

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 175/176

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LEV ... Extractly how it should be

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Makita celebrates 50 years of UK trading

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Claims can be registered on-line from 1st October 2022 and must be registered within 28 days of purchase for qualifying models. Qualifying models must be purchased by 31st March 2023 to qualify and registered within 28 days.

TO CELEBRATE a half century in the UK market, leading power tool manufacturer Makita has launched a special 50th anniversary promotion, offering end users the opportunity to claim free products with the purchase of selected items from its range.

With the purchase of either the 18 V LXT Combi Drill Kit DHP482JX14, or DHP484TJX9, or DHP485TJX8, end users can select either a free USB adaptor (ADP05) to power mobile devices via their Makita LXT batteries or Makita's 18 V LXT DML 186 LED torch.

Alternatively, purchasing one of the two-piece Combo Kits with 18 V combi drill and jigsaw (either the DLX2202TJ1 or DLX2134TJ) gives the opportunity to choose between a free DAB+ site radio (DMR110) or a free 18 V LXT 5.0 Ah battery (BL1850B).

Makita has also included a free 100-piece drill and screwdriver bit set (B-53811) in the promotional offer that can be redeemed with the pur-

chase of the 18 V LXT combi drill (DHP453F001) or the brushless combi drill (DHP485T001).

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK, said: "This has been a very exciting year in celebrating 50 years of successful operation in the UK. To thank our customers, we are delighted to offer a fantastic choice of free products and we have even included some of our most popular LXT products in the promotion."

Makita's redemption offer is running until 31st March 2023. Customers who have purchased any of the qualifying models from an authorised dealer must register their purchase online within 28 days of making their purchase to claim their free product. On successful application, customers will receive their free gift after 30 days. For more information on the promotion and its terms and conditions, please visit the Makita website.

Makita ● www.makitauk.com/redemption

Moreton Deakin keeps a weather eye on CaberShieldPlus

A BURGEONING new building company, based in the beautiful but often challenging surroundings of West Yorkshire, is making full and effective use of West Fraser's CaberShieldPlus to protect its floor installations from the worst of the country's notoriously variable weather conditions.

Moreton Deakin Construction was set up some 18 months ago by Luke Milner and Sam Moreton Deakin to help meet work demands generated by the latter's successful architectural practice, with most of the work being generated through existing architecture clients that the company offers design and cost advice to during the planning process. Logically, the company is best placed to carry out the project as the planning process has resulted in an understanding of the client's specific requirements and any potential risks. Operating primarily across the Calder Valley and wider Yorkshire area, current projects include three large bespoke houses including associated pool house, a 3,000 ft² warehouse for a steel fabricator and conversion of an existing mill into 13 apartments.

Joint managing director, Luke Milner, comments: "I have worked for a number of main contractors, including BAM, but have known Sam for a long time, and have watched his architectural business grow. While the first couple of jobs that we undertook came through the architecture side, work now is 50-50 with other clients; while our ethos remains the same — to ensure that customers get something that they can afford and that is fit-for-purpose.

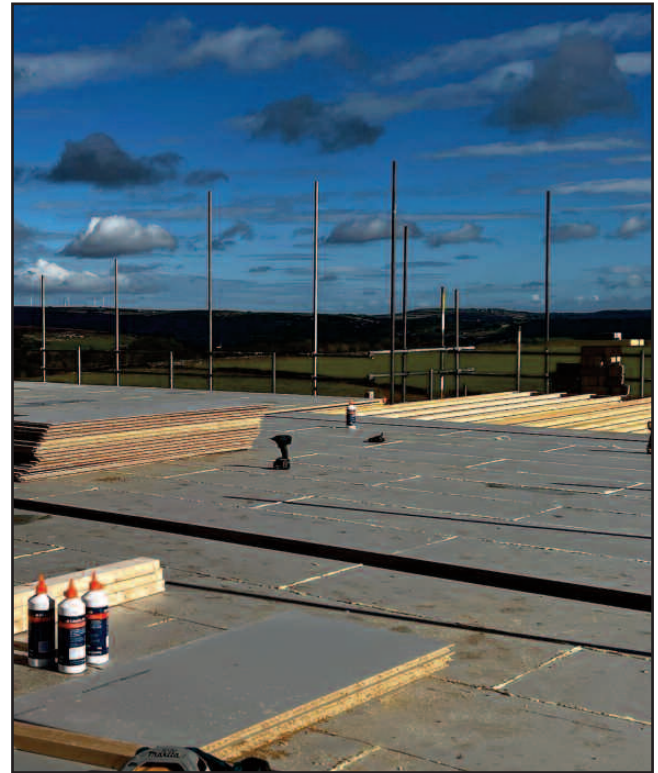
"Obviously the weather can be quite severe up here in Yorkshire and whether it is a new house, an extension or a commercial build, we make sure the specification is going to stand up to the rain as well as other, practical challenges. And West Fraser's CaberShieldPlus is something I'd used a number of times in the past as a very robust, fully protected flooring solution.

"We specify it mainly for the first or upper floors, where it is going to be exposed for a period of two months or more. It is one of the few products we are aware of that will cope with such conditions and it's easy to use. It stands the test of time, is quick to install, and it's a good, efficient product that our joiners like to use."

CaberShieldPlus is a durable, P5 flooring which features a permanent, waterproof coating on both sides. Almost exclusively preferred now to P4 boards — for both new-build and refurbishment applications, the P5 particleboard panels are able to withstand the unpredictable British climate without deterioration. The tongue and groove TG4 profile product is available as 18 or 22 mm thick sheets, measuring 2,400 x 600 mm, making it easy to install and provides excellent load-carrying capacity without needing noggins. As well as housebuilding, CaberShieldPlus is suitable for schools, hospitals and commercial applications.

Like many contractors, Moreton Deakin Construction chooses to install CaberShieldPlus using West Fraser's solvent-free CaberFix D4 — part of its CaberFix range, which is a one-component polyurethane adhesive also suitable for use with CaberFloor and CaberDek boards. It allows the user to see where a seal is made and is considered ideal for both bonding flooring boards to joists and securing T&G joints; as well as for sealing the edges of boards.

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921 ● Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com
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Fit door handles faster with IronmongeryDirect's latest line-up

LEADING specialist trade supplier, IronmongeryDirect, has added the Urfic Easy Click door handles to its range of over 18,000 products. Offering easy and quick installations of under one minute, these simple, sleek and reliable lever handles are suitable for a variety of applications, especially where convenience is a must.

Thanks to a distinct patented fixing system, the Urfic Easy Click door handles are considered an ideal solution to save time on site and can be installed in just one minute (after the lock has been fitted). Specifically, these innovative products are designed to eliminate the need for jigs, tools or screws and the ratchet spindle, believed to be unique, automatically adjusts to fit 33-43 mm doors. A longer spindle is available separately for doors with a thickness of 44-54 mm. Now in stock at IronmongeryDirect, these products are suitable for both domestic and commercial environments, and their fast-fit design is particularly useful for projects where disruption to building occupants must be minimised.

Woodworkers, carpenters and joiners can choose from three attractive designs: Titan, Neptune and Delta, which are suitable for any interior thanks to the variety of available finishes, including matt black, satin alu-



minium, satin stainless design and polished nickel. Whether in need of a tubular, flat or curved handle, these options are minimalistic, elegant and robust.

Scott Copeland, category manager at IronmongeryDirect, said: "We are proud to add Easy Click to our extensive portfolio of door hardware. This is a particularly exciting range as it not only delivers on quality and appearance but can also significantly reduce labour and time on site, thanks to the patented design. As part of our 'Trusted to Deliver' promise,

we strive to offer our customers the best products, and we are positive that the Easy Click range from Urfic will not disappoint."

IronmongeryDirect is believed to be the UK's largest online supplier of ironmongery to the trade, with over 18,000 products in stock including everything from cabinet hardware to sliding door gear. Woodworkers, carpenters and joiners can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including free next day delivery on orders over £45 ex VAT, same day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

Ironmongery Direct ● www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk

Nottingham memory garden boosted by builders merchants

A LEADING builders merchant has donated materials to help a Nottingham youth club set up a community memory garden.

At the time of writing, Hyson Green Youth Club, based on Terrence Street, was due to take the wraps off its new facility before the end of 2022.

Completion of the final stages of the project has been made possible by the Nottingham branch of Selco Builders Warehouse, based on Mar City Park on Radford Road in Basford.

It donated around £500 worth of building materials and provided a discount on other products to help complete the garden.

Marissa Marquis, project coordinator for Hyson Green Youth Club, said:



"The donation from Selco Builders Warehouse has made a real difference to the memory garden. We are extremely grateful for the materials and excited at the impact the garden will have on the local community, creating a tranquil space where people can visit, relax and reflect.

"We want to play our part in helping people recover from the negative effect of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.

"Local residents will be welcome to come to the memory garden and relax with refreshments. There will be a water feature, candles, a plant and herb area and a dedicated space where people can remember loved ones who have passed.

"The Selco donation will enable us to build a shelter and put the finish touches to the memory garden."

The Hyson Green Youth Club has been established more than 80 years and has developed into a community hub open every day to groups and organisations.

Adam Newbold, trade sales manager at Selco Nottingham, said: "We are delighted to be supporting the Hyson Green Youth Club in its new project. Where possible, we aim to support the local communities in which we operate and this memory garden certainly fits the bill. We have provided timber and other materials which will help make a difference to the final stages of the project and we look forward to seeing the local community enjoying the garden."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 74 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Selco donates materials for Birmingham DIY Skate Park

ONE of the UK's leading builders merchants has delivered tonnes of materials to help build the second phase of the country's only DIY skateboard park to be given formal status.

Selco Builders Warehouse had already donated materials for the first phase of the Birmingham DIY Skate Park, located in Bournbrook Recreation Ground, Selly Oak, last year. Now, the Stirchley branch has delivered additional sand, gravel and cement for a new bank for skaters to practice their jumps on. Built by volunteers, the park meets stringent European safety standards and has

passed Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspection, and is believed to be the only DIY skate park in the UK to become officially certified and open to the public. GB skateboarding Olympians Bombette Martin and Alex Halford also use it when they are in Birmingham.

Berni Good, director of Birmingham Skate Spaces (BSS), the Community Interest Company (CIC) that runs the free-to-use park, thanked Selco for its continued support. "This latest donation from Selco has been a massive help, we wouldn't have been able to do it without these materials," she said. "The skateboarding family is a really supportive community and this park is making a positive difference to the young people who use it."



Michael Mushen, left, and Dan Henebury from Selco try their hand at skateboarding as Chris Clarke and Nick Hill look on.

ceiving National Lottery funding in the summer, the CIC has been offering free coaching sessions to youngsters and more than 70 have been taught by qualified coaches.

Michael Mushen, branch manager of Selco Stirchley, in Charlotte Road, said: "It's important for us to work closely with the communities we are based in and we've seen what a fantastic project this skateboard park is. With fewer places for young people to go, it offers a safe location where they can learn new skills and be part of a community. We're only too pleased to help them out again by donating materials for the next phase of their build."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com ● www.birminghamskatespaces.co.uk

Stay warm this winter with Makita

MAKITA has released its latest heated jacket, helping to protect wearers against the elements. Powered by the reliable 18 V LXT battery, this new warm and stylish jacket is a must-have for cold, harsh jobsite environments, or for outdoor leisure in the cold winter months, according to Makita.

The latest DCJ205 heated jacket is here to offer maximum comfort and durability. Thanks to the five heating zones, users benefit from continuous warmth in the chest and back areas, whilst also having control over the three heat level settings.

The powerful 18 V LXT battery offers even longer continuous runtimes, with a fully charged battery lasting seven hours on the highest setting, 11 hours on medium and 29 hours on low (when powered by the BL1850B 5.0 Ah battery).

Customers can use existing batteries or purchase one with the DCJ 205 as a kit.

The jacket's olive coloured, polyester outer lining makes it waterproof and windproof, whilst the inner fleece lining helps keep the user warm and comfortable even with the power off. Additionally, it is fully washable and dryable, so cleaning is easy and hassle-free without damaging its heating capabilities.

It is also equipped with a two-way zip, offering more flexibility when wearing a tool belt, as well as six pockets. And last but not least, this lightweight product is available in a range of sizes, catering to size M to 2XL.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "We are very excited to be releasing our new LXT heated jacket. We understand the harsh conditions that our customers are faced with during the colder months, and have designed this product with comfort, durability and style in mind.

"Even without the aid of our LXT battery, this jacket is an excellent product that will prove invaluable both on site but also in other outdoors environments."

Makita ● www.makita.com

www.makita.com/products/heated-jackets





TIMCON president John Dye.

Pallet industry calls for essential site status

THE TIMBER Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) has asked Government to confirm it will act to keep the pallet and packaging business operational in the event of any planned power outages during the winter.

The organisation, which represents the sector in the UK and Ireland, is seeking clarity that it will be accorded 'protected site status' and be able to manufacture and repair during any rolling power cuts that may be introduced if gas supplies run low in the months ahead.

Wooden pallets and packaging are key to keeping supply chains of critical goods — including food, drink and pharmaceutical products — moving. Accordingly, the Government gave essential worker status to the industry during covid lockdown periods. TIMCON also worked closely with Defra in the run up to Brexit to ensure that supply chains understood new phytosanitary requirements to ensure unbroken movement of timber pallets and packaging between the UK and EU markets.

TIMCON president, John Dye, said: "The current energy crisis once again poses a threat to the continuity of supply chains. If power outages are indeed going to occur during winter months, it is vital that the wooden pallet and packaging sector continues to operate to ensure that consumers have uninterrupted access to essential goods.

"We are urging Government to engage, support and enable pallet and packaging manufacturers, pallet pools, reconditioned pallet businesses and the logistics industry to continue their work and ensure UK sawmilling operations can continue providing timber to our operations."

TIMCON ● Tel 0116 274 7357

Email info@timcon.org ● www.timcon.org

Dewsbury Celtic live Rugby League World Cup dream

RUGBY LEAGUE World Cup fever arrived at a community club in Dewsbury when England and St Helens star Alex Walmsley returned to his old stomping ground to pass on tips to the next generation of talent.

Dewsbury Celtic's under 8s and under 11s teams were the recipients of a training session from the England player after winning a nationwide grassroots competition organised by Rugby League World Cup partner Selco Builders Warehouse, one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

As well as being put through their paces by Alex, the Men's, Women's and Wheelchair World Cup trophies were on display at Dewsbury Celtic's home pitches on Crow Nest Park, in Boothroyd Lane.

Speaking in October, Alex, who had recently been ruled out of the Rugby League World Cup through injury, said: "It was a great night and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the youngsters and watching them show off their rugby league skills. It was a special occasion for me because I started my rugby league career at Dewsbury Celtic. It's a club that is very close to my heart and it was great to go back and see how things are progressing. It was a fantastic competition and prize organised by Selco. The next few weeks are a real chance for the sport of rugby league to shine and promote itself and initiatives like this play a huge part in helping achieve that.

"There were some really talented young players on display during the training session and hopefully I was able to give them one or two additional tips to think about."

The competition saw grassroots clubs across the UK invited to submit applications to win the prize, which also included £2,000 worth of building materials from Selco, tickets to a Rugby League World Cup match, new strips for a team within the club and a signed England shirt.

Clive Senior, chairman of Dewsbury Celtic, said: "The training session was a fantastic night. To have the World Cup trophies on

display and Alex — who is one of the big success stories of the club's history — return made it a night to remember for a long time for everyone involved. We would like to thank Selco for all the different elements of the prize. The £2,000 worth of building materials will be used to refurbish our changing rooms for our new girls team and will make a real difference to the club."

Carine Jessamine, marketing director at Selco Builders Warehouse which has branches in Roundhay and on Elland Road in Leeds, said: "We had dozens of fantastic entrants from grassroots rugby league clubs across the UK but Dewsbury Celtic really stood out. It's a real hub of the community and provides inclusive opportunities for all. We are delighted to have provided them with a prize which will create memories and make a real difference with the building of changing rooms for the new girl's team.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



West Fraser helps pupils get on board at Inverness careers fair

INVERNESS-BASED wood panel manufacturer, West Fraser (trading as Norbord), took part in a local high school's annual careers fair to offer supportive advice to students planning their future.

Representatives of the Morayhill plant, one of the leading employers in the region, paid a visit to Inverness High School to speak to students about the company and its heritage in the North of Scotland and offer

insights into the sort of skills that may prepare them for the world of work once their full time education ends.

Emma Cattanach, HR manager and Graeme Bell, head of engineering, also answered questions on employment in general, as well as talking to students about the apprenticeship programmes and internships available with the company.



The team also handed out some freebies to the attendees at the fair, including branded water bottles, pens and hand sanitiser.

Emma said: "It was fantastic to visit the local secondary school pupils on the day and help them with any questions they may have had, either about West Fraser, the jobs we provide or, more generally, the world of work.

"It's vital for us at West Fraser that we ensure we can future-proof and prepare younger people for what happens once their formal education has finished, so it is always important for us to take time to visit local schools.

"The pupils were very curious about what we do and it was a brilliant event that we got just as much out of as hopefully the students did.

"We are currently recruiting at the plant and have extensive apprenticeship schemes and internships in place, so we were happy to introduce the upcoming generation of workers to who we are and what we do."

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

Selco brings Cheltenham tradespeople Christmas cheer

SELCO Builders Warehouse has delivered an end-of-year boost to tradespeople by opening its 74th branch in the UK.

The leading builders merchant has officially cut the ribbon on its Cheltenham branch to further bolster its presence in the South West.

The new branch, based on Festival Trade Park in Runnings Road, comes hot on the heels of the opening of Selco's Exeter store in April.

Howard Luft, Selco's chief executive, said: "We are delighted to extend the Selco offering to yet another new town in the UK. Our two Bristol branches gave us a footprint in the South West but we have expanded in that region throughout 2022, firstly with Exeter and now Cheltenham.

"As a genuine multi-channel builders merchant, we want to offer as many tradespeople the chance to access Selco, either through our

branches or our ever-expanding number of digital services."

The official launch of the Cheltenham branch saw Selco continue its commitment to supporting the local communities in which it operates by donating £3,000 to good causes. Through its Community Heroes scheme open to groups and organisations in and around Cheltenham, Selco awarded £1,000 to a local school — Prestbury St Mary's Federation — to fund the purchase of new books for infant and junior school pupils. In addition, it committed £2,000 to its nominated charity, Cancer Research UK.

The official opening also saw Cheltenham Town Football Club manager and captain, Wade Elliott and Sean Long, in attendance. Selco is an official partner of the League One club.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



adi Group 'Putt a Hole in Hunger' with charitable golf team building event

HONOURING its commitment to engineer a better future for all, multi-disciplined firm adi Group recently participated in charitable event 'Putt a Hole in Hunger', raising over £10,000 for charities and local food banks that support individuals living in poverty in the UK.

The team building CSR activity, which took place at The Belfry, required participants to design a golf course as well as build it using non-perishable food items — to be donated to food banks at the end of the event. Teams later played on the mini golf courses, and prizes were awarded to the winners as well as the team with the best design.

In attendance were all members of the adi Group management team, who took part in the various activities as part of its annual Management Awayday.

Through the event, the team supported six chosen charities and food banks: The Life House, Erdington Foodbank, B30 & South Birmingham Foodbank, Fuelbank, Midland Langar Seva Society and Birmingham Children's Trust BFriends.

The adi management and administration teams also helped distribute the food to the food banks, and purchased additional items for their golf course to be given away as further donations.

"We could not be prouder to have been involved in such an inspiring event, and to have found an opportunity to give back to our community that also involved an engaging team building element," comments Alan Lusty, CEO of adi Group.

"The support from adi staff was overwhelming, and we received some incredibly heart-warming feedback from the food banks and charities we were able to donate to. As a business that is committed to making a positive impact on the world, we couldn't have asked for a better outcome."

Having been recognised as one of the best companies to work for in the West Midlands and having placed sixth in the list of best companies to work for in the Construction & Engineering sector in 2022, adi Group



prides itself on being a socially responsible business that also prioritises the safety, wellbeing and engagement of its employees. As part of its charitable efforts, adi Group has taken part in a variety of fundraising charity events, some of the most recent including Harborne Jubilee Carnival, the Dragon Boat Racing Events and the Aberdovey Bike Ride. Later in November, 29 of its employees took part in St Basil's Big Sleepout, an annual event whereby individuals sleep outside for a night to raise money for vulnerable young people who are at risk of homelessness.

"At adi, we strive to provide our employees with a number of opportunities to get involved in charitable events and lend a helping hand to those who need it.

"We want to ensure our employees feel engaged and motivated, and that they are able to reach their full potential, and we believe that giving them access to the right opportunities is a great place to start.

"This is why some of our internal events are dedicated to empowering our employees to come up with their own CSR initiatives and ideas for the business," says Alan.

As part of its Apprentice Awayday, adi encouraged its young apprentices to devise new ideas for responsible business events to be delivered in the near future. One idea from the apprentice awayday will see the apprentices themselves hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning in order to raise money for those living with cancer.

With a keen interest in supporting apprenticeships, promoting their value and celebrating their importance, adi Group fully recognises the significant role of apprentices in the engineering sector. Pledging to ensure that at least 5% of its workforce are apprentices, adi Group received a Gold award from the 5% Club, and is currently exceeding this impressive milestone, with 7% of their employees being apprentices.

adi looks forward to continuing to foster an environment that directly encourages involvement with activities that make a tangible difference in the world, and continuously endeavours to incorporate even more valuable responsible business initiatives into its future plans.

adi Group ● www.adiltd.co.uk



Devon community group wins Community Heroes cash boost

AN ORGANISATION that supports people in poverty in Exeter and Torquay has won a community award from leading builders merchant Selco.

Punk Against Poverty CIC has secured £500 worth of building materials through its Community Heroes campaign. The organisation provides free school uniforms to children in need and will use the materials to help fix the roof at one of its two fundraising shops in Torbay.

Stefanie Curran, who helps to run the community interest group (CIC),



From left, Stefanie Curran and Benita Cummings.

said: "We are absolutely delighted to have this support from Selco. Being able to obtain materials to fix the roof means more of the money we receive from donations can go to supporting local people in need.

"There is high demand for our free school uniform bank, which is helping to relieve the financial burden on families and enables children to focus on their education.

"While we focus on breaking the poverty cycle for young people, our work also spans to the elderly, by helping them to access emergency grants. We are the go-to organisation in times of need and this funding assistance is greatly appreciated as it helps us to continue our work."

Punk Against Poverty is one of 12 organisations that Selco is awarding £500 worth of building materials to in its six-month Community Heroes campaign. It will now go head-to-head with the 11 other Community Heroes winners in a public vote to win £5,000 in cash, or £1,000 as runner-up.

The charity plans to visit Selco's Exeter branch on Filmer Way, which opened in April 2022, to collect all the materials it needs.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "It's great that we can support Punk Against Poverty, which is doing fantastic work in the area. The cost of school uniform can be a huge burden for families, particularly at the moment when budgets are so tight. This service makes a huge difference. We're looking forward to working with Stefanie and her team to get the materials they need to carry out these essential repairs."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes

South Lewisham charity wins Community Heroes boost

A MEN'S health and wellbeing charity in South Lewisham has won a community award from leading builders merchant Selco.

The Downham Men's Group and Shed, based at Goldsmiths Community Centre in Downham, has secured £500 worth of building materials through its Community Heroes campaign.

The men's group, part of the Blue Ribbon charity, will use the funds to refurbish and develop the courtyard at the centre, which is also used by local community groups.

Trevor Pybus, men's group leader, said: "We are delighted to have won this support from Selco. The centre is located in a very deprived area and we want to leave a legacy project for the wider community of Downham.

"The courtyard was neglected, overgrown, and full of rubbish, which we have cleared. We now need to move to a new phase of the project and start the process of building a courtyard that local residents can use as a safe harbour."

The Downham Men's team will visit its local Selco in Catford, on Bromley Road, to make its purchases.

The charity is one of 12 organisations that Selco is awarding £500 worth of building materials to in its six-month Community Heroes campaign.

It will now go head to head with the 11 other Community Heroes winners in a public vote to win £5,000 in cash, or £1,000 as runner-up.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're really pleased to support The Downham Men's Group and Shed with its project to develop a new courtyard for the local com-

munity. We know what a huge difference a donation such as this can make to organisations like theirs because money is tight for many, but the work they do continues.

"We're looking forward to working with the team to help them get the materials they need to complete this much-needed facility."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes



Coventry Foodbank receives kitchen upgrade boost

COVENTRY FOODBANK has won the materials it needs to finish its new kitchen facility in a nationwide competition.

The charity, which has 15 foodbank centres across Coventry, has scooped £500 worth of building materials from Selco Builders Warehouse through its Community Heroes campaign.

Canon Gavin Kibble MBE, project director at Coventry Foodbank, said the prize had come at a perfect time as the group battles against reduced donations and higher demand.

Gavin said: "We are extremely grateful to Selco for this donation. Coventry Foodbank is one of the largest foodbanks in the UK, feeding around 2,500 people each month, and around 30,000 a year.

"Demand has increased by around 20% since the start of the economic crisis. Our storage shelves at our warehouse on Binley Industrial Estate should be full at this time of year but with the increased demands placed upon us we are having very real problems.

"Our new kitchen will allow us to repurpose near end-of-life food by making it into a meal that we can then send out into our food network.

"These materials from Selco will allow us to finish the kitchen. Anything left over will be used at our new community pantry in Camp Hill."

Coventry Foodbank, part of the humanitarian charity Feed

The Hungry UK, is one of 12 organisations that Selco is awarding £500 worth of building materials to in its six-month Community Heroes campaign. It will go head-to-head with the 11 other Community Heroes winners in a public vote in the new year to win £5,000 in cash, or £1,000 as runner-up.

Coventry Foodbank said should it win the £5,000 jackpot the cash would be used to buy a van for transporting food around the city.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're really pleased to support Coventry Foodbank, which does incredible work feeding so many people across the city. It is no surprise that foodbank usage has increased as the cost of living crisis bites. Coventry Foodbank has a challenge on its hands to keep up with demand. This new kitchen will play a

part in that by reducing waste, and we're delighted to be involved."

Selco's Coventry branch is found on Austin Drive.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Leicester training charity scoops Selco support

A LEICESTER charity that offers education and training opportunities to young people who are struggling in mainstream schools has won a community award from leading builders merchant Selco.

S.T.A.R.S, a non-profit charitable organisation, has secured £500 worth of building materials through Selco Builders Warehouse's Community Heroes campaign. S.T.A.R.S works alongside training provider Educ8 to offer opportunities to teenagers and young adults at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training). The Community Heroes award will be used to improve the training centre at Allxton Youth & Community Centre on Frolesworth Road.

Jevon Payne, of S.T.A.R.S, said: "We are thrilled to have secured this funding from Selco. It will make a huge difference to the work we do with at-risk young people in Leicester. We are passionate about helping young people progress their lives in the most appropriate way for them, whether that's through training, a college place, an apprenticeship or by entering employment."

Mason Yates, deputy manager of Educ8 in Leicester, said: "Working alongside S.T.A.R.S, we have seen many young people turn their lives around by obtaining qualifications they wouldn't have got through the mainstream system. We look forward to visiting Selco in Leicester and buying materials including paint to improve the Allxton Youth and Community Centre. Having a bright and welcoming environment will enhance



the atmosphere for our learners and tutors."

The charity is one of 12 organisations that Selco is awarding £500 worth of building materials to in its six-month Community Heroes campaign. It will now go head-to-head with the 11 other Community Heroes winners in a public vote in the near year to win £5,000 in cash, or £1,000 as runner-up.

S.T.A.R.S and Educ8 said should they win the £5,000 jackpot the cash would be used on installing shower facilities for physical education students and improving the

electronic entrance system at the centre.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're really pleased to support the S.T.A.R.S project which has demonstrated its ability to change people's lives through education. The Allxton Youth and Community Centre is a fantastic facility but just needs a little TLC. The £500 worth of materials from our Leicester branch will make the building much more welcoming for all who use it."

Selco's Leicester branch can be found on Parker Drive. With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Altendorf honoured as Innovator of the Year 2022

THE ALTENDORF GmbH from Minden, Germany, is a typical hidden champion of German SMEs. The manufacturer of premium sliding table saws can now call itself “Innovator of the Year 2022”.

The award was presented, appropriately enough, by Professor Hermann Simon, author of the standard work first published in 2007 “Hidden Champions of the 21st Century: The Success Strategies of Unknown World Market Leaders” and founder of the term “Hidden Champions”.

Excellent speakers captivated the guests with their presentations. “Innovation is the key for mankind to be able to live in harmony with this world,” Frank Thelen made clear in his presentation on the subject of innovation, which is close to his heart. He said

it was a personal concern of his to drive innovation in Europe and called on guests presents to invest more capital in startups. The well-known entrepreneur Ralf Dümmel also inspired the audience with his enthusiasm for entrepreneurship and the spirit of innovation, and described the opportunities available to people with ideas.

Professor Hermann Simon, a true luminary of the global economy, was on stage. The scientist, author and founder of the management consultancy Simon Kucher Partner was impressed by the diversity of the award-winning innovators. With energetic passion, he highlighted Germany’s technological achievements on the global market and left a lasting impression on the Berlin Capital Club.

Oliver Kahn accepted the honorary award with pleasure and captivated the audience in his acceptance speech with a short journey through time to his personal feelings after the end of his active career and his urge for new tasks.



In Germany alone, an average of 120 accidents per month occur in connection with sliding table saws per month. Altendorf GmbH has not let the problem rest and has developed a safety system that ensures hands are not exposed to danger when operating a sliding table saw. The result is called HAND GUARD.

“We started this development three years ago and are pioneers here when it comes to recognising a hazardous situation early enough. AI, or artificial intelligence, helps us to do this,” says Peter Schwenk, CEO of the Altendorf Group.

The effort has paid off. The HAND GUARD optical system is believed to be the world’s first and only certified safety assistance for sliding table saws and is regarded as the safety in the industry, Altendorf reports.

With the HAND GUARD system, Altendorf demonstrates how innovative solutions based on the latest technologies can create real benefits — and ensure greater safety every day on construction sites and in workshops around the globe.

In addition, HAND GUARD is believed to be the only safety assistance system for sliding table saws to have been awarded the Tested Safety Seal by the Germany Employers’ Liability Insurance Association for Wood and Metal (BGHM) and is believed to be the only system with a safety function that can process all materials such as wood, wet wood, aluminium and plastic without any problems.

“The award for ‘Innovator of the Year 2022’ underlines our innovative strength and confirms our claim to create an industry-wide safety standard for sliding table saws with our HAND GUARD system,” says Vit Kafka, CSO of the Altendorf Group.



Altendorf Group
www.altendorfgroup.com

Historic Houses announces Restoration Award 2022 winners

LYTHAM HALL in Lancashire and Wolterton Park in Norfolk have been crowned joint winners of the Historic Houses Restoration Award 2022.

The prestigious award, sponsored by Sotheby's auction house, was created in 2008 and recognises outstanding examples of the work being carried out by private owners all the time, up and down the country, to protect and preserve the historic buildings in their care. The front-runners in this year's award were so evenly matched that the judges took the unprecedented decision to give joint first-place honours to two equally impressive houses.

Wolterton is one of the great 18th Century Whig powerhouses, built by Horatio Walpole, whose brother Robert was Britain's first Prime Minister. The family possessed other houses in the area, though, including Houghton and nearby Mannington Hall, which is still the family home. A fire in the barely lived-in Wolterton in 1951 was in some ways a blessing. The building was repaired and got a new roof in the process, which secured the structural integrity of the interiors for decades to come.

When Peter Sheppard and Keith Day bought the house and surrounding parkland in 2016, it was the latest in a succession of historic homes they had lived in and cared for, in London and East Anglia. Lucky enough to find the main building in good structural order, their project focused on two areas — bringing the house alive again as a space for comfortable modern living and entertaining, and creating a portfolio of holiday letting options (comprising parts of the main house and the attached East wing as well as converted auxiliary buildings and estate

houses) to provide some long-term financial sustainability for the house in the absence of the large agricultural holdings that it would once have relied upon.

The main hall has been restored including rewiring, new plumbing with new bathrooms and kitchens. The stone and brick exterior has been cleaned of lichen which covered the house and all the windows and doors have been painted in subtle stone colours.

The entire house has been refurbished with fabric walling and historic paint finishes while all the ancillary buildings have been restored as luxury holiday lets with new plumbing, heating and rewiring installed. All have handmade kitchens and stylish bathrooms with luxurious beds, linens, and original artworks.

Peter Sheppard, co-owner and designer of Wolterton Hall, said: "When we bought Wolterton we wanted to respect and maintain the historic Walpole legacy while also making this large Palladian house comfortable and stylish. It was essential that, now there are only 500 acres, there should be a steady flow of income from the holiday lets and we are delighted that these have been so successful. Restoring Wolterton has been the best project of our lives and we are delighted to get the recognition such as this award."

Lytham Hall, the grand Georgian hall, was lived in by the Clifton family until 1965 when the property was taken over by its creditors, Guardian Royal Insurance, to be used as national headquarters. The Hall and 78 acres of its remaining historic parkland were sold to a local charity, Lytham Town Trust, in 1998 who passed responsibility and operational



The dining room at Wolterton Hall.



Above, East elevation, Lytham Hall. Below, Jacobean bedroom, Lytham Hall.

control over to Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) in 2000. Despite numerous attempts to fund the restoration of the Grade I Listed building, by 2016 it was in a significant state of disrepair and was on the Historic England “Buildings at Risk” register.

In 2017, a new HTNW management team, house managers Peter Anthony, Paul Lomax, and HTNW trustee Stephen Williams, started a fresh project to restore Grade I Listed Lytham Hall and its Grade II Listed historic parkland, which was completed over a five year period. Their approach was to create a sustainable operation throughout every useable area, which in turn would help fund the ongoing restoration project. Entrepreneurism and fundraising events were key to the generation of capital funding the sympathetic conservation of this hugely significant site. Small grants were obtained via the Pilgrim Trust, Friends of Lytham Hall, Fylde Borough Council, Clifton CIO, Lytham Rotary, Windmill Charity, Coastal Community Fund, and others which have helped develop the project immensely.

Stephen Williams, HTNW Trustee at Lytham Hall, said: “Lytham Hall remains a magnificent gemstone in the crown of the Fylde coast. The management, staff and volunteers are a truly amazing team, and I think this award shows how far we’ve come over the past five years. We can’t underestimate the immense help and support we got from locals and friends of the hall, as the small grants obtained and funds raised through events were vital to our success. It’s truly been a team effort.”

Ben Cowell, director general at Historic Houses, said: “We are thrilled to announce this special joint award to two houses that have shown how to fight off that terrible and pernicious disease, Decaying Mansion Syndrome. Lytham and Wolterton, while at opposite ends of the country, are both striking buildings that have been lovingly restored and brought back to life. Together, they demonstrate the continuing evolution of the country house in the 21st Century.”

Historic Houses Association
info@historichouses.org ● www.historichouses.org



Gira wins at Smart Building Awards 2022

GIRA, one of the world's leading full-range suppliers of intelligent system solutions for building management has been recognised at this year's Smart Building Awards, winning Best Multi Dwelling Unit in collaboration with system integrator, Marquee Home Limited.

Established in 2018, the Smart Building Awards aim to deliver the most representative, inclusive and up-to-date initiative in the AV/Install world, maintaining the recognised brand and seal of industry approval for years

to come. A panel of independent judges evaluated the nominees and named Gira/Marquee Home the winners of Best Multi Dwelling Unit category, for the luxurious Essoldo House project in London, where Gira products were specified.

Essoldo House is part of a residential and retail prime location in Kings Road, Chelsea and consists of 11 apartments. Behind the scenes, a user-friendly Gira KNX system works in tandem with the Gira X1 mini server and the Gira S1, remote access module to ensure equally smooth and secure networking and control wherever the homeowner is. The switches and socket outlets of the Gira E2 design line in stainless steel also match the high-quality elegance of the interior in a special building and all Gira products were installed by specialist system integrator Marquee Home Limited, part of the Gira System Integrator Partner Program.

Gira representatives Hüseyin Musalar, regional & smart sales manager and Ash Smith, controls manager at Wandsworth Electricals — the home of Gira in the UK — received the award on behalf of Gira with Paul Endersby, managing director at Marquee Homes also in attendance. This followed a gala dinner on 14th September after the first day of the eagerly anticipated El Live! Industry event.

"We are absolutely delighted to offer practical and intuitive solutions for today's global luxurious city living from sockets and switches to the latest smart home servers which will take care of everything from lighting and heating to security. Our award-winning Design Lines are specially designed to give interior designers and architects the ultimate in flexibility and functionality when it comes to providing the essentials in terms of controls and power points," says Gira.

Gira UK Ltd ● Tel 01483 713400
sales@gira.com ● www.gira.com/uk



Gira representatives, Hüseyin Musalar, regional & smart sales manager and Ash Smith, controls manager at Wandsworth Electricals being presented with the Multi Dwelling Unit Award on behalf of Gira with Paul Endersby of Marquee Homes.

Selco storms into list of best companies to work for

SELCO Builders Warehouse has been officially recognised as one of the best companies to work for in the UK. The leading builders merchant featured on the elite list of 25 businesses with more than 2,000 employees as part of the 'Best Companies' awards.

Selco finished 17th on the 'big companies' list and also featured in the top 25 of the retail category.

The Best Companies awards are decided from the workplace surveys of thousands of companies, with the employee feedback dictating the finishing positions of businesses.

Amongst the initiatives Selco has delivered in 2022 has been a £750 cost of living payment to its colleagues and a full programme of career development opportunities through apprenticeships.

Marc Lucock, HR director at Selco, said: "We are thrilled to be flying the flag for the builders merchant sector in these prestigious and well-established rankings. Establishing a culture for our colleagues to enjoy a positive and enjoyable workplace environment where they can develop and fulfil their potential is at the heart of our people strategy. Our colleagues are our greatest asset in the business and it means a lot to everyone at Selco that their direct

feedback has led us to a fantastic finish in the Best Companies rankings. We will continue to do everything we can to enhance and improve the workplace for our colleagues."

Selco has more than 3,000 employees working across its 73 nationwide branches and Support Centre in the West Midlands.

In addition to its Best Companies ranking, Selco has also claimed the Best Benefits Campaign prize at the prestigious Reward Gateway Engagement Excellence Awards.

Selco's Rewards Roadshow campaign saw a fully branded double decker Selco bus take to the road to visit 34 branches and the company's Support Centre to highlight the extensive benefits on offer for being a Selco colleague.

Amongst the interactive zones was the chance to win a bike for cycling the furthest distance on an exercise bike as part of promoting the cycle to work scheme, while extra holiday days were also up for grabs in the holiday buy zone.

Other services promoted included Simply Health, retail discounts and Transave UK Savings Scheme, which offers savings programmes and emergency loans at ethical rates.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Marc Lucock (right), Selco's HR director, receives the Best Companies award.

Surface Design Awards 2023 finalists announced

THE SURFACE Design Awards Finalists have been revealed with judges praising the high standard of innovation and sustainability in entries received from around the world.

After a stringent judging process, the Finalists for this year's Surface Design Awards have been selected, with an impressive array of innovative projects in a variety of locations across Europe, Asia and Australasia. Now in their eleventh year, the Awards form an integral part of Surface Design Show, held at London's Business Design Centre from 7-9 February 2023.

The organisers received well over 130 entries from 12 countries for the 2023 Surface Design Awards, once again setting a benchmark for global architectural and design achievements with a strong focus on sustainability. The judging panel was co-chaired by Jonathan Hagos, director with Freehaus and Nasim Koerting, head of design at The Office Group.

They were joined by a diverse panel of well-respected industry professionals: Kristofer Adelaide, architecture director, KA-A; sustainability expert Stacey McGonigal; Charlotte McCarthy, head of interiors, Heatherwick Studio; Christopher Laing, architectural assistant, Haworth Tompkins; Fiona MacDonald, co-founder of MATT+FIONA; Rion Willard of the Thinking Hand Studio; Nimi Attanayake, director and co-founder of Nimtim Architects; and Thomas Randall-Page, founder of Thomas Randall-Page Studio.

"There were a lot of responses that were very beautiful and interesting," says Nasim Koerting with Jonathan Hagos adding, "It's been really exciting and also challenging comparing projects in Northern European contexts with those submissions from places like India and China."

Over forty projects made the shortlist across the eleven initial categories. Two UK projects which made the cut in the Commercial Building Exterior category were the Design District Building D2 by Mole Architects (illustrated) and The Yards — St Martin's Courtyard by Brimelow McSweeney Architects. Also in the running are Knitted Eaves by India's Studio AVT Architects and Station Nuage by French design studio Atelier YokYok.

The shortlisted entrants in the Commercial Building Interior category comprise Related Argent — Reimagined workspace by Basha-Franklin,

Technique by Buckley Gray Yeoman, and Jiva Spa and Wellness Centre by Emil Eve Architects and Nina+Co X Monc designed by Nina Woodcroft and built by Smile Plastics. Stacey McGonigal praised the latter as "a fantastic example of circular design. You can feel the passion and consideration that has been put into this entry."

The Housing Interior category is represented by three British projects: Wiltshire Farmhouse by Emil Eve Architects, Southwark Brick House by Satish Jassal Architects and Spitalfields House by Common Ground Workshop plus India's Earthitects Private Residences by Earthitects.

Meanwhile in Housing Exterior the shortlist consists of Stepped Loft by Andre Kong Studio, De Beauvoir Square by envelop, Southwark Brick House by Satish Jassal Architects and Arrayed House by Studio AVT Architects.

India is also well represented in the Light and Surface Exterior category with Aaroh by Studio AVT Architects and another nod for the practice's Knitted Eaves scheme. Also nominated in this category are Mycelium — Bay Street Bridge by GPI Design from Canada and two UK schemes: Light-play — Royal Terrace Gardens by Michael Grubb Studio and The Yards — St Martin's Courtyard Terrace by Brimelow McSweeney Architects.

Three projects have made the shortlist for the Light and Surface Interior category: Yu Seafood by Dialogue38; M'Arks Sky Bar by Taner's Sons and Sky Lantern House by Proctor & Shaw Architects which judge Christopher Laing praised for being "a clever concept. There is so much natural light, it is drawn into the space and blends with the materials."

There's an international flavour to the two Public Building categories. For the Exterior shortlist there's Udaan by India's Studio AVT Architects and Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy by Shape Architecture Practice and Research from the UAE as well as two UK projects: Sutton Hoo by Nissen Richards Studio and The Digi-Tech Factory by Coffey Architects.

In the Public Building Interior section there is the Restoration of Daugavpils Fortress Engineering Arsenal by REM PRO located in Latvia as well as a brace of UK schemes: Westminster Chapel by ScottWhitbyStudio and another nomination for Emil Eve Architects' Jiva Spa and Wellness Centre.

In the Landscape and Public Realm category there are four standout projects in the running: Glade of Light by BCA Landscape; Exchange Square by DSDHA/Maylim; and further award nominations for both The Yards — St Martin's Courtyard Terrace by Brimelow McSweeney Architects and Sutton Hoo by Nissen Richards Studio.

The nominees in the Temporary Structure category span three continents. There is A Cautionary Bench/mark by Andre Kong Studio in the UK, Bricktopia by Map13 Barcelona. Several thousand kilometres away, in China, is where you'll find The River Book by Atelier YokYok described by judge Charlotte McCarthy as "a brilliantly joyful piece! It's immersive, beautiful and optimistic." And rounding off our round the world tour in this category is The Lightcatcher by MAP Studio Magnani Pelzel architetti associate in Australia.

The Architectural Photography Award, first introduced last year, once again produced a raft of strong entries. The nominees this time around are A Desert's Rose by Sanaa Aftab, Somaliland Independence Gathering by Lyndon Douglas, Convergences by Matteo Borsetti and Losing Spode by Max Fuller.

The winners will be announced in a special ceremony on 9 February 2023 including the recipient of the Supreme Winner, which last year was won by The BAFTA Headquarters in London by Benedetti Architects.

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



Surface Design Show announces exciting plans for 2023

SURFACE Design Show is gearing up for the 2023 edition, which is held from 7-9 February 2023, once again showcasing the best in material innovation. A well-established part of the design calendar for nearly 20 years, the show returns to London's Business Design Centre. It provides what the show describes as a perfect opportunity for material experts and the architectural and design community to come together under one roof.

Visitors to the Surface Design Show 2023 will be inspired by new product launches running the gamut of colour, materiability and sustainability, plus diverse displays of surface-based installations and a comprehensive speaker programme featuring accomplished industry professionals, passionate about the future of surface design.

Surface Design Show has already welcomed over 130 exhibitors to participate. These include Red Dog Glass Design which produces beautiful glass splashbacks; Applelec which specialises in signage, display and lighting and celebrates 25 years in business in 2023; and contemporary metalworking company Novocastrian.

Returning to the event once again is Armourcoat, renewed for its polished plaster, sculptural effects and innovative surface finishes. Innovations include Armourcourt Clime, which produces a stunning matt stone surface finish and Armourcoat Sculptural panel systems which offer a seamless three-dimensional finish. Other long-term supporters of the show include Textura, specialists in contract wall coverings which can transform a space and Surface Matter which connect architectural materials with creatives for interior and exterior design projects. For Tile of Spain's 2023 stand, expect an eclectic collection of products from 12 manufacturers from small formats and mosaics to 3D surfaces and technical slabs.

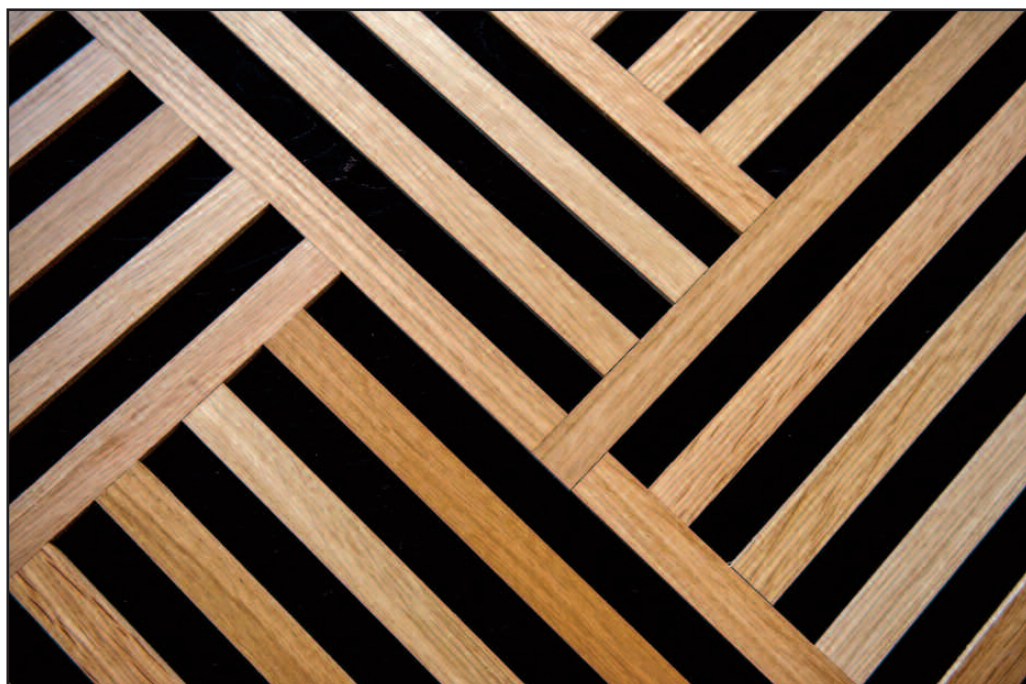
Supporting emerging material designers has always been important to Surface Design Show. That is why the New Talent section will, for the fourth year in a row, be held in partnership with Trendeaze International. Its chief creative director, Jennifer Castoldi, will be curating over 30 'New Talents' this year. The section will inspire and excite visitors with the 'class of 23' showcasing a fascinating mix of biomaterials, natural materials, digital print, textiles, furniture, wallcovering, weaving and biopolymers. This forthcoming edition will be the most international yet with New Talents coming from as far afield as Sweden, the Netherlands, Lebanon, Malaysia, Korea and China and will give them the opportunity to learn from each other and to connect for a better future.

Located right in the heart of the exhibition, Surface Design Show welcomes back Surface Spotlight Live (SSL), an area which gives visitors a chance to touch and compare the latest material prototypes.

Centred around this year's theme, 'Shaping Communities', SSL will highlight the importance of new exchanges between surfaces, people and environments.

From material transformation to inclusive design, co-creation and sensory wellbeing, SSL will present designs creating thoughtful solutions for interiors and architecture. This section of the show will again be curated by leading trend and colour expert, Sally Angharad.

Stone Gallery showcases the possibilities with one of the most sought-



after materials with this section of the show attracting companies from the UK, Europe and further afield. It is officially supported by Stone Federation Great Britain, whose Knowledge Hub forms a focal point for its member companies. Stone Tapestry, meanwhile, is an installation curated by leading London-based architectural practice Squire & Partners. It explores innovative textures, light, colour and pattern to create a tapestry of inspiring materials from around the world.

The talks programme is always a particular highlight of Surface Design Show. The Main Stage, designed by Emily Skinner of recycling pioneers Smile Plastics, will host 18 different presentations and feature more than 40 speakers, including a professional audience of architects and designers.

Setting the tone for the live events programme will be the Opening Night Debate, hosted this year by Jonathan Smales, executive chairman with Human Nature, a leading proponent of sustainable development. The debate, which has CDUK as the official partner, will question how architecture and interior design professions are dealing with the Show's theme of Shaping Communities.

Over the two and a half days, the Main Stage will host a range of debates, panels, trend forecasts and insights into the latest surface design innovations. It will also be the venue for the Legends Live series of 'in conversations' in partnership with Mix Interiors, where industry leaders interview someone they admire.

The PechaKucha evening also returns for 2023 having previously been an entertaining talking point of Surface Design Show. This fast and furious speaking format sees eight speakers battling to get their message across, presenting 20 slides for just 20 seconds each. The evening will be hosted by Nicola Osborn, creative director of design studio Basha-Franklin.

Another popular element of the show is the Surface Design Awards. Now in their 11th year, they continue to set a benchmark for architectural and design achievements across the world. See more on page 15.

Surface Design Show 2023 builds on the success of the event, which has been running for over 15 years, as a place to encourage a meaningful exchange of ideas between manufacturers and the marketplace to further material innovation. Surface Design Show, Business Design Centre, London N1 0QH, 7-9 February 2023.

Surface Design Show ● www.surfacedesignshow.com



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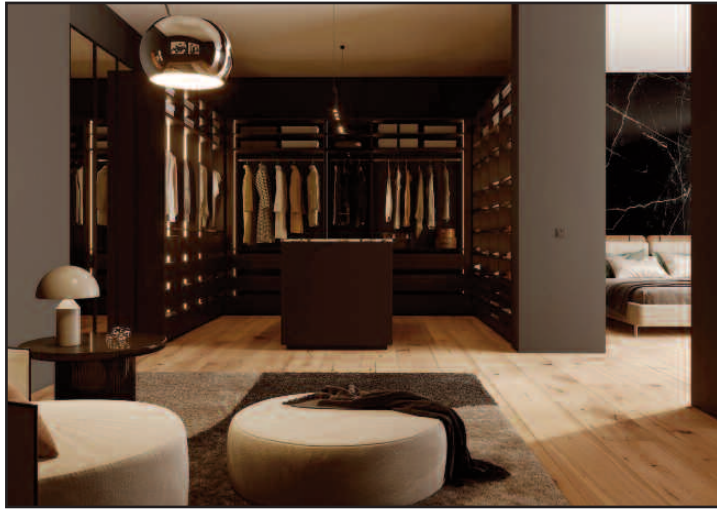
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Rotpunkt reveals latest innovations at Hausmesse 2023

ROTPUNKT, award-winning designer and leading manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture, celebrates the great response from visitors attending Hausmesse at its flagship showroom and factory in Bünde Germany, as it reveals the latest innovations for 2023.

The new 2023 product innovations by Rotpunkt are a true reflection of the brand's 'Welcome Home' concept now serving almost every room in the home: the kitchen and utility, laundry room, home office, living area and dressing room.

Matt Phillips, head of UK operations at Rotpunkt, says: "Our latest furniture solutions are a mark of the company's continued product devel-



opment and brand evolution year-on-year, all underpinned by our ongoing mission to achieve zero emission. The 2023 furniture collections feature a series of debut products, taking the brand into new room categories so we can empower the UK homeowner to make greener choices without compromising on style or quality. Over the last two weeks, we completed four in-person dealer trips, welcoming over 130 customers to our newly revamped showroom in Germany, who got to experience our new meeting hub, latest furniture designs and innovation point fully stocked with every option available. Our extensive market research means we're able to distil the latest lifestyle and product trends and present them to our retail network by opening our doors annually and continuing to be a foundational part of the interior design community and global response to climate change."

In line with its pioneering 'Together to Zero' climate strategy, Rotpunkt is proud to serve the kitchen, living room and bedroom with a range of new doors, colours, finish options and modular furniture, all supported by ergonomically designed storage solutions and integrated LED smart lighting.

Kim Rochester, UK customer relations manager at Rotpunkt, adds: "We believe in looking after every retailer in the Rotpunkt family and supporting each of them to develop their business through a combination of practical, professional and proactive product knowledge and trading. Our dealers are the face of our brand for UK homeowners and developers, which is why we tailor a comprehensive range of competitive sales packages, training, product literature and PoS merchandising. We are an approachable, commercially driven company with the power to 'design with a conscience' so our customers can concentrate on what they do best — creating home interiors, which are as individual as life itself."

Rotpunkt UK ● matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com
rotpunkt.co.uk ● rotpunktkuechen.de/en/

PANELS & PANEL PROCESSING

Utilising the decorative potential of SterlingOSB Zero

A DEVON-BASED designer and manufacturer of bespoke furniture has used West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero for some of his more recent commissions utilising the material's aesthetic as well as physical and practical benefits to striking effect.

James Hewitt set up his own joinery business in 2013 and creates fitted as well as free-standing furniture for kitchens, bedrooms, living spaces and office environments, including media units and desks like the one he recently fashioned from SterlingOSB Zero for a teenager's bedroom.

James explains: "I prefer to use SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 as it offers the best structural integrity for this sort of work and it also exhibits better moisture-resistant properties. I normally mitre the corners and joint them using a loose tenon. If I am going to leave the end grain exposed, I will fill it and paint it in an accent colour to suit the room décor."

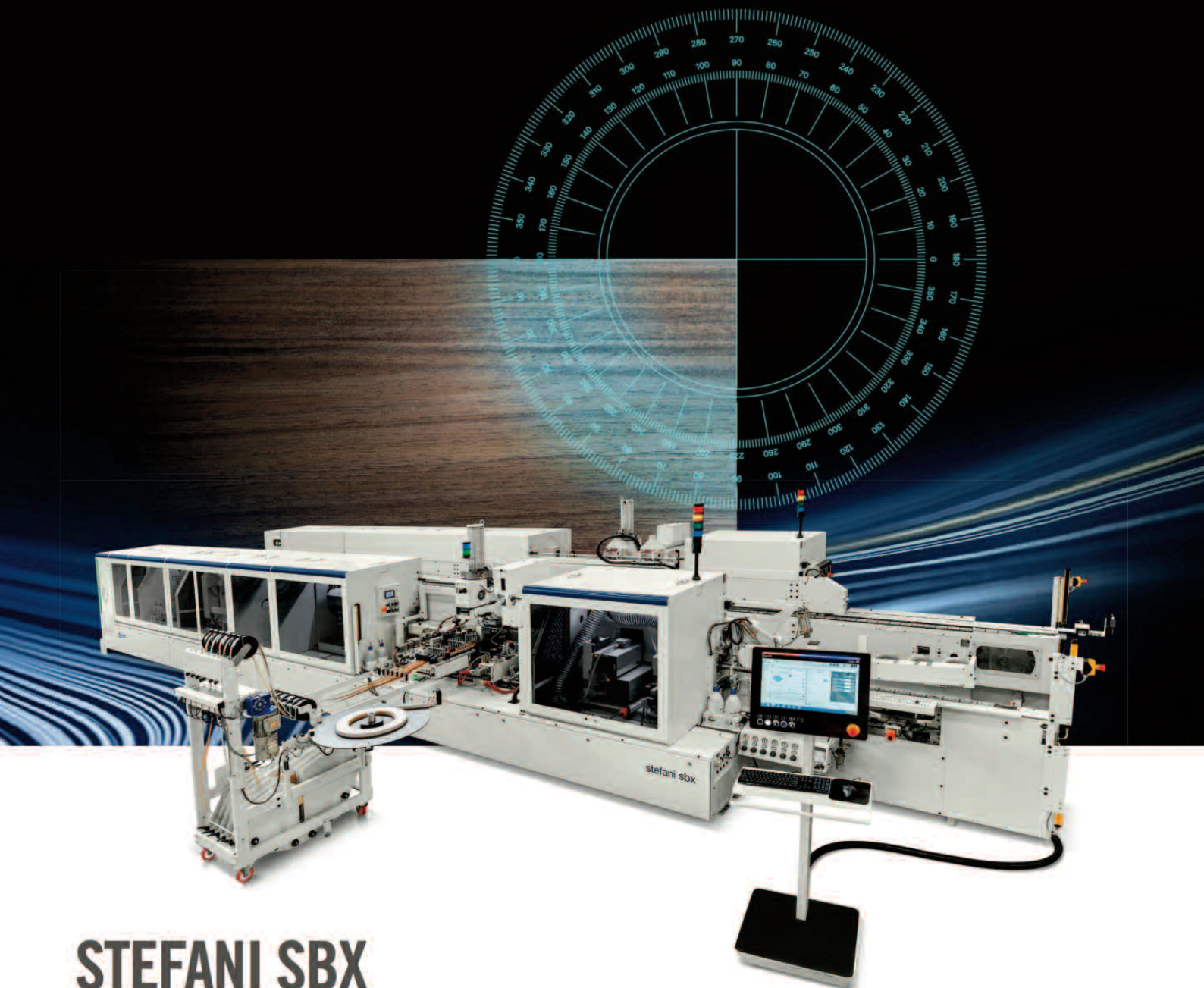
"As well as the alcove desk, I have also used SterlingOSB Zero to make a TV stand for a client, along with other commissions."

Having completed his apprenticeship back in 2004 and learning many of his trade skills working on high-end residential projects in Cheshire, James is now looking to take on a trainee of his own. He concludes: "We work right across Devon and Cornwall, but are in the process of expanding, moving into a larger unit, and will take on work further afield."

James Hewitt Joinery ● www.jameshewittjoinery.com

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





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The stefani sbx squaring-edgebanding machine combines **perfection in panel sizing and squaring** with **flawless finish quality**, ideal for the furniture industry that requires highly configurable solutions.

The rigid structure, together with the reliable and constant system of panel transport are key to precise squaring and high-productivity. The squared panel is ready to move on to the more delicate process of edge gluing, with zero-downtime automatic glue type/colour changeover, and the finishing with state-of-the-art electronic units. The result is stefani sbx, the **outstanding solution for highly demanding workflows and top-level finished products.**

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CABERSHIELDPLUS, from West Fraser (trading as Norbord Europe Ltd), is a durable, P5 flooring which features a permanent, waterproof coating on both sides. Almost exclusively preferred now to P4 boards — for both new-build and refurbishment applications, the P5 particleboard panels are able to withstand the unpredictable British climate without deterioration.

In fact, if installed using CaberFix D4 adhesive, the boards now have BBA approval for 60 days' exposure to the weather while, for safety, the upper face is non-slip and colour-coded to distinguish this: making them an ideal choice for flooring — especially when working at height or where they will remain open to the rain until the roof is complete. The lower face, meanwhile, is smooth in finish for ease of sliding the panels into place on site.

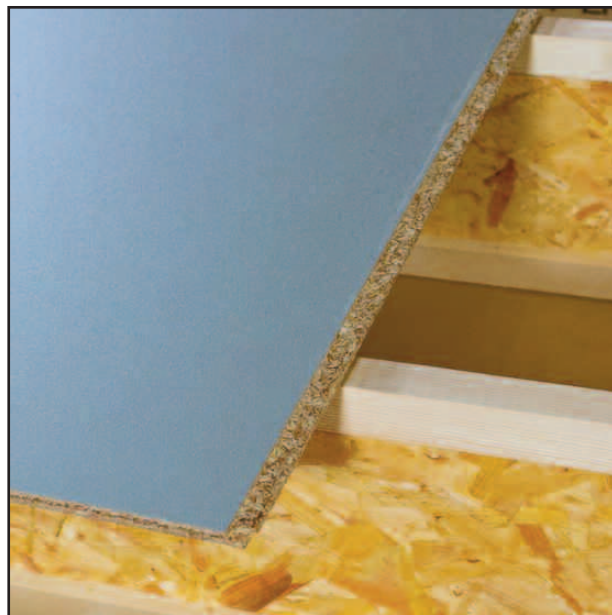
The tongue and groove profile (TG4) product is available as 18 and 22 mm thick sheets, measuring 2,400 x 600 mm, making it easy to install and provides excellent load-carrying capacity without needing noggins.

As well as housebuilding, CaberShieldPlus is suitable for schools, hospitals and commercial applications.

Approved as a BIM object for architects by RIBA, CaberShieldPlus is considered ideal as a sustainable solution for flooring, as all the timber used in West Fraser's UK manufactured particleboard production is from responsibly managed forests, and carries the coveted FSC® (C012533) certification, along with the rest of the range.

Increasingly, environmental issues are coming to the fore for builders, specifiers and architects: and West Fraser is committed to playing its part in reducing its emissions with its UK manufactured product being net carbon negative. This means the company locks up more CO₂e in its products (and the lifetime of use) than it emits during their manufacture. This has been independently audited by Wood — from the forest to the customer, including harvesting, production, sales and logistics — and certified by the international EPD system Secretariat in Sweden.

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CaberMDF — the trade's choice for indoor joinery

CABERMDF TRADE and **CaberMDF Trade MR**, from the West Fraser range, are lightweight, medium density fibreboard panels which have been developed for applications where the end design is important, such as for shopfitting and caravan manufacture — the Trade MR (moisture resistant) version being ideal for areas subject to intermittent damp or humid conditions, such as in kitchens and shower rooms.

Lightweight, both board types are easy to handle, cut or machine; while when drilled or routed the finish is clean and sharp as the material does not splinter or chip, thanks to its high-quality fibres and internal bond strength. Both panel types are suitable for light furniture making, such as wardrobes, shelving and panelling, while the smooth surface to the panels is also ideal for painting or even grain printing.

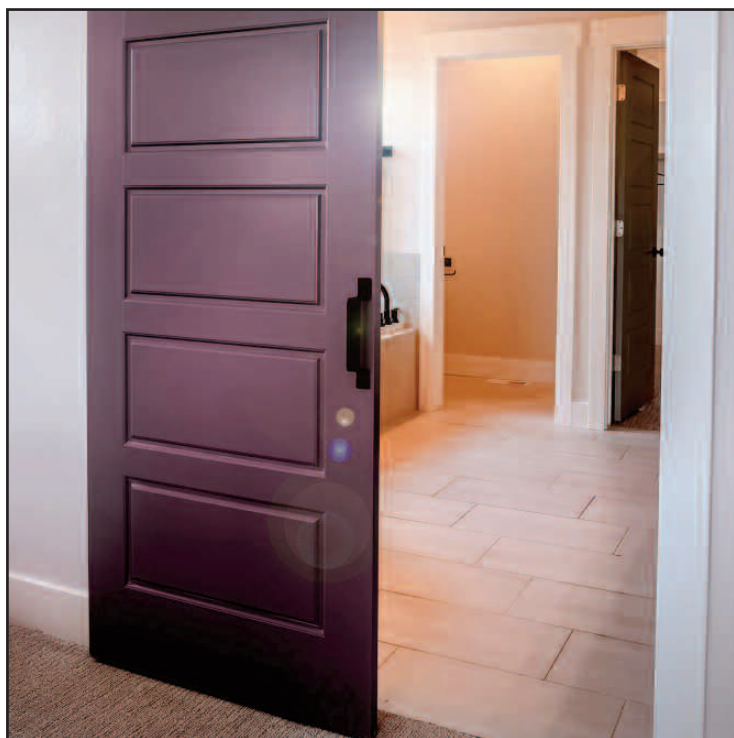
Manufactured at the UK's premier site for MDF production, which features the very latest in design, development and resin technology, the 1,220 mm wide Trade and Trade MR boards are available in lengths of 2,440 and 3,050 mm; as well as thicknesses of 12, 15, 18, 22 and 25 mm.

Being precision-made in the UK means less waste onsite and the associated costs of disposal to landfill, plus lower transportation charges. As well as guaranteeing a more secure supply in a currently challenging global market, specialist manufacturers, fit-out contractors or other customers can specify West Fraser's well proven MDF options with total confidence.

In addition, the UK or European grown timber used to make the boards is FSC® (C012533) certified, while CaberMDF Trade and Trade MR boards conform to European E1 emission standard, comply with BS EN 622: Parts 1 and 5, and carry the CE mark.

West Fraser's sustainably managed operations from forest to factory gate contribute to CaberMDF's manufacture being a net carbon negative process, and therefore another reason for its wide specification across the UK, as the construction industry tries to reduce its environmental impact.

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Landmark museum embraces sustainable wood technology to house vast historical collection

SLEEK, sustainable and striking, the recent development by Haslob Kruse + Partners fuses past and present with an expansive wooden exterior made with sustainable leader, Kebony wood, which was selected to house over 60,000 precious maritime artefacts at Germany's National Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven.

Clad entirely in sustainable sourced Kebony Character wood and containing 2,300 m² of depot space, the German Maritime Museum houses an extensive collection of archival materials and museum objects: preserving Germany's maritime heritage with a forward-thinking and eco-conscious approach to architecture.

Designed with a focus on modernity and eco-conscious construction, the German Maritime Museum has harnessed the latest developments in warehousing, air conditioning and technology, whilst simultaneously making use of sustainable materials in the construction process. The result is a museum depot which is vast in size, but grounded in environmentally sound practice, which also offers a solution to concerns about limitations in space to contain this precious historical collection.

Created to enable future generations to better understand the relationship between man and the sea, the depot contains an extensive collection of 380,000 archival materials and 60,000 museum objects. This unique maritime vision is realised by the joint pattern of Kebony wood, which resembles the hull of a wooden ship, creating a unique sense of place which is both striking and recognisable.

Kebony's modified timber is dimensionally stable, long-lasting and preserves its natural aesthetic for many years. The durability of the material means it will require as little maintenance as possible and withstand the high stresses on the building from wind, weather and salt water.

A global leader in the production of environmentally friendly wood, Kebony's pioneering wood-processing technology sees sustainably



sourced softwoods heated with furfuryl alcohol, an agricultural by-product, modifying it to maintain the same durable properties of industrial hardwoods without the need for extensive deforestation.

Kebony wood is both cost-effective and visually attractive, retaining a natural aesthetic in keeping with the maritime theme of the museum.

Jens Kruse, architect at Haslob Kruse + Partner Architekten BDA, commented: "We discussed for a long time which material would be suitable here on the water with the salty air and the strong wind. In the end, together with the client, we opted for Kebony wood because it is a very durable and easy-care wood and is also produced sustainably."

Nina Landbø, international sales manager at Kebony, added: "The Germany Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven is the perfect setting for preserving the rich maritime history of the area. We are pleased to have been involved in such an exciting and important project, which has a long-life guarantee for future generations to enjoy."

Images: Felix Wenzel
Kebony ● www.kebony.com

Edgebanding: SCM presents the latest Stefani SBX and Olympic 500 products

SCM PRESENTED at the most recent edition of Xylexpo two technological solutions designed to meet the most complex and current demands in panel machining, even on the most delicate materials: the Stefani SBX squaring-edgebanding machine and the Olympic 500 edgebander.

The new industrial **Stefani SBX** squaring-edgebanding machine features what are believed to be the most advanced technological solutions developed by SCM, like the Servo electronic units and other optimisations aimed at achieving levels of finishing quality and squaring of the upper panels superior to current standards.

Stefani SBX can be used in stand-alone mode or as part of integrated lines and is synonymous with a high investment return, as it is a squaring-edgebanding solution with what is claimed to be the best price/performance ratio in its market segment.

One of the main advantages is high productivity: Stefani SBX has been designed to operate reliably



and without interruption over several shifts per day, seven days a week. It can reach machining speeds of up to 40 m/min with an interspacing of 350 mm even with a machining change, and can square and edge a vast range of panels with a thickness of between 8 and 60 mm.

Another significant advantage is the high squaring precision and parallelism: the extremely solid new single-block structure, the innovative squaring units and the use of 13-cog feed pinions significantly reduces the vibrations even at high speed.

The glue can be changed without having to stop the machine: the exclusive "glue switch" system designed by SCM allows the colour and glue type to be changed easily and instantly. This occurs thanks to an additional glue basin other than the one already found on the machine, complete with motorisation, and the option of different pre-melting combinations depending on production needs.

Thanks to the new Multiedge devices, just in time machining up to three beams can be achieved and an infinite variety of slim edges, as well





as panels with projecting veneering and panels with holes for hardware.

The high-quality finishing is also guaranteed by the “electronic touch” units with power-assisted technology that makes the squaring-edgebanding even simpler and more intuitive, even with the most complex machining work and on delicate, trending materials. An automatic, flexible set up that can offer excellent finishing quality and constant performance on all machining work.

SCM's new squaring-edgebanding machine has been designed to offer an annual energy saving of 10% and a considerable reduction of 50% on the wear of the edge. Its gluing is so precise that it guarantees minimum waste even at high speeds.

Added to this are the advantages for a connected, integrated production line. Stefani SBX has an exclusive digital control system with 3D additive preview of the piece being machined and allows you to work in perfect synergy with other technologies and MES computer and management systems at the factory.

Stefani SBX is a highly configurable and customisable squaring-edgebanding machine, designed to offer maximum versatility. Indeed, there are 11 possible configurations with a vast range of unit options to meet any production requirement and make it more efficient.

Complete and highly versatile, **Olympic 500** is an edgebander for artisan businesses capable of achieving a wide variety of machining operations in a small space, though always with high standards of quality.

Available both in pneumatic and electronic set up version, Olympic 500



allows you to machine two real beams on all units and panels up to 60 mm thick. All this by continuing to guarantee excellent quality standards thanks to the machine's extremely sturdy mechanical structure and the Multiedge devices found on all the operating units, including the two-motor rounding unit.

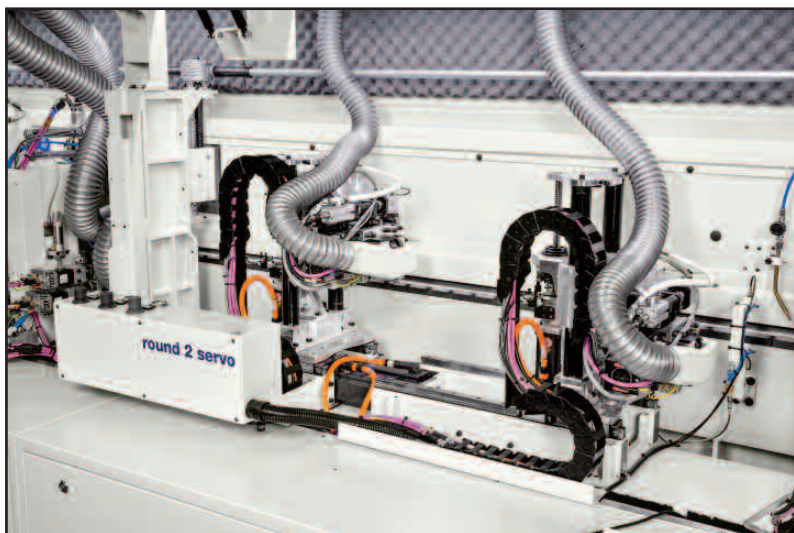
Its high versatility is another of its key advantages. Indeed, it is possible to perform a simple, automatic glue change, EVA and polyurethane, thanks to the SGP-E glue basin, designed to achieve a perfect joint line.

The new Olympic 500 edgebander is also believed to be unique in its kind with its hot-air plastic edging brightening unit for an outstanding finish to the panel.

Its use is even more user-friendly. The state-of-the-art, touch-screen control panels, with new 15" eye-S console, and Maestro active edge software provide the operator with an efficient and intuitive working experience, as well as guaranteeing maximum connectivity and synchronisation towards the corporate systems.

There are a wide range of advantages thanks to the high-end technological solutions, drawn from machines with higher-end segments of the market, and so many other options can be customised to suit the customer's needs.

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Cool, contemporary and consistent

RESIDENTIAL renovations specialist, Francisco Sutherland Architects, was recently approached by a private client to refurbish the interiors of their ultra-modern penthouse duplex in Frobisher Crescent, Barbican, London.

What began as a simple redesign of the property's bathrooms quickly evolved into an ambitious project, including: floor replacement, designing bespoke oak wardrobes and specifying a new kitchen. At the heart of the brief was the aim to achieve a cool, contemporary and consistent aesthetic, with an uncompromising focus on quality.

As lead architect, Ana Francisco Sutherland, explains, "The client, rightly, expected excellence throughout the space, which led us to source only premium fixtures, fittings and finishes. Product selection is a challenging process, and attention to detail was crucial. It was from here we started to collaborate with partners with a reputation of providing the very best in their category. This included James Latham (Lathams), whose incredible knowledge of decorative materials helped achieve the desired outcomes."

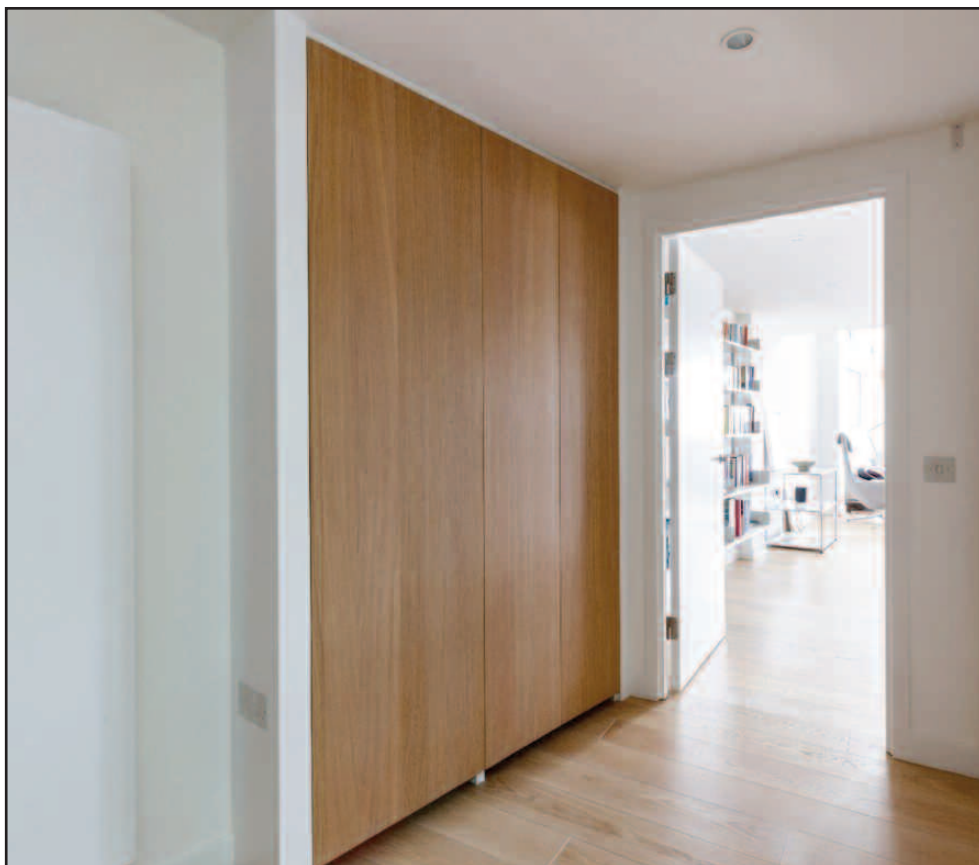
As a leading UK distributor of high-quality architectural materials, from this initial engagement, Lathams played a central role in the project, recommending suitable materials for the bespoke wardrobes (Decospan Veneered Panels).

Exploring the architect's design proposition further, a semi circular theme was developed to evoke the shape of Frobisher Crescent, complemented with a subtle palette of greys and whites, accentuated with features in warming oak and walnut. One unique element, central to the design, was a set of oak wardrobes built into the apartment's master bedroom. Designed to an exacting set of dimensions, Ana realised she would need to work with a material which achieved the look and feel of oak, but is lighter and easier to work with. She approached Lathams, where the expert specification team was able to identify a perfect solution: Decospan Querkus Oak Natural. A Lathams UK exclusive, Decospan's responsibly-sourced Querkus range combines an MDF core with natural timber veneers to produce a panel which offers a real oak finish, at a fraction of the weight and carbon cost. Furthermore, it has lower long-term maintenance requirements and greater adaptability for future modification.

Surpassing her requirements, Ana adds: "The finish achieved on the wardrobes is incredible. I was particularly impressed with the quality of the veneer, the authentic feel of the surface and how well-bonded it is to the MDF core. Furthermore, the uniformity of the graining has enabled us to achieve a curvaceous consistency, fluidity and rigidity which would have been near-impossible with solid oak timber."

In conclusion, focusing on Lathams' involvement with the project, specification manager Debbie Northall says: "Francisco Sutherland Architects' team came to us with a very clear, specific vision of how they wanted the space to look. Exclusive to Lathams in the UK, Decospan is a long-time partner and its products are of the highest quality, both in terms of looks and performance, making them a natural choice for this project. It's yet another example of how we're helping UK specifiers find materials that are the right fit for their requirements."

Lathams
www.lathamdigitalshowroom.co.uk



Walls without limits with Woven Image



DRIVEN by technology and global lockdowns, the role of the physical workplace has changed at an exponential pace, leaving many organisations reassessing how best to use space.

The 'office' has increasingly become a place for people to connect and collaborate, exchanging ideas and information, meaning acoustics have never been more important.

This autumn Woven Image introduces Serene Contours a design driven collection that responds to the design needs of the ever-evolving workplace. The Serene Contours collection exhibits linework strongly informed by Art Deco trends, included within the collection are two new EchoPanel® precision cuts; Palace and Ohm along with Duet Ion, a dust-sided panel for partitioning applications. Also housed within the collection is the quilted acoustic fabric Focus Chain.

Woven Image's wall finishes embrace the trend towards more tactile surfaces and three-dimensional textures; the panels interweave cutting edge design with sustainability and commercial performance. All provide a beautiful textural element to any vertical surface, with the added benefit of acoustic performance to combat reverberation from hard surfaces within busy offices.

The Woven Image Autumn 2022 new product launches encapsulate

design driven acoustic solutions for total applications with the release of three new acoustic panel designs: Ion Duet, Palace and Ohm.

Joining their precision cut range of acoustic panels is EchoPanel® Palace, which unveils detailed linework reflecting the arcs and archways of architecture and Art Deco motifs to evoke a serene, peaceful environment. Likewise, the contours of EchoPanel® Ohm reflect the ebb and flow of sound waves, a nod to their acoustic performance. Both designs feature a bevelled edge, to aid panel-to-panel installations. EchoPanel® precision cuts are sustainably made using 60% post-consumer recycled PET plastic. The range is available in 33 colours that coordinate with other wall, ceiling, partitioning and upholstery products in the portfolio.

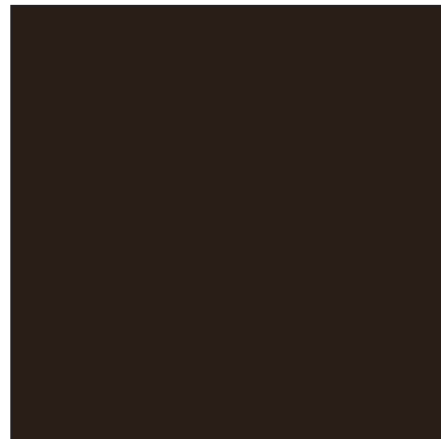
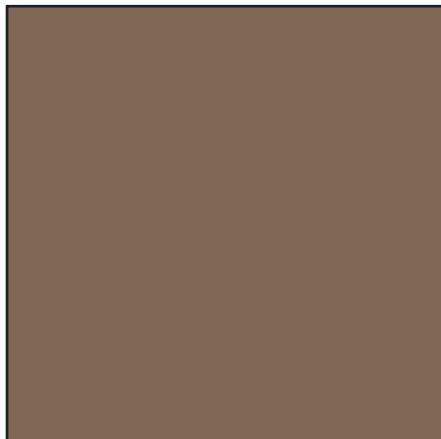
Ion Duet has been developed with the new hybrid workspace, flexible floorplates and occupants' well-being front of mind. Using Ion's geometric design, Ion Duet is a multi-directional dual-sided panel for partitioning applications, including workstation screens and operable walls. Compressed from EchoPanel® 24 mm, the colour is consistent throughout the thickness of the panel making it ideal for frameless applications. Pendent Ion Duet is a suspended acoustic screen that floats graciously above the floor for a breathtaking, sound absorbing experience. Pendent Ion Duet is considered ideal as a partitioning solution for flexible space dividing, privacy screening and wayfinding applications. Like Ion Duet, its embossed design is featured on both sides, ensuring its aesthetic is enjoyed from all angles.

Focus Chain is a design-led multi-functional textile solution suitable for task seating, occasional seating as well as wrapped panels for workstations, pods and room dividers. It graces any room with its beautifully quilted upholstery fabric inspired by a fusion of vertical line-work teamed with an Art Deco influence. The textured design evokes a calming flow of movement, enticing the user to its lofty surface. Like Focus Wave, Focus Chain is an acoustic fabric boasting sound absorption properties and performing to global commercial textile standards. Available in 12 contemporary colourways that coordinate with other fabrics in the focus range.

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Decorative Panels Lamination to launch FineFlex Metallics — a recycled PET collection



DECORATIVE Panels Lamination, one of Europe's leading suppliers of decorative faced sheet materials, is launching a collection of FineFlex Metallic Designs from premium surfacing brands Fine Decor and Schattdecor to its dp-specialist range.

The dp-specialist range is a comprehensive set of quality gloss and matt surface finishes from market leading brands all of which are laminated straight from the roll onto MDF or dp-lite, considered perfect for trade and volume customers.

With the merge of two premium surfacing brands, Fine Decor and Schattdecor, years of design expertise in the field of solid colours and decor printing have come together, along with pioneering technology to produce sustainable lacquer laminate surfaces. The two companies are united in their first joint project — FineFlex. A quality surface made with a percentage of recycled PET.

Through a patented lacquering process, a surface with a unique feel

and anti-fingerprint technology has been achieved. FineFlex is particularly easy to clean and conforms to 6250 and 6222 standards. Thanks to its moisture resistance, the surface is not only considered ideal for furniture surfaces, but is also particularly suitable for use in humid areas such as kitchens and bathrooms. With outstanding processing opportunities, FineFlex is an environmentally conscious alternative for 2D lamination, as a thermoforming film for three-dimensional surfaces and wrapping or postforming.

With growing awareness and an increased drive to provide sustainable options for the market, Decorative Panels Lamination is certain the addition of six FineFlex metallics will be welcomed by customers. Metallics have been coming into trend for some time now, but it has always been difficult to achieve consistency within the colour. FineFlex metallic surfaces do just that, their iridescent shimmer is visible throughout the pigment creating a luxurious finish to both the eye and the touch. The super

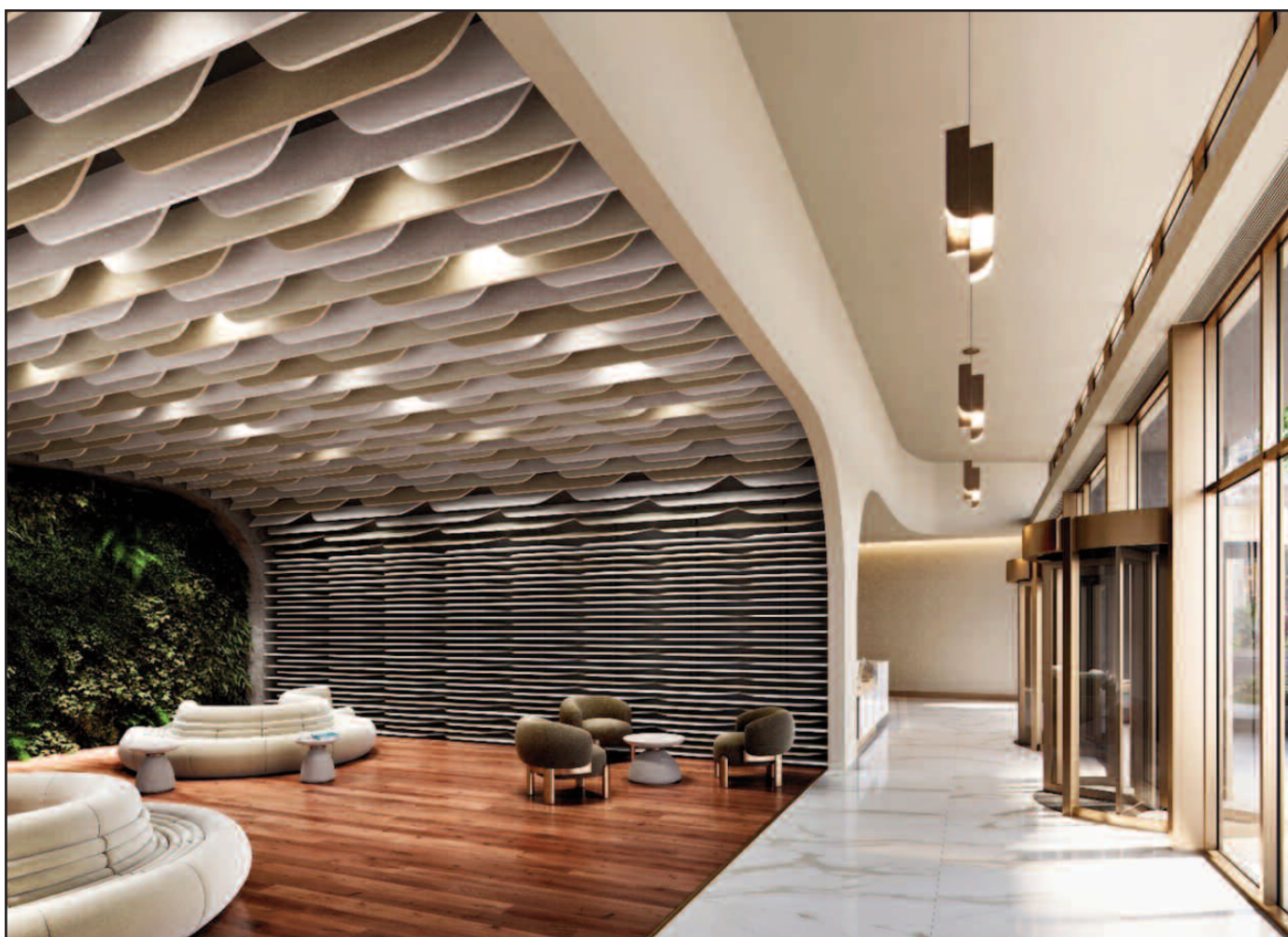
matt finish is distinguished by the six warm and subtle earthy tones perfect suited to create focal points and feature panels throughout the home. Schattdecor and Fine Decor have a process believed to be unique to recycle the manufacturing scrap from their own production cycle into new raw material, thus bringing it full circle back into the production process. Decorative Panels Lamination is now part of the solution offering a perfect combination of first-class design and surface quality with increased sustainability.

The FineFlex Metallic Collection is available in widths of 1,220 mm laminated on MDF and dp-lite Hollowcore board in a range of thicknesses. To find out more about the wide range of decorative surfaces available from Decorative Panels, please contact the company.

Decorative Panels Lamination
Tel 01484 658341
www.decorativepanels.co.uk



Design-driven acoustic solutions for ceilings



ARRAY AND FUJI are part of Serene Contours, a visually arresting collection of design-driven acoustic ceiling and wall finishes.

The 'office' has increasingly become a place for people to connect and collaborate, exchanging ideas and information. Serene Contours addresses these advances in workplace design where the cohesion of acoustic function with trending aesthetics has never been more important. This collection welcomes the Fuji range of ceiling acoustic tiles: Roku, Juni and Ku along with Array.

Array is a fully customisable acoustic ceiling baffle system, that helps to control reverberated noise in busy, shared spaces. Baffles utilise EchoPanel® in both 12 mm and 24 mm thicknesses, and are available in a range of in-house designs, or the Woven Image in-house studio can help create something truly unique. Array has been engineered for quick and easy installation and requires up to 60% less hardware compared to other acoustic baffle systems, according to the company.

Fuji tiles are Woven Image's latest innovation in design-led acoustic ceiling finishes. Compatible with the Array ceiling mount hardware, Fuji tiles are quick and easy to install in both direct fix and suspended applications. These 3D formed tiles reduce reverberation times through a high sound absorption rating.

Fuji's design is inspired by modern Japonisme style alongside Art Deco trends. In three sizes, all Fuji

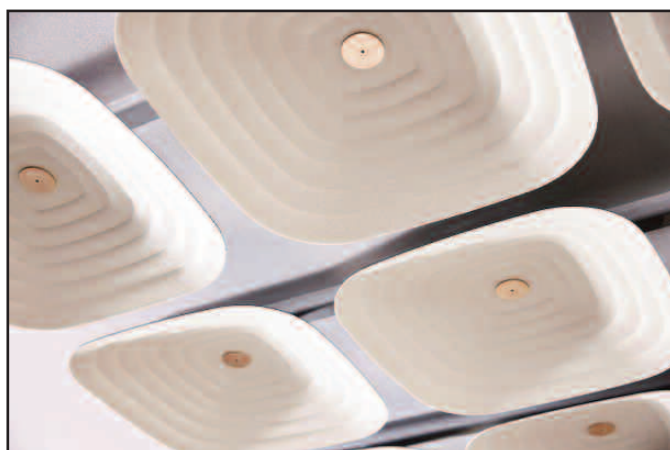
tiles exhibit Art Deco curves alongside reinterpreted linework, reflecting the design of the original embossed acoustic panel, Zen.

The Fuji collection includes Fuji Roku, a smaller square-shaped acoustic tile inspired by a mix of modern Japonisme and Art Deco trends. Fuji Juni makes a mark in the Fuji range with its long rectangular shape. The curves of Art Deco and reinterpreted linework of Zen combine to create this acoustic ceiling tile. Juni pairs nicely with Roku for unique configurations. Fuji Ku is a large square-shaped, double-sided embossed acoustic tile of the Fuji range. Designed for sound absorption, Ku can be used as a conference table suspended feature, as well as large acoustic ceiling solutions for offices and commercial spaces.

Unique installations can be achieved through varying configurations of tile size, colour way, hardware finish and suspension height.

Making a contribution believed to be unique to both ceiling aesthetics and acoustic control through its 3D design, they enhance a whole room, especially with coordinated wall finishes.

Fuji applications include, but are not limited to, a suspended conference table feature, and large scale acoustic ceiling solutions for public spaces.



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South London loft conversion specialist finds multiple uses for West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero



A FAMILY-RUN firm from Surrey, which specialises in loft conversions and the creation of bespoke garden rooms, is making extensive use of SterlingOSB Zero from panel product manufacturer, West Fraser, based on the board's value, performance and ease of installation.

MB Loft Conversions, based in Caterham, was established eight years ago by Mark Bell and undertakes contracts right across South London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent. Typically, the company completes up to a dozen loft conversions and other projects each year.

Mark purchases his SterlingOSB Zero from Selhurst Timber and other builders merchants local to clients' properties. While he mainly prefers to use 18 mm tongue and groove boards for their strength and excellent alignment when laid, some of MB Loft Conversions' builds also use quantities of 11 mm (square edge) SterlingOSB Zero.

Mark Bell commented: "I started out in the building trade as a carpenter but soon began concentrating on loft conversions and really enjoy the work which is all for private clients. The jobs vary in size: we have done quite a number of larger projects typically with two rooms in the loft, along with two en-suites. The garden rooms can be very large as well.

"There is a number of reasons why we prefer to use both West Fraser's 8 x 4 and 8 x 2 T&G Sterling OSB Zero, apart from it being a product I'm very familiar with. We know we can rely on the quality, while the 18 mm T&G boards are like gold when it comes to doing flat roofs and make a really good deck. We also use them for the cheeks of the dormer windows, while we switch to the 11 mm for internal walls. There are also many applications for SterlingOSB Zero when it comes to our garden rooms."

As part of a comprehensive, overall carbon negative product range, SterlingOSB Zero T&G presents specifiers with precision-engineered tongue and groove boards, which are typically specified for pitched or flat roof decking and timber frame construction, as well as for flooring and other applications.

Also from an environmental point of view, the 'Zero' in the name means no formaldehyde is added during its manufacture, which is believed to be a first in the UK — encouraging its specification on improved health and safety grounds.

Available in thicknesses of 18 and 22 mm, the boards are produced in 2,400 x 1,200 mm and 2,440 x 1,220 mm sizes with T&G joints on two edges, as well as an 18 mm thick version with T&G profiles around all four edges and face dimensions of 2,400 mm or 2,440 mm by 625 mm.

They are strong enough for use in most load-bearing applications, while BBA certification and recognition by both NHBC Technical and Zurich Municipal are key assurances for housebuilding applications.

SterlingOSB Zero T&G also bears the coveted UKTFA Q-mark, a quality certification which provides a benchmark for manufacturers and offers confidence to designers and end-users across the UK.

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From forest to warehouse — how SterlingOSB Zero is made

STERLINGOSB Zero, from West Fraser, is believed to be the first and only OSB produced in the UK to be free from formaldehyde added during the manufacturing process: hence the 'Zero' moniker. It is also one of the most popular panel products employed here, widely used structurally for walls, roofs and applications such as shop-fitting and off-site fabrication.

How SterlingOSB Zero is manufactured is, in itself, a complex and fascinating process: beginning with the trees being harvested from UK or European forests, which are de-branched/cut to size and delivered as green timber to the wood storage area of the factory.

The bark is then removed, which is recycled for process heat, while the green timber then goes on to the cyclones to separate the steam and strands. Moisture is further reduced to less than 4% in rotary drum dryers, before the material is passed into a ring strander where 48 knives rotate at a flailing 400 rpm to shred the wood chips into strands — accurate to 0.8 mm.

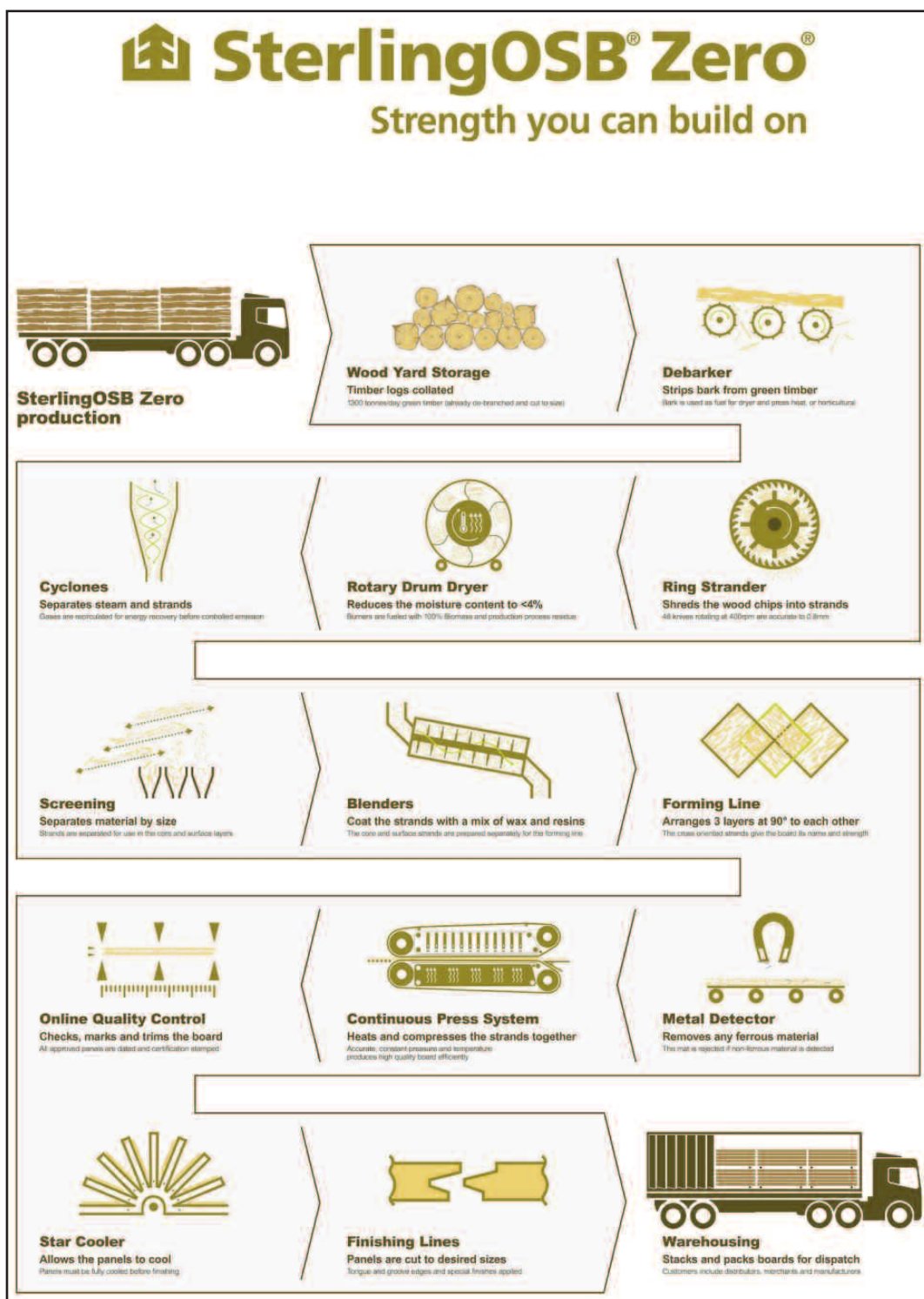
Screening separates the resulting material by size, determining which is to be used for the core and surface layers — while the strands are then coated with a mix of wax and resins before being arranged in three layers, perpendicular to each other, helping give the boards their strength.

Online quality control is undertaken at this stage, and the approved panels are trimmed, dated and certification stamped. Then a continuous, heated compression is applied to join the strands ever more tightly, before the emerging boards pass through metal detectors — if any ferrous material is found, the board is rejected. The panels are then cooled in a star cooler before being sent to the finishing lines, where they are cut to size, the tongue and groove boards formed, and special coatings are applied. Ultimately, at the end of the line the boards are warehoused ready for distribution.

West Fraser's sustainably managed operations from forest to factory gate contribute to SterlingOSB Zero's manufacture being a net carbon negative process, and therefore another reason for its wide specification across the UK, as the construction industry tries to reduce its environmental impact.

To find out more about West Fraser's products for housebuilders, get in touch with the company using the contact details below.

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Weathering the storm: understanding the effect of moisture on cross-laminated timber

LONGEVITY of construction materials and components is crucially important in line with environmental objectives such as waste reduction. Phil O’Leary (pictured), technical manager at BM TRADA, explores how moisture dynamics can affect the durability of cross-laminated timber, covering the latest research from BM TRADA and Stora Enso.



Cross-laminated timber (CLT) has become a popular choice for designers over the last 15 years. Spanning residential buildings to educational and commercial spaces, the market growth of CLT can be attributed to its usability in complex timber structures.

Modern lightweight timber frame buildings have been used for nearly 100 years. Plus, a large proportion of the UK housing stock has timber pitched roofs, many of which are centuries old.

CLT has also created exciting opportunities for low/negative carbon and sustainable buildings. However, as with all construction products, there has been a learning curve as the industry’s understanding of CLT’s strengths and weaknesses has grown. One such area where new knowledge has been uncovered is how moisture can compromise the material’s durability.

CLT Durability

Durability of construction materials and components is particularly important as more people talk about sustainability. The benefit of timber and wood-based products is that the lifespan can be almost indefinite if they remain dry. That said, timber is at risk of fungal decay if its moisture content exceeds 20% for an extended period of time. In a well-designed and constructed timber frame building or pitched roof, moisture content in service will be between 10% and 14% — well below the fungal decay threshold.

While CLT follows the same durability principles as lightweight

timber structures, its thickness and the mass of timber used present additional considerations when exposed to moisture. Timber studs, joists and rafters have a relatively large surface-area-to-volume ratio and so typically dry rapidly when conditions allow. On the other hand, CLT has a much smaller surface-area-to-volume ratio and so drying rates can be substantially slower, which can affect durability greatly.

Insulation Considerations

CLT external walls and roofs should always be designed as ‘warm’ construction. This means all thermal insulation is placed on the outside face of the wall or roof panel. By placing the CLT panels within the thermal envelope of the building, panels are in what should normally be a warm and dry environment — creating the ideal environment for timber to endure.

The most common insulation material placed on the outside of CLT in the UK is rigid foil-faced insulation boards (eg PIR/PUR/phenolic). It is installed to walls, felt roofs and pitched roofs.

While these insulation materials have excellent thermal resistance and provide the required U-values, the foil facings limit drying of the CLT panels behind.

Developing Understanding

Moving forward requires learning from previous experience, of which data forms a large part. For this reason, BM TRADA and Stora Enso have conducted research to



better understand the moisture dynamics in CLT. The two-part project looked at both wetting risk during construction and drying rates, information which can be used to determine moisture distribution behaviour.

The drying rates of five-layer, 100 mm thick CLT panels were investigated; various configurations were tested, including covering the wet outer face of panels with foil to replicate panels covered with rigid foil-faced insulation boards and/or vapour control layers. This test was intended to replicate typical UK construction build-ups for warm walls as well as flat and pitched roofs.

During the testing of the covered panels, water in the wet outside face lamination was observed slowly passing through the thickness of the panels to the dry uncovered side, confirming the previously held assertion that panels could dry to the inside.

However, with a starting moisture content of 35% in the wet outer lamination, it took almost 16 months for the moisture content to fall to 20%. This means drying could take years for higher moisture contents and/or thicker panels. On the flip side, uncovered panels that were able to dry directly from the wet face took approximately six weeks for a similar moisture content reduction.

Creating Room to Breathe

To achieve long-term durability of timber structures, a primary consideration is to provide a combination of drainage, ventilation and breathability. It is not normally an issue if timber gets wet, providing water can drain away quickly and the timber is subsequently allowed

to dry. Slowing down or restricting drying through the use of high resistance insulation products and/or vapour control layers on the inner and outer faces of the panels can slow drying to an extent that the development of fungal decay may become a risk if panels are subjected to adverse conditions during construction or in service.

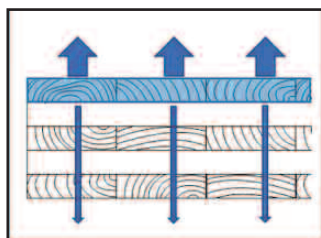
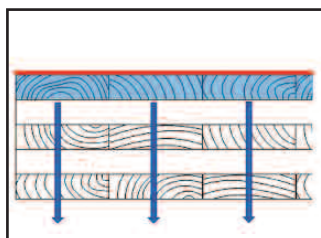
On the continent, CLT building systems are often paired with mineral wool or wood-fibre insulation products — these breathable insulation materials are typically beneficial to timber building systems as they allow more rapid drying of CLT panels if they are exposed to wetting during construction or in service.

The use of breathable insulation products and systems, in conjunction with good overall design detailing and a moisture management plan for the construction phase, will have a significant positive impact on the long-term durability and robustness of CLT structures.

Planning ahead

CLT will no doubt play a key part in creating greener, low carbon buildings. To do so, an understanding of how to effectively protect CLT from moisture during construction is vital. Where moisture does pose issues, appropriate remedial action must be prioritised. This should also be taken into consideration at the onset of any timber construction project, particularly when allowing sufficient drying time to prevent fungal and structural decay.

BM TRADA
www.bmtrada.com/timber-services



The drying mechanism of five-layer, 100 mm thick CLT panels with (left) and without (right) foil coverings.

LEV ... Extractly how it should be

DUST ... it's a dirty subject but, if not controlled effectively, wood dust has the potential to cause serious health problems for workers exposed to the hazard, and it's something we all have a responsibility to deal with in this industry.

The specific health hazards associated with wood dust are well-documented and regularly reported through the pages of our industry's media, and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations require employers to ensure that the exposure of employees to substances that are hazardous to health is either prevented or, where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled. However, despite all the publicity and the seriousness of potential problems, the Health and Safety Executive continue to report a high incidence of dust exposure regulations being breached by woodworking businesses.

Regulations stipulate Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL) for wood dust based on the average amount of airborne dust present during a nominal eight hour shift. Since 2020, the maximum WEL for softwood dust has been set at 5 mg/m³ and, where hardwood dust is prevalent, or



Internal inspection of customer's filter unit.

a mixture of both softwood and hardwood dust exists, the current limit is 3 mg/m³; expected to be reduced to 2 mg/m³ in 2023.

Since wood dust acts as a respiratory sensitiser, it's essential that employees' exposure to dust is not just maintained below the relevant WEL, but that any exposure to wood dust is minimised as far as is reasonably practicable — a respiratory sensitiser is a substance which, when inhaled, can trigger an irreversible allergic reaction in the respiratory system and, once such a reaction has occurred, even the slightest repeat exposure to the substance may produce symptoms.

In a woodworking factory it's the fine particles of wood dust that are likely to cause lung damage but, when fine wood is airborne, it's practically invisible. Just to put the exposure limits into perspective, one teaspoon (5 ml) of dry sawdust typically weighs in at around 1 g, or 1,000 mg; which means that 5 mg/m³ of sawdust equates to around one fiftieth of a teaspoon (0.1 ml). When measured

in these terms, it's not hard to appreciate why such a small amount of dust is difficult to see when it's floating around in a million cm³ of air, and just how effective dust extraction needs to be to control the hazard.



Testing LEV efficiency at source.



Ecogate system maintenance.

In order to capture the harmful dust at source, and remove it before it can spread, adequate dust extraction, or Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV), must be provided wherever woodworking machines are in operation and, crucially, it must be maintained in tip-top condition. There's a legal requirement for LEV systems to be examined and tested, by a competent person, at least every 14 months and, especially for complex systems, more frequent checks are strongly recommended. A reputable dust extraction provider will advise on LEV Testing requirements for an individual system based on how complicated the system is, how likely it is to fail, and the consequences if it does.

Extractly Ltd has a high-dedicated and experienced in-house service team to support its customers in the woodworking industry. The team's knowl-



Checking fan belt condition and tension.

edge and skills have been honed and developed through years of experience with countless LEV system configurations and extraction equipment from a myriad of manufacturers. Whether your dust extraction was installed by Extractly or another provider, the service delivered will be customised to meet your specific needs; ensuring maximum uptake and optimum performance from your system, and safeguarding the health of your workforce.

Extractly have the capability to meet all your LEV requirements: whether it's for regular testing and maintenance, updating an existing system to provide additional extraction capacity for new machine installations, to design, install and commission a new and efficient dust extraction system, or simply to reconfigure ductwork to accommodate a machine replacement or relocation.

In addition, as the sole UK distributor of Ecogate® energy-saving extraction equipment, Extractly is believed to be uniquely placed to provide a one stop shop solution, covering all your extraction requirements. Ecogate® technology is highly effective when it comes to maintaining optimum airflow in an extraction system and, with fan speed automatically and continuously adjusted to exactly match extraction demand throughout the working day, it is guaranteed to significantly reduce your system's power consumption and running costs.

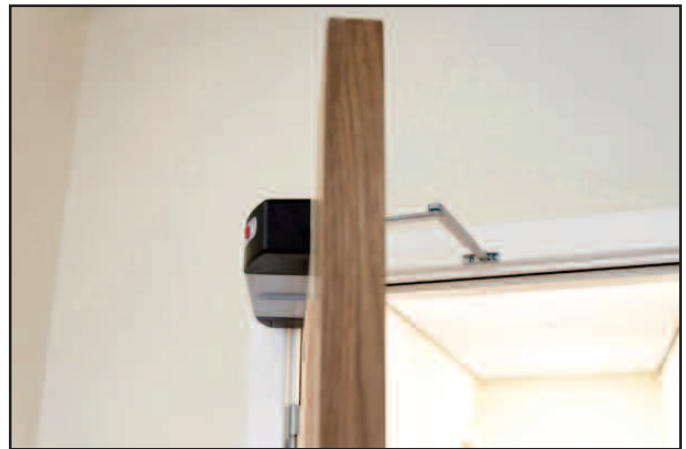
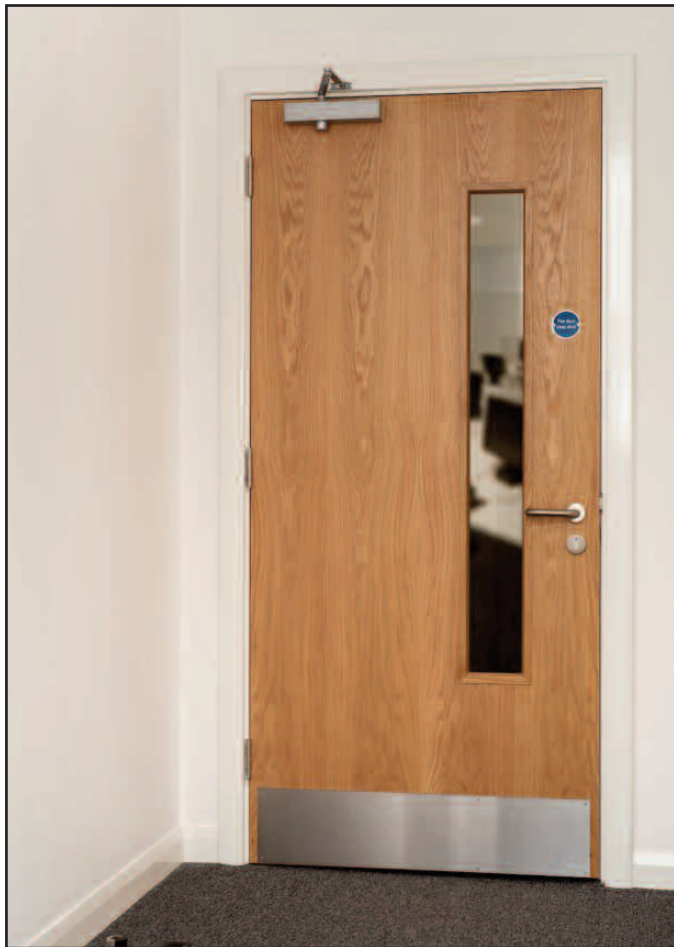


Testing Ecogate greenBOX controller.

Extractly Limited ● Tel 01924 520462
Email info@extractly.co.uk ● www.extractly.co.uk

IronmongeryDirect supports Fire Door Safety Week with new online resources

PLEDGING its support for this year's Fire Door Safety Week campaign, leading specialist retailer, IronmongeryDirect, has published a number of useful fire safety resources on its website to help woodworkers, carpenters and joiners comply with the latest regulations. Visitors to IronmongeryDirect's website will have access to in depth guides and a fire door checklist on a dedicated hub to help ensure the correct and safe specification of compliant fire-rated hardware.



Fire Door Safety Week ran between 31st October and 4th November 2022. Now in its ninth year, the scheme aims to raise awareness and understanding of the critical role that fire doors play in protecting life and property as passive fire protection (PFP) in buildings. In line with this, IronmongeryDirect has updated its website to help make the specification of its fire-rated products as easy as possible, with a number of useful resources that can be easily accessed in one place.

The resources include a fire door safety checklist which highlights the key areas and hardware on a fire door that need to be checked, fitted and maintained correctly in order for it to comply with regulations and function as intended in the event of a fire. The checklist is also available to download, making it easy for customers to print and refer to when working on various jobs.


IronmongeryDirect has also developed two comprehensive buyers' guides on fire protection and door closers which have been added to the hub. Providing detailed guidance on regulatory requirements, key considerations and information on suitable hardware, the guides are a valuable resource to aid the specification process.

Dominick Sandford, managing director at IronmongeryDirect, said: "The British Woodworking Federation's Fire Door Safety Week campaign serves as a vital reminder of the crucial role of the door leaf and all components of a fire door doorset in the protection against flames and smoke — in order to save lives. The correct specification and maintenance of all elements is critical and as an annual supporter of this campaign, we are delighted to help our customers achieve the highest safety standards

with our informative resources and guides."


IronmongeryDirect is believed to be the UK's largest online supplier of ironmongery to the trade, with over 18,000 products in stock including everything from cabinet hardware to sliding door gear. Woodworkers, carpenters and joiners can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including free next day delivery on orders over £45 ex VAT, same day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

Ironmongery Direct
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



Ironmongery Direct
Trusted to deliver


Online resources



Door Closer Guide



Fire Door Checklist



Fire Protection Guide



Fire-rated Safety Range

Hybrid kitchen by Brandt Design

LUXURY kitchen and interior design studio, Brandt Design, create the ultimate kitchen living space for a new build, five-bed family home in Hertfordshire, by accommodating four key functions across the ground floor: cooking, food management, laundry, and all-weather home access.

Julia Steadman, commercial director at Brandt Design, explains, "With younger adults now living at home for longer and the rise of hybrid work patterns increasing, the evolution of the kitchen living space has to deliver the ultimate in practicality, luxury and efficiency for the forever family home. More and more consumers are taking a long-term, holistic approach to design with contemporary classic colours and materials coming to the fore in terms of rich timber effects, muted greys and bespoke in frame fitted furniture to provide resilient, structured zoning for family life in rapidly changing times.

The kitchen: Designed to bring the family together for work, rest and play, a generous prep zone with luxurious quartz surfaces from the Brandt Collection is anchored by an island unit complete with an integrated breakfast bar. The back wall is framed with Brandt Heritage furniture to meet all the cook's floor-to-ceiling storage needs with a giant American-style fridge freezer and wine cooler also housed in style. Farrow & Ball's Pigeon is the ideal complement to the soothing and harmonious vibe and was chosen for its soft, blue undertones, bringing an extra feeling of comfort and security to the scheme. The pale oak dining table was carefully chosen to complement the parquet-style flooring from The Engineered Flooring Company throughout and provides plenty of room for working from home or gathering around for an informal Sunday brunch or special occasion.

The pantry: Highly desirable and practical, the pantry and walk-in larder are design cornerstones of forever family living in terms of providing extra storage for dry goods and long-life groceries as well as a home for small appliances away from the working zone. The addition of customised deep drawers in addition to more traditional open shelving gives the homeowner more options for storing multi-packs of food in ambient conditions and protecting it from sunlight or artificial light for greater



longevity. Cut-out handles on the drawer fronts enable easy access which is vital when hunger pangs strike, or extra party guests arrive.

The utility room: Anyone with a growing family knows that young people can create a lot of laundry so it makes sense to pre-empt wash day blues with twin-sets of integrated appliances so that you can get ahead of the game. By installing two Miele washing machines and two matching tumble dryers, it's much easier to keep on top of the laundry and deal with any spills immediately by putting garments, bed linen or a pet bed into a washer straight away. There's also a generous ceramic Belfast sink for handwashing and soaking so that the kitchen sink is dedicated to food prep, preventing cross-contamination and ensuring that keen gardeners and dog walkers always have a space to clean up before coming into the rest of the house.

The bootroom: a must-have for country retreats or busy urban environments, a bootroom serves as a user-friendly buffer between the outside world and the inner sanctum. Providing a space for shoes, coats, winterwear and pet supplies, this space instantly upgrades the back of the house and ensures that there is dedicated storage space for essential items, promoting a calm and ordered environment. Bench-style seating

ensures that guests can remove their footwear in comfort and place their boots or shoes beneath, helping to prevent visual clutter and ensure a designated home for accessories, so it is easy to find what you need, so you can 'grab and go' when leaving the house on the school run, last minute trip to the shops or when taking the dog out.

Brandt Design is renowned for creating lifestyle-oriented kitchen living spaces with its range of custom furniture and made-to-order worktops in a variety of materials such as stone-effect quartz, solid surface and wood. Offering two different furniture options, customers can choose between the classic Heritage Collection or Urban Collection, which is contemporary by design.

Brandt Design
info@brandtkitchens.co.uk
www.brandtdesign.co.uk



Prioritise the pantry with Blossom Avenue by BA



BA, ONE OF the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke and made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialist components, debuts its new Buxton Butler's Pantry just in time for party season.

Inspired by the growth in popularity for modern country interior schemes, the new Buxton door style by BA is a classic square Shaker-style cabinet, which can be easily integrated into today's blended kitchen space. Now thanks to the launch of the new Butler's Pantry, homeowners can enjoy a dedicated storage for bulk purchases, seasonal buys and larger food items, as well as free-up space in their kitchen cupboards.

Aine McKernon, Blossom Avenue brand manager at BA, says: "Vertical storage is the best way of making the most of the footprint in a busy kitchen, which is why we wanted to bring the traditional pantry up-to-date to help homeowners better manage their dry goods and groceries. With the rising cost of living, more of us are seeing the benefits of batch cooking and making our own meals from scratch to boost our health and save money on perishable foods. A new appreciation of cooking with the seasons and the immune-boosting effect of herbs and spices means that more room is required for store cupboard staples and our Butler's Pantry is the perfect solution to supplement your fresh produce."

Seen pictured is the new Butler's Pantry with Buxton style



kitchen furniture, which is finished in Matt Sage Green. Behind the pantry's full height doors, quality light oak shelving and nine separate compartments make it simple to keep track of store cupboard basics, and two generous open Integra drawers designed with a double-stop mechanism believed to be unique, will hold the drawer securely in position when open — great when multitasking!

Aine adds, "Sage Green is a refreshing colour to bridge the gap between the home and garden, bringing the outside in and embracing a feeling of relaxation. In addition, it pairs beautifully with our Supermatt Dove Grey finish as seen in the main kitchen, so homeowners can easily

create a timeless kitchen look by choosing an island in two contrasting colours. We are always looking for ways to enhance the kitchen dining experience with practical solutions, which is why our new Buxton Butler's Pantry is available in our full range of colours.

Blossom Avenue kitchens are designed for the UK homeowner and cater for every space and budget by offering innovative furniture, which is considered a perfect mix of quality, sustainability and cutting-edge design. With 11 collections to choose from in four distinct styles — handleless, classic, contemporary and traditional — there really is something for everyone, according to the company.

BA

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Red Deer designs Ochre, the National Gallery's new restaurant in London

ARCHITECTURE and design studio, Red Deer, has taken the very structure of what makes up a painting as the inspiration for its design for the National Gallery's new restaurant, Ochre, in the heart of London.

Red Deer's design takes cues from the name 'ochre' itself which is a pigment found within rocks and soil. The palette for the dining space is a mixture of these earthy colours including burnt oranges, yellows and browns. These tones are then continued in the varied textiles within the restaurant ranging from deep luxurious velvets, boucle and embroidered textiles, to raw cottons and linens and informed the design process from the start. The addition of hand-patinated brass as a repeated detail throughout further adds to this painterly palette while the handmade ceramic tables by ceramicist Emma Lloyd-Pane recall large ochre paint splashes.

Set within the ground floor of The National Gallery, Ochre retains many of the building's original features from the classical architecture, including high ceilings and large windows. The inclusion of contemporary banquette seating that zig zags across the centre of the main space serves to separate the drinking areas from the dining areas. Designed and purpose built by Red Deer

to playfully mimic that of a paint stroke, this focal point pays homage to the history of the building and to the act of painting itself. The wooden bar stools continue this artistic theme with the bases shaped in the form of painters' palettes.

Lighting is a consistently key component in all of Red Deer's designs. Here at Ochre it creates an atmospheric ambience as if the diner themselves is seated within a still life painting. The heavily listed status of the building meant that there were numerous limitations to how Red Deer could design the space. Large bespoke free standing lighting was created in order to emphasise the double height space of the gallery by stepping away from the existing wall panelling and swooping from floor to table in grand, intentionally exaggerated and playful gestures like a brushmark. In the private dining room to the rear of the space there is an oversized chandelier that acts as a stunning focal point to the space. Red Deer co-founder and lead architect and designer, Lucas Che Tizard, oversaw the project and was the inspiration behind the colour palette found within so much of the National Gallery's collection that houses over 2,300 paintings dating from the mid-13th Century to 1900.

As Mr Tizard explains, "When we were imagining the design for Ochre it was always to be a plush space because the building itself is so beautiful and its proportions are so iconic. It just lends itself to these grand indulgent fittings. We imagined this restaurant space to be like an artist's home — warm, homely and relaxing and I think the design of Ochre definitely reflects this. Likewise the name, Ochre, and the colour palette it is named after, is muted and autumnal and so the food served here is simple and seasonal. We worked closely at every stage of the design with Sam and Charlotte Miller, who have created Ochre, so that the design and the menu work side by side and complement one another. It is an understated but no less playful result."

Red Deer is committed to working sustainably in all that it does and this approach is continued with Ochre. To make the project as environmentally friendly as possible 60% of the original seating was reused. Existing banquettes found onsite were also reappropriated and rebuilt with a banquette specialist setting up an onsite workshop to disassemble, reform and reupholster in situ. Local fabricators were commissioned and all new furniture required was sourced in the UK.



As Mr Tizard says, "Not only was it fun to do this but it made sense from an environmental and cost perspective."

Ochre's owners, Charlotte and Sam Miller, say, "We are proud to bring Ochre to the historic National Gallery. We have created a beautiful contemporary space inside the impressive 20th Century William Wilkins building, with a soft palette, celebrating the best features of the room. Working with Red Deer has been an enjoyable experience, where they have brought their talent and expertise to help produce the finished design. We very much look forward to our elevated restaurant concept becoming a place that gallery visitors will enjoy, as well as a destination restaurant in its own right in London."

Red Deer ● Tel 0203 637 3581
hello@reddeer.co.uk
https://reddeer.co.uk/

Sustainable Selco goes solar

SELCO Builders Warehouse has made further progress on its sustainability journey by undertaking a major installation of solar panels at a branch for the first time.

The Barking branch of the leading builders merchant has benefitted from the installation of more than 220 solar panels, which is already generating up to 40 per cent of the branch's energy usage. In addition, a new recycling policy was rolled out across the entire branch network before Christmas 2022, including the introduction of specialist timber skips.

Craig Ducker, head of operational projects and business services at Selco, said: "Alternative energy sources and a strong and robust recycling strategy are two key areas of our sustainability blueprint.

"The solar panels were installed in Barking in late September and, despite not having the greatest weather conditions since installation, the early indications are that around 35-40 per cent of the electricity used in the branch is being generated through the solar panels.



"In the first week of having the solar panels installed, we saw a 46 kg reduction in carbon emissions. We will continue to monitor this trial but the long-term hope is that we can ultimately extend the concept across the wider Selco estate."

The panels were fitted by Amelio Solar Panels with SolarEdge providing the web portal for real-time monitoring.

Meanwhile, new recycling strategy trials have been successfully completed in five Selco branches, Milton Keynes, Cricklewood, Hanger Lane, Swansea and Cardiff Handfield Road. As a result of the trials, timber skips are to be introduced to all branches for any broken, offcut timber, fence panels MDF and chipboard.

New 1,100 litre wheelie bins for general waste will also be in branches while all cardboard and plastic will be returned to Selco's Lightside Distribution Centre in Oxford for recycling. Specific plans for the recycling of pallets, electrical waste and hazardous waste have all been developed.

Craig added: "The new recycling strategy is all designed around making it easier for our colleagues to do the right thing.

"The type of waste created in our branches is varied so we have ensured we have communicated in detail through a new recycling manual exactly what should happen with any waste generated. One of the more pleasing elements of the trial was that colleagues were extremely eager to follow the correct recycling procedures so we are confident our new guidance and processes will make a huge difference."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Cut your material miles with West Fraser's home-grown panels

WITH GROWING pressure on the UK construction industry to adhere to environmental targets, it has never been more important to understand the journey materials have taken before they arrive on site. At West Fraser's UK sites, all engineered wood panels are made with a commitment to making better products for a sustainable future. West Fraser's UK manufacturing SterlingOSB Zero and CaberMDF are made from responsibly managed forests.

With the ongoing demand to provide more homes in the UK, coupled with the drive to use sustainable building materials, it is little surprise that the timber frame market is making use of SterlingOSB Zero. As Steve Roebuck, West Fraser's European Health & Safety Director explains, "Virtually all housebuilding in Scotland has been timber framed for many years. The markets are now growing in England and Wales with timber frame construction being recognised for its thermal capacity and significant insulating properties. At West Fraser, we are proud to provide the UK construction industry the materials it needs to achieve its environmental goals. Wood comes from a sustainable source and is renewable. You're not digging something out of the ground to make bricks."

West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is believed to be unique in the market by being the only zero added formaldehyde OSB manufactured in the UK. Produced from forest thinnings taken from sustainably managed forests, the board is certified according to the guidelines of the FSC® (CO12533) or PEFC®.

What are the other environmental benefits to those using West Fraser panels? West Fraser delivers a net carbon negative benefit

in all the products produced in the UK, locking up more CO₂e in the products (and lifetime use) than is emitted in the manufacture of them. That accounts for everything from forest to customer, including harvesting, production, sales and logistics.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>
<https://uk.westfraser.com/carbon-negative/>



UNTHA offers complete solutions for woodworking and timber-processing businesses

AS UNTHA shredding technology has a high percentage of in-house production directly at its plant in Kuchl near Salzburg, the company is in a position to implement tailor-made solutions for woodworking and timber-processing businesses that reflect individual circumstances and requirements. From planning to project execution and commissioning with all the required peripheral devices, this premium manufacturer offers its customers a one-stop-shop service.

Timber-processing businesses know this only too well: Shredding the material is one thing, efficiently removing the shredded material quite another. Whenever material needs to be transported in certain directions and across a limited distance, conveyor technology is required. The electrical integration of the control system into existing facilities is also crucial.

In addition to providing classic shredding solutions, shredding specialist UNTHA has also positioned itself as *the* one-stop-shop for system solutions for woodworking and timber-processing businesses. The CE marking of all UNTHA machines guarantees a clearly defined framework for the handover based on EU standards, making the process easier and reducing complexity.

Seamless, efficient operation also requires the swift removal of the shredded material, which may then be used as alternative fuel or for a different purpose.

Conveyance technology that is customised to fit your shredding facility and a range of conveyance systems transport the wood chips to their designated storage location in line with individual requirements. All UNTHA wood shredders may be combined with all the necessary peripheral devices, thereby ensuring the gentle and energy-efficient transport of the shredded material.

The UNTHA range includes feeder and conveyor belts, discharge screw augers, and other devices that may be customised to fit the on-site requirements and the desired throughput of the shredder. Thanks to its wide product range and complete solutions, UNTHA is able to offer the right shredding system for any required profile.

For customers, the benefits of a complete or system solution that comes directly from the manufacturer are obvious: they receive a reliable solution for residual wood shredding, customised to fit their individual application and from a single provider, ie planning, project execution, electrical connection and commissioning are all handled by the same contact partner throughout the entire project duration. The offer ranges from spiral conveyors all the way to hydraulic tilting tables.

When it comes to augers, UNTHA offers solutions with flexible, shaftless spiral conveyors as well as rigid augers. Conveyor belts, on the other hand, may be horizontal or inclined and are suitable for almost any type of material. The benefits lie in the high handling capacity and gentle transportation. In addition, conveyor belts are well suited for handling long distances as well as being easy to integrate into existing plant systems.

Shredding residual wood that

contains screws and nails is not a big deal for UNTHA wood shredders. However, metal residue in wood chips may damage downstream equipment or cause a higher wear rate. To remove metal parts from the material, a range of metal separators are available to complete the chosen conveyor solution.

To also ensure the efficient separation of metal, conveyor belts may be equipped with a magnetic separator at the pulley. The pure material is moved on, while the metal parts are separated by the magnet and collected in a container.

Pipe magnets are primarily used in applications where the shredded residual wood is transported via an extraction-system. The pipe magnets are easy to integrate into the piping system, thus preventing metal parts from reaching the chip silo.

A magnetic drum is particularly suited for a high material flow that contains ferrous contaminants. The material flow runs directly onto the drum, which separates the ferrous fractions from the chips and collects them in a separate container.

An overbelt magnet is recommended for installation above conveyor belts to remove metallic elements from the material flow. It may be installed perpendicular to the conveyor belt or in a longitudinal direction at the point where the material is dropped.

Tilting containers or bucket wheel loaders usually cope well with small cap pieces and residual wood. However, their feed opening is not sufficient for guaranteeing the safe feed-in of long stacks of panels and pallets. A hydraulic tilting table may be the solution: it allows for the horizontal feed-in of long, unwieldy panels by means of a forklift. The material is placed on the tilting table and then tipped into the cutting chamber for shredding.

UNTHA shredders are available in the UK from IMA Schelling U.K. Ltd.

IMA SCHELLING U.K. Ltd

Tel 01937 586340

sales.uk@imaschelling.com

www.schelling-solutions.co.uk



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www.ecogate.co.uk

West Fraser — cutting out waste for a greener wood panel

WE ALL know that we need to protect the environment and try to undo some of the damage that has been done in the past. West Fraser (trading as Norbord Europe Ltd), one of the UK's leading wood-panel manufacturers, takes this mission very seriously, with 99.5% of raw material being used during production of its boards.

West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is produced in Scotland from forest thinnings taken from sustainably managed forests, the board is certified according to the guidelines of the FSC® (C012533) or PEFC®.

Furthermore, the small amount of wood waste from the manufacturing process is burned on site contributing to the energy to manufacture the boards.

And it's not just SterlingOSB Zero that is a net carbon negative product! West Fraser's CaberFloor and CaberMDF ranges are produced from 80% post-consumer wood waste that is purchased from the sawmilling industry. A great environmental example of recycling a material that would otherwise have gone to waste into a quality wood-based product for the UK construction industry.

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative, are manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted ISO 14001 accreditation and can be 100% recycled.

Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC®

(C012533) certified. SterlingOSB Zero is also believed to be the first OSB product to be made in the UK with zero added formaldehyde, ensuring an even 'greener' board that meets all standards with ease.

**West Fraser ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>
<https://uk.westfraser.com/carbon-negative/>**



Ecogate energy-savings calculator

WITH ELECTRICITY prices at an all-time high, there will never be a better time to invest in Ecogate's energy-saving technology ... and now you can see the potential savings for your business at the click of a button!

Ecogate has been making headlines in the UK for over 10 years now, and this innovative energy-saving technology has been proven worldwide to significantly reduce energy usage for process industries. In the woodworking industry, cost savings in excess of 50% are easily achievable — that's half price electricity — and, with a payback on investment being typically less than 2 years, the savings will just keep on coming.



The new savings calculator can be accessed at www.ecogate.co.uk or simply scan the QR code.

Ecogate equipment can be fitted into any existing extraction system, and the installation process can be undertaken with only minimal interruption to your production. Ecogate's automatic dampers are connected into the ductwork serving each of your machines, and sensors attached to each machine signal the Ecogate "green-BOX" controller to open and close the dampers as machines come on or off-line. Simultaneously, the greenBOX instructs the PowerMASTER variable speed drive unit to adjust fan speed to exactly match the new demand for extraction.

With Ecogate installed, the fan no longer runs continuously, at full speed, for 8 hours a day. Since machines constantly stop and start during production, as well as at break times, the extraction only needs to operate at 80% of capacity, on average, but the 20% reduction in fan usage generates a huge 50% reduction in power consumption.

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