL CARPET TRENDS

Wool carpets continue to define modern interiors with their natural beauty



## INSTALLERSHOW 2026

The UK's biggest installation event gets even bigger



## LONDON SOLAR HOUSE

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## ARCHI-TECTONICS' LONDON SOLAR HOUSE DELIVERS COMPACT RICHNESS AS A PROTOTYPE FOR HIGH-DENSITY URBAN LIVING

Archi-Tectonics expanded a century-old brick townhouse in the heart of London into a modern home that is double its original size for a family of four. The New York design firm turned the unique historic character of the existing 2-story solid masonry structure, as well as its compact neighborhood setting, into a design opportunity.

The 2,250 square-foot London Solar House is designed with the notion that 'small is beautiful', something that can be traced back to the early modernists of Europe and America who used this as a premise in their search for the most ergonomic and frugal housing unit. While their solutions leaned towards what is just enough to live comfortably, Archi-Tectonics have maximized richness and complexity to create a 4-dimensional interplay of spaces linked across two eras in time and intricately crafted with shifts in movement, perspective, and materiality. The house's manifold attachments to the adjacent structures and surrounding vegetation

served as the guide to the proposed volumetric extrusions that establish an otherness within the existing context.

The original structure is left intact to maintain the largely opaque building edges and serve as the foundational base for the new intervention. It is treated as the structural core, off of which a multi-faceted roof extension enveloping an additional story and other hovering projections emerges. The intersection between the folded zinc-and-glass envelope and the densely packed program within generates several distinctly-formed apertures

such as the pyramidal skylight in the kitchen, a glass slit in the living room exposing what used to be a narrow rear yard, and a fully glazed window revealing the panoramic view of the streetscape below, framed by an old-growth tree. The terrace at the roof level extends the kitchen and dining room toward the exterior and offers a moment of outdoor respite amidst the surrounding foliage and neighborhood roofscape. The roof is lined with fully integrated PV panels that provide the almost off-the-grid building with baseline electricity sufficient to run heat pumps, hot water supply, lighting, as well as a 13kW Tesla battery to charge an electric car.

At the heart of the building is a custom-built, winding stair that connects the entrance floor with the double-height living area above and the open kitchen-and-dining on the topmost level. The organic and fluid geometry of this solid-steel helix form connects all public areas of the house in one continuous sweep, thus creating a sculptural vortex of daylit space. Here, density and richness condense together to create a singular object that is both extremely efficient and strikingly beautiful. This stair embodies Archi-Tectonics' unique sensibility as architects to marry design intelligence, manufacturing expertise, and dynamic form-optimization to go beyond mere problem-solving.

The sculptural corporality and rich textures of the interiors are a deliberate departure from the typically rationalist and frugal effect of compact dwellings. High-contrast black raw wood cladding and cabinetry, textured stone surfaces, and brass mosaics are highlighted by soft glowing light covers. Precious glass pendants elevate the atmosphere indoors, while complementing the organically shaped wood furniture and natural wool rugs.

This project is part of Archi-Tectonics' series of broad explorations to create sustainable housing models for city-living, following 512 GW Townhouse, 497 Greenwich building, and Blaak Tower.

[www.archi-tectonics.com](http://www.archi-tectonics.com)



## TECHNICAL SHEET:

**Project Name:** London Solar House  
Client: Private

**Project Type:** 3-story Residential renovation and extension

**Status:** Completed 2024

**Location:** Primrose Hill, London, UK

**Area:** 2250 sf

**Design:** Archi-Tectonics NYC LLC

**Principal:** Winka Dubbeldam

**Team:** Justin Korhammer, Max Boerman, Wouter vander Heuvel, Mattia Gola, Santiago Herrera

**Architect of Record:** Anthony Boulanger (AY Architects)

**Structural Engineer:** AKTII

**MEP:** WSP London

**Lighting Design:** Lana Lenar

**General Contractor:** Philiam

**Photography:** Nick Kane



# FIRE TESTING AND THE ROAD FROM BS TO EN



In recent years, the UK construction sector has moved from historic British Standards (BS) toward European (EN) test methods and classification systems as part of the process to strengthen fire performance standards and legislation.

This transition creates a more structured framework for demonstrating performance, with clearer links between what is tested in the laboratory and what is ultimately installed on site. True assurance depends not only on how products are tested, but on how results are interpreted and how far those results can legitimately be applied.

## TRANSITIONING FROM SINGLE TEST RESULTS TO DEFINED APPLICATIONS

Historically, fire testing has been conducted as a one-off event: build a sample system, test it, record the result. The difficulty came when applying that result to products of different sizes or configurations. The boundaries were not always obvious.

The transition from historic BS 476 methods to BS EN test standards and classification systems addresses this. It builds rules for practical application directly into the framework of standards, so performance can be fully defined and traceable.

The results of a fire resistance test such as BS EN 1364-1 (which replaces BS 476-22) determines the tested system performance to BS EN 13501-2 (for example EI 240 - 240 minutes integrity and 240 minutes insulation fire resistance). However, this classification is just the start.

### DIRECT FIELD OF APPLICATION (DIAP).

DIAP rules are written directly into the test standard. They define specific, limited variations that are automatically covered by the test result without further assessment. Depending on the standard and construction, DIAP may permit defined adjustments such as reductions in size, increases in certain component thicknesses, or dimensional changes permitted by the test standard. DIAP provides a clearly defined starting point. It ensures that every test comes with an inherent, published scope of application.

### EXTENDED APPLICATION (EXAP).

EXAP standards provide a structured, rules-based method for extending fire test results using recognised technical principles. EXAP is carried out in accordance with the relevant EXAP standard, which may be supported by:

- EN extended application standards
- EN product standards

- European Assessment Documents (EADs)
- Relevant European Commission Decisions or delegated acts
- **EN 13238** (conditioning procedures)
- **CEN/TS 15117** and other sector-specific technical specifications

The process typically follows one of several recognised methods:

- 1. Direct reference to product technical specifications** where extension rules are already defined
- 2. Relationship-based assessment**, demonstrating how performance varies with defined parameters
- 3. Experimental or empirical programmes**, using additional test evidence to map performance changes
- 4. Recognised calculation methods** where validated models are available

The objective is to ensure that any extension remains technically justified and consistent with established European methodology.

### The pathway from test to classification

The overall process can be visualised as:



The final classification report records not only the fire resistance performance, but also the permitted field of application derived through DIAP and any applicable EXAP.

At Attain RTC, we work within this framework every day, delivering EN fire testing and supporting

clearly defined DIAP and EXAP pathways in line with current standards. Our UKAS-accredited laboratory was developed specifically for this more structured testing environment. By combining state-of-the-art equipment with technical expertise and well-defined processes, we focus on producing evidence that is robust, traceable and aligned with today's regulatory and compliance landscape.

In a system where assurance depends on the quality and clarity of the underlying evidence, our role is to provide reliable testing and technical support – helping turn fire test results into performance information that can be confidently understood and applied across real projects

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# INSTALLERSHOW 2026: THE UK'S BIGGEST INSTALLATION EVENT GETS EVEN BIGGER

Following another record-breaking year, InstallerSHOW returns to the NEC Birmingham from 23-25 June 2026, set to be the biggest edition yet.



With over 46,000 visitors, 1,500+ exhibitors, and 11 live CPD-accredited content streams, this isn't just incremental growth - 2026 marks a transformational moment as InstallerSHOW evolves into a truly comprehensive multi-trade platform.

## A MULTI-TRADE ECOSYSTEM UNDER ONE ROOF

For 2026, InstallerSHOW expands through strategic co-location with the Professional Woodworking Expo and the Painting & Decorating Show, creating one of the UK's most comprehensive platforms for installation and finishing professionals. This reflects how real-world projects are delivered, bringing together the trades that work alongside each other on site every day.

The synergy is powerful. Installers working on kitchens and bathrooms connect directly with woodworking specialists. Those fitting out commercial spaces access the latest finishing techniques. Plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and decorators - all the disciplines that must coordinate on every project - now converge in one place, creating unprecedented opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing.

Professional Woodworking Expo brings cutting-edge machinery, tools, and materials for woodworking professionals, from individual craftspeople to major furniture manufacturers. The Painting & Decorating Show delivers trusted brands and innovations in coatings, wallcoverings, and application techniques. Combined with InstallerSHOW's strengths in HVAC, plumbing, renewables, electrical, kitchens, and bathrooms, the result is unmatched breadth under one roof.

## FOUR DEDICATED SHOW THEMES

InstallerSHOW 2026 maintains clear structure through four themes: HVAC Plumbing and Renewables, InstallerBUILD, InstallerELECTRIC, and Installer Kitchens & Bathrooms. Whether you're exploring heat pump technology, EV charging solutions, or sourcing bathroom products, you'll find focused zones for your specific interests while remaining connected to the broader event.

## GLOBAL EXPERTISE AND INDUSTRY-LEADING CONTENT

The 2026 edition brings international perspective through the 14th World Plumbing Conference,

hosted for the first time at InstallerSHOW in partnership with the World Plumbing Council and CIPHE. This global gathering connects UK professionals with international best practices and emerging standards.

Eleven content streams deliver practical learning across the show floor. The elemental Arena hosts keynote discussions on net-zero solutions. The Climate Solutions Theatre tackles heat pumps and sustainable technologies. The Solar Pavilion showcases renewable energy as it moves from optional to essential.

Free seminars, debates, and panel discussions cover regulatory updates, emerging technologies, business development, and installation best practices - all allowing visitors to curate their own learning journey.

### PRACTICAL, REAL-WORLD FOCUS

InstallerSHOW's strength lies in its focus on what works on site. Live demonstrations bring products to life. Features like The HAUS explore modern construction methods. TRADES and INVENT initiatives spotlight innovations and challenger brands.

Skills take centre stage through industry partnerships. FITA's live flooring demonstrations emphasise training and standards. The NRFC's roofing competition showcases craftsmanship and emerging talent.

### BUILT WITH THE INDUSTRY

InstallerSHOW is developed hand-in-hand with leading trade bodies and professional organisations including NICEIC and CIPHE, ensuring content remains relevant and delivers genuine value. The Bristan Race for Change initiative concludes at the 2026 show, having raised essential funds for water, sanitation, and hygiene projects delivered by charity partner The Cycle.

### WHY VISIT IN 2026

With free registration, free parking, and excellent transport links to the NEC Birmingham, visiting has never been easier. The expanded multi-trade format means a single visit delivers broader value than ever before. Whether you're an installer, builder, specifier, or part of the supply chain, the 2026 edition offers more products, more connections, more learning, and more opportunities than any previous year.

The sheer scale creates efficiency. Rather than attending multiple separate events throughout the year, professionals can access the entire spectrum of installation and finishing expertise in three focused days. The networking possibilities alone justify the visit - connecting with manufacturers, discovering new suppliers, meeting potential collaborators, and staying current with industry developments.

For exhibitors, the numbers speak volumes. Feedback from previous years highlights strong lead generation, quality conversations, and valuable face-to-face connections that can't be replicated digitally.

As David Ventris Field, Event Director of InstallerSHOW, puts it: "InstallerSHOW 2026 is set to be the biggest and best we have ever run. Whether you are an installer, retailer, builder, or part of the supply chain, you will find more than ever to see with record numbers of exhibitors, speakers, and features. Get it in the diary as you don't want to miss it."

From individual tradespeople discovering the latest innovations to major manufacturers sourcing solutions at scale, InstallerSHOW 2026 creates an environment where the entire industry comes together to share knowledge, do business, and shape the future of installation.

▶ [Register for InstallerSHOW here.](#)

[Register for Painting & Decorating Show here.](#)

[Register for Professional Woodworking Expo here.](#)

[See you at the NEC, 23-25 June 2026.](#)



# CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOUSEBUILDER ANNOUNCES BRAND-NEW DEVELOPMENT COMING SOON

David Wilson Homes is inviting home buyers to discover the range of properties at its brand-new Lakewood Meadows development in Great Haddon, launching this May.

The development, located on Lodge Way, will offer a range of three, four and five bedroom homes which are thoughtfully designed to suit a variety of home buyers.

Two show homes, in the Skylark and Kirkdale styles, will be available to view at the development allowing house hunters to experience the quality of the homes and envision life at the development.

Each home features underfloor heating on the ground floor, as well as a range of energy efficient features, including air source heat pumps.

Jason Hearn, Sales Director at David Wilson Homes South Midlands, said: "The launch of Lakewood Meadows marks an important milestone for us. We're proud to deliver high quality homes in a sought after location and we look forward to seeing the community thrive as residents begin to settle in.

"We encourage anyone interested to sign up and be among the first to reserve a brand-new home."

Lakewood Meadows offers essential amenities such as supermarkets, shopping centres, healthcare services, and a range of well regarded schools all within easy reach. With excellent transport connections, such as quick access to the A1 and Peterborough station, the location is ideal for commuters.

Residents can also enjoy countryside walks, scenic trails, and a peaceful nearby lake perfect for picnics and dog walks.

► **To find out more about any other developments in the area, call the sales team on 033 3355 8486 or visit the website at [www.dwh.co.uk](http://www.dwh.co.uk)**





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## SOUTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPER HIGHLIGHTS HOMES READY FOR SUMMER MOVE FRONT DOOR

Keen property seekers wanting to make the move into their dream home this summer need look no further than David Wilson Homes' Oughtibridge Valley development.

The leading housebuilder is currently offering a range of three and four bedroom properties, including the popular Cannington style, two of which are ready to move into right away.

The Cannington is a three-storey, three bedroom home perfectly suited to a range of buyers.

Downstairs features an open-plan kitchen and separate living and dining space with French doors leading to the garden. There is also a dedicated study, providing the ideal space to work from home.

The first floor offers a spacious lounge, a double bedroom and a family bathroom. The top floor features the main bedroom with an en suite, alongside a further double bedroom.

A Cannington show home is also available to view at the development, so potential buyers can visualise themselves living at Oughtibridge Valley.

Sam Wood, Sales Director at David Wilson Homes Yorkshire West, said: "We understand many people envision themselves enjoying the summer sun in their new home, and we want to make that a reality.

"Our Cannington style homes at Oughtibridge Valley are expertly designed with luxury in mind and

would make for the ideal home for a wide array of buyers.

"With just a couple of homes available to move into straight away, I would encourage anyone interested to speak to our expert sales team without delay, so they can start planning that big summer barbecue in their brand-new home at Oughtibridge Valley."

Nestled in the stunning South Yorkshire countryside, Oughtibridge Valley is surrounded by vast woodland, giving the development a quaint and secluded feel.

The village of Oughtibridge is a sought-after destination due to its wide range of amenities and the aspirational lifestyle on offer.

Those looking to make a move can benefit from the developer's schemes such as Part Exchange and Deposit Boost.

For more information about developments in the area, call the sales team on 033 3355 8469 or visit the website at David Wilson Homes in South Yorkshire.

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

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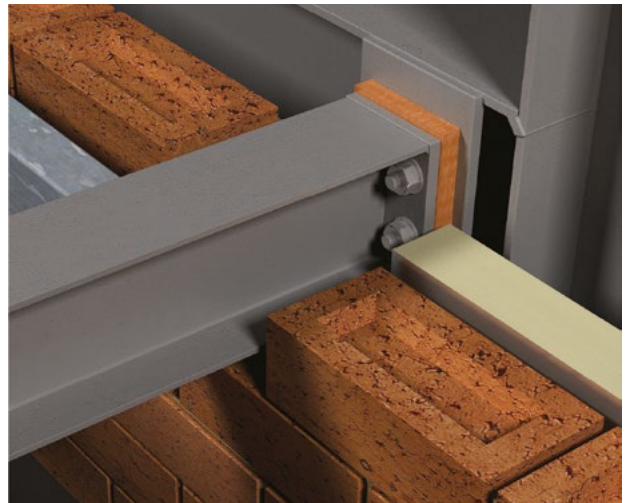


Armatherm™ also offers a design service, collaborating with architects, specifiers, and designers from the project's conception, ensuring that thermal breaks are integrated into the initial designs. By addressing potential thermal bridging points at the earlier stages, architects can make informed decisions that optimise energy efficiency, without compromising on functionality or aesthetics.

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# Thermal Bridging Solutions



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# ALLISON HOMES CENTRAL TO LAUNCH BRAND-NEW DEVELOPMENT IN WHITTLESEY

Regional housebuilder Allison Homes Central is set to officially launch its highly anticipated Violet Meadows development in Whittlesey, with the unveiling of The Cheltenham show home on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March.



This complementary body, originally dedicated to hosting family gatherings and celebrations, had a rigid and compartmentalized organization that limited its functionality and daily life.

Violet Meadows, on Drybread Road, will deliver a collection of two, three and four bedroom homes, including a range of bungalows and detached properties. With homes already available to reserve off-plan, the show home launch marks a key milestone for the development and provides buyers with a tangible feel for the community taking shape. The launch weekend will take place from 10am to 5pm and give prospective buyers the first opportunity to view the brand-new homes, meet the sales team and step inside the four bedroom detached Cheltenham show home, where they can experience the layout, specification and design quality on offer.

The Cheltenham has been designed with modern family living in mind. The ground floor features a generous living room to the front of the home, while to the rear, a dual-aspect kitchen and dining area opens onto the garden through French doors,

creating a bright and sociable space. A cloakroom and additional storage complete the ground floor.

Upstairs, the main bedroom benefits from built-in wardrobes and a private en suite. A second double bedroom, two single bedrooms and a contemporary family bathroom complete the floor, providing ample amounts of space. The property also includes a single garage and two parking spaces.

Kelly Toms, Sales and Marketing Director at Allison Homes Central, said: "We're excited to be opening the doors to The Cheltenham show home at Violet Meadows. Being able to walk through a finished home

allows buyers to visualise how the space works for their own lifestyle and gives them a real sense of the quality and attention to detail we deliver.

"With strong interest already building at Violet Meadows, we would encourage anyone considering a move to attend the launch weekend and explore what this new Whittlesey development has to offer."

Situated in the well-connected market town of Whittlesey, Violet Meadows offers a balance of semi-rural surroundings and everyday convenience, with local shops, schools and amenities nearby, and Peterborough just a short drive away.

For commuters, Whittlesey railway station provides direct links to Cambridge, Ely and Peterborough, with onward connections to London King's Cross in under an hour from Peterborough station. Road links via the A605 and A1(M) provide further access across the region.

► **To find out more about Violet Meadows, visit [www.allisonholmes.co.uk](http://www.allisonholmes.co.uk) or contact the sales team on 01733 513506**

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Toilet seat installation with Bemis Ultra-Fix® is easy. Finned bushing slides into any toilet ceramic mounting hole and flexes to create a snug fit, eliminating excess space and preventing hinge movement.

The Bemis Ultra-Fix® nut has an integrated washer which eliminates fumbling with individual nuts, rings and washers. It is designed to withstand superior clamping forces and does not corrode. The bottom of the nut snaps off at the optimum torque, creating a perfectly tight installation.

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Already widely specified for flooring applications and creating 'protected zones' in roof-spaces, FIREFLY® FB 180 ablative batts are now also being used to provide fire compartmentation beneath raised access floors.

Raised access floors are commonly used to accommodate power, data and other building services, creating concealed voids beneath the finished floor. Without appropriate fire protection, these hidden cavities can allow fire and smoke to spread unseen beyond the point of origin. The FIREFLY® FB180 Raised Access Floor System has been developed to help address this risk by forming a protected cavity beneath the floor and maintaining the compartment line.

Independently tested and assessed in accordance with BS EN 1366-4 and classified to EN 13501-2, the system can achieve fire resistance performance of up to four hours integrity and up to two hours insulation, depending on the floor build-up. Tested and assessed configurations include use with steel encapsulated raised access floor panels and timber-based floor panels, protecting service voids up to 600mm in depth while allowing essential services to pass through in a controlled manner.

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**Classification Reports & Certificates: Pine, Spruce, Scots Larch, Siberian Larch, Western Red Cedar, Oak, Thermowood, Birch, Birch Ply, and others, both Internal and External.**



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# THE PLUMBERS CHOICE FOR A LEAK-FREE

Britain's water supply is at a tipping point. Drought has been declared in many regions of the UK and the resilience of the network will continue to be tested. By 2050 England faces a 5 billion litre shortfall between supply and demand.

Across the UK an estimated 8% of toilets are leaking - often unnoticed - with enough clean drinking water leaking into toilets to fill over 4 million bathtubs EVERY DAY. This can add an additional £100+ per year on household water bills - hitting working families hardest.

## WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

The vast majority of leaks in toilets are caused by a faulty flush valve; due to its design (having a joint below the water line) over time most flush valves will leak due to debris or limescale building up under the sealing washer, preventing it from sealing properly & causing water to trickle into the pan. This is in stark contrast to a toilet syphon that will NOT leak even in failure mode.

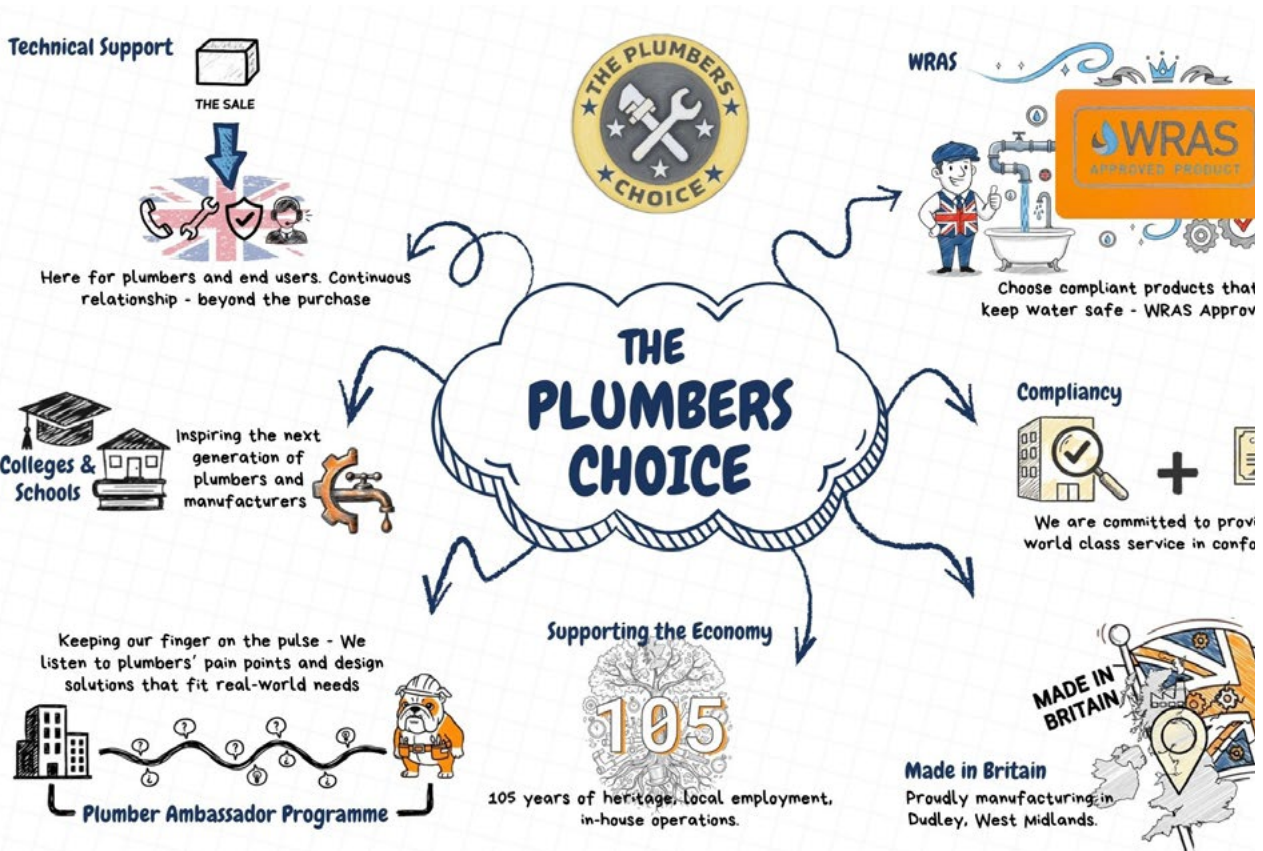
Since 2001 when the Water Regulations were

changed to allow flush valves into the UK for the first time, sales of flush valves have been on the increase, this is in part due to its button operated mechanism that many users prefer ascetically over a handle that activates a syphon.

Until recently if you wanted to have a button to flush your toilet then fitting a flush valve was the only option, but thanks to a concerted effort from Thomas Dudley's team of designers and engineers there are now a number of button operated leak free syphons to choose from. One of which is the all-new British made Turbo Edge Quantum.

The Dudley Turbo Edge Quantum is an all-new pushbutton operated LEAK-FREE syphonic toilet flush valve. This state-of-the-art product represents a significant leap forward in toilet flushing technology, offering unparalleled efficiency, reliability, and water conservation.

When it comes to leak-free British made plumbing products, Thomas Dudley is The Plumbers Choice.



**Dudley** 

# TURBO EDGE<sup>®</sup> QUANTUM

**Leak - Free. Guaranteed. British Engineered.** The Turbo Edge Quantum push-button syphon, designed by Thomas Dudley's expert team, delivers leak-free performance - even in failure mode. It's easy to service thanks to its demountable down leg, perfectly suited for close-coupled toilets, and built to save water with every flush.



LEAK - FREE GUARANTEED

[thomasdudley.co.uk](http://thomasdudley.co.uk)



# REGISTRATION OPENS FOR DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK 2026

Ready to explore the solutions to the built environment's biggest challenges? Digital Construction Week (DCW) returns to Excel London on 3-4 June, and registration is now open!

Free to attend and carefully curated, Digital Construction Week is where new ideas and technology transforming architecture, engineering, construction and operations (AECO) are brought to life.

## WHAT WILL YOU FIND?

- 230+ CPD-accredited seminars across ten stages.
- Hands-on demo's from 150+ exhibitors showcasing the latest technology.
- 9,000+ attendees connecting over shared challenges, for real solutions.

"The atmosphere at Digital Construction Week was palpable," said David John Varghese, Principal Engineer at AtkinsRéalis. "Beyond the impressive software and hardware demonstrations, there was a strong undercurrent of conversation focused on implementation, adoption, and the cultural shifts necessary to make these technologies truly effective."

Karolina Orecchini, Event Director of DCW, comments: "We're opening our doors at a time when AECO's developments are more pivotal than ever. It's the people that make this industry exceptional, and bringing them together to explore and celebrate the advancements we're seeing? That's going to be a real joy."

## HEALING THE INDUSTRY'S PAIN POINTS

With 150+ brands on display, Digital Construction Week is where breakthrough tech meets real-world application. The exhibitor list is shaping up nicely, with confirmed names including 4PS Construction Solutions, Autodesk, Bentley Systems, Bluebeam, Buildots UK, Elecosoft, Glider Technology, Nemetschek, OpenSpace, Revizto and Sage.

"I was struck by the energy, the expertise and the sheer commitment on display to driving better construction outcomes and greater productivity through technology," said Cliff Smith, Executive Director of the Get It Right Initiative.

From digital twins, augmented reality and automation, to information management, AI and robotics, you'll see how these solutions resolve your challenges, deliver on your goals and accelerate

your projects.

## WHERE NEW IDEAS ARE CONSTRUCTED, ONE SEMINAR AT A TIME

The programme delivers 230+ CPD-accredited seminars across 10 stages, hitting every corner of the built environment.

Covering everything from information management and digital transformation to net zero and autonomous vehicles, 400+ expert speakers cut through the noise to bring you what matters.

With keynotes, interactive sessions and expert panels, the seminars are designed to open the floor to honest discussions and help you tackle real challenges. The result? Returning to work feeling inspired, empowered and ready for what lies ahead.

## BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS AECO

The event serves as the annual meeting hub for AECO innovators from around the globe, so you can meet the right people and strike up relationships that last well beyond the show floor.



And thanks to dedicated meet-up sessions and features built for networking, those connections happen naturally - no awkward hovering required.

► **Don't delay, register now. Visitor attendance is free. Register here to be part of Digital Construction Week 2026.**

**To stay up to date with event announcements, follow Digital Construction Week on socials:**

• **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/digital-construction-week/>

• **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/digitalconstructionweek/>

**Digital Construction Week | Excel London | 3-4 June 2026.**



# DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK

EXCEL LONDON  
3-4 JUNE 2026

INNOVATION  
IN THE BUILT  
ENVIRONMENT

## Register to attend DCW

Join innovators from across AECO to debate, discuss and share ideas to help build a more digitally enabled industry.

### DISCOVER

the latest technology to help you on the journey towards digitalisation



### NETWORK

with your peers to share ideas and experiences



### LEARN

from expert speakers and improve the way you work



**REGISTER FOR FREE**



[www.digitalconstructionweek.com](http://www.digitalconstructionweek.com)

Digital Construction Week [digitalconstructionweek](https://www.instagram.com/digitalconstructionweek) Organised by **diversified**

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# KEYLITE ROOF WINDOWS MODULITE CROWNED BEST BUILDING FABRIC PRODUCT AT HOUSEBUILDER PRODUCT AWARDS

Keylite Roof Windows' (Keylite) ModuLite system has been named 'Best Building Fabric Product' at this year's Housebuilder Product Awards, beating off stiff competition to take home the coveted title for the second time.

The Housebuilder Product Awards recognises brands delivering solutions and innovations to the housebuilding industry, supporting new home development. The awards are judged by a panel of industry experts, including representatives from the Future Homes Hub, NHBC and leading national housebuilders.

Over the past 12 months, Keylite has focused on developing products that support housebuilders' transition to low-carbon homes, by aligning with Part L and the Future Homes Standard (FHS).

The ModuLite dormer system offers enhanced thermal performance, exceeding Part L

requirements and its ability to be installed alongside Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels supports compliance with the FHS without compromising kerb appeal.

Offering 25 per cent more natural light compared to traditional dormers, ModuLite creates brighter, higher-value top-floor accommodation. Its contemporary design supports usable roof space without the perceived mass of a third storey, a key appeal for homeowners.

Jim Blanthorne, Managing Director of Keylite Roof Windows Group, said: "We are delighted to have won the title of Best Building Fabric Product for our ModuLite system at this year's Housebuilder

Product Awards. We would like to thank the housebuilders we partner with for their continued support.

“This past year, we have focused on developing products that help housebuilders meet evolving regulations, contribute to the UK’s net zero target by 2050, and deliver proven cost savings for housebuilders.

Now in their 14th year, the awards continue to spotlight excellence in products and systems that support new home development in the UK. A winner’s lunch will take place this summer in London.

As a winner of a Housebuilder Product Award, Keylite has automatically become a finalist in the ‘Product of the Year’ category at the 2026 Housebuilder Awards later this year.

Renowned for its award-winning innovation, Keylite provides a comprehensive range of roof windows, blinds, timber loft ladders, flashings, electric operations kits and accessories.

► **For more information on Keylite Roof Windows, please visit [www.keyliterateofwindows.com](http://www.keyliterateofwindows.com), call 01283 200 158 or email [info@keyliteuk.com](mailto:info@keyliteuk.com).**



# ALLEGION UK SUPPORTS IMPROVED INSTALLATION STANDARDS WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO SERIES

Allegion UK, a leading name in fire safety hardware and manufacturer of Briton door controls, launches a series of new instructional videos. Along with Briton door controls, the fire door hardware pioneer provides an extensive range of innovative fire safety hardware designed to improve the effectiveness of fire doors and has developed a trusted reputation for keeping people safe where they live, learn, work, and connect.

Allegion's new video series provides customers of the Briton 1110 door closers with a visual installation and adjustment guide for the door pull mount, transom mount and parallel arm mount fixing positions. From product unboxing to fixing methods and measurements, the installation videos cover each of the three fixing positions in detail and provide a comprehensive walkthrough of the 1110 installation process.

Kirk Smith, Trade Channel Manager at Allegion UK, commented, 'Inaccurate installation is a major cause of poor product performance and can prevent doors from closing fully, allowing smoke and fire to spread and putting occupants at risk. Properly installed door closers ensure fire doors perform effectively, protecting lives and maintaining compliance.'

To support correct fitting, the core Briton door closer range comes complete with an Accufit peel-and-stick template to simplify installation and improve fitting accuracy. The Accufit system, along with the new installation videos to further promote ease and fitting confidence, demonstrates the fire safety hardware supplier's continuous commitment to improving fire safety standards.

Kirk continues: 'Our priority is promoting and prioritising fire safety, so we know it's critical to help eliminate fitting errors wherever possible. By adding a suite of short and engaging videos to our resources, in addition to our technical datasheets, product certifications and downloadable service and maintenance instructions, we can further support our customers and help to improve safety standards.'

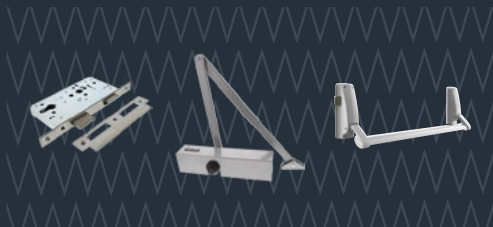
▶ **To discover more about Briton door controls or to view the latest installation support videos, visit [briton.co.uk](http://briton.co.uk) or call 0330 8080 617**



# OVER 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

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## SLIDING DOORS AND BIFOLD DOORS BRING THE OUTSIDE IN FOR A LUXURY SELF-BUILD HOME IN BIDDENHAM

When Martin Shaw began building his dream home in the Bedfordshire countryside, he worked with Solarlux and their partner Spectrum Architectural Glazing to create a highly glazed home that brought the outside indoors.

A combination of Cero III sliding patio doors, Highline bifold doors and a bespoke glazed panel was used to create floor-to-ceiling glazing across two storeys.

### SLIDING DOORS CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING HEAVY WINDS

The glazing needed to be carefully planned to withstand wind loading without compromising aesthetics. Solarlux's precision-engineered aluminium-frame systems offered the ideal combination of strength, weather resistance and elegance.

### ACHIEVING THERMAL EFFICIENCY WITH SLIDING GLASS DOORS

The triple-glazed Cero III system can provide  $U_w$  values of around  $0.8W/m^2k$  and is capable of achieving Class 4 air tightness under EN 12207, indicating minimal air infiltration.

Highline bifold glass doors provide comparable performance, achieving  $U_w$  values of around  $0.8W/m^2K$ , and Class 3 airtightness, contributing to year-round comfort and low energy use.

### COMBINING PREMIUM SLIDING DOORS, BIFOLD DOORS AND BESPOKE GLAZING

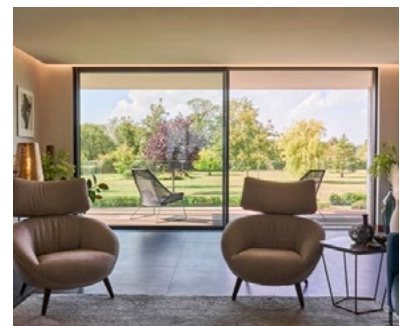
The ultra-narrow sightlines of the Cero III system and minimal vertical frame elements create large, uninterrupted areas of glazing. Each sliding element

can reach up to 6m in height or 4m wide, with a maximum panel area of  $15m^2$ .

As a leading manufacturer of premium aluminium glazing systems, including sliding doors and bifold patio doors, Solarlux has over 40 years' experience and a network of trusted installation partners.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact our team.

[www.solarlux.com](http://www.solarlux.com)





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# ELECTROMAGNETIC DOOR CLOSERS: COMBINING SAFETY & ACCESS CONTROL IN BUSY SPACES



Allegion UK, a leading name in door hardware with a trusted reputation for keeping people safe where they live, learn, work, and connect, discusses how electromagnetic door closers help to improve safety and access in busy buildings. Supplier of the Boss TS7.004 electromagnetic door closer, Allegion UK offers an extensive range of quality, trusted products for metal and timber doors. With a worldwide team of door hardware experts, Allegion UK boasts a reputable family of brands, including Brio, Briton, CISA, Boss Door Controls, UAP, Brisant Secure and Zero.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY WITHOUT DISRUPTION

Ensuring safety and security while maintaining sufficient openness to facilitate ease of movement can often be challenging in modern building design. That's why architects, specifiers, and contractors are increasingly turning to electromagnetic door closers as a smart solution to maintain building safety and better access, particularly in busy corridors where flow and fire safety cannot be compromised.

Busy corridors are the arteries of any commercial or public building, where many people pass through daily. It's therefore important to ensure these thoroughfares remain secure without leading to inconvenient congestion.

Electromagnetic door closers offer an ideal solution for these busy walkways in hotels, hospitals, schools or other commercial buildings. With the unique advantage of holding doors open to allow free, unrestricted movement, these closers instantly release when a fire alarm or security alert is triggered, closing doors firmly to contain fire or to restrict access. This innovative functionality enables buildings to maintain high safety standards without impeding the natural flow of occupants.

## LEE PIPER, SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR AT BOSS DOOR CONTROLS, COMMENTED:

'Electromagnetic door closers allow for a safe, secure environment that doesn't sacrifice

convenience, which is a key consideration when designing and maintaining modern workspaces and public buildings.'

## IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY WHILE SUPPORTING TRAFFIC FLOW

For all types of buildings, considering fire safety is crucial. Engineered to meet the stringent requirements of fire door regulations, electromagnetic door closers are the ideal solution for busy, high-traffic spaces, providing reliable, automatic door closing in emergencies and holding doors open during everyday use.

Lee continues: 'By combining fire safety with access control, electromagnetic door closers help create buildings that are safe and secure but are also practical and easy to use'.

Electromagnetic door closers offer a modern, designed solution, empowering architects, specifiers, and contractors to design and deliver buildings that are safe, secure, and seamlessly functional.

► **To learn more about the TS7.004 electromagnetic door closer from Boss Door Controls, visit [bossdoorcontrols.com](https://bossdoorcontrols.com) or call 01506 467477.**



## Promote Open Access & Prevent Fire Door Damage

Need to ease traffic flow in your busy corridors? The TS7.004 **electromagnetic door closer** with 'hold open' function safely keeps your fire doors open and automatically closes them if the fire alarm is activated.

**Ideal for busy walkways** in hotels, hospitals, schools or commercial buildings.



01506 467477  
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# CASAMIA HOMES ANNOUNCES EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH EVENT TO SHOWCASE PRESTIGIOUS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN ALLESTREE

Derbyshire-based housebuilder Casamia Homes has announced the date of its exclusive launch to showcase its prestigious new development in Allestree.



The private, invite-only event, will be the first opportunity for customers to view detailed plans of The Firs - an exceptional collection just ten luxury new family homes with access across into Allestree Park.

Customers who have registered their interest with Casamia Homes, will be invited to the official launch on Thursday, April 30, at The Kedleston Country House on Kedleston Road in Derby, from 4pm-8pm.

Customers can still register their interest in The Firs by visiting Casamia's website, Casamia Homes, and personal invitations to the event will be sent out soon.

George Tyler, Land and Sales Director at Casamia Homes, said: "We are excited to meet potential Casamia customers at this event but due to the level of interest we have already received, attendance is strictly by RSVP only.

"This development in Allestree perfectly reflects the direction of Casamia Homes – creating design-led, high-quality homes in exceptional locations – and we are very much looking forward to sharing more about The Firs at the launch event. It is particularly rewarding to see our flags flying at what we believe will be a prestigious and landmark development for the area."

On the day, customers will be able to view the development in more detail and will receive the full

marketing material, floor plans, specifications and CGI imagery.

Members of the Casamia sales and construction team will also be on hand during the evening to answer questions about the homes, specification, build programme and reservation process.

Every property at The Firs has been designed for buyers who are seeking generous, well-designed large family homes. They will comprise of high-specification interiors with a wide choice of finishes and upgrades from Casamia's premium suppliers and partners. They will also feature double garages, electric vehicle charging points and solar panels.

Construction is now well underway at the site and completions are scheduled from November 2026.

Danielle Tyler, Marketing Director at Casamia Homes, said: "After drinks and canapes, customers will be able to enjoy an interactive walk-through our digital show home and an interactive 'street view' of the development and each of the homes for sale."

"There will also be opportunities to chat with Fletchers of Duffield, who will be handling the marketing of the development and speak with Hollybeck, who are our independent financial advisors."

For those proceedable purchasers looking to reserve, customers are encouraged to speak with Hollybeck to be financially qualified prior to the event.

In February alongside The Firs, Casamia Homes unveiled Black Fir Farm in Dalbury Lees, and launched its new website.

Casamia is currently inviting early enquiries for Black Fir Farm, with the development expected to be released to the market soon. The scheme will offer three individually designed barn-style homes in a highly sought-after village setting, continuing the company's ambition to create distinctive, design-led homes in some of Derbyshire's most desirable locations.

Alongside its current developments, Casamia has also recently launched Casamia Signature Homes, a new division focused on the design and construction of bespoke, individually commissioned properties for discerning clients seeking homes typically in excess of £1m, further strengthening the company's commitment to delivering high-quality, carefully crafted homes.

George added: "We have chosen to hold the launch event for The Firs at The Kedleston Country House Hotel as it is just a stone's throw from the site."

"We are very much looking forward to meeting those

who have already registered their interest in The Firs and to presenting our plans for what we believe will be one of the most exciting new developments in Derby.

"Interest ahead of the launch has been extremely encouraging, and we anticipate the event will create significant momentum, with a number of reservations expected to be secured as purchasers see first-hand the quality, setting and level of specification being delivered at The Firs."

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



# REWRITING THE SURFACE

Karta Introduces Oversized Herringbone at Clerkenwell Design Week 2026.



"Resilient flooring" remains widely defined by materials that rely on plastics and petrochemicals. For a category specified at scale across commercial environments, this presents a growing challenge, both in material impact and long-term recovery.

Karta was developed to offer a different approach. Created within the Ted Todd Group and informed by over three decades of timber expertise, it applies a deeper understanding of natural materials to the demands of contemporary interiors. Karta delivers a flooring system engineered from circular components, designed to perform in high-use environments without relying on plastic.

At Clerkenwell Design Week 2026, Karta returns with a clear next step in that evolution. Building on the success of its Recycled Leather Series, the brand introduces a new oversized herringbone format, reimagining a familiar pattern at a more architectural scale. These greater proportions to the traditional format allow for stronger visual presence across open-plan spaces, while supporting more considered zoning, transitions, and layout design.

This development extends the same construction that underpins the existing collection. Each 200mm by 900mm click-system plank is formed from five layers of natural and reclaimed materials, including cork for acoustic comfort and integrated underlay, a PEFC-certified wood fibre core for strength and stability, and a recycled leather layer that diverts

post-industrial waste from landfill. The surface is created using high-definition scans of real timber, drawn from the Ted Todd and Woodworks archives, delivering authentic variation with no repeats across more than 40 boards. A plastic-free Karta Plated® topcoat achieves AC5 durability, supporting use across demanding commercial settings.

With the introduction of this new development, designers can now work with a more expressive format while retaining the same material integrity and environmental credentials as they have achieved in existing Karta projects.

Visitors to Clerkenwell Design Week will be able to experience the full Recycled Leather Series, including the new herringbone format, at stand CG21 in Commercial Interiors on the Green. Karta's commercial flooring team will be on hand to guide attendees through both surface detail and structure, from the histories of the original timber through to the layers beneath.

Karta's return marks a continued industry shift toward responsible material choices, offering a considered path forward for sustainable flooring specification.

**▶ Discover the next chapter in circular flooring at Clerkenwell Design Week, May 19-21 2026**

[www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com](http://www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com)

# Karta



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The next chapter of our revolutionary Recycled Leather Series.  
Engineered from recycled and reclaimed wood fibre, cork, and  
leather diverted from landfill, with zero plastics or petrochemicals.

**Be among the first to discover Karta's new  
oversized herringbone at Clerkenwell Design Week 2026.**



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# FIVE WOOL CARPET TRENDS FOR CONTEMPORARY HOMES

Wool carpets continue to define modern interiors with their natural beauty, comfort and lasting performance.



As homeowners increasingly look for flooring that combines timeless style with practical durability, wool carpets are becoming a natural choice for contemporary living.

From textured loop piles to nature-inspired colours, today's wool carpet trends reflect a growing desire for warmth, texture and authenticity underfoot. Here are five key trends shaping modern wool carpets.

## CHUNKY WEAVE WOOL CARPETS

Chunky weave wool carpets are becoming a defining feature of modern interiors. Their tactile texture creates visual depth and a relaxed, natural look that works particularly well in living rooms and bedrooms.

Interior designers are embracing woven and chunky textures to bring warmth and character into contemporary spaces, adding a sense of comfort without overwhelming the room.

These styles are particularly effective in loop pile constructions, where the natural structure of wool yarns creates a beautifully defined surface that maintains its appearance over time.

Chunky weaves work especially well in:

- Family living spaces
- Bedrooms
- Open-plan interiors
- Country-inspired homes

## NEUTRAL TONES WITH NATURAL WARMTH

Warm neutrals are replacing cooler greys as homeowners seek softer, more inviting interiors. Shades such as beige, taupe and sandstone create calm spaces that feel both modern and timeless.

Neutral wool carpets provide a versatile foundation that complements both traditional and contemporary schemes. These tones also enhance the natural appearance of wool fibres, giving carpets a subtle richness and depth.

Popular neutral tones include:

- Soft beiges
- Warm stone colours
- Natural taupes
- Cream and oat shades

## COSY CONTEMPORARY

Modern homes increasingly combine clean design with comfortable finishes, creating what many describe as a cosy contemporary aesthetic.

Wool carpets naturally support this look thanks to their warmth and softness. The natural crimp of wool fibres creates a cushioned feel underfoot while helping to retain heat, making spaces feel more comfortable throughout the year.

This balance between simplicity and comfort makes wool carpets particularly suited to:

- Modern family homes
- Renovated period properties
- Minimalist interiors with warmth
- Relaxed living spaces

## LAYERED TEXTURES FOR DEPTH

Texture layering has become one of the most influential interior trends, with homeowners combining materials such as wood, linen and wool to create more interesting spaces.

Wool carpets play a key role in this trend by introducing subtle texture that complements other soft furnishings and natural materials.

These layered textures help rooms feel more welcoming while adding understated visual interest.

### SOFT GREENS AND SANDY YELLOWS

Nature-inspired colours are becoming increasingly popular in modern flooring, reflecting a wider move towards organic interiors.

Soft greens bring a calming influence to interiors, while sandy yellows introduce gentle warmth without dominating the space.

These tones work particularly well alongside:

- Natural wood furniture
- Neutral wall colours
- Soft textiles
- Earth-inspired palettes

Together, they create interiors that feel connected to the natural world while remaining elegant and contemporary.

► [www.causewaycarpets.com](http://www.causewaycarpets.com)

### WHY WOOL CARPETS REMAIN A MODERN FAVOURITE

While trends evolve, wool carpets continue to stand out because of their unique combination of style and performance.

Wool is naturally durable and resilient, helping carpets maintain their appearance even in busy areas of the home.

As a natural fibre, wool is also:

- Renewable and sustainable
- Naturally insulating and warm
- Comfortable underfoot
- Resistant to dirt and wear

### A NATURAL CHOICE FOR CONTEMPORARY LIVING

From chunky weaves and textured surfaces to warm neutrals and natural colours, today's wool carpet trends reflect a move towards interiors that feel comfortable, authentic and timeless.

Combining natural materials with modern design, wool carpets offer a flooring solution that works beautifully in both contemporary and traditional homes. With their durability, warmth and enduring style, it's easy to see why wool carpets remain one of the most popular choices for today's living spaces.



# SPRING STARTS UNDERFOOT WITH STORIES FLOORING'S CALMING NATURAL FINISHES

As the seasons shift and interiors begin to feel lighter, flooring is emerging as one of the most effective ways to bring a softer, more nature-led feel into the home.



As the seasons shift and interiors begin to feel lighter, flooring is emerging as one of the most effective ways to bring a softer, more nature-led feel into the home.

Moving away from the darker, heavier looks of winter, independent flooring retailer Stories Flooring is championing warm woods, gentle oak tones and tactile finishes that capture the calm, fresh mood of spring.

From golden brushed boards to elegant herringbone designs and softly oiled finishes, the collection shows how natural flooring can transform a space with warmth, texture and understated character.

Yarl Christie, Founder of Stories Flooring, said: "As we move into spring, many homeowners are looking for ways to make their interiors feel lighter, calmer and more connected to nature, and flooring plays a huge part in that.

"At this time of year, there is a real shift away from the darker, heavier looks associated with winter and towards materials that bring warmth in a softer, more organic way. Engineered oak flooring is ideal for that because it combines timeless character with the kind of natural texture and gentle tones that work beautifully in spring-inspired interiors."

Stories Flooring's Lusso Novara Herringbone Smoked Brushed & Lacquered Engineered Oak is a beautiful earthy herringbone with a gorgeous brushed texture, which brings an instant sense



of calm to any space. What's more, its timeless chevron-style pattern adds luxury and movement.

Another herringbone design - Lusso Rome Herringbone Brushed & Lacquered Golden Engineered Oak - is a durable beauty brimming with elegance and packed with character. Its honey-coloured finish is ideal for the changing season with its golden tones offering a refreshing feel.

For those homeowners who prefer their flooring in a planked format, Lusso Uniqo Golden Brushed & Lacquered Engineered Oak Flooring's brushed finish enhances the wood's natural grain, adding texture and depth. What's more, it's lacquered finish makes it a great choice for busy households.

And finally, with its soft wheat-toned finish and natural oiled texture, Lusso Sorrento is a perfect fit for spring interiors, bringing a light, easy warmth to the home while celebrating the grain and character of real oak.

Yarl added: "Whether it's a golden plank floor or a softer take on herringbone, nature-led flooring brings lasting warmth and character to the home while tapping into the lighter, more organic mood of the new season."

Stories Flooring's range of nature-led, spring-inspired flooring is available now, with prices starting at £32.99 per m<sup>2</sup>.

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

# SIGNATURE50 A NEW NAME FOR A HAVWOODS CLASSIC

As leading timber surface specialist, Havwoods, celebrates 50 years of design-led excellence across the world, the brand has marked this important milestone in true Havwoods fashion. To commemorate the occasion, the brand is honouring one of its most popular products with a history-defining name.

One of the brand's most popular products with homeowners and interior designers, the surface previously known as Fendi will become Signature50. Known for its smoky grey tones that drift effortlessly from warm to cool, Fendi has been a perennial favourite for years.

At home in traditional and contemporary homes, this beautiful surface has brought a distinctive blend of style, depth and intrigue to thousands of stunning interiors across the globe. These iconic characteristics help Fendi - renamed Signature50 - to remain an integral and enduring centrepiece of aspirational interiors worldwide.

With a variety of plank lengths and parquet patterns including chevron, herringbone and Versailles to choose from, the timeless style of this stunning board not only looks timeless, but its multi-layered engineered construction means it can keep up with the demands of modern living.

Everything that Havwoods customers know and love about Fendi, including the product aesthetic and specifications, will remain the same as the brand celebrates its heritage and transitions Fendi to its exciting new name for the future.

[www.havwoods.com/uk](http://www.havwoods.com/uk)



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# SWIMMING POOL GLAZING IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

Old High Mill is a private leisure wing and pool hall extension to an existing home near Bedale that showcases swimming pool glazing in North Yorkshire.



The new glazed wing brings together slim sliding openings to the terrace, large-format structural glass walls, a series of frameless rooflights and carefully detailed aluminium windows to create a bright, durable and low-maintenance pool environment finished in RAL 7021.

The main pool elevation uses ultra-slim sliding doors to give wide, easy access for poolside circulation and summer ventilation. Selected assemblies were specified with a marine grade coating to withstand the corrosive atmosphere typical of chlorinated spaces. Thresholds, drainage and perimeter details were coordinated to keep lines clean while managing splash water.

Beyond the sliding openings, fixed structural glazing creates expansive picture windows with crisp glass-to-glass junctions that align with the roof geometry so the pool hall reads as a single, clear volume. Vertical panes are tied into the roof glazing with silicone jointed connections, maintaining an uninterrupted sightline from water level up into the sky, for this swimming pool glazing in North Yorkshire.

Daylight is brought deep into the plan by a ribbon of frameless rooflights arranged as single and multi pane runs. The roof glazing was detailed for pool specific performance, with warm edge spacers, robust perimeter seals and concealed support to



manage humidity and reduce condensation risk while keeping the interior evenly daylight.

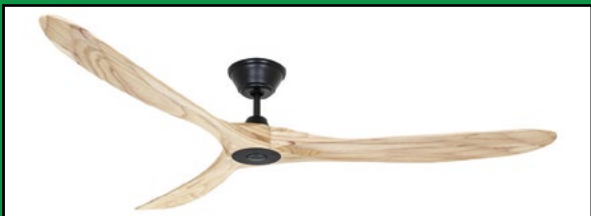
Elsewhere, Sieger HD aluminium windows provide controlled ventilation and emergency escape where required. Hardware and hinges were selected for resistance to chlorine, and opening lights incorporate trickle ventilation and cills to suit the pool specification without adding visual clutter to the elevations.

Quality and durability measures were built into the package. Key oversized panes were heat soak tested to reduce the risk of spontaneous breakage, and crane lifts were used to place units safely without compromising edge quality. All visible aluminium was finished in RAL 7021 for a coherent exterior that complements the mill context and surrounding landscape. The finished pool hall is a clear example of swimming pool glazing in North Yorkshire, combining transparency, resilience and precise detailing.

If you are planning swimming pool glazing in North Yorkshire or elsewhere in Yorkshire, our team can advise on door configurations, structural glass design and rooflight strategies tailored to pool environments.

► [www.iqglassuk.com](http://www.iqglassuk.com)  
Photography - Gary Wilson

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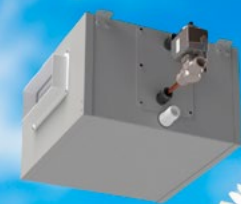
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## THE IMPORTANCE OF THERMALLY ISOLATING BUILDING ENVELOPES

In the UK, a staggering 45% of all carbon emissions stem from the building environment, with domestic buildings contributing 27% alone. In the pursuit of a more sustainable future, integrating energy efficient solutions into building structures is paramount.

There are a number of important areas within a building envelope where thermal bridges can occur, which are often overlooked in the initial design phase. These are significant culprits of energy loss, and often compromise the overall efficiency of a building. To combat this, innovative solutions like Armatherm's thermal breaks play a crucial role.

### So, how do thermal breaks work?

These cutting-edge materials can be seamlessly integrated into various structural connections within a building, from foundations to roofs. Incorporating thermal breaks, particularly in balcony and column base applications, yields significant reductions in energy transfer, resulting

in a cost-effective and reliable solution.

### What are the benefits?

By identifying and addressing potential thermal bridging points during the initial design phase, architects, specifiers and developers can make informed decisions that optimise energy efficiency. The reality is, however, they're often overlooked and not specified, which can render other costly energy-saving solutions redundant.

Failure to prioritise thermal breaks can hinder achieving desirable R values necessary for sustainable construction. Such oversight not only jeopardises compliance with regulations like the 2008 Climate Change Act, but also undermines broader sustainability goals.

Thermal breaks emerge as one of the most significant investments which can be made during a major construction project, contributing substantially to the creation of



sustainable, energy efficient structures that align with regulatory standards, and of future environmental targets.

➡ For guidance on selecting the most suitable thermal break materials for your project, visit [www.armatherm.co.uk](http://www.armatherm.co.uk).



# CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK LAUNCHES NEW INSTALLATION SERIES: ‘DESIGN INTERVENTIONS’ AND EXPANDED CDW AWARDS

Clerkenwell Design Week (CDW) is pleased to announce it will be returning to London’s EC1 on the 19 – 21 May 2026. Marking the 15th anniversary of this global design festival, a new curated series of large-scale installations will be launched called Design Interventions.

Following a call-out from CDW to emerging and established designers and architects for ideas for innovative structures, the strongest submissions will be installed across Clerkenwell. These will encourage interaction and spark conversations about materials and the built environment, while activating EC1 with striking, immersive moments throughout the festival.

In addition, a major highlight this year will be the expanded CDW Awards, presented with the digital design magazine Design Milk. The CDW Awards will not only celebrate the best new products and innovations but also the disruptors, dreamers and ‘doers of design’.

## DESIGN INTERVENTIONS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT AND CONNECT

These site-specific, interactive installations, created by the design and architecture community, will

appear in the parks, streets and green spaces of Clerkenwell, as well as in the festival’s venues. Many of these pop-up structures will provide a place to sit, reflect and connect with others while exploring structural and material concepts.

One of the many Design Interventions selected for this year will be on Clerkenwell Green. The Fountain of Technicolour Beads (pictured above), has been created by Hong Kong-based multi-disciplinary studio One Bite Design. This immersive terrazzo installation integrates spatial design with social awareness by focusing on Colour Vision Deficiency (CVD). And next to St James’ Church, The Crinkle-Crinkle Bench (pictured above) will take pride of place. This series of half crescent benches crafted from natural stone bricks is designed by architectural practice StudioFolk.

## EXPANDED CDW AWARDS AND NEW VENUES

Haberdashers' Hall, will be a new addition to CDW's list of spectacular venues. Known as The Luxury Edit during the show, this new venue will be hosting the CDW Awards ceremony on Tuesday 19th May, presented in partnership with Design Milk. Following a strong debut last year, the awards will once again celebrate furniture, lighting, materials and interior solutions that are shaping the future of design. New categories will focus on the individuals, teams and ideas challenging conventions and celebrating the creatives driving design forward today. In addition, as well as being home to a cluster of high-end Italian design brands, The Luxury Edit will host the talks series Design Meets featuring industry bodies, leading brands and industry experts.

A 'living' outdoor installation, The Pulse of Becoming, will animate the space outside The Luxury Edit. This Design Intervention, created by recent graduates Musab Umair, Amruta Ramesh Pullawar and Sharath Binu John who are based in Portsmouth, explores the cyclical nature of death, rebirth and life. Chia seeds embedded in two opposing crescent shells will sprout during the festival, turning bare surfaces green.

The Museum of the Order of St John above St John's Gate (originally built in 1504) is one of the great hidden historical treasures of London and is another new venue for the festival. The atmospheric space, steeped in history, will be the temporary home to INTERIORS FROM SPAIN, a striking platform for contemporary Spanish design produced by London-based design journal Disegno.



Material Source Studio, which showcases products and materials for architects, interior designers and property professionals, and Workplace on the Square outside The Zetter hotel, a platform for design brands catering to offices, are two new additions to CDW's wide range of venues for 2026. Office design brands will also be exhibiting at Workplace at Goldsmiths' at The Goldsmiths' Centre which returns as a festival venue this year.

## RETURNING VENUES, NEW INSTALLATIONS

St Bartholomew the Great once again becomes the Church of Design, this year's venue for the coveted Conversations at Clerkenwell programme curated by PR and Brand Consultant Katie Richardson, which will include discussions with leading and emerging designers on topical subjects. Dulux, this year's sponsor for Conversations at Clerkenwell, is launching a student-focused competition to design the backdrop of the talks stage using a palette of on-trend colours.

Roche Bobois, DEDON and MAGIS Spa are among the many leading international brands exhibiting at the Church of Design, and CONFLUENCE (pictured above), a monumental origami-inspired installation by Fung+Bedford, will be suspended from the ceiling of the 900-year-old Grade I listed medieval church.

The House of Detention returns as the host of Light, showcasing a selection of exciting local and global lighting brands. Visitors will be greeted at the entrance with Loom Light, a 3D-printed light

sculpture drawing on the optical language of Op Art, designed by MIMStudios, AI Build and SEAM Design. [d]arc thoughts, an enlightening series of talks curated by [d]arc media, also returns.

“We’re thrilled to be back in Clerkenwell this May with our new Design Interventions initiative which acts as a creative platform for the incredible talent and imagination of the participating architects and designers,” says Marlon Cera-Marle, Design Division Director at Media 10, the organiser of the annual design festival. “These thought-provoking installations are set to bring a new interactive dimension to the show. We’re looking forward to another successful year welcoming tens of thousands of people from the UK and abroad to EC1 to discover the latest that global design has to offer.”

A mix of historic and contemporary buildings will once again become venues during CDW26.

- **Old Sessions House** - Home to brand activations, presentations and the festival hub.
- **The Charterhouse** - Contemporary furniture, decorative lighting and luxury finishes.
- **Detail & Finishes** - Featuring refined luxury products and finishes in St John Priory Church.
- **British Collection** - Taking over the whole of St James’s Church once again and highlighting the best British design talent and brands.
- **Ceramics of Italy** - Hosting Italian ceramic and porcelain tile brands at a pavilion on St John’s Square. This exhibition is organised by the Italian Trade Agency in collaboration with the Ceramics Association of Italy.
- **Commercial Design in the Park** (formerly Project) - Focused on contract furniture and surface design, the venue will also host a series of talks from Commercial Interiors UK.
- **Commercial Interiors on the Green** (formerly Clerkenwell Green Pavilions) - contract furniture, solutions and surfaces brands from around the globe.
- **Interior Hardware** (formerly Elements) - Dedicated to architectural hardware and finishes.
- **Future Talent** (formerly Platform) - Spotighting emerging design talent and companies.

## INTERNATIONAL DESIGN NAMES

Across all venues, CDW will feature hundreds of design brands, showcasing furniture, lighting, textiles, surfaces, home accessories and product design. Confirmed exhibitors include String Furniture, Moroso, Swedese, Dornbracht and Vincent Sheppard. Collections from Austria, Denmark and Italy will also return.



Hundreds of showroom partners are an essential part of Clerkenwell Design Week as they host product launches, talks and workshops. A small taste of participating showrooms include: Actiu, Andreu World, Boss Design, Camira, Domus, HAY, Hansgrohe, Herman Miller, Humanscale, J.Adams & Co, Knoll, Muuto, Milliken, Modus, Iris Ceramica, Knoll, Tarkett and Cosentino.

## INTERACTIVE APP

A new state-of-the-art app replaces the printed, paper guide and tickets in 2026. The CDW app will be an essential digital companion for visitors, helping them tailor their visit and navigate the venues, exhibitors, participating showrooms and much more according to their specific interests.

## FOOD & DRINK

Festival-goers can also enjoy exclusive discounts and offerings from local food and drink partners. Architects and interior designers will have the opportunity to join guided specialist tours covering topics ranging from sustainability to emerging design talent and more.

► **Clerkenwell Design Week 2026 takes place across EC1, London, from 19 - 21 May. More details about the festival will be announced in due course. For more information, please visit [www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com](http://www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com) - registration is**



**CLERKENWELL  
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**19-21 MAY 2026**

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# FINSA ELEVATES SURFACES FOR PREMIUM INTERIORS



Finsa has cemented its position as the go-to strategic partner for interior designers, joiners, and manufacturers. Rather than presenting isolated products, Finsa offers an intelligent environment connecting your design concepts directly with industry. By simplifying the specification process, Finsa provides the innovative material solutions necessary to ensure flawless execution across your commercial projects and premium cabinetry.

## HABITAT 360: A TOTAL COLLECTION FOR HABITAT

To streamline the creation of harmonious spaces, Finsa redefined material selection with the Habitat 360 ecosystem. Positioned as a One-Stop-Shop offering unprecedented creative capability, this platform features over 18 decorative ranges and 422 design references. By utilising the Total Look system, it empowers you to coordinate surfaces and accessories across every application, connecting your vision from concept to installation.

## A NEW DIMENSION IN SURFACE TEXTURE

Premium interiors rely on the transformative capabilities of deep texture. Finsa leads this material advancement with two standout innovations redefining architectural relief:

- **FibraPan® Tex:** Combining the stability of MDF with deep embossed textures. Available in eight distinct designs, it provides a flawless, paintable surface that effortlessly delivers high-end structural depth while eliminating the expensive complexities associated with custom-routed profiles.
- **FibraPan® Tex Natur:** Elevating this tactile experience, this collection pairs identical architectural relief with natural wood veneer. It

seamlessly marries dramatic texture depth with the innate warmth of real timber, featuring premium oak and walnut compositions from the Studio Natur collection. Delivering a natural sensory experience, it instantly elevates any project.

## A NEW VISION FOR AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

Complementing the bold geometry of Finsa's Textured Panel Range, the Fabric range captures the genuine essence of authentic materials. This ready-to-use luxury surface eliminates traditional upholstery's complexity and cost, enabling the specification of rich finishes with the total efficiency of a standard panel. The collection features:

- **Suede:** Utilising authentic suede, this finish delivers sophisticated tactile warmth and visual depth, effortlessly elevating the sensory experience of your interior applications.
- **Linum (Linen):** Capturing the refined elegance of woven linen, this finish provides a highly authentic, textured surface that brings a sophisticated lightness and visual interest to your designs.
- **Pelle (Leather):** Utilising recycled natural leather, this finish provides a rich, high-end surface that seamlessly integrates the premium character of authentic leather directly into your projects.

## THE DEFINITIVE STRATEGIC PARTNER

By relentlessly pushing the boundaries of innovation in surface texture, Finsa dramatically expands your decorative possibilities. Through the Habitat 360 ecosystem, Finsa ensures these ambitious design concepts are fully supported by industrial reality. By seamlessly bridging the gap between aesthetic vision and technical execution, Finsa remains the definitive strategic partner for your premium interior projects.

[www.finsa.com](http://www.finsa.com)



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# Finsa

# TILE OF SPAIN REVEALS 2026 TILE TRENDS

Tile of Spain has unveiled four key ceramic tile trends set to influence interiors in 2026, highlighting a growing focus on natural materials, emotional design, heritage inspiration and expressive luxury. Presented at the brand's annual conference in Spain, the trends reflect how Spanish tile design continues to evolve while staying rooted in its Mediterranean heritage, craftsmanship and high-quality materials.

## GEOMATTER

This trend reconnects interiors with earth-inspired materials and geological textures. Surfaces reflect erosion, mineral layers and natural variation, celebrating imperfections in stone, clay and sediment. Subtle reliefs, grainy finishes and tonal shifts create sensory depth, producing grounded, durable spaces that emphasise authenticity, conscious design and a lasting connection to nature.

## INNERLAND

Innerland transforms homes into calming retreats from fast-paced digital life. Interiors prioritise wellbeing through softness, warmth and sensory

experience. Tiles feature subtle textures and gentle colours, including warm neutrals, muted earth tones and soft pastels, creating comforting, tactile spaces that foster relaxation, emotional connection and a sense of familiarity.

## HERITAGE PLAY

Heritage Play reimagines historic patterns and artisanal craftsmanship using modern colours, larger formats and creative layouts. Traditional motifs and architectural influences are refreshed with playful energy, creating a dialogue between past and present. Patterned tiles and handcrafted effects add warmth, character and storytelling, making heritage design relevant for contemporary interiors.

## OPULIS

Opulis embraces expressive elegance with bold textures, intricate details and sophisticated finishes. Tiles feature sculptural reliefs, layered surfaces and glossy accents, creating visual drama and sensory impact. This trend prioritises atmosphere over traditional luxury, turning ceramic surfaces into captivating focal points that enhance depth, movement and richness.

[www.tileofspain.com](http://www.tileofspain.com)



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# A HIDDEN CENTRAL LONDON SANCTUARY

Project by Pfeiffer Design.



This striking maisonette apartment in Fulham was reimagined from the ground up by interior and architectural design studio, Pfeiffer Design. A spacepacked with potential, the original layout lacked both flow and functionality.

The knowledgeable design team reconfigured the interior to optimise light, space and everyday living, as well as adding a new upper floor leading to a hidden rooftop terrace - a rare find in the heart of the city.

A beautiful representation of how bespoke design works best in tight spaces, the team centred on intelligent spatial planning by moving the staircase, streamlining each room and creating valuable square footage throughout. The result is a home that is perfectly suited to the needs of the homeowner, with quality craftsmanship and premium materials at the forefront.

## KITCHEN

The kitchen is a warm and light-filled heart of the home, where craftsmanship and quiet luxury come together beautifully. Hand-finished frameless wood cabinetry forms the backbone of the design, enhanced with fluted detailing that adds texture and interest. The premium stone splashback and

waterfall worktop on the island is a truly unique design element, drawing the eye in but also providing space for bar stools.

Carefully integrated in-built wall storage provides additional space for crockery and a breakfast nook - without encroaching on the room - paired with glass-front cabinetry which helps with the feeling of openness. The warm wood cabinetry is complemented by modern oak chevron flooring, allowing the kitchen to seamlessly flow into the open-plan living area.

## OPEN-PLAN LIVING AREA

A versatile and layered space, the open-plan living area balances openness with moments of retreat. A bespoke sliding barn door between the living area and the kitchen offers the homeowner the flexibility to connect the spaces for entertaining or close them off for a more intimate setting. A custom-made media unit provides generous storage and the dining area is thoughtfully positioned within the large bay window to make the most of the light.

Tucked quietly off the main living space, a compact home office offers a practical yet refined workspace with plenty of bespoke storage and natural light. Throughout, the warm wood tones

of the flooring and kitchen are echoed in the media and office areas to ensure visual continuity and softness - while tailored window treatments introduce an additional layer of softness.

## BEDROOMS

The two bedrooms are calm, restorative sanctuaries, united by a shared palette of soft neutrals warmed with subtle undertones of cream and greige. Gentle accents of pink and blue are layered through colourful accessories and soft furnishings, while bespoke wardrobe storage in each bedroom provides generous, tailored space for clothing - ensuring elegant and uncluttered living. In the main bedroom, the team transformed a small corner into a dedicated vanity area, complete with a floating tabletop and stool.

## BATHROOMS

Serene and spa-like, the bathrooms combine a neutral palette with rich, statement detailing that create a sense of quiet indulgence. Soft whites and layered stone surfaces with dramatic veining form a timeless backdrop, complemented with fluted elements across both wall tiles, a statement sink and a sculptural bath. Dark bronze and matt black finishes introduce contrasting depth and sophistication, giving a contemporary edge to the interiors.

The result feels both calming and refined, balancing subtle luxury with enduring elegance.

## PRIVATE ROOFTOP

The defining feature of this project is the addition of the private rooftop terrace which sits above the London skyline. After the challenging task of gaining planning permission, the creation of this new upper floor included an automated roof hatch accessed via a newly stacked staircase which elegantly connects the outdoor to the indoor. Combining timber decking, a comfortable lounge area and lush greenery, the result is a versatile and generous space for hosting all year round.

Working with a trusted team of architects, structural engineers, contractors, specialist trades and experts in bespoke joinery and upholstery, Pfeiffer Design managed the entire project from planning to execution - ensuring a seamless experience for the homeowner.

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



# MINIMALIST GLASS BALUSTRADE FROM PURE VISTA

Introducing Pure Vista's brand-new frameless glass balustrade system- POSI-Lite.



An innovative and lightweight balustrade system designed for residential environments. Focused on user-friendliness and efficiency, the new system is the perfect balance of quality, performance, and affordability, making it an excellent choice for residential applications.

## FRAMELESS GLASS BALUSTRADE DESIGNED FOR THE HOME

POSI-Lite is tested to 0.74kN according to BSI Standards, making it the ideal solution for domestic projects. The frameless glass balustrade system can be installed both indoors and outdoors. It creates a safety barrier and windbreak on a balcony or outdoor terrace while maintaining open views and clean lines. A frameless glass balustrade can seamlessly integrate into interior design. It is suitable for use on mezzanines and staircases, maximising light and delivering a sleek, modern aesthetic.

One of the standout features of POSI-Lite is Pure Vista's patented glass clamp. This unique design allows either side of the glass clamp to be adjusted, providing a tilt capability of up to 2 degrees. This feature allows for horizontal adjustment of the glass, ensuring accurate installation on uneven surfaces.

When it comes to installation, POSI-Lite has been crafted with simplicity in mind. It utilises just three adjustable glass clamps per metre, compared to the conventional four clamps. This not only streamlines the installation process but also makes it significantly easier and faster to fit. The aluminium top bead has been removed and replaced by an all-in-one, easy-fit gasket that simply hooks and pushes into the channel's top recess, ensuring a hassle-free installation.

The versatile system is offered in base, side, and edge mounting options, available in a brushed silver or black finish.

## KEY BENEFITS

- Lightweight
- Cost-effective
- Tested to 0.74kN
- Quick and easy to install
- Compatible with the Edge Mounting Plate and Timber Fixing Plates
- Compatible with glass thicknesses 12-21.5mm
- Available in Silver and Black

► For more information, visit [www.pure-vista.com](http://www.pure-vista.com)

# POSI-Lite



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# DO I NEED TO UPGRADE MY LIFT TO AN EVACUATION LIFT?

Evacuation lifts are becoming a necessary requirement. If you have a passenger lift, it's essential to check whether new regulations mandate that it should be an evacuation lift.

Whether you need to upgrade your lift depends on your building's specific requirements. Some buildings may necessitate entirely new evacuation lifts, while others may simply need to modernise existing passenger lifts to meet the latest evacuation standards.

In situations where a stay-put fire evacuation strategy is implemented, having an evacuation lift becomes crucial, especially when that lift serves as the primary escape route for individuals with limited mobility. Evacuation lifts are essential for people with mobility impairments or disabilities and are vital for general use in emergency situations.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER:

### Building Regulations:

There may be specific requirements from local planning authorities.

There might be particular guidelines regarding evacuation lifts, which could be influenced by the London Plan or other regulations.

### Fire Risk Assessment:

A fire risk assessment will determine whether a lift not originally designed for evacuation can be used to evacuate disabled individuals.

### Building Design:

The overall design of the building, along with refuge areas and a secondary power supply, will influence the feasibility of upgrading to an evacuation lift.

### Lift Type:

Generally, passenger lifts can be modernised to meet evacuation lift standards, and many existing lifts can be upgraded for evacuation purposes. Platform lifts however, can not be modernised for evacuation use purposes due to the lift speed.

### Standards:

BS 8899 provides guidance for using existing lifts in fire evacuation, while BS 9991 outlines the design requirements.

EN 81-76 is the new standard for evacuation lifts, which is expected to be published in late 2025.

## IKONIC LIFTS ADVICE:

### Conduct a Fire Risk Assessment:

Ensure that a comprehensive fire risk assessment is performed to determine the necessity and suitability of an evacuation lift.

### Seek Professional Advice:

Consult with a lift specialist to evaluate the feasibility of modernising your existing lift to meet evacuation standards.

### Consider the Cost:

The cost of modernisation can vary significantly depending on the modifications required.

### Factor in Maintenance:

Regular maintenance and inspections are essential, including necessary communication tests.

While existing lifts can often be upgraded, some buildings may require new evacuation lifts. Individual assessments will be needed for each building. Feel free to contact our friendly experts who can attend onsite and complete an evaluation.

iKONIC Lifts is a specialist lift company based in the UK, offering services in lift design, consultation, supply, and installation. Our expertise includes low headroom and pit lifts, as well as firefighter and evacuation lifts.

At iKONIC, we provide comprehensive support for all your vertical transportation needs. This includes consultancy, design, installation, and testing – all for one price from a single partner. With our extensive experience and a wide range of products, backed by our accreditations, there's no need to work with multiple companies.

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# FUTUREPROOF YOUR HOME; ENHANCING ITS LOOKS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Home accessibility is very much a hot topic, lifting it beyond being just a 'trend' instead making it a fundamental necessity for ageing in place.

As we envision our living spaces, it's essential to create a home that not only reflects our own creativity and the way we live now, but also an environment which looks forward to changing needs as we age. This is where the beauty and practicality of a homelift comes into its own.

Imagine a home which evolves with you, providing easy access to every level within the home, whether that's two storeys or four, ensuring you can continue living in your own space without compromise, no matter your stage of life.

A homelift isn't a luxury product nor is it a beige item of medical-looking equipment. Today's homelifts are a thoughtful, attractive and discreet addition prioritising safety, comfort, and independence for years to come. By integrating one of the stunning c

lear-sided lift models now available into your home, navigating multi-story living and making every corner of your house accessible will be there, at the push of a button, when you need it.

As new builds trend towards multi-storey designs, embrace a home which evolves with your family's needs; a

home where you can spend time with friends and family keeping memories intact for future generations. Installing a homelift creates a harmonious blend of style, safety, and functionality. Something that your future self will thank you for.

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## PLANNING ON BUILDING AN EXTENSION? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO STAY ON TIME AND ON BUDGET

Building an extension remains one of the most effective ways to add space and long-term value to a home, but it is rarely as straightforward as many expect.

Projects that begin with excitement can quickly become challenging if budgets are stretched or timelines slip. In most cases, success comes down to the decisions made long before construction even begins.

I'm Costel Radescu founder of the CR Group and here's what you need to do to stay on time and on budget

### SETTING A REALISTIC BUDGET

One of the most common pitfalls in extension projects is underestimating the true cost. While average build costs per square metre can provide a useful benchmark, they rarely reflect the full financial picture. Alongside construction, homeowners must account for professional fees,

planning costs, VAT, and a range of smaller but essential expenses.

A well-prepared budget should also include a contingency fund. Unexpected issues, such as ground conditions or structural adjustments, are a normal part of building work, but without a financial buffer, they can quickly place strain on both the project and the client. A realistic and comprehensive budget from the outset provides a far stronger foundation for decision-making throughout the build.

Beyond the main construction work, there are numerous additional costs that can be overlooked. External works such as landscaping and drainage, building control fees, and temporary living arrangements during the build all contribute to the overall expense.

Individually, these items may appear manageable, but together they can add a significant amount to the final figure. Recognising and planning for these costs early helps to avoid unexpected financial pressure as the project progresses.

## UNDERSTANDING THE FULL TIMELINE

Time is another factor that is frequently underestimated. While the construction phase itself may only take a few months, the overall process, from initial design to completion, often spans the best part of a year.

Early stages such as concept design, planning approval, and technical detailing require patience and careful coordination. Delays here can have a ripple effect across the entire project. Rushing into construction without fully resolving these steps often leads to complications that ultimately extend the timeline rather than shorten it.

## GETTING THE PLANNING STAGE RIGHT

The planning phase is about far more than simply gaining approval; establishing whether a project falls under permitted development or requires full planning permission is just the starting point. The quality and completeness of the application itself can significantly influence how smoothly the process runs.

Incomplete submissions or unclear drawings are a frequent cause of delays. Taking the time to prepare thorough, accurate documentation not only improves the likelihood of approval but also reduces ambiguity later in the project. In many ways, this stage sets the tone for everything that follows.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TEAM

The professionals involved in an extension project will have a direct impact on its success. An experienced architect, a competent structural engineer, and a reliable contractor form the backbone of any build.

While cost is always a consideration, choosing a team based solely on the lowest quote can be a false economy. Lower prices often reflect missing details or unrealistic assumptions, which can lead to additional costs once work is underway. A more effective approach is to compare detailed,



transparent quotes and prioritise experience, communication, and proven delivery.

## LOCKING DOWN THE DESIGN

Design changes during construction are one of the fastest ways to lose control of both budget and programme. Even seemingly minor alterations can have wider implications, affecting multiple trades and introducing delays.

Finalising layouts, materials, and specifications before work begins is essential. A clear and detailed design not only provides certainty for the contractor but also reduces the likelihood of costly revisions. Maintaining discipline at this stage is one of the simplest ways to protect both time and budget.

## MANAGING SUPPLY AND SCHEDULING

In the current construction climate, the availability of materials and trades can have a major impact on timelines. Items with long lead times, such as windows, doors, and structural steel, need to be ordered well in advance, while skilled contractors are often booked months ahead.

A well-coordinated schedule, supported by early procurement, is essential to maintaining progress on site. Without this, even well-planned projects can stall at critical stages.

## STAYING IN CONTROL DURING THE BUILD

Once construction begins, consistent oversight becomes key. Regular communication between all parties helps to address issues before they escalate, while clearly defined payment stages provide structure and accountability.

For homeowners who are less familiar with managing construction projects, appointing a project manager can be a worthwhile investment. Having a dedicated professional overseeing progress can reduce stress and help ensure that the project remains aligned with its original goals.

## DELIVERING A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME

Most extension projects will encounter challenges at some stage, but the extent of their impact depends largely on the level of preparation. Underestimating costs, making late design changes, and relying on incomplete information are among the most common issues, and are all avoidable.

A successful extension is not just about creating additional space; it is about delivering that space efficiently and with minimal disruption. With careful planning, informed decisions, and the right team in place, it is entirely possible to complete a project on time and on budget, while achieving a result that adds lasting value to both the property and the way it is used.

# A PERMEABLE DRIVEWAY DESIGNED FOR A FLOOD-SENSITIVE RIVERSIDE HOME IN DEVON

Beaufort's Gravelrings were specified by VESP Architects for the driveway at Stipperstones, a contemporary home set on the banks of the River Exe in Devon.



Designed to sit lightly within its landscape, the project required a permeable gravel driveway solution that could deliver SuDS-compliant performance while maintaining a natural, design-led finish suited to its sensitive riverside setting.

As the first point of arrival, the driveway plays a key role in setting the tone for the wider scheme, defined by a calm, natural materiality that reflects the surrounding landscape.

The Stipperstones home is a modern bungalow elevated on stilts, carefully positioned to maximise views across the River Exe while minimising its impact on the surrounding landscape. Within this context, the driveway formed a key part of the external works, both functionally and visually.

Given the site's flood-sensitive conditions, a permeable surface was essential to support sustainable drainage. At the same time, the material palette was carefully considered to reflect the tones and textures of the local environment. The driveway needed to sit comfortably within this palette, complementing the architecture and its natural surroundings, while creating a sense of ease on approach.

Gravelrings were selected to provide a load-bearing, permeable gravel driveway solution suitable for residential use. The system stabilises loose

aggregate, preventing movement and rutting while allowing water to drain naturally through the surface. This creates a firm, dependable surface for day-to-day use, without losing the character of a gravel finish.

Installed with a warm golden 14-20mm gravel, the driveway aligns with the project's wider material palette, echoing the natural hues of the surrounding landscape. This creates a cohesive and understated finish, ensuring the driveway integrates seamlessly with both the house and its setting.

The completed driveway delivers a robust and visually consistent surface that responds directly to the challenges of the site. It provides effective surface water management in a flood-sensitive location, while maintaining the long-term stability required for vehicular access.

Just as importantly, the natural appearance of the gravel allows the driveway to sit comfortably within its surroundings, reinforcing the overall design approach. The result is a solution that performs reliably while sitting naturally within the landscape, creating a composed and welcoming arrival to the home.

 [www.beaufort.com](http://www.beaufort.com)



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## FLAT PLATE SWITCHES IN OLD PROPERTIES WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO DIG OUT THE WALLS

Upgrading electrics in older properties often presents a familiar challenge: shallow back boxes concealed behind thick plaster, solid masonry or uneven walls. For owners of characterful homes, cutting deeper into original fabric is rarely appealing and often impractical.

Traditionally, shallow back boxes have meant compromise. Homeowners and specifiers are frequently pushed toward raised plate switches, even when a more refined aesthetic would better suit the space. Digging out walls to deepen back boxes is technically possible, but it can be disruptive, costly and at odds with the careful restoration of period interiors.

At Bromleighs, we regularly work with historic properties and understand that modern electrical needs require thoughtful, sympathetic solutions. To address this issue, we supply paintable

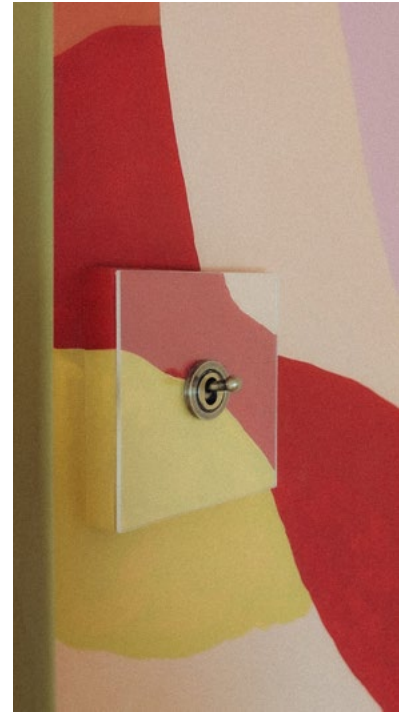
wooden collars designed specifically for our flat plate switches.

These collars allow flat switches to be surface-mounted without altering the existing wall structure. Supplied primed and ready to paint, they can be finished to match the surrounding wall, helping them visually disappear once installed. The result preserves the elegance of a flat plate switch while avoiding unnecessary structural work.

For older homes, (particularly those with uneven plaster or lath-and-plaster walls) this approach delivers a clean, understated finish that respects the building's character while meeting modern requirements.

In period renovations, small details make a big difference. Choosing fittings that work with the building rather than against it allows homeowners to achieve a finish that feels authentic, considered and timeless.

[www.bromleighs.com](http://www.bromleighs.com)



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# SCULPTURAL CEILING LIGHTING: REDEFINING LIGHT, FORM, AND SPACE



*Ember*

Northern Lights unveils its 2026 Ceiling Collection - a series of sculptural lighting designs where light, material, and form converge to redefine luxury interiors. Precision-designed and handcrafted in Derbyshire, each piece balances technical mastery with authentic British craftsmanship, offering designers a palette of materials, textures, and configurations to realise one-of-a-kind compositions.

Purposeful irregularity guides many of the collection's forms. Asymmetry inspired by natural crystals, cut gemstones, and flowing organic shapes imbues pieces with a living, dynamic presence, while other designs explore architectural clarity, geometry, and compositional precision. Together, ten new ceiling designs create a language of sculptural identity, capable of shaping atmosphere, defining space, and anchoring interiors with vertical drama.

At the heart of the collection is a commitment to experimentation with materiality. Traditional glass techniques, including hand-slumping, kiln-fusing, and meticulous layering of hand-cut panels, sit alongside custom moulding and precision metalwork. Natural alabaster, brass, and intricate metalwork provide a rich material palette, optimised to interact with light, accentuate texture, and reveal subtle variations in colour, translucency, and form.

**Veil** casts a delicate cascade of hand-formed glass leaves, each precision-cut, slumped, and partially frosted to create layered depth. Light projected from the integrated ceiling plate interacts with the leaves, producing a soft, shimmering glow.

**Jewel** is inspired by cut gemstones, using multi-faceted, coloured glass anchored by solid brass, to capture and reflect light across its surfaces.

**Link**, available as both linear pendant and chandelier, showcases interlinked metal rings,



*Link*

merging architectural scale with refined technical sophistication.

**Ember** celebrates traditional kiln-fused glass techniques, layering coloured pieces and fusing to form unique panels, in a subtle nod to Northern Lights' roots in glasswork.

**Solace** combines sculpted alabaster with an amber-tinted glass tube, creating two distinct layers of balanced illumination, while brass framing and subtle veining in the stone add texture and refinement.

"At the heart of this launch is a focus on material behaviour and design experimentation," explains Michael Jackson, Head of Design. "Each piece emerged from hands-on exploration of light and material interaction. We pushed glass, alabaster, and metal to reveal their full potential, shaping forms that create visually rich narratives and distinct spatial identities."

Customisation is integral, not an afterthought. Scale, proportions, materials, tiers, drops, and finishes can all be adapted, enabling designers to craft unique lighting solutions that respond to the architecture and interior concept. The collection moves beyond decorative lighting into spatial definition, shaping layered, tactile atmospheres that captivate the eye and heighten the drama of every space it inhabits.

A curated preview will be presented at Clerkenwell Design Week at Bagnodesign A&D Gallery on 21st May, offering visitors an opportunity to explore the stories behind selected designs and the craft that brings them to life. For those seeking to create bold, distinctive ceilings, the collection represents a fusion of heritage, experimentation, and expressive design freedom.

► [www.northern-lights.co.uk](http://www.northern-lights.co.uk)



## CUPACLAD® 101 LOGIC PROVIDES AN ECO-FRIENDLY SOLUTION FOR THREE PROPERTIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

CUPACLAD® 101 Logic has been specified for the upper façade of three newly built houses located within the Metropolitan Green Belt of the Broxbourne District in Hertfordshire.

Installed by Roof Brothers, and carefully chosen to blend seamlessly with the surrounding landscape, the slate provides a timeless finish, whilst remaining compliant with the client's sustainability requirements.

Squared Architects designed three properties at Rosebury Farm in total: the first to become the client's own home, along with two others on the neighbouring land for the client to eventually sell. Whilst sharing the same architectural style and material palette, the properties were designed to have some visible distinctions. Each building offers visual interest, with stepped facades helping to mitigate and soften their overall structures.

"From the outset, we wanted the project to be

characterised by modern, minimal geometries, while employing traditional materials, rather than synthetic façade cladding," commented Simone Demurtas, Director of Squared Architects. "As such, we specified natural slate to ensure the building's design reflected the local heritage and fostered a harmonious connection with the landscape. This was our first project using CUPACLAD®, and we found it to be significantly better than the other options available, as it offers a beautiful, almost metallic finish that creates a stunning effect in the daylight."

To align with the architect's sustainability ambitions to use materials with low environmental impact as well as the necessary aesthetic requirements, CUPACLAD® 101 Logic was recommended by the

project's developer, Roof Brothers. The product was then installed on the upper half of the building façade on each of the new build homes constructed at Rosebury Farm.

Victor Wakefield, Company Director at Roof Brothers commented: "We have used the system numerous times before this project, so for us it was the obvious choice. The installation process is straightforward and well thought through. The horizontal CUPACLAD® profiles fix directly onto the timber subframe, which allows you to build up the façade quickly and accurately. The pre-holed slates and dedicated CUPACLAD® 101 screws make positioning and fixing clean and consistent, saving time on site.

On this project, we had large window openings to work around, but the system is flexible enough to accommodate that without issue. The slates can be trimmed precisely where needed, and details such as powder coated aluminium window flashings and lead junctions integrate neatly with the façade."

CUPACLAD® is a fully BBA approved, Class A1 non-combustible, back ventilated and drained façade system that provides architects and specifiers with a myriad of design options, from traditional to

contemporary. Thanks to the use of natural material and recyclable aluminium substructure, the system is sustainable and ecological. Furthermore, the natural slate goes through a simple production process that does not use any chemicals - and one that requires less water and energy than alternative roofing products. As a result, CUPA PIZARRAS is Net Zero certified and has a EcoVadis Gold Medal and BRE Global verification of its EPD.

As with all CUPA PIZARRAS slate, the CUPACLAD® 101 Logic offers unbeatable quality as it is both durable and resistant. The waterproof slate is also capable of enduring extreme temperatures without compromising on performance. Finally, the slates have a lifespan of over 100 years without the need for further maintenance, upholding their timeless appearance.

The owner of the properties at Rosebury Farm commented: "CUPACLAD® 101 Logic is a high quality and beautiful product. The Roof Brothers team did a great job with the installation and the longevity and durability of natural slate provides peace of mind - we are delighted with the finish."

► For more information about CUPACLAD® visit: [www.cupapizarras.com/uk/rainscreen-cladding](http://www.cupapizarras.com/uk/rainscreen-cladding).



# INTRODUCING HAMBLESIDE DANELAW'S NEW FLEXIBLE FLASHING: DANEFLASH

Introducing to the market: DaneFlash, a flexible flashing material for use in a variety of applications such as roof junctions, roof penetrations, roof windows and rooflights, PV systems, rigid metal and GRP flashing junctions, saddles and soakers etc. DaneFlash is PFAS free, fully recyclable after service life\*, and comes with a 20-year guarantee.

Available in four sizes (140mm, 280mm, 370mm, and 560mm) and three colours (Black, Slate Grey, and Tile Red\*\*), DaneFlash can stretch up to an additional 50% in length and 15% in width. Hambleside Danelaw recommend this product for use with many of their GRP flashings range including SwiftRidg® hip and ridge system, which was shortlisted for Most Innovative Product in 2024.

Suitable for rainwater harvesting and water reclamation systems, DaneFlash is a composite material consisting of an expandable mesh with a synthetic rubber surface and fully adhesive backing. The self-vulcanising or self-bonding outer surface can be installed

with 20mm minimum laps and may be heated to a maximum of 60°C to improve adhesion in cold weather.

► **For more information about DaneFlash or Hambleside Danelaw, please call them on 01327 701 910, or via email through [sales@hambleside-danelaw.co.uk](mailto:sales@hambleside-danelaw.co.uk)**

[www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk/products/daneflash/](http://www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk/products/daneflash/)

\*For recycling at the end of service life, product should be sent to specific facility, contact Hambleside Danelaw for further information

\*\*Tile Red is made to order



# SWISH ADDS SHADOW GAP TO ITS NATURECLAD RANGE WITH TWO NEW PROFILES

Swish Building Products is excited to announce an extension to its NatureClad range with the addition of two new profiles, Shadow Gap and Shadow Gap Plus.

Shadow Gap features a narrow channel between each board creating a distinctive shadow effect, whilst the innovative Shadow Gap Plus has the same channel but with an exposed black coextruded line, which further emphasises the 'shadow' effect. The beautifully modern Shadow Gap Plus profile creates a dramatic and architecturally interesting finish, which results in an appearance that is not often seen in the UK's RMI market.

Shadow Gap is available in all six NatureClad colours; Chiminea Charcoal, Cumulus Grey, Morning Dew Silver, Moonlight Anthracite, Coastal Sand, and Rich Espresso, whilst Shadow Gap Plus comes in Cumulus Grey and Coastal Sand, allowing both profiles to beautifully complement a variety of exterior designs.

Offering the natural texture of wood but without the weight, both Shadow

Gap and Shadow Gap Plus deliver a sleek, seamless appearance, especially when installed with matching trims and joints, which are available in complementary wood tones. Both profiles also support horizontal, diagonal, and vertical installation to meet evolving customer trends and market demands.

"Since its release last year, NatureClad has led the way in terms of its innovative design and composition. Its PVDF-layered foil finish delivers an exceptionally durable, super-matt wood effect finish with high-definition detail. The addition of Shadow Gap and Shadow Gap Plus pushes this range even further," explains Lewis Litchfield, Product Marketing Manager at Swish Building Products.

"Our two new profiles enhance the NatureClad range with greater design versatility, reinforcing our commitment to new product development and innovation with our customer's needs in mind. We're confident the contemporary design, high-quality, and adaptability of Shadow Gap and



Shadow Gap Plus will prove just as popular as our existing NatureClad range with both installers and homeowners alike," concludes Lewis.

► **Both variations of NatureClad Shadow Gap and Shadow Gap Plus profiles are available in 165mm single planks in 5m lengths. For further information about Shadow Gap and Shadow Gap Plus, as well as the extended NatureClad range, visit [Swish Building Products](http://Swish Building Products) :: NatureClad or call 01827 317 200.**

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## CASE STUDY

# Class 1 Magply boards withstand real life fire test on Surrey home

### Application

- Fire test

### Contractor

- Fullers Plastering

### Location

- Surrey

A potentially catastrophic blaze, which consumed the garage containing a parked vehicle adjoining a £1M house in rural Surrey, was stopped in its tracks thanks to the use of 12mm A1 non combustible Magply being chosen as the render substrate board on the contract, the property was constructed using a Structurally Insulated Panel system construction (SIP) with A1 non-combustible Magply being used on the exterior of the building as the substrate panel for the proprietary render system.

Magply is a multi-use A1 non-combustible board with an impressive library of testing for fire applications, in the offsite and timber frame sector the board is designed and specified to contain fire and support the emergency service with added crucial time!

Although the emergency services were quick to attend the fire, which happened in August, it had taken sufficient hold that the large timber framed garage was totally destroyed with just some sections of the frame still standing. However, the gable end to the house which features a relatively thin, weatherproof finish of the silica-based K-Rend suffered only surface damage. Remarkably, although areas of the render had spalled off, the 12mm Magply boards underneath had not even charred while they had fully protected the SIPs structure beneath: a fact borne out by the system supplier, Glasford SIPs, which took core samples to confirm the continued integrity of the insulated sandwich panels which are faced by OSB.



*The fire-resistant qualities of the Magply boards saved the day. We had utilised Magply as a render-backer on a number of projects before being awarded the contract to apply K-Rend to the half dozen homes here and have always been very pleased with the performance. It is an easy board to cut and fix, while we can now definitely confirm to clients that it fully complies with the fire requirements for domestic and commercial buildings.*

**The Contracts Manager for Fullers Plastering, James Corlet**



The home's owner confirmed: "The Magply boards stood up extremely well: although the K-Rend which took the full brunt of the heat cannot be easily removed. So, though the Magply base boards did an absolutely first-class job they are going to be replaced as a precaution before the gable end wall is re-rendered and we hope the repairs will only take eight weeks to complete - mainly down to the lead time for a couple of replacement windows to be delivered."

Fullers Plastering is based in nearby Brighton and is an approved applicator for a variety of render systems, whose manufacturers correspondingly recognise Magply as being a suitable substrate or carrier, in this case credit must be giving to James Corlett of fullers plastering for requesting John Malone National sales manager of I PP/ MAG PLY to attend the contract prior to construction to discuss the use of Magply as a render substrate board, in this case Magply was not part of the fire protection build up however Magply over performed and made the difference when needed.

Magply board is BBA certified and tested with the leading testing houses in the UK and testing is an ongoing project ensuring our board is tested right up to stringent levels required, Magply is an magnesium Oxysulphate board and day to day we do get asked questions regarding MgO board, we as a business never want to see our board perform in real life fire situations however it happens and thankfully Magply has done its job in this case and a lesser board may not have performed the same.

For more information on Magply board we have a nationwide sales team in the UK and Ireland and our board is available across the UK and Ireland. Magply is widely specified across the industry from modular to timber frame the board is also specified as part of the build-up for cladding systems on high rise properties, as well as pattrass boards to carry bathroom or kitchen fittings for the fit-out

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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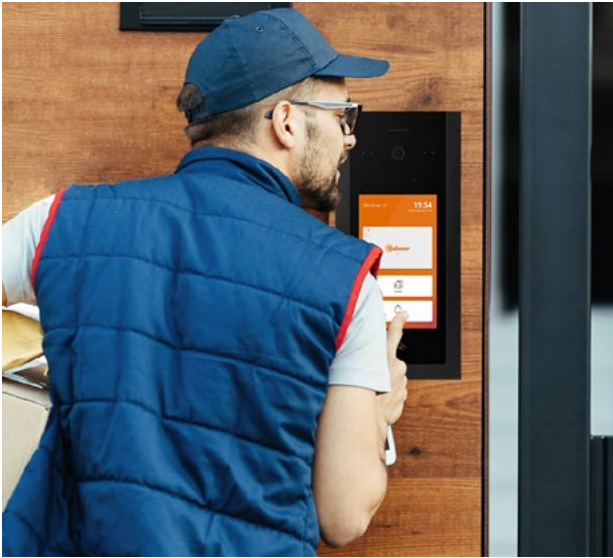
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+00 (353) 873 625 485

[mike@magply.ie](mailto:mike@magply.ie)



# GOLMAR SYSTEMS UK: PIONEERING EXCELLENCE IN DOOR INTERCOM SYSTEMS



Established 70 years ago, Golmar has been a stalwart in the global market, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of door intercom systems. With a dedicated hub in the UK for the past two decades, Golmar Systems UK continues to uphold the brand's legacy of excellence.

## A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND INNOVATION

As an integral part of the Golmar family, Golmar Systems UK takes pride in maintaining uncompromising standards of service. Their commitment extends beyond mere transactions as they focus on fostering lasting relationships with clients. From door intercom systems to access control and CCTV, Golmar Systems UK ensures seamless integration and reliable performance.

## EMPOWERING INSTALLERS: BUILDING A NETWORK OF DISTRIBUTORS

Golmar Systems UK recognizes that time is of the essence for installers. To expedite system installations, they are actively building a robust network of distributors. Whether it's a standard configuration or a customized solution, Golmar Systems UK ensures swift access to quality products. Their expert team assists in specifying the right components, tailored to meet specific project requirements.

## COLLABORATION FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

In the spirit of innovation, Golmar Systems UK collaborates closely with Golmar in Spain. This dynamic partnership ensures a constant evolution of their product range. Feedback from installers and end-users is invaluable, driving enhancements with each new product release. Golmar's commitment to improvement is unwavering.



## THE GOLMAR ADVANTAGE

**Style Meets Functionality:** Golmar offers a compelling blend of aesthetics and practicality. Their Sixty5 range of panels exemplifies this ethos. Whether it's the modern classic digital keypad or the sleek touch screen panel, Golmar bridges style and functionality seamlessly.

### Key Features:

- **Audio/Video Communication:** Crystal-clear communication for enhanced security.
- **Call Progress Confirmation:** Audible and visual cues keep users informed.
- **Door Open Confirmation:** Instant feedback for peace of mind.
- **Coded Access:** Secure entry with personalized codes.
- **Built-in Proximity Reader:** Streamlined access control.
- **Aluminium or Steel Finish:** Versatility to match any aesthetic.
- **Visitor Display:** Deters unwanted intruders.
- **2-Wire Technology or IP:** Flexibility for diverse installations.

## CONCLUSION

Golmar Systems UK remains at the forefront of innovation, offering competitive solutions that cater to both form and function. From cozy homes to sprawling apartment complexes, Golmar's integrated systems redefine safety and convenience.

For more information, visit Golmar Systems UK and experience the future of door intercom technology.

➡ [www.golmarsystems.com](http://www.golmarsystems.com)



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Insulated Concrete Floors from Creagh

Spantherm is an insulated, precast concrete flooring system designed specifically for residential and commercial ground floors.

**rapidcore®**  
Precast Offsite Cores

Rapidcore lift and stair cores are manufactured offsite in bespoke moulds and are installed quickly and efficiently by our specialist installation teams.




## Services

Creagh has many products suitable for your project and offer a full service which includes consultation, design, development, construction and even an aftersales service to provide efficient detailed advice and on-site technical support.

We take pride in building long-term relationships with our clients, delivering comprehensive technical support and excellent customer service. Our dedicated team strives to ensure all our customers are completely satisfied.

  
**Did You Know?**

Creagh are the largest producers of Hollowcore flooring in the UK  
We have Hollowcore manufacturing facilities in N.Ireland, Scotland and England

-  Check out our full product range at [creaghconcrete.com](http://creaghconcrete.com)
-  Email enquiries to [structures@creaghconcrete.com](mailto:structures@creaghconcrete.com)
-  Check our LinkedIn for our latest news from Creagh



CALL US NOW  
**(028) 796 50500**

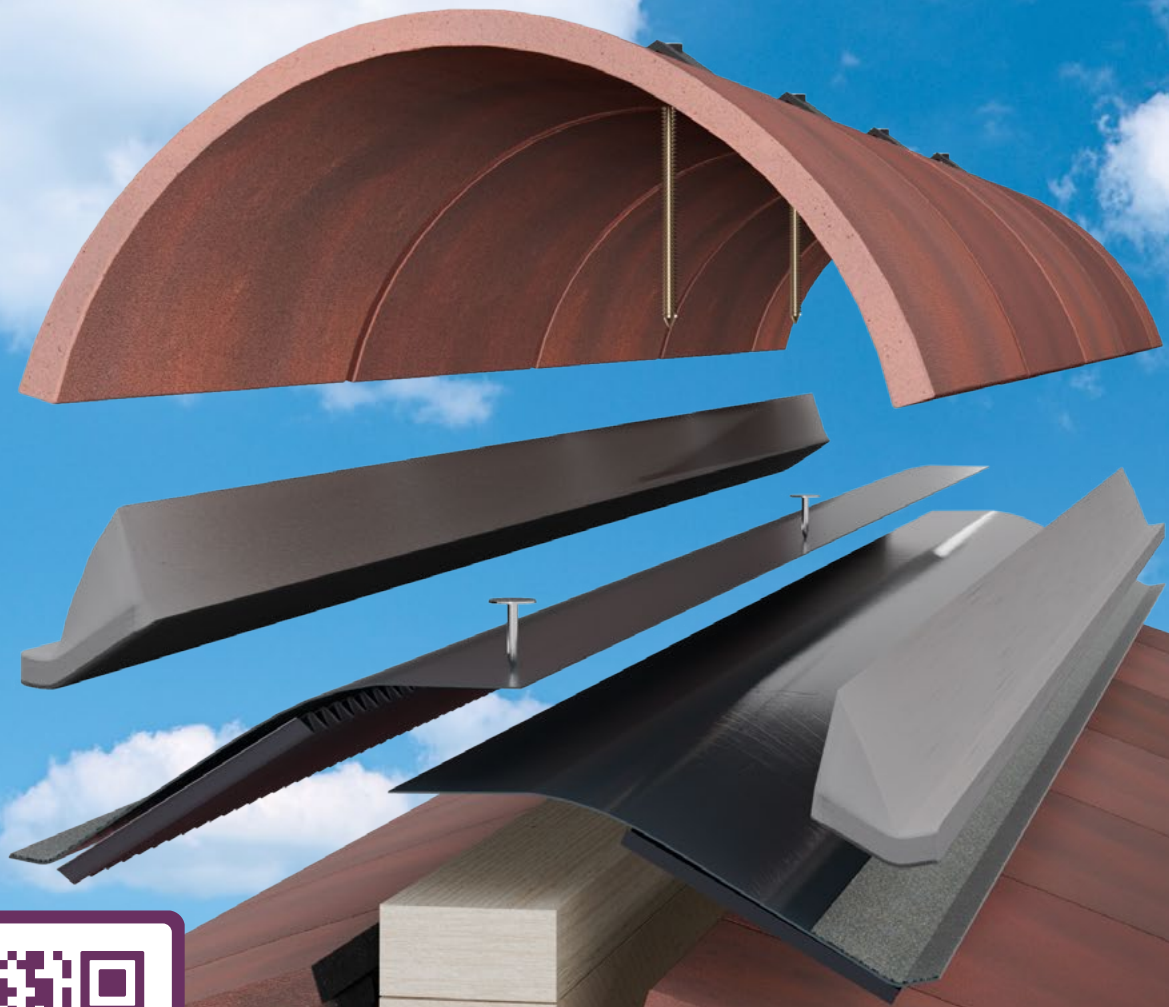
# VentRidg<sup>®</sup>

Hambleside Danelaw  
Building Products



## High level roof ventilation for mortar bedded ridge tiles

Come and visit us at Installer show  
stand number: 3A66



Protected by pending patent  
application No. 2417868.3  
and registered design rights