

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 163/164

December 2021/January 2022

SCM's Smart&Human factory for the Star River Bay Group

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Selco arrives in Canning Town

SELCO Builders Warehouse has kicked off a branch opening double header to end 2021.

The ever-expanding builders merchant officially cut the ribbon on its Canning Town branch, its 71st store in the UK, in November.

The opening further strengthens Selco's presence in the South-East of England, that grew further with the launch of the Rochester branch in December.

Howard Luft, Selco's chief executive, said: "We are delighted to have strengthened the Selco offering by opening in yet another new area.

"Our philosophy is to bring Selco's unique offering to as many tradespeople as possible around the UK and provide a one-stop shop for the trade.

"London and the South-East have become a true heartland for Selco and we have further plans to open more branches in this and other areas of the country during the next year and beyond.

"As a genuine multi-channel builders merchant, we want to give tradespeople the chance to get their building materials in the most convenient way possible to them, whether that be through branches or through our growing digital offering."

The official launch of the Canning Town branch saw Selco continue its commitment to supporting the local communities in which it operates by donating £3,000 to good causes.

Amy's Space, a community volunteer group operating in and around Canning Town to support homeless and other financially vulnerable individuals, received £1,000 while the local activities of Selco's nominated charity Global's Make Some Noise benefitted from £2,000 worth of support.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Consultation open

THE PUBLIC consultation for PAS 8671, a new framework for competence of individual principal designers and individuals working under the organisation principal designer, is now open until 24 January 2022. Comments can be registered online at:

<http://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/2021-01175>

BSI, in its role as the UK National Standards Body, is seeking comments from residents and people in the housing, construction, fire and safety industries.

The standard is a part of the Built Environment Competence Programme, which supports the Building Safety Bill to raise competence requirements for three newly regulated roles, which are those of principal designer, principal contractor and building safety manager. It is sponsored by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Following consultation, the standard is due to publish summer 2022.

BSI
www.bsigroup.com

Panel, Wood & Solid Surface

is published by

Pawprint Publishing Ltd

121 Warren Drive
Hornchurch
Essex RM12 4QU

Tel 07913 783510

email
info@pawprintuk.co.uk
www.pawprintuk.co.uk

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GERRY LYNCH

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The Felder Group mourns the death of Johann Felder



KOMMERZIALRAT Johann Felder (1930-2021), founder and long-time managing director of the Felder Group, peacefully passed away surrounded by his family on 7 December 2021 after a brief but severe illness. With his passing, his family as well as the company's employees are losing an inspiring and striking personality, who turned the Felder Group into the successful family business it is today.

In 1956 in his hometown of Absam (Tyrol), Johann Felder and his wife Gertraud founded the company Johann Felder jun. in the workshop at his parents' house. That same year, they presented the first Felder woodworking machines at trade fairs in Vienna and Innsbruck. Over the following decades, the company kept growing, moved from Absam to Hall in Tirol and finally made a name for itself far beyond the borders of Tyrol as a trailblazing mechanical engineering company of global importance. Today, the Felder Group is among the leading mechanical engineering and technology companies in the field of wood and composite processing worldwide and continues to surprise with technical innovations.

Johann Felder was known for his positive outlook on life and his progressive worldview. He was greatly respected, in Austria and abroad. His wife Gertraud, his sons Hansjörg and Martin Felder, and the company's current managing directors, his daughter Elisabeth, his grandchildren Daniel, Patrick, Tamara and Alexander Felder, the third generation working in the family business, as well as the entire Felder Group staff are deeply saddened by Johann Felder's passing. They are losing not just an altogether fascinating and strong personality, but also a mentor and a dear friend.

**Felder ● rememberhans@felder-group.com
www.felder-group.com**

Soltech set for growth after announcing management buyout

SOLTECH Systems Ltd, one of the UK's leading suppliers of blinds, curtains, control systems and associated window treatments, has announced the completion of its management buyout, backed by the managing director Guy Simmonds and chairman Robert Wilson MBE.

The MBO creates a platform for growth with a clear strategic direction for Soltech that will strengthen its position in existing markets whilst expanding into near-neighbour sectors.

Founded over 25 years ago, Soltech Systems is an industry leader in commercial blinds, curtains, and automated solutions for a wide range of clients. Its products have been specified on some of the UK's most prestigious developments, including BBC headquarters in Cardiff, Microsoft's flagship retail store on Oxford Circus, and throughout the new development at 100 Liverpool Street.

Headquartered in Maidenhead, Berkshire, the company operates its own manufacturing facility in Milton Keynes, which has a reputation for quality, design and exceptional client care. Soltech offers a supply and installation service backed up by an expert team with decades of expertise in taking projects from inception through to delivery, and currently works with many of the UK's leading design practices.

For contractors, Soltech provides a comprehensive supply and installation service that has a reputation as among the best in the industry. All project partners need to have confidence that they will be completed right, first time, and, according to the company, Soltech is the trusted brand for doing this.

Soltech Systems ● 01628 776488 ● <http://soltech.uk.com/>



Left to right: Robert Wilson MBE and Guy Simmonds.

Rearo celebrates 30th anniversary with £0.5m development

HUMZA YOUSAF MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, and Chris Stephens MP, Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Fair Work and Employment), visited Rearo, an independent family business headquartered in Govan on 19 November 2021, as part of the business' 30th anniversary celebrations.

While there, they saw the positive investments which Rearo has made in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and learnt more about the company's successful apprenticeship programme.

Rearo designs and manufactures durable worktops, wall panels, and flooring for commercial use, as well as domestic bathrooms and kitchens. To mark the 30-year milestone, it has invested more than £500,000 in transforming production processes and working practices, developing new products, and embedding a commitment to customer service across the company.

These significant business development have been helped by Scottish Enterprise, who contributed £100,000 grant funding towards a three-year project of factory improvements which is costing Rearo more than



Left to right: John Monaghan, Chris Stephens MP, Humza Yousaf MSP and William Chalmers.



Left to right: Chris Stephens MP, Graham Mercer, Rearo MD, Brian Loye, Scottish Enterprise, and Humza Yousaf MSP.



Left to right: Graham Mercer, Rearo MD, and Humza Yousaf MSP.

£500,000. These improvements include the creation of a link building to join Rearo's two factories at 29 and 45 Loanbank Quadrant, Govan, as well as the creation of a new marketing suite, a logistics office, and additional staff welfare facilities.

The final part of the project is due to be completed shortly with the commissioning of an environmentally friendly, fast-acting PVA adhesive line to increase throughput, improve manufacturing efficiencies, and play a significant role in the company's green strategy.

The company has also made huge transformations to its Govan HQ by re-configuring the factory layout, introducing a click and collect scheme, and most recently launching a brand-new e-commerce website and renovating the showroom to give customers a better experience post-lockdown. The innovations have allowed Rearo to bring more of its services in-house, creating jobs for a wide range of skills, such as sales design and delivery.

Jim Watson, director of business services and advice at Scottish Enterprise, said: "This milestone celebration co-incides with the culmination of a major transformation for the company. Having supported Rearo on this project, as well as assisting its team with various training and development programmes over the years, it's great to see the company continue to grow and thrive in Govan."

More work with Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland

has seen Rearo develop its apprenticeship scheme which has led to the hiring of 20 apprentices over the past five years and winning the Scottish Apprenticeship Awards in 2018 for equality and diversity. Previous apprentices have gone on to a wide range of careers within Rearo, including management positions.

Rearo managing director, Graham Mercer, said: "We are very grateful to Humza Yousaf MSP and Chris Stephens MP for taking the time to come to Rearo and see the developments in our Govan headquarters and to learn more about our apprenticeship programme on this significant anniversary.

"Both of these initiatives demonstrate the ambition and the superb progress of Rearo. As we plan the next phase of our growth, the transformation of the factory, backed by Scottish Enterprise, will clearly play a central role in our strategy, while the apprenticeship programme highlights our long-term commitment to the local community."

Rearo
<https://rearo.co.uk>

Daltons Wadkin continues its expansion with three new hires

DALTONS WADKIN has once again expanded its team — this time in three different departments as the Nottingham-based industrial woodworking machine distributor celebrates its second expansion this year.

Joining the business, which celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2021, are three new hires in Connor O'Neill as a service engineer, Lee Hook as a training operator (pictured far right) and Joshua Dudley as a CNC support engineer.

Connor has joined the team as a field service engineer and is based in North West Yorkshire. Bringing with him a wealth of experience in the industry, Connor has previously worked for another woodworking machinery dealer prior to joining Daltons Wadkin.

Joining the "red team" of dedicated machine trainers (pictured) is Lee, who managed a large production workshop within the prison service. As an experienced wood machinist, Lee brings a wealth of experience to the company, delivering a range of operator training courses across the UK and Ireland.



The latest arrival at Daltons Wadkin is Joshua Dudley, the newest member of the CNC support team who has recently completed a three-year apprenticeship and obtained an EAL Level 3 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering. In continuing his development, Joshua will undergo a 12-month machine-specific training programme working alongside the business' existing engineers.

Managing director, Alex Dalton, comments: "It's exciting to be taking on new members of the team. Our support services and training departments are of paramount importance to us — customers choose to work with us safe in the knowledge that their investments will be supported. Our new recruits will bring a lot to our already strong workforce. It has been an exciting year for us, not without its challenges, but it is great to be in a position to expand different areas of the business and gives us a lot of confidence heading into the new year."

Daltons Wadkin
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www.daltonswadkin.com

DHF launches a new training website

DOOR & Hardware Federation (DHF) has announced the launch of its new training website.

Since launching its first training course in September 2013, DHF has assisted almost 4,000 candidates in successfully completing a DHF training course.

DHF's first training website was launched in 2016 and offered re-

resher courses to those who had taken a face-to-face training course. Over time, the training programme developed significantly, and in April 2020, amidst the uncertainty of CoViD-19, DHF launched its Distance Learning Programme (DLP). The organisation soon recognised that a website was needed with the

capability to host the learning support for the newly launched DLP, as well as all refresher courses, a website that would 'future-proof' DHF's training offering. The new training website is the single, biggest investment DHF has made, to date, and will enable users to access training information quickly and easily, providing

a thorough overview of courses available to delegates.

In addition to enabling a smoother training process for the learner, the new website will deliver its training presentation in 'bite-sized chunks', therefore, removing the need for delegates to sit through eight hours of presentations ahead of sitting an examination. Learners can go back through the various presentations to absorb the information. The new website is also iOS compatible, offering the user a choice of which platform to choose.

"Despite an unprecedented 18 months, DHF has continued to look to the future and prioritise its training programme and its learners," says Patricia Sowsbery-Stevens, DHF's head of commercial operations. "Putting safe and complaint products on the market is central to our endeavours at DHF, and ensuring a competent workforce is very much part of that."

Door & Hardware Federation
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www.dhfonline.org.uk

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MWM exclusive importers of MARTIN machinery for England and Wales

MARKFIELD Woodworking Machinery (MWM) has been named an official partner of MARTIN Machinery in England & Wales.

MWM has been supplying MARTIN machines since 2008 and, due to its continued success in yearly increased sales, has now been appointed the official and exclusive agents for all of England and Wales.

This partnership brings together two of the most trusted names in woodworking machinery, both of whom have a long and successful history.

Since 1922, MARTIN has produced quality wood-working solutions worldwide. Established in Germany in 1902, MARTIN has released a number of award-winning product lines over the years and is now one of the most trusted names in woodworking machinery.

MWM has gained a reputation within the wood-working industry as a name to be trusted, with expert knowledge and a robust after-care service provided as standard.

Established in 1979 in Markfield, MWM has grown to become a leading supplier within the woodworking machinery sector. Gavin Cooper, managing director of MWM, is excited and as enthusiastic as ever about what the new partnership will mean for customers new and old: "MWM has been supplying and supporting MARTIN machines for over 12 years. Thanks to our continued growth and success in supporting such a prestigious brand, MARTIN Germany has



now appointed us the official and exclusive agents for all of England and Wales, this we are very proud of and it really shows how far we have come."

UK Sales Manager for MARTIN, Georg Jansen, says: "MWM has proven to be a capable and reliable partner over the years of our very successful collaboration."

In particular, the impressive customer focus, Mr Jansen continues, led to the decision to entrust MWM exclusively with this important sales territory for MARTIN in the UK.

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BSW Group racks up 19 award in 2021



2021 HAS PROVEN to be a year of growth and recognition at BSW Group, with member businesses BSW Timber and Tilhill having scooped a grand total of 19 awards in 2021.

The latest accolade came as BSW claimed Timber Supplier of the Year Award at the 2021 BMJ Industry Awards. The ceremony took place on Friday 26th November 2021 at the Park Plaza London Riverbank Hotel, and highlighted excellence across the builders' merchants sector.

These revered awards are known for the unique way in which the decision making process is placed in the hands of professionals working in the sector, making the win all the more commendable.

This is the latest honour for BSW in a year of growth and recognition for the business. As recipients of the WPA Treated Wood Campaign Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Hamish Macleod, in September, BSW Timber showcased its industry leading prowess with this double award win.

September also spelled success for Tilhill at Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, where they won Best New Commercial Wood in the Quality Timber Awards category. The SFWAs recognise excellence in forests, woodlands and forest-

related projects across Scotland.

The winning property, Larriston, located in Newcastleton in the Scottish Borders, is managed by Tilhill's Central Borders Team, and it wowed the judges who described the woodland scheme as "professional commercial forestry at its absolute best".

Also in September, BSW Timber's electrical supervisor and apprentice, Stuart Matheson, took home the Under 25 Career Development Award at the TTJ Awards.

The TTJ Awards, from the Timber Trades Journal, are also renowned across the industry as a leading annual awards event. Stuart's win reflects the company's ethos and ambition to support its workforce and demonstrate industry excellence.

The win also underlined Stuart's own personal desire to progress and learn skills beyond his job role to further his career as a passionate team player in the timber industry.

Tilhill had further cause for celebration in July after winning the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector Award – an internationally recognised award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) – for demonstrating high health and safety standards. Tilhill received the award in recognition of the company's commitment to ensuring its staff and

contractors get home safely to their families at the end of every working day.

Organisations receiving a RoSPA Award are recognised as being world-leaders in health and safety practice. Each year, nearly 2,000 entrants vie to achieve the highest possible accolade in this, the UK's longest-running Health & Safety industry awards.

And last, but by no means least, Tilhill also enjoyed outstanding success at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Woodlands Competition (RWAS), winning 13 awards across a variety of different categories.

The RWAS Awards saw woodlands managed by Tilhill winning multiple Special Prizes, including the ICF Challenge Trophy for the Best Professional Management in all Woodland Classes, which was awarded to Tilhill Senior Forest Manager, Simon Miller. Coed Llangdegl, managed by Tilhill's team in Wales, claimed a number of gold and silver awards, as well as two special prizes, The Charles Shakerley Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup and The RC Williams-Ellis Perpetual Challenge Cup. Hafod Boeth, meanwhile, won Gold for 'Best Managed Woodland Over 200 Hectares'.

James Brennan, Group Marketing Manager at BSW, said: "It is humbling to see how we have

grown, whilst keeping our determination to provide high quality, sustainable timber products. To receive such a variety of awards really signals how dynamic our business is, and how people within BSW are being recognised across the sector for their great work.

"It was especially exciting to receive BMJ's Timber Supplier of the Year award, as this was voted for by the merchants themselves, which really demonstrated our commitment to our customers in what was a very challenging year.

"The Tilhill Team has enjoyed an outstanding year with an abundance of awards recognising their ongoing professional efforts gaining such high levels of recognition again this year."

Tony Hackney, CEO of BSW, added: "Gaining recognition across 2021 for our valued team members and our leading products makes me extremely proud.

"All of our team members work hard to ensure product and service quality is consistently high. These award wins, including the latest as timber supplier of the year, are testament to the hard work, determination and dedication shown across the Group this year."

BSW
0800 587 8887
www.bsw.co.uk

Travis Perkins signs up to Disability Confident scheme

TRAVIS PERKINS plc, which is a leading partner to the construction industry and is believed to be the UK's largest supplier of building materials, recently announced that it has joined the Disability Confident scheme run by The Department for Work & Pensions, which encourages companies to improve how they recruit, retain and develop em-

ployees with disabilities and long term conditions.

As part of its Disability Confident Level 1 membership, Travis Perkins has committed to ensure its recruitment process is inclusive and accessible, that adjustments are made to accommodate colleagues with disabilities and long term health conditions, and to provide employment, workplace



and training opportunities. Travis Perkins acknowledges that creating a more inclusive environment which celebrates and nurtures diversity will be crucial to its future success as a business and as an industry. Whilst the company has started to put disability on its leadership agenda, joining the Disability Confident scheme will help it accelerate change by making new connections, gaining access to information, support and guidance and other activities that will help it improve.

"This is about eliminating stigma and removing barriers that might be preventing our colleagues from realising their aspirations, so we create a workplace

that is fully accessible and where everyone can thrive," said James Mackenzie, managing director of Toolstation and group leadership team sponsor for the Travis Perkins Group's Ability Network (pictured left).

Membership of the Disability Confident scheme follows Travis Perkins' announcement earlier this year of its commitment to disability inclusion after joining The Valuable 500 in 2020, to make the business fully accessible to colleagues, as well as customers and suppliers, with disabilities and long term health conditions, both seen and unseen, over time.

Travis Perkins
www.travisperkins.co.uk

Combilift wins Energia Family Business of the Year Award 2021

ENERGIA, the largest supplier of 100% Green Energy in Ireland, recently hosted its bi-annual awards ceremony virtually, with 19 awards being presented to Irish family businesses. Combilift is honoured to have been recognised as the overall winner of the Energia Family Business of the Year 2021. The awards celebrate generations of families who work together and this year's ceremony focussed on honouring businesses who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and resilience throughout the CoViD-19 pandemic while continuing to thrive and grow.

Around 200 family business entries were submitted for consideration by the judging panel. Criteria for success was a business which has drawn on its family values to build a successful company, one which acts as a great ambassador for the sector and makes a significant contribution to society and wider economy.

Combilift was nominated for two categories, Innovative Family Business Award and Manufacturing & Engineering Family Business of the Year. As the company claimed gold in both of these, they were therefore eligible for the top award, the Energia Family Business of the Year 2021.

Combilift's CEO and co-founder Martin McVicar commented: "Combilift are thrilled to receive both category awards and of course the overall Family Business award. We'd like to thank the sponsors of our awards, Energia and also NSIA, and the jury for recognising our company and its achievements with these prestigious accolades. This makes so much to our team here in Combilift and their families, we are all very proud, and will celebrate accordingly!"

Combilift ● www.combilift.com



German industry award for the Aisle Master AME-OP

ONE OF the new products to be launched in 2021 by Combilift, the Aisle Master-OP (AME-OP), was a winner in the 2021 "Handling Award 2021", organised by leading German publication, Industrial Production.

A jury of industry experts and votes from the readership determined the winners from over 30 entries, and the AME-OP won silver place in the Handling and Assembly Category of the 2021 awards.



The new AME-OP is a stand-on electric powered model that combines the advantages of a narrow aisle articulated forklift and an order picker for versatile operation in warehousing applications.

Entries were judged on their combination of innovation, customer benefit and technical excellence, all of which qualities apply to the AME-OP. According to the editor of IP, Daniel Schilling, features which particularly impressed the jury and readers were the step-through operator

compartment with a low floor height of just 280 mm which speeds up order picking, as well as the truck's ability to work in very narrow aisles of just 1,650 mm for space saving operation.

"We are very proud to receive this accolade from a German publication for this innovative product," said Combilift CEO and co-founder, Martin McVicar.

"Along with the UK and the USA, Germany is one of the most important and successful marketplaces for us, and it is also gratifying to see that Combilift is the only non-German company to be amongst the winners in all categories.

"I'd like to thank everyone who voted for the AME-OP, and I am sure this will help drive sales even further, not just for this model but for our extensive range of handling solutions."

Combilift

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IronmongeryDirect supports next generation of carpenters with award sponsorship

IRONMONGERYDIRECT is proud to announce its sponsorship of the Institute of Carpenters 2021 '3rd Year Student Award'.

One outright winner and two highly commended students received their awards at the presentation ceremony in December 2021: see page 12 for a full report.

Celebrating the achievements of students who have demonstrated exceptional standards in carpentry and joinery, the Student Award aims to encourage entrants into the industry — an initiative close to the ironmongery supplier's hearts at a time of a national skills shortage.

Organised by the Institute of Carpenters (IOC), 35 further education member colleges across the UK were invited to nominate their most talented third-year carpentry & joinery students for the Student Award 2021. Candidates were assessed on several factors including their technical knowledge and

quality of practical work and shortlisted by the judging panel.

As part of its continued support of the trade and ongoing, extensive relationship with the IOC, IronmongeryDirect has donated £500 to the prize fund.

Dominick Sandford, managing director at IronmongeryDirect, said: "We have been supporters of the IOC's work for over 10 years and are delighted to sponsor the IOC Student Award and recognise the talents of an up-and-coming generation of woodworkers. The competition provides an impor-

tant platform to raise awareness of the trade, particularly at a time when the entire construction industry is facing a national skills shortage and we are proud to be able to support the IOC with its aims in addressing this."

Geoff Rhodes, IOC President, said: "One of the driving forces behind our work at the IOC is the acute shortage of qualified carpenters and joiners across the UK. We launched this award scheme to help address and improve woodworking skills by providing support and encouragement to

those embarking on their careers in the industry and give them the confidence to succeed.

"By celebrating the achievements of students who demonstrate the commitment and skills the industry so needs, we hope to inspire others to join and shape the future of the wood trades sector. We are thrilled that IronmongeryDirect shares our values and has helped us achieve this with its contribution to the scheme."

IronmongeryDirect

sales@ironmongerydirect.co.uk

www.ironmongerydirect.co.uk



Three talented winners for 2021 IOC 3rd Year Student Award

TWO HIGHLY COMMENDED certificates plus an overall winner of the Institute of Carpenters' 3rd Year Student Award for 2021 have been announced.

The overall winner of the 2021 Award is apprentice site carpenter Spencer Pettit of West Suffolk College. The two Highly Commended certificates have been awarded to Jacob Cockeram, apprentice bench joiner at York College and Jak Watson, apprentice bench joiner at The Building Crafts College London, both of whom work in the commercial fit-out area of the joinery sector.

The 2021 Awards have been kindly sponsored by four major companies from the wood industry: Axminster Tools, Ironmongery-Direct, specialist screws and fixings producer Reisser Ltd and OSB and MDF manufacturers MEDITE SMARTPLY.

The judges for this year's competition were IOC president Geoff Rhodes, IOC board member Martin Corton of Rainleaf, who also sponsored the magnificent trophy (carved by honorary IOC member Andy Peters of Maritima Wood Carving), and UK Construction YouTube star, Fix Radio carpentry presenter and IOC Fellow, Robin Clevert.

Commenting on Spencer Pettit's win, Brian Tunbridge, a lecturer in carpentry & joinery at West Suffolk College, said: "It is a fantastic achievement for Spencer to win this nationally recognised student award. It is the culmination of three years of hard work and dedication in which he has had to show a great deal of perseverance and resilience. Naturally, we are very proud of him. On seeing this



Left to right, winner of the IoC 3rd Year Student Award, Spencer Pettit with IoC president Geoff Rhodes.

news, I believe current and future students at West Suffolk College can only be inspired to work hard and achieve their career dreams, just like Spencer."

As part of his entry, winner Spencer Pettit said: "Having tutors that really care about your progress and the information they are teaching made it a process that I would recommend to anyone who is looking to work in carpentry or construction. It opens so many doors and opportunities that shape a career.

"I am excited for the future of construction as an industry. I can see a move towards a more sustainable, forward thinking and empathetic environment. Personally I cannot wait to merge my passion for the traditional carpentry techniques and materials, that has grown while working with listed buildings, with innovative ideas and designs that will have a posi-

tive impact on the environment for the future."

David Dowdles, principal, Building Crafts College, comments: "We are absolutely delighted that Jak Wilson, bench joinery student at the Building Crafts College, has been awarded a Highly Commended certificate by the Institute of Carpenters. Selected from amongst many talented candidates, Jak received this award in recognition of the exceptional quality of workmanship exhibited in a table he produced as part of the Institute of Carpenters' national competition. Everyone at the BCC wishes Jak the very best of luck in what will be a very bright future career."

In his entry, Jak Watson said: "What I love about this trade is there are so many aspects to experience and choose to get involved in, plus the fact that you'll never stop learning, there'll always be

more than one way to complete a job, different methods you haven't thought about until someone else comes along. You're able to take the skill anywhere you go as well as the skill being able to take you places. And the best part is some of the people you'll meet along the way."

Adrian Salton, tutor in furniture making at York College, said: "[Jacob] definitely deserves this recognition. Jacob has been an exemplary apprentice and is now a fine ambassador for his company. He's shown maturity and is very knowledgeable and I'm sure he's going to be a great asset. This is a national award so it's a great achievement. He's out in the industry now after completing the full level three apprenticeship here at York College and it's fantastic to see him providing valuable skills to the region's economy."

In his entry, Jacob Cockeram said: "In the last year of my apprenticeship I have been involved with the manufacture and installation of various joinery products for the Johnnie Walker visitor centre in Edinburgh. This included the manufacture of wall sections and shelving units to be erected and installed on site. After manufacturing the required items I spent one and a half months on site in Edinburgh installing them and making any adjustments to attain a perfect fit in an imperfect site. My aspirations in this industry are to become a more rounded and more knowledgeable joinery and to progress to managing jobs for my company in the near future."

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instituteofcarpenters.com



Presentation to Highly Commended certificate winner, Jacob Cockeram, at York College.



Jak Watson, Highly Commended certificate winner, with one of his joinery pieces.

Record number of entries for Surface Design Awards as 2022 finalists are announced

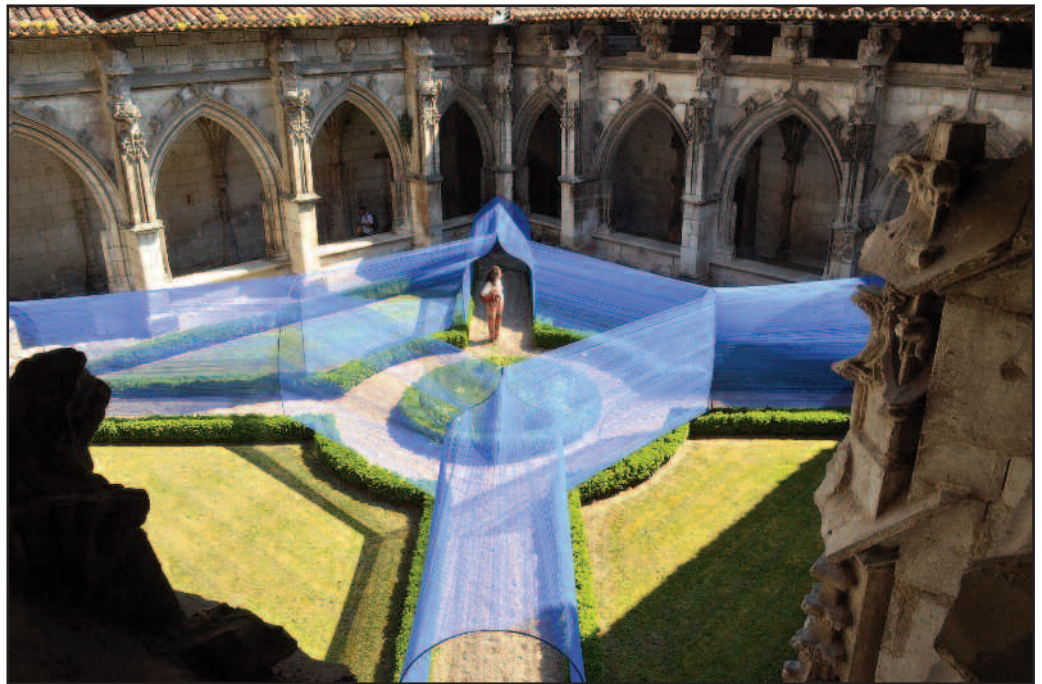
THE 48 FINALISTS of the 2022 Surface Design Awards have been announced with a record number of entries demonstrating a wealth of talent and material innovation.

Projects shortlisted include 22 Handyside, an office in London by Coffey Architects, Maggie's Centre for cancer care in Southampton by AL_A and Sangini House, a workplace in Gujarat, India by Urban-scape Architects.

There were nearly 200 entries for this year's Awards, with submissions sent from 24 different countries around the world including China, France and the USA.

There are twelve Awards in total, which every year form an integral part of the Surface Design Show (8-10 February 2022) and reward both interior and exterior innovation.

The Awards are divided into a



Les Voutes Filantes in Cahors, France, by Atelier YokYok.



Maggie's Centre for cancer care in Southampton by AL_A.

handful of building categories: commercial building, housing, light and surface, landscape + public realm, public building and temporary structure, with each project judged on a variety of criteria including materials used, type of surface, sustainability, and aesthetic design.

In the housing exterior category, the Freeholders project in Wells-Next-The-Sea by Mole Architects was highlighted for its "narrative of the pickled steel, how it responds to its coastal complex, difficult environmental considerations" while in the Landscape + Public Realm shortlist there was praise for the Valley Gardens scheme in Brighton by Untitled Practice as a "romantic gesture, uniting strategic ambition and managing to deliver it".

Outside the UK, the judges said of the Peacock Cellar in Shanghai by August Green which made the Light + Surface shortlist, "A beautiful use of local craftsmanship and cultural sustainability, reviving ancient skills to achieve the unique colour for each ceramic form, the overall effect is stunning." Located in Madhya Pradesh in central India, the Adharshila School Extension by Forum Architecture is a finalist in the Public Building interior category and was described as, "A great educational space for the whole community using traditional techniques that have been tweaked to make a functional and attractive building."

Surface Design Awards
www surfacedesignshow.com/surface-design-awards

Titus to demonstrate ground-breaking technologies at KBB Birmingham

TITUS combines customer-led research and development with lean processes and state-of-the-art manufacturing to deliver solutions that provide outstanding customer benefits.

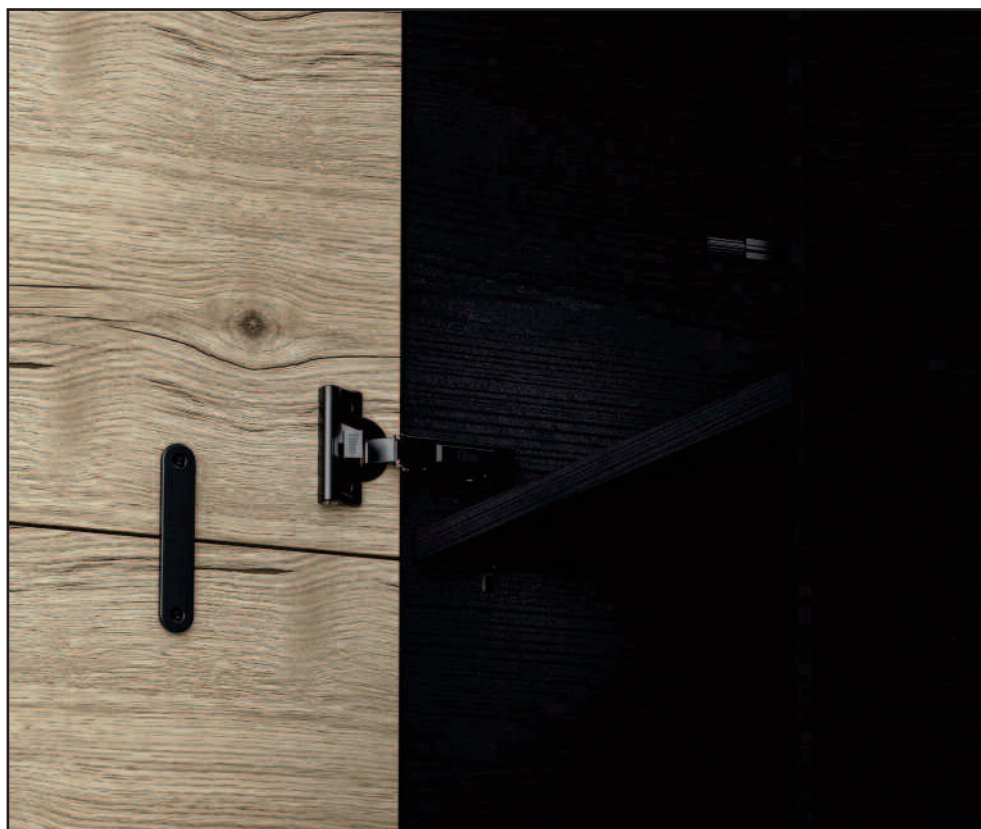
For those who wish to see first-hand Titus's innovations, the company will be exhibiting on Stand V80 at KBB Birmingham which runs from 6-9 March 2022, at the NEC, Birmingham.

Among the new developments that visitors to the Titus stand will be able to see are TeraBlack products with a matte black finish and light absorbing microstructure, the new System 6 connector family of performance engineered connectors for simplified cabinet assembly, and state-of-the-art dampers for cold environments which operate reliably in temperatures as low as -30°C .

TeraBlack is much more than another colour option. It is a black, non-light reflective matte finish, believed to be unique, with a highly uniform surface, and it provides what is described as a perfect response to the modern trend toward the use of black cabinet hardware. The flagship product in the TeraBlack range is the award-winning T-type hinge with integrated damping. Key features of these hinges are simplicity of assembly, wide tolerances, and consistent performance on a wide range of doors.

B-type-i3 is a third generation slide-on hinge with integrated damping, which can be relied upon to deliver consistent and reliable opening and closing performance throughout the entire life of the furniture. The extended lifecycle of B-type-i3 hinges make them an appropriate solution for a wide range of cabinet applications in bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

Quickfit TL5 'Full Metal Jacket' dowel connectors have been designed with strength and performance in mind. They deliver reliable connections in all common wood-based materials, including MDF, chipboard and solid wood, without the need for additional wooden dowels. Thanks to its expendable steel sleeve, the Quickfit TL5 is believed to be the only dowel on the market that reliably engages in a 5 mm dowel hole.



System 6 connectors feature an elegant square design that allows a large surface area of the product to rest on the panel when tightened, thereby ensuring optimum positioning. Anti-rotation ribs prevent cam rotation and panel shift, while the angle-drive feature on the cam makes these connectors an ideal choice for applications where space for assembly is limited.

Tekform Slimline Tacto drawers incorporate runners with an integrated Tacto activator that ensures effortless touch opening. The new drawers are the most recent development in the popular Tekform Slimline range of thin-wall drawers, and use the same drilling and fixing positions as previous versions. This makes it easy to update and enhance existing designs to offer convenient and reliable opening of drawers with handleless fronts.

Slidix products are novel damping solutions for use with sliding doors. The range includes a complete family of soft-closing systems with a damping stroke of 50 or 100 mm that assure efficient damping at any closing speed for applications from 5 kg to 120 kg. A feature of the range is Slidix Centro, which is specifically designed to control the motion of and centring of middle doors in applications that involve three or more sliding doors.

Dampers for cold environments are the latest product of Titus's "Engineered for a Purpose" philosophy. By providing reliable damping at temperatures down to -30°C , these offer convenient and affordable solutions to challenges that include the damping of doors in freezers, wine coolers, mobile equipment and automobile applications.

"At Titus, our aim is always to offer innovative and practical solutions that will give our customers the maximum possible competitive advantage," says Phil Beddoe, general manager for UK and Northern Europe.

Titus Group ● Tel 01977 682582

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Workspace Design Show successfully held in London, November 2021

OVER 2,500 people were welcomed through the doors of Islington's Business Design Centre at the inaugural Workspace Design Show to see the wealth of new products and leading-edge discussions.

The event united industry colleagues with each other after a pandemic-induced hiatus of over 18 months with an overall theme of 'Redesigning tomorrow's commercial interiors together'. Says co-founder Charlie Bark-Jones, "It certainly feels to us like it's a show that the industry wanted, and the support we've had has been phenomenal." He has founded this, the first edition of the show, together with Esha Bark-Jones.

The duo, both vastly experienced event organisers with previous senior roles in Dubai, Australia and the UK, have given this a completely fresh approach to the workplace sector, which was welcomed by the contract industry. Innovation was everywhere, from the moment visitors arrived, 65% of whom had a specifying role, stepped inside, with the first day culminating in an opening party sponsored by Woven Image.

Upon arrival at the event, visitors were greeted by an installation by lighting designer Lauren Lever, founder of Minoux Lighting Design using products from a collaboration between PROLICHT and Tom Dixon, which created a luxurious and moody backdrop.



The VIP Lounge, meanwhile, designed by Yorgo Lykouria, founder and creative principal at Rainlight, was built by AASK US and curated by Obo. The stunning Design Talks Lounge, designed with comfort and flexibility in mind, was beautifully created by The Furniture Practice.

The event also had a dedicated area called the Leisure Zone curated by Spaces Taylored and Seven Hills Workspace.

Suppliers at the Workspace De-

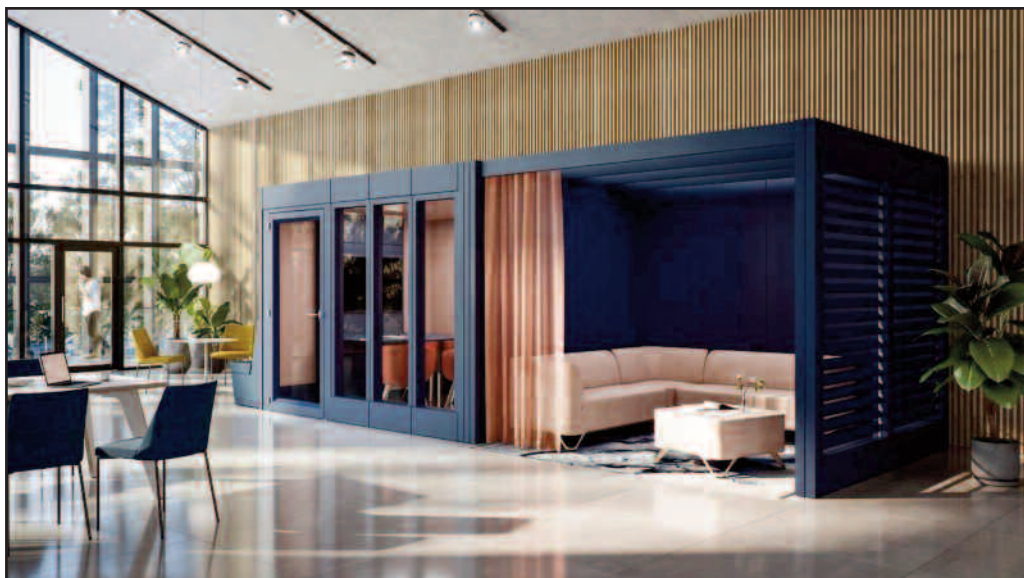
sign Show included Spacestor with a beautiful combination of California Cool and London Design, who were showcasing the Verandas meeting space. Agility in workplace design was in high demand and featuring among the strong presence from Spain was Kettal, displaying their stunning Pavilion O space. Other strong themes at the show were privacy and noise borne out by the plethora of pods on display at the show.

Indeed, suppliers at the Workspace Design Show were furthering the sustainability agenda. Welltek, a distributor for brands including Naava, a manufacturer of green wall solutions that naturalises indoor air, reduces harmful chemicals and optimises humidity while Humanscale is claimed to have become the first ever to offer any product — let alone 26 — that is climate positive. Square Miles Farms live harvested vegetables at the show in a hydroponic growing tower and then the produces was available for attendees to take away.

Commenting on the show, Esha and Charlie Bark-Jones say, "There's lots to think about thanks to the many insightful talks we've had with industry specialists and we've seen and heard about some very exciting innovative products from our exhibitors. All in all, we've successfully brought people together again to chat about all things workspace design."

The next Workspace Design Show is planned for 27-28 February 2023, to be held at the Business Design Centre, London.

Workspace Design Show
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www.workspaceshow.co.uk



NBS and Quiet Mark announce strategic partnership to prioritise wellbeing in buildings through noise reduction

NBS, A LEADING construction data and specification platform, has announced a new partnership with Quiet Mark to empower architects to specify 'acoustics first', by providing a short-cut for specifiers to source responsible products.

Since 2020, lockdowns and Work-from-Home policies have brought to light the importance of noise reduction in the environment, and the new partnership aims to support the Responsible-Sourcing Movement as the industry further prioritises health and wellbeing.

Noise is a long-time ignored invisible killer, and in excess can have a damaging effect on health, productivity and cohesion, according to research from the World Health Organisation (WHO). This research shows that environmental noise pollution affects mental and physical health and is now second only to air pollution as the world's largest killer pollutant, with numbers rising to at least one million years of healthy living lost each year due to noise pollution in Western Europe across an estimated population of 340 million people.

NBS and Quiet Mark are now joining forces to make Quiet Mark certified products easily accessible to equip architects and specifiers. The new partnership will enable the 3,600+ practices that use NBS

The Dyson Airblade Wash+Dry Hand Dryer is one of many Quiet Mark Certified products listed on NBS Source.

to create specifications to easily find Quiet Mark certified products and materials. The aim is to elevate the aural design of buildings, optimising the overall level of acoustic comfort for all occupants.

To do this, it is necessary to curate a selection of the quietest products and acoustic improving materials from the outset of a building specification. Sound from sources such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning appliances hinders productivity and wellness. In addition to airborne noise sources, impact noise from traffic, adjacent activity or mechanical vibration can create very uncomfortable environments

long-term. Acoustic plasters, lighting products and low-noise hand dryers are some of the Quiet Mark certified products that will be easily identifiable on NBS Source.

Quiet Mark's National Noise Report released in October 2021 in association with the UK Noise Abatement Society charitable foundation, further demonstrates the increasing demand for noise reduction solutions, both in households and workplaces. The research was carried out 18 months after the first lockdown, and examined attitudes towards noise in the new pandemic recovery scenario. The findings reveal noise has become a decisive factor

for 52% of the British population when making decisions regarding future employment. The results highlight the importance of a quieter home with over four fifths of people stating they would like quieter appliances and two thirds of 18-34 year olds wishing to have a quieter home.

Commenting on the partnership, Sascia Elliott, Head of Partnerships at NBS, said: "The impact of noise on well-being is something you may have considered when selecting domestic products for your home and that's probably thanks to Quiet Mark, who have been instrumental in bringing this to the forefront of our minds, most notably within the retail space."

She further added: "We are delighted to be able to partner with Quiet Mark to help reinforce the importance of this with building product manufacturers, specifiers and building professionals for the delivery of successful building projects. Together with the expertise of Quiet Mark, NBS technical authors can refine content to ensure our customers receive the latest and highest quality information in this field. It's a privilege to be a part of this journey with Quiet Mark."

Poppy Szkiller, CEO and co-founder of Quiet Mark, said: "Because sound is invisible it is often overlooked. Yet the fundamental impact it has on all the physical rhythms of our bodies, our hormones, heart-rate and brain waves, is so profound and inherent to our wellbeing and therefore also to the design process of the buildings we live in."

Poppy added: "Quiet Mark is passionate about elevating wellbeing through improved acoustics in the built environment. Just as our retailer partnerships have helped consumers to reduce unwanted noise in their homes, Quiet Mark has partnered with NBS, to enable industry-wide architects and specifiers to easily find and specify verified acoustic products and materials, to create healthier buildings."

NBS

www.thenbs.com

Quiet Mark

www.quietmark.com



The BASWA Phon acoustic plaster system is both Quiet Mark certified and listed on NBS.
© Hufton + Crow.

Cardiff pals star on Grand Slam of Darts stage

TWO amateur darts players from Cardiff fulfilled their sporting dreams — by taking to the stage in front of hundreds of people at one of the game's biggest professional events.

Carpenter Gary Lloyd and friend Matt Bester enjoyed a leg of darts at the Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton after winning a competition by leading builders merchant, Selco Builders Warehouse.

The darts fanatics enjoyed walk-on music, officiating from legendary referee Russ Bray and a game of 301 immediately before the PDC professionals took to the stage.

Matt, 39, won the game courtesy of a fine double top finish.

Gary won the prize when he came out victorious in the Cardiff Selco Darts Championship at Sophia Gardens and decided to take his friend Matt to the West Midlands as his opponent.

Gary, who normally plays his darts in the Canton Cross Singles League, said: "Playing on the Grand Slam of Darts stage in front of hundreds of people was an incredible experience."

"I have been into my darts for a long time so it really was a dream come true. Matt came out on top with a fine finish. I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be but it was still pretty daunting playing on the big stage. It was a great experience."

Gary, 56, walked out to Come On Feel the Noize by Slade, while Matt chose You're The Best Around by Joe Esposito.

After their clash, Gary and Matt watched the professional action unfold from the VIP seats.

And they had plenty to cheer after Welsh darting heroes Gerwyn Price and Jonny Clayton both won their matches on the night. World number one Price went on to win the tournament and with it £125,000.



The Grand Slam experience was made possible through Selco's sponsorship of the PDC.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director at Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "It was great to see Gary and Matt having an amazing time on stage."

"We have a fantastic partnership with the PDC and it's enabled us to offer some amazing once-in-a-lifetime experiences to our customers and colleagues."

Selco is one of the leading builders merchants with branches across the UK, including two in Cardiff Hadfield Road and Llanishen.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

As well as offering trade services, Selco has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services.

Selco
www.selcobw.com

Key questions for kitchen designers from leading fitted kitchen specialists, Daval

HERE, British designer and manufacturer of quality fitted kitchen, Daval, shares its expertise by giving its five best

questions that kitchen designers should consider in order to empower customers and their homes.

Managing director at Daval, Simon Bodsworth, says: "As the kitchen living space is such a key part of today's home and family

lifestyle, it is crucial for consumers to have confidence in their design team and understand every aspect of the process.

"By facilitating open and transparent conversations between designers and clients, the KBB industry as a whole can provide exemplary service and help homeowners to find the right kitchen to suit their property as well as their daily routine."

How sustainable is this kitchen? As the UK adjusts to life after Brexit and looks to support British manufacturing as well as adopting more sustainable strategies when building, it is increasingly important to ask about sustainability when it comes to kitchen manufacture.

Designers should consider the provenance and longevity of materials and factory processes, so customers can build up a picture of how many 'design miles' kitchens will need to travel and how eco-conscious the manufacturer is. It is also important to consider whether various kitchen elements can be recycled when they reach the end of their lifespan.

How hygienic is this kitchen? Health and hygiene is a new cornerstone of family kitchen design, especially as the 'worried well' are taking a keen interest in optimising wellness.

This is increasingly important in an open plan kitchen which is 'the nerve centre of the home' and experiences more foot traffic.

With this in mind, anti-bacterial coatings can add extra protection to kitchen surfaces. These coatings are more resistant to the growth of bacterial and help minimise the risk of cross-contamination when preparing food

Anti-bacterial coating brings another level of protection to kitchen surfaces, especially if members of a household suffer from allergies, have low immunity or there are pets in the house. ▶





What are the storage possibilities? As the kitchen living dynamic has expanded to include home office and home entertainment elements, customers and designers need to be sure that everything from recycling bins to bar ware and paperwork can be stored safely when not in use.

Careful thought needs to be applied to the layout of the kitchen as, for instance, a larder will inevitably store food, groceries and other provisions and so it needs to always remain close to hand and be protected against adverse conditions like direct sunlight or extreme temperatures.

Positioning any larder storage next to the fridge will ensure the pantry goods are right next to the fresh foods for optimum convenience. It also pays to consider high volume food storage so customers have peace of mind knowing essentials can always be housed: for example, small mezzanine racks provide additional storage space in cupboards with pull-out rack systems and combination shelving is a way to create one complete area, which caters to multiple needs.

Daval is an award-winning furniture manufacturer which proudly makes custom furniture from sustainable sources.

Daval Furniture
Tel 01484 848500
www.daval-furniture.co.uk

◀ Stainless steel drawers, presentation-style glass panels and anti-fingerprint surface treatments also serve as a barrier.

Can this furniture be tailored to customers' needs? Custom-made kitchens that enhance both work and social life continue to grow in popularity, and this is inspiring open-plan spaces that are family-friendly and encompass kitchen, dining and living areas in one.

With this in mind, designers should consider flexible features such as banquette seating, integral breakfast bars and extra power points at an early stage of planning, to ensure the 'fundamentals' are planned-in so that customers can conveniently charge their laptop, smart phone or other electronic device in a dedicated area of the kitchen; great when working from home or enjoying some down time with friends and family.

Will this kitchen complement a customer's house and lifestyle? The days of 'off-the-peg' kitchens are long gone as we all embrace our own personal style and individualism at home.

If customers are looking to create a particular look that they wish to carry through into the kitchen, this should be flagged to the kitchen designer so that he or she can explore made-to-measure, made-to-order furniture which will fill the space perfectly.

Customers should always be honest about their practical needs too, especially if they are looking for a designated utility room or want to accommodate a pet bed. Customers should not edit themselves when it comes to talking about their favourite colours and textures in the kitchen as the designer needs to know what customers like and how they prefer to use their space. A manufacturer's website can provide a good idea of how the kitchen will look in real life in different colours and finishes.



HDR provides engineering consultancy services for prestigious hotel project



LONDON HOTEL THE BEAUMONT recently re-opened its doors with help from established multidisciplinary engineering firm HDR.

HDR has delivered engineering expertise on The Beaumont, a luxury 5* Grade II Listed hotel, located in Mayfair, London. The hotel was closed to the public as a result of the pandemic, but recently re-opened its doors again, allowing guests to explore the newly refurbished spaces and new additions to the hotel's service offering.

HDR worked closely with client St James, New York-based designer Thierry W Depsont and London-based architects Reardon Smith to complete the renovation and refurbishment, providing the following services: Mechanical, Electrical and Public Health.

Set in a stately art deco building dating from 1926, the hotel is spread across five stories with 22 high-end suites and 50 guestrooms. HDR refurbished public areas including the lounge, Le Magritte Bar (pictured right), al-fresco dining terrace and The Colony Grill restaurant. The work also included the expansion of the hotel's spa and gym facilities and the creation of a new Mayfair Suite, alongside a collection of luxury amenities.

These photos are all © ZAC and ZAC.

HDR ● Tel 020 7429 3333
<https://www.hdrinc.com/locations/GB/UK/London>



AAG makes metal work better with latest purpose-built CNC router

IN KEEPING with its known predilection for supplying purpose-built and industry-specific CNC machining solutions, AAG has now added the latest **XYZ METALWORKER** routing/cutting system to its burgeoning range of bespoke machine options. From the ground up, the **METALWORKER** has been designed to process small- to high-volume sheets of non-ferrous metals, aluminium, metal and aluminium composites (MCM/ACM) and alloys such as copper, zinc, brass and bronze using a range of special-purpose production tools.

The **METALWORKER** is available in a choice of nine different-sized models, the most popular of which include the 1.5 x 3 m and 2.1 x 3 m models, with other sizes available if required. The machines are powered by AAG's proprietary **MOVE** machine control software via a 22" multi-functional touchscreen control panel.

In addition to the now familiar single-piece solid steel frame construction designed to withstand the most vigorous machine

operation likely to be encountered, coupled with a stress-relieved gantry to minimise vibration, standard design features of the **XYZ METALWORKER** include direct to drive servomotors with built-in encoders, an aluminium T-Slot zoned vacuum deck for maximum material hold-down efficiency, a special tool length sensor to ensure consistent routed/cut depths and the latest **XYZ** helical rack and pinion drive system.

This latter feature incorporates a multi gear teeth configuration that helps spread the workload more evenly, leading to faster throughput speeds (up to 35 m/min), radically reduced machine wear and material wastage and ultimately a longer than normal machine life.

These features are supplemented with other optional machine enhancements that include a variable-station **ATC** (automatic tool change) system and a choice of five, 10 and 15 hp routing spindles and ISO30 and HSK-type tool holders.

AAG

Tel 01952 291600

www.aagcnc.com



Fine finishing with sanders from Makita

LEADING power tool manufacturer, Makita UK, has introduced new cordless finishing sanders to its range. Delivering increased efficiency and mobility to woodworkers, the 18 V **DBO381** and **DBO380** brushless finishing sanders join the company's growing line-up of **LXT** battery powered, cordless tools.

Featuring three speed settings (4,000/8,000/12,000 OPM) to match the speed to the application, both models provide up to 50 minutes of run time on a single 6.0 Ah battery. The 18 V sanders have been engineered

for efficient sanding with an impressive 2 mm orbit that removes material quickly for a swirl free, flawless finish.

For improved efficiency and user mobility, the **DBO381ZU** features Makita's auto-start wireless system (**AWS**) so that the sander can be paired with a compatible vacuum for on demand dust extraction. Utilising Bluetooth technology, **AWS** wirelessly powers the extraction unit on and off using the tool trigger. Furthermore, a dust box is provided with the tool as standard, and the extraction port allows for connection to any dust extraction system.

For corner sanding, the front grip is detachable and the tool-less paper clamp fastening system allows for quick paper changes and secure fastening. Constant speed control maintains the operating speed under load, optimising operation and providing the user with an even finish.

Speaking on the new products, Kevin Branigan, marketing manager at Makita UK, said: "We are pleased to offer woodworkers more efficient working with our new **LXT** cordless finishing sanders. The tools feature an impressive brushless motor that enables fast material removal and an ergonomic grip for comfortable operation with either one hand, or two hands.

"The sanders join an expanding range of over 270 **LXT** tools that offer professionals the flexibility to seamlessly switch between tasks, using just one battery system, with a cordless solution for every type of application."

Makita ● www.makitauk.com



Makita launches two new XGT 40VMax machines

LEADING power tool manufacturer, Makita UK, has extended its powerful XGT 40VMax range of machinery with the launch of the DA001G brushless angle drill and DG001G brushless earth auger.

The DA001G XGT 40VMax brushless angle drill is a powerful addition to any toolbox. It delivers a no-load speed of up to 1,500 rpm and a maximum torque of 136 nm, offering outstanding performance for heavy load applications. The DA001G features two mechanical gears and variable speed control, so operators can easily adjust the output to suit the task in hand.

To ensure efficiency, the DA001G includes Makita's innovative automatic torque drive technology that works to automatically adjust the output according to the load conditions. The inclusion of a torque limiter also protects the machine from mechanical overload and damage, and the operator if the bit gets jammed when drilling during high-demand tasks.

To ensure user comfort and safety, the DA001G can be used with either a front or side handle. It also features an auto power off function which shuts down the machine if it is idle for extended periods, protecting the user from accidental injury.

For high performance earth boring with even and consistent holes for fence posts, landscaping, construction and soil sampling, the DG001G XGT 40VMax brushless earth auger is up to the task. Comparable to a 36 cc engine product, this XGT 40VMax machine has a no-load speed of up to 1,500 rpm and a maximum drilling capacity of 200 mm. It also delivers up to 136 nm of torque. With two mechanical speeds to choose from, operators can easily drill into high or low resistance soil — and the reverse switch makes extracting the machine effortless.

For improved user handling, the earth auger attachment includes a bar which receives reaction force and an auxiliary handle which makes drilling holes easier. The DG001G also features Makita's automatic torque drive technology which works to ensure that the machine is always working at its optimum.

As with all XGT machines, the DA001G and DG001G both benefit from the inclusion of Makita's brushless motor. As there are no moving parts in the motor causing friction, no



energy is lost through heat production and tool run time is extended, maximising user productivity. Brushless motors also do not need regular maintenance or replacement parts, which keeps the lifetime cost of the machine to a minimum.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "For any construction professional, having a range of powerful cordless machines to hand is key to ensuring maximum on-site efficiency and productivity — especially when embarking on high-demand applications. Our XGT range has been specifically designed to tackle these tasks without compromising on battery run time, so users can keep working disruption free for longer."

Makita
www.makitauk.com



Turn up the music with radios from Makita UK

MAKITA UK has expanded its accessories range with two new radios. The DMR301 and MR007G are the perfect job site companions — as well as outstanding output, they have also been designed to withstand tough site conditions. Even better still, the DMR301 can be used to charge Makita's LXT and CXT batteries for added on site efficiency.

The new DMR301 DAB/DAB+ Job Site Radio is compatible



with both LXT and CXT batteries and is the first job site radio in Makita's line-up to offer battery charging (when powered by the mains using an AC adaptor).

Thanks to its dual power functionality, professionals can use the same LXT or CXT batteries to power their tools and accessories on site, as well as keeping batteries charged across the working day to maximise efficiency.

Furthermore, the DMR301 can also wirelessly connect to mobile devices (within a range of 10 m) via Bluetooth and features two USB output ports for charging mobile phones. To ensure that it can withstand tough job site conditions, the DMR301 is dust and shower proof (IP64 rated) and includes elastomer bumpers and metal pipes for added durability. The swivel mount, soft bend antenna also minimises breakage and/or loss.

When powered using a 6.0 Ah 18 V LXT battery, the DMR301 will run for over 24 hours for entertainment all day long and for those looking to unwind at the end of the day, the DMR301 is even equipped with a built-in bottle opener.

The MR007G DAB/DAB+ radio is now available in a special edition red finish. The MR007G is compatible with Makita's LXT, XGT and CXT batteries and can also be mains powered using an AC adaptor jack. This radio is considered ideal for use on construction sites as it is dust and shower proof (IP65 rated) and includes elastomer bumpers.

The MR007G can be wirelessly linked to mobile devices (within a radius of 10 m) via Bluetooth and includes a USB port for charging mobile devices on site.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "At Makita, we are dedicated to offering tradespeople a wide range of products that make working on site easier, safer and with these new products — more enjoyable.

"Customer feedback is at the heart of our product development and the new radios are testament to this — the option to charge batteries using our radios is in high demand and we are delighted to now offer this functionality with the DMR301.

"Spanning power tools, garden machinery products and a huge selection of accessories, the Makita range has something for everyone. What's more, with our cordless products professionals can change between tools and tasks, and tools and accessories, effortlessly."

Makita ● www.makitauk.com



Artists & songs listened to by tradespeople

A NEW STUDY has surveyed **2,000 UK employees and analysed Spotify data to reveal the relationship workers, including manual labourers and construction labourers, have with music while working.**

Commissioned by Towergate Liability Insurance, the study shows one in two people listen to music more often since lockdowns began with UK employees believing it positively impacts their of-

fice lives. Looking across different industries, the survey featured employees in construction, property, design, creative arts, engineering, manufacturing, finance, banking, accountancy and healthcare.

Over half (54%) of those surveyed said listening to music at work improves their mental health and happiness, 56% stated it improves their mood and two thirds said it helps them focus and get work done quicker. Additionally,

43% believe that music helps reduce boredom with the benefits impacting more men (44%) than women (42%).

Pop music was found to be the favoured genre across all industries, followed by rock and classical music. This is with the exception of construction where employees favour rock music. The only industry where workers claim listening to music out loud is their preferred method was healthcare,

with all other industries preferring to play music through personal headphones.

Towergate's analysis explored playlists on Spotify specifically for those in the construction and building industry to find the top genres, artists and songs that help them get through their workdays on construction sites.

The analysis found that rock music was by far the favourite, with 981 appearances, followed by metal with 358, while the top five artists are all rock bands:

1. AC/DC (84)
2. The Rolling Stones (63)
3. Led Zeppelin (63)
4. Red Hot Chili Peppers (60)
5. Metallica (50)

"Music and work have always been intertwined," says Alison Wild, head of marketing at Towergate SME. "Most people enjoy listening to music of some kind, it's perfectly natural to feel that music must have some sort of positive impact on our work."

Towergate Liability Insurance
www.towergateinsurance.co.uk/trade-specific-insurance/the-ultimate-on-site-playlist



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Stonewood Partnerships' sustainable housing development topping out

STONEWOOD Partnerships has held a Topping Out Ceremony for its latest development, Orchard Field in Siddington, south of Cirencester.

Orchard Field is a selection of 88 sustainable new homes in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside which includes a mixture of one, two, three, four and five bedroom homes due to be released for sale before Christmas.

The energy efficient homes have been designed using individual sealed timber panels filled with recycled glass fibre insulation to ensure the properties are draught-free and means that the energy efficient air source heat pumps and mechanical ventilation heat recovery (MVHR) systems will cut energy bills by up to 70% compared to standard new build homes. Furthermore, the new homes feature triple glazed windows to reduce heat loss and increase interior radiant temperature, and solar photovoltaic panels to supply electricity and reduce carbon emissions.

By adopting a number of new initiatives, Stonewood has further supported the sustainability of the Orchard Field project along with supporting the local community. Measures have included using local suppliers and trades wherever possible to reduce the effects

of transport, considerable working practices including sending any wood shavings from construction to a local pig farm, the creation of community spaces including a forest school as well as working with The Soil Association to create an area to grow food crops within the development.

Recently crowned the Federation of Master Builders' Master Builder of the Year 2021, Stonewood is already working with a leading commercial sustainability consultancy, Wanderlands, to drive down its carbon footprint by assessing its carbon footprint, looking at ways of reducing it as much as possible and undertaking a programme of tree-planting and other sustainable measures at its developments, or on sites nearby, to offset its net carbon residue.

Stonewood chief operating officer, Ben Lang, comments: "Orchard Field is an exciting project and a true demonstration of Stonewood's commitment to sustainable development all the way through from using innovative building systems designed to reduce carbon emissions throughout the build process to the high-quality building materials which ensure that these homes will last longer."

Stonewood
Tel 01454 809780
www.stonewoodpartnerships.co.uk



Launch of The Pallet LOOP™ is welcomed by key construction industry players

THE PROBLEM posed by the lack of pallet reuse in the UK construction industry took a major step towards being solved with the launch of The Pallet LOOP™: believed to be the sector's first ever circular economy, carbon net zero, pallet reuse scheme.

Founded by some of the biggest names in the UK pallet industry, The Pallet LOOP is set to transform the way building materials move throughout the construction industry supply chain — and has been welcomed by a group of leading industry players.

A number of high-profile companies in the construction sector have signed a charter, acknowledging that change is required when it comes to pallet consumption and committing to a comprehensive evaluation of how The Pallet LOOP could be integrated within their business to help cut waste.

Every year around 18 million pallets are manufactured for the UK construction industry, with estimates suggesting less than 10% are currently reused. The Pallet LOOP is on a mission to change this. Delivering a more sustainable pallet distribution model, which is greener and leaner, the scheme is aligned with environmental targets set for the sector by UK Government, and the growing desire and need for businesses to adopt circular economy practices that are more environmentally friendly.

Timetabled for operational roll out in 2022, The Pallet LOOP is a joint venture between Paul and Ryan Lewis (formerly HLC Wood Products) and Scott Group, one of the UK's leading pallet producers. Centred around the principles of 'recover, repair and reuse', The Pal-



let LOOP aims to eliminate avoidable pallet waste in the construction sector by incentivising pallet returns via a cost-effective, easy-to-use deposit based system. Estimates suggest that up to 10% of the construction waste stream is pallets, which is costly from both a financial and an environmental perspective. Widespread adoption of The Pallet LOOP across the construction sector will greatly reduce the burden that pallet production currently places on the environment and our forests — achieving approximately 40% less CO₂ emissions and an estimated up to 75% reduction in timber usage. To create construction industry pallets, an estimated 6,000 acres of forestry are harvested each year, with a further 236,000 acres grown to cater for future demand.

At the heart of The Pallet LOOP is a range of distinctive, green,



100% FSC LOOP pallets, which are different by design. Manufactured with durability in mind, with an ISO14040 compliant LCA, and, on average, 100% stronger than existing designs, LOOP pallets will be distributed to building materials manufacturers, which can use them to transport products to builders' merchants and construction sites nationwide. Building material manufacturers will pay a deposit per pallet (along with a separate issue fee that the manufacturer absorbs in much the same way they do today with a packaging charge) to The Pallet LOOP. As the pallets move through the supply chain, the deposit will pass from manufacturer to merchant to end user. Once materials reach their final destination, pallets can

be stacked and stored ready for collection by The Pallet LOOP, which has a dedicated recovery infrastructure in place. Pallet collection is simple and users will be able to book a pick up slot via phone or online. Once a collection is booked, pallets will be picked up from as little as 72 hours later, reducing site clutter. Deposits are then repaid, in full, to the end-user.

Norman Scott, owner/group operations director at Scott Group, said: "As committed innovators, we're delighted to introduce The Pallet LOOP to our range of industry leading, sustainable pallet solutions."

The Pallet Loop
Tel 0800 024 6130
info@thepalletloop.com
www.thepalletloop.com



Sustainable new-build home built with Kebony façade adorns the rugged South Wales coastline

BUILT INTO a rugged hillside overlooking the extensive natural coastline in South Wales, a new-build family home with a sustainable vision is now complete. Designed by award winning architects, Loyn + Co, the home, which blends naturally into the verdant landscape and sits beneath towering pine trees, makes extensive use of Kebony, a global leader in the production of sustainable wood, for the home's façade.

The design brief for the new home was to make the most of the beautiful views, capturing the potential of the sensitive location, in addition to prioritising the contextual importance of the site, topography and existing trees. As keen gardeners, the clients also wanted a house that would be suitable for the warm months and harsher winters. The dwelling is partially cut into the site and organised to not only have wonderful sea views, but arranged so that a central atrium planted with specimen trees provides a winter garden as well as an inspiring circulation space serving each of the



Images: © Charles Hosea.



three levels and putting nature at the centre of the home.

The family home, which has been cut into the valley side amongst established trees, makes extensive use of Kebony wood, which diverts the need for deforestation by transforming sustainable wood species such as pine into Kebony wood with features that are comparable, and in some cases superior, to those of precious tropical hardwoods.

Following the COP26 climate summit which saw 100 world leaders promise to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, Loyn + Co's decision to make extensive use of sustainably-sourced Kebony wood for the stunning new-build home reflects the global shift to favour sustainable materials in construction, which will soon become an imperative for architects, homebuilders and real estate developers to rapidly curb the impacts of climate change, including the destruction of trees which depletes forests that absorb vast amounts of CO₂.

James Stroud, director at Loyn + Co Architects, commented: "The new home has been thoughtfully



knitted into this complex site to work with the varying levels and existing beautiful trees. The design truly brings the outside in, not only through ‘inside outside spaces’ and visual links through the house to the sea beyond, but through the indoor garden within the central atrium where nature is the focus. Simple measures such as bringing the Kebony cladding in and through the atrium reinforces this concept.”

Nina Landbø, international sales manager at Kebony, added: “It’s fantastic to see more and more homes embrace the use of sustainably sourced wood like Kebony, which decreases the logging of precious tropical hardwoods and provides a long-lasting and sustainably-sourced wood alternative to concrete, plastic and steel. The architects, Loyn + Co, have created a truly special home in Wales, and one that should set an example for how remarkable homes can be created and benefited by innovative, environmentally-friendly materials.”

Kebony is a Norwegian company which aims to be the leading wood brand and technology company. The company’s revolutionary technology is an environ-

mentally friendly process which modifies sustainably sourced softwoods by heating the wood with furfuryl alcohol — an agricultural by-product. By polymerising the

wood’s cell wall, the softwoods permanently take on the attributes of tropical hardwood including high durability, hardness and dimensional stability.

Kebony
www.kebony.com
Loyn + Co
<https://loyn.co.uk>
 Images: © Charles Hosea



Certification scheme in the Congo basin

TO EFFECTIVELY combat deforestation and illegal timber trade, Pan African Forest Certification (PAFC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), with the support of the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT), are pursuing their commitment to sustainable management of African forests.

This commitment is now reflected in the implementation of a regional certification scheme in the Congo Basin, which reinforces the existing offer.

PAFC, PEFC and ATIBT, through the "Fair&Precious" programme, support the sustainable, ethical and legal tropical timber sector as a natural and renewable resource, by promoting it to importing countries. Through their actions, they aim to achieve a common goal: to enable the proper management of tropical forests and timber by enhancing the environmental, social, economic and technical benefits, but also to engage with countries that continue to fight hard against the illegal timber trade.

To best meet current needs and preserve the ecosystem and biodiversity for future generations, PAFC and its partners are implementing a regional certification scheme for sustainable exploitation that respects the environment, wildlife and local communities.



More than ever, the countries of the Congo Basin are mobilised to improve the management of their forests, to develop their wealth and in particular their "renewable gold", and to protect their fauna, flora and forests by avoiding any illegal timber trade.

Home to the second largest forest on the planet, the Congo Basin, which includes Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and Gabon, is treated in an exemplary manner by a number of local forestry companies, such as Precious Woods,

which are committed to preserving this unique ecosystem. PAFC is part of this vision and also wishes to contribute to the promotion of sustainable forest management certification, alongside PEFC and ATIBT.

The primary ambition of the PAFC Congo Basin system is to expand the supply of certified timber by offering a single regional PAFC certification system for sustainable forest management. Composed of several standards, guides, procedures and annexes

developed locally, based on the requirements of the PEFC Council and adapted to the environment of the sub-region, this regional PAFC certification system will provide numerous opportunities for all companies wishing to commit themselves.

For the CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa), forest certification is one of the main reforms to be carried out in order to successfully implement the strategy for the sustainable industrialisation of the timber sector in the Congo Basin. This issue was again raised at the meeting of CEMAC Ministers on 28th July 2020, who expressed the wish that this organisation would take an active part in the implementation of this regional approach to the development of PAFC certification systems.

In order to continue to curb the bad practices that sometimes persist in the forests of the Congo Basin, PAFC encourages all forestry and wood processing companies in the Congo Basin to become certified. A PAFC certificate attests to good forest management and the traceability of timber and forest products from sustainably managed forests in the Congo Basin.

PAFC
<https://pafc-certification.org/>
PEFC Council
www.pefc.org
ATIBT
www.atibt.org
www.fair-and-precious.org



Timber focus for 'net-zero community centre' design competition set in Hereford



UNIVERSITY students across the UK will reimagine Hereford communities as part of a national competition launched recently — Southside Hereford: University Design Challenge.

Timber Development UK — the organisation formed from the merger of TRADA and the Timber Trade Federation — is partnering with New Model Institute of Technology and Engineering (NMITE), Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) and the Passivhaus Trust, to challenge built environment students, as well as recent graduates, to form multidisciplinary teams to create a 'net-zero community centre' based on timber and timber-hybrid systems.

Students from all built environment courses at UK universities, from first to final year, along with 2021 graduates, are invited to enter the competition which launched on 30 November and has a deadline of 30 April 2022 for submission of entries. The 2022 challenge is to design an exemplary community building that produces more energy than it consumes, at Southside in Hereford.

Teams must produce designs that site the community centre within the local context and landscape integrating the clients' and communities' interests. The detailed designs must be 'net zero',

creatively employing sustainable building materials and construction methods, and be energy and resource efficient, focusing on the health and well-being of people, the community and our planet.

Tabitha Binding, Timber Development UK, university engagement programme manager, says: "Built environment professionals must prepare for a net zero future, and this must start in the classroom if we are to reach our climate goals. Our curriculum must be strengthened to meet the climate challenge by raising climate literacy.

"For our future architects, engineers, cost consultants, and landscape architects, this means improving their knowledge and capability of working with low-carbon materials such as timber — and being able to use it wisely and well.

"They also need to be able to work efficiently and effectively together. Interdisciplinary design and delivery teams can achieve far more than individual professions working separately on the same project. Where better to learn these skills than at university?"

Professor Robert Hairstans, CATT director, New Model Institute of Technology and Engineering (NMITE), says: "NMITE is partnering with Timber Development UK, ENU and Passivhaus

Trust on this challenge-based learning project in order to establish a UK wide educational system that has a student-centric learning methodology.

"This new educational system will be conceived and will be taught via a partnership approach working with external stakeholders, industry practitioners and academic collaborators.

"The objective is to inspire a generation of built environment professionals to think differently about construction delivery towards more sustainable forms using timber rather than the traditional carbon intensive materials of steel and concrete. This challenge will exemplify this approach and create value return for the stakeholder partners of the Southside Hereford Project."

Kirsty Connell-Skinner, sustainable construction partnerships manager, Edinburgh Napier University, says: "This competition illustrates Edinburgh Napier's innovative approach to timber engineering education — an exciting real-life challenge for built environment students and recent graduates to design and build for a net zero future. Bringing groups together for this challenge will help to make ideas and innovation come to life. This is the sweet spot where we can unlock the potential

to help meet sustainability ambitions in the construction industry.

"With support from the HCl Skills Gateway and Ufi VocTech Trust, the 2022 competition will see our experiential learning in Timber Technology Engineering & Design adopted across the UK. We can't wait to see the positive impact this competition will have for Hereford Southside and the world."

Yogini Patel, head of campaigns and comms, Passivhaus Trust, says: "Climate action does not have to mean sacrifice. Passivhaus buildings can slash heating demand by up to 90% without compromising our health & wellbeing — factors put into sharp focus during the pandemic. It not only helps us meet net-zero targets and eases the transition away from fossil fuels but creates buildings people love.

"We must empower the next generation of designers & engineers with an essential arsenal of climate literacy skills. Education initiatives like this are imperative to build a workforce that can deliver buildings fit for the future. The Trust is delighted to be partnering with a student competition based on a live project."

Timber Development UK
www.trada.co.uk/academic-competitions/southside-hereford-university-design-challenge-2022/

'Seeing Green since 2020' with carbon neutral manufacturer Rotpunkt



ROTPUNKT, award winning designer and manufacturer of carbon neutral German kitchen furniture, is claimed to lead the way in eco-luxe interior design on account of its furniture solution BioBoard Gen2, which has been in production for nearly two years and is available to UK customers.

Made from up to 90% recycled wood, this versatile material is one of the most environmentally-friendly chipboards ever used in the global kitchen industry, becoming a key pillar of the company's integrated social environmental policy up to 2030.

Not only does BioBoard Gen2 reduce the use of virgin wood in the supply chain, but it also benefits indoor climates by ensuring the amount of formaldehyde released is half that of new chipboard. In fact, all Rotpunkt products are certified to JIS F**** (F4Star) reaching the lowest level for formaldehyde emissions possible.

Head of UK operations at Rotpunkt, Matt Phillips, explains: "As sustainability meets luxury design in the 2022 kitchen, we are proud to lead the way with an eco-

friendly alternative that does not compromise on quality or design. All KBB professionals know that 'change is an inside job' and developing a brand is ever-evolving, which is why we are excited to report huge retail uptake and market support in our mission to become sustainable in every aspect of our business.

"To paraphrase Henry Ford, 'Any customer can have any kitchen in any colour, as long as it's green!'"

"As a German manufacturer, we have long been aware of the importance of recycling and protecting the environment and in 2017 our founders decided to take action in line with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals — known as the Agenda 2030 — and so this has always been a fundamental part of our corporate responsibility."

Rotpunkt is laser-focussed on seeing green solutions throughout its supply chain from the factory floor to the end users' experience in the showroom. The company's senior management team is continuously working on rethinking processes and questioning consumer habits — to pur-

sue its zero carbon target by using an "avoid reduce compensate" approach. Emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced have been off set through sustainability projects since 2019 in partnership with myclimate.

For example, through a joint carbon offset project, myclimate and Rotpunkt are supporting hundreds of families in Kenya with efficient cookers. Currently, 849 Kenyans are already benefiting from a better indoor air climate and more leisure time thanks to less time spent collecting firewood. In addition, the activities have preserved a forest area of 5.25 ha (equivalent to the size of seven football fields) as a natural CO₂ reservoir.

"It is a credit to the imagination and commitment of our global Rotpunkt family that our vision is on track despite challenges in the wake of the pandemic. In 2020, we ensured that all our materials for kitchen production were fully FSC-certified and this year we converted our heating system so that it uses wood waste, having made a complete switch to green energy to promote climate-friendly pro-

duction across our Bünde and Getmold sites. Our next goals are to ensure that not only are our kitchens manufactured in a carbon-neutral way, but that all our raw materials are zero carbon too. We are investing in our production facility at our Bünde site with state-of-the-art robotics and a photovoltaic system to harness solar power as well as installing charging stations for electric vehicles," says Matt.

As the journey to zero carbon emissions gathers pace, so do technical innovations at Rotpunkt. For instance, a new batch production process size at the Getmold site is significantly reducing wastage and the order-shipping team now have the option of using a passive robotic exoskeleton that reduces the physical strain of performing heavy repetitive or overhead tasks. All staff can explore extensive wellness options as part of the company's employee benefits package — proof that sustainability starts from within.

Rotpunkt UK
matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com
www.rotpunktkuechen.de/en/

“I just wish I’d bought one sooner!”

A MANUFACTURING company in Kent has purchased a wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology to save money on waste disposal and heating.

Pandor Ltd is a bespoke door and panel manufacturer, making fire doors, acoustic doors, panelling and door frames to order.

The company was established in 2014 and operates from an industrial unit in Sitingbourne. Like many manufacturing companies, Pandor was hiring skips each week to take away its manufacturing waste, and having to use space heaters to offset the cold of the workshop in winter. As a result, the management team decided to invest in a new wood waste heater which could solve both those issues whilst saving the company money.

Managing director of Pandor, Mike Hill, says: “It just made sense to invest in a wood waste heater! I’d seen other companies use them, so they’ve been on my wish-list for a while, but now just seemed the right time to invest in one rather than keep paying for services like waste and heating.”

A bit of research led Mike to Wood Waste Technology, which comes highly recommended for its British-made wood waste heaters. After a quote and site survey, Pandor Ltd or-

dered a WT10 heater, which was installed by Wood Waste Technology’s experienced engineers in February this year.

Mike says: “Buying a wood-waste heater is such a sensible decision as it offers such good value for money. I just wish I’d bought one sooner!”



The team at Wood Waste Technology was so helpful, and the heater is fantastic. We’ve put in the biggest heater we had space for, as we generate so much waste wood every week, and we really wanted to reduce our reliance on skips and how much waste we send to landfill. I’d highly recommend that any wood-related manufacturing businesses investigate the benefits of investing in a wood waste heater.”

Managing director of Wood Waste Technology, Kurt Cockroft, says: “We’re delighted to have helped Pandor Ltd save money on heating and waste disposal. We’re happy to have a no-obligation chat with any business who is looking into alternative solutions, to help people understand whether it’s the right investment to make.”

Wood Waste Technology offers a full range of wood waste heaters.

Wood Waste Technology
Tel 01785 250400
www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk
www.grossuk.co.uk
www.putzmaus.co.uk

West Fraser’s net carbon negative panel



WEST FRASER’S portfolio of OSB products, all of which are net carbon negative, is one of the most popular in the construction, architecture, specification and interior design industries and comprises SterlingOSB Zero 3, SterlingOSB Zero Tongue and Groove, SterlingOSB Zero Fire Solutions and SterlingOSB Zero StrongFix.

All are variants of the precision-engineered OSB3 board which is BBA-approved and designed for humid conditions. The board contains zero added formaldehyde and is believed to be unique in the market by being the only ZAF OSB manufactured in the UK. Produced in Scotland from forest thinnings taken from sustainably managed forests, the board is certified according to the guidelines of the FSC or PEFC.

Unlike traditional oriented strand board (OSB) containing urea-formaldehyde (UF) or melamine-urea-formaldehyde (MUF) binders, the SterlingOSB Zero family from West Fraser uses a methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (poly-urethane MDI) resin to bind the thousands of strands that make up each board. SterlingOSB Zero is even more environmentally-friendly to produce than its predecessors. The pMDI binder cures at a lower temperature than UF/MUF resins so less heat energy is consumed during manufacture. It is also safer to produce since pMDI resin uses water as a catalyst in the curing process; UF/MUF resins need the addition of ammonium nitrate — an explosive chemical — to harden.

The benefits of specifying West Fraser panels are numerous, of course! Relative price stability is guaranteed, and transport costs are lower because the product doesn’t have to travel far which, in turn, leads to benefits for the environment.

To find out more about West Fraser’s products for housebuilders, get in touch with Dan Clarke — email Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com — or download product brochures from the housebuilder page of the West Fraser website <https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>

West Fraser ● Tel 1786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>

Lathams moves to address “lack of carbon understanding” in industry



TIMBER and materials supplier, James Latham, has released a “carbon calculator” designed to direct customers towards more sustainable products.

Built in partnership with the BioComposites Department at the University of Bangor, it is based upon detailed research into the embodied and biogenic carbon impacts of the products that they supply.

The calculator covers just over 70% of the total Lathams range and focuses on timber products. In time, it will also incorporate composite materials that were out of scope for the first phase.

Ewa Bazydło, environmental manager at Lathams, said: “Reducing the environmental impact of our buildings is one of the key issues of our time. However, the understanding around sustainability is not consistent across the industry.

“We’ve developed the calculator to help our customers to better understand the sustainability

of the materials they choose as well as the expected performance levels that they offer.”

The tool calculates environmental impact by looking at the carbon footprint of products, from production through to delivery to Latham’s depots. It also looks at how much carbon is stored within the wood’s structure, known as biogenic carbon.

Each product then receives a rating from 1-4 (one being the highest, four being the lowest), based on the confidence that Lathams has in the data used for the calculations. The higher the score, the higher the quality of the data points that have been reviewed, for example an audited and published EPD (Environmental Performance Declaration).

Lathams will be adding the carbon data to all invoices, delivery notes and other key documentation to increase visibility around this issue.

It is a move that Campbell Skin-

ner, Senior Lifecycle Assessment Analyst at BioComposites Centre, argues is a positive step forward: “Companies have used eco-labels before, but the approach taken by Lathams is really innovative. For the first time that I’m aware of, the confidence with which these footprints are presented is rated and placed foremost in the labelling.

“Latham’s customers are being given a clear indication of the transparency with which suppliers are reporting their carbon footprints and this will surely nudge more companies towards independently verified reporting schemes, such as EPDs.”

Ewa added: “We needed a mechanism to rank our products and make it quick and easy for our customers to be able to specify more carbon conscious materials. As a large distributor, we have the relationships with the supply chain, which improves our ability to source and analyse the relevant data and make recommendations.

“We hope that others in the industry follow our lead and improve the transparency around these products so that we can work together to reduce construction’s impact on the environment.”

To complement the calculator and share some of the insights from their research, Lathams will be publishing a “Think You Know Carbon?” guide. It will include an overview of the main issues in sustainability, a glossary of key terminology and steps that architects and specifiers can take to be more sustainable in their designs.

It will also include highlights of some of the most sustainable products Lathams stock, from manufacturers such as Accsys Technologies, which produce modified timber Accoya (pictured), and UP Plywood, home to WISA® plywood products.

James Latham
lathamtimber.co.uk/carbon-calculator
www.lathamtimber.co.uk

Protect your project with West Fraser's CaberDek flooring leading the pack

CABERDEK is one of West Fraser's flagship quality flooring products designed to ensure that, whatever weather befalls UK construction sites, work can continue cleanly and safely. This is especially important with today's tighter than ever timelines. It is made from the same moisture-resistant particleboard as the standard CaberFloor P5 and features a protective non-slip film applied to its upper surface.



In most new-build projects, the upper floors of a residential property are installed before the roof goes on, with the inevitable result that the new floor is left open to the elements for days or even weeks. CaberDek's protective film prevents rain and frost damage to the new floor surface as well as providing a safe non-slip working surface for the construction team. CaberDek can be left exposed, and remains BBA approved for up to 42 days without risk of damage, provided it is correctly installed with West Fraser's CaberFix adhesives. Even after the building is weather-tight, the floor surface remains protected while following trades, such as plastering and painting, come onto site. When work has finished, the protective film is simply peeled off to reveal a pristine particleboard floor ready for covering.

CaberDek comes in easy-to-handle 2,400 mm x 600 mm panels produced in thicknesses of 18 mm and 22 mm. Suitable for fixing to traditional sawn timber or engineered-timber joists, including metal-web joists, it can be fixed with nails, screws, and with West Fraser's own specially-formulated adhesives.

West Fraser's CaberFloor range is complemented by the CaberFix range of adhesives and tapes. The range consists of CaberFix T&G adhesive, CaberFix Joint&Joist adhesive and CaberFix Tape. CaberFix D3 is specially formulated to produce strong bonds between adjacent panels along the tongue-and-groove joint. CaberFix Joint&Joist is a high-strength polymer adhesive which remains flexible after curing and is designed to fix a CaberDek floor to the supporting joists.

Replacing mechanical fixings, CaberFix Joint&Joist speeds up installation and produces a floor which is guaranteed free of squeaks and creaks. Its flexibility also contributes to noise attenuation, thus aiding in the floor's conformity with Part E of the Building Regulations governing the passage of noise.

CaberFix Tape seals the joists to prevent moisture degrading the T&G adhesives. For floors which are likely to be exposed to the elements during freezing conditions, West Fraser's special CaberFix X-Treme tape is recommended.

To find out more about West Fraser's products for housebuilders get in touch with Dan Clarke — email Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com — or download product brochures from the housebuilder page of the WestFraser website <https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>



SCM's Smart&Human factory for the Chinese giant, Star River Bay Group

ONE of the most recent Lean cells developed by SCM in the past few years has arrived in China at one of the country's giants in the contract sector.

It is an integrated flexible line of more than 2,000 m² for the production of furniture components, installed in the early months of 2021 for the Star River Bay Group and its new YuFeng Factory established in Conghua in the province of Guangdong.

It is its technological configuration that makes this solution especially advanced in terms of automation and production flexibility, a concrete example of Smart&Human Factory devised by SCM to meet the needs and critical situations of mass customisation. A system of automated, modular flexible cells and easily reconfigurable, connected via automatic handling systems and integrated with industrial articulated robots, by an evolved double sorter at the end of the line, supervisor software both for the entire line and for each cell and a MES system, again supplied by SCM.

Furthermore, all the technologies have been integrated by Chinese partner companies under the control and guidance of SCM's engineering team which in China, thanks to a specific structure, already has numerous completed projects in turnkey factories, in line with the most advanced market demands.

All this stemmed from a specific need. The Chinese group, a giant with a turnover of €2 bn, needed to invest in new factories to internally produce contract furniture for its tourist and commercial structures. This is how the YuFeng Factory project came about: an ac-



tual district for machining wood covering 200,000 m² overall, that includes 11 warehouses on three floors, each one specialising in a specific product area (furniture, sub-assembly, doors, etc). For this new and ambitious project, SCM supplied not only an integrated flexible line for the production of cabinet components, but also five Superfici lines for painting and another 50 stand-alone technologies for different fields of application, representative of SCM's vast and varying range.

Top precision, automation and production flexibility are the backbone of the Smart&Human plant developed by SCM for an average production of 1,000-1,200 pieces per shift. The line includes cells for nesting, edgebanding and drilling, all managed by Maestro active watch supervision software that allows for the production process to be managed and controlled by monitoring the status of the indi-

vidual machines in real time and of the whole line, optimising production performance. Maestro active watch also creates a two-way interconnection with the factory's IT systems, allowing part programs to be loaded remotely from office to factory and returning production reports that can be analysed in the office.

The factory's MES is also from SCM and is another fundamental jigsaw piece in this project.

Nesting area: This cell sees two machining centres in action for "morbidelli x200" state-of-the-art nesting that combines top speed with maximum flexibility in the cutting outlines of the panel. Both are fitted with input roller conveyors with QR code labelling system. Even before this, the cell has a gantry system for loading the stacks of unfinished panels that can be as long as 800 mm.

The stacks are loaded automatically using a forklift truck.

All the data and information sent to the labelling machines come from an optimisation software via the cell supervisor.

Once the nesting is completed, the cut to size panels are directed towards two outgoing conveyor belts. A first articulated robot picks up the panels one by one to be unloaded at an average speed of 4.5 pieces per minute.

A second robot sorts the panels and directs them either towards the edgebanding area or, in the

case of subsequently recovered scraps, to an offloading storage station ("porcupine").

Edgebanding area: In this area, we find a "stefani cell H+", synonymous with maximum personalisation, top productivity levels and excellent machining quality. This highly flexible cell means the various parameters of the panel (shape, thickness, edge, gluing quality etc) can be changed without stopping the production flow. Furthermore, thanks to the supervisor software, it is possible to track all the process information on each individual panel continuously and remotely.

The "stefani cell H+" is preceded by a 30-level vertical buffer that acts as a store for depositing the incoming panels from the nesting area and is integrated with a "mahros brush" automatic loading station and by another "mahros brush" outgoing unloading and panel return device.






The process functions like a closed machining cycle: each time an individual edge is completed, the piece is unloaded from the line while other pieces will complete the process. This optimises and speeds up the machining of panels with different edges.

This cell is also controlled by Maestro active watch supervisor software that allows for continuous 360° control of the process and each machining phase using the QR scanning code.



INTEGRATED FLEXIBLE LINE FOR FURNITURE COMPONENTS PRODUCTION



-  Nesting Area
-  Edge banding Area
-  Drilling Area
-  Automation Systems
-  Sorting Area

MES software powered by SCM



Drilling area: Once the edgebanding is completed, the panels are conveyed in two 30-level vertical buffers (for an equal number of pieces to be machined), that again in this case, act as a “plenum” (holding area) between the edgebanding cell and the subsequent drilling area. In order to guarantee higher production levels here, the client has selected to install two lines operating in parallel, both made up of a highly flexible automatic drilling centre and ideal for “batch 1”, “morbidelli ux200”. The flow speed of the material temporarily deposited in the buffer, is automatically adapted according to the availability of the drilling machines. This occurs thanks to the software that manages the movement systems.

After drilling, the panels leave and converge in a single roller transporter that transfers them to a machine designated to cleaning the surface. Subsequently, all the pieces are transported to the sorting station.

Sorting and unloading area: This area in the line developed by SCM is strategic. Indeed, to date, the various panel cutting, edgebanding and drilling operations have been optimised as though it were a production line, in order to reduce scraps, remains and re-tooling of the machines with a change of order. It is at this fully automated sorting station that, based on the information supplied by the factory MES, the individual orders are put back together, and the customisation of the cabinets’ components is completed.

This advanced storage system is made up of two articulate robots that work at a speed of 3.5 pieces per minute, two multi-storey warehouses and a system with double layer roller conveyor that allows the pieces to be received from the

drilling machine and simultaneously sent to the unloading area. When all the components in an order arrive in the warehouse, the MES software gives the order: the components are directed towards the unloading area where, thanks to another two robots, they will be placed in transfer trolleys. These in turn are manually moved to the packing line where the MES software coordinates the work of those in charge of packing so that each box is well balanced in terms of weight and final size.

A second sorting area is reserved for the preparation of the smaller panels that will be integrated into the packing operation.

With this solution, SCM has managed not only to meet the needs of Star River Bay Group, but supply a highly innovative plant in line with the most advanced demands made by the Chinese market.

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Premier Forest Products launches water repelling plywood



PREMIER Forest Products has launched a self-protecting structural plywood as part of its latest range of innovative new products, to save contractors time, money and effort.

Manufactured by leading European plywood manufacturer, Paged, DryGuard is made from thickply Polish Pine and its water repellent properties are considered ideal for use in roofs, floors and walls.

James Pickford, UK purchasing director, Premier Forest Group, said: "As a pine product, DryGuard

is incredibly durable with superior mechanical qualities; it is easy to machine and fasten, and retains a high bending strength. DryGuard's water repelling treatment slows the absorption of water for up to 90 days, reducing drying time and delays with build. It can be fitted in any weather conditions, and because it offers protection from rain, it doesn't get water damaged like standard plywood. This means DryGuard doesn't need to be covered which avoids the need for false roofs, cutting down on labour and reducing material costs."



DryGuard has been treated with an environmentally friendly, REACH compliant hydrophobic coating, to reduce rainwater absorption. However, the material is permeable, still allowing the building to breathe to prevent damp and mould. In addition, because DryGuard repels water, it retains its structural integrity and doesn't warp, so the risk of remedial work is reduced, again saving contractors time, money and effort.

DryGuard has been rigorously tested by plywood specialists, Paged, and is compliant with the relevant EN standards, is REACH compliant, CE2+ certified and FSC® Certified.

Premier Forest Group is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, sawmilling, processing, merchanting and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its eight sites in the UK.

Premier Forest Group
<https://premierforest.co.uk>

From neglected 1960's bungalow to forever home with West Fraser's CaberDek

WHEN MARK and Jayne Holdsworth bought a neglected 1960's bungalow in Leeds, they could already envisage a fantastic forever home.



The extension programme comprises demolition and renovation stages as the couple reconfigure their home and construct a three-storey extension to take advantage of the stunning West Yorkshire countryside.

Predictably, there have already been challenges and, with the building situated on a steep slope, the floors needed to be installed to take the levels of the house up before making the building watertight. The Holdsworth's builders' merchant, Howarth Timber, recommended West Fraser's CaberDek and the results spoke for themselves! "We needed a hard-wearing heavy-duty product that provided protection from the elements. With CaberDek that's exactly what we got!" said Mark.

The boards with their peelable film were used to create the kitchen floor on the first-floor extension and on the entire second floor. "The boards are good quality and they went down easily without any challenges," Mark explained.

West Fraser ● Tel 1786 812921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

West Fraser: helping the construction industry to help the environment

"AS THE WORLD becomes more and more aware of the effect we have on the planet, it is important for the construction industry to realise how it affects the world in ways it doesn't intend to," says Simon Wood, European sales, marketing and logistics director at West Fraser.

"At West Fraser, our products are net carbon negative. This means that we lock up more carbon in the products than we emit in the end-to-end production and distribution of them (delivery to our customers' gates). Attaining net carbon negativity, as we have done, is a significant step and demonstrates the company's determination to be a market leader in sustainable, climate-friendly products.

"As wood is the main component of West Fraser's products, carbon is sequestered and locked up for the board's lifetime. Particle-board products have the added advantage of containing 70-80% post consumer recycled wood; this is



also used in OSB. As a result, the company's four European sites and three product ranges lock up a total of 1.18 million tonnes of CO₂e per year, equivalent to the CO₂ from 200,265 homes' electricity. West Fraser's net carbon negative products' status benefits specifiers and users of the company's engineered wood panel products. When used in construction, these products can move a project's carbon count in the right direction assisting companies to meet net zero targets, which is good for reputation, compliance and the planet.

"In every SterlingOSB Zero board more carbon from the atmosphere is locked up than is emitted during manufacture, locking it up into long term storage. Per cubic metre, SterlingOSB Zero has sequestered 828 kg of CO₂e. The vast majority of the wood is homegrown, minimising carbon emissions from transport, while ensuring it is always available and offers a cost-effective building solution."

West Fraser
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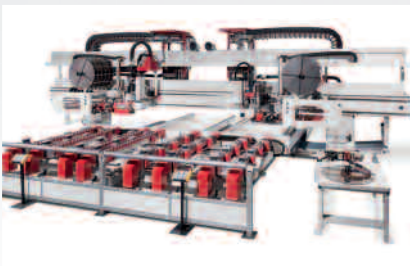
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ProSite does a Premier job for fencing contractor

A LEADING hoarding supplier is using the success of a major infrastructure project as proof of its product's incredible durability.

Premier Forest Products' ProSite board has been used by Littlewood Fencing as part of a significant project being carried out in Wokingham, where despite being on site for nearly two years, the product still looks as good as new. The contract with one of the UK's biggest construction companies, saw Littlewood Fencing install 500 m of Premier Forest Products' ProSite board, which offers an environmentally friendly, ecologically sustainable and cost-effective solution.

Premier ProSite is a medium density overlay board with a low emission, resin impregnated, exterior paper face, a smooth phenolic film reverse and finished sealed edges. Premier ProSite is made at the Paged Mill in Poland from robust Scots Pine or Birch, which has higher strength, stability and a better-quality finish than many other plywoods. The hoardings have been produced in the constructor's corporate colours so that the branding on site is consistent.

James Pickford, commercial director Premier Forest Group, said: "At Premier we pride ourselves on being able to provide hoarding panels ready to install, cutting down on mess and labour time on site. We're really pleased with how our newest panel offering has been received. It offers a practical, attractive solution for organisations which are working in highly visible locations and want to present a professional façade to the public."

Aaron Kirk, contracts manager Littlewood Fencing, said: "After installing ProSite on the project in Wokingham, I don't think I would use any other hoarding product. The product arrives pre-sealed and pre-painted so that you can install it in any weather. This gives us massive flexibility and saves on labour time and costs. As well as being straight forward to fit, the fact it comes pre-painted means that it saves us having to prime and apply two coats of paint. This is a huge saving in terms of man hours."

Littlewood Fencing is one of the UK's largest and most diverse fencing contractors. In recent years, the company has been involved in some of the most prestigious construction projects in Europe including the Euro-tunnel Calais Security Fencing. Alongside high-security fencing, Littlewood Fencing offers acoustic barriers and vehicle safety barriers as well as associated civil and ground works.



associated civil and ground works.

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Premier Forest Group ● <https://premierforest.co.uk>



Stair Systems uses a combination of Alphacam and Cabinet Vision to manufacture a wide range of highly custom commercial and residential projects

AS THE SON and grandson of carpenters, Rob Jones was practically born to be a woodworker — a profession that, as he tells it, entails “spending the first couple of years learning how to do it and the rest of your life fixing your mistakes”.

Characteristically down to Earth and passionate about his work, Mr Jones has owned Stair Systems of Modesto, California, for 30 years. Highly custom projects, including complex millwork, are par for the course at Stair Systems, which, as its name suggests, builds at least one thing that most of the competition does not.

“We go from the lowest end to the highest end, and we offer some services that other companies don’t — including stairs,” said Mr Jones. In addition to stairs, the shop builds cabinets, interior trim, such as wainscoting and moulding, custom millwork, and some light furniture.

Despite his steady success, Mr Jones knew that he’d need to evolve to remain on top of his game and implemented CNC ma-



chinery and software in 2017. “I made the decision that, if we were going to keep doing cabinets, we would have to do them in a competitive way — and that’s with CNC machinery and software,” Mr Jones says, speaking in 2018. “If you don’t go with CNC in this industry, I believe that in the next 10

years you won’t be in business.”

After researching his options, Jones purchased the Cabinet Vision Screen-to-Machine™ (S2M) Centre and the Alphacam computer-aided-manufacturing (CAM) solution. Once he understood how to harness the new power at his fingertips, Mr Jones signifi-

cantly increased his production.

“I realise that there is so much that I can do with the machine and the software, and that two or three guys can make as much as 10 guys with CNC,” said Mr Jones, who initially had reservations about making drastic changes to his production process.

“Less than 12 months ago, the machine and software landed on my floor at the shop, and we got Internet for the first time at the shop,” he said in 2018. “We never used any software up to that point to make our products. We were very nervous and intimidated by this strange contraption that we now had, and we had to continue our work load, and find a way to change at the same time. Every day, driving to work, I had this anxiety and I didn’t know if I was really afraid or super excited. My 25-year veteran quit during this process and we pressed on without him.”

Ryan Wolfe, who joined Star Systems in 2017, was familiar with Cabinet Vision and would become increasingly productive with the software once the shop had a network license. Network licences allow multiple users to work on the same jobs and easily share information, which streamlines work flow and eliminates duplicating tasks.





when dealing with customers. Mr Jones, who works with a mixture of contractors, architects and homeowners, uses Cabinet Vision to showcase the final result.

"I usually try to sit in the room with them with my laptop and draw them something in Cabinet Vision," Mr Jones said. "If you can visually show somebody something quickly, and with honesty, you're probably going to get the job quickly. We're all very visual; that's when they pull the trigger, because they want to actually see these things."

Mr Jones tackles his projects with a combination of Cabinet Vision and Alphacam, with the former used for cabinetry jobs and the latter for jobs that require the production of complex profiles. For instance, Mr Jones programmed 200 linear feet of wainscoting with complicated cutouts in Alphacam, and also used the solution to produce a set of mirrored barn doors in MDF that featured intricate cutouts. Each door is two pieces — front and back — glued together, with dados cut into the

back to hold the mirrors, and cutouts in the front partially overlaying the mirrors.

While Stair Systems produces goods in a range of qualities, American-made plywood and dovetail drawer boxes are company production standards, from low-end to high-end.

"All drawer boxes are now dovetails because it's so easy to do with Cabinet Vision. I can make dovetail drawer boxes that are up to 4 ft x 8 ft," Mr Jones says. "Cabinet Vision is so good you can easily take it to the low level or to the highest level, and it allows you to be very specialised. The software is like an open set of doors and, if you walk through those doors, you can do anything."

Cabinet Vision enables Mr Jones to save his projects and completely reuse them, or reuse elements of existing projects without having to redraw them. The solution includes a library that is helpful for both automating and standardising certain job elements, as well as for eliminating repetitive tasks. "The project is al-

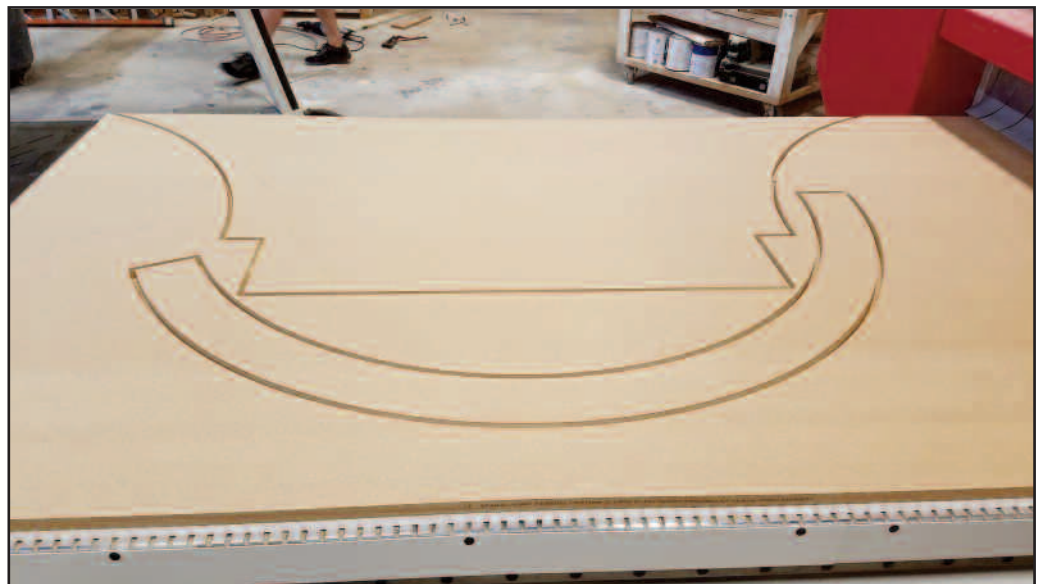
"With the CNC, you can have three projects going at once," Mr Wolfe said. "When the machine is running, that's like having another person here." He finds Cabinet Vision especially helpful in visually communicating job details, which is ideal when working with staff who are still learning the trade. The system helped Austyn Allum, who back in 2018 was new to woodworking and had been with the company for just a few months when these interviews took place, easily grasp job details and understand construction methods.

"What's nice is I can get in there and look at how Rob assembled something, or see aesthetically what he is trying to achieve," Mr Wolfe said. "He can tell me what he wants and I can build it in my mind, but now I can actually pull it up and show Austyn what it will look like — and the whole team can get together and pull it up visually."

To begin a job in Cabinet Vision, the dimensions of the room in which the project will be installed are typically entered into the system manually. However, Mr Jones went a step further after purchasing the two solutions and acquired Leica Disto S910, a laser distance-measuring tool by Leica Geosystems that is linked with Cabinet Vision.

The direct link between the Leica S910 and Cabinet Vision allows Mr Jones to take room measurements that are then imported into the software. Following import, Cabinet Vision generates room layouts based on the data. "It does 3D point-to-point measuring and gives you the layout of the whole room," Mr Jones said. "The measuring software generates a full 3D rendering and makes it so much easier."

As all projects begin with sales, being able to visually represent the job can make all the difference





ways in the system, which makes it easier to make changes and allows you to reduce costs."

Likewise, Cabinet Vision's parametric capabilities enable Mr Jones to pull designs from his library, apply them to new jobs, and easily adjust them for size. Parametric functions are especially useful for jobs that are similar or identical in every aspect except for size.

"I can make a dovetail drawer in any size because it's parametric and, because Cabinet Vision is controlling every portion of the part, the final cut is perfectly square. I can't create that with a table saw. When I put the drawer in a cabinet, it's perfectly flush — and I never see that."

Mr Jones uses Cabinet Vision's nesting engine to maximise material yield, and has created a material schedule to easily manage his offerings. He also uses the system's "grain-match" function, which ensures that parts are cut, such as stacked cabinet doors, with co-ordinating grain. Next on Mr Jones's list in 2018 was to start using Cabinet Vision for his bids.

"I really want to start using the bid feature to take the emotion out of quoting," he said. "A lot of times we bid emotionally, when we think we really need a job, but this will let me know exactly what it will cost to do the job."

Mr Jones doesn't know how much time he's saved by implementing CNC machinery and software because he's also implemented new standards. "I don't know how long all of this would take me without Cabinet Vision because I couldn't repeat this without it," he said. "There is just absolutely no comparison."

With his fear alleviated and nearly a

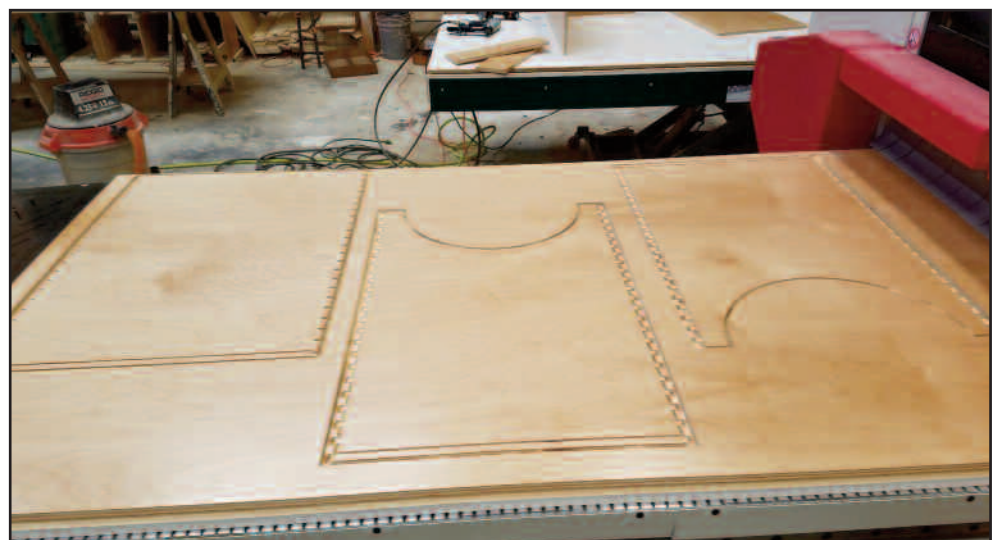
year of CNC production under his belt, Mr Jones had the confidence to further increase output.

"Now we're going to take the machinery and software and double what we did this first year," Mr Jones said in 2018. "I used the resources made available to me through Cabinet Vision to learn a new way. I relied on their people and services to navigate my way through uncharted waters."

"One of the biggest fears a cabinet maker has is starting over with a completely new process. We all know how to make cabinets, but to let go and trust the process sometimes feels like I'm being untrue to my craft or leaving something that works well. Today I can tell you that the decision to switch has been the decision that is true to my craft."

Alphacam ● Tel 0118 922 6677 ● www.alphacam.com

Cabinet Vision ● Tel 0118 922 6644 ● www.cabinetvision.com



Travis Perkins fully acquires Staircraft to add new capability for customers

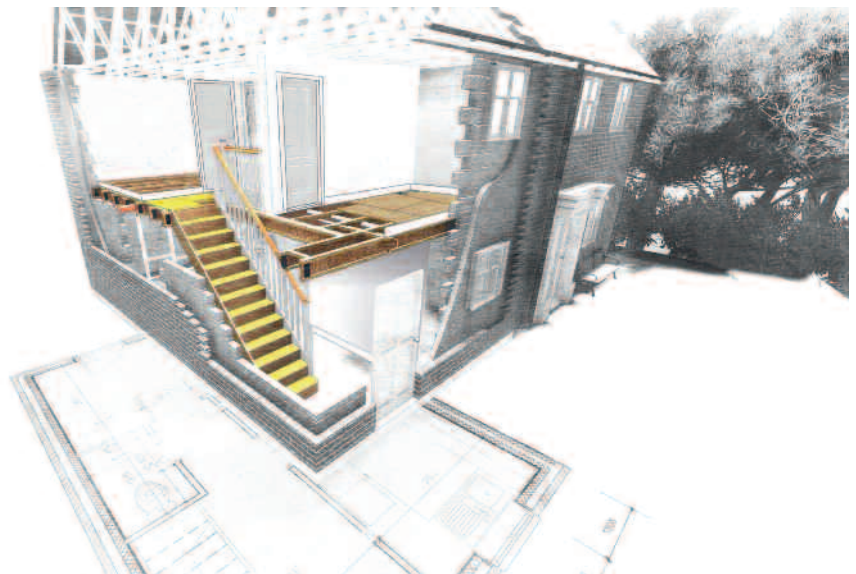
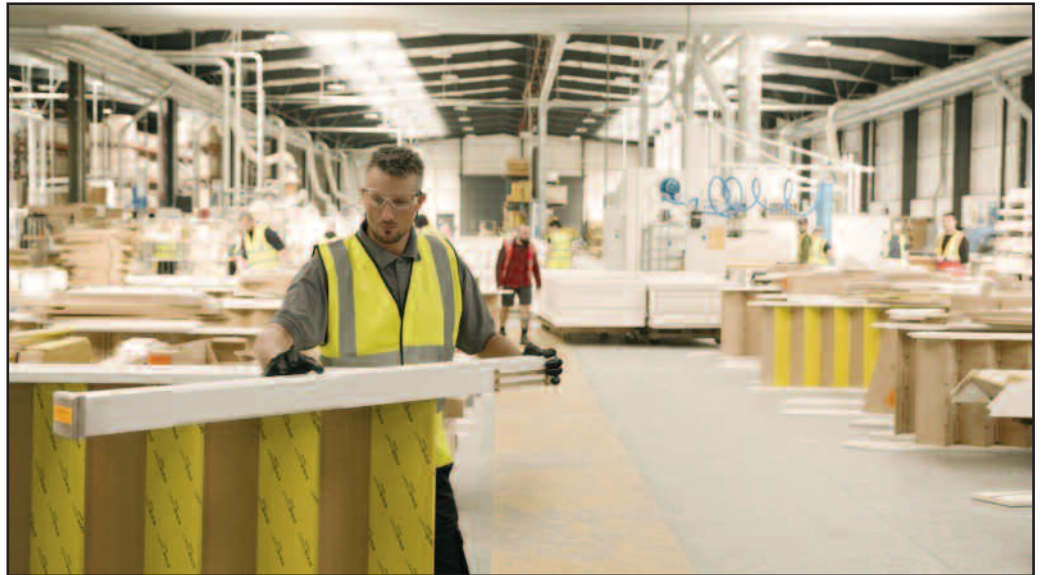
TRAVIS PERKINS, believed to be the UK's largest supplier of building materials and equipment, and a leading partner to the construction industry, has announced that it has fully acquired Staircraft, a market leading company that provides integrated stair, floor and door solutions.

This development expands Travis Perkins' customer proposition by adding digital component design, timber engineering and production capability to its portfolio. Travis Perkins first acquired a minority share (15%) in Staircraft in 2015, and announced its intention to fully acquire the remaining share (85%) of the company at an investors update on 29 September.

"We have developed a close working relationship with Staircraft for the past six years and believes this partnership has many more opportunities for further growth potential for both parties," explained Group COO, Frank Elkins.

"Staircraft is a very exciting business; technology-led and well known for innovation and quality, and for delivering engineering solutions that are developed offsite in factory based conditions. This means that their offering plays right into our future strategy of elevating our customer relationships by providing new areas of value-added products and services that deliver efficiency, quality, sustainability and innovation in design, engineering and production," Frank continued.

"For us, being part of Travis Perkins plc will give us access to new markets, investment and growth opportunities. We also know that our businesses are a great match from a cultural and values driven perspective, and that this partnership will give our col-



leagues access to new and improved benefits and career and development prospects over time," said managing director of Staircraft, Andy Hamilton, who will remain in post with his leadership team under the new ownership.

Staircraft dates back to 1986 and has 350 employees. The company is headquartered in Coventry and operates from three manufacturing sites across the UK.

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