







ARCHETECH

Turning Dreams into Reality

Issue 87 £4.99





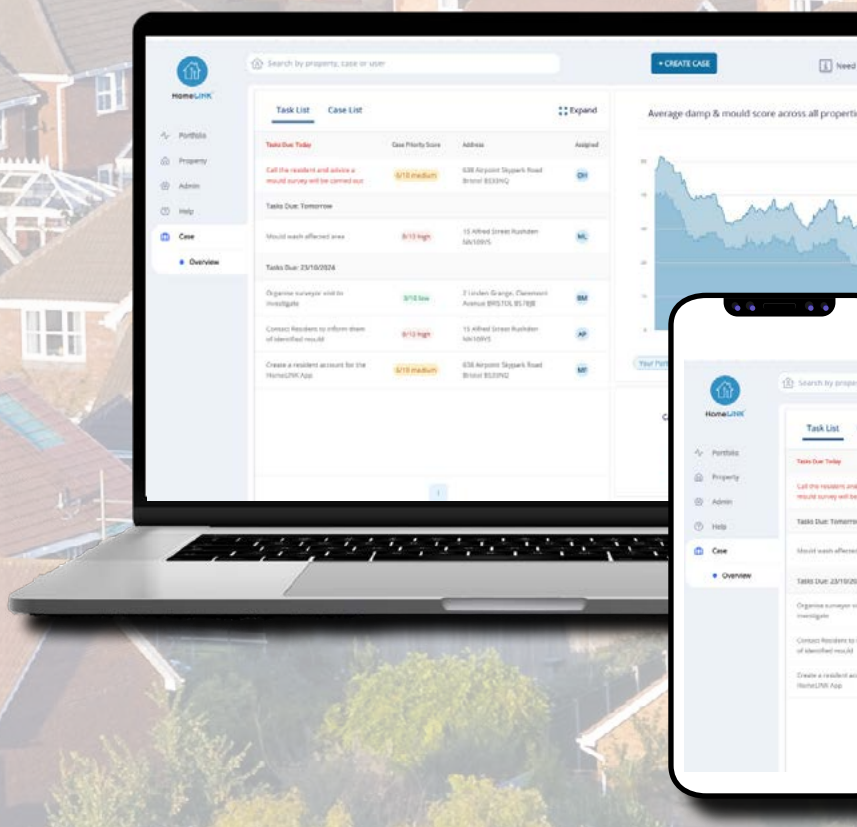




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ARCHETECH

Turning Dreams into Reality

The Archetech magazine is an insightful information source for Architects, Architectural Technologists and Interior Designers. We feature lead stories on current projects, industry news and case studies so that our readers have the opportunity to keep up to date in the ever changing world of architecture and design.

Archetech offers architectural and design services to all those who are initiating, planning and implementing projects. Whether you're an interior designer, architect, technologist, developer or builder who is searching for inspiration for the next project, Archetech hosts the latest products, case studies and services to meet those needs.

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HAVE YOU GOT A PROJECT YOU ARE PROUD OF?

If you've recently finished a project, conversion or renovation, why not submit it to our Editor in Chief for a chance to be featured in our next issue! Email antony@archetech-media.co.uk with details of your latest project.

Visit: www.archetech.org.uk/subscribe

A NEW VISION FOR SCIENTIFIC ARCHITECTURE

TIANFU FUSION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE - SWIP / CSWADI

This project is the Tianfu Fusion Technology Research Centre of Southwest Institute of Physics (SWIP), China National Nuclear Corporation. The architectural design is carried out for the scientific-research mission of controllable nuclear fusion. Drawing inspiration from the physical essence of nuclear fusion and the "Tianjing" (light well) of traditional Sichuan residences, the design adopts circles as the unifying motif for architecture and landscape alike, symbolizing the fundamental structure ranging from microscopic particles to the macroscopic universe.

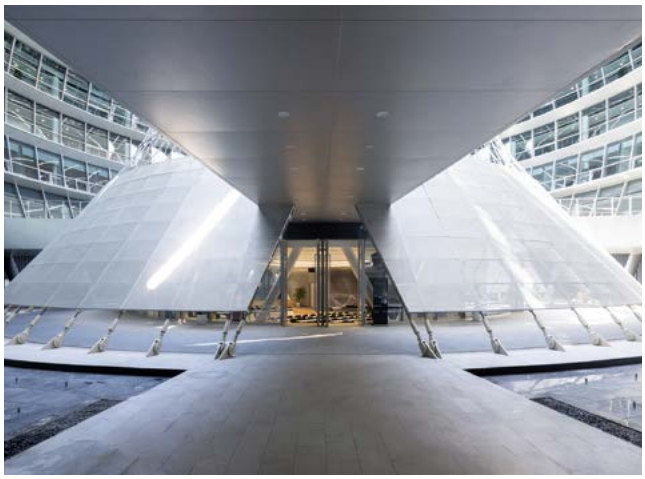
The main research building is a circular-ring structure with a diameter of 100 meters, containing five floors above ground and one basement level. Centripetally arranged R&D units eliminate spatial hierarchy and distance disparities, creating an equal and free academic environment. At the building's core sits an hourglass-shaped hyperboloid light-well opening toward the sky — the "Light Funnel".

Boasting a trumpet profile that expands at the top and bottom while narrowing at the mid-section, the "Light Funnel" penetrates from the roof down to the first basement level. It opens upward toward the sky and stretches downward toward the ground. Inside are a central garden and an underground multi-functional circular hall. Radial pedestrian bridges connect to the circular main research building, forming an iconic scene full of futuristic character.

Edge-courtyard coffee lounges and landscape stairs are distributed across each floor. Taking advantage of the long continuous overhanging balconies along the outer perimeter, the design accommodates both focused scientific research and informal idea-sharing. Meanwhile the balconies deliver solar shading to optimize indoor light-thermal conditions and frame views over the Longquan Mountains.







The project had to overcome technical difficulties including the large-span hourglass-shaped cable-membrane atrium structure and mechanical-electrical pipeline routing under the radial ring beam-column system. Engineers realized the form of the "Light Funnel" by applying pre-stressed high-vanadium cables, ETFE membranes, perforated aluminum panels, and rhombic enamel-printed glass balustrades. The building integrates stack ventilation, natural ventilation, rainwater harvesting and reclaimed-water reuse, as well as annular rooftop photovoltaic panels and other green technologies to achieve eco-friendly and low-carbon performance.

Radial pedestrian bridges connect to the circular main research building, forming an iconic scene full of futuristic character.





The auxiliary circular staff canteen is linked to the main building by a covered corridor crossing the artificial water surface, with terraced second-floor terraces and a rooftop garden. Its 360-degree circular dining area maximizes contact with nature. Lake and distant-mountain scenery forms the scenic backdrop for staff to dine, rest and converse.

The overall architecture realizes an in-depth integration of fusion-science imagery, local architectural context, eco-friendly technologies and the humanistic demands of scientific research. It aims to create a domain that embraces optimism and technological belief — a place where artificiality and natural inspiration converge.

Architects: CSWADI (China Southwest Architectural Design and Research Institute Corp)

Area: 38000 m²

Year: 2026

Photographs : Arch-Exist
www.arch-exist.com.





NEW DEKORDOR® SD BROCHURE INCLUDING REFRESHED VISUAL SENSATIONS FINISHES

IDEAS THAT DEFINED THE MILLENIUM, EVOLVING FOR A NEW GENERATION SENSATIONS FINISHES

The beginning of the 21st century saw a great many fresh ideas across the UK construction industry, from the adoption of digital technologies to a wider recognition of sustainability and the importance of reducing carbon emissions. Both innovations, we might add, that were whole heartedly embraced and harnessed by Vicaima in the development of its products and services. However, alongside this forward-thinking approach, came the realisation that old habits in our industry are often difficult change, such as painting doors on-site, or the reluctance to consider complete door assemblies, rather than cobbling together a collection of disparate and non-compatible parts. The logic of cost-effective factory finishing or the long-term assurance provided by fully compliant door systems were still being ignored. Perhaps because it had always been done that way, or simply that the value of whole life costs were rarely discussed or that people to do a myriad of tasks on site, were always plentiful.

Fast-forward to the present day and we see Home Developers and Housing Associations who are far more enlightened and well informed about product specification and the impact it can have not only on its immediate use, but in terms of future maintenance and safety. Products, especially interior doors need to perform on so many levels. With high expectations from eventual property occupiers and tenants, the aesthetics must be in perfect harmony with their surroundings and in-tune with modern décor trends. Of course, an attractive appearance is only part of the story. Ever-increasing regulatory performance demands that doors must be made to exacting

standards and with functionality appropriate to their setting and usage. Vicaima offers these solutions in the form of innovative interior doors designs, together with doorsets which are independently accredited and rigorously tested to comply with fire, security, acoustic and thermal requirements in some of the most demanding locations.

It was at the beginning of the new millennial, that Vicaima first launched its Dekordor® SD range of decorative foil faced interior timber doors. Offering a clean and consistent, flush pre-finished wood effect style, it captured the demand for an alternative to the ordinary, with simple yet reliable face finishes that required no further treatment on site. However, like all good ideas, it was given the opportunity to evolve, something that Vicaima, with its visionary commitment and serious investment is renown for. Today Vicaima has expanded and enhanced the exciting possibilities Dekordor® SD brings to interiors and entrance systems. With FSC certified sustainable and technically advanced manufacturing at the heart of door design.



> *"Utilizing high precision photographic technologies, doors are imaged during construction, to recreate authentic characteristics, which faithfully replicate a natural appearance.*

Perhaps one of the most revolutionary finish options from the Dekordor SD range, is epitomised by the Visual Sensations (VS) collection. Utilizing high precision photographic technologies, doors are imaged during construction, to recreate authentic characteristics, which faithfully replicate a natural appearance. Now with the launch of its latest Dekordor SD brochure, Vicaima brings together this famous and ever-growing selection of foil finishes, into one compendium and at the same time extends its popular Visual Sensations range with the introduction of no less than four new woodgrain tones, including Sahara, Sandbar, Lagoon and Glade.



Available as doors or doorsets, Dekordor SD and Visual Sensations present a new generation of products for a new generation of specifiers. Find out more by visiting **www.vicaima.com** and download the brochure. To discuss your next project or to request finished sample swatches, contact 01793 532333 or email **info@vicaima.com**







A NEW DIMENSION IN GLASS BALUSTRADE DESIGN

CUSTOMISE YOUR GLASS BALUSTRADE WITH POSIGLAZE SIDE CLADDING

When designing an indoor or outdoor space, every detail contributes to the finished look. Colour is particularly important: the right tone can help a balustrade blend seamlessly with its surroundings or become a striking feature. Glass balustrades have traditionally been associated with silver hardware, while black has become increasingly popular in recent years. Side cladding now offers even more scope to tailor the appearance of a system to suit a wider design scheme.

What Is Side Cladding?

Side cladding provides a simple way to customise the visible sides of a glass balustrade and coordinate them with the wider project. Integrated into the top bead, the side cladding clips onto one or both sides of the channel, changing its colour without the expense of colouring the entire balustrade channel. Compatible with both POSIglaze base mounted and side mounted channels, the cladding provides a straightforward, cost-effective solution.

A Choice of Finishes

The available anodised aluminium finishes provide three distinctive options. Silver Brushed offers a clean, versatile appearance that works comfortably with many materials and colour palettes. Black Brushed creates a stronger contrast and complements contemporary schemes, especially where darker frames or fittings are already in use. For a warmer decorative accent, our new Brushed Brass finish introduces a richer tone that can coordinate with metallic details elsewhere in the space.



Custom Colour with Powder Coating

Projects that call for a more individual finish can go further. Raw aluminium side cladding is available for powder coating in a RAL colour of your choice. This opens the door to close colour matching, subtle coordination or deliberate contrast, depending on the character of the project. It can echo exterior joinery on a home or help a new balustrade sit comfortably within an established interior.

By selecting a standard brushed finish or specifying a custom powder-coated colour, side cladding turns a functional detail into a considered design choice. The result is a glass balustrade that feels connected to the space around it and better reflects the style of the finished project.

For more information, visit our website www.pure-vista.com or email us at sales@pure-vista.com.

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PAVILIA FARM CLUBHOUSES

SNØHETTA REALIZES ITS VISION FOR A NATURE-LED URBAN COMMUNITY AT PAVILIA FARM

With the completion of Sky House, the final clubhouse at Pavilia Farm, Snøhetta's vision for a unique urban community centered around nature, wellbeing, and collective ownership is now realized in full. Located within New World Development's residential project in Tai Wai, Hong Kong, the four clubhouses create a vibrant green lung and urban farm amidst one of the world's most densely populated cities.

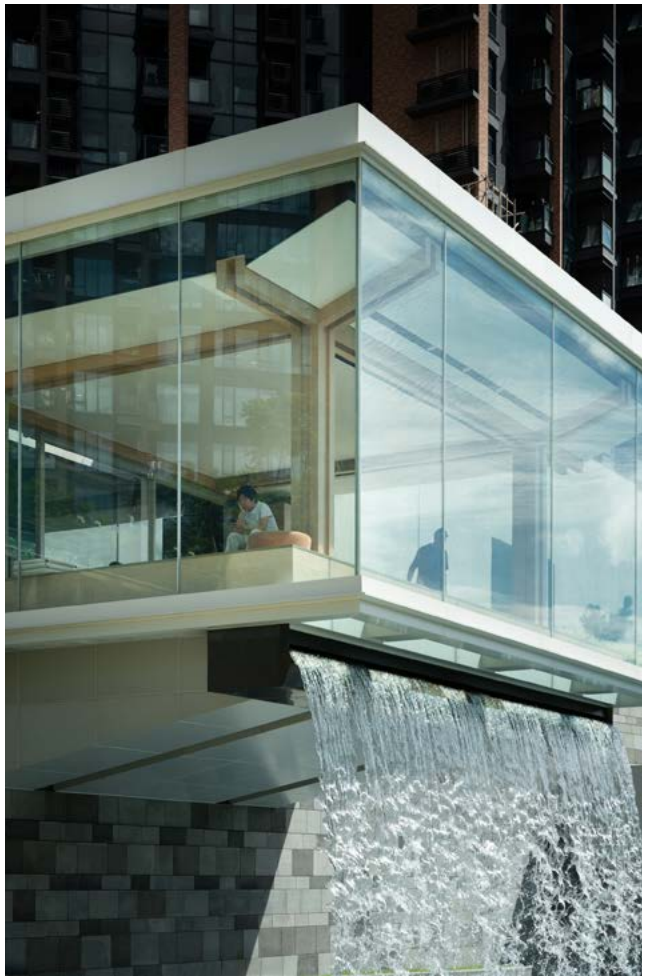
First launched in 2022 with the opening of Tea House, Well House and Farm House, Pavilia Farm introduced a new model for residential living, one that extends beyond private apartments and into a network of shared spaces designed to foster connection, wellbeing, and everyday encounters. With the completion of Sky House, the project is now fully realized, bringing together four distinct yet interconnected destinations that support residents throughout all stages of life.

Commissioned by New World Development in 2017, Snøhetta conceived the clubhouses as a sequence of experiences woven through the development and connected by movement, nature, and community. Together, the houses encourage exploration and interaction while offering places for reflection, recreation, learning, cultivation, and social exchange.

Pavilia Farm began with a simple ambition: to create meaningful connections between residents, nature, and Hong Kong itself. In one of the world's densest urban environments, the project provides a shared green sanctuary, the project demonstrates how architecture can shape relationships as much as it shapes space. With the completion of Sky House, that vision is now complete.
- Richard Wood, Managing Director Asia

Rather than treating landscape and architecture as separate disciplines, Pavilia Farm explores their integration. Buildings, gardens, water, and social programs are woven together to create an environment where ecological awareness, community

Pavilia Farm began with a simple ambition: to create meaningful connections between residents, nature, and Hong Kong itself.



life, and daily rituals of gathering, reflection, and cultivation reinforce one another.

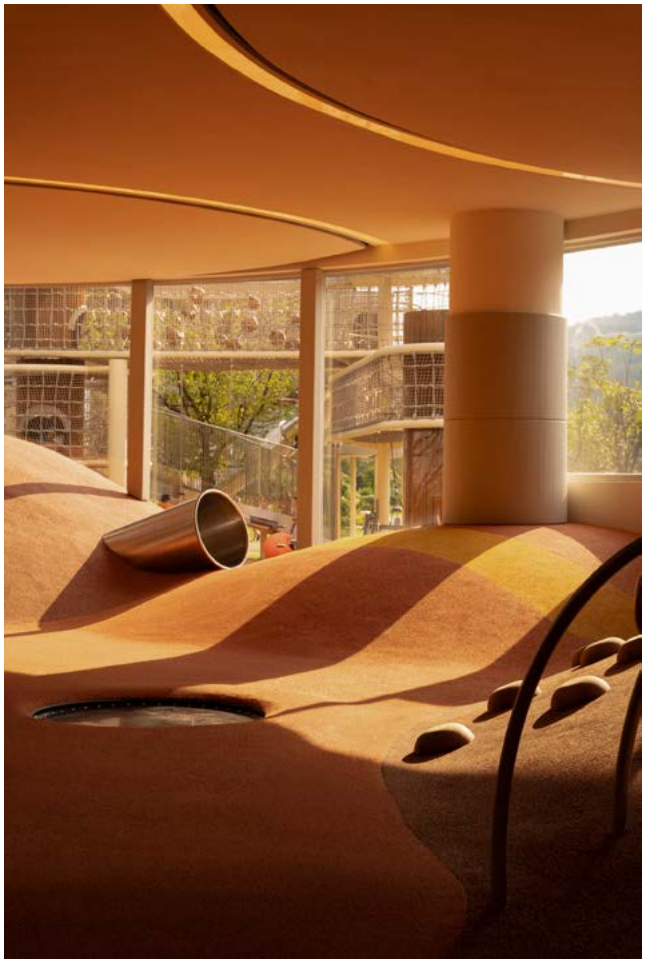
A Sanctuary Within the City

Situated between the surrounding mountains and the Shing Mun River, Pavilia Farm creates a sanctuary of calm and simplicity in the midst of Hong Kong's high-paced, urban intensity. Closely integrated with nature, the project offers residents access to shared gardens, urban farming, wellness facilities, gathering spaces, and recreational areas designed to enhance quality of life while strengthening community bonds.

Four Houses, One Community

1) Tea House: Arrival and Reflection: The Tea House marks the threshold between city and home, offering a place of transition, contemplation, and calm. Water is the defining element of the building, with an indoor pool on one side and a cascading waterfall on the other. The sound of moving water becomes part of the architectural experience, encouraging residents





to slow down and leave the pace of the city behind. A cantilevered pavilion overlooks the surrounding landscape, while carefully framed views create a sense of retreat and quiet reflection.

2) Well House: Wellness and Movement: Extending the journey from contemplation to activity, the Well House is dedicated to health, recreation, and wellbeing. The building brings together a gym, spa, sauna, badminton court, and swimming pool that flows seamlessly between indoor and outdoor environments. Generous glazing and strong visual connections to nature blur the boundary between architecture and landscape, creating spaces where movement, fitness, and restoration coexist.

3) Farm House: Gathering and Sharing: At the heart of Pavilia Farm sits the Farm House, surrounded by the project's urban farm and conceived as a place for gathering, cultivation, and exchange. Three kitchens, flexible event spaces, and communal dining areas encourage residents to cook, host, and share meals together. At the center of the building is a custom-designed rail-bound table system, inspired by the role of a dining table within a home. Adaptable and moveable, the table supports everything from intimate family meals to larger community events. The Farm House celebrates food as a catalyst for connection and transforms the act of growing, preparing, and sharing meals into a collective social experience.



4) Sky House: Play and Connection: Completing the ensemble, Sky House brings together spaces for play, learning, discovery, and intergenerational connection. An outdoor playground welcomes children and families into a landscape of play that continues indoors through a children's play area, classroom, and music room. At the center of the building, a dramatic domed skylight and rope-climbing tower create a vertical connection through the space, filling the interior with daylight, movement, and imagination. The upper level provides lounge spaces, fitness facilities, and outdoor exercise areas designed for senior residents. By bringing together spaces for different generations under one roof, Sky House supports meaningful encounters and strengthens community ties through everyday life.

An Interconnected Journey

Each clubhouse has its own character and purpose, yet together they form a connected network of experiences distributed throughout the development. Residents move from contemplation in the Tea House to wellness in the Well House, from gathering in the Farm House to play and exploration in the Sky House. Rather than functioning as isolated amenities, the four clubhouses create a layered neighborhood within







the larger residential development, encouraging discovery, interaction, and participation in community life.

The most generous spaces are never finished; they keep evolving, enriching, and giving back. At Pavilia Farm, home extends beyond the walls of an apartment into a verdant sanctuary where generations gather to rest, play, and inspire one another, cultivating a vibrant community shaped by the rhythms of nature.
- Emily Yan, Director, Studio Hong Kong (Asia Region)

Taken together, the four houses form more than a collection of communal facilities. They create a rich network of destinations woven into daily life, supporting residents of different ages, interests, and lifestyles.

Technical Sheet

Architects: Snøhetta
www.snohetta.com
Area: 5650 m²
Year: 2026
Photographs :Harold de Puymorin/HDP Photography
www.hdp-arts.com
Landscape: Ohtori Consultants Environmental Design Institute

CHOOSING LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

WHY COMPLIANCE STARTS WITH THE MANUFACTURER

Selecting fire alarms for residential properties is a life safety decision. Purchase price will always matter, but it should never outrank product conformity, traceability, reliability and ongoing manufacturer support, especially when consequences in compliance, maintenance and responsibility are at stake.

Conformity and certification

Domestic alarms must be fit for purpose and backed by official documentation. Aico's Ei3016 optical smoke alarm complies with BS EN 14604, and it's Ei3018 carbon monoxide alarm with BS EN 50291-1:2018, while the recommendations of BS 5839-6 should guide system design. Products from unverified imports, anonymous marketplaces or suppliers with little UK presence can carry avoidable risks: claims are hard to verify, instructions may be incomplete, and support is limited if something fails. Before specifying, check for an accountable UK supplier, verifiable certification, a Declaration of Performance, appropriate CE or UKCA markings, clear product identification, accessible instructions, published warranty arrangements and recognised third-party approval such as the BSI Kitemark.

Traceability

Serial numbers and QR codes allow a defective or underperforming product to be identified, assessed and replaced quickly, which is vital for life safety equipment.

Suitability and interlinking

A standard reference alone does not guarantee compliance. Smoke alarms suit hallways and sleeping areas, heat alarms are better in kitchens, and carbon monoxide protection is essential where fuel-burning appliances are present. Interlinked alarms should all sound when one activates, but only manufacturer-approved, compatible devices should be mixed, as unverified combinations risk unreliable communication and lost functionality.

Maintenance and records

Alarms must be tested, cleaned and replaced according to manufacturer guidance. Keep records of make, model, location, installation date, certification, commissioning details, test and fault history, and replacement dates. In the event of a fire, this evidence demonstrates a managed approach to safety.



> *Specifying established manufacturers reduces risk and supports a well-documented compliance position.*

Looking beyond price

A cheap alarm offers little reassurance if it cannot be shown to be genuine, certified and suitable. Specifying established manufacturers reduces risk and supports a well-documented compliance position. With more than 60 years of expertise alongside parent company Ei Electronics, Aico offers testing, traceability and technical support that help specifiers choose with confidence.

For guidance on product selection, compatibility and installation, speak to Aico's technical support team, visit **www.aico.co.uk/technical-support/**

BEWI SUPPORTS CUTTING-EDGE ICF PROJECT



BEWI Thermomur® Insulating Concrete Formwork (ICF) Building System and BEWI Jackodur® Atlas Foundation System have made possible the construction of a new cutting-edge energy-efficient home in Berkshire. Called Swallowbrook, the project, which was in the past shortlisted for the BuildIt Awards, comprised the stunning transformation of a 1960s bungalow into a superb and unique family home of 418sq m internal area.

BEWI Thermomur® 350 Super ensures an outstanding thermal performance (with a U-value of 0.15W/m²K) and also enables a fast and efficient build. It was used on this project in conjunction with the BEWI Jackodur® Atlas Foundation System, which features an innovative interlocking design to eliminate thermal bridging and ensure superior insulation, combined with stability for the foundation slab.

The result is a building which has an outstanding thermal and acoustic performance and highly insulated structural walls and floors. It boasts an SAP rating of 93A - where 100 represents zero energy usage.

Further information about BEWI's ICF product range can be found on the company's website: www.bewi-icf.co.uk/





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Its cloud-based MySense heating management app enables users to control temperatures remotely, create heating schedules and manage individual rooms or multiple properties. The technology is also compatible with building management systems (BMS), making it suitable for a variety of residential and commercial applications. With a strong focus on energy efficiency, comfort and quality, Intelli Heat also supports the integration of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and battery storage, helping customers explore more sustainable approaches to building heating. From individual properties to larger building projects, Intelli Heat delivers connected heating solutions designed around modern building needs.

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Website: www.intelligentheat.co.uk

FUTURE-PROOFING WATER SUPPLY

WATER, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP, THE PROBLEMS WILL NOT DISAPPEAR

The ongoing debate about the future of the water industry, and whether or not water companies are taken back into public ownership, will not affect the ongoing issue of the lack of supply.

To offset the predicted daily deficit of 4017 mega litres per day by 2050, major water companies have been developing plans to upgrade the UKs water supply and reduce current usage from 150 litres per person per day to 110. Given that the first new reservoir for over 30 years has had its completion date pushed back to 2034, a quick turnaround in the UK water supply situation is unlikely.

Whilst smart meters are seen as a significant part of the solution to reducing domestic water usage, Thames Water have recorded post installation savings of 12-17%, most major UK water companies have announced their plans for Advanced metering infrastructure, where all new connections or meters will replaced with the latest generation of smart meters.

Groundbreaker - the best location for smart meters

Groundbreaker is an insulated, surface mounted enclosure for a secure water management system and smart water meter. This locates the meter above ground, providing a better environment for smart technology over traditional underground boundary boxes, extends signal transmission and allows easy meter exchange.

The unique location of the Groundbreaker water management system future proofs the network and minimises the risk of developing future leaks. The position of the meter allows for an unjointed water supply, hence maintaining the integrity of the supply. The use of an uninterrupted supply has been recognised as best practice by Water UK and the Home Builders Federation.

In addition to new developments, Groundbreaker is ideal for redevelopment or refurbishment of properties that have architectural or water supply structures that make traditional metering options impractical.

This point of entry location makes it the perfect solution for installation in existing properties with shared supply or challenging architecture. Its location on the building also means no street furniture or liability in the highway.

Save water, save energy, save money

Stewart Clements, Director of the Heating & Hotwater Industry Council (HHIC) explained. "It's important that those responsible for building new homes and for upgrading existing homes - including both social and private housing providers and landlords - recognise the different factors involved in minimising energy consumption and in making tomorrow's homes the efficient properties needed to achieve decarbonisation and reach the net zero target for 2050."

'The energy used to heat water for devices and appliances emits an average of 875kg of CO_2 per household per year. This is equivalent to the CO_2 emissions from driving more than 1,700 miles in an average family car."

Energy Saving Trust

Whilst water efficient appliances, i.e. dishwashers and washing machines, can reduce domestic water and energy usage, much of this hot water used in 'time critical' usage e.g. taking a shower or running the tap to rinse dishes.

Lo-Flo - additional water saving, built in

To further improve home water efficiency, major water companies are also rolling out flow regulating devices, such as Groundbreaker's LoFlo. These modulate the level of flow entering premises - regardless of network pressure, meaning a reduction in the level of water used by customers when 'variable use' appliances (i.e., showers, taps, hosepipes). As the flow of water into the premises is limited, then the amount used by the customer is also limited - but without providing a degradation of service, and more importantly not requiring any intervention or behavioural change on the part of the customer.

The NRv2 LoFlo can be easily and simply fitted to any meter installation or retrofitted on meter exchange or when upgrading or remediating underground meter chambers. Thus, allowing Water Companies to manage demand with little or no impact on consumers and at minimal cost to the water undertakers.

Whether it's new build or redevelopment, Groundbreaker has a range of products to design in water efficient homes. For further product details visit **www.groundbreaker.co.uk.**

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- A smart, low profile flow restrictor
- Designed to reduce water consumption by up to 12% without affecting pressure
- Offers whole site protection
- Easy, non disruptive installation

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- No need for buried boundary boxes
- Simplifies installation and improves access
- Smart meter ready

INSUduct®



- Reliable protection for up to 2 x 32mm OD water pipes
- Safeguards from frost
- Engineered for quick replacement
- Provides year round protection

All **Groundbreaker** products are made in accordance with, or to exceed statutory regulation and manufactured using low impact, 'green' methods where practical. Our aim is to assist the industry and provide water to the community while minimising the impact to the environment.

For further information go to:

www.groundbreaker.co.uk/products

Email: sales@groundbreaker.co.uk Tel: 01379 741993

Groundbreaker Systems, 3 Fairways, Stuston, nr Diss IP21 4AB

waterwise Affiliate



HENNESSY VILLAGE

BARBARITO BANCEL ARCHITECTS

Hennessy Village explores a precise and sensitive architecture, where form does not impose itself but rather reveals itself through the dialogue between landscape, uses, and materiality. The project brings forth an essential, discreet, and shared beauty, capable of transcending cultures through its universality.

Embodying Hennessy's Values

Beyond its function, the project conveys a collective vision: working together, being connected to the territory, transmitting, receiving, living, and tasting.

The hybrid program brings together offices, dining, exhibition, and reception spaces within a clear and adaptable organization. It encourages exchanges between professions, including the most sensitive ones such as the craft of the "nez", in an environment conducive to transmission and creative stimulation.

Resonance Between the Vineyard Landscape and the Cognac World

In Salles-d'Angles, the project is rooted in a rolling landscape structured by vineyards. The architecture accompanies the landscape and geometrizes the territory rather than constraining it. Located on a Hennessy bottling ICPE industrial site in immediate proximity to a military air base, the building develops 4,000 m² within a demanding context.

Composition from Earth to Sky

The building is organized according to a tripartite composition: base, main body, and attic level.

Its relationship to the ground is singular: the timber building rests lightly upon it, without anchoring, preserving the integrity of the natural soil while affirming its lightness and reversibility. This transitional space combines climatic comfort, circulation, and contemplation.

The main body unfolds through a regular structural grid, rhythmically articulated by a gallery of walkways. The attic level rises toward the sky through the elevation of the canopy, whose underside is tinted a deep red evoking the amber reflections of cognac.

Façades: Between the Inner Garden and the Wider Landscape

The landscape penetrates the interior spaces, which extend toward the horizon.

> *The approach to the project is conceived as a welcoming sequence, from landscape to architecture, echoing a culture of hospitality intrinsic to the world of cognac.*

To the south, the project opens onto the terroir and the vineyards. Here, the façade composed of walkways becomes an active thickness: both a collaborative space and a passive solar protection system. To the north, a shared courtyard garden brings together the activities of both buildings, centered around a reflecting pool that fosters a dialogue between architecture and nature.

The walkways create a lived-in gallery that encourages interaction, while the openings frame the landscape and anchor the spaces within their surroundings.

The Art of Hospitality: the Entrance Sequence

The approach to the project is conceived as a welcoming sequence, from landscape to architecture, echoing a culture of hospitality intrinsic to the world of cognac.

From the parking area, the pathways converge toward the top of an embankment forming a shared forecourt and leading to a walkway that marks the entrance. From this point of balance, the building unfolds toward the garden below and toward the upper levels in a seamless transition between landscape, ground, and architecture.

Inside, the continuity is reversed: the spaces open first onto the garden and then onto the landscape.

Order, Structure, Space, and Light

The prefabricated modular timber structure expresses a poetic rationality, supported by a clear grid of columns and beams.

Through spaces provide fluidity, natural ventilation, and a constant relationship to the landscape - distant to the south, inward-looking to the north.

Circulation spaces, designed as true rooms in themselves, unfold like a hypostyle hall formed by a succession of colonnades. They enhance the timber structure and organize movement through the building, offering deep perspectives and visual openings. Coffee points, alcoves, and shared tables enrich the circulation areas and naturally intertwine uses.

Major Spaces et Hennessy's savoir-faire

The major spaces break free from the governing order to become moments of exception, strategically positioned at the extremities of the system, like episodes in a narrative.

The Place du Village, beneath a double-height ceiling and amber glass, transcends the function of a restaurant to become a place of conviviality. Other spaces embody the identity of the Maison: the Eaux-de-Vie counter welcomes winegrowers, the tasting room privileges confidentiality and concentration, and the dining room combines hospitality and workspace with simplicity and efficiency.

Sensory Materiality and Envelope Performance

Wood, neither decorative nor effect-driven, expresses a constructive, sustainable, and sensitive architecture in resonance with viticultural culture. Its grain and rhythms create a living material, both visual and tactile. Acoustic performance transforms the building into a refuge, where silence becomes an essential spatial quality.

Energy performance and certifications reflect a global ambition in which environmental excellence becomes a driver of creation.

A Place for Living, Working, and Hospitality

Hennessy Village transcends the elementary character of the so-called "tertiary" building typology. Between intuition and method, sensitivity and rigor, the project asserts an elegant architecture that does not seek to demonstrate, but to reveal.

An architecture that imagines the obvious and touches, quite simply, emotion.

www.barbaritobancel.com
Photography: Alessandra Chemollo.





SPATEX 2027

DISCOVER THE HOW, WHAT, WHY AND WHERE OF WATER LEISURE

SPATEX 2027 is the starting point for landscape designers, specifiers, architects, developers, town planners, builders, and all those interested in water leisure. See, touch, and gain inspiration from the latest water features, ice baths, swimming pools, spas, saunas, steam rooms, wellness suites, and enclosures. The UK's only dedicated show has it all, and more, and is free to attend from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th February at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

SPATEX 2027 - designed for YOU

▪ **Unique showcase** - SPATEX 2027 is an opportunity to view and compare a host of new innovations in a fast-moving market. With over a hundred exhibiting companies, including all the leading manufacturers and suppliers from around the world, the glittering showcase will include every aspect of water leisure.

▪ **Launchpad** - many exhibitors use SPATEX to debut new products and offer special visitor show discounts. This is the first time that they will be seen anywhere in the world.

▪ **Saving energy and sustainability** - are at the heart of SPATEX 2027. Minimising energy usage is a consideration that needs to be factored in at the design stage, making the show of vital importance for planners and designers.

▪ **Industry Hub:** designs can rarely be drawn up in isolation and invariably involve consultation with various industry bodies. Providing a valuable focal point for industry knowledge and expertise, the Hub brings together, on one stand, the collective knowledge of RLSS UK (Royal Life Saving Society UK), IoS (Institute of Swimming), STA (Swimming Teachers' Association), BSPF (British Swimming Pool Federation) and PWTAG (Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group).

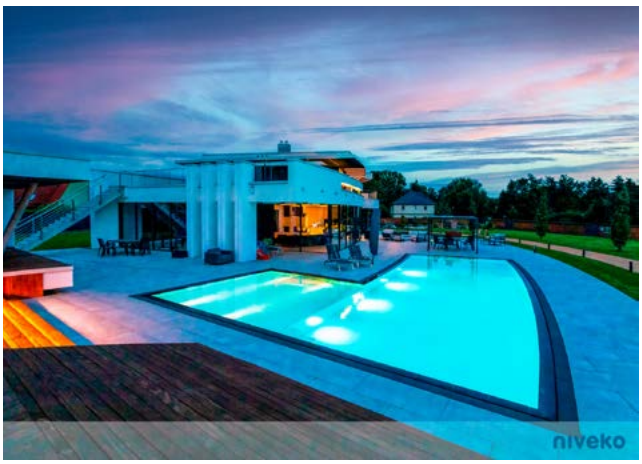
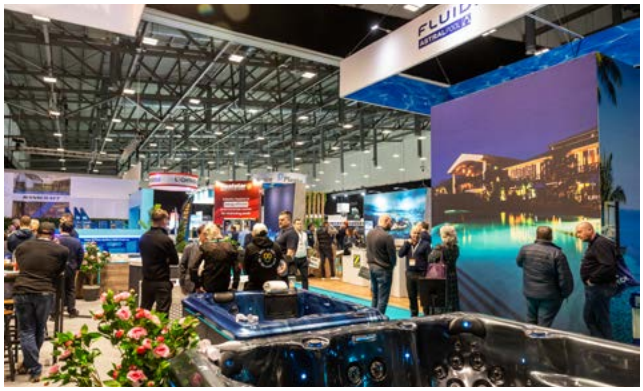


Photo: Niveko





▪ **Upskill** - SPATEX will host a free-to-attend double seminar programme including the ISPE (Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers) CPD accredited technical workshops in Arena 1. For instance:

Tuesday 2nd February Supporting Sustainability and Aiding Net Zero Design.

Wednesday 3rd February UK Swimming Pool Trends

▪ **Free expertise** - Bring your plans with you - there's no better place to seek impartial advice from a variety of specialists, and all for free.

▪ **Feel inspired:** View the winners of the British Pool & Hot Tub Awards on the Industry Hub, showcasing the finest examples of design, construction, and installation.

▪ **Easy to get to** the centrally located Coventry Building Society Arena has over 2,000 car parking spaces and SPATEX provides free parking for its visitors.

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RHINO screws provide versatile fixing for softwoods, hardwoods, chipboard, particleboard, fibreboard, MDF, PVC-U and sheet metal. Their coarse threads ensure effective driving, while compatibility with wall plugs allows fixing into masonry and other solid substrates. Available in various sizes and lengths, they are ideal for general-purpose applications. Comparable alternatives may be supplied if stock is limited. Prices start from £0.53 (inc. VAT).

TurboQwik Gold - Premium Pozi Woodscrews

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2027 WASHROOM TRENDS WITH INSIGHT FROM FITZROY OF LONDON



From warmer finishes to boutique hotel-inspired interiors, 2027 will see commercial washroom design place greater emphasis on accessibility, wellness and user experience. Mark Shepherd, Head of Product at Fitzroy of London, highlights six key trends:

Inclusive design: Level-access showers, wider circulation spaces, integrated grab rails and intuitive all-gender layouts will benefit more users.

Everyday wellness: Biophilic design, natural materials, improved acoustics and considered lighting will create calming spaces.

Smart technology: Sensors, occupancy monitoring, leak detection and water-use analytics will support smarter washroom management.

Sustainability: Embodied carbon, water consumption, circular design and product longevity will become increasingly important.

Hotel-inspired design: Premium materials, feature lighting and refined detailing will elevate commercial washrooms.

Warmer finishes: Warm Bronze, Antique Brass and Satin Brass will add character while complementing wider interior schemes.

For further information visit www.fitzroyoflondon.com

FIREFLY ON DISPLAY AT LONDON BUILD 2026 EXPO



TBA Protective Technologies will showcase its FIREFLY® passive fire protection solutions at London Build 2026, taking place at Excel on 25-26 November, on Booth D99.

Alongside its established Zeus and Titan Lite flexible fire barrier systems, the company will present several innovative products. These include the FIREFLY® FB180 Raised Access Floor System, offering up to 240 minutes' fire protection, and Apollo Lite 30:30, designed to improve compartmentation and smoke control across suspended ceilings.

Visitors can also explore the VapourSafe® Membrane, developed for modular and offsite construction, with a Class A2-s1,d0 fire classification, and FIREFLY® Span, an intumescent joint seal providing protection against fire, smoke and sound transmission.

The FB160 one-sided mineral wool batt will also be demonstrated, offering a practical solution for restricted-access installations across sectors including healthcare, heritage and industrial facilities.

Visit Booth D99 to discover FIREFLY® solutions for diverse fire protection requirements.

TBA Protective Technologies Ltd. Tel: 01706 758817
Email: info@tba-pt.com | Web: www.tbafirefly.com.



ENTERING A NEW ERA

LONDON BUILD MOVES TO EXCEL LONDON FOR ITS BIGGEST EDITION YET

After a decade of record growth, London Build, the UK's leading festival of construction, architecture and design, is entering a new era. The 2026 edition will take place at Excel London, unlocking more space, more content and more opportunities than ever before.

For the first time, the show will co-locate with elementalLONDON, uniting the construction, building services and sustainability sectors under one roof to create the UK's ultimate built environment event.



A Bigger, Bolder and Busier Show

The move to Excel enables London Build to deliver its largest exhibition and conference programme to date, bringing together the full construction supply chain in an expanded format designed to inspire, connect and drive business growth.

The 2026 edition will take place at Excel London, unlocking more space, more content and more opportunities than ever before.



What's new for 2026:

- More Exhibition Space & Attendees - 12 halls, 650+ exhibitors and 25,000+ visitors expected across two days.
- Expanded Programme - 17 stages, summits and interactive workshops covering digital construction, sustainability, health & safety and fire safety.
- Networking Hubs Doubling in Size - Over 25 industry-led hubs and 40+ exclusive networking events connecting every corner of the sector.
- Start-Up Zone - A dedicated platform showcasing disruptive innovators and emerging technologies redefining the construction landscape.
- Careers Hub - Supporting new talent with mentoring, insights and opportunities to shape the future workforce.

A New Collaboration: London Build x elementalLONDON

Launched in 2025, elementalLONDON is the event dedicated to energy, performance and sustainability in the built environment, where innovators, specifiers and solution providers come together to accelerate the journey to net zero.







In 2026, elementalLONDON joins London Build at Excel London, creating the UK's most comprehensive built environment event - a single destination for construction, design, engineering, energy and sustainability professionals.

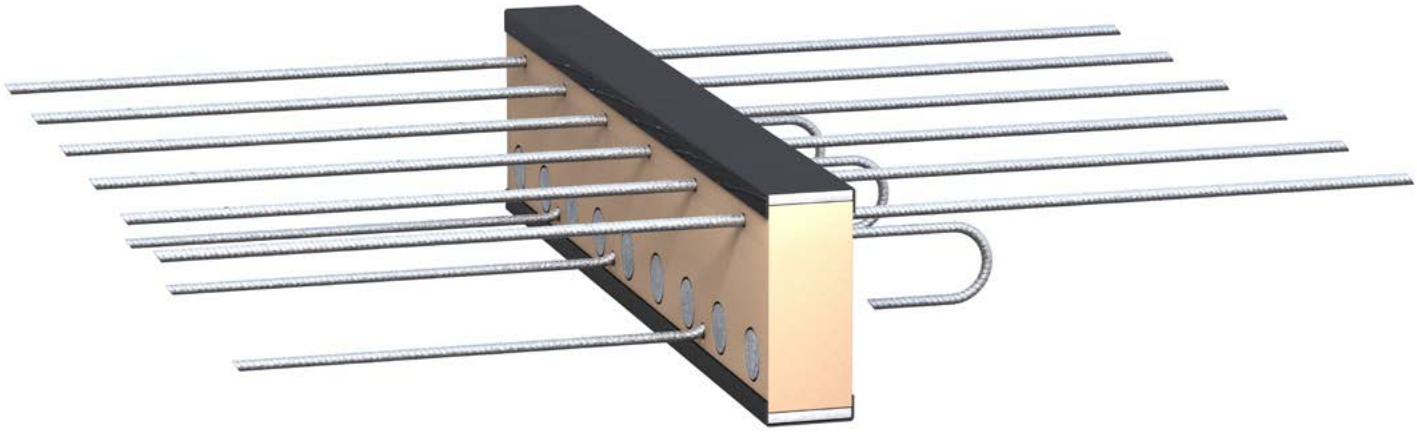
For exhibitors and sponsors, the co-located event offers an unrivalled platform to showcase innovation, lead the sustainability conversation, and build meaningful connections with the decision-makers driving change across the industry.

London Build is the UK's largest festival of construction, architecture and design, featuring 25,000+ attendees, 900+ speakers across 17 CPD stages, 650+ exhibitors, Meet the Buyers, Architect's Hub, celebrity guests, entertainment, DJs, networking parties, live music and much more!

Join us on 25-26 November at Excel London.

www.londonbuildexpo.com





A SMARTER SOLUTION TO THERMAL BRIDGING

A SMART ADDITION TO YOUR SPECIFICATION TOOLKIT

As buildings continue to move towards higher energy efficiency and stricter thermal performance standards, the smallest details in specification can have a major impact. For concrete structures, one of the most critical elements is thermal bridging, particularly at junctions like balconies, parapets and floor slabs. Armatherm™'s Cast-In-Situ (CIS) thermal break offers a practical, high-performing solution to this common challenge.

The Cast-In-Situ thermal break is purpose-designed for use in reinforced concrete construction, incorporating a 75mm insulation body made from Armatherm 500 grade. This dense yet lightweight material combines impressive compressive strength with low thermal conductivity. The result is a significant improvement in energy efficiency, helping buildings reduce heat loss, prevent internal condensation and meet stringent UK building regulations.

But thermal performance is only one part of the equation. Practicality on site matters too, and here, the CIS excels. Its rigid structure can be nailed to formwork and cut to shape without compromising integrity, supporting fast, efficient installation during the concrete pour. High-grade stainless steel rebars provide structural strength and corrosion resistance, while the entire unit is designed to be transported and handled without risk of stress or damage.

The Armatherm Cast-In-Situ thermally broken balcony connector is also available with integrated fire protection, providing specifiers with additional flexibility depending on the requirements of the project. By enabling continuity of insulation without sacrificing load-bearing performance, it supports both architectural vision and practical delivery.

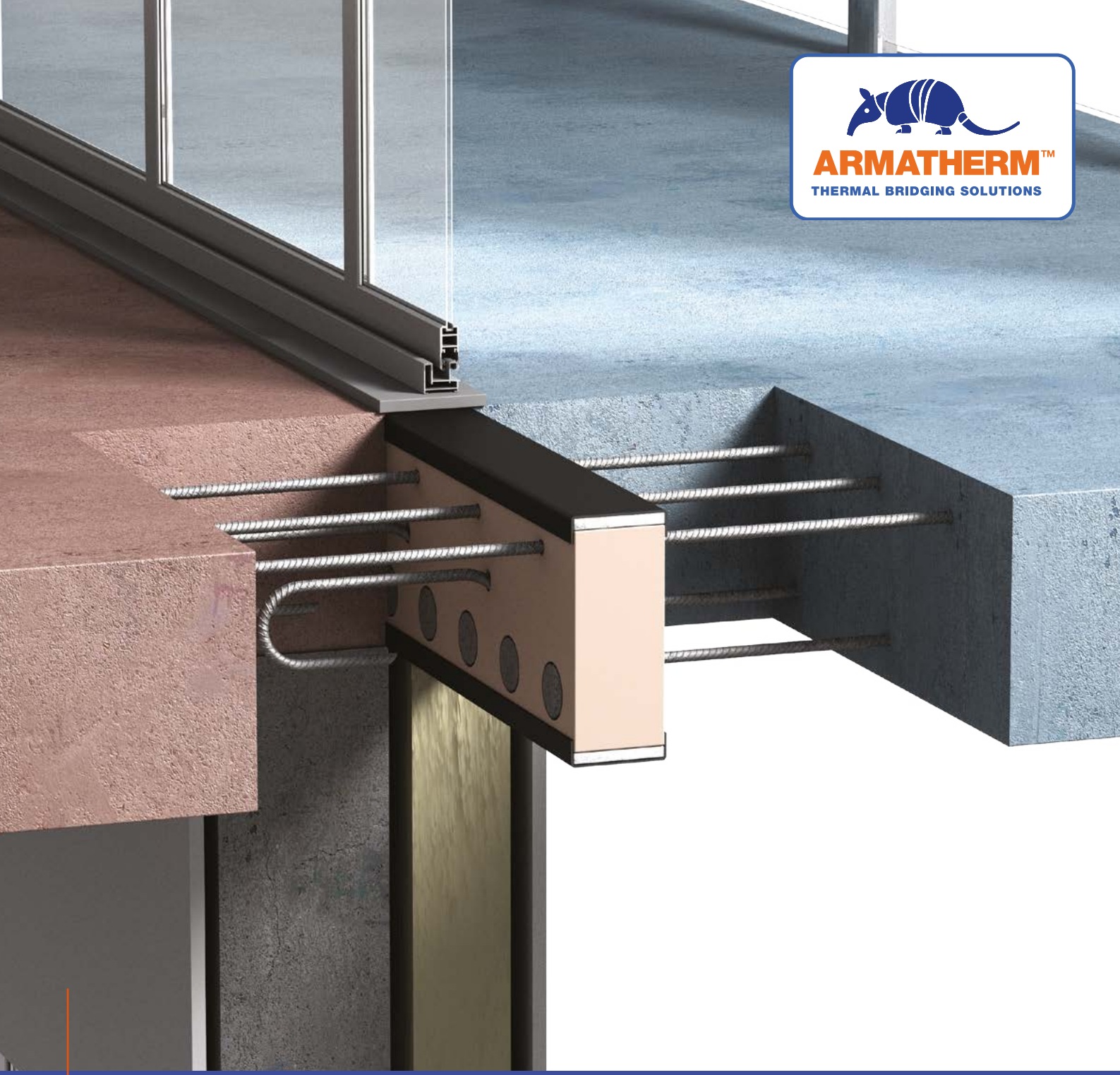
> *"The Armatherm Cast-In-Situ thermally broken balcony connector is also available with integrated fire protection, providing specifiers with additional flexibility depending on the requirements of the project.*

Whether you're designing for energy savings, occupant comfort or long-term performance, the Cast-In-Situ thermal break is a smart addition to your specification toolkit. It ensures structural safety, meets evolving environmental and efficiency standards, and contributes to healthier buildings that stand the test of time, all while keeping installation straightforward and cost-effective.

Interested in exploring the CIS in more detail?

Visit **armatherm.com** for technical datasheets, or speak to the team directly to see how it could enhance your next project.

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MARMOX ON DISPLAY AT LONDON BUILD 2026 EXPO

MARMOX HIGHLIGHTS NEXT-GENERATION INSULATION

Insulation specialist, Marmox, will be displaying its range of products at London Build 2026 Expo at Excel on 25th and 26th November including flying the flag for a NEW Fireproof and sound absorbing product.

The UK's largest construction show involving some 350 exhibitors will be attended this year by an estimated 30,000 visitors, the numbers embracing builders, architects, engineers and developers, many of whom will have the chance to look over its well-respected and highly versatile Multiboard, along with the Marmox Fireboard. Fireboard can be specified for both internal and external wall insulation (IWI/EWI) applications and shares Marmox's honeycomb surface structure with its XPS forerunner, Multiboard, to create an A1 non-combustible certified render-backer which is weather resistant. It can further be used internally across walls or ceilings to take a plaster finish, while providing acoustic absorption properties, as well as thermal insulation. Fireboard has been tested to prove compliance with EN1182 (Efectis,) EN 1716 & EN 13823 (BRE) (Reaction to fire test) conducted by UKTC, along with other testing completed by the BRE.

Multiboard also on display meanwhile, remains a tried and trusted construction material across building sites around the country. BBA certified, its versatility includes water resistance, thermal insulation and surprising loadbearing strength. Users like its reliability and low weight, accommodating tiling, plastering and rendering, both indoors and outdoors.

> *"The team on our stand will be there to show the extensive range and including for the first time our new 100mm x 600mm x 1200mm Multiboard.*

Marmox's Marketing Manager, Grant Terry, commented: "The team on our stand will be there to show the extensive range and including for the first time our new 100mm x 600mm x 1200mm Multiboard. Despite a temporary lull in new house starts, there is still plenty of activity in the UK construction industry."

For further information please contact:
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CHAMPIONING GREEN IDEAS

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN EXPERT, SUNAND PRASAD OBE JOINS JUDGING PANEL FOR FIRST BBA SUSTAINABLE INNOVATOR AWARD

The British Board of Agrément (BBA) is delighted to confirm that Sunand Prasad OBE, former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), has joined the judging panel for its inaugural Sustainable Innovator Award. As one of the UK's most influential figures in sustainable design, his appointment matches the Award's ambition to give greater visibility to innovative construction products that advance sustainability across the industry.



With decades of experience in architecture, sustainability and the built environment, Sunand brings significant expertise to the judging panel. President of the RIBA from 2007 to 2009, he was among the Independent's top 100 environmentalists in recognition of his work on sustainability. He was also awarded an OBE in the 2023 Birthday Honours for services to regeneration.

Sunand co-founded Penoyre & Prasad in 1988. He became principal at global architecture and design practice, Perkins&Will, following the firms' merger in 2019, where he continued to champion sustainable design. Throughout his career, he has held several influential advisory and policy roles and has chaired Design Review Panels for high-profile projects across the UK. He is Programme Director of the European Healthcare Design Conference, Chair of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Architecture and a Design Council Ambassador. He also served as a Trustee of the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) for ten years with a term as chair.

Speaking on his involvement in the Award, Sunand comments: "Our industry needs people who continually think afresh about how to tackle the climate and resource emergency, whose impacts, long afflicting so many lands, are now causing grievous damage in the more prosperous parts of the world. The Sustainable Innovator Award is a valuable opportunity to bring such people and their ideas to wider attention; so, huge congratulations to the BBA for this initiative. If business as usual was ever an option, it certainly is not now. I am looking forward to seeing not only the breadth of ideas the entrants have been working on, but what we as an industry can learn from their ways of thinking."

Hardy Giesler, CEO of the BBA, comments: "One of the most important considerations when putting this judging panel together was bringing in people who see the built environment from different perspectives. Sunand brings a wealth of experience in design and sustainability, as well as a clear understanding of the broader changes shaping the way we build. We are delighted to have his voice as part of the conversation as we look at what the next generation of construction products could achieve. Altogether, our panel of esteemed industry experts is well placed to identify the products that have the potential to deliver real, lasting change."

Sunand will join the previously announced panel of expert judges, including Quentin Farrow, Managing Director of HybridMMC; Chris Hall, Technical Innovation Manager at NHBC (the National House Building Council); Andrew Gaved, Editor-at-Large at London Build; and Julie Bregulla, Chief Operating Officer at the BBA.

Together, the panel will assess submissions from growth-ready start-ups and small businesses. They will look for product innovations that demonstrate clear improvements in quality, safety and sustainability, and which have the potential to drive meaningful innovation across the construction products sector.

Entries have now closed, and the winner will be announced live on the Sustainability Stage at London Build 2026 on Wednesday 25th November at ExCeL London. The award ceremony begins at 16:50 and will also feature a short panel discussion and Q&A with the judges. This session will explore how innovators can successfully bring sustainable products to market and secure specification.

Entry to London Build is free to register at **www.londonbuildexpo.com.**

To find out more about the award, visit **www.bbacerts.co.uk/sustainable-innovator-award.**

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CGL SYSTEMS

DESIGNING FOR CERTAINTY: WHAT OFFSITE MANUFACTURING MEANS FOR ARCHITECTS

HOW CREAGH'S INVESTMENT IN PRECAST SYSTEMS, AUTOMATION AND FACTORY CAPACITY IS HELPING TURN DESIGN INTENT INTO BUILT REALITY

For architects, the gap between what is designed and what is built has always carried risk. Every interpretation on site, late change or tolerance issue chips away at the original vision. Creagh's approach is to close that gap by moving more of the build into a controlled factory environment, where components are engineered, manufactured and checked before they reach site.

Structure at scale

For multi-storey residential and student accommodation, Rapidres® delivers a fully precast frame of walls, floors and cores, achieving earlier weather tightness and greater programme certainty.

Guildford Crescent in Cardiff, known as The Rise, shows what this means in practice. At 31 storeys and 272 build-to-rent apartments, it is Cardiff's tallest building, with its superstructure delivered in just 36 weeks on a constrained city-centre site.

The façade was originally specified with aluminium fluted cladding. Creagh re-engineered it as structural architectural precast, integrating structure, envelope and finish into a single system while preserving the architect's design intent. Fluted detailing, etched finishes and four bespoke colours, Aspen, Signal, Charcoal and Copper, were cast directly into the panels. Matching the copper tone took extensive testing of pigment and aggregate blends.

The result removed secondary cladding and on-site post-fixing, delivered cost savings and created a more durable envelope with a 100-year design life and a zero-maintenance sandwich panel system.

From drawing to machine

Creagh's new M-System BlueMesh® automated reinforcement line at Toomebridge takes precision further. Design intent is increasingly translated directly into machine-ready production data, removing layers of manual interpretation. A steel cage that once took one to two hours to fabricate by hand is now produced in around five minutes, with improved dimensional accuracy.



One partner, fewer interfaces

Creagh also supplies ready-mix concrete, including fibre-reinforced and self-compacting mixes, plus in-situ concrete, ground beams, stair cores and mezzanine flooring. Fewer interfaces mean simpler coordination from design to installation.

Sustainable and safer by design

Offsite manufacturing reduces material waste, while ongoing work on lower-carbon concrete reflects the environmental demands architects increasingly face. Factory production also reduces many traditional site risks.

Capacity for what comes next

A new £3 million, 4,000m² factory at Toomebridge will provide capacity for up to 75,000m² of precast walls annually at full run rate, so the designs architects develop today can be delivered with speed, quality and certainty.

Creagh is more than a manufacturer. It is an integrated construction partner, helping architects turn ambitious designs into buildings that perform.

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BEWI BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE

BEWI TO HIGHLIGHT CIVILS CAPABILITIES AT LONDON BUILD 2026

BEWI, the leading European manufacturer of construction, insulation and civils products, is delighted to be supporting London Build this year.

The company is taking the opportunity to promote its growing capabilities in the civils sector in particular. The products in its growing range include expanded polystyrene (EPS) and extruded polystyrene (XPS) products designed for civil engineering, ground engineering, and infrastructure projects.

Key individual product lines on offer from the company include:

HeaveMaster GHP (Ground Heave Protection) - engineered EPS void formers designed to protect foundations from vertical and lateral ground heave in clay soils by collapsing under specified fail-load pressures;

ClayMaster - compressible EPS boards used to protect vertical and horizontal concrete structures against the pressure of expanding clay soils;

FormMaster Shuttering - lightweight EPS formwork components used for concrete edge profiling and ground beams, reducing the need for traditional timber shuttering;

FillMaster - lightweight EPS blocks used for civil engineering bulk fill applications, reducing loads on weak subgrades, road embankments and bridge abutments.

The BEWI team is headed up by civils and structures solutions specialist Simon Roberts, National Infrastructure Manager - Civils and Structures. He will be taking part in a Panel discussion at the Show on 26th November at 12pm on the subject of 'UK transport projects that are leading change'.

"We are seeing growth coming from a range of civils sectors, including infrastructure, road building, concrete frame, industrial construction, educational and health sector building, as well as high rise residential," says Simon. "BEWI has a lot to offer to the sector from our HeaveMaster GHP, FormMaster and FillMaster ranges, as well as our piling products."

Come along to the BEWI stand at the Show to learn more about the company's Civils capabilities, as well as its insulation products and Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF) range, which are helping build the future of modern energy-effcient housing today.

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SENSUOUS GARDEN BRINGS ITALIAN STYLE TO TAIPEI

MIXED-USE TOWER IN TAIPEI COMBINES NEW HOTEL AND RESIDENCES

ACPV ARCHITECTS Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel presents the new mixed-use hotel residence "Sensuous Garden" in Taipei, Taiwan. Located in the city's vibrant yet secluded Songshan district, the 23-story building articulates Italian notions of elegance, refinement and timelessness. ACPV ARCHITECTS oversaw the building's architecture and the interior design of the residential portion, offering distinctive spaces designed in response to ever-changing demands.

The approx. 33,300-sqm tower rises in Taipei's Financial District, at the intersection of Nanjing East Road and Guangfu North Road - one of Taipei's most sought-after areas. Home to major enterprises and undergoing rapid development, the location offers convenient access to the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, Taipei Dome, Taipei Arena, National Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall and Taipei Songshan Airport.

ACPV ARCHITECTS' project for the mixed-use complex references Taiwanese tea culture. The building is enclosed in a reflective glass skin engraved with horizontal white lines that recall lush tea plantations. The tower's shared spaces are styled after the bright, delicate qualities of Taiwan's precious Oriental Beauty tea variety, reflecting its colors and rigorous production process. The building's architecture combines the new hotel and the residential functions of the mixed-use development in pure design articulations.

The 90-meter-high Sensuous Garden integrates a residential component comprising a ground-floor lobby, a gym on the floor above, a mix of residential units, 114 in total, and a rooftop garden. The shared spaces and two show flats are designed to feel spacious and anticipate the needs of residents and

> *These open, green spaces will offer new opportunities to take a walk in nature while enjoying panoramic views of the city.*

guests, inspiring effortless living. Combining simple volumes featuring large balconies that extend across the entire width of the building, Sensuous Garden's architecture creates visual openness and encourages ease of movement.

"The building's architecture and interiors reinforce each other to create spaces that celebrate refined living," says architect Antonio Citterio, Chairman and Co-founder of ACPV ARCHITECTS.

"We designed a sky garden on top of the building and an outdoor area at mid-height. These open, green spaces will offer new opportunities to take a walk in nature while enjoying panoramic views of the city," adds architect Patricia Viel, Co-founder of ACPV ARCHITECTS.

The entrance hall of the mixed-use building is an exclusive, generously spaced 5-meter-high lobby area that welcomes residents and guests, providing access to the bar. A large window with a view of a private garden can be opened to extend the bar seating area to the outdoors, evoking an urban resort atmosphere. Responding to contemporary needs, the shared functions of the building - which include a bar, a library lounge area, a gym and a yoga room - can be enjoyed by residents and their guests alike.

"We paid particular attention to the details when designing the building's interiors. From the furniture selection - featuring designs by Antonio Citterio - to the spatial proportions and the lighting solutions, each design choice was motivated by the desire to create spaces where people feel at home - even for temporary guests," says Chung-Yi Yang, ACPV ARCHITECTS' partner-in-charge for the shared spaces of Sensuous Garden's residential portion.

The attentive choice of materials further highlights ACPV ARCHITECTS' philosophy. The reception counter is made of Carrara marble from Italy, the lobby walls are covered with warm gray stone, the floor combines these two precious materials, and the custom-designed handrails reinforce the idea of a lively and visually harmonious space. In addition, metal elements are used to highlight the firmness of the stone elements that contrast gently with the fabrics' smooth and warm colors.

"The new mixed-use building recalls the Milanese architectural culture of the 1960s-70s. The architectural language of the building and its interiors





reference the works of Italian design masters such as Vico Magistretti," adds Claudio Raviolo, ACPV ARCHITECTS' partner-in-charge for Sensuous Garden's architecture.

The new development is the latest addition to ACPV ARCHITECTS' projects for Continental Development Corporation in Taiwan. Sensuous Garden follows the development of two residential high-rises in Taichung (Taiwan): the Treasure Garden residential tower that opened to residents in 2018 and the La Bella Vita tower that won the International Architecture Award in 2021.

CREDITS

Client: Continental Development Corp.

Design architect: ACPV ARCHITECTS Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel

Interior design (for the shared spaces of residential portion, excluding hotel interior design): ACPV ARCHITECTS Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel

Local architect: CHY Architects & Planners

Lighting design: Metis Lighting

www.acpvarchitects.com

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> ***Rather than forming a thick film over the timber, One Coat Only penetrates the wood and allows its natural grain and character to remain visible.***



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THE BUTTON

A NEW HOME FOR CZECH SHIRTMAKING

Our office is actually like a small family business. The studio's philosophy is simple. We only do things that are interesting to us and that we know we will enjoy. Money is, of course, necessary, but it is only the third factor when selecting commissions, after the client and the brief itself. If we accept a commission, it means something to us. That is why meetings with clients who share a similar view are valuable to us: they want to build something more than just a profit-generating company.



A few years ago, we started collaborating with Jirka Vávra and Katka Jiroutová. They took over the management of the successful family business VAVI, founded by Vera Vávrová, who, after gaining experience at the Šumavan factory in Vimperk, began producing shirts on a small scale together with

> *The dynamic growth of the company gradually outgrew the capacity of the existing premises, creating the need for a new building that would unite production, administration, and brand presentation under one roof.*

her husband. Under Jirka and Katka's leadership, VAVI grew into a respected Czech manufacturer of corporate clothing and men's and women's shirts. It designs, develops, and produces its own collections, and also custom-sews for large companies and individuals. It dresses entire corporate teams, including international ones, from management to operations. Production remains largely concentrated in Vimperk, supplemented by additional operations and facilities in Prague and elsewhere. The emphasis is long-term on quality and craftsmanship.

The dynamic growth of the company gradually outgrew the capacity of the existing premises, creating the need for a new building that would unite production, administration, and brand presentation under one roof. At the same time, the new complex responds to the company's transformation from a local workshop into a confident brand. The hall was built on the outskirts of Vimperk, near the main route from Prague to Šumava. The building is designed as an open showcase of production, offering passers-by and visitors an unusual insight into the process of creating a shirt - a product that the company manufactures from individual pieces to series of thousands. Customers can have a shirt custom-made and watch the production from the cafe in the showroom. The entire operation is thus naturally connected: production, sales, and brand presentation become one continuous experience.

One of the basic requirements of the brief was to create a high-quality, modern, and welcoming working environment for seamstresses and other employees. The company has long relied on a stable team of people from the region and on the continuity of the craft, which has been maintained in Vimperk for generations. Therefore, we placed great emphasis on daylight, visual contact with the surrounding landscape, and overall clarity of the operation. The layout is designed to support the logical flow of production - from the cutting room through the sewing workshops to inspection and shipping, while not being rigid, allowing for future changes and further growth of the company.

The key motif of the design became the button. The new production hall represents a compact, clearly legible volume, which, through its form and detail, refers to the basic element of every shirt. This archetype is present in the design both in the overall mass of the building and in the work with the facade, the rhythm of the openings, and the structural logic. "The Button" thus becomes not only a name, but a supporting principle of the entire project, a symbol of the connection between craft, detail, and brand identity.

Mjölk architekti
www.mjolk.cz



TOUCH
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Touch Ironmongery Ltd
210 Fulham Road,
Chelsea SW10 9PJ

We display and stock over 3,000 products in 28 different finishes.

With a customer base including Architects, Interior Designers, Builders and private Individuals who are interested in the quality end of the Ironmongery market Touch Ironmongery's owner and founder, Bill Benham, has 44 years' experience in the Ironmongery trade, as does his colleague Jim Haselup. Saleem Qureshi is the newest member of our team and has 23 years' experience, meaning their knowledge is unrivalled in this industry.



Touch Ironmongery 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 also sell European manufactured quality Ironmongery.

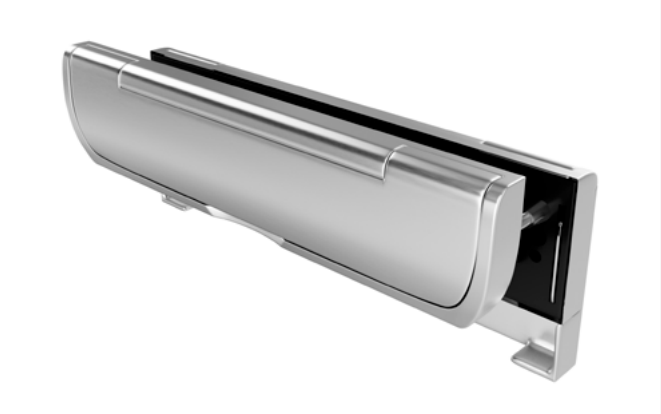


Ironmongery can be a difficult and complicated aspect of a building project, as a result Touch aim to take this awkward aspect and make it user friendly and clear to understand by offering an on-site service where they carry out a detailed door by door, window by window, room by room Ironmongery schedule, highlighting all requirements.

Restoration 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 good as new again 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









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Open for Coffee, Closed for Company: Kitchen Convenience the Sugatsune Way



Kitchens are busy places. More than just places to cook, they are often the hub of the modern home. A space to eat, a space to socialise, a space to entertain, a space to kick back and unwind over a beverage of choice.

Kitchen design has evolved accordingly. Kitchens have grown in size to accommodate multiple functions. Along with the necessary culinary amenities, breakfast bars, dining tables, coffee tables and lounge-like seating areas are commonplace.

For kitchen designers, the immediate priority when planning multi-functional spaces is to avoid clutter and preserve functionality. But the aesthetic is important, too. This is something that came up repeatedly in discussions at this year's KBB Birmingham show. How do you balance the separation of spaces with functional convenience and flawless design?

One of the things discussed was the trend for using cabinets and shelving around a kitchen as convenient on-hand storage for each space. So instead of having all the hot drinks accessories – the cups, the saucers, the cafetière, the teapot – kept with all the other crockery, you keep them adjacent to where they are needed, right next to where the coffee table or sofa is. Same principle with breakfast things by the breakfast bar and so on.

But this creates a dilemma – what to do about doors? The convenience of having items you need to serve coffee or breakfast right there is great. But what about when that area is not in use? Having cups, coffee jars, cereal boxes and breakfast bowls on display isn't a great look. But a standard swing cabinet door isn't ideal when the area is in use. You either have to leave it open and in the way or keep opening and closing it.

As we demonstrated at KBB, attracting plenty of interest, we have another solution in our pocket.

Doors That Know When to Get Out of the Way

The Sugatsune ALT-ST and ALT-SN pocket door systems are purpose-built for situations where you want the flexibility to leave cabinet doors open or closed as you choose. They allow doors to swing open in the conventional way. But once open, they slide backwards into a pocket alongside the cabinet. You can leave them open for as long as you need without the doors getting in the way. And then close them when finished.

What caught the attention of delegates at KBB was the flexibility and simplicity of installation. A lot of the pocket door solutions available on the market for cabinets are for full-length cupboard or wardrobe-type installations. They can also be pricey and tricky to fit.

The ALT-ST and ALT-SN work on a flexible system of hinges and slides. Rather than being built for a fixed size of door, you simply change the number of hinges and slides to suit the door size. A minimum of two slides is required, up to a maximum of four. The ALT-ST15 and ALT-SN15 accommodate doors from 500mm to 1600mm high, with load capacities up to 15kg depending on the size and configuration. For taller doors, the ALT-ST20 accommodates heights up to 2400mm and weights up to 20kg. Maximum door width is 600mm across these ranges.

You can choose whether you want the slides on the inside of the cabinet (ALT-ST) or mounted outside the carcass or on a middle frame between cabinets (ALT-SN). Both types have inset and overlay mounting options. An inset door sits within the cabinet opening when closed, while an overlay door covers the edges of the opening. In either case, the open door slides back into its pocket alongside the cabinet.

Now With a Push

Flexibility is a big part of the appeal of our ALT pocket door systems. Across a wide range of cabinet sizes, a pocket door becomes an option. This opens up a huge range of possible uses, both in the kitchen and beyond.

Our ALT products are used for utility cabinets so washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers can be shut away when not in use, while allowing unrestricted access when they are. We've seen them used for clothes wardrobes, creating a walk-in feel. And we've seen them used in bathroom cabinets where space is limited, to avoid collisions with open doors.

But flexibility isn't the only advantage. All of our ALT products feature soft-close hinges, providing smooth, controlled closing motion for a premium final touch. Recently, we added push-to-open versions to the range. Closed doors release with a push, allowing designers to dispense with handles for a seamless look. This is especially desirable if you want to build storage cubbies into panelled walls or wall-to-wall cabinets. When the doors are closed, you barely know the storage is there.

A kitchen designed for cooking, eating and relaxing needs storage that works around all three. With Sugatsune pocket door systems, designers can put everyday essentials exactly where they're needed, without leaving either the contents or the open doors to spoil the view.

Contact Sugatsune UK to find the right configuration for your next kitchen project.

ELECTROMAGNETIC DOOR CLOSERS

COMBINING SAFETY & ACCESS CONTROL IN BUSY SPACES

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

Safety and Security Without Disruption

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

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



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

Lee Piper, sales and marketing director at Boss Door Controls, commented:

'Electromagnetic door closers allow for a safe, secure environment that doesn't sacrifice convenience, which is a key consideration when designing and maintaining modern workspaces and public buildings.'

> *"Ensuring safety and security while maintaining sufficient openness to facilitate ease of movement can often be challenging in modern building design.*

Improving Fire Safety While Supporting Traffic Flow

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

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

Electromagnetic door closers offer a modern, design-led solution, empowering architects, specifiers, and contractors to design and deliver buildings that are safe, secure, and seamlessly functional. To learn more about the TS7.004 electromagnetic door closer from Boss Door Controls, visit bossdoorcontrols.com or call 01506 467477.

For more, visit www.allegion.com.



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



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boss door controls

THE ENDURING APPEAL OF WARM METALLICS



From soft brushed surfaces to richly patinated finishes, warm metallics continue to bring depth and character to contemporary interiors. Luxury architectural hardware manufacturer Croft explores their lasting appeal.

Brass and bronze offer a broad spectrum of looks, from bright Polished Brass and understated Satin Brass to softer English Bronze and the deeper tones of Aged and Antique Brass. With more than 25 finishes and patinas, Croft gives designers plenty of scope to introduce warmth and individuality.

Warm metallics also create contrast without feeling harsh, complementing dark cabinetry, natural timber and stone, or adding a distinctive detail to a neutral scheme. Their appeal extends beyond trends, too. Croft's living finishes are designed to evolve through use, gradually developing character as the protective wax coating wears at points of contact.

"Warm finishes have a natural ability to complement a wide range of materials," says Paul Clifford, Managing Director at Croft. "The finish itself can completely change the character of the hardware."

Ultimately, brass and bronze bring warmth, texture and individuality that stand the test of time.

www.croft.co.uk

OPENING THE DOOR TO BETTER ENERGY PERFORMANCE



As the next phase of the Future Homes and Buildings Standards approaches, TORMAX is encouraging architects, specifiers and building owners to consider how entrance systems contribute to energy performance. Published in March 2026, amendments to England's Building Regulations include a revised Approved Document L for non-domestic buildings, due to take effect on 24 March 2027 for relevant non-higher-risk building work. While energy-efficient automatic doors are not specifically mandated, the changes reinforce a whole-building approach to energy use and carbon emissions.

"In busy environments such as retail outlets, offices and hotels, entrances can operate continuously", says Simon Roberts, MD at TORMAX UK. "Entrance design, door configuration, traffic levels and control systems can all influence energy performance."

With over 60 years' experience, TORMAX advises on entrance solutions tailored to individual applications. Its range includes sliding, revolving, swing and folding doors, powered by in-house designed iMotion door drives providing dynamic movement that can be easily controlled to minimise energy consumption.

"Entrances are the interface between a building and its environment. Considering them early in the design process supports a more integrated approach to building performance."

For further information visit www.tormax.co.uk



SPACE-SAVING DOORS

P C HENDERSON EXPANDS DESIGN POSSIBILITIES WITH ADVANCED POCKET DOOR SYSTEMS

With urban living spaces becoming more compact and commercial environments increasingly focused on flexibility, architects and designers are seeking solutions that maximise every square metre. Pocket door systems are playing an important role in this shift, allowing spaces to adapt to changing user needs without compromising on aesthetics. Responding to this trend, P C Henderson offers a comprehensive range of pocket door solutions designed to help architects, designers and specifiers create clean, contemporary interiors while maximising valuable floor space.

By allowing doors to slide seamlessly into a wall cavity, pocket door systems eliminate the need for traditional door swing areas, unlocking additional usable space and supporting more efficient room layouts.

Solutions for Diverse Project Requirements

Developed with the needs of modern construction projects in mind, P C Henderson's pocket door range accommodates a wide variety of applications and design requirements. The portfolio includes options for:

- Door sizes up to 2600mm x 1200mm
- Finished wall thicknesses of 115mm, 120mm and 125mm
- Fire-rated pocket door systems with self-close functionality
- Automated solutions operated via motion sensors or remote control

These versatile options provide specifiers with the flexibility to meet both aesthetic and functional project requirements.





Enhancing the User Experience

A key feature of the range is P C Henderson's dual soft close technology, which delivers smooth and controlled door operation in both opening and closing directions. The result is a premium user experience, with reduced impact, improved safety and lower noise levels.

A Complete System Solution

To simplify specification and installation, P C Henderson's pocket door bundles combine essential system components into one complete package. Each bundle includes high-performance hardware, dual soft close technology and timber liner kits, ensuring compatibility across the entire system while reducing complexity for specifiers and installers.

Designed for Specification Confidence

To provide confidence in long-term performance, P C Henderson's pocket door systems have been tested to BS EN 1527 standards and subjected to more than 100,000 operating cycles. This rigorous testing demonstrates their durability and suitability for both residential and commercial environments.

For further information on P C Henderson's pocket door range, including technical specifications and CAD drawings, visit **www.pchenderson.com.**

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

CARLISLE BRASS CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY

Celebrating its 40th year, Carlisle Brass is a leading designer, manufacturer and distributor of architectural ironmongery and security hardware to the construction industry. Accredited to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 standards, the company is also recognised as a Gold Member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School.

With commercial security and hardware at the forefront of its offering, Carlisle Brass provides customers with dedicated technical, specification and sales support. Its experienced team includes Reg.AI, DipGAI and DipFD qualified professionals, ensuring customers receive expert guidance on standards, legislation, regulations and product selection.

Specification Expertise

Committed to helping customers navigate increasingly complex compliance requirements, the Carlisle Brass Specification Team provides:

- Ironmongery scheduling
- Project quotations and pricing support
- Installation and maintenance advice
- Testing and accreditation documentation
- Project samples

Housing association and stock profile specifications

The team includes five Registered Architectural Ironmongers (Reg.AI) and three FDIS Diploma in Fire Doors (Dip.FD) holders, offering the technical knowledge and commercial understanding needed to support projects from specification through to completion.

Security Solutions

During 2026, Carlisle Brass expanded its security offering with the launch of the ES6 6-Pin and ES6Plus 1-Star cylinder platforms, alongside the new Accessible Lift to Lock Lever Set.



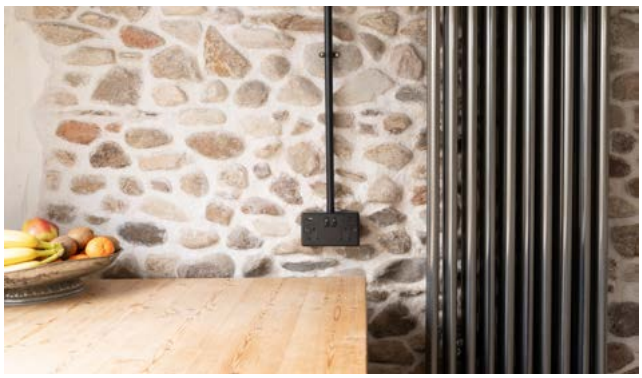


Designed to deliver enhanced security, flexibility and value, the ES6 platform features patented key profile technology, a 6-pin security design, EN 1303 Grade 6 durability (100,000 cycles), master-key suite capability and a wide range of sizes and configurations. ES6Plus is available in six finishes, providing greater design flexibility without compromising security.

Residential Brands

Carlisle Brass continues to offer one of the market's most comprehensive residential hardware portfolios through the Carlisle Brass, Serozzetta, Manital and Alexander & Wilks brands.

Alexander & Wilks has strengthened its position within the premium hardware sector through the launch of the Caesar cabinet collection and the ongoing expansion of the Kingston range. Offering beautifully crafted solid brass cabinet furniture and architectural hardware, the brand continues to provide luxury solutions for kitchens, bathrooms and bespoke residential projects. Looking ahead, a new Multipoint Lever range will further extend the collection into premium entrance and patio door hardware.



Eurolite has also continued to expand its decorative wiring accessories range, helping homeowners, developers and designers create coordinated interiors. The introduction of the Metal Clad Matt Black collection brings a modern industrial aesthetic to one of the brand's most durable product families, complementing the popular Enhance range.

Driven by innovation, backed by technical expertise and supported by trusted service, Carlisle Brass and its brands remain committed to delivering quality solutions across every sector of the market as they enter their fifth decade in business. .

www.carlislebrass.com

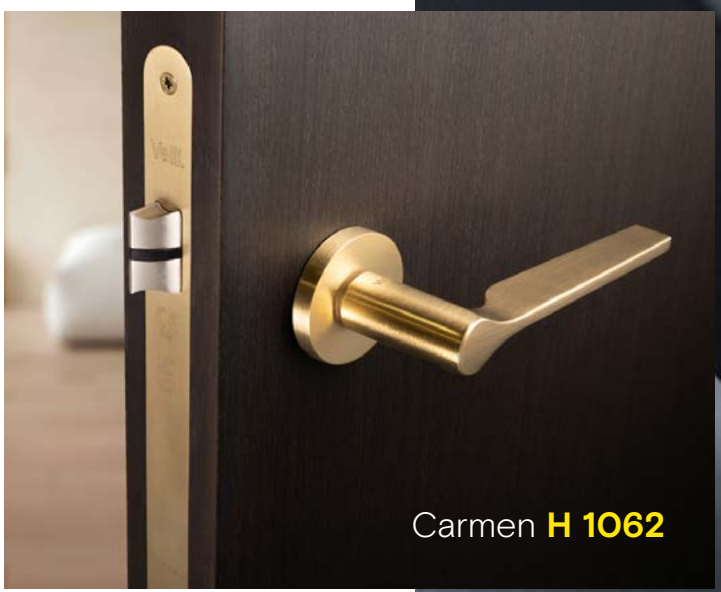
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Lab evoca la dimensione sperimentale del brand per tendenze, forme e materiali.

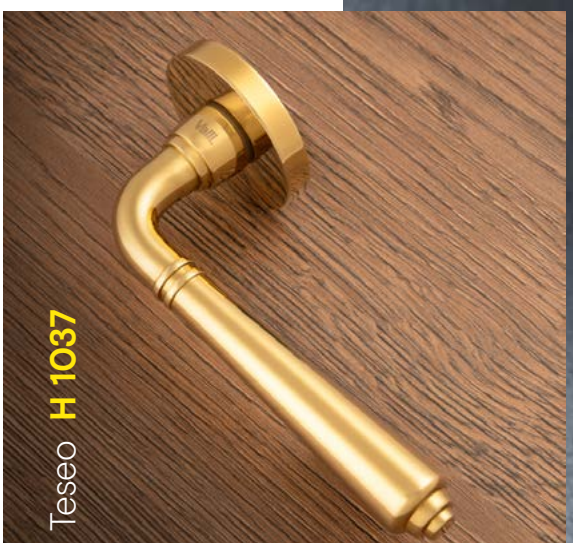
Lab embodies the brand's experimental approach to trends, shapes and materials.



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vallihandles.com

ASWS GOES BEYOND WINDOW RESTORATION

MAYFAIR HEADQUARTERS PROJECT DEMONSTRATES GROWING ROLE FOR ASWS IN WINDOW RESTORATION

The conversion of a Mayfair commercial building into the new headquarters of London's largest private property investors has seen Associated Steel Window Services (ASWS) undertake multiple refurbishment packages, extending its work beyond its traditional specialism of steel window restoration.

Beginning on site in early 2025, the project saw Vert Projects deliver extensive Cat A and Cat B fit-outs across eight storeys of the Georgian-style office building at 28 St. George Street, W1. The improvements targeted a BREEAM Excellent rating and EPC A certificate, requiring the performance of the building's 20-year-old timber windows to be optimised. A high-quality finish was also essential to attract a high-profile tenant, while restricted space and complex sequencing added logistical challenges.

Initially appointed to renovate, draught-proof and redecorate timber sash windows across three elevations, ASWS subsequently secured additional work. This included refurbishing four large windows in the fourth-floor lightwell, restoring three shopfronts and undertaking silicone work throughout the building. The company also fitted and draught-proofed nine new timber windows manufactured by another contractor.

ASWS Operations Director Kris Bennell said: "28 St George Street is a beautiful building, but the wooden windows were suffering a degree of deterioration and required careful restoration, using a three-coat paint system.

"The work involved replacing all staff and parting beads, installing new draught strips and fully redecorating the windows. We also applied perimeter silicone and top-cap seals from ground level to the fourth floor, across two elevations and the lightwell.

"Once work began, we found some sills had rotted, requiring new timber to be scarfed in, alongside Repair-Care resin repairs in multiple locations. Many of our fitters and carpenters are now trained in these specialist techniques. We also supplied and fitted new Strada ironmongery, including window locks and restrictors."

The project's sequencing presented further difficulties, as the Cat B fit-out had to be handed



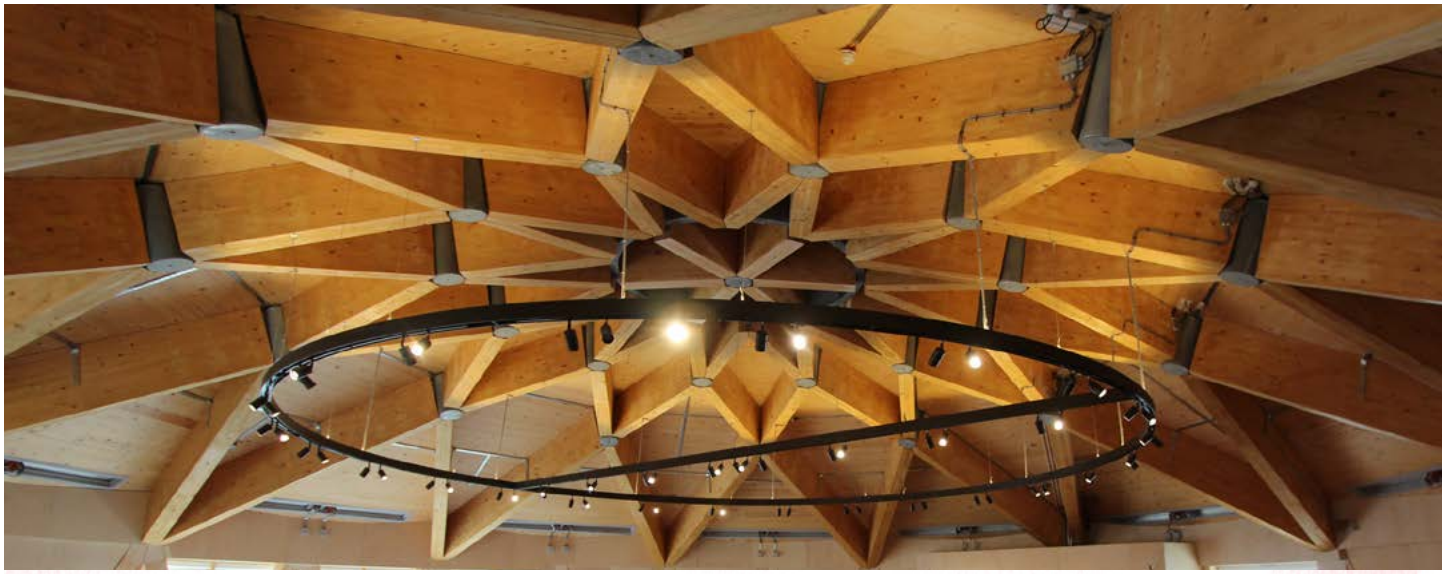


over considerably earlier than the Cat A works. With scaffolding in place, completing the ground-floor windows proved particularly challenging for the team and site manager Jonathan Benitez.

Bennell added: "Although we had priced to apply the silicone seals to all the windows, the client was so impressed that we were asked to undertake all the project's silicone work. This included perimeter seals around new windows and ducting, using various RAL colours.

"Portland Stone was specified for the front elevation, buff for the lightwell and white for internal top-capping and the St George Street elevation. Black silicone was used for the brickwork expansion joints."

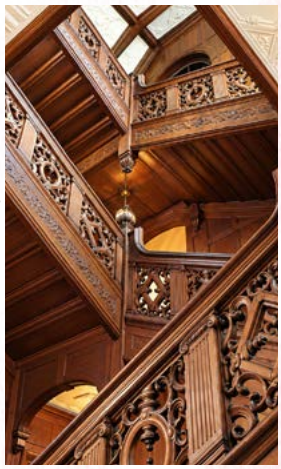
ASWS provides surveying, repair, replica replacement and maintenance services for metal and timber windows of all ages and types. For more information, visit **asws.co.uk.**



Fire Protection for Existing Materials

Our fire protection coatings are designed with the needs of architects and building safety officials in mind, our timber coatings offer fire safety solutions to BS-EN 13501-1 safety standards (as applicable). Our passive intumescent solutions provide protection by swelling to form a barrier layer when exposed to flame.
Many of our most popular key products are highlighted below.

COATINGS RANGE



- **Intumescent Paint for Wood (Product 42)**
A range of clear and white intumescent fire-resistant paint for wood.
- **Fire protection coating for glassfibre PVC and UPVC (Product 81)**
A virtually odourless, fire-retardant coating for glass fibre, PVC and UPVC.
- **Intumescent Coating for Steel (Product 83)**
Water-based intumescent coating to protect steel and aluminium.
- **Fire Retardant Coating for Timber (Product 92)**
A coating system for achieving spread of flame to timber substrates.
- **Fire Resistant Coating for Lath and Plaster (Product 105)**
Fire resistant coating for upgrading lath and plaster ceilings.

CAVITY BARRIERS RANGE (PRODUCT 55)



- **Flexible Sponge Cavity Barrier**
Flexible, moisture resistant barriers for use in brick wall cavities.
- **CV Strip Cavity Barrier**
A flexible CV open state intumescent cavity barrier strip.
- **Rainscreen Fast Fix Ventilated Cavity Barrier**
An effective solution for ventilated rainscreen cavities.

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Images are for illustrative purposes only. Products subject to change. Terms and conditions apply.

KRASI STRENGTHENS ITS OFFER ON PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION



Krasi Fire Protection has become a licensed installer of Promat's Durasteel system, expanding its capabilities in passive fire protection across industrial, healthcare, residential and transport projects.

The Coventry-based specialist has trained most of its experienced workforce at Promat's premises, achieving Registered Installer status. It is the first installer appointed outside London, strengthening its ability to serve clients across the Midlands, the North and beyond.

Following strong interest at the Fire Safety Exhibition at the NEC, Krasi is targeting specifiers, fire engineers and contractors in power generation, infrastructure, defence and chemical manufacturing.

Durasteel combines fibre-cement panels with galvanised steel sheets, delivering up to four hours of fire resistance alongside blast and impact protection. Tested against hydrocarbon and jet fires, it can withstand overpressure up to 2.7 bar and impacts of up to 3,000 joules.

Its lightweight, demountable panels also support offsite prefabrication, offering a versatile solution for demanding environments. "

For further information:
www.kfplimited.co.uk | info@kfplimited.co.uk.

FIREFLY® SPAN SPECIFIED FOR ROYAL SHREWSBURY HOSPITAL EXPANSION



FIREFLY® Span is helping safeguard a £312 million expansion and refurbishment project at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, providing fire protection across construction joints in the new clinical facilities.

The project, led by main contractor Vinci on behalf of Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospital Trust, with AHR heading the design team, includes refurbishment of the A&E department. Manchester-based specialist subcontractor Complete Fire Solutions (NW) is installing the one-hour intumescent fire seal.

Site Manager Dewi Grundy explained that approximately 350 linear metres of construction joints require protection. The 50 x 50mm version of FIREFLY® Span is being installed within predominantly 130mm-deep reinforced concrete and plasterboard walls, approximately four metres high.

FIREFLY® technical specialists have provided installation training and will return to verify the completed work.

Developed to prevent the spread of fire, smoke and sound through construction joints in walls and floors for up to 60 minutes, FIREFLY® Span combines open-celled polyurethane foam impregnated with fire-resistant chemicals and layers of intumescent graphite. Tested to BS EN 1366-4, the material expands when exposed to heat, sealing gaps against flames and hot gases.

The product also offers thermal and airtightness benefits. Its straightforward installation requires no adhesives or mechanical fixings, while its flexibility allows it to accommodate structural movement and regain its original form after compression.

FIREFLY® Marketing Manager Jason Steer said Span is suitable for construction, movement, expansion and perimeter joints, helping specifiers and installers achieve reliable compartmentation in line with design requirements.

For further information: TBA Protective Technologies Ltd. Tel: 01706 758817 | Email: info@tba-pt.com Website: www.tbafirefly.com

Vertical Access that disappears into the architecture.

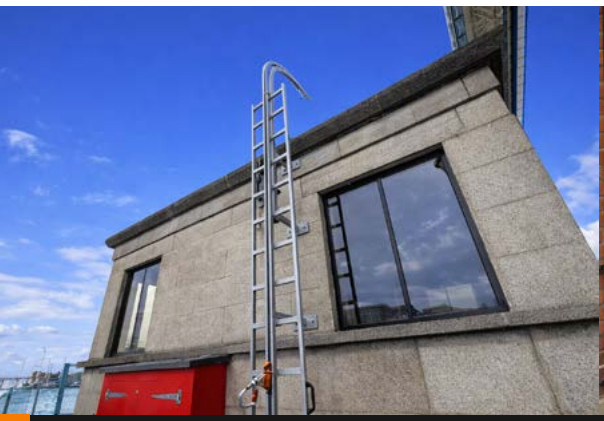
SÖLL PivotLoc Folding Fall Arrest Ladder

Permanent safe access. Minimal visual impact when closed.

Preserve design intent.

PivotLoc integrates a Söll GlideLoc® fall-arrest rail into a foldable ladder, giving architects a permanent access solution that stays discreet on the elevation when not in use.

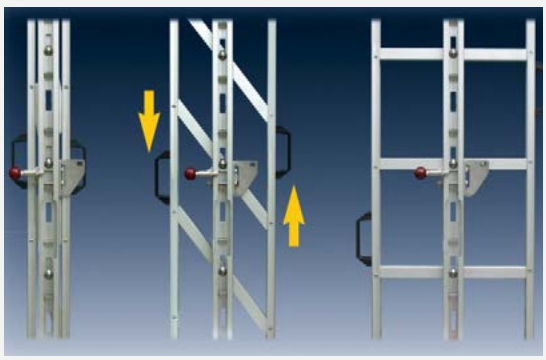
- **105 mm**
  closed profile for a discreet
- **FINISH**
  powder-coat to suit surrounding materials
- **EN 353-1:2014**
  compliant vertical fall-arrest system
- **UP TO 8m**
  foldable system height





CLOSED / OPEN

Designed to stay visually quiet until access is required.



CLOSED POSITION

When closed, the SÖLL PivotLoc folds neatly, reducing the ladder to a discreet profile to improve the aesthetic look but also preventing unauthorised access.



OPEN POSITION

When opened, the SÖLL PivotLoc transforms into a fully compliant vertical fall arrest ladder, providing safe and secure access for personnel working at height.



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MAGPLY BOARDS TOP A TOP 25 UNIVERSITY'S NEW ENERGY CENTRE

BUILDING AT THE HEART OF LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S DECARBONISATION USES MAGPLY BOARDS

A university ranked in the top 25 of sustainable UK universities is using Magply's fire-resistant roofing boards on its latest project to help it achieve Carbon Net Zero from all energy by 2030 and from all emission scopes by 2035.

Some 1,500m2 of Magply's 12mm-thick boards, which meet Euroclass EN13501 (A1 Non-Combustible) standards and are BBA approved, were specified by renewable energy company Vital Energi for the roof of Energy Centre 2 at Lancaster University.

The magnesium oxysulfate boards were installed by specialist sub-contractor Axis Group to help provide a lightweight, flat surface for the waterproofing of the building at the heart of the university's investment in further decarbonising its Bailrigg campus.

As part of an adhered bituminous roofing system, the Magply boards were installed over metal roof deck sheets with tapered insulation and waterproofing to form a flat non-combustible surface for the roofing system.

Situated on the outer edge of its south-east Lancaster campus, Energy Centre 2 is part of a sector-leading renewable energy project to virtually eliminate the use of gas to heat the university's Bailrigg campus.

> *The new energy centre, utilising air and water source heat pump technology, will save 2,700 tonnes of carbon annually, making a significant contribution to Lancaster University's journey towards carbon neutrality*

The new energy centre will house an innovative array of state-of-the-art air and water source heat pumps totaling 7MW, along with four 250kW e-boilers totaling 1MW generating a projected 39 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of low carbon heat - enough to heat 95% of campus buildings. The centre will also include 1,500m3 of thermal stores which will supplement the new heat supply and help ensure consistent heat during peak times of the day.

A visitor facility will also be incorporated into the design of the new energy centre. This will feature an educational meeting room for visitors from other universities, local schools and community groups with an interest in sustainable energy, specifically heat networks.

To carry the heat across campus, 6.5km of district heating pipework is also being installed to increase the network's coverage from approximately 65% of buildings to 95%. This will be connected to more than 200 properties from the district heat network to receive low-carbon heat and water.

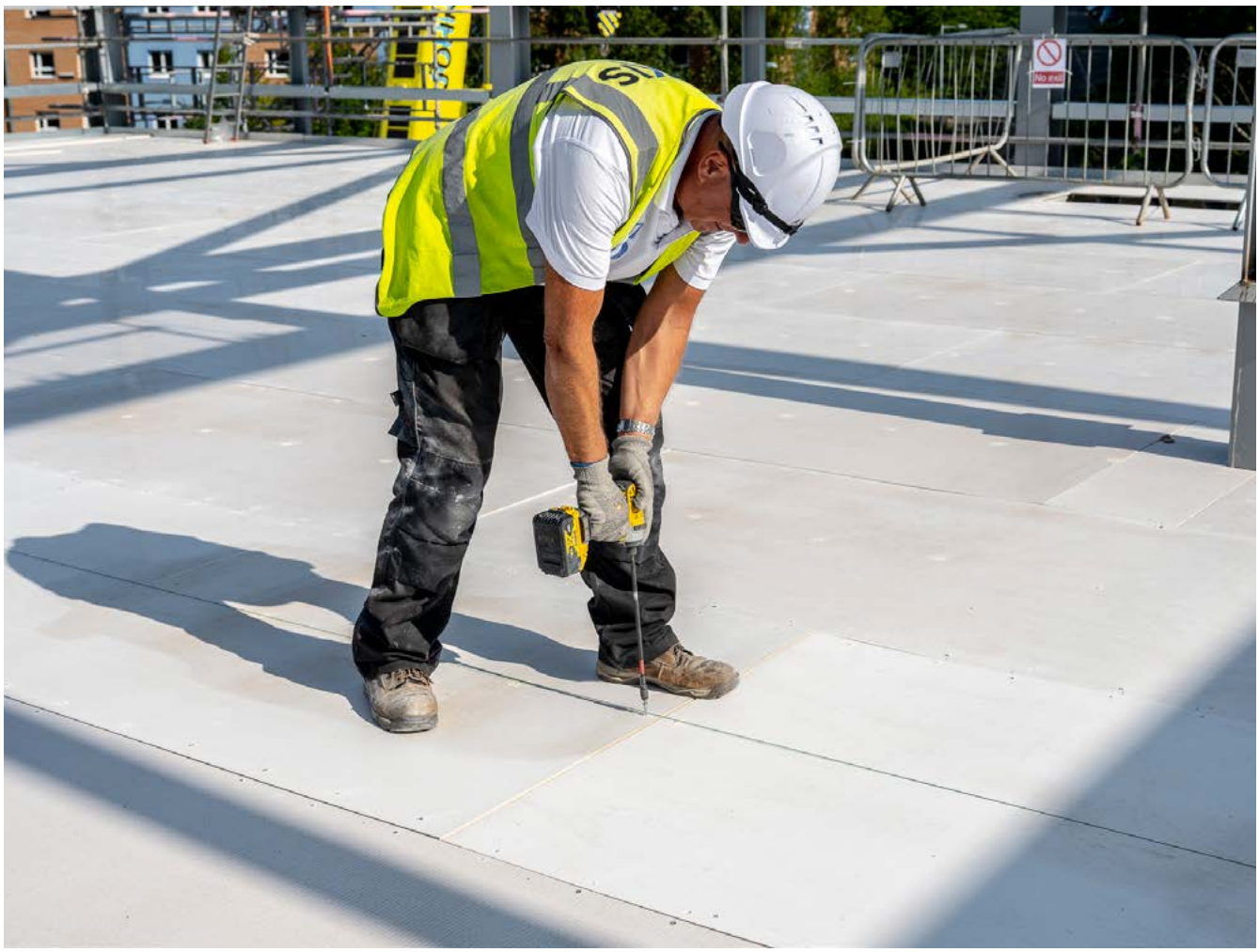
The project is expected to be completed in early 2027. The university has also recently completed a 11.3MW solar farm, on 52 acres of university land east of the M6.

Vital Energy's regional director Scott Lutton said: "The new energy centre, utilising air and water source heat pump technology, will save 2,700 tonnes of carbon annually, making a significant contribution to Lancaster University's journey towards carbon neutrality."

Energy Centre 2 is the latest addition to Lancaster University's extensive portfolio of pioneering sustainability projects, reflecting its long-standing commitment to sustainability. It is home to one of the largest environmental science research centres in Europe.

*2026 QS World University Rankings: Sustainability

www.magply.co.uk



PYROGUARD EXPANDS FIRE-RATED FAÇADE PORTFOLIO WITH NEW SPANDREL PANEL RANGE



Pyroguard, the world's leading independent provider of fire safety glass solutions, has launched a new range of spandrel panels, extending its portfolio of high-performance façade glazing products and giving the UK projects market access to a more comprehensive fire-rated façade offering from a single supplier.

Designed to meet the changing needs of architects, façade consultants, contractors and specialist engineers, the new range provides an A2 reaction-to-fire rated solution for projects where a fully integrated fire-rated glass and spandrel panel façade system is required. The launch of the new range offers greater flexibility for façade designers, allowing for co-ordinated aesthetic and performance requirements.

Manufactured in the UK, the spandrel panels are available as single gel-filled laminates or as DGU (double glazed units) 'shadow box' style for enhanced aesthetics. They are available in three standard colours: white, (anthracite) grey and black, with other RAL colours available on request and they can also incorporate Low-E glass technology to support improved thermal performance requirements.

For more information, please visit https://www.pyroguard.eu.

ADVANCED UNVEILS SMARTER FIRE SYSTEM TESTING WITH ADVANCEDLIVE



Advanced has launched Smart Walk Test, a new feature within AdvancedLive, the smart management platform available on MxPro 5 Gen-2 fire panels. Designed to support the testing and record-keeping requirements highlighted in the latest revision of BS 5839-1:2025, Smart Walk Test simplifies routine fire system testing and helps organisations demonstrate that testing has taken place.

Although facilities teams and maintenance contractors are both responsible for testing fire systems, their requirements are very different. Smart Walk Test has therefore been designed around two distinct testing modes: weekly testing for facilities teams and annual testing and maintenance activities for maintenance contractors.

Michael Dunbar, Digital Product Manager at Advanced, said: "Routine fire system testing remains essential, but it can be time-consuming, administration-heavy and difficult to evidence consistently. Smart Walk Test has been designed to make testing simpler for both facilities teams and maintenance contractors while providing a stronger digital record of testing activity. Whether you're completing a routine weekly test or carrying out an annual service visit, Smart Walk Test helps make testing easier to carry out, easier to evidence and easier to manage."

Find out more about AdvancedLive here: advancedco.com/product/advancedlive-fire-panel-monitoring

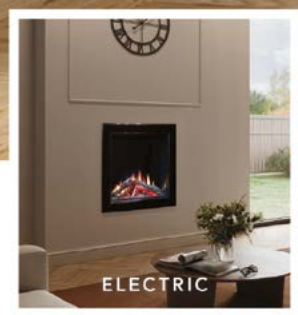




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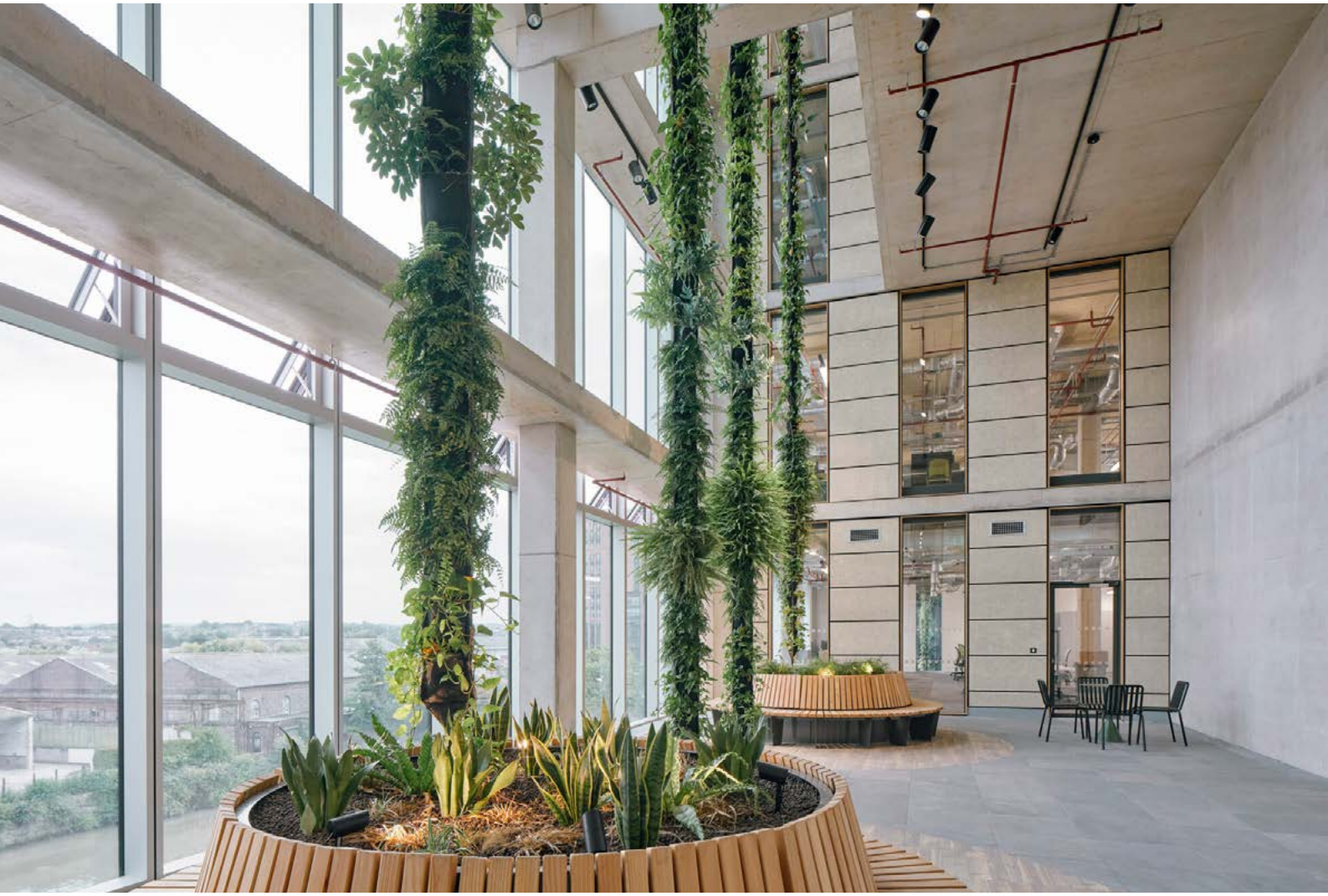




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TEMPLE QUARTER ENTERPRISE CAMPUS

FEILDEN CLEGG BRADLEY STUDIOS

Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus (TQEC) is the most significant development in the recent history of the University of Bristol and a major new civic landmark for the city. The project transforms the long-derelict former Royal Mail sorting office site beside Brunel's Grade I-listed Temple Meads station into a new center for learning, research and innovation and civic engagement, redefining one of Bristol's most prominent gateways.



The 38,500 sqm building will accommodate around 4,600 students and 650 staff. It brings together teaching and learning spaces, research laboratories, a Design Factory and Maker Space, innovation and social spaces within a highly connected public

> *The project also plays a major role in the University's ambitions around sustainability, innovation and civic engagement.*



building organized around internal gardens and large internal atria. The building promotes engagement with the wider city through a publicly accessible Exchange Hall on the ground floor, dedicated civic spaces, a Food Quarter at Level 1, alongside external terraces and courtyard spaces designed to encourage interaction between university life, industry and the public realm.

TQEC is a catalyst for the wider Bristol Temple Quarter regeneration program, part of one of the UK's largest urban regeneration projects which will transform over 130 hectares of brownfield land, delivering thousands of new homes, jobs and an estimated £1.6bn annual economic boost to the region.

The project also plays a major role in the University's ambitions around sustainability, innovation and civic engagement. The pedestrianized campus is directly connected to the new entrance of Temple Meads station and connected to Bristol's low-carbon heat network. The building is also one of the first in the UK designed to export waste heat from its computer servers back into the citywide heat network. Through collaborative redesign, the project achieved a 25% reduction in embodied carbon during development.

Alongside teaching and research facilities, the campus will support Bristol's growing innovation



economy. A new gateway for business engagement, the Bristol Innovations Zone, will open in the building from September 2026, connecting the University to businesses to deliver innovation in critical technologies such as quantum, AI, semiconductors, cyber, advanced materials and engineering biology.

Importantly, the scheme is conceived not simply as a university building, but as part of the city itself, opening new pedestrian and cycling routes between Temple Meads, the Floating Harbour and east Bristol, while creating a generous public realm intended for shared civic use.

Architecturally, the project explores transparency, adaptability and long-term urban integration. By day the glazed façades reflect the city and changing sky; by night the illuminated interiors reveal the activity and life within, presenting the campus as an active civic presence rather than an inward-looking academic institution.

The landscape architecture and public realm design led by Grant Associates, transforms a post-industrial site into a new green civic gateway to Bristol. The landscape unlocks connections across Temple Meads, reconnecting the University with the River Avon and wider city through welcoming public spaces and green infrastructure. The Green Arrivals tree grove, biodiverse planting and rain gardens bring nature into the site, while a striking vertical planted landscape extends greenery into the architecture. University Square and a layered sequence of riverside landscapes







create places to meet, study and gather, extending university life into the public realm and establishing a new civic destination for Bristol.

Architects: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
www.fcbstudios.com

Area: 38500 m²

Year: 2026

Photographs: Andy Stagg **www.andystagg.com**.



A QUIETER SPACE FOR CLEARER PATIENT RECORDINGS

STYLE IMPROVES ACOUSTIC CLARITY IN SPECIALIST HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT

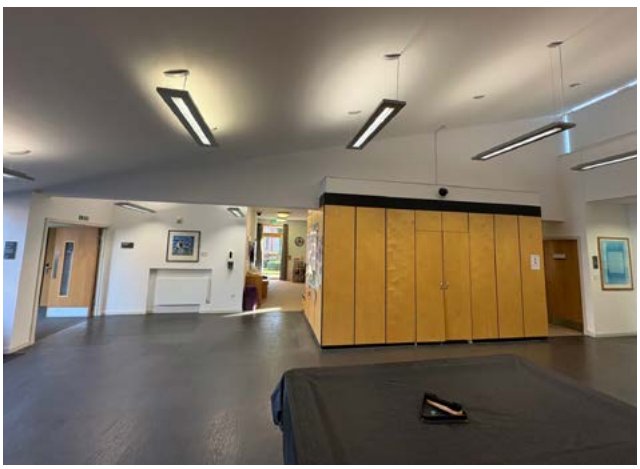
Style Scotland provides acoustic panels healthcare teams can rely on, and was approached by the William Quarrier Scottish Epilepsy Centre to address excessive noise and reverberation within its dining room.

The centre provides residential care for epilepsy patients, using cameras and microphones to monitor and record potential seizure activity. However, the poor acoustic environment made it difficult for the Neurophysiology team to capture clear audio recordings from the room.

Working within the requirements of a public health environment, the acoustic solution needed to provide effective sound absorption while also incorporating fully washable finishes. Style Scotland proposed a combination of Ecophon Solo Akutex HS Raft acoustic panels, providing a practical and aesthetically appropriate solution that complemented the existing interior while remaining within the project budget.

The ceiling installation comprised 12 square 1,200 x 1,200 mm rafts, strategically positioned to help absorb sound and reduce reverberation within the dining environment. A further six 1,200 x 2,400 mm rectangular panels were resized and installed across the walls, extending the acoustic treatment throughout the room while creating a cohesive visual finish.

The Ecophon Solo Akutex HS system was particularly well suited to the project, offering effective sound absorption alongside a durable, fully washable surface appropriate for a healthcare environment.



Before



> *I'm really happy with the job and it's making a big difference when reviewing patient video.*

The installation was carefully managed to minimise disruption to the operational building, with the installation team working considerately around staff and residents. Following completion, the acoustic improvements have made a significant difference to the clarity of recorded patient video, helping the Neurophysiology team review footage more effectively.

"I'm really happy with the job and it's making a big difference when reviewing patient video."

The centre also commented:

"We are delighted with the work carried out by yourselves. The works caused minimal disruption, and the installation team were very considerate of the building being operational during the install works."

T: 01202 874044 | group@style-group.co.uk
www.style-group.co.uk

BEYOND THE FINISH

RETHINKING THE ARCHITECTURE OF COMMERCIAL SURFACES

From bespoke material replication to the transformation of existing interiors, Novograf is helping architects and designers realise ambitious creative visions through innovative surface solutions.

The character of an interior is often defined by its surfaces. The warmth of timber, the distinctive colour of a ceramic tile, the texture of a feature wall or the way graphics integrate with the architecture can fundamentally change how a space looks and feels. Yet translating those creative intentions into a finished environment is not always straightforward. Materials that look beautiful in a design concept may prove impractical to install, difficult to reproduce or unsuitable for the demands of a working building. At Novograf, these challenges are where creative thinking, material expertise and practical problem-solving come together.

One particularly demanding project involved recreating a distinctive glossy pink ceramic tile, manufactured in a bespoke colour for a premium retail environment. The design required the appearance of the original tiling to continue across upper-level walls, window recesses, bulkheads and an integrated access door, where conventional ceramic installation was less practical. Working from the original specification and physical material references, Novograf developed a printed panel solution that carefully reproduced the colour, tile pattern, gloss appearance and contrasting grout detailing. The objective was not simply to create something similar, but to preserve the architectural character of the original finish across two different material systems. The same approach to bespoke colour and finish development has helped create distinctive



A bespoke tile-effect treatment maintains a consistent architectural appearance across different parts of a premium retail façade.

green tile-effect surfaces for premium beauty retail environments.

Material innovation becomes even more valuable when design ambitions must be reconciled with technical requirements. For a major financial services refurbishment programme, Novograf developed an alternative to an established timber-effect surface following changes to fire-performance requirements. Through physical sampling and material development, the team worked to reproduce the original grain, texture, colour and sheen while responding to the revised specification. In another flagship retail environment, a complex three-dimensional surface concept was translated into a repeatable concrete-effect architectural finish, preserving the character of the designer's original vision while making large-format manufacture and installation practical.



TK Maxx in Glasgow: A bespoke concrete-effect architectural finish replicates the texture and geometry of an original three-dimensional design, creating a distinctive and repeatable surface treatment.



Close-up of the developed timber-effect surface, highlighting the grain, tone and finish within the live branch environment.



An existing five-metre display cabinet transformed through specialist architectural film rather than replaced



Large-scale environmental graphics and wayfinding within a functioning healthcare environment.

> ***The breadth of Novograf's expertise extends well beyond decorative finishes.***



Coordinated wall finishes and environmental graphics create a welcoming opticians' consultation room.

Of course, creating something new does not always mean replacing what already exists. Within a luxury hotel spa, Novograf transformed a five-metre display cabinet using specialist architectural film, completely changing its appearance while retaining the original structure. Completed over just two nights, the project demonstrated how thoughtful surface refurbishment can minimise disruption, avoid unnecessary replacement and extend the useful life of existing assets. This philosophy also underpins our work across multi-site retail environments, where counters, furniture, doors, wall finishes and signage can be refreshed as part of coordinated programmes without the cost and upheaval of complete refits.

The breadth of Novograf's expertise extends well beyond decorative finishes. In healthcare settings, carefully considered wayfinding, environmental graphics and statutory signage help create functional, welcoming spaces while respecting complex operational requirements. In busy transport environments, large-format printed hoardings can turn essential construction boundaries into visually engaging features. Restaurants, leisure destinations and public event spaces present opportunities to bring architecture and brand identity together through illuminated signage, feature graphics, bespoke surfaces and carefully coordinated installations.

What connects these very different environments is a belief that the original design vision should not be lost to the practical realities of construction. By bringing design development, material specification, manufacturing expertise and installation together, Novograf helps architects, designers and contractors explore solutions that might otherwise be overlooked. Whether recreating a carefully specified finish, transforming an existing asset or delivering a consistent architectural treatment across multiple locations, our role is to turn creative ambition into a practical, finished reality.

Because a surface is never just a finish. It is an integral part of how a space is experienced.

Novograf Ltd
Architectural Surfaces, Graphics
& Environmental Branding

www.novograf.co.uk





Temporary construction hoarding becomes a coherent, passenger-facing element within a live transport environment. Illuminated signage and high-impact graphics tie together zones in a large activity venue.

INTRODUCING SOFT NEW TONES

TED TODD REIMAGINES THE MODERN WOOD FLOORING PALETTE

Specialists in engineered wood flooring, Ted Todd welcomes the arrival of three new extra-wide plank floors into its flagship Classic Futures® collection, the go-to portfolio for timeless, natural wood flooring.

Harlington, Chatsworth and Appleby represent the start of a new chapter for the collection. Designed over the last 18 months by Ted Todd's in-house UK team using revolutionary production techniques, these new floors reimagine neutral wood tones for the future.

Introducing a soft, subtle and calming palette. Harlington combines mink brown tones with gentle greys to create a versatile grey-brown neutral that works effortlessly across a wide range of materials and colour schemes. Chatsworth blends golden yellow hues with warm tan-browns, bringing warmth and lightness to interiors for a classic wood floor feel. Appleby is the most experimental of the trio, pairing contemporary terracotta hues with a red-brown brick undertone to create a confident statement floor.

Crafted from FSC-certified European Oak with an elevated nature grade, each board celebrates the natural beauty of timber through subtle knots, colour variation and expressive grain. The extra wide format enhances these characteristics further, creating expansive surfaces with fewer interruptions and minimal joins.

In homage to Ted Todd's 33 years of wood floorcraft, all three designs feature a robust 20mm thick, 100% hardwood construction with a substantial 6mm wear layer. This exceptional build delivers outstanding longevity and allows the floor to be re-sanded numerous times throughout its lifespan, making it ideal for both high-traffic commercial environments and long-term residential projects.

Measuring an impressive 2.4m in length and 220mm in width, the generous plank format creates a greater sense of scale and openness within a space.

To achieve their signature soft toned texture, each floor is finished with a new and improved formula of Ted Todd's Absolute Matt® Lacquer. This advanced water-based finish delivers a super matt 3% sheen, creating a beautifully natural look with virtually no surface gloss. Softer in appearance than a standard matt lacquer, Absolute Matt® combines quiet luxury with exceptional durability and stain resistance.

Blending innovative design with expert craftsmanship, the latest additions to Classic Futures® offer architects, designers and specifiers a refined palette of contemporary wood tones alongside the performance expected from Ted Todd. As a constantly evolving collection, Classic Futures® will continue to push the boundaries of wood flooring design, with a wave of innovative new launches set to redefine the flooring landscape into 2027.



Appleby, Chatsworth and Harlington

> ***Crafted from FSC-certified European Oak with an elevated nature grade, each board celebrates the natural beauty of timber through subtle knots, colour variation and expressive grain.***

View Harlington, Chatsworth and Appleby at our London or Cheshire Design Centres. Or speak to our commercial team to request your free samples.

www.tedtodd.co.uk



TED TODD

THE HOME OF
WOOD FLOORCRAFT

Wood floorcraft for commercial spaces

Introducing three extra-wide plank floors into the Classic Futures® collection. Harlington, Chatsworth and Appleby bring a soft colour palette of mink brown, golden honey and terracotta, finished in Absolute Matt® lacquer for a subtle 3% sheen. Built with a 20mm thick, 100% hardwood construction, engineered for large-scale commercial projects. Order samples by 2pm for free next-day delivery.

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SOUND DESIGN MATTERS

SOPREMA LAUNCHES NEW WHITEPAPER EXPLORING ACOUSTIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

SOPREMA, an international manufacturer of waterproofing, insulation, acoustic and building envelope solutions, has officially launched its Acoustics in Education Whitepaper. Specifically tailored for specifiers, contractors and installers, this comprehensive guide tackles the critical role sound design plays in modern school construction and asset management.



Excessive noise and poor acoustic control can negatively affect speech intelligibility, concentration and the overall learning environment. From external traffic to internal chatter and impact sound from rain, elevated noise levels can affect student concentration and speech intelligibility within teaching spaces.

> *Acoustic comfort in schools isn't a luxury; it's a fundamental requirement for effective learning.*

This can create challenging teaching environments and may contribute to increased vocal effort for educators.

SOPREMA's whitepaper breaks down these foundational pillars of sound control, exploring:

- The Characteristics of Sound: How airborne and impact noise are transmitted through building structures.
- Regulatory Compliance: Navigating mandatory acoustic standards in school environments, including requirement E4 of the Building Regulations, the School Standards, and the acoustic performance set out un BB93.
- Practical Execution: Recommendations for achieving required ambient noise levels and reverberation times.

Acoustic specification in education requires a delicate balance: systems must deliver effective sound insulation performance without adding bulk or compromising on building safety. To address this, the whitepaper introduces materials like TECSOUNDÒ, a viscoelastic, high-density polymer-based membrane that contributes to sound insulation performance while adding minimal thickness to the construction build-up.

"Acoustic comfort in schools isn't a luxury; it's a fundamental requirement for effective learning," comments Akos Sandor, Acoustic Market Manager at SOPREMA. "With this whitepaper, our goal is to give specifiers and installers the practical tools they need to meet relevant performance standards like BB93. Solutions such as TECSOUND can help designers achieve acoustic performance objectives while minimising the impact on build-up thickness. Product selection should always be considered alongside project-specific fire, acoustic and regulatory requirements."

For more information and to download a copy of the whitepaper, please visit: **www.soprema.co.uk/blog/whitepaper-acoustic-design-requirements-in-educational-buildings.**



BEYOND THE STRUCTURE

SPECIFYING THE COMPLETE STAIRCASE

In high-end residential architecture, the staircase is more than a means of moving between floors. Its form, materials and detailing can define the character of an entire interior.

For architects, realising this vision requires careful consideration of both the structural design and the finishing touches. Balustrades, handrails and tread finishes all contribute to the final aesthetic, helping create a cohesive architectural feature.

At Kallisto, we manufacture bespoke precast concrete staircases that combine design flexibility with engineered precision. From sweeping curves and helical forms to contemporary, understated designs, each staircase is developed to complement the wider architectural vision.

Precast manufacture offers a controlled approach to achieving consistent quality, with each staircase delivered to site ready for installation. This can help reduce on-site labour, programme time and disruption, while allowing greater certainty during the construction process.

However, the structural form is only one part of the finished design. The choice of balustrade, handrail and surface finish can transform the appearance of a staircase, whether the brief calls for contemporary glass, refined metal detailing, warm timber accents or complementary stone finishes.

Kallisto is developing its approach to coordinated staircase packages, working with trusted specialist suppliers to explore complementary balustrade and finishing options. This offers architects greater scope to consider the staircase as a complete feature, with materials and detailing working together to achieve the intended result.





> *At Kallisto, we manufacture bespoke precast concrete staircases that combine design flexibility with engineered precision.*





Early collaboration is key. Considering design intent, technical interfaces, installation requirements and finishing specifications from the outset can help address practical challenges before they reach site. Kallisto helps architects realise distinctive staircase designs through a considered balance of architectural expression, technical performance and carefully coordinated detailing. .

www.kallistostairs.com

KALLISTO

Sculptural by design.

BESPOKE STAIRCASE SOLUTIONS FOR EXCEPTIONAL HOMES

From statement curves to refined contemporary forms, Kallisto creates bespoke precast concrete staircases that combine architectural freedom with engineered precision.



CURVED



HELICAL



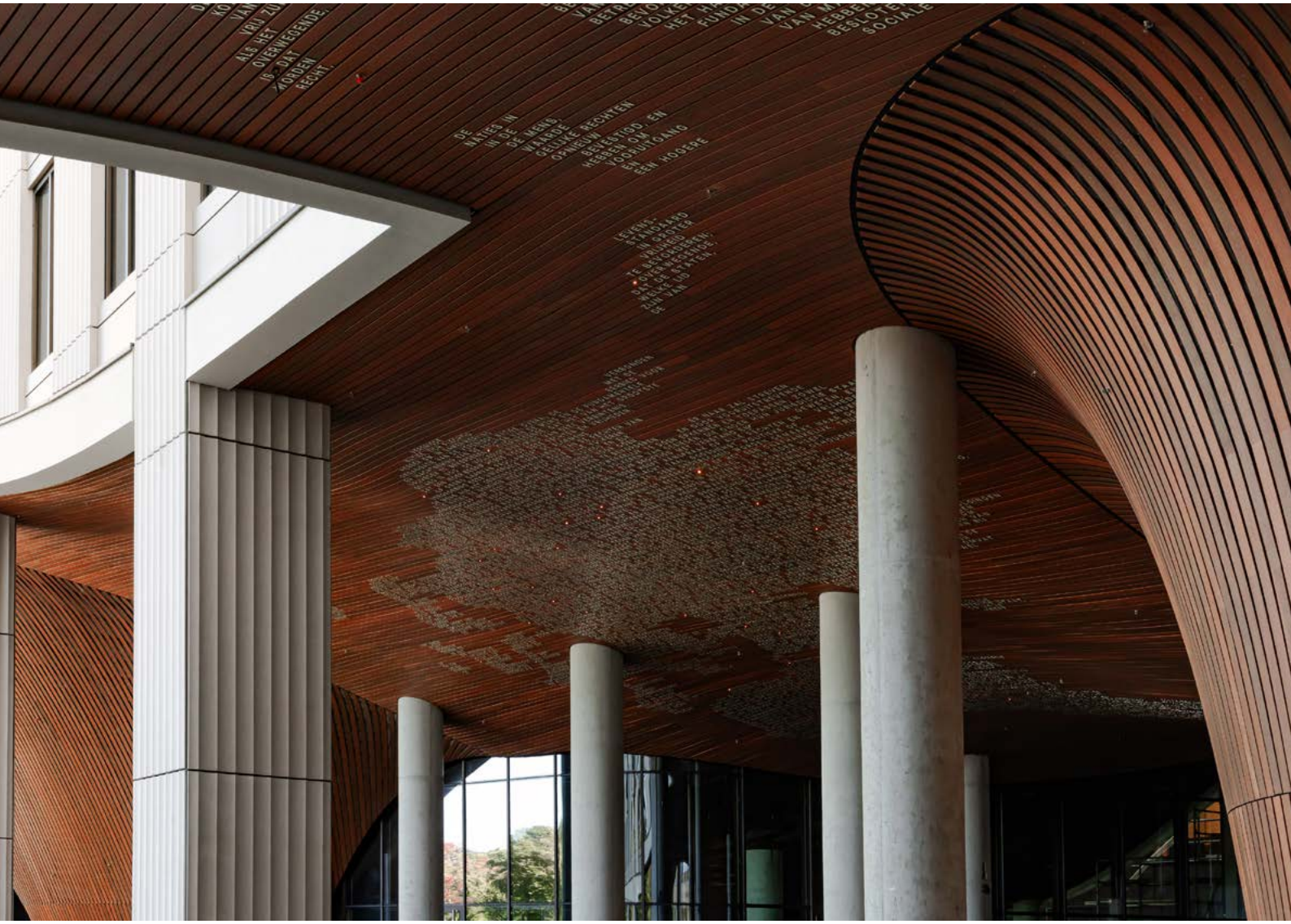
SPIRAL



CANTILEVER

Working in partnership with architects and developers, Kallisto creates bespoke precast concrete staircases that combine architectural freedom with engineered accuracy, delivered installation-ready with a focus on reducing environmental impact.

www.kallistostairs.co.uk **info@kallistostairs.co.uk** **01787 220564**



KJ, THE HAGUE

TURNING A TRANSIT SPACE INTO A PLACE TO STAY

From now on, anyone who gets off the train or Randstadrail at The Hague Central Station will walk into the city under an undulating wooden ceiling. If you turn around afterwards, you will see that this is the completely public plinth of KJ, a residential building with more than 390 homes in the heart of the city. For decades, Koningin Julianaplein was one of the most difficult places in The Hague: stuck between tracks, traffic and the massive plinth of Stichthage, a residual space without a soul in the place where the city should introduce itself to its visitors. The competition won in 2016 was therefore not only about a building, but about the question of how to turn a windy, chilly square into a pleasant place to arrive and stay.



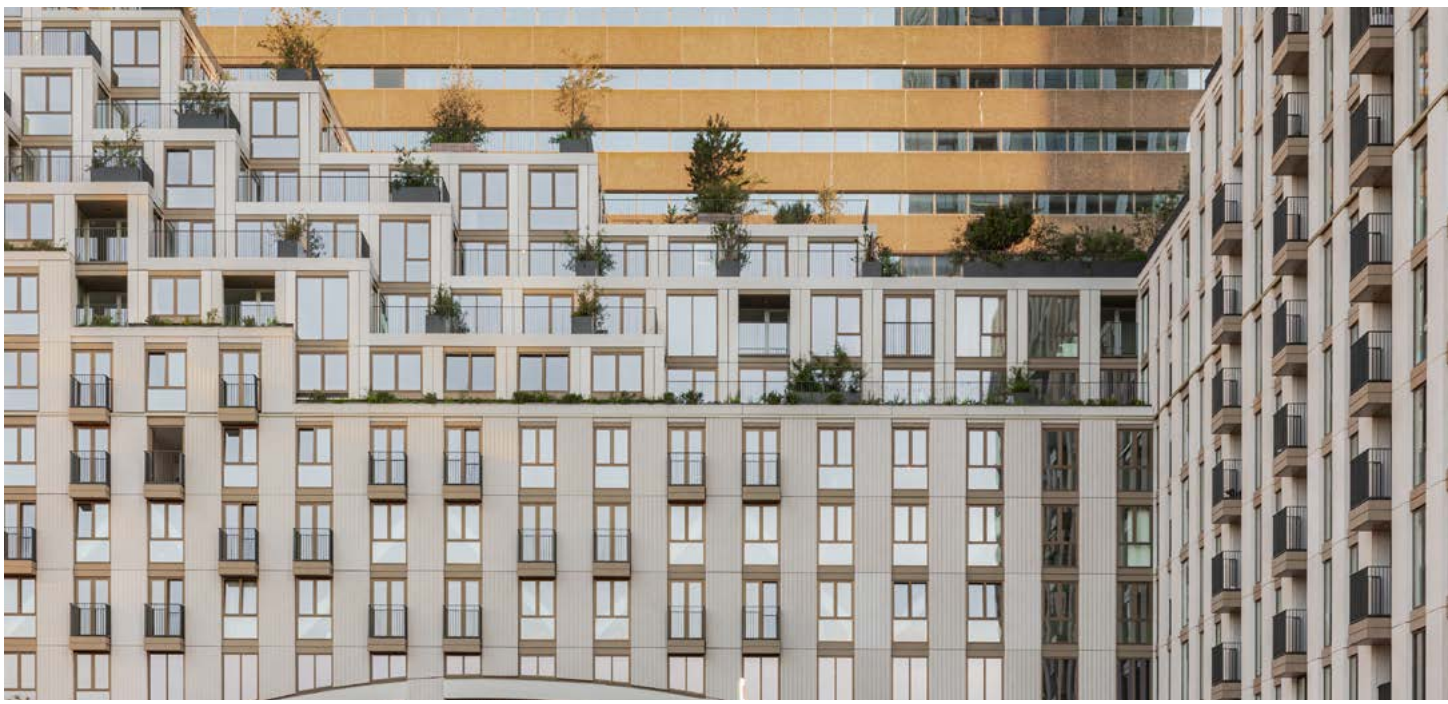
Together with DELVA, the square will be greened and connected to the Koekamp, with a restaurant pavilion as a new public destination.





A new entrance for The Hague

A city starts where you arrive, The Hague started nowhere for a long time. The Koningin Julianaplein in front of The Hague Central Station was not a square but a remnant: wedged between the tracks, the tram viaduct, the traffic flows and the heavy substructure of Stichthage, the office complex on top of the station. Everything in this place was once conceived from infrastructure; not from the person who arrived. In 2016, Powerhouse Company, developers Synchroon and Amvest and DELVA Landscape Architecture won the competition for this place with an ambitious plan that has now been realized ten years later.



The green valley between the towers

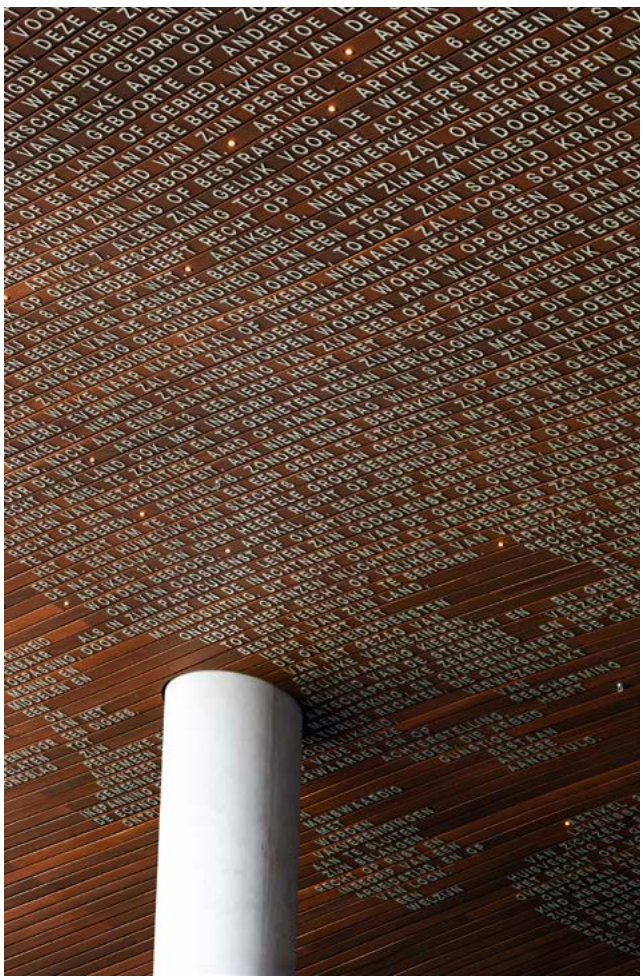
The design of KJ is the result of the limitations of the place itself. Two residential towers of ninety meters on an urban L-shaped plinth flank the square. Their cascading silhouette is a direct result of the insolation studies: the volumes slope so that sun continues to reach the square and the Koekamp. This logic gave rise to 'the green valley': a cascade of spacious collective terraces that nestles between the towers. With a rich variety of trees and plants, DELVA Landscape Architecture has created green places where residents can meet, relax and enjoy the panoramic view of the city.

New urban living in The Hague

Fluted columns of lightweight concrete give the facades a vertical direction that is in line with the stately and largely classic and postmodern high-rise architecture of the CID in The Hague. Anodised aluminium frames, loggias and balconies refine the image and open up living to the city. Blast furnace cement has reduced the CO_2 emissions of the concrete by approximately 450,000 kilos. The 390 homes are divided between owner-occupied, private sector and social rent.

Living at the station attracts residents of all kinds, and there are no car parking spaces. And the place literally keeps room for what is to come: part of the ground floor remained free of columns and foundations for a possible expansion of the RandstadRail, with large steel trusses that support the structure over this zone.





Under the ceiling of peace

On the ground floor, a new station entrance connects the square with The Hague Central Station. A double-curved, undulating wooden ceiling of 9,000 m² is an echo of the dune landscape of The Hague and smoothly frames the view of the greenery of De Koekamp upon arrival. Almost 16,000 gold letters have been mounted in the wood: the full text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, arranged as a world map. Anyone who enters the city of peace and justice walks underneath it.

Designed for people

Together with DELVA, the square will be greened and connected to the Koekamp, with a restaurant pavilion as a new public destination. In this way, the place that was conceived from infrastructure ends up as a place for people. The Koningin Julianaplein is no longer a space that you rush through, but the place where The Hague begins and where you want to stay for a while.

www.powerhouse-company.com
Photos: Sebastian van Damme

RAISING STANDARDS AT ENDEAVOUR HOUSE

STANNAH DELIVERS FULL LIFT REPLACEMENT FOR CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING

Endeavour House, in Ipswich, Suffolk, has undergone a significant lift replacement, with the installation of five Stannah lifts designed to improve performance, reliability and overall user experience.

Following a competitive tender process, Stannah Lifts was awarded the contract to deliver the lift replacement project at Endeavour House on behalf of Suffolk County Council, working with Concertus, Design and Property Consultants, and main contractor Dalkia.

The challenge

A key challenge was carrying out a complete turnkey solution in a live environment. The project was delivered in a phased approach, ensuring that at least two lifts remained operational at all times to maintain step-free access.

The project included the complete removal of five existing lifts and preparation of the lift shafts. Each lift shaft was thoroughly cleaned and prepared before installing four passenger lifts and one firefighting lift.

The solution

Stannah designed two sets of bespoke duplex lift systems, consisting of four passenger MRL (Motor Room Less) traction lifts. The MRL lifts are equipped with gearless variable voltage drives, which offer smooth and energy-efficient operation and provide reliable performance over time.

These passenger lifts carry up to 13 people and operate at a speed of 1.6m/s to significantly improve passenger flow and reduce waiting times. The duplex design was chosen to enhance service reliability, allowing for one lift to remain operational if the other undergoes maintenance.

The lift car finishes and wide vision panels were carefully chosen to complement the modern interior design. The incorporation of panoramic glazed panels creates a more open and spacious environment for passengers, allowing natural light to flow through the space while seamlessly integrating with the building's glazed aesthetic.

In addition to the passenger lifts, a bespoke simplex firefighting lift in brushed stainless steel was installed to meet stringent safety requirements, while maintaining







ease of use for emergency services. The new firefighting lift complies with EN 81-72 standards, which ensures safe firefighting features for enhanced occupant safety.

James Gregory, Main Contractor at Dalkia UK, said: "Working in a live environment necessitates strong coordination from all on-site teams to deliver this project successfully and smoothly. Stannah were very cooperative and worked closely with our on-site teams to create the best practical solution, whilst also delivering bespoke lift solutions that blend harmoniously with the building's aesthetics."

Gavin Satchell, Project Manager at Stannah, adds: "The combination of the passenger and firefighting lifts provides a practical solution for Suffolk County Council. Working together, the lifts transform the building into a safe, desirable space with step-free access to all floors. We are currently working with Suffolk County Council on a 12-month maintenance plan, ensuring the lifts continue to perform reliably."

All passenger lifts are designed in compliance with EN81:20 standards and incorporate a CTV mechanical package. Lifts at Endeavour House were handed over with 'open protocol', which gives Suffolk County Council complete freedom to choose any maintenance provider for easy part replacement.

Find out more about Stannah Lifts maintenance and repair services at https://www.stannahlifts.co.uk





A LASTING IMPRESSION

OUSE FASHION LOBBY

Ouse Fashion is rooted in Hangzhou, with two decades dedicated to one craft: tailoring the warmth of life into clothing. For them, fashion is not merely about appearance — it is about the ease with which one inhabits their daily life. A corporate lobby is the first point of contact between people and a brand. Employees walk in every day and need to feel a sense of purpose in their work. First-time visitors — the materials, the light, the scale — already speak of the brand's taste and standards. Partners step in, and the lobby should emit a signal of an entire aesthetic system.

Can the warmth of a brand extend from clothing into space? - Many equate "brand expression" with "lavish display" — the most expensive materials, the most overbearing visuals, the grandest presence. The problem is, a space anchored in luxury is inherently at odds with time. say thinks differently. A space should not chase trends; it should outlast them. The strategy for Ouse: create a space that still feels right twenty years from now. Not propped up by expensive materials, but sustained by the strength of design.

This strategy takes effect from the very first step through the door. The entrance is widened to six meters, with granite paving and greenery extending from the street all the way in. No enclosed foyer, no retreating threshold — the boundary between inside and outside dissolves gradually, and one naturally steps in along the paving. Directly opposite the entrance, a stone stands quietly, its surface carved with rippling textures.

Stepping into the lobby, the existing columns come into view first. Each column is subtly concave, with wall lamps embedded in the recesses. The column is no longer a column — it is a lotus stem bearing its leaf.

> *A corporate lobby is the first point of contact between people and a brand.*

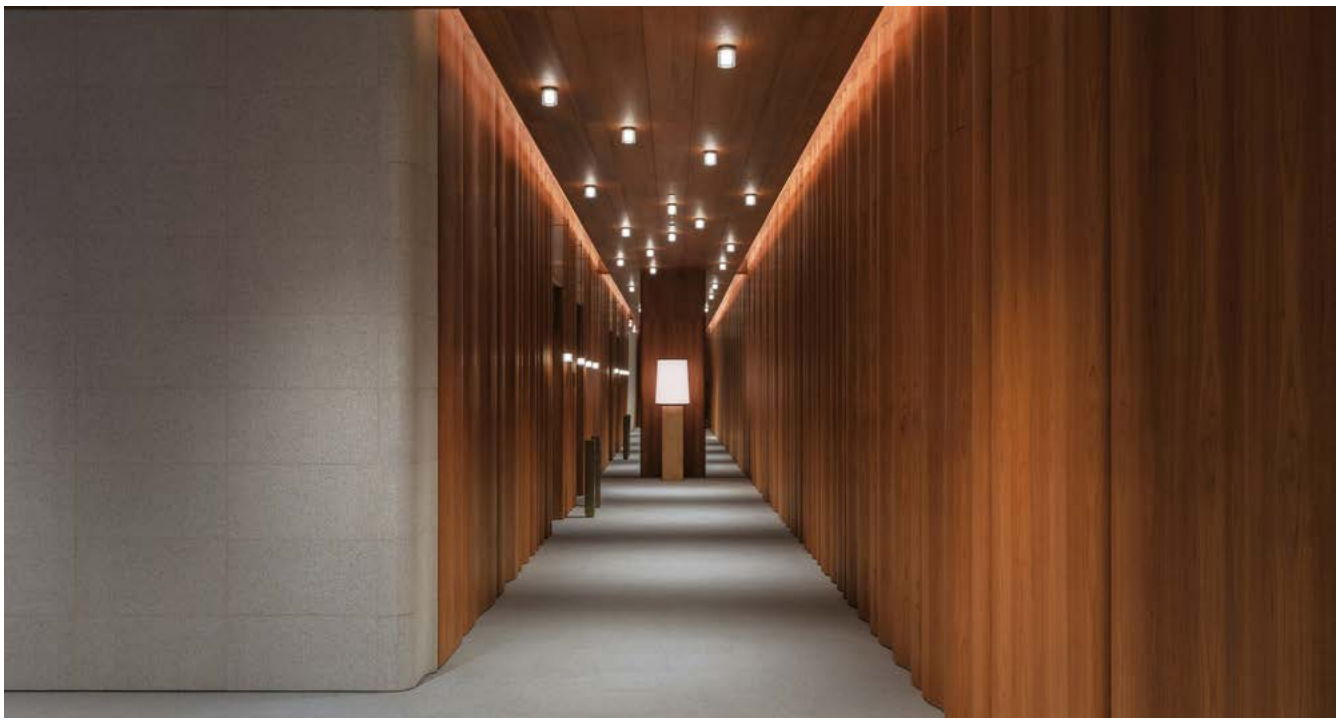


Following the stem upward, the ceiling takes the form of lotus leaves — some connected to the columns, others floating independently. Double-curved surfaces give each leaf its own orientation. Golden light radiates from behind the curves, placing one beneath them as if standing in a sunlit pond. The wall is divided into panels, with stone lines carved at the joints — the veins of lotus leaves.

The fully transparent glass curtain wall lets in the afternoon sun, as light and shadow drift slowly across the lotus-leaf ceiling. A coffee bar sits within the lobby, hosting daily receptions — both an embodiment of the brand's quality and a gentle invitation. The reception desk stands quietly, carved from a single piece of Phoebe zhennan. The wood matures slowly; time precipitates density and luster within its grain. Twenty years — an echo felt here.

The curved language extends from the lobby into the elevator hall, as the spatial tone shifts from expansive to temperate. Wood, stone, metal — these natural materials do not resist time; they embrace it. They gain character with use, not age. A space that settles deeper into time does not need renovation every five years, nor does the brand need to constantly prove it "keeps up with the times." At key moments, implant aesthetic landmarks unique to the brand — not by magnifying the logo a hundred times on the wall, but by leaving a feeling that lingers after one leaves: this is Ouse's place. The lobby is not decoration. It is what the brand says every day.

Interior Designers: say architects
www.sayarchitects.cn
Area: 660 m²
Year: 2026
Photographs: Wen Studio
Lead Architects: Zhang Yan, Shan Jianan
www.wenstudio.com.cn.





LIGHT 26

DISCOVER THE LATEST IN LIGHTING AND DESIGN

The UK's leading lighting specification event returns to London this November, bringing together more than 200 brands, innovative lighting solutions, expert talks and two days of industry connection - with free registration now open.

LiGHT 26, the UK's only trade show dedicated to high-end lighting specification, returns to the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, on 18th and 19th November 2026, bringing together architects, lighting designers, interior designers and the wider specification community for two days of product discovery, inspiration and conversation.

Lighting plays a fundamental role in design and architecture, influencing how buildings are experienced, how materials and architectural features are perceived, and how spaces function throughout the day and into the evening. From enhancing the character of a historic façade to creating comfortable, adaptable workplaces or bringing depth and atmosphere to hospitality environments, thoughtful lighting design is an integral part of the architectural process.

LiGHT 26 provides an opportunity to explore the latest developments in lighting, discover new approaches to specification and connect directly with the





manufacturers and specialists helping to shape the built environment.

More than 200 leading international lighting brands will showcase their latest products, technologies and innovations across three dedicated zones: Architectural, Decorative and Technical.

For architects and specifiers, the Architectural Zone offers a valuable opportunity to explore lighting solutions for a wide range of applications, from commercial developments and public spaces to residential, hospitality and heritage projects. Visitors can discover the latest in integrated lighting, optical performance, flexibility and control, alongside products designed to complement architectural form, materials and detailing.

> *For architects and specifiers, the Architectural Zone offers a valuable opportunity to explore lighting solutions for a wide range of applications, from commercial developments and public spaces to residential, hospitality and heritage projects.*

The Technical Zone provides further insight into the technologies influencing the future of building design, including intelligent lighting controls, connected systems and solutions that support energy efficiency, adaptability and long-term building performance. As sustainability, operational efficiency and occupant wellbeing continue to influence architectural decision-making, the opportunity to engage directly with technical specialists is particularly valuable.

Meanwhile, the Decorative Zone brings together an impressive selection of international brands, showcasing statement pieces and design-led collections that demonstrate how lighting can contribute to the visual identity and character of a space.

With leading names from across the international lighting industry exhibiting, LiGHT 26 offers architects the opportunity to experience products first-hand, discuss technical requirements and explore solutions that could inform current and future projects.

Beyond the exhibition stands, LiGHT 26 offers plenty more to experience.

The [d]arc thoughts talks programme, curated by [d] arc media, will bring together influential voices from lighting, architecture, interiors and the wider design community to explore the ideas, challenges and opportunities shaping the industry. From creative approaches to the built environment to emerging technologies and changing expectations around sustainability, the programme provides a platform for knowledge sharing and discussion across disciplines.

A further programme of splinter talks will take place within the Associations Lounge, offering additional opportunities to exchange ideas, develop knowledge and connect with industry organisations.

Completely free to attend, LiGHT 26 offers architects and design professionals two days to discover new products, explore the relationship between light and architecture, gain fresh perspectives and connect with the people and technologies influencing the future of the built environment.

If lighting is part of your architecture, LiGHT 26 should be in your diary. Register now for your free ticket.







HOP Apartments & Suites: Interlaken, Switzerland, 2025 Project by: Monoplan AG, Zurich Photos by: Phil Wenger Photography, Steffisburg Product: Artemide Architectural La Linea and Sylt Track



Timber Pioneer: Frankfurt, Germany 2025 Project by: W+P Workspace Consulting Product: Artemide Architectural Alphabet of Light

LIGHTING THE FUTURE

DAVID VILLAGE LIGHTING SECURES OFFICIAL UK DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS FOR ARTEMIDE ARCHITECTURAL AHEAD OF LIGHT26 SHOWCASE

Established in 1981, David Village Lighting specialise in decorative and architectural designer lighting from a portfolio of over 100 premium brands. For 45 years, they have worked with architects, developers, interior designers, specifiers, business owners, and contractors on a wide range of lighting projects including offices, retail, hospitality, restaurants, and residential.

In 2025, David Village Lighting became the official UK distributor for Artemide's architectural lighting collection, a natural step in their 40-year partnership with the renowned Italian lighting brand. As the official UK distributor for Artemide Architectural and Alphabet of Light, David Village Lighting will be showcasing a range of both decorative and architectural Artemide products at Light26 to complement the launch of Artemide's newly refurbished London showroom.

The Artemide Architectural collection features innovative lighting solutions suitable for commercial and residential projects, including configurable and modular collections which merge decorative elements with architectural technology, such as Alphabet of Light, Turn Around, and Sylt. Using Artemide's configurator tool, David Village Lighting are able to help clients create designs tailored specifically to each individual project and space.

"We've enjoyed helping specifiers create some really fun lighting designs, from bakeries and cafes, through to head offices and corporate spaces; for example, using La Linea is a playful way to bring light to a space in unexpected ways. It can be incorporated into the Sylt track alongside spotlights and pendants to really tailor lighting to a space. With products such as this, we are able to help clients achieve a balance between technical function and aesthetic design in one lighting solution." - Jack, Business Development Manager at David Village Lighting.

"We're excited to showcase Somnium at Light26, one of Artemide Architectural's most recent releases. Using a patented optical cell, the lens and anti-glare are fused, resulting in reduced material use. It provides direct low-glare light, plus indirect emission to work in the surrounding space, all through compact light cells. It's a technical solution with a delicate and sophisticated aesthetic, perfect for so many applications. The standalone linear option works perfectly over kitchen islands or reception desks, or the bespoke configurations create a perfect solution for office spaces or meeting rooms." - Mate, Head of Artemide Sales at David Village Lighting.

David Village Lighting set up a dedicated Specification Support Team to provide free of charge guidance and assistance to lighting specifiers, whether this be with the use of product configurators, technical information, or product advice; they can support the early stages of projects, ensuring that lighting can take the centre stage.

www.davidvillagelighting.co.uk

Artemide®

Somnium

LiGHT26

Artemide x David Village Lighting

18–19 November - Stand D10

Join us at our sponsored bar, Wednesday 6pm,
directly behind our stand.



In Partnership With

David
Village
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Official UK Distributor for Artemide **Architectural**

www.davidvillagelighting.co.uk

LIGHTGRAPHIX BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO LiGHT 26

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ART OF ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING

Discover new possibilities for exterior lighting as British manufacturer LightGraphix returns to LiGHT 26, inviting visitors to get hands-on with its latest innovations.

How can a small lighting detail transform an architectural space? And what happens when designers have greater freedom to put light precisely where they need it?

These are just some of the questions LightGraphix will be exploring at LiGHT 26, taking place at London's Business Design Centre on 18-19 November.

Returning to Stand 66, at the top of the stairs, the company will showcase new products and developments to existing ranges, with a particular focus on exterior applications.

From subtle accents within planting to the illumination of pathways, façades and urban spaces, visitors can explore solutions that deliver precise lighting effects, minimise glare and create carefully considered layers of light.

At the heart of the stand will be LightGraphix's interactive 'play table', where visitors can experience the lighting effects first-hand and see how subtle changes in light can make a significant difference to a design.

Precision in every detail

Established in 1979, LightGraphix is a British manufacturer specialising in architectural, marine and display lighting. The company has developed a reputation for miniature, high-performance LED luminaires that combine precision engineering with discreet design.

Designed and manufactured in the UK, its products feature carefully engineered optics, high-quality materials and extensive configuration options, helping lighting designers and architects achieve their creative vision.

Material selection, finishes and environmental protection are particularly important for exterior installations, where luminaires must withstand demanding conditions without compromising the intended lighting effect.







Beyond its standard product ranges, LightGraphix also offers bespoke solutions, adapting existing fittings or developing custom configurations to meet individual project requirements.

Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the company's Sales and Product teams, discuss specification challenges and explore how different approaches could help bring their lighting concepts to life.

Whether it's finding the right finish for a challenging environment, integrating lighting into an architectural detail or developing a bespoke solution, the team will be on hand to offer practical guidance.

With further developments on the horizon, there will also be a preview of what's coming next.

Discover a new perspective at LiGHT 26.

18-19 November 2026 | Business Design Centre, London | Stand 66 (top of the stairs)

LightGraphix



Zennio UK

100 Avebury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, MK9 1FH
United Kingdom
T. **+44 (0) 1908 109 0401**
info@zennio.co.uk



THE BUTTERFLY + FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COMPLEX

A MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT SHAPED BY NATURE, COMMUNITY, AND HISTORY

Rising 57-storeys and spanning 605,000 square feet, The Butterfly + First Baptist Church Complex brings together an iconic residential tower, a mid-rise social housing building, and a masterfully restored and expanded Gothic Revival landmark—shaping a bold new vision for the future of vertical living in Vancouver's urban landscape.

Combining a 57-storey residential tower, a seven-storey affordable rental building, and the heritage restoration and expansion of First Baptist Church, The Butterfly and First Baptist Church Complex is designed around the idea that diverse people, programs, and experiences can coexist and thrive together.

Design brief

- Reimagine high-rise living
- Revitalize and expand the existing First Baptist Church
- Strengthen the connection with nature within urban living
- Showcase environmental sustainability and climate resilience

Nature and neighbourhood

Vancouver's identity is inseparable from its natural setting. Framed by mountains, ocean, and forest, the city enjoys an unusually close relationship with the natural world for a major urban centre. The Butterfly was conceived as an extension of that relationship,

> *The Butterfly and First Baptist Church Complex brings together people and programs that are rarely found in a single development.*

bringing light, air, and greenery into the daily experience of high-rise living. Throughout the tower, floor-to-ceiling glazing and open, flowing interiors blur the boundary between inside and out, drawing the surrounding landscape deep into the residential experience.

At the heart of the tower, open-air sky gardens on every residential floor replace conventionally enclosed corridors. Residents leave the elevator and enter naturally ventilated communal gardens where vegetation and expansive views become part of daily life. Deciduous trees planted throughout the building create a vertical landscape that evolves with the seasons, bringing nature high above the city.

Beyond their experiential benefits, the sky gardens provide natural ventilation, cooling, and daylighting, contributing to an estimated 400,000 kWh of annual energy savings and reducing tower energy use by more than 10 per cent compared with conventional corridor designs. Energy modelling indicates a 65 per cent reduction in periods where suite temperatures exceed comfort thresholds during the warmest months of the year.

This relationship with nature extends beyond the tower through landscaped courtyards, green roofs, water features, and shared amenity spaces. A striking 50-metre lap pool, positioned to benefit from natural light and views, offers an immersive sensory experience that complements the broader emphasis on wellbeing and connection to the outdoors.

Community and coexistence

The Butterfly and First Baptist Church Complex brings together people and programs that are rarely found in a single development. Market and affordable housing sit alongside childcare, counselling services, recreation facilities, community gathering spaces, meal programs, and emergency shelter support, creating a place where different people and programs can find common ground.

This approach responds to the reality facing many cities, including Vancouver: growing challenges around affordability, housing access, and social isolation. By layering housing, community services, and social infrastructure on a shared site, the project fosters interaction across different needs, backgrounds, and experiences.

The seven-storey rental building extends this vision through communal rooftop gardens, urban agriculture









plots, outdoor kitchens, and landscaped play areas designed to encourage neighbourliness and everyday interaction. More than 25 per cent of the homes contain two or more bedrooms, supporting families, seniors, and a range of household types.

At the centre of the project is an expanded First Baptist Church campus that continues a long tradition of community outreach while providing new space for counselling, childcare, recreation, meals, shelter, and neighbourhood programs. As Revery principal Venelin Kokalov describes it, the project is “a community building, different incomes, different people, different programs living together.”

History and renewal

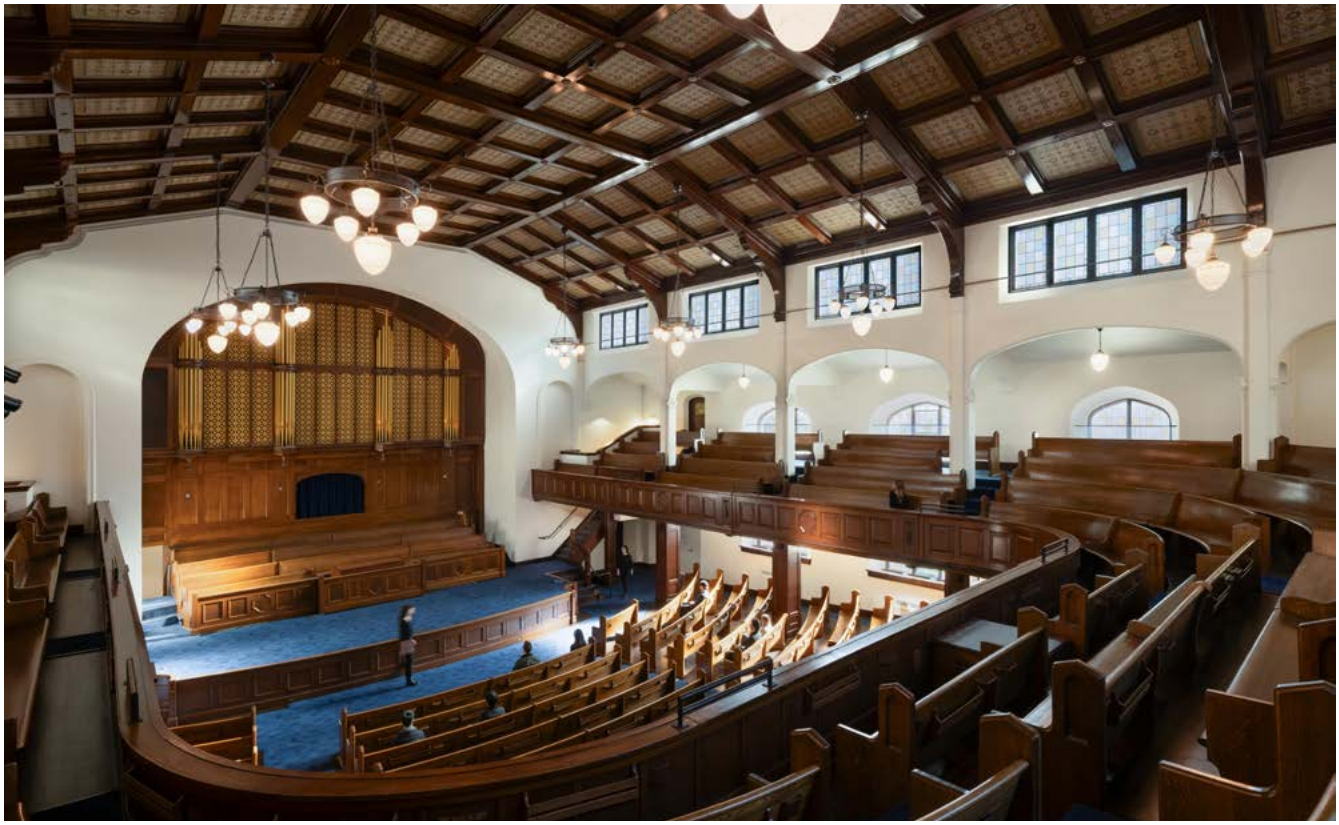
Completed in 1911, First Baptist Church is one of Vancouver’s oldest churches and a municipally designated heritage landmark. The project preserves and expands this historic campus, ensuring its continued role as a centre for worship, outreach, culture, and community life.

The conservation program included extensive seismic upgrading, foundation work, restoration of heritage windows and masonry, accessibility improvements, modernization of building systems, and rehabilitation of significant interior spaces including the Heritage Listed Sanctuary and Pinder Hall. Historic elements ranging from original timber structure and millwork to the church’s Deagan chimes have been carefully preserved and restored.

Pinder Hall, which had been subdivided into two floors during a previous renovation, was restored to its original double-height volume, revealing historic timber columns, beams, and trusses while creating renewed opportunities for performances, weddings, community gatherings, and cultural programming. Throughout the church, upgrades were carefully integrated to respect heritage character while supporting contemporary use.

At first glance, The Butterfly appears to have little in common with the century-old church integrated into its base. Beneath its elegant silhouette lies a subtle homage to First Baptist: the largest cutouts of the tower’s distinctive chamfered base, mirror the scale of the existing bell tower in height, creating a dialogue of transformation between past and present as well as a physical connection with the light filled galleria that joins the two. This relationship between old and new reflects the project’s broader ambition to preserve history while accommodating the evolving needs of the city.





City and public life

The Butterfly extends its impact beyond its residents through investments in public space, active transportation, community amenities, and urban infrastructure. Public courtyards and gardens create new opportunities for gathering and interaction at street level, while the revitalized church courtyard transforms a previously inaccessible space into a welcoming public destination complete with landscaping, seating, a café, and universal accessibility.

The tower's base is carefully shaped to expand the public realm, creating landscaped open space that strengthens the relationship between Burrard Street, the West End, and First Baptist Church. A transparent galleria links the church and tower while providing access to community programs and informal gathering spaces, helping to animate the site throughout the day.

The project also supports sustainable mobility through 465 bicycle parking stalls, publicly accessible car-share vehicles, and resident bike- and vehicle-sharing programs. By combining housing, community infrastructure, heritage preservation, and an enhanced public realm on one of Vancouver's most prominent sites, The Butterfly contributes as much to the life of the city as it does to its skyline.

Environmental Impact + Climate Resiliency

From envelope to energy systems, the complex's commitment to environmental performance is deeply embedded. Targeting LEED Gold standards, the project reduces operational carbon by 68% (up to 85% when leveraging renewable energy from the onsite district energy plant), energy use by 45%, and energy costs by 25%—surpassing City of Vancouver requirements for tall buildings and large sites. A water management strategy reduces potable water use by 50% and domestic water use by 35%, while promoting long-term resource conservation.

The tower's curved massing optimizes views and daylight while minimizing lateral load and urban shadow impact. A high-performance R-15 precast envelope, paired with moderate glazing ratios and four-pipe fan coil systems, supports year-round comfort with reduced demand on mechanical systems. Daylighting, natural ventilation, thermal comfort and integral shading strategies are embedded across all building zones—from the tower's breezeways to the church's reoriented courtyards.

Technical sheet

Name: The Butterfly + First Baptist Church Complex

Certifications pursued: LEED Gold

Key Feature: A mixed-use development combining a 57-storey residential tower, affordable rental housing, community services, and the restoration and expansion of a historic church.

Project size: 605,000 square feet

Total Floors: 57

Overall height: 556 feet

Photo credit: Ema Peter

www.reveryarchitecture.com

FIT FOR A ROYAL LANDMARK

BESPOKE UNIFOLD® GUTTER LINING PROVIDES A LONG-LIFE, WATERTIGHT SOLUTION AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Over 400 metres of the Unifold® Gutter lining system was installed on London's iconic venue, The Royal Albert Hall, throughout the summer of 2023.

The Unifold® Gutter Lining System was chosen for its versatility, unfailing ability to replicate existing systems and its long life.

Following a survey by Ampteam personnel, along with Saper Glass Industries Limited, a design solution was provided for the gutters and samples were sent to test fit the Unifold® gutter lining within the gutter cavity, as the throat dimension varied considerably across the profiles.

All runs of the gutter were manufactured to suit the curved nature of the dome which roofs the Hall, and to fit within the minimal throat dimension between the glazing and glazing bars, meaning that bespoke faceted and cranked joint plates were provided so that the new Unifold® lining could follow the profile of the existing gutter.

Full site information was provided including laying sequences, special details and instructions with each delivery of the system.

Ampteam were partnered by Approved Installer, Saper Glass Industries Limited and Faithorn Farrell Timms as contract administrator, and their input and expertise, along with comprehensive discussions throughout, enabled a successful installation of the Unifold® system.

Following installation of the Unifold® every Unifold® gutter run was water tested by flooding the gutter from the top of the run(s) via hose, with additional assistance from the poor weather, and no leaks were detected in any of the installed gutter runs.

Ampteam developed the Unifold® gutter lining system some 20 years ago to provide custom designed solutions to leaking gutter problems.

Unifold® utilises an EPDM membrane at the wet surface for longevity without fear of corrosion, it employs a double sealed joint which can be guaranteed not to leak and the system is engineered to maximise the potential of each and every installation whether it be in conjunction with roof replacement or over sheeting or just to re-line the existing gutter.



It is very often a practical and cost effective solution to consider lining an existing gutter and Unifold® offers exceptional life expectancy and corresponding joint integrity, often far better than the original gutter and following design consideration can often actually increase existing gutter capacity, enlarge outlet orifices and introduce additional outlets with relative ease.

Whenever possible gutters are surveyed by Ampteam personnel. The company actively encourages contractors to use its survey services and this is available throughout the UK and each Unifold solution is designed to provide the client, the building occupier, with the best possible solution and on occasions this will result in an improvement in performance to the original gutter.

Unifold® is provided with full technical support from advice at the inception of an enquiry through to installation and beyond. Our countywide network of fully trained approved contractors are available to install and provide maintenance inspections and cleaning when required.

Unifold® is installed by approved contractors whose installation teams have been fully trained by Ampteam personnel in house at our training facility and following installation, by an approved contractor, the gutter lining is guaranteed for a period of 30 years.

www.gutterliners.com

Saving for a rainy day...

UNI-DAM, a rainwater management system designed to prevent heavy storm rainfall from overwhelming gutter systems and flooding into buildings.

The system is fixed to the roof and once installed slows and controls the flow of rainfall into the gutter.

For more information or quote please contact our office on 01384 252777.

UNIFOLD GUTTER SYSTEMS

AMPTEAM

Unrivalled excellence in gutter lining technology.
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BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN FAÇADES

NAVIGATING COMPLIANCE, RISK AND SPECIFICATION IN A CHANGING INDUSTRY

The façade industry has undergone significant change in recent years. New regulations, increased scrutiny, evolving client expectations and a greater focus on competency have fundamentally altered how projects are designed, specified and delivered.

For architects and specifiers, the challenge is no longer simply selecting products that achieve a desired aesthetic. Today's decisions must balance design intent with fire safety, regulatory compliance, sustainability, performance requirements and long-term accountability.

In many ways, the industry's expectations have never been higher.

At the same time, project teams are navigating an increasingly complex landscape of technical documentation, classification reports, test data, certification requirements and product information. The volume of information available continues to grow, yet finding the right information, and understanding how it applies to a specific project, can remain a challenge.

The question facing many specification professionals is simple: How do we make informed decisions with confidence?

A changing regulatory landscape

The Building Safety Act has reshaped responsibilities across the design and construction process. For higher-risk buildings, the Gateway regime requires duty holders to demonstrate compliance before construction begins, not after. Full plans submitted at Gateway 2 must show how the building will meet the Building Regulations, and that includes clear evidence for every element of the external wall.

For façade design teams, this has brought a much sharper focus on evidence. A product's reaction to fire classification, the scope of a test report, the build-up it applies to and the conditions under which it remains valid all now sit at the centre of the specification conversation.

Change control has also become far more rigorous. Substituting a specified product once a project is underway is no longer a quick commercial decision. It can trigger a formal review, introduce programme delays and create additional risk for everyone involved. Getting the specification right at the outset has never mattered more.



The principle of the golden thread reinforces this. Accurate, accessible and up-to-date information must follow a building through design, construction and occupation. The decisions made at specification stage are no longer simply part of a tender package; they form part of a building's permanent record.

Confidence through clarity

Confidence in façade design is built on more than product performance alone.

It comes from having access to clear, accurate and transparent information. It comes from understanding the limitations as well as the capabilities of a system. It comes from open conversations between manufacturers, designers, contractors, consultants and regulators.

The most successful projects are often those where information is shared early, questions are encouraged, and technical challenges are addressed collaboratively rather than in isolation.

As the industry continues to evolve, there is growing recognition that better outcomes are achieved when knowledge is shared across the supply chain.

The value of trusted product information

For manufacturers, this places a clear responsibility on how product information is presented. Claims must be accurate, clear, up to date, accessible and unambiguous. Performance data should be supported by evidence, and the boundaries of that evidence should be stated just as clearly as the headline result.

Initiatives such as the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI) are helping to raise standards across the sector, giving specifiers greater assurance that the information they rely on has been independently assessed. Valcan has undertaken CCPI assessments of its company management system and its VitraDual® and Ceramapanel® product information, reflecting a wider commitment to transparency in how our systems are described and documented.

Of course, good information is only part of the picture. Specifiers also need access to people who can explain what that information means in practice: how a system performs within a particular build-up, how it interfaces with insulation, cavity barriers and fixings, and what needs to be considered on site to ensure the as-built façade reflects the design intent.

A more collaborative future

Many of the challenges facing the construction industry cannot be solved by a single organisation working alone.

Whether discussing fire safety, façade remediation, Gateway requirements, sustainability or technical performance, meaningful progress depends on collaboration between all those involved in the design, specification and delivery process.

Architects, specifiers, engineers, contractors, manufacturers, insurers and building owners each bring a unique perspective. Creating opportunities for those perspectives to be shared is becoming increasingly valuable.

When lessons learned from live projects can be discussed openly, the industry benefits.

When technical expertise is made accessible, better decisions can be made.

When challenges are debated honestly, confidence grows.

Creating a Forum for Practical Knowledge Sharing

With this in mind, Valcan launched the Façade HUB in 2025 to create an environment where knowledge sharing, technical insight and practical discussion take centre stage.

Returning to The Building Centre in London for a third year, Façade HUB 2027 will bring together professionals from across the façade sector under the theme:

Building confidence in façades.

The event will explore many of the topics currently shaping the industry, including:

- Compliance and building safety
- Fire safety and regulation
- Testing and technical performance
- Product information and transparency
- Sustainability and new materials
- Digital tools and innovation
- Supply chain collaboration
- Real project challenges and lessons learned

Importantly, the focus is not on product promotion.

Instead, the event is designed to provide practical knowledge, encourage open discussion and give delegates insights they can take back into their own projects. The programme brings together presentations, panel discussions and informal networking, giving architects, specifiers, contractors and consultants the chance to put questions directly to people working on these issues every day.

Delegates will also hear from a range of voices across the supply chain, from technical specialists and consultants to insurers and industry publications, ensuring the conversation reflects the realities of designing, insuring and delivering façades today.

Looking ahead

As the industry continues its journey towards greater transparency, competency and accountability, the importance of trusted information has never been greater.

Building confidence in façades is not the responsibility of any single organisation. It is something that must be achieved collectively through collaboration, communication and the sharing of knowledge across the entire supply chain.

Events such as Façade HUB provide an opportunity to continue that conversation, challenge perspectives and contribute to a safer, more informed and more confident façade sector.

Façade HUB 2027 takes place on Thursday 18 February 2027 at The Building Centre, London.

We would like to thank our event sponsors, Siderise, Cohort Insurance, Housing Association Magazine and RCI Magazine, for their support in helping to bring Façade HUB 2027 to life.

To register your interest or find out more, visit the Valcan Façade HUB: **https://valcan.co.uk/facade-hub/.**







KALZIP LAUNCHES EASYFALZ BY KALZIP

A NEW PREMIUM METAL ROOF AND FAÇADE RANGE FOR CRAFTSPEOPLE

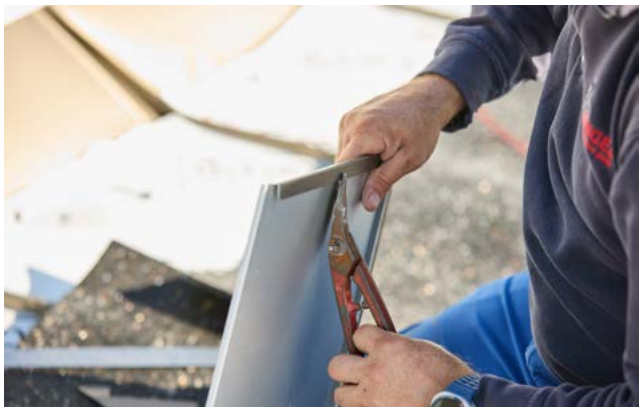
Koblenz - Kalzip has launched EasyFalz by Kalzip, a new premium range of metal roofing and façade products offering specialist contractors, roofers and sheet metal workers access to a curated portfolio of distinctive colours, surfaces and finishes, all backed by Kalzip's manufacturing expertise and material quality.

Trevor Smyth from EasyFalz said: "EasyFalz has been developed for craftspeople who want more design freedom without added complexity. The range gives installers a straightforward route to premium, surface-led results, with the material quality and technical backing they expect from Kalzip."

At the heart of EasyFalz is a carefully selected colour palette developed to deliver cooler, more metallic and more architecturally considered aesthetics than conventional aluminium products.

The range is structured across distinct product lines, each with a clear design character:

EasyFalz Colour leads with bold, emotionally resonant colour choices for projects where the roof or façade makes a statement. EasyFalz Patina offers natural-looking surfaces with depth and character, suited to projects where material authenticity is a priority. EasyFalzinc bridges the gap between modern aluminium and the classic aesthetics of zinc, providing a familiar material feel with the performance benefits of the Kalzip system.





All products in the range are focused on standing seam and shingle applications, the formats most commonly specified by the specialist contractors EasyFalz by Kalzip is designed to serve.

Learn more about EasyFalz by Kalzip here:
www.kalzip.com/produkte/fassadensysteme/spenglerfassade/gestaltungsmoeglichkeiten-easyfalz/

A NEW CHAPTER FOR BRICK SLIP RAINSCREEN CLADDING

EUROBRICK'S A-CLAD MAKES ITS MARK AT ISLINGTON DEVELOPMENT

Eurobrick's A-Clad brick slip rainscreen system has been installed at a new mixed-use development in Islington, London, in one of the first completed projects to use the company's A1 non-combustible system.

The four-storey development on Roman Way combines commercial space at ground-floor level with eight new apartments. One apartment is located to the rear of the ground floor, with a further seven one- and two-bedroom apartments, including a penthouse, arranged across the upper floors.

A combination of traditional construction and rainscreen cladding was used across the development. Traditional construction was used predominantly at ground-floor level, with framing and A-Clad specified for the upper floors.

Eurobrick's A1 non-combustible brick slip rainscreen system, A-Clad has been developed to meet the requirements of an evolving construction sector where fire performance, versatility and aesthetics are all important considerations. Eurobrick understands that the best way to future-proof a building is to ensure that it remains functional throughout its lifespan and A-Clad can help to achieve this.

Suitable for use on buildings of any height, A-Clad combines a lightweight construction with the appearance of traditional brickwork. It can be used for both new-build and refurbishment projects and allows designers to achieve an authentic brick finish without the weight and structural requirements associated with full brickwork.

Every component of the A-Clad system has been fully tested for reaction to fire and achieves an A1 classification to BS EN 13501-1:2018. It has also undergone extensive mechanical testing and is a robust solution for rainscreen applications.

The Roman Way project was one of the first completed projects to demonstrate A-Clad in use and provides a good example of how the system can work alongside traditional construction methods to achieve a consistent brick aesthetic across a building.

With a number of other A-Clad projects currently progressing, Eurobrick expects its portfolio of completed installations to continue to grow and hopes to share further project examples over the coming months.





A-Clad joins Eurobrick's established range of brick slip cladding systems, backed by more than 35 years of experience in the sector. The company also provides extensive technical support at every stage of the process, from specification, detail advice and installation including training courses and comprehensive instructions, to help architects, contractors and installers.

For more information about A-Clad and Eurobrick's other brick slip systems, visit **www.eurobrick.co.uk** or contact the technical team on 0117 971 7117 or info@eurobrick.co.uk.

DELIVERING FAÇADE CONFIDENCE

REDUCING RISK WITH SUBSTRUCTURE FOCUS

By Gary Robson, Business Development Manager at EJOT UK.

Rear ventilated or rainscreen facades are increasingly required to deliver aesthetic excellence coupled with ever higher standards of fire safety, thermal performance and sustainability - often within a demanding build programme.

To meet this challenge, system-based approaches represent an obvious solution, providing a way to reduce technical uncertainty and simplify delivery. However, as the performance capabilities of substructure systems, and the components that form them, varies widely, it is vital to carefully evaluate how the proposed backing structure will meet the façade's overall goals.

Substructures are multi-purpose and critical to a façade's safety and long-term success. They must support cladding loads, accommodate ever deeper levels of insulation and maintain strict ventilation levels, as well as manage movement caused by wind and thermal expansion.

Choosing ETA-backed components and systems

Façade substructures are often created using components sourced from multiple manufacturers, including rails, brackets, substrate fixings, anchors and cladding fasteners. Although each product may carry its own performance credentials, proving compatibility across the complete assembly can be more complex. Two very similar components may also have significantly different performance credentials, potentially introducing uncertainty regarding tolerances, movement allowances and responsibility for performance. All this adds risk and increases design coordination requirements.

This is one of the reasons why fully integrated systems, such as EJOT CROSSFIX, are increasingly popular. As a single engineered system, CROSSFIX is formed of components designed and tested to work together from the outset. This reduces the number of interfaces requiring verification and offers a clearer route to technical support - one system, one supplier.

CROSSFIX is backed by a European Technical Assessment (ETA), providing independently verified performance data across a range of cladding materials, substrates and design configurations. This helps project teams assess structural capability, thermal performance and durability with greater certainty.



> *"With CROSSFIX, architects and specifiers can benefit from a simplified design process because EJOT provides one source of technical information, calculations and design guidance.*



A fully supported system on every level

With CROSSFIX, architects and specifiers can benefit from a simplified design process because EJOT provides one source of technical information, calculations and design guidance. And structural engineers can easily access tested performance data and clearly defined load paths, while contractors can gain efficiencies through simplified procurement and coordination.

Early-stage technical support is another valuable dimension to working with EJOT UK, whether using the complete CROSSFIX system or our numerous individual components as part of another system. Our team can help identify suitable bracket configurations, movement solutions and fixing arrangements well before construction begins.

For more information, visit www.ejot.co.uk/CROSSFIX

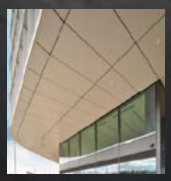
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WORLD OF FAÇADES

Billingsgate November

SWISSPEARL CARAT – ICONIC IN ALL ITS FACETS

THE "SWISSPEARL CARAT" COLOUR LINE IS THE TIMELESSLY BEAUTIFUL AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED CLASSIC IN FIBRE CEMENT FAÇADE PANELS

Each board is finished with a lightly pigmented, translucent surface coating, which now looks even more elegant and refined thanks to a new coating process. The fibre structure of the material remains visible when viewed from close up. With its 20 carefully curated colours, the "Carat" colour line also supports high-contrast and expressive designs. Swisspearl was the first manufacturer to launch a through-dyed fibre cement board, which many renowned architects have since used to bring their designs to life.

Being through coloured, the fibre cement panels are ideal for a monolithic facade design. Cutting edges show one of nine base plate colours, which harmonises particularly well with the selected coating. As a result, they hardly catch the eye even with wider joints. Colour-matched rivet and screw heads additionally support the homogeneous effect of a facade cladding with "Carat" panels.

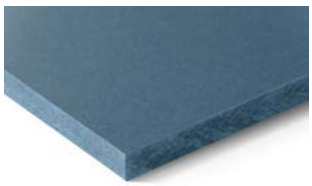
Living individuality

Based on decades of experience in the field of colour theory and coating technology, Swisspearl offers the necessary know-how for the production of "Carat" facade panels in NCS, RAL and Pantone tones. Special colours are also possible on a project-specific basis. In addition, individual processing of the panels is carried out in the manufacturer's plants.

Facade cladding for unconventional building shapes can be achieved with special cuts or free shapes. Perforations create an exciting surface look and allow natural light or fresh air to pass through.

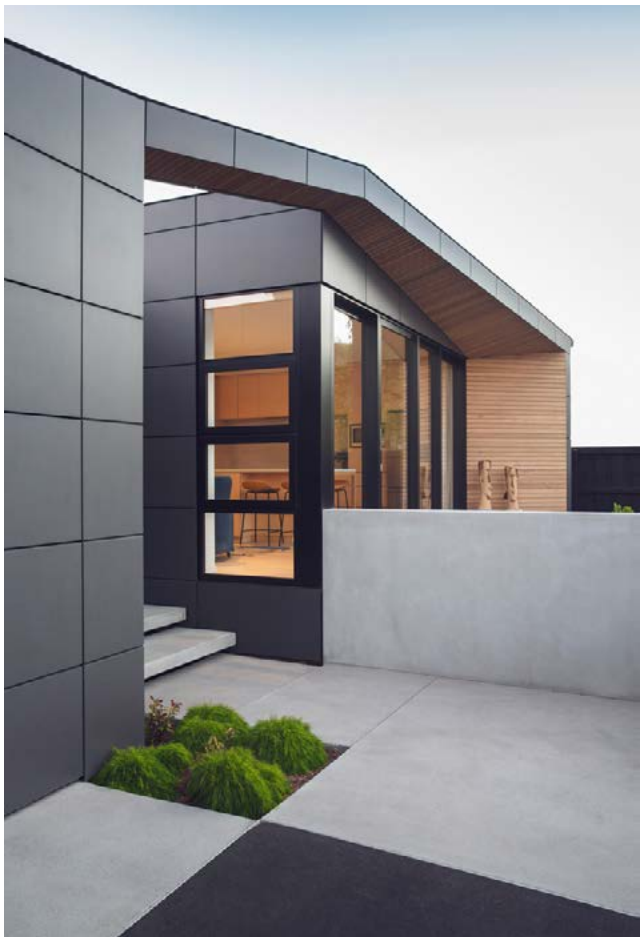






Geometric shapes, self-designed patterns, company logos or image motifs can be applied to individual panels or across multiple panels. With an additional high-resistance (HR) coating, "Carat" colour line panels achieve particularly high scratch and weather resistance. They are also protected against permanent damage from heavy contamination and even graffiti.

www.swisspearl.com



On Clark, New Zealand. *Image: Lumo Photography*

SWISSPEARL





swisspearl.com



Unfold your architectural vision with Swisspearl Carat.

Carat is more than just a facade panel – it is a vision, born from Swiss precision and more than 130 years of craftsmanship. With each through coloured panel, it tells a story of depth, authenticity, and timeless elegance. 20 UV-resistant colours, carefully curated, unfold a design freedom that is unique in its beauty.

Its translucent lightly pigmented surface enhances depth and character, while outstanding longevity and resilience ensure that architectural visions stand the test of time. Impervious in its quality, resilient against the elements, it preserves architecture in its purest form.

Cheshire WA3 7GB, United Kingdom | + 44 (0) 203 372 2300 | facades@gb.swisspearl.com

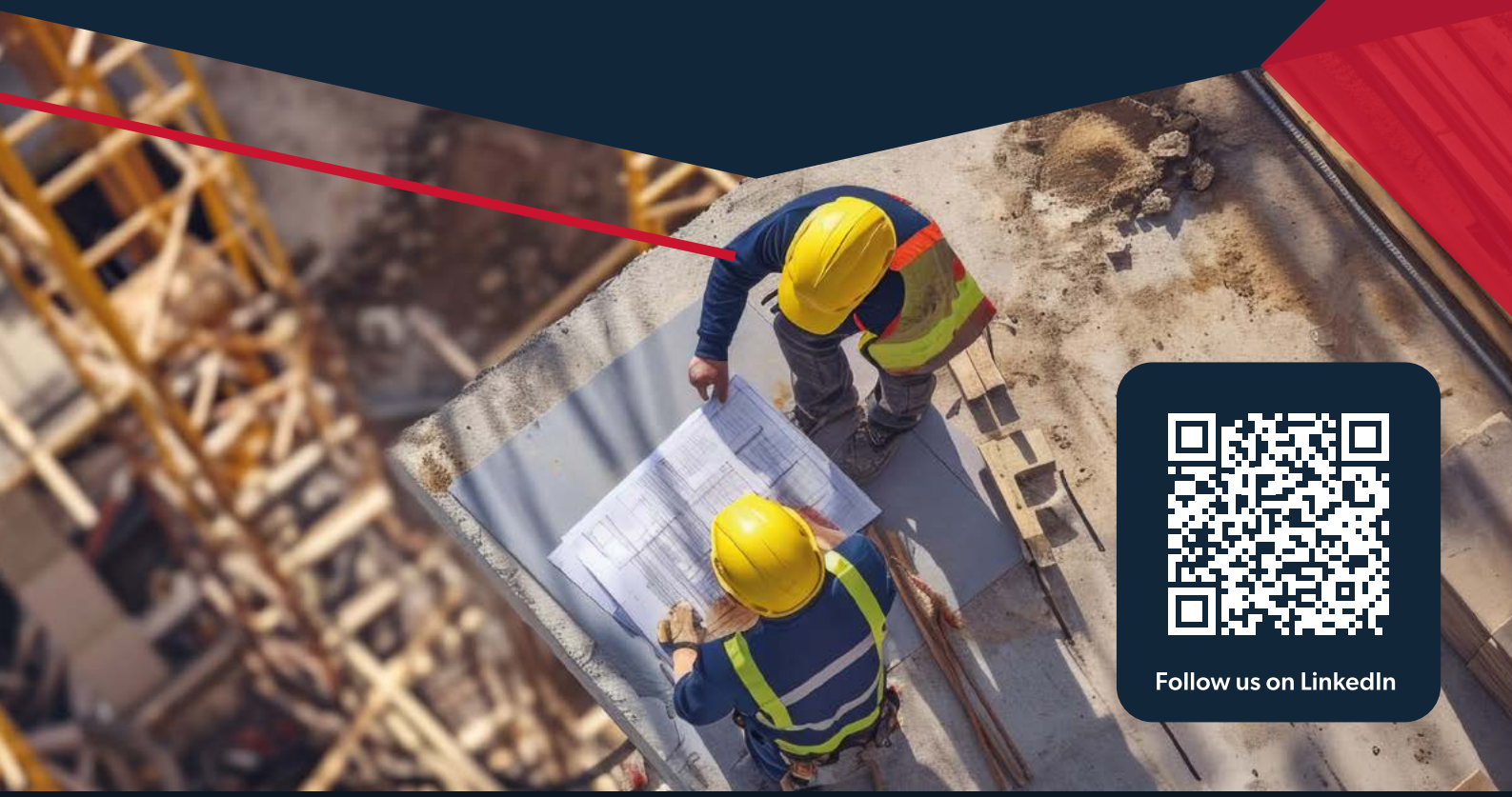
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