



Peckham Rye kitchen & utility room Renovation of a Victorian terraced house in South London



Channeling light through your property How to use natural light to beautifully frame any room



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COVER PHOTO

Panoramic House ON-A Architects @Adrià Goula

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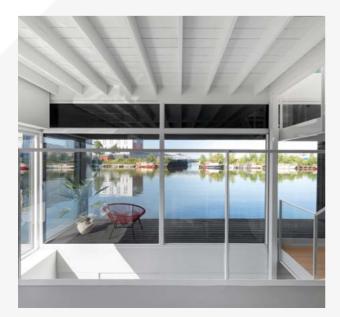
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FLOATING HOME

Floating home by i29 architects is part of Schoonschip, a new floating village of 46 households that aims to create Europe's most sustainable floating community.

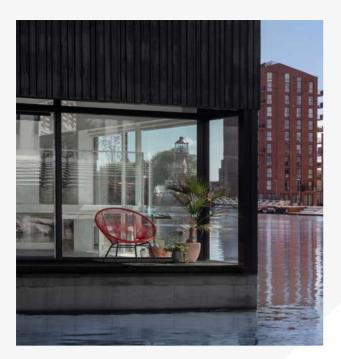
Based on an urban plan by Space&Matter, over 100 residents moved into and revitalized a disused canal and established themselves a living on the water. The location has a strong industrial past but today it is one of the most rapid changing city parts of Amsterdam transforming into a more multi functional living area.



The new floating neighborhood is intended to be an urban ecosystem embedded within the fabric of the city: making full use of ambient energy and water for use and re-use, cycling nutrients and minimizing waste, plus creating space for natural biodiversity.

The site is energy self-sufficient, employs circular building practices and serves as a showcase for sustainable living. A smart jetty connects the 46 floating households with each other and the quay. On the top surface, the jetty is a social connector where people meet. Down below the surface, the jetty is a functional and sustainable connector with all the energy, waste and water lines attached to every household connected together.

Within the smart grid of the village and the given boundaries of every water plot, every single home is able to be unique in architecture and interior design. All inhabitants were allowed to choose their own preferred architect. Our client challenged us to design a home which would maximize the space within the volume boundaries of the plot and still have a typical yet surprising house shape. The floating volume has a pitched roof, but the coping of the roof is turned diagonal in the floor plan which gives an optimization in usable space on the inside and an outspoken architectural design on the outside.





"Energy can be even more valuable when you share it."

To i29, architecture and interior designs are always intertwined and connected on each level to make a clear and unified experience. The floating home exterior design is the result of a space extensional study within the interior and vice versa. All areas are in open connection to the atrium which comprises three floors. The layout is extended with a split level connection to a loggia terrace just above water level. The interior and facade play with the views on the outside. Views appear and disappear while moving through the home. The basement offers direct water level views, the living room only gives a view on the surroundings when sitting in the lounge and the kitchen on the top floor has directed views towards the south and north side of the canal. On the top floor, a cut out of the roof enables a loggia and open terrace with a view towards the harbor in the west . With simple yet smart interventions this project is realized on a tight budget but still has a unified architecture and interior design that leaves a strong impression. At the same time the floating home is extremely energy efficient, ecofriendly, and built with a small footprint. Sustainability goes even to a higher level with the implementation in the smart grid of the floating village. Energy can be even more valuable when you share it.

CREDITS

Client: private Design: i29 architects Object: Schoonschip Kavel 03 Urban plan: Space & Matter Sustainability advice: Metabolic Management: Gemeente Amsterdam Contractor: Hagoort bouw Interior builder: Simon Sintenie

Photos: i29 / Ewout Huibers







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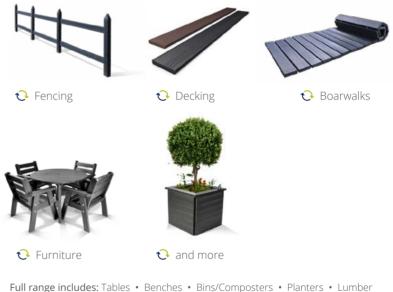






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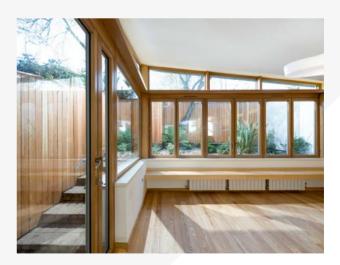
QUICKSWOOD, PRIMROSE HILL



AR Architecture presents its award-winning refurbishment of a terraced house in North-West London.

The 3-bedroom split-level property – originally built as part of Camden Council's Chalcoat Estate – was fully refurbished and extended to meet the needs of a professional couple and their three children. The client asked for a minimalist contemporary design with strong emphasis on natural materials.

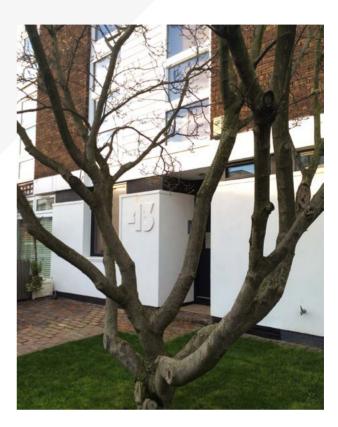


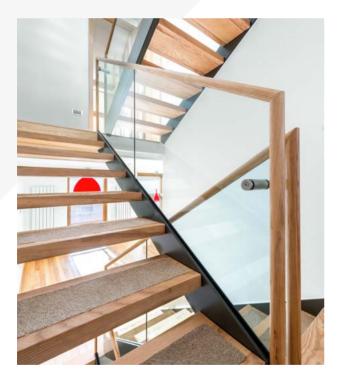


The new Dining room in lieu of a dump North-facing patio was designed as a garden pavilion rather than an indoor space: its retractable windows can be fully open, and the North-West corner of its sedum roof bends up to let in the evening sun.



"The new façade blends into the modernist language of the building, reinstating and emphasising its key features – the continuous black trimming and the white cornice underneath the line of the first floor."





Internally, we replaced the staircase and increased light penetration. From the Kitchen/Breakfast area, relocated half a level up to the south side of the building, light enters the living room through a huge fish tank, whereas the master suit receives direct sunlight from the roof terrace. The integral garage was converted into a study, also usable as a guest bedroom.

The new façade blends into the modernist language of the building, reinstating and emphasising its key features – the continuous black trimming and the white cornice underneath the line of the first floor.



The interior fit-out was designed in collaboration with Pascoe Interiors.

The project has been granted the 5* UK Property Award 2014-2015."

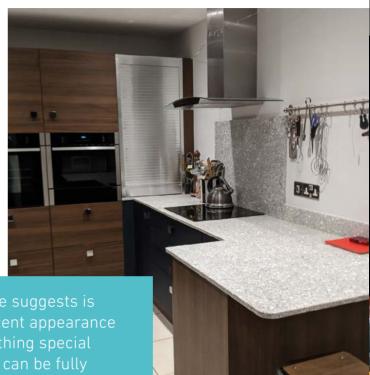
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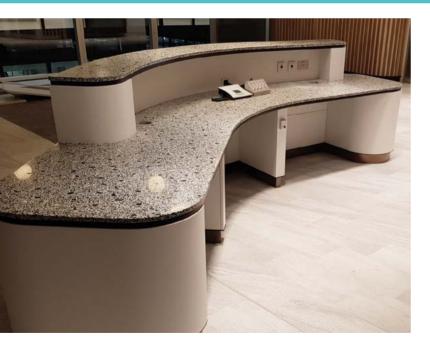
Diamik Glass the alternative and sustainable luxury surface

Diamik Glass have created two environmentally friendly products Ecorok® and Decorok®, both products are made from recycling waste glass. Both are durable, strong, beautiful and have commendable environmental credentials. Years of development and trials have resulted in two products that offer a creditable alternative to imported, mined products.

Ecorok[®] is perfect as worktops for kitchens, bathrooms and utility rooms. Made from a minimum of 85% recycled glass and the remainder a mixture of resin and pigment which makes them non-porous, scratch resistant, smooth to the touch and beautiful to the eye. As Ecorok[®] is non-porous it makes it highly resilient to stains and marks. Cleaning for the eco-warriors amongst us can be as simple as mild soapy water, but if you need to give it a deep clean you can use scouring pads and bleach sprays without damaging the surface.



Decorok is made using 100% glass and as the name suggests is targeted as a more decorative material. Its translucent appearance featuring crushed glass design provides that something special in key environments. Just like Ecorok [™] Decorok [™] can be fully recycled at the end of its life to produce new surfaces with no waste.



Diamik harvests only local glass destined for landfill, then processes this waste, using craftsmanship into perfect sheet sizes for every customer. This is supported using modern technology to create these two innovative and versatile products. Their latest digital templating technology also allows for millimetre perfect measuring and cutting to create shapes – they even offer to video the procedure as a keep sake for the customer or to use as a promotional tool.

Diamik's products can now be found in all parts of the UK and Europe which is testament to how quickly people are moving towards a more sustainable future. Customers have been looking for something new, something fresh a new design with ecological street credibility. Ecorok comes in over fifty standard designs with new ones being created every month. The Diamik Bespoke option will create your very own unique special surface. The only limit is the customers imagination!



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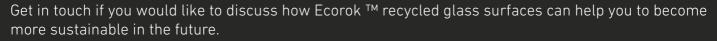
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PANORAMIC HOUSE

A unique house by ON-A Architects with the landscape as a guest star

The ON-A Architecture studio, an expert in residential architecture with over 15 years of experience, has just finished this unique single-family house near Barcelona. Fully oriented to the landscape, the house takes advantage of the length of the plot to locate all the dependencies oriented to the best views. On the ground floor, there is the independent kitchen and a dining room area, connecting with a large outdoor terrace where an infinity pool has been installed. On the first floor, there is a study with a terrace, two bedrooms and the main suite with an independent terrace. The house is surrounded by a perimeter garden and has independent access to the car park and entrance hall with an open staircase protected by a vertical lattice.

ON-A works not only with the architecture but with the emotion. For this reason, the orientation of this house gives a great role to the landscape, turning it into one more architectural element and creating a scenic effect. Panoramic House is a unique project that has been specifically designed for the family that inhabits it, in which the studio has applied an intelligent and sustainable construction system, and in which ad hoc materials have been used for this environment.

Panoramic House is a new construction project of a detached single-family home located in a coastal town near Barcelona, Spain. An isolated building is projected, consisting of a ground floor, a first floor and a basement. Due to the topographic inclination, it was decided to position the volume in the highest part of the terrain. The constructed area is 390 m². The surface of the plot is covered with low vegetation, with some shrubs scattered around the perimeter of the plot.

The daytime living area is located on the ground floor, as a place to interact, relax and enjoy the free space of the terrace, pool and garden. The first floor is used as a rest and study area. The small basement is the place to protect vehicles and housing facilities.

The exterior space has been designed as an extension of the interior. A wooden platform overlooks a large swimming pool and the access area and spaces between the platform and the boundaries of the plot are covered with grass. "Panoramic House is a new construction project of a detached single-family home located in a coastal town near Barcelona, Spain."

The vertical communication of the house consists on a one-way staircase that connects the basement, the ground floor and the first floor. Extra space has been provided for an elevator if it is needed in the future.









On the roof, the elements necessary for telecommunications installations and chimneys are placed, as well as solar collectors for the production of sanitary hot water.

All rooms have natural ventilation and lighting, guaranteeing the sunny side of the house.



The overhang has almost 5 meters from the upper floor and it had been made with a post-tensioned structure that is commonly used in bridges, creating an outdoor living-dining room space to enjoy all year. On the façade, the use of large prefabricated GRC pieces and angular geometries create a "technological look" that contrasts with the warm natural wood.







The user accesses the house from the street level, where there is a hall with a storage closet and an adapted sink. In front of the access door is the kitchen, a large space with a work area, food and laundry, which is related to the outside through the large window.

Turning to the right, there's the access to the main space of the house: a large living room, with dining room and studylibrary area. All the space opens onto a large area with a porch and the outdoor pool.

The first floor can be considered an "isolated" world destined to rest. In one of the extremes, a broad study emerges. From the corridor, there is access to a single bedroom, a common bathroom, a double bedroom and the suite that has a large dressing room, bedroom, full bathroom and access to the terrace.

The Basement is mainly used for vehicles and storage. There is a garage for two vehicles, the facilities room, a storage room and a small wine cellar.





"The overhang has almost 5 meters from the upper floor and it had been made with a posttensioned structure that is commonly used in bridges, creating an outdoor living-dining room space to enjoy all year. "



Concerning the construction system, a concrete structure is proposed that models the house from the foundations to the roof. To ensure adequate comfort, the house is fully waterproofed and insulated, covering the entire envelope with a ceramic skin.

PANORAMIC HOUSE

Location: Gavà (Barcelona, Spain) Surface: 390 m2 Architects: ON-A Architects Interior design:Irene Sánchez Bernal Technical architect: Xavier Badia | VINCLAMENT Engineering facilities: CONSTRUCIA INSTALACIONES Structural engineering: STATIC Gardening Project: Guillem Lacoma VERDTICAL **3D visualization:** Marc Canut Photography: Adrià Goula Concrete Structure: CRC Earthmoving, foundations and linings: CRC Façade: GRC UBASART Locksmith and glasswork: Jaume Costa Kitchen: PROJECTES I DECORACIÓ Wood flooring and cladding: SOLDEVILA Interior carpentry and furniture: SOLDEVILA Sun Protection: GRIESSER Laminated Plaster Finishes: ACADINSA Paint and enamel: CALVERAS Facilities: CONSTRUCIA INSTALACIONES Pool: RUMAFI Gardening: JM FONDEVILA Vertical Garden: VERDTICAL



INTERIORS

Project: ON-A Architects

Interior design: Irene Sánchez Bernal (IESEBE Studio)

Living room: Sofa by Poliform Coffe Table by Poliform Curtains by IESEBE Studio Dining Table by Meridiani Chairs by Meridiani Dining Poom Lamps by Oty Light

Garden: Furniture by Kettal

Kitchen: Table by Kartel Screen Curtains by IESEBE Studic

Suite: Curtains by IESEBE Studio

Office: Sofa by Natuzzi Chairs by Ligne Roset Curtains by IESEBE Studic

www.on-a.es | Images ©Adrià Goula





SFP launches new Guide to Business Survival

SFP, the restructuring and turnaround group, has published a new free Guide to Business Survival with a number of remedies to help construction businesses navigate through the current crisis.

The Guide to Business Survival is set up in three clear stages of keeping or getting a business back on track. Part One explores the steps a business can take without having to resort to borrowing; Part Two outlines the various different funding options; and Part Three explores the restructuring and Insolvency processes.

Simon Plant, Chief Executive of the SFP Group, says the coming months are crucial for construction businesses: "With various 'pinch points' approaching that will impact cash flow, our Guide will inform business owners how best to navigate this current crisis, or how to restructure their business with the help of a licensed Insolvency Practitioner."

The Guide is available to download at www.bizsurvival.co.uk



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NEW 19MM COLLATED FLOORING SCREW BANISHES SQUEAKY FLOORBOARDS FOR GOOD!

Floor fitters and home owners alike will be all too familiar with the curse of squeaky floorboards. Time after time the culprit is the fasteners; nails working loose over time, leading to expensive callbacks and customer dissatisfaction.

While it's well known that screws provide a tighter grip power by pulling the boards together, fitting 6mm plywood to underlay has long presented a dilemma. The conventional 25mm timber screws used to fasten flooring carry a risk of damaging underfloor electrical cables or puncturing water pipes, with potentially dangerous and costly consequences. The alternative use of 19mm nails, however, can cause the plywood subfloor to lift from the floorboards.

Construction products manufacturer Simpson Strong-Tie has developed an affordable solution: the groundbreaking new 19mm MTHZ19E collated underlayment screw. Designed for Quik Drive auto-feed screw system, the MTHZ19E allows fast and secure underlayment to subfloor installations, with a sharp point for fast start and a trim head for a neat finish.

Fasteners Sales Manager Natalie Dixon explains "This new shorter length alternative to traditional flooring screws prevents the tip from protruding through the floor boards when fixing 6mm plywood, making it a safer way to fix to subfloors.

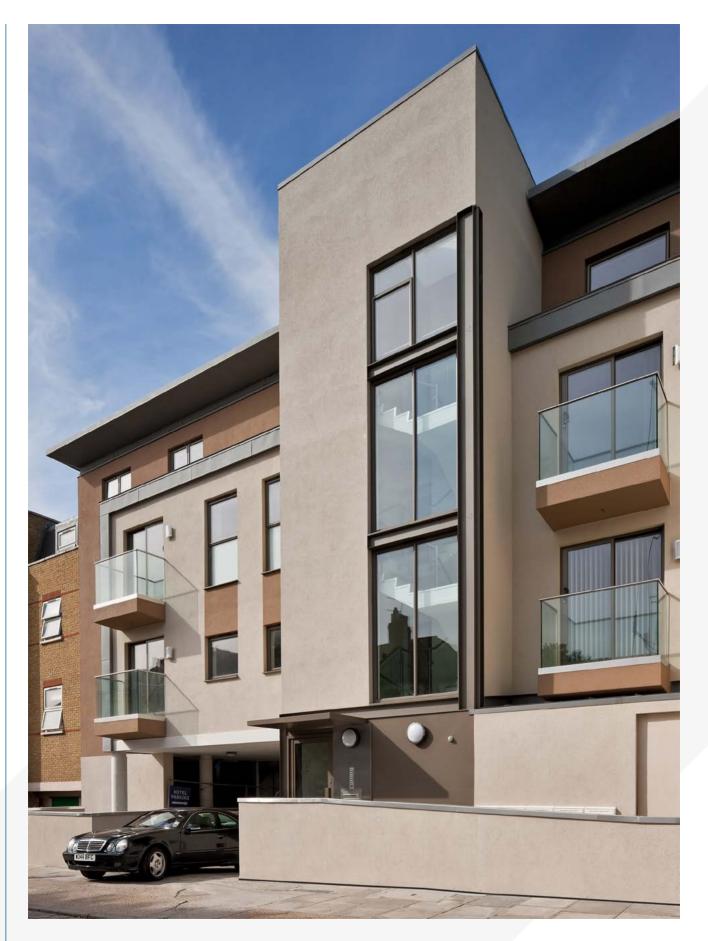
"The MTHZ19E can be used with timber joists, or to fix to steel up to 0.9mm thick – for example in the installation of computer flooring and can be easily removed and reapplied if access required to pipework at a later date. Nailed floorboards are notoriously difficult to remove intact.

While nail guns provide speed of fastening, they can produce inaccurate results and an inconsistent finish. Quik Drive provides a neat finish and flush consistent counter sink. And the upright installation option will protect your knees and back, with no need to bend or crouch."

Less torque. Less time. More fastening.

Contact details: Natalie Dixon ndixon@strongtie.com | 07971147961





JOHN KERR: ARCHITECT

I began my architectural career qualifying at the Architectural Association in 1978.

"I have also been engaged in many conservation projects including listed buildings."

Since then i have continued to practice as an architect with commitment and enthusiasm to achieve buildings that are i believe well designed, represent an approach that is relevant, vital and fully engaged with all the issues that architecture today has to address.

Before setting up my own practice in 1994 after working for several london based architectural practices where i designed and was responsible for the contractual management of building projects including office buildings, office refurbishments and replanning, private houses, an extra care home and apartment buildings, hotel refurbishments and many domestic projects giving them a real new spatial dynamic.

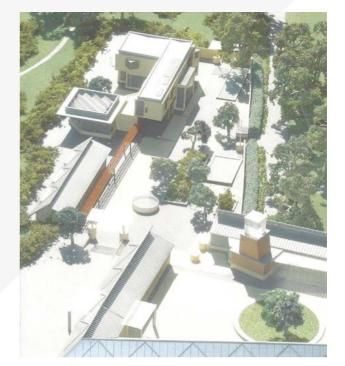
I have also been engaged in many conservation projects including listed buildings. On those projects i have worked with experienced conservator companies.

Since setting up practice on my own i have successfully completed many similar projects including private residential developments and private houses that include architectural remodelling of the existing houses.

New apartment buildings with private developers and recently more office refurbishments for professional accountants. And many more conservation projects for registered charities.

The Mews House, 47A Chase Side, London, EN2 6NB Telephone: 020 3674 2166 Email: johnkerr@johnkerrarchitect.com Website: www.johnkerrarchitect.com

The Hotel Staff Building and Apartments are Copyright Anthony Weller: Archimage







REFURBISHMENTS IN THE HOME



CASE STUDY: LUXURY HOME, GUILDFORD

Not all staircases are made equal. Some are designed to bring wow factor to a home, providing a feature to an entrance hall that is more than a functional structure but a piece of art.

This bespoke elliptical staircase designed by Spiral UK for a luxury home in Guildford is just that. Not content with a standard spiral or simple curve, the client chose this twisted descent to travel through two storeys, where there was no central pivot point, the stair turning through the space to allow for entrance and exit to occur in parallel but opposing directions. This meant the whole curve faced the fantastic countryside views, uninterrupted thanks to the glass balustrading.





This seamless arc was really worth the extra time and effort put into designing and making it, fabricated in steel for strength and clad in specially imported Pietra Plana stone that match the floor tiles Spiral supplied for that flawless finish. This kind of attention to detail doesn't come cheap, with a guide price of around £95k, but the beauty of bespoke is your staircase can be matched to your budget as well as your dreams.

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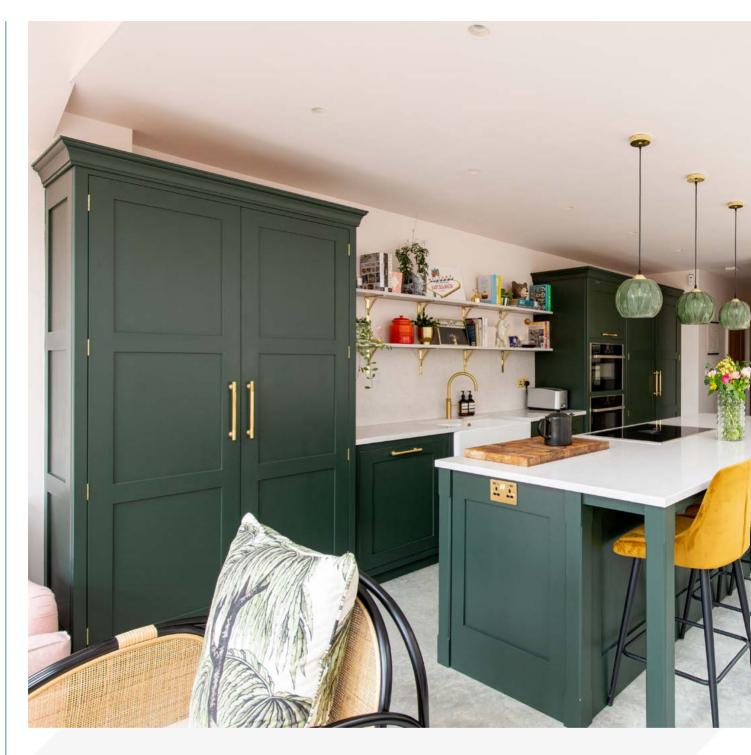
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PECKHAM RYE KITCHEN & UTILITY ROOM

We are all blown away by this fantastic project in East Dulwich!

Our lovely clients, Isobel and Jeremy, set off on a journey to renovate their Victorian terraced house in South London and 'lovingly restore to it's former glory' as they put it and we are so honoured to have been a part of that through bringing their kitchen and utility room visions to life.

THE DESIGN

For their bespoke kitchen, our clients chose cabinetry from our Westminster range, our more traditional shaker style kitchen, painted in a gorgeous dark, deep green as well as a mustard yellow for their display cabinet.



When asked what it was that made them decide on a bespoke kitchen, they said:

"Having come across Herringbone Kitchens a good few years ago, we knew that when we had a home that we planned to be in for many years to come, that we'd want a kitchen that was truly ours. Our home was a big renovation project, where a LOT of work was needed - a bespoke kitchen meant that we got to choose (with David's direction and expertise) all the elements to make it really work for us, as well as really reflect our style and personality. We love hosting, so we wanted a space that not only worked for us, but somewhere where family and friends could feel at home, socialise and eat together (we hosted Christmas day only 24 hours after we moved back in!). We looked at a few other places but just kept coming back to Herringbone. We are so happy we did." "Probably the most striking and eye grabbing part of the kitchen (and designer David's pride and joy) is the dresser display unit."

When asked if there were certain things they knew they wanted from the get go, they said:

"There wasn't one particular thing (though I'm sure a larder, wine fridge and island were front of mind!), but rather a kitchen that felt natural in our home, that felt unique to us, and that had that something special that really made it OURS - which became the yellow display cabinet, or 'yellow dresser of dreams' - or, 'David's dresser'."

THE YELLOW DRESSER

Probably the most striking and eye grabbing part of the kitchen (and designer David's pride and joy) is the dresser display unit. Painted in a beautiful mustard yellow, this unit features two shallow drawers with cupboards below as well as two double glass fronted cabinet doors and a mirrored back. This use of glass and mirror is not only a beautiful way to display the clients glassware but also reflects the natural light of the large window directly opposite and brings the outside in with the beautiful natural green reflections of their garden.

"Firstly - we absolutely love it! We wanted our kitchen to be functional of course, but also for it to be a beautiful space hence loving David's idea of the open marble shelves, which allow us to display cookbooks, plants, photos and things we love. We had an old dresser in our previous flat, which we mentioned to David in our first meeting, and how we wanted something that bridged stunning design, practicality (look at all that display and storage space!), and felt truly 'ours' the yellow dresser grew from there. The three of us got very excited about it, and we loved seeing all David's ideas come to life. All the details are perfect: the antique glass (which reflects so much sunlight and the view of the garden), that it is full height to our ceiling so stands out against the rest of the kitchen units, the use of the Sparkbrook knobs rather than pull handles which are throughout the rest of the space, the stunning cabinetry with the glass doors and sides, and of course that colour pop. It's the kind of one off piece that only a truly bespoke kitchen company can dream up and make."





THE HARDWARE

In both the kitchen and the utility, a combination of pull handles and knobs in a satin brass finish were used creating a sense of continuity.

These unique and custom made knobs and pulls feature a knurled detail adding texture and a slightly industrial element to the space.

We asked what made our clients settle on the colours and hardware they chose, they said:

"We love the warmth of brass and it tied in with the brass features throughout the rest of the house (light switches, plug sockets, door knobs etc.), and the Sparkbrook handles with their bevelling felt fun and worked with the colours we chose. We had a pretty clear idea that we wanted a deep green kitchen, but the idea of bringing in the yellow came about because we felt that we needed something that really 'popped' in the space and became a standalone feature. I think David nailed it with the dresser!! We liked that you don't see too many green kitchens (though perhaps that is changing!), and the yellow is just fun and never fails to make us smile. For our utility/cloakroom, given it's on the small side, David suggested that we kept it simple, painting it the same colour as the kitchen walls (Little Greene Paint Company, Rusling), making the spaces flow and feel cohesive."

THE WORKSHOP

Last year, not only did we grow as a team significantly, but we also opened up our very own workshop right here in Canterbury, only a 10 minute drive from the studio. Each kitchen, utility, bootroom or dressing room is tailor made for you and your space by our amazing team of talented joiners in our Canterbury workshop. We are incredibly proud of what we create together and love to share the process with our clients. If you would like to see your kitchen being made, please speak to your designer about arranging a visit to the workshop!

We asked Jeremy & Isobel what their favourite part of their new kitchen was, they said:

"Sitting at the kitchen island and looking across at the whole space! The individual choices such as the yellow dresser, marble shelves, larder and island, all come together to make it a truly wonderful space that we could not be happier with."

ON USING HERRINGBONE

We're so lucky and proud of all of the wonderful feedback we receive from our clients, and this project was no exception. This is what our clients had to say:

"From start to finish (and beyond!), the Herringbone team has been incredible. David is a star and we really have him to thank for making this kitchen come to life. We knew from our first meeting that we were working with a company who really mean it when they say they are bespoke. All the fitters who were involved were fantastic, friendly, professional, and always happy to go the extra mile to make things happen. Our main fitter Tony was incredibly cheerful, professional and able to guide us on the small but frequent decisions that can sometimes get lost in a big project. They all worked hard to ensure we were in our home in time for Christmas thank you!"

-Isobel & Jeremy, Peckham



STARON INTRODUCES FOUR NEW COLOURS TO ITS SURFACE COLLECTION FOR 2021



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

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





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

Perfect for use in kitchens and bathrooms, due to superior anti-scratch, anti-bacterial and heat resistant qualities, solid surfaces from Staron provide seamless and exquisitely smooth surfaces through indistinguishable joins.

Combining a sophisticated blend of natural minerals and thermosetting acrylic polymers, Staron offers total flexibility when it comes to design, making it ideal for commercial use too. From reception desks to shop display tables, its pliable structure allows any shape to be created, providing specifiers with unlimited design capabilities.

www.staron.com



BUYING A KITCHEN

Julia Trendell, design expert at Benchmarx Kitchens, provides some top tips on how to buy a kitchen.

"The kitchen is the heart of the home, so when it comes to a redesign, there is a real opportunity to choose a layout, features and materials that will truly enhance your day-today life.

"It's easy to be drawn to a lavish high-end kitchen design, however in reality, this may not always be a financially viable option, or indeed the only route to achieving your desired look. Even if you are working to a budget, this doesn't mean you have to forgo thoughts of a designer kitchen. Simply choosing clever combinations of cabinetry, worktops, lighting and appliances make it possible to create an expensive feel without overstepping on costs.

"Many of the finishes currently being seen in top-end kitchens are readily available from various, more accessible, kitchen suppliers, so it is worth finding your ideal style and seeing

how you can recreate this to best effect. Matt cabinetry for instance is on-trend amongst high end designers, and budgetfriendly Benchmarx Kitchens and Joinery has options such as its Eton matt dove grey, matt carbon and matt white ranges, which feature this desirable finish for an impressive look that has a more affordable price tag.

"I would always recommend getting the experts involved in your kitchen design early on to ensure you maximise the features that are important to you. There is a wealth of knowledge available at kitchen retailers who not only follow the latest trends but, working with the kitchen ranges day in day out, are best placed to discuss ways to achieve a bespoke look. Many manufacturers will have options available that can replicate a look at a range of price points, so if you have a style in mind then it is certainly worth talking this through.

"Specialist designers are available at each branch of Benchmarx, and can suggest options for cabinets, work surfaces and appliances that will create your desired look within your budget. They can also help pull your ideas together into a bespoke 3D design, so you can see where must-haves are included or compromises can be made, and may even open up new possibilities not previously considered.

"European kitchen retailers should only offer products that are tested to European standards, which ensures materials meet scratch, impact, steam and bleach resistance requirements, among many other benchmarks. Some kitchens are delivered flat packed, however readyassembled options offer the benefit of being finished to the highest standard before delivery – removing margin for error and making it easier for your kitchen fitter to install. "Some kitchens are delivered flat packed, however ready-assembled options offer the benefit of being finished to the highest standard before delivery."

"If opting for a matt finish, look for a PET foil surface, which is more environmentally friendly than many matt alternatives. This type of surface features the latest fingerprint technology to avoid unsightly marks left from touching, and is also easy to care for with a simple mixture of washing up liquid and water.

"When it comes to solid timber, ash is a preferable option to oak. Not only does ash have less impact on forestry, but it also has a consistent U-grain with no flat spots when painted, which can be prevalent when using oak.





True Handleless Cambridge Forest Green kitchen fro Benchmarx Kitchens and Joinery - seating nook



Benchmarx Cambridge stone grey - open shelving



"A solid timber kitchen has real appeal. However, if you are working to a budget, there is a lot to be said for costeffective wood alternatives that offer a durable wood-effect foil wrap. Traditional joints and wood grains make the difference here. Be sure to look out for cabinet fronts that are formed using separate sections with V grooves to echo traditional joinery fixings, along with foil finishes that reflect the individuality of wood grain.

"Benchmarx Kitchen's Sherwood range, for example, features a textured foil from a larger than usual roller, which creates more variation in the wood grain to create a realistic finish. This grain pattern is continued across the edging, giving the material a solid look.

"For the ultimate feature, consider incorporating an island unit or peninsula into your design. It can play host to a mixture of worktop textures and heights, provide extra preparation and storage space, as well as allowing you to include seating options that give your kitchen an individual edge.

"The possible shapes and layouts are endless, so gather ideas and have a clear idea of how you want the island unit to work for you. It may be that you just want an extra prep area, need to include extra seating or you would like it to house a stylish sink or hob to free up space elsewhere. Obviously the greater the space the more dramatic and large scale you can go, but even in a modest area, an island unit is not out of the question. Consider combining a table style seating area with a small number of units for extra storage. Alternatively, incorporate a multi-functional seating nook into surrounding cabinetry, to truly make the most of surrounding space.

"The right appliances will add an instant wow-factor, so are worth considering to create a real feature. Double ovens are not only practical for large families, but can also offer a striking look in open spaces. An integrated microwave and coffee machine can also enhance your life, whilst offering a sleek, clutter-free aesthetic that looks truly minimal and keeps work surfaces free.

"Creative storage is a simple but effective tactic to ensure you make the most of every inch of space. A larder/ corner pantry unit will ensure that you can easily view and access ingredients, without scrambling at the back of the cupboard. Internal storage is also key – integrated carousels are excellent for convenience as they allow you to locate different utensils quickly and pan drawers provide the depth needed to store larger items whilst keeping them accessible. Internal drawers and pull out wire shelves and storage baskets can also help you stay organised; you will be thankful for paying attention to these details when you are using your new kitchen."

For further information about Benchmarx Kitchens & Joinery and to download a brochure, please visit www.benchmarxkitchens.co.uk

CISTERMISER'S NEW CPD PRESENTATION EXPLAINS THE BENEFITS OF IOT REMOTE MONITORING



IoT Water Temperature Monitoring

Intelligent washroom controls and water efficiency specialist Cistermiser has launched a new CPD learning module entitled: "Using the Internet of Things for Water Temperature Monitoring to Help Reduce Risk of Legionella".

This CPD fully discusses the issues around this important requirement and describes how the latest remote monitoring systems using IoT technology platforms deliver significant advantages for management of commercial buildings in the 21st century. Key considerations include the threat of Legionella and other water-borne bacteria, why understanding water temperature is vital to building management, defining design parameters for water system monitoring, how the Internet of Things can be utilised and the practical benefits of digital analytics.

I hour in duration with an interactive Q&A to close the session, this CPD learning module from Cistermiser is presented in "short seminar" format and is approved by 3 third party organisations: The CPD Certification Service, RIBA and CIBSE.

To request a CPD presentation, please send an email to info@ourworldiswater.co.uk or contact Cistermiser on 0118 969 01611.

THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL STONE IN THE BATHROOM

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

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



www.lundhsrealstone.com/uk

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

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

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

LOCAL SHOPS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE...

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

Why does The IPG support Independents?

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

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

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

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



тне

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

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

www.the-ipg.co.uk



ULTRA-LUXE BLACK KITCHEN, CREATED AND INSTALLED BY BRANDT DESIGN

Bespoke contemporary family kitchen in Black Oak laminate with Silestone surfaces by Brandt Design

UK interior design specialists, Brandt Design, embrace the dark side with this ultra-luxe precision engineered kitchen living space, designed and installed for a modern home in the London Borough of Sutton in South London, England.

Personifying the strength of an all-black interior, the main furniture in this contemporary kitchen is designed in rich Black Oak, which offers a deep rich texture and works in



perfect combination with the striking Marquina surfaces: recognized as one of the most beautiful marbles found in nature thanks to its deep black foundation and distinct white veins.

Scott Davis, Managing Director, Brandt Design says, "With an emphasis on family life and entertaining, the central island unit provides a dedicated space in the kitchen to cook, dine and socialise with family and friends, all supported by a wall of integrated storage that is highly practical yet discreet in nature. Designed to maximize storage space and utility in the kitchen, the linear wash zone is almost invisible to the eye, featuring an integral kitchen sink in anthracite with matt black taps and smoky glass splashback for tonal variety. Either side sits a bank of twin-set ovens by Siemens complete the run of cabinetry and ensure appliances are conveniently placed within easy reach of the home cook."

The run of top units are broken up by special feature cubbyholes which are backed in the same smoky glass and are designed with subtle downlights to display a range of home essentials like wine glasses, recipe books and fresh herbs to name a few. To the right of the island, the run of full-height furniture continues to create even more storage space and discreetly house the built-in fridge freezer and impressive wine cabinet, which takes centre-stage.

With room to seat up to four diners, the island unit is equipped with extra power outlets: ideal if family or guests wish to charge their phone, play some music or work from home using a personal laptop. With plenty of natural light cascading in from the overhead vaulted skylight and fulllength French doors that open into the garden, this kitchen was able to adopt a darker colour palette and maintain a light and airy feel throughout.

The accent flooring in opposing white marble-effect tiles help unify the kitchen and living area, as well as play a central role in emphasising all of the different shapes, tones and textures in contemporary black.

Scott Davis, Director, Brandt Design, says "Black looks modern and distinctive in the kitchen and is the ideal choice for a bespoke scheme. Our brief was to bring a refined aesthetic to the engine room of a busy home while ensuring that the footprint was user-friendly 24/7. Introducing pattern and texture with the made-to-measure surfaces enhances the monolithic feel of the island unit, making it an even more inviting space to linger over drinks, dinner or shared family time. In my opinion, a premium kitchen needs to look good and feel good, so we really focussed on ergonomics when space planning to ensure that everything was at a comfortable height from built-in appliances and bespoke shelving to seating."

BLACK BEAUTY KITCHEN PROJECT BY BRANDT DESIGN:

- AV1097-GL Black Oak laminate Kitchen Furniture
- Worktops: 20mm Silestone Eternal Marquina
- Kitchen sink by Blanco: Undermounts Subline 700-U
 Bowl Undermount sink (BL450871)
- Hot water by Quooker: 3FSBLK Pro3 Fusion Square
 Black

- Miele built-in KMDA7774FL-12 in <u>1 Induction Hob</u>
- 2 x Siemens built-in HB672GBS1B iQ700 Single
 Multifunction Ovens
- Siemens built-in BI510CNR0B iQ500 14cm High
 Warming Drawer Black
- Siemens built-in CF634AGS1B iQ700 Compact45
 Microwave
- 2 x Siemens built in SN636X00KG iQ300 60cm Fully
 Integrated Dishwashers
- Liebherr Integral IK3520 built-in fridge
- Complete project cost at £43,231.54 +vat

"Personifying the strength of an all-black interior, the main furniture in this contemporary kitchen is designed in rich Black Oak."







For further information on please contact:

Brandt Design | Website: www.brandtdesign.co.uk Email info@brandtkitchens.co.uk

Hatch End: 431 The Broadway, Uxbridge Rd, Pinner, Herts HA5 4JR T: 0203 758 4455

Hampstead: 489, Finchley Road, West Hampstead, London NW3 6HS T: 0208 194 7888

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"Pipetite's applications are endless, but it is an effective option to seal a pipe, tube, or other structural equipment through concrete walls, outside piping, ceiling holes, and various openings."





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seal or cracking, allowing for a secure, quiet facility.

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ridges that provide excellent surface contact, eliminating the need for caulks and sealants. The pipe penetration seal can be adapted easily to fit most pipe or tube diameters. Its superior pliancy allows pipes to move significantly without breaking the

A GUIDE TO SILICATE MASONRY PAINT

What is silicate masonry

paint? In a nutshell, it's a highly breathable masonry paint suitable for lime, concrete, brick, stone, concrete and pebble dash. Used on unpainted masonry surfaces it provides a durable, long-lasting finish.

Conventional acrylic based paints may stop rain driving into a wall but they also create a barrier that stops moisture escaping. It's widely recognised that unless a wall can breathe through the paint there will be a build up of moisture within the wall, causing blown paint and plaster or render.

Can you use silicate masonry paint on lime wash? You can use our Silicate Masonry System over existing lime wash provided it is completely sound and stable.

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The external walls of this late medieval hall house have been painted with Earthborn Silicate Masonry Paint in Sandstone to provide a long lasting alternative to limewash.

How does it work? Our

system works by applying primer then paint to a bare masonry surface. The two products create a chemical reaction with the masonry and essentially 'knit' into the surface, creating a strong bond.

We've recently doubled the colour range to 48 shades, to get hold of a free colour card and to order sample pots, head to our online shop. If you already know which shade you want, full size tubs and primer can now be ordered directly too.



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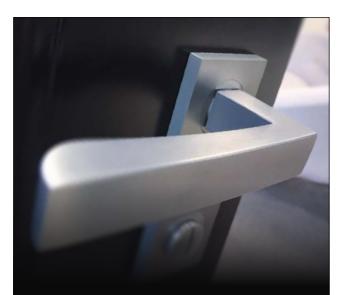
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MAKE LIGHT WORK (IN 'SOHO')



Photo courtesy of Nicola Hicks Design/Charlie Round-Turner/ Lightfoot Windows (Kent)

Using natural light to define a space is a key element within a home's design - and should be a significant consideration for your home working environment; whether it's a home office, study, converted playroom, your bedroom, at the kitchen table or in a garden annex.

The hallmark of a Crittall window is the slender steel frame that is so much slimmer – and therefore admits so much more light – than alternative window systems which require far larger profiles due to the basic differences in the frame material and their relative strengths.

For a new extension, combining outdoor space with an internal area under structural glazing, removing barriers so you have a level threshold, or creating a courtyard with stunning fulllength glazing, are great ways to achieve impact and add value to your property.

Crittall Windows offer a complete service from start to finish via their Crittall Specialist Partners (CSPs). They give free, no obligation, quotes and a warranty covering windows, doors, glass and installation.

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GARADOR LAUNCHES NEW GARAGLIDE ROLLER GARAGE DOOR

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

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

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

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



HOW TO CHANNEL LIGHT THROUGH YOUR PROPERTY

Peter Daniel, Product Innovation Director at The Rooflight Company, discusses how to use natural light to beautifully frame any room.

Natural light is not exactly a modern commodity but is becoming increasingly important in residential and commercial builds alike as we all wake up to the profound effect natural light has on our physical and mental health, as well as its ability to completely transform the dynamic of a room.

When first considering how to channel light through a home, it almost goes without saying that analysing the building's orientation should be step one, as this will have a significant impact on the amount of light a room receives. Not only this, but it will also impact what time of day it experiences direct sunlight at different times of the year. For example, if you have an East facing room, it will get the sunlight in the early morning but will be in the shade by the afternoon.

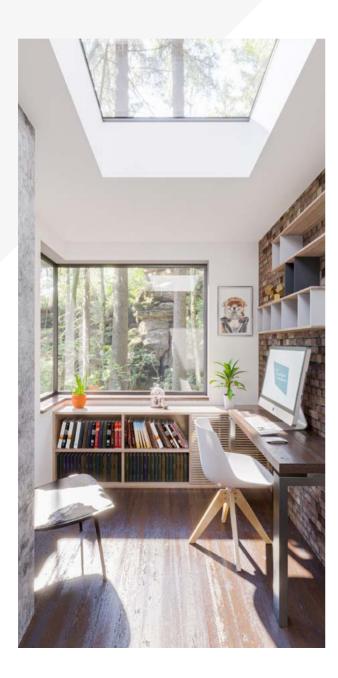
Simple enough in theory but actually imagining how a window here or there might change the look of a room isn't always easy. Daylight-visualising software is a great tool to help with this process as it maps how light moves. There are a few different apps out there, but each will mock-up a room and track the light patterns at different times of the day/year, depending on where vertical windows and rooflights are. Architects should be able to offer this service as standard during the design process. As tempting as it may be to put one big rooflight in a room, this may not be the best option. Using one large window can have the adverse effect of letting too much light into a room, which can be just as bad as having a dark room. It can also reduce the thermal performance of the room by substituting higher performing insulation with lower performing glazing – getting the balance right is key.

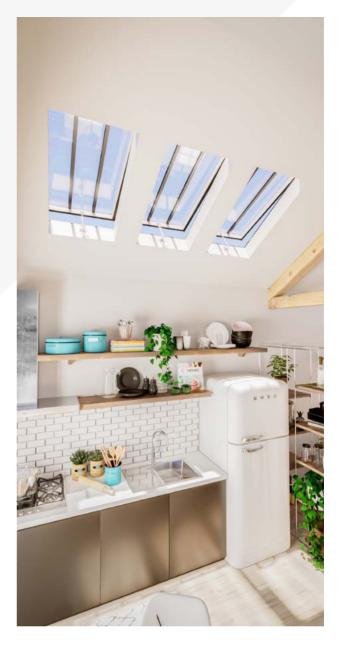
In these instances, the room will be stifling hot in the summer but freezing cold in the winter. A pitfall many modern conservatories fall into and the main reason that many homeowners are ripping off the glass roofs to their conservatories in favour of a tiled one with multiple, smaller rooflights.

Using several smaller rooflights instead of one big one can help you avoid this issue partly because there is a lot less glass involved, but also because there are several different glazing options which can be used to reduce the G-value of the glass panes and reduce solar energy transmittance (how easily a room warms up in direct sunlight). Another consideration is how sensitive you are to noise. A large expanse of conservatory roof suffering a sudden downpour of heavy rain can be deafening whereas several smaller rooflights may dilute the sound. Light from above also has a different quality to light from the side. In the UK, we mainly experience white light which is especially prevalent throughout the winter months. White light acts like highlights in a Renaissance painting, soft but bright. Rooflights can be used to direct light in a painterly way similar to that of Renaissance paintings.

You can use this to your advantage by using rooflights to create a "spotlight" effect which can look very cool. If you want to highlight a specific feature, simply install a rooflight directly above it. There are some clever tricks to push the boundaries of how rooflights can channel light in instances like this. For example, using a triangle shape near a wall which will provide directional light straight down.

That said though, some consideration needs to go into the feature you choose to highlight via a rooflight. Having a spotlight on your kitchen island may sound like a wonderful idea on paper, for example, but this area of the room will experience a high amount of humidity which could cause problems with condensation. If in doubt, talk to your architect or the design team at The Rooflight Company for guidance.





"As tempting as it may be to put one big rooflight in a room, this may not be the best option."

A couple of things to note for this technique too, the roofs build-up will determine how dramatic the patterns of light into the room are. If the build-up is thick, then the light through a rooflight will be a direct beam, particularly during hours of direct sun. If you want to avoid this and achieve a softer finish, the linings of the rooflight can be splayed to reduce the intensity of the light channels.

Light is a significant aspect of a home which should not be underestimated. There are some brilliant ways to harness its power and perfectly frame a room. It just takes a little bit of planning. By factoring in the considerations above, you will be onto a winner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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







BRITISH & EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS SUPPLYING THE FINEST QUALITY IRONMONGERY

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

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

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











THIS NEW BUILD PROJECT FEATURING SIEGER AND SCHUCO GLAZING SYSTEMS WON THE INDIVIDUAL HOUSE AWARD

Field House won the Individual House Award in the 2020 Schuco Excellence Awards

Designed by architects Spratley & Partners, this new build project utilises the picturesque countryside that surrounds it. Large glazing elevations were incorporated all around the property for uninterrupted, panoramic views of the outdoors.

Gable end, frameless windows combined with a slim sliding door system create a striking glazing solution at the rear of the property. Also featured in this project are Sieger Casement Windows and Schuco Doors. As with most Sieger glazing systems, these both have modern and minimal designs whilst boasting outstanding performance levels.

The glazing package used various installations of structural glazing, along with floor to ceiling glazing to make the most of the expansive views. In keeping with the setting and aesthetic, the home was finished using materials such as zinc and pre-weathered burnt timber cladding which interfaced well with the architectural glazing.





"The glazing package used various installations of structural glazing, along with floor to ceiling glazing to make the most of the expansive views."



Sliding door systems were used to create a small internal courtyard next to the sunken living room. This combined with a walk-on rooflight ensures the room benefits from natural light and ventilation whilst keeping the cosy atmosphere.



If you would like to enquire about using Sieger Systems for your project, get in touch with us today. Our experienced sales team are on hand to offer support and guidance on all aspects of the Sieger products to ensure the correct decision is made.

www.siegersystems.co.uk

MAGNETIC MAGNA® - NEW FINISHES ADDED TO THE HAVWOODS COLLECTION

Offering the ultimate in wood flooring innovation, Havwoods is proud to announce the introduction of twelve new finishes to its Magna collection. A versatile solution for installations across commercial spaces, these statement new designs promise high-quality functionality without compromising on style.

Ideal for workspaces and retail environments, the new Magna boards are also available in numerous natural wood finishes that work beautifully across all settings. From the warm honey hues of Cedro to the dark coffee tones of Quadro, interior designers have the option to create a statement surface that can be removed and replaced easily thanks to its state-of-the-art system.

Exceptionally manufactured with a magnetised and foam-sealed construction, the advanced boards deliver a secure connection to the supporting pedestal, which can be smoothly disconnected using a suction lifter for easy access. Notably quicker to fit and install than traditional glue or underlay applications, Magna ensures reduced downtime during refurbishments.

Alongside the latest introductions, the Magna boards are also available in any finish across the Havwoods range. Whether customers are renovating one main space or a larger area, the pioneering range makes for the perfect choice thanks to its durability and diverse colour grades.

Leaders in wood flooring solutions, Havwoods' unparalleled expertise and depth of knowledge for wood sets it apart as the UK's prevailing wood flooring company. Providing up-tothe-minute designs, this brand sets the benchmark for superior quality wood flooring for both residential and commercial markets.

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TERRAZZO TREND FOR MASTIC ASPHALT FLOORING AND PAVING

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

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

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



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

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



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ROVER'S FLOORING PRODUCERS, IMPORTERS & DISTRIBUTERS



WOOD FLOORING AND TILE COMPANY

Eden Clay have come a long way since beginning as two individuals set on serving local businesses and retail customers with products sourced from UK distributors. They now have a large team of talented individuals, import all their products direct from European manufacturers, produce all of their own wood flooring, and sell and install nationally for some of the countries most recognisable brands and personalities.

"It's said that when starting a business "do what you know". We built Eden Clay around the products we know inside out and centred it on service over sales. This is still at the heart of what we do, with our staff, showroom and website focused on the experience of finding the perfect tile and wood floor for your business or home." Co founder Mark Bowring.

Why Eden Clay?

Their wood flooring is hand finished in the UK providing their clients with a unique range of quality products including perfectly colour matched trims and accessories, and their tile collections include a number that are exclusive to them, with the majority imported directly from Italy.

However the aspect they are most proud of is their ability to equally and comprehensively service the commercial and domestic markets, offering both experiences tailored to their differing needs.

Commercial

For Architects technical downloads and installation details specific to each product are available, as well as director lead technical support.

For Interior Designers detail is the key. Design is fundamental to Eden Clays product range and effort has been made to support current trends. Comprehensive samples are available to order or take away.

For Developers, being importers Eden Clay are able to offer a very competitive price point, especially considering the high quality of their products.

For Contractors site support and product training is available. This is supported by downloadable installation guides and video guides on request.

Domestic

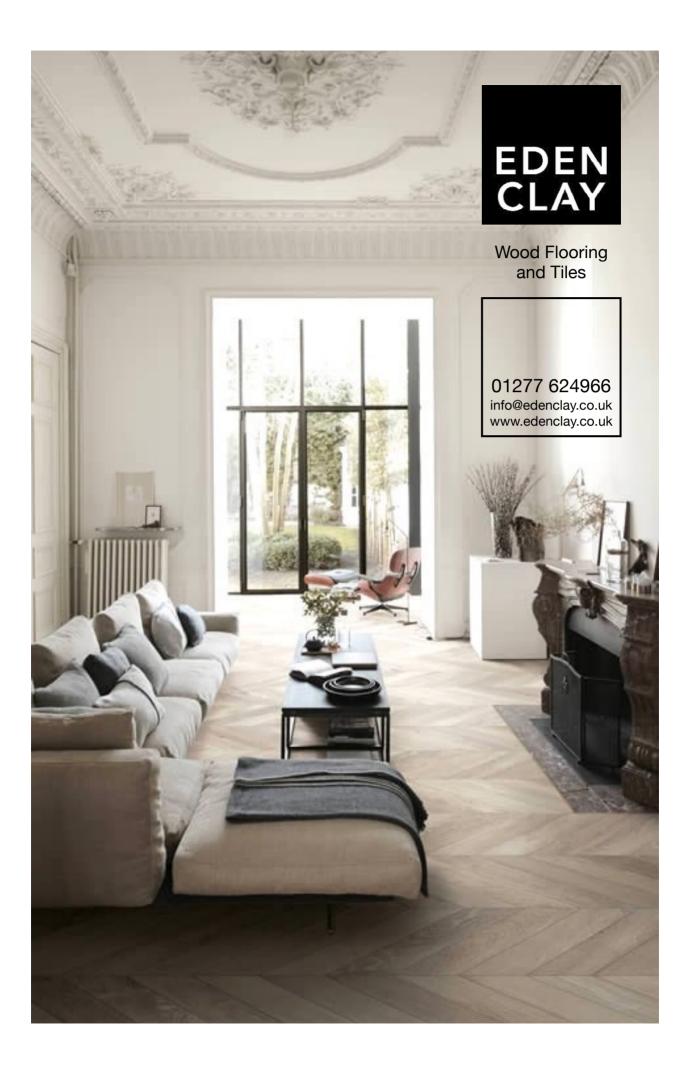
For home owners, Eden Clay understands the difficulties faced with selecting the right wood floor or tile. Both products are a permanent fixture in your home that helps determines its final aesthetic, so to help their clients make the right choice imagery of each product installed is available, and free samples and larger panels on request are provided.

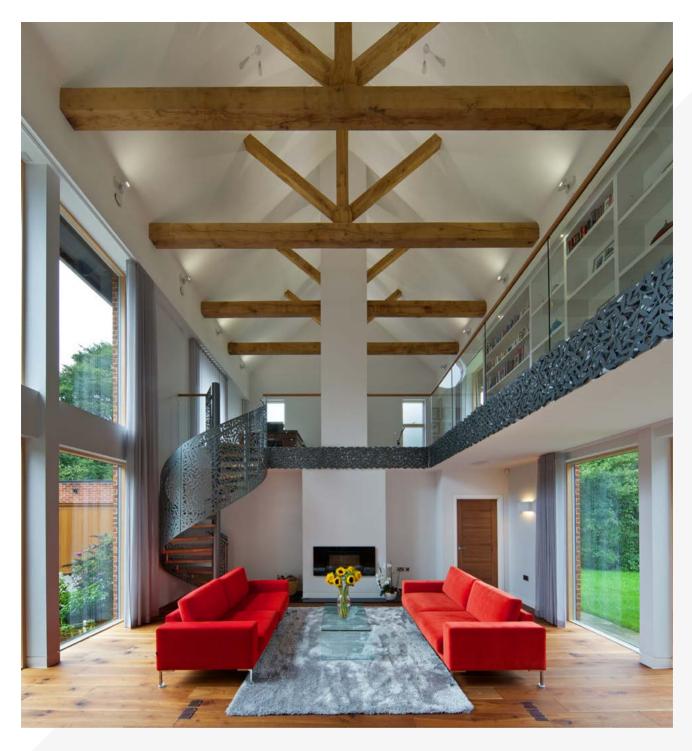
With new products being added to their portfolio and website weekly, and the addition of a room visualiser app to come, Eden Clay are continually looking to improve their clients choices and experience.

Eden Clay has fast become a trusted brand for tiles and wood flooring.

Designers, producers and curators of often unique and always wonderful tiles and wood floors.

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OAKBRIDGE BESPOKE HOMES: PROJECT CASE STUDY

Contemporary Barn, Hertfordshire

This 6,000 sq ft contemporary barn showcases a range of complex design features. Oakbridge Bespoke worked as a build partner to deliver the timber-framed barn over the course of 12 months.

The open plan barn features double height vaulted ceilings in the hallway and lounge, with skeletal architectural detailing and exposed feature oak trusses. The standout feature is the spiral staircase with glass handrail with floral laser-printed design. This unique feature was designed and installed (post-handover) by https://taylorhoodmetalworks.co.uk/, while the laser cut, dual layered floral design metal cladding was designed by https://www.milesandlincoln.com/ and installed by Elite Carpentry.





Oakbridge Bespoke collaborated with other designers to achieve an outstanding result for the client – a contemporary barn that incorporates different materials and finishes throughout. Oakbridge Bespoke's in-house mechanical and electrical team delivered the most up-to date-technologies, including underfloor heating and rooftop PV solar panels. "The standout feature is the spiral staircase with glass handrail with floral laser-printed design."





"This build presented a unique and unprecedented challenge due to the many design features including oak trusses, double height lounge, complex glazing and many more. Our team rose to the challenge and produced a stunning project to an extremely high specification."

Toby Miller, Contracts Manager, Oakbridge Bespoke Homes





For more information, please contact Oakbridge Bespoke Homes on 01727 261071 or enquiries@oakbridgebespoke.co.uk or visit www.oakbridgebespoke.co.uk

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WARMUP UNDERFLOOR HEATING: PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Underfloor heating is a cleaner, more efficient way to heat a home and is suitable for both new-build and renovation projects. Floor heaters require less energy to reach optimal comfort temperatures than traditional heating systems and with this increased energy-efficiency, you can expect lower long-term running costs. The 'invisible' nature of underfloor heating also facilitates complete freedom when designing your home, with no style interruptions caused by bulky radiators and exposed piping.

Warmup Underfloor Heating provides a bespoke floorheating solution specifically designed and built to suit your requirements. With over 20 years of experience in heating homes, Warmup offer optimised electric and water underfloor heating systems to bring cost-savings, energyefficiency and design freedom to your project.

HYDRONIC UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

Hydronic Underfloor Heating, also known as Wet or Water Underfloor Heating, is a contemporary heating system that pumps heated water from a heat source through pipes within the floor construction. This heated water produces radiant warmth which heats up a room to a consistent, comfortable temperature from the floor up.

KEY BENEFITS:

- Suitable for almost all floor finishes and room types
- Compatible with a variety of heat sources
- Perfect for new build and large-scale renovation projects
- Lower running costs

REDUCING CO2 EMISSIONS: WARMUP PRO HYDRO

Warmup Pro Hydro is the world's first tool to instantly and automatically design bespoke underfloor heating systems, meaning real savings for installers and their customers by making correctly specified underfloor heating as quick and easy to buy as pre-packaged room kits.

In comparison to pre-packaged room kits, Warmup Pro Hydro uses up to 20% less pipe, because spacings are automatically optimised for the heat loss of the room. That is equivalent to saving an entire room's worth of pipe on a 100m2 install. By automatically optimising the design of the system for the heat loss of the rooms, Warmup Pro Hydro can ensure enough heat output for the coldest days at lower flow temperatures. This allows the heat source to run at more efficient temperatures, saving up to 10% in energy use. In fact, for every 100 homes built with Warmup Pro Hydro systems instead of pre-packaged room kits, over 15 tons of CO2 is saved each year.

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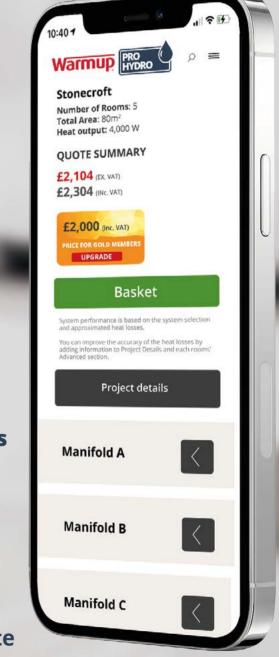
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A MODERNIST HOME IS TRANSFORMED INTO A LIGHT BRIGHT SPACE

The owners of this home are a warm, sociable family who love to cook, so needed a space they could spend time together comfortably.

After turning to Samantha Watkins Mcrae, an interior designer on Houzz.co.uk – the platform that connects renovators with home improvement professionals – it was clear the old 1990s-style colour scheme needed to go in favour of a lighter and brighter palette.



Houzz has been an essential tool for Samantha since she joined in 2013. She explains, "Houzz Pro is a great platform on which to display our studios' work but more importantly it has allowed us to steadily grow our business with new and interesting project leads."

This modernist home in Hampstead is just one such project that came via Houzz. When the homeowners completed their purchase before the first lockdown came into place in March 2020, they originally planned to manage the design process themselves. But with the added pressure of a lockdown and after fully understanding the scale of the project, they quickly headed to Houzz to find a professional to assist. After finding Samantha's profile they loved her design style and from reading her glowing reviews, felt she'd be a perfect choice.

"The home had been really heavy, with lots of dark walls and quite masculine 90's styling", Samantha explains. "They were leaving an apartment that was really bright so it was clear we needed to strip back the dark palette to lift the space," she adds.





Previously, the kitchen cabinets were a dark grey lacquer and were the first thing to go. "They are a really warm, loving family who spend a lot of time together and absolutely love to cook, so it was important to make the kitchen a social space," says Samantha. The kitchen was still in good condition so Samantha worked with Koldo&Co, who designed, manufactured and installed the kitchen, to retain what they could. The carcasses were given a new lease of life with replacement doors, and as the homeowner loves classical detailing a design with prominent beading was selected. The oak flooring was sanded to strip back the yellow tones and finished with a greyish stain. "The open-plan kitchen space has a beautiful aspect, with doors opening onto a terrace, which was also made over as part of the project."

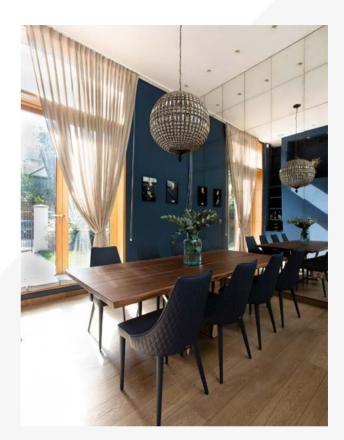


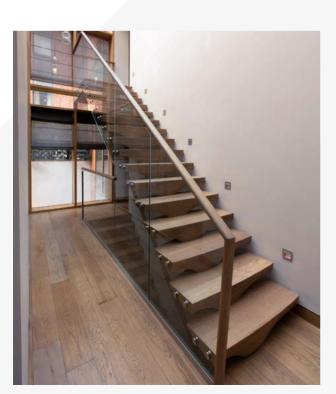
The open-plan kitchen space has a beautiful aspect, with doors opening onto a terrace, which was also made over as part of the project. To brighten the space a neutral colour palette was used, with the wall units sprayed in 'Strong White'. The homeowners grew up near the sea and these memories are important to them so they loved the idea of adding a flash of blue to the island. After looking at multiple blue options, 'Hague Blue' was selected as it created a nice statement and paired well with the beading on the joinery.

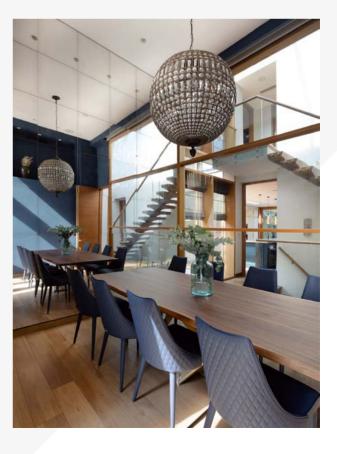




Samantha upgraded the kitchen island for a larger design, which is now over 3 metres long. This has created lots of surface area for a keen cook, as well as integrating seating for six people. "It will be a great place to entertain when the world opens back up again," explains Samantha. A quartz stone with strong veining was used for the worktop as the owners love the look of marble but needed a more durable surface. Statement pendants were selected by the homeowner to be positioned over the island. The hallway had previously been a dark grey and felt like the "room of gloom", says Samantha. By stripping this back to a soft white it feels much brighter and now benefits from the ample natural light the area receives. In the dining room, the old dark shade of purple was replaced by "Stiffkey Blue' which echoes the 'Hague Blue' used in the kitchen. It is a dramatic space with a double-height ceiling, and the antique glass back wall, an existing feature of the room, is positioned to bounce light around the room beautifully.





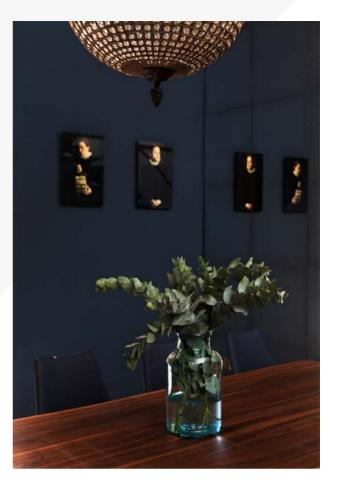


"In the dining room, the old dark shade of purple was replaced by "Stiffkey Blue' which echoes the 'Hague Blue' used in the kitchen."





In the downstairs WC, "we wanted to create a sanctuary that almost felt like a getaway", says Samantha. Textures were key to creating this. A fabric wallpaper was used on the walls to add a tactile texture to the space and the floors are covered with hexagonal floor tiles, which have a nice honed chalky feel. "The sink was one of the owner's big wants", Samantha explains. It is a concrete sink in a steel colourway but at over 50 kilos meant that the wall had to be reinforced to support the weight.





The owners are overjoyed by the finished project, which the team managed to complete smoothly during lockdown. They explain, "Samantha has been the perfect fit for us - knowledgeable, tasteful, creative and an absolute delight to work with. We feel very fortunate to have met Sam and are so thankful for her help in transforming our house into our family home."

For enquiries please contact Samantha Watkins Mcrae or Koldo&Co www.samwatkinsmcrae.com | www.koldoandco.com



New water feature provides inspiration for interior and landscape projects

Introducing a fresh wave of inspiration to the world of interior and landscape design is a new style of water feature, the AquaVeil®. Launched by Tills Innovations Ltd, one of the UK's leading water feature specialists, the AquaVeil® has a mesmerising waterfall-like design.

With a soothing sound and minimal water wastage, the AquaVeil® offers an innovative way to create a relaxing atmosphere and boost wellbeing - whether it's a peaceful addition to a small and intimate garden, or an injection of luxurious bliss to a large space or venue. Every AquaVeil® can be tailor-made to any size and is suitable for a range of indoor and outdoor settings; it can be a free-standing structure positioned against a wall, integrated into the wall, draped floor to ceiling, or even shaped to the curvature of a building or space.

For more information, and to make an enquiry about the AquaVeil®, visit: www.aquaveil.co.uk or call 01284 834 834.



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With over 30 years' experience, Rich Conlin and Paul Gibbs started The Loft Room to fulfil the need for luxury design and service in the loft conversion industry and now proudly work on homes across South West London, Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire.

Unlike most traditional loft conversion companies, The Loft Room was founded and now managed by two expert carpenters who set





out to create bespoke spaces and offer an exceptional experience for their clients Now, after building hundreds of lofts (and many more before The Loft Room), Paul, Rich and their team of architects and structural engineers have an extraordinary ability to turn any loft into the heart of their client's home. In the office, Rich's wife Melissa and his mother-in-law Maggie keep everything running smoothly - ensuring this family-run business provides a unique luxury service like no other The future is luxury, unique spaces that upgrade and add value

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ALL ROUND - THE NEW INNOVATIVE SURFACE SOLUTION FROM CTD ARCHITECTURAL TILES

Versatile and contemporary, the new All Round collection from CTD Architectural Tiles provides designers, architects and specifiers with a full-coverage, striking surface solution. Offering a continuous flow from flat surface to corners and edging, the new collection is designed to make a statement whilst ensuring a flawless finish and ease of cleaning.

Ideal for all kinds of project types - from residential kitchens and leisure facilities to restaurants and bars, All Round is available in 4 monochromatic colourways in 6 shapes in a glazed porcelain gloss finish. Allowing for total flexibility in surface design, the intelligent modular system creates a seamless continuation across all edges and corners, moulding joins and angles resulting in a smooth and uninterrupted appearance. From integrated sinks to seating areas, All Round offers a modern twist on the metro tile trend, whilst delivering on practical and aesthetic levels.

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Few materials inspire the imagination in the way glass and mirror can. By augmenting the sense of space, light and even adding colour, these stunning options breathe an extra dimension of opulence into any design project.

At MIRROR MANIA, we are experts in mirrors and decorative glass. We understand that designers, architects and renovation specialists are constantly striving to integrate new, creative features into their work. We also know it can be difficult to find a company offering unique and made-to-measure premium products.

Besides an extensive range of exclusive, hand-crafted products (we currently have a portfolio of 1,300 designs), we specialise in creating – or inspiring you to create – bespoke mirrors and decorative glass or acrylic work.

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

We can custom-design domes, wall and ceiling panels, as well as door and window glazing. We can tailor designs to your bespoke colour scheme, and to fit even the most unusually shaped spaces.

Established for more than 30 years, MIRROR MANIA is an independently owned British company, led by award-winning mirror artist, Phillip Orr.



Our products are hand-crafted in our workshop, using special patented techniques to make outstanding flat and 3D mirrors, mirrored artworks and decorative glass products. Based in Norfolk, we deliver nationally and internationally, and we also have a large showroom.

So, if you are looking for the perfect finishing touch for your project, call us to speak directly to our design team for advice or to interpret and create exactly what you have been looking for.

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DULUX HERITAGE LAUNCHES A PERFECT BLEND OF MODERN STYLE AND SUBSTANCE FOR DECORATORS

Dulux is introducing two new premium paints and a curated range of classic colours, supporting professionals to meet more high-end demands from UK homeowners.

Dulux Heritage is a new range of professional quality paints that deliver a beautiful 'smooth to the touch' aesthetic along with the tough, lasting durability needed for everyday life.



The stunning collection of beautiful colours are inspired by significant periods of British decorating history combined with contemporary and future design trends, skillfully researched by historical colour experts and curated by the expert team at Dulux.

Dulux Heritage colours have been popular with professional decorators and interior designers for many years. Now, to give them even more confidence in the quality of the finish, Dulux has invested in the development of two innovative new Heritage paints, comprising a new emulsion for walls and ceilings with a unique Velvet Matt finish and a premium solvent free Eggshell for trim.

It is this unique blend of colour expertise married with technical innovation that sets Dulux Heritage apart. The result allows professionals to offer customers a range of colours that are effortlessly elegant for today's homes in a premium paint that is easy to apply to walls, woodwork or metalwork, with the quality and durability that Dulux is known for. A perfect mix of modern style and substance.

The palette is designed to contain the perfect balance of pale, mid and deep shades from the palest duck egg to deepest aubergine, along with a perfect white for every colour scheme.



Such a luxurious range of colours demand to be admired whether they are applied in a dining room, bedroom, living room or a tiny cloakroom - and be as beautiful to touch as they are to look at. Dulux Heritage paint goes on smoothly and once on the wall, the rich colours are accentuated with a soft, tactile finish that feels soft and luxurious to the touch, just like velvet.

The Dulux Heritage Velvet Matt emulsion is formulated with premium quality pigments to guarantee excellent depth of colour and contains specially blended clays for effortless application and the irresistible soft to touch finish that will stand up to customers' busy lives.

Dulux Heritage Eggshell is a durable and hard-wearing waterbased eggshell for use on interior wood and metal in a tough formulation that delights customers. It is easy to apply, quick drying, low odour and remains beautiful for years.

Dulux UK Creative Director Marianne Shillingford explains: "With the bespoke formulation of Velvet Matt for walls and ceilings, Dulux has created its most high-quality finish to date, a beautiful durable formulation that complements the aesthetic of the premium colour range.

"Heritage is the ultimate professional quality paint with a colour palette that combines the best classic colours from the past, present and future.

"What is great now is that it's easier than ever for decorators and designers to create sophisticated colour schemes in a velvety matt finish that actually feels as good as it looks on their walls. It's an exciting innovation and sets this range apart from anything else on the market. "It is this unique blend of colour expertise married with technical innovation that sets Dulux Heritage apart."





"Decorators have trusted Dulux for 90 years and that's a heritage we are proud to keep going with the launch of the new range."

The quality of Heritage is backed by the Dulux Promise that each can of paint will deliver the perfect colour, uniform finish and the coverage stated, or Dulux will replace it

For more information, visit: www.duluxheritage.co.uk

LALIQUE INTERIORS



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

BOTANICA 2

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

Botanica is the latest collection and an exploration of the Japanese cherry tree - its blossoms symbolising the ephemeral character of life. The Fleurs de Cerisier vase, limited to 88 pieces is created in the hot glass 'souffle' technique of blown crystal with carving work in cold glass to hand sculpt each petal and remove imperfection. Each petal is stamped with pure liquid gold and black and white enamel requiring more than 3 hours of craftsmanship and then fired overnight at 510 degrees centigrade.

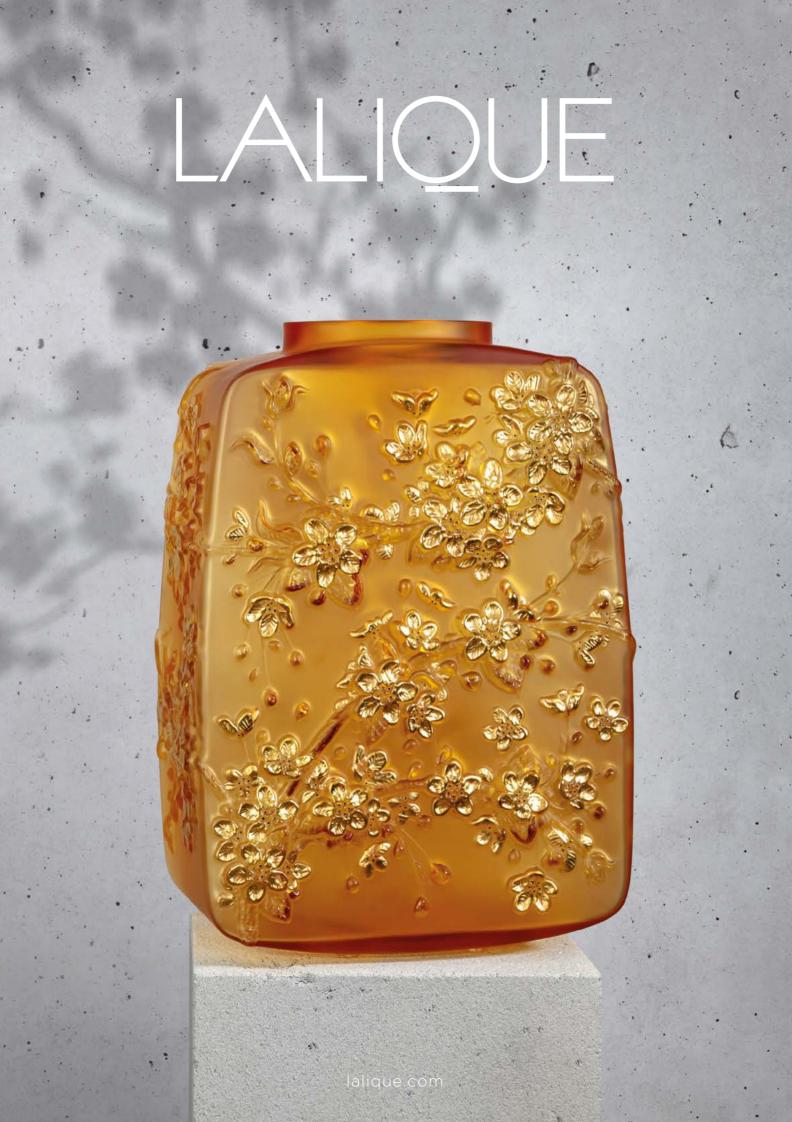


Available in purple, clear and amber crystal. It makes a stunning centrepiece for any interior and is part of a wider collection in soft pinks and warm hues with prices starting at £55.

For further information or to book a one-to-one appointment for our team to guide you through the collection, please contact:

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CHILDCARE INSTITUTIONS WITH SOUND DESIGN

The design of spaces for children is intriguing because of the permanent influence it can have on them. A new online theme by Danish acoustic panel manufacturer Troldtekt explores through articles and expert interviews how good acoustics plays its part when designing these areas. Of course, other factors such as colour, shapes, robustness and finish also have an impact but so does sound. Children are noisy and active and the rooms they inhabit are typically large.

Careful design considerations are particularly important because a child's environment moulds their perspectives for the future and the development of the mind and body. School, activity and childcare spaces all affect self-esteem, performance and friendships and help shape the individual into the adults they will become.

Studies such as Bronzaft and McCarthy (1975) have shown the effect noise has on wellbeing and learning - This is the reason why the products of specialist manufacturers like Troldtekt are specified to solve the problems of noise and reverberated sounds. If acoustic absorption is ineffective, discomfort and irritation will result from the reverberations. If it is designed well, the participant's interest will increase, as many case studies for new and transformed buildings prove.

In an interview with Troldtekt, the Danish education psychologist Mille Sylvest comments, "It's very important to be aware of noise when designing facilities. Noise affects stress levels for both children and staff because nobody can endure spending long periods of time in a noisy environment. Lower energy levels, more sick leave and poorer learning outcomes are the direct results of noise."

Specified throughout the UK and Europe, the benefits of 100% Troldtekt natural wood wool panels include high sound absorption, high durability, natural breathability, low cost life cycle performance and sustainability. This high performance is recognised by their Cradle to Cradle certification at Silver level. Available in various sizes and in four grades from extreme fine to coarse, the panels can be left untreated or painted in virtually any RAL colour.

Samples, case studies and technical information are easily sourced from tel 01978 664255 or visit www.troldtekt.co.uk.

More information around the theme of childcare institutions can be found on https://www.troldtekt.com/News/Themes/ Child-care-institutions









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DELIVERING ELEGANCE THROUGH BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Tasked with designing a residential extension that blurred the distinction between inside and out, One-World Design embraced the challenge to deliver a multi-award-winning project in the heart of Wandsworth.

Here, we take a look at how biophilic design and using rainwater as part of the solution resulted in a visually-striking home extension.

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

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

THE PROJECT

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

Large glazed sliding doors were installed along the length of the back wall, a living wall established to blend inside and out, and extra light was brought into the space through the use of two half-barrel-vaulted sedum roofs. These vaults were extended beyond the sliding doors to frame the view of the garden and provide shade and shelter. Chris explains: "It essentially comes down to how we allow the materiality and visibility of a space to merge across the separating layers that keep the elements out of the house. You want the distinction between garden and home to be minimal, yet there are practicalities associated with keeping the cold and wet elements out of the house. This is where drainage design becomes absolutely critical."

HARNESSING THE ELEMENTS

Ensuring that rainwater did not infiltrate the property was naturally an important consideration, and yet it was crucial that the drainage channel chosen would be unobtrusive, and contribute to the aesthetic melding of inside and out. Owing to its minimalistic design and strong hydraulic performance, the decision was made to opt for ACO HexDrain® Brickslot. "The focus was on blending the relationship between the garden and the interior, to reflect the homeowner's outdoor lifestyle."

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



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

"I think that the word 'drainage' can often be an unhelpful phrase, conjuring images of overflowing gutters and blocked sewers. It's better to think of this process as rainwater management, and to embrace the movement of water as a key part of a design, as opposed to seeing it as an obstacle that must be overcome. "Think about how water can improve a site by using ponds, natural drainage, and retaining water wherever possible to reduce flooding downstream. And when products are used, consider how the look and feel of drainage channels can complement the overall design and ethos of a project. By way of an example, we're currently working on a new carbon neutral home in the South Downs, and have specified HexDrain® Brickslot as part of the rainwater management solution."





A DESIGN TO BE PROUD OF

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

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

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

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



Neaco launches new range of easy-order balcony packages

Neaco have launched a new range of Juliet balcony packages providing easy specification and fast turnaround from order. Comprising a range of precision-engineered modular components, the glass-fronted Juliet designs feature a top rail in a powder coated aluminium finish which is non-chip and rustfree, providing permanent aesthetic quality and maintenance-free use. Their toughened glass panels maximise sunlight penetration and provide an unobstructed view out. Each panel is subtly secured in place by circular support brackets (with no stanchions needed) providing attractively minimalist looks. Neaco's balcony packages are fully compliant with all relevant building regulations, including the 2018 Building (Amendment) Regulations prohibiting combustible materials on building exteriors. Designed for fast installation, they are ideal for renovations, refurbishments and projects which are subject to restricted timescales. Neaco carries out all manufacturing at its advanced factory in the UK

The balconies are available to purchase via the company's ecommerce website at neaco.co.uk/shop



Innovative range of Marano railings launched by F.H. Brundle

A new range of innovative and easy-to-install railings have been unveiled by leading railings supplier F.H. Brundle.

The stunning Marano railings include preassembled aluminium posts, available in square and round profile, with a satin anodised finish. The system can be installed with or without a rectangular or oval top rail.

Quick and simple to install, the railings are fully engineered to meet the requirements of most applications.

They are complimented by the new Marano Contemporary range with glass panels or slats, offering style and sophistication without compromising views.

The Contemporary range can also be cut to size for fitting between steel or wooden posts and pillars.

To find out more about the Marano range, please visit www.fhbrundle.co.uk



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THREE DECK UPGRADES THAT OPTIMIZE PROJECT POTENTIAL, PERFORMANCE AND PROFITS

By: Simon Thomas, TrexPro and Owner of Simon Thomas Deck & Design

2021 should be declared "the year of the garden!" As Brits continue to spend more time at home, space is at a premium, inspiring homeowners to look outside for an escape and some extra elbow room. If your business is anything like mine, your project calendar is likely filling up for the season, if not already booked out. Since quantity of jobs should not be an issue this year, why not focus on quality and making the most of the projects you have lined up? With homeowners more willing than ever to invest in their outdoor spaces, be sure to optimize opportunities to sell them simple upgrades that will add function and value to their decks without adding a lot of time or cost. Here are three easy and cost-effective add-ons that I suggest to all of my clients:

1. DECK FLASHING TAPE

Today's homeowners have access to high-performance garden decking warrantied to last for decades. But research* has shown that most decking substructures begin to show signs of decay within the first 8-10 years. This is because the majority of substructures are built using timber, which is susceptible to damage from moisture and exposure to outdoor elements.

Easily one of wood's worst enemies, moisture contributes to mould growth and can accelerate structural deterioration. This is particularly common in the U.K. given our perennially damp and rainy climate. When joists and bearers are exposed, water can seep into screw holes and sit on the wood causing it to rot and the screws to rust. Additionally, the natural expansion and contraction of wood due to seasonal freezing and thawing can cause beams to split and weaken over time, posing serious safety concerns.



Deck flashing tape is a simple and inexpensive way to protect wood from the damaging effects of weather and time. Designed to shield the tops of timber joists, bearers and ledger boards from water damage, it also acts as a moisture barrier between wood and galvanized metal to help deck screws and fasteners hold longer and stronger for enhanced structural integrity.

My go-to product is Trex® Protect[™] Joist and Bearer Tape. I use it on every deck I build – no matter the size, design or decking material I use – because I want my work to last. It's a self-adhesive butyl tape engineered specifically for use on decks. It works on both horizontal and vertical surfaces and is applied as a "cap" (vs. wrapping) to allow the timber to breathe. The peel-and-stick tape lies directly on the boards and requires minimal cuts and little overlap making application a breeze.



*Based on a survey of 100+ builders conducted by Dri-Deck Enterprises (now IBC, LLC)



Furthermore, the butyl adhesive is super sticky, yet pliable, which allows it to create a tight seal around fasteners to prevent water from infiltrating screw holes. It doesn't dry out or curl up like other construction tapes and performs extremely well in a wide range of temperatures. Trex Protect tape also features a non-skid surface, making it easy and safe to walk across during construction.

2. AN UNDER-DECK DRAINAGE SYSTEM

As our homes have become offices, classrooms, fitness facilities – you name it – space has become a precious commodity. One easy way to fully optimize a deck project is by installing an under-deck drainage system. When protected from the elements, the often overlooked area beneath an elevated deck can become a perfect spot for an al fresco conference call, mid-day playtime for at-home students or an open-air yoga session.

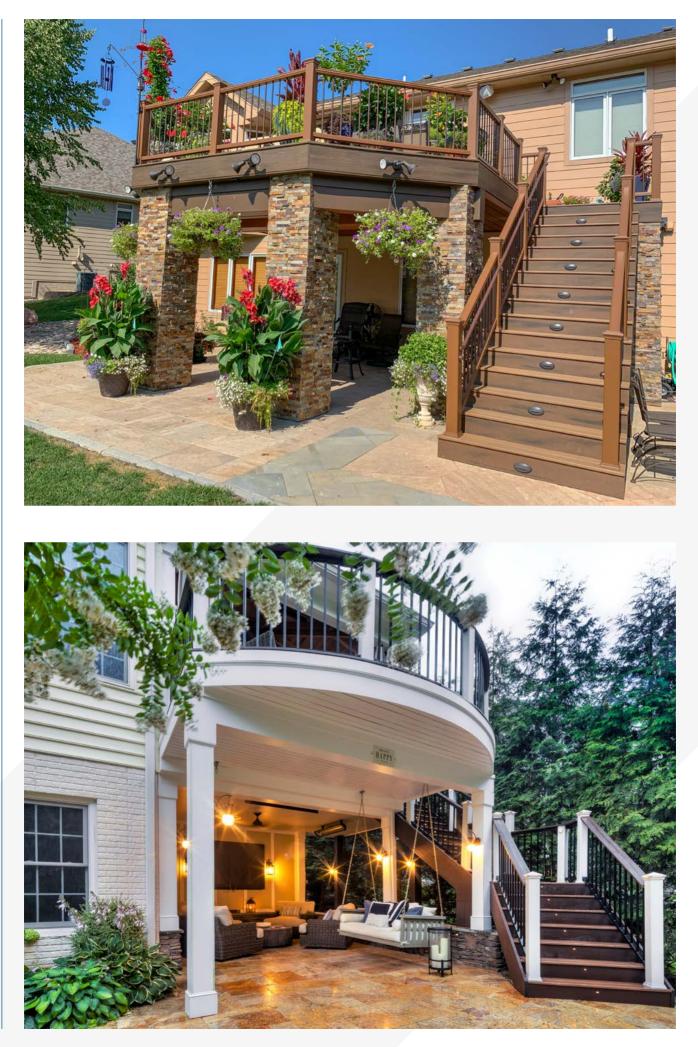




Using a network of troughs and downspouts, an under-deck drainage system captures and diverts water away from a deck, not only preserving the studwork but also making the area under the deck useable for storage or as additional living space. Once protected, that space can be used for stowing lawn and garden equipment, pool supplies, bicycles and boats, or outfitted with furnishings, lighting fixtures, ceiling fans and entertainment components to serve as an outdoor room.

There are two main types of drainage systems – those that install above or below the joists of the substructure. For optimal protection and aesthetics, I prefer an "abovethe-joist" system, such as Trex® RainEscape®. The main advantage to this type of system is that it protects the entire foundation and the area beneath the deck. It also allows homeowners to put any kind of decorative ceiling or soffit on the underside of the joists, making it a good option for customers who want a completely finished look. "For optimal protection and aesthetics, I prefer an "above-the-joist" system, such as Trex® RainEscape®"





Trex RainEscape is easy and efficient to install – whether during a new deck build or when replacing existing deck boards. The entire system includes just five SKUs – a 40cm and 30cm drainage trough sheet, a downspout, butyl waterproof caulk and butyl waterproof tape. Additionally, only three tools – scissors or a utility knife, a staple gun hammer and a caulk gun – are needed for installation. Each trough is clearly labeled with staple markers to expedite the process, which takes no more than a few hours to complete. And, the system is backed by a 20-year warranty from Trex® – the world's #1 decking brand.

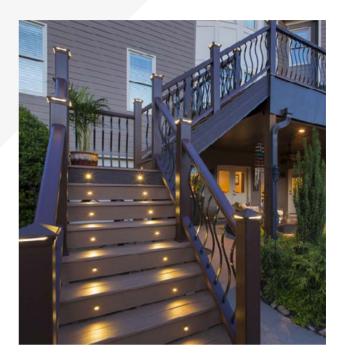
3. DECK LIGHTING

Another "bright" idea for adding value to a deck project is with lighting. Dimmable LED lights incorporated into railing post caps and stair risers can increase safety while also enhancing ambiance and extending the time that homeowners can spend enjoying their outdoor space. And don't forget to illuminate the space beneath the deck with soffit lights. The makers of Trex RainEscape offer plug-andplay lighting components that integrate seamlessly with the drainage system and with other Trex Outdoor Lighting components.

While these add-ons may seem minor, they can have a major impact on customer satisfaction and your bottom line – especially during a season as busy as this one promises to be.

For more information about the products mentioned in this article, visit TrexProtect.com/uk and TrexRainEscape.com

"Dimmable LED lights incorporated into railing post caps and stair risers can increase safety while also enhancing ambiance and extending the time that homeowners can spend enjoying their outdoor space."





CARIBBEAN BLINDS TEAMS UP WITH GB ATHLETES



External shading manufacturer Caribbean Blinds has completed another expert installation of its award-winning Outdoor Living Pod™ for a family of Surrey based athletes.

GB Masters competitors Virginia Mitchell (World and European Champion W55 at 400m) and husband Tony (British Champion at 300m hurdles) saw the ongoing lockdown as the perfect opportunity to enhance their home gym and fitness studio which they utilise daily for training sessions, alongside their two grown-up children – also budding track athletes!

Having previously commissioned a large spa pool situated just outside the gym, the Mitchells required a solution that would seamlessly link the two areas. The couple decided that due to its unique louvered roof, the Outdoor Living Pod[™] would provide them with the flexible cover they needed.

Stuart Dantzic, Managing Director of Caribbean Blinds, explained:

"Following a full demonstration of the system and provision of samples to showcase the high-quality finish, sleek design and durable construction of our products, the Deluxe model of the Outdoor Living Pod™ was selected. It was installed in January 2021 by our expert team, taking just one day to complete, resulting in an impressive low-maintenance outdoor facility that complements the adjoining gym and spa pool." Virginia Mitchell commented: "Every member of the family trains, competes and even coaches within some type of sport, so our fitness studio and pool are the focal point of our garden – and our lives!

"We opted for the Deluxe model of the Pod as we felt it would provide the optimum balance of style and practicality. The beautiful, sleek white canopy roof acts as the perfect link between the gym and the pool, and we're delighted with how it looks and functions.

"The louvered roof panels cover the spa and protect it from the elements, yet at the flick of a switch, they turn to let in the light and sunshine – plus, we love how the open sides make you feel like you're still in the natural open space of the garden."

The addition of the Pod has also been a godsend for Tony who has his own water-based sports rehabilitation business, AquaTone.

Tony Mitchell added: "My business has really thrived in lockdown thanks to the Outdoor Living Pod™. My clients can do their work out in the pool with protection from all elements, all year round and they have been very complimentary about our new spa facility."

For more information, visit: www.cbsolarshading.co.uk/outdoor-living-pod/





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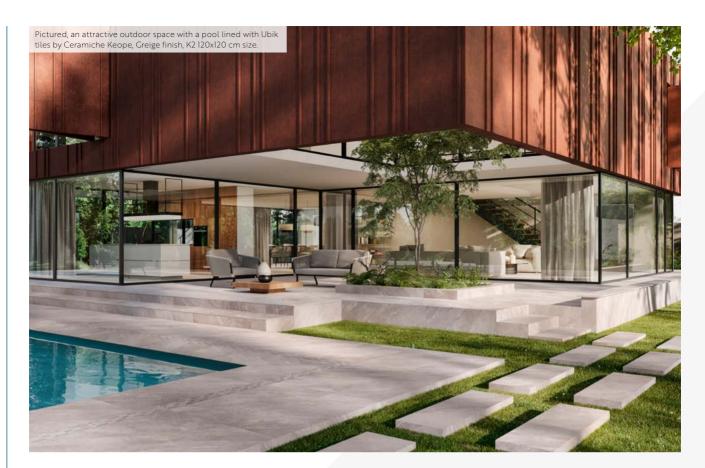
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CERAMICHE KEOPE, HIGH-TECH OUTDOOR SPACES IN A SEAMLESS CONTINUUM WITH INDOOR DESIGN

The all-Italian company Ceramiche Keope has built a reputation on the national and international market for 25 years for products of exceptional performance, developed by boldly investing in innovation and cutting-edge technology.

More recently, Keope has consolidated its leadership in the production of outdoor tiling and with a large range created to provide answers to residential and commercial needs with combinations of diverse materials for striking In&Out effects.

The K2 system epitomises outdoor collection excellence offering 20-mm thick porcelain tile solutions that introduce a new design perspective emphasising indoor and outdoor continuity. The horizon broadens and the boundary between indoor and outdoor dissolves in these spaces. The 2-cm thick tiles of the outdoor collections (1-cm thick options are also available) can be perfectly matched to the Keope indoor tile range. Spanning from stone effect with various interesting hue intensities to materials with an industrial feel and warm wood, the In&Out inspired series provides clever answers to the needs of modern architecture by offering new creative ideas.

K2 has a wide choice of styles with 19 collections, 13 sizes and over 50 items in the catalogue to express the excellence in the panorama of outdoor solutions and multiple possibilities for design in residential and commercial situations. A hightech performance system allows laying on raised floors or directly on sand, gravel or grassy ground to make floors that can be walked on right away with no need for screed, glue or mortar. Alternatively, the slabs can also be applied with traditional glue on a screed, guaranteeing very high resistance to breaking loads and making the surface suitable for being driven over.



Pictured, an exquisite outdoor space with Ubik tiles by Ceramiche Keope, Ivory finish, K2 60x120 cm size.



Pictured, a smart outdoor installation with Noord cement-effect collection by Ceramiche Keope, Gold finish, K2 60x60 cm size.



One of the advantages of these products is in their technological core. The Keope K2 lines are high load- and stress-resistant. They are frost-proof, non-slip, fire-proof, resistant to chemical and atmospheric elements, as well as being easy to clean. Importantly, these technical requirements are maintained over time. Furthermore:

The Ceramiche Keope line is complemented with a wide range of special pieces and accessories from coordinated elements for pool edges or drain to covering for low walls.

System performance is excellent offering fundamental characteristics for outdoor flooring, such as high resistance to breaking loads, changes of temperature, salt, mould, moss and verdigris treatments.

"One of the advantages of these products is in their technological core. The Keope K2 lines are high load- and stress-resistant."

The exact interaction between shapes and materials is the result of strategy and research paired to enhance the architectural choices with an eye to environmental impact. The entire Ceramiche Keope range carries the GreenThinking logo to symbolise of company's real commitment to nature.

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Osmo Polyx-Oil Original Clear Matt 3062. Project by @inside_the_white_house_ (IG)

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Torc make everything by hand from their studio in the British Isles.

Working alongside a talented team of artisans this family run business really specializes in textures, scale and especially bespoke design. The design side of the business proving to be very popular with landscape architects and garden designers alike realizing just how much expertise this company has to offer with a wealth of experience in design and problem solving to bring to the table. Torc welcome the opportunity to be involved at the design stage and are happy to contribute ideas when requested. Frequently being commissioned to provide planter designs, outdoor furniture and paving as a one-off template for both commercial and residential spaces.

Launching their new contemporary shaped water bowl this month was a good example of how far they can go – the diameter of this little beauty can be offered up to 3m wide. Their green credentials are pretty impressive too.

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GARDEN ROOMS MADE BEAUTIFUL WITH STERLINGOSB ZERO



With more and more people working and studying at home, the need for extra space has grown enormously. Whether it's somewhere to make Zoom calls in peace, or to chill after a long day juggling home-schooling, or to get on your bike, a garden room has become a much-sought after addition to many homes.

This is good news for companies like H M Garden Rooms in Buckinghamshire. Having searched for garden offices for themselves, and finding a limited choice of well-priced, good quality options, Jordan Hickson and Jordan Marsh, both with over

For further information, call 01786 812 921 or visit www.norbord.co.uk



20 years' experience in the construction industry, set up H M Garden Rooms. Using quality materials, they produce a range of built-to-last, aestheticallypleasing garden buildings that their clients have put to a multitude of uses. H M Garden Rooms purchases SterlingOSB Zero from local builders' merchants Travis Perkins and Grant & Stone branches in the Home Counties, depending on the project location.

To find out more about Norbord's full range of carbon negative panel products visit the website and you can download a product guide and can even order free samples.

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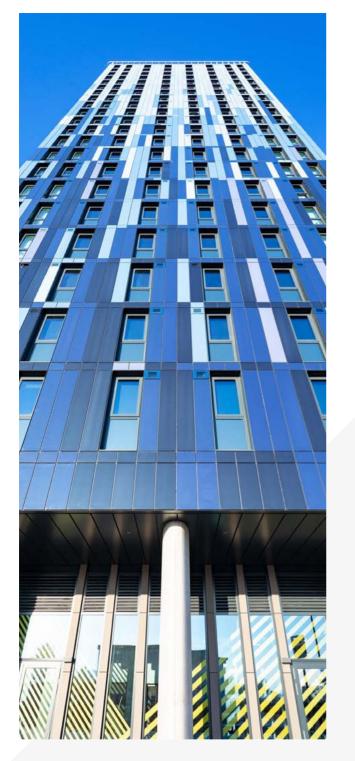
ARM BARRIERS

SEATING

SMOKING SHELTERS

CYCLE STANDS & RACKS

HEIGHT RESTRICTORS





UK CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Wojciech Brozyna - MD of Aluprof UK

Since the beginning of 2021 the UK now sits outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) complete with a late brokered 'deal' which helps businesses trade without tariffs between the EEA and the UK. Despite the increased levels of paperwork required for such imports and exports, it is 'almost business as usual'. Over the last few years conformity with legislation and standards present in Europe has been a prerequisite for producing and selling any goods within the EEA, either produced in the EEA or from overseas. Known as 'CE' marking, it is applicable equally to the manufacture and sale of a paper clip to a curtain wall facade. So what is a 'CE' mark? A CE mark indicates conformity with a harmonised product standard, and assures the user that the product is classified to the relevant essential characteristics, within Annex ZA, for the member state whose market it is placed on. Construction products are different to say medical devices for CE marking as regulations differ.

SO NOW THAT WE HAVE LEFT THE EEA, WHAT NOW?

The UK has set up its own conformity marking known as the 'UKCA' mark. Broadly the same as the current CE marking the new UKCA mark will allow the UK to begin to adjust its conformity standards to suit UK businesses and the UK's legislative requirements in the longer term. As far as timing is concerned, CE marking is still fully accepted in the UK this year, but all companies manufacturing and selling in the UK must have UKCA marking on their products by the end of 2021. Importantly for Aluprof UK, we will comply with the new UKCA marking and are already scheduling our products for conformity with UK 'approved bodies' this year.

Now a note of caution, we often use Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the British Isles interchangeably, but this is not correct. 'Great Britain' consists of England, Scotland and Wales, the 'United Kingdom' consists of 'Great Britain' and 'Northern Ireland'. The 'British Isles', consists of the 'United Kingdom' and 'Ireland', plus numerous smaller island groups, which include the Hebrides, the Shetland Islands, the Orkney Islands, the Isles of Scilly, and the Isle of Man.

In Northern Ireland, matters get a little more complicated as manufacturers there have their own UK(NI) mark to comply with which must be used alongside the CE marking. Whilst Great Britain will accept the UK(NI)+CE marked products known as 'unfettered access', products manufactured in Northern Ireland only need to carry the CE mark if they are to be sold solely in the EEA. Part of the reason for the difference in Northern Ireland is that whilst Northern Ireland sits within the EEA, from the 1st January 2021, it is now outside the EU Customs Union. It must be reiterated that for products manufactured and sold in Northern Ireland, they must always carry both the CE mark and the UK(NI).

It is also important to remember that a separate Declaration of Performance/Conformity (DoP) must be provided for each UKCA, UK(NI) and CE mark. Whilst at the moment these will broadly be the same, it is likely that with changes to legislation here and in the EEA over time, these will begin to differ. It has also been confirmed that both CE and UKCA marks can be used together on products as long as they are separate and are clearly visible. As the UK 'approved bodies' move to offer UKCA marking, CE marking 'approved bodies' for products to be sold in the EEA, can only be provided by an EU based 'approved body'.

Whilst new conformity marks are being introduced, UKCA and UK(NI), nothing else changes at this time regarding the products that require labelling. The marking convention and conformity continues for construction products as it has done for CE marking for the last few years.

" Importantly for Aluprof UK, we will comply with the new UKCA marking and are already scheduling our products for conformity with UK 'approved bodies' this year."



SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS FROM THE EEA TO OUR CUSTOMERS IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND IN PARTICULAR, PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY ALUPROF?

As a European manufacturer, we will continue with CE marking which will confirm with the requirements for Ireland and Northern Ireland, for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) all our products can continue to be used with CE marking in 2021 are being lodged with a UK 'approved body' to ensure they can carry UKCA compliance markings.

There is also one caveat to the conformity marking, that is the marking is only applied at the time of manufacture, so there could be products manufactured in 2021 in compliance with CE marking that may enter the Great Britain market in early 2022. At this point we begin to get into some of the grey areas of compliance and the government is still working out some of the detail. What is known is that for our customers who manufacture our systems into products that go on site, you will need to demonstrate compliance with the new UKCA marking from the 1st January 2022.

As ever with our loyal customers in the British Isles, we are on-hand at Aluprof to give any of our customers guidance on the compliance and marking convention.

With the company Project Office at the Business Design Centre in London, Aluprof has rapidly grown their specification influence in the UK with their high performance architectural aluminium systems. With overseas growth across Europe spreading into the Middle East and firm roots already in the East of the USA, the company is becoming a global player in facade supply.

Further information is available on the company's website at aluprof.co.uk or direct from their UK office in Altrincham on 0161 941 4005.







CURZON RD, LONDON N10

This was one of Plan C's own development projects, situated in leafy Muswell Hill.

The design of the house needed to address several key elements - the presence of a large, established and protected ash tree on the site, maximising space and light internally whilst maintaining optimum garden space, and finding ways in which to incorporate clever storage. We worked with young, ambitious architect Kolja Strobl to imagine and then craft a detached family dwelling on 3 levels that would make a strong, modern design statement but still sit comfortably within its heritage setting. The external palette of red brick and grey ZM zinc reflected the surrounding Victorian houses and the tree became the central feature of the house, viewed from all angles internally. "The double-height ceiling in the open-plan living/dining space brought drama and an incredible sense of space."

used to maximum effect, throughout.







The double-height ceiling in the open-plan living/dining space brought drama and an incredible sense of space. We incorporated special lighting details such as LED strips built into the staircase and colour-change strips built into walls, allowing the ambience of the house to be changed, according to mood. Bathrooms were designed to be simple but luxurious, featuring sanitary ware from CP Hart and tiles by Porcelanosa.

Website: www.weareplanc.com Insta: @plancdesignandbuild Facebook:@weareplanclondon info@weareplanc.com | T: 07976 206259

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ARCHITECTS PROJECTS



Snickers Workwear High-Performance Jackets

With street-smart designs for men and women, all Snickers Workwear jackets include musthave features that focus on fit and freedom of movement as well as using innovative fabrics that deliver long lasting protection and stretch comfort. Whatever you need – if it's for work, play or protection against hazards – Snickers Workwear has lackets that will work on site are ideal for leisure, always ensuring optimal performance, comfort, good looks and visibility. ALLROUNDWork Jackets are just what the name suggests, delivering a great all-round performance. There's also FLEXIWork Jackets that provide superb comfort and weather-proofing if you're always on the move and LITEWork lackets that keep you feeling cool and looking good whatever you're doing in warm weather. So check out the performance, comfort and protection features of Snickers Workwear Jackets, there will be one to suit you - wherever you are, whatever you need, whatever you're doing.

For more information on the Snickers Workwear jackets range call the Helpline on 01484 854788; check out www.snickersworkwear.co.uk /products/93 and download a digital catalogue or email sales@hultaforsgroup.co.uk



Enhanced Visibility and Safety With Snickers Workwear Hi-Vis

Snickers Workwear takes personal wellbeing at work very seriously. That's why this range of Hi-Vis protective wear is streets ahead of anything else.With updated styles and designs added to the extensive range of Jackets. Trousers. Shorts. Toolvests, Shirts and Fleeces for men and women, there's a host of garments in the range to satisfy the specific requirements of Classes 1.2 and 3 protection levels. These 'outstanding' products combine Snickers' unrivalled hallmarks of functionality and comfort with the requirements of the EN20471 standard for high visibility warning clothes. With advanced designs and high-tech fabrics that are windproof and water-repellent, all the garments have durable colour-fast protection that will last for wash after wash, retaining shape and comfort throughout the life of the garments. Added to which Snickers Workwear Hi Vis garments can be custom-profiled to ensure 'stand out' coverage for your corporate brand.

For more information call the Helpline on 01484 854788; check out www.snickersworkwear.co.uk and download a digital catalogue; or you can email info@snickersworkwear.co.uk



Screwshop

Screwshop specialises in screws fixings & fasteners for the DIY, hardware, building, joinery and furniture manufacturing sectors. We pride ourselves with offering expertise, competitive prices from local and internationally sourced standard and bespoke products.

Our extensive range also includes PVA and PU glues and superior silicones, sealants and adhesive products from leading manufacturers.

Screwshop has recently introduced PPE Workwear to their portfolio of products. The collection includes waterproofs, coveralls, safety boots, combat trousers, Hi-Viz vests, helmets, safety glasses and much more.

All at very competitive prices and next day availability.

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ANCON OFFERING ENHANCED NON-COMBUSTIBLE BALCONY CONNECTOR RANGE



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

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

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

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

SITE POWER UK LAUNCH LATEST SAFETY TRANSFORMER

Leading construction site electrics specialist Site Power UK are pleased to launch their latest 10 KVA 110volt safety Transformer the SITE10 XLC - wound in copper for low temperature operating.

Extra internal 110volt light circuits give total control through its own dedicated MCB panel. 2 x 16 amp internal outputs for "Hard Wiring" safety lights are becoming the norm in today's building sites.

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WITH EXTRA 16AMP Light Circuit





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