

# PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

*Issue No. 177/178*

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## Looking forward to Ligna 15-19 May 2023

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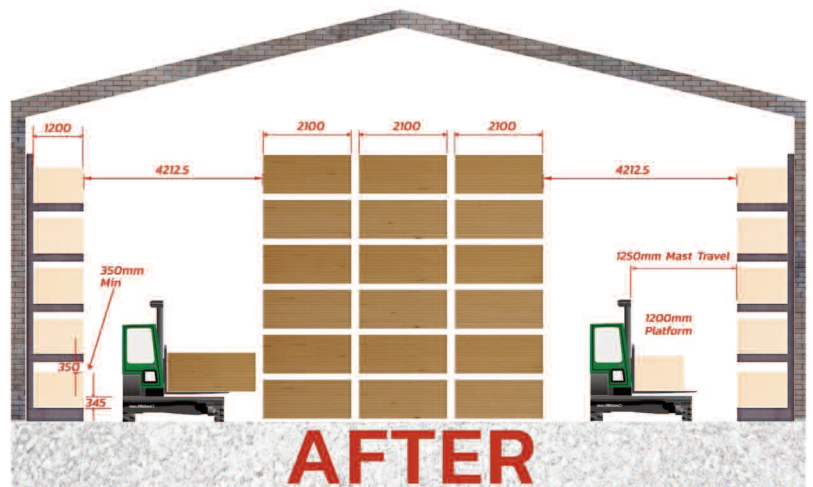
# Combilift's warehouse layout service optimises space for Farrell Furniture

**DEMAND for warehouse space is expected to continue to outstrip supply, and "improving not moving" could therefore be the answer to warehouse woes — assuming you know where to start with what can be a daunting task.**

This is all in a day's work for Combilift, which has over two decades of experience in helping companies of all sizes and from various industries maximise the capacity, safety and efficiency of their warehouse and storage facilities. A team of 10 design engineers work on Combilift's very popular, free of charge warehouse design & layout service, and provide diagrams showing how a warehouse can be configured according to the capabilities of Combilift's products, which can lead to a doubling of available space.

CEO and co-founder Martin McVicar: "We have always seen Combilift as much more than a manufacturer of forklifts and other handling solutions. Space is one of the most valuable assets our customers possess, and if our trucks can make it work better for them in terms of storage density then everyone benefits. The ongoing need for warehouse space coupled with ever rising business costs means that space optimisation is now more important than ever. Additional benefits of course also include avoiding the operational headache for management and the workforce of relocating to new premises, the lack of bureaucracy associated with new builds or extensions and the cost of leasing extra offsite storage."

One company that let Combilift do the hard work for them was Farrell Furniture. Farrell's joint CEO Brendan Farrell: "Combilift took a wholly different approach from other companies that want to sell you something, I'd call it more solution based. We gave them warehouse plans, and the sizes of the materials we use in production. They came back



with detailed plans that showed us how using one of their trucks could make a massive difference to the management of our space. So, before we had even decided to go with their products, they had proved to us that we could generate over 30% more storage capacity — which was a pretty persuasive argument as to how to get customers on side!

"Our premises are around 100,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, with just 15,000 ft<sup>2</sup> given over to storage. The warehouse is the same size as it was when we got our first Combilift — 150 ft x 60 ft — but over the last few years we have quadrupled in growth. This is testimony to how Combilift's original layouts future-proofed us. For any company experiencing growth or increased volumes of stock, I'd recommend talking to Combilift first — getting help from the experts to improve the performance of our warehouse was an absolute eye opener," said Brendan.

Farrell Furniture ● <https://farrell-furniture.com>

Combilift ● [www.combilift.com](http://www.combilift.com)

# Move into employee ownership for TwoTwenty

**DERBYSHIRE-based staircase manufacturer, TwoTwenty, has announced its sale to an employee ownership trust (EOT).**

The transition of TwoTwenty, along with its holding company Elephant Holdings, to a business that is 100% employee-owned is believed to be the first such deal in the UK timber engineering sector and secures the jobs of 40 staff.

TwoTwenty Ltd was incorporated in May 2005 and has a purpose-built factory and headquarters in Foston, Derbyshire and another manufacturing centre in Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria. The company has built an award-winning reputation in the design and manufacture of bespoke timber staircases for new build homes, conversions and renovations, selling mostly through independent and national builders' merchants, including all of the top 10 merchants in England. No funding or contributions have been required from any employee to fund the purchase of the business by the EOT, and under the terms of the deal, all staff are expected to benefit from significant tax-free bonuses in future years as well as deciding the company's future strategy and growth plans.

All the existing senior leadership team will remain closely involved in the business as trustee directors, including TwoTwenty's current managing director Scott Peden, commercial director Jason Stain, Jason Ward, and Lisa Richards of Dains accountants, which has advised on the sale of the business and the creation of the EOT.

Ali Wright, founder of Two Twenty, will also become chair of the EOT. He says: "We passionately believe that our colleagues are the thing that make TwoTwenty successful, so becoming an EOT secures the perfect future for this business. As a small business, in reality we only have a few options for the next phase of growth. We did not want to pursue a trade sale as that does not secure the long-term future for our staff. We did not want to pursue an external investor or management buy-out because of the huge pressure and obligation it brings on future performance. We could not simply share the ongoing profits of TwoTwenty with our employees as that would make us unsaleable, and I certainly couldn't imagine existing by just closing down such a strong and vibrant company. In effect, we are a family business whose employees are not related, so to create an EOT resonates with every value we have ever aspired to. It creates a legacy for us, provides security for all the staff, and allows us to hand-somely reward every employee for the hard work and effort they put in."



Within the next couple of months, a new Employee Council will be established at TwoTwenty to guide and inform trustees' decision making. This will involve employee representatives from different parts of the business, including those on the shop floor.

Steve Chapman, director at TwoTwenty, commented; "The EOT allows Ali and me to leave the business in the future knowing that we have shown our appreciation for the fantastic team in TwoTwenty, some of whom have been with us from the start. They regularly go above and beyond to provide a

great product and service for our customers, so this deal gives financial recognition for that commitment and hard work. The Employee Council will be the thing that really makes the magic happen. The engagement and ongoing buy-in of our staff will transform the ability of TwoTwenty to capitalise on the huge opportunities ahead. It also allows us to make a 10% pay rise for everyone and to introduce a new scheme that facilitates a minimum of 22.5% higher pension contributions for each employee. These commitments can genuinely change the lives of our employees and their families."

TwoTwenty has an excellent reputation as a key supplier in the house-building sector, with its target to deliver made-to-measure stairs to site within a couple of weeks. The company takes full responsibility from the start for the measure, design and bespoke configuration of the stair.

**TwoTwenty ● [www.twotwenty.co.uk](http://www.twotwenty.co.uk)**

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## New managing director of AkzoNobel Industrial Coatings

**JIM KAVANAGH** has been appointed as **Managing Director of AkzoNobel Industrial Coatings**.

Jim will lead the strategic direction across a diverse portfolio, including Coil and Extrusion Coatings, Packaging Coatings, Wood Finishes and Wood Adhesives.

He joined AkzoNobel in 1990 as a development chemist in the Protective Coatings business. During his 32 years with the company, Jim has held various positions, including roles within product management and marketing.

From 2000, he worked internationally as a general manager and commercial director based in China, Africa and the UAE. Most recently, he was responsible for leading the metal coatings business in EMEA as regional commercial director.

Commenting on his new role, Jim says: "I'm very proud to be leading a business with so many talented individuals and teams across such a diverse and impressive portfolio. I'm looking forward to further developing our capabilities and building on our leading global positions."

**AkzoNobel Wood Coatings**

<https://akzonobel-industrial-woodcoatings.com>

## North Bristol RFC receives Selco backing

**A GRASSROOTS rugby club in Bristol is to improve its clubhouse and women's toilets after winning funding from leading builders merchant Selco Builders Warehouse.**

North Bristol RFC, a thriving not-for-profit rugby club that runs sessions for hundreds of men, women, boys and girls, has secured £500 worth of building materials through Selco's Community Heroes campaign.

Steve Bold, club chair, said: "Everyone at the club is extremely grateful to Selco for their support. We are doing very well in terms of numbers, but with that comes additional costs and challenges as we don't want to raise subs so high that they become prohibitive for some people.

"These building materials will allow us to make improvements to our toilets, particularly for the females within the club. When our clubhouse was built in around 1986 women's rugby was not considered, but that area of the game has grown tremendously."

North Bristol RFC will visit the Selco Bristol Filton branch on Taurus Road, off Gipsy Patch Lane, to make its purchases.

North Bristol RFC is one of 12 organisations that Selco has awarded £500 worth of building materials to during its six-month Community Heroes campaign.

In February 2023, it went head-to-head with the 11 other Community Heroes in a public vote, with the winner picking up £5,000 in cash and a runner up getting £1,000.

Steve said £5,000 would be a significant boost for young people in the area. He said: "Our work in the community enables access to sport to some of the city's most socially and economically deprived children and this is provided free of charge for those who cannot afford it.

"What we do enables the kids to channel their energy into something positive and keeps them off the streets. Our clubhouse is in desperate need of upkeep, so this funding will enable us to refresh parts of the lounge and make it welcoming to our children and visitors."

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "North Bristol RFC

impressed us as it is very much a family-centred club that is doing great work in the local community. We're pleased our funding will make a positive difference, helping to spruce up its facilities and make the venue more suitable for women and girls rugby."

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](http://www.selcobw.com)



*From left, club director David Godfrey and club chair Steve Bold of North Bristol RFC.*

# Net zero roadmap offers timber businesses carbon and cost savings



**A NEW timber industry net zero roadmap aims to accelerate the productivity, sustainability and innovation of the sector to better meet the needs of a low-carbon world.**

Commissioned by Timber Development UK (TDUK) in collaboration with eleven UK timber trade associations, the *Timber Industry Net Zero Roadmap* was developed following a comprehensive effort to map and measure carbon emissions across the whole supply chain.

The first step of the roadmap has been to outline the size of the challenge, with 12 months of expert analysis showing the timber supply chain is responsible for 1,575,356 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e territorial emissions — which is about 0.35% of the UK total. While this is very low compared to other manufacturing industries such as UK steel production, which is responsible for 12 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (2.7% of UK emissions), and concrete, which is responsible for 7.3 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (1.5% of UK emissions), the *Roadmap* starts from the position that no emissions are acceptable.

The *Roadmap* also seeks to influence the 3,655,715 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e of imported embodied emissions which comes from the processing of wood products in the country of origin. This figure, taken together with territorial emissions, would make the timber industry responsible for about 0.68% of the UK's total emissions.

Of the total consumption emission, 49% of these emissions are from the transport of timber products, and 34% are embodied in imported materials. The remaining 17% are from the UK production processes within the industry, and waste.

One of the key aims of the *Roadmap*, says Timber Development UK sustainability director Charlie Law, is to challenge the misconception that as the timber supply chain comes from a low-carbon base, there are few opportunities for the timber supply chain to influence their emissions.

“There are some really quick wins in there for businesses — wherever

you are in the supply chain — which can be put into practice now. And if you reduce your carbon, you reduce your costs.

“If you change the energy source for heat for your factory processes, reduce the waste from your product manufacture, or reduce your energy use by using better lightbulbs — there are literally thousands of ways both big and small you can start reducing your emissions.

“This includes for the single biggest contributor to the timber industries carbon profile — transport. While there aren't yet many fully electric HGV options, to remove these emissions, there are ways to be more efficient. And if you're using less diesel, you reduce your emissions and your fuel costs.”

The most important first step he says, is making sure you can accurately count your carbon emissions. This is why the *Roadmap* is being rolled out with both free, and recommended, tools to help businesses better understand their emissions profile.

“Once you have an emissions profile for your business, you see not just your environmental impact, but also your operational inefficiencies. From here you can start your business on a pathway to be more competitive in a low-carbon market.”

With a range of pathways now set out in the *Roadmap* for the industry to achieve Net Zero by 2050 — at the very latest — this document has been made freely available for all businesses in the timber supply chain to adopt, alongside a set of ten high-level policy recommendations.

These policy recommendations include the alignment of industry to better measure carbon, as well as set dates and actions to reduce road transport emission intensity, manufacturing emissions intensity, and more — along with tools to help businesses make the change happen.

**Timber Development UK**

<https://timberdevelopment.uk/resources/net-zero-carbon-roadmap/>

# IronmongeryDirect adds more bulk buy products to its savings offer

**LEADING** specialist retailer IronmongeryDirect is committed to helping customers save money, and as such has added more products to its popular bulk-buy discount offer. With over 12,000 products included across its range of over 18,000 products, customers can enjoy savings on selected items when buying online or via the retailer's award-winning customer service centre.

Customers browsing the online retailer's website or catalogue can easily identify where savings can be made thanks to a distinct 'bulk buy' symbol assigned to all products. What's more, selected products are listed online with clear bulk buy prices, so shoppers can quickly understand how much they will save for each product when ordering larger quantities.

Katarina Adamczyk, head of category management & merchandising at IronmongeryDirect, said: "As part of our 'Trusted to Deliver' brand promise, we use our buying power to ensure a wide range of high-quality products are always stocked with the best cost savings and value benefits passed on to our customers wherever possible. With more bulk-buy discounts available, our trade customers can make savings across a huge range of products to help keep costs down, and enjoy peace of mind with our five-year minimum guarantee on all purchases, as well as a free returns promise."

**IronmongeryDirect** ● [www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk](http://www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk)



# Selco celebrates £200,000 charity milestone

**SELCO Builders Warehouse is celebrating raising a mammoth £200,000 for Cancer Research UK.**

The nationwide builders merchant has been supporting the charity for the past year with customers, colleagues and suppliers joining forces to help beat cancer through a series of fundraising events. These have included taking on the Thames Path and Lake District Peaks Walking Challenges, cycle rides, golf days and special themed occasions at Selco's 74 branches across the UK.

Money raised will help Cancer Research UK's research into the prevention and treatment of cancer through the work of over 4,000 doctors, nurses and scientists.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "It has been a monumental year of fundraising and a huge effort from everyone involved. To be able to raise such a sizeable amount of money for Cancer Research UK is something everyone associated with Selco is extremely proud of.

"Right from the moment colleagues voted for Cancer Research UK to be our nominated partner, we have seen fantastic engagement in fundraising.

"Nearly everyone has seen their lives touched by cancer in one way or another and to be able to help Cancer Research UK fund vital research has been a real motivating factor. We look forward to raising more funds for this brilliant charity in 2023."

Georgia McCormack, divisional fundraising manager at Cancer Research UK, said: "It has been phenomenal to work alongside Selco this year.

"The business as a whole has shown a fantastic commitment to fund-raising and the sum raised in the last year is a truly outstanding result. Our progress

relies on the incredible dedication and commitment of volunteers and supporters like this — without whom we would not be able to fund our life-saving work. One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime. All of us can support the research that will beat it."

Pictured are Carine Jessamine (left) and Alison Wong (right) of Selco Builders Warehouse, with Faye Hartgroves from Cancer Research UK.

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.

**Selco** ● [www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)



# Friends of Blairs Loch breathe new life into a recreational and educational paradise in Moray



**THE FRIENDS of Blairs Loch is a group of volunteers which has created a special place for recreational and educational activities at the Loch of Blairs in Moray, Scotland. Funded solely by charitable donations, the enthusiastic team's main mission was to reopen the Loch for trout fishing; Moray Council ended the maintenance and operation of this popular trout fishing venture on the loch due to budgetary constraints.**

Trout fishing at the Loch of Blairs, Moray, ceased around the time of the millennium. Since then, the loch had started to merge into its surroundings: its banks becoming overgrown, weed clogging the water, while the Victorian boat house, adjoining Bothy and adjacent stable and cart-house buildings had all fallen into a state of disrepair.

The Friends of Blairs Loch looked to transform the loch into a place for enjoyment and recreation by extending the network of footpaths around its banks, transforming the dilapidated buildings into a field study facility for local schools and, ultimately, returning trout to the water.

By 2020, the Friends had sufficient funds to enable restoration of the picturesque Boat House and Bothy. Its slate roof, structural frame and cladding were all repaired by local contractors along with installation of new windows on the Bothy. Internally, the works were completed by volunteers, including insulating the Bothy's walls and roof and replacing the timber lining. The floor was rebuilt using West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero boards as a solid substrate onto which the final floor covering was applied.

Attention then turned to the stable and cart room. The Friends' original intention had been to restore the wooden building to turn it into a classroom but surveys revealed its structure had deteriorated to the point

where it was unsafe. Wittets Architects designed a contemporary replacement for the stable to occupy the same footprint as the original. "The Stable Room is a conventional timber framed building. The frame was built and covered in SterlingOSB Zero with a larch skin applied externally; on the inside is insulation and a plasterboard lining," explains Brian Higgs, one of the Friends. Wittets Architects' scheme also features a metal profile roof mounted on a SterlingOSB Zero substrate. "The only work carried out by volunteers to this building was decoration. The rest we left to the professionals because it had to comply with Building Regulations," says Mr Higgs.

Alongside the Stable Classroom, the architects have also added a new building, designed in the same style and built from the same materials, which houses toilets, a changing area and a kitchen.

The Friends have also built a series of wildlife hides using i-Joist off-cuts supplied by local manufacturer James Jones & Sons. The joists feature softwood flanges either side of an OSB web. The hides have been formed by simply screwing together the joist flanges to form the walls and roof of the hides.

With restoration of the buildings now complete, the current focus of the Friends of Blairs Loch is to remove weed from the loch prior to reintroducing the trout.

**Friends of Blairs Loch** ● [www.blairsloch.com](http://www.blairsloch.com)

**James Jones & Sons** ● [www.jamesjones.co.uk](http://www.jamesjones.co.uk)

**Wittets Architects** ● [www.wittets.co.uk](http://www.wittets.co.uk)

**West Fraser** ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>  
<https://uk.westfraser.com/resources/architect-support/>

# Builders merchant cements job boost in Peterborough

**MORE THAN 30 jobs are set to be created when a leading UK builders merchant opens a new branch in Peterborough later this year.**

Selco Builders Warehouse will provide an employment boost to the area when it takes the wraps off its new branch in April. The branch will be situated on Padholme Road East and it will be Selco's 75th in the UK. Recruitment will cover a wide variety of positions, with virtually all the jobs expected to be given to people from the local area.

Howard Luft, chief executive of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We are delighted to be bringing the unique Selco model to Peterborough, offering tradespeople and businesses the perfect one-stop-shop for all their building materials and products.

"Opening a branch in a new area of the UK is always an exciting project and we look forward to providing a boost to tradespeople in the area as they will have the chance to enjoy the benefits Selco provides — unrivalled availability, with the widest range of products in stock, as well as excellent customer service and trade pricing.

"Our recruitment policy has always been to employ people from the branch's local community and that is continuing here. We want to give the people of Peterborough genuine career opportunities and the chance to climb the ranks at Selco."

Selco has demonstrated its commitment to the local community by becoming an official partner of Peterborough United Football Club for the 2022-23 season.

Selco ● [www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)  
<https://jobs.selcobw.com>



# Never come unstuck with West Fraser and CaberFix

**THE CABERFIX range, which can be used with many of West Fraser's panel products, comprises three glue types and two choices of adhesive tape; having been developed for a wide variety of applications and performance requirements.**

CaberFix D3 is a PVA adhesive created specifically for use along Tongue & Groove joints on West Fraser's chipboard flooring range, especially in conjunction with CaberFloor P5, CaberDek and CaberAcoustic. Requiring no fillers, it is fast setting and forms a strong and rigid glue line — while it conforms to DIN EN 204 D3 and BS 476 part 6. Solvent-free CaberFix D4, meanwhile is a one-component polyurethane adhesive for use with CaberDek, CaberShieldPlus and CaberFloor boards. It allows the user to see where a seal is made and is ideal for both bonding flooring boards to joists and securing T&G joints; as well as for sealing the edges of boards.

100% waterproof, CaberFix Joint & Joist is used to create a flexible, but strong and squeak free bond, which can be applied to the tongues and grooves between boards, as well as a variety of other materials including CaberDek boards.

Resistant to temperature extremes, this PU adhesive can, usefully, be applied in damp conditions.

CaberFix Tape is a high-performance polyethylene-coated cloth tape, which is 100% waterproof and used for sealing exposed joints as well as perimeter edges. UV-resistant for durability, this easy-to-use solution seals CaberDek edges to walls, and also protects joints during construction phases, even on uneven surfaces.

Acrylic CaberFix X-treme tape has been specially developed for use in extreme weather conditions down to -21°C. The super-strong scuff-resistant tape can be applied under damp conditions and will not lift when wet; while it also boasts a high tack point: meaning CaberFix X-treme tape has a high initial grab, and gains strength over time.

As is always the case, West Fraser's experienced technical team is available to provide assistance with product specification, while downloadable data sheets are available from the company website.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921

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<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

<https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>





# Immersive showroom launched to showcase best of BSW Group's products

**BSW GROUP has unveiled an immersive showroom at BSW Timber Solutions HQ, in Stoke-on-Trent, designed to showcase the company's breadth of sustainable timber products.**

The showroom includes products from BSW Group member businesses BSW Timber and BSW Timber Solutions, as well as three-ply timber produced by parent company, Binderholz.

This includes internal products such as flooring, cladding, skirting and door frames, as well as a range of fencing and landscaping products, like incised posts, decorative sleepers and composite decking.

BSW's IRO Timber and BSW Composites ranges have also been used to bring the showroom to life, delivering an IKEA-esque vibe for visitors to the Staffordshire site.

The main office areas, and several meeting rooms, have also been revamped, with hallways being decorated with graphics of the new BSW Group branding and nods to the company's history.

Niall Spence, marketing manager at BSW Timber, said: "People know BSW Timber for construction timber, but the new showroom gives us a space to showcase the full product range. It allows us to open up more conversations about our mix of timber products, which is the most comprehensive in the country.

"Being in a central location was a key part of our decision, as our sawmills, in Carlisle or Newbridge for example, would be too far for many of our customers to travel to."

With one room showing how indoor spaces can be transformed by utilising internal timber products, such as cladding and architraves, the outdoor space incorporates several different styles and colour schemes for the timber products on offer, from tongue and groove boards to composite fencing, which helps to illustrate just how the ideas of end users can come to life.



Niall added: "We wanted to go beyond delivering a range of samples, and instead promote to our customers the vision for the products they are buying. The aim is to inspire our customers — mostly merchants and DIY stores — by showing them how products can come together to create stunning, natural environments."

Damon Hughes, general manager at BSW Timber Solutions in Stoke, said: "Remote working during the pandemic created a unique opportunity to completely revamp our head office space. With support from an external company, we designed our downstairs space to be more welcoming to both colleagues and visitors, while the marketing team supported this with the new showroom. Upstairs, next to the showroom, we created and modernised meeting rooms with breakout areas, for those moments of peace or focus which are often needed. What we have achieved is a more inviting and usable space that colleagues not only enjoy making use of but can also feel proud of."

**BSW Group** ● [www.thebswgroup.co.uk](http://www.thebswgroup.co.uk)

# Premier Forest Products continues expansion

**LEADING UK timber importer Premier Forest Products has announced its latest acquisition with the purchase of Decorpanel, a highly successful, specialised panel processing business.**

Based in Tyne and Wear, Decorpanel was established in 1998 by owners Ian Ling and Anthony Hopps. The business operates on a four-acre site comprising 76,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of warehouse and factory space, and employing 63 staff. Premier plans to invest in new machinery at the site to further improve productivity and capacity. This will meet growing demand and service customers quickly and efficiently, enabling a fast turnaround of orders.

Terry Edgell, co-founder and CEO of Premier Forest Products, said: "Decorpanel constitutes an excellent fit for Premier. It signifies further geographic expansion for us into the North of England, while simultaneously enhancing our processing and machining capability and capacity to meet growing customer demand. This acquisition is great news for our customers who will benefit from our shared expertise, and greater product range. We start 2023 full of ambitious growth plans and the purchase of Decorpanel stands us in good stead to reach our targets for the year."

Ian Ling said: "This is great news for Decorpanel customers who will be able to access Premier's broad portfolio of timber products. Their well-established infrastructure and network will also give us access to nationwide delivery services. We are looking forward to working closely with the team from Premier and are excited to see what the future holds for the business."

Acuity Law provided legal counsel, Gambit Corporate Finance supported the Premier team with the deal process and structure, while Kilsby Williams accountants provided financial due diligence.

Premier Forest Group is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, sawmilling, processing, merchandising, and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its 13 sites in the UK.

**Premier Forest Products**  
<https://premierforest.co.uk>



Left to right: Anthony Hopps; Terry Edgell; Ian Ling.

# West Fraser's panel products are even more rewarding in 2023!

**ONE LUCKY customer of the Newark branch of Turnbull builders' merchants ended the year with a brand-new Mercedes van, thanks to the West Fraser Rewards promotion. Andrew Kirkham from ATK Plastering Ltd received the van from West Fraser's national sales Manager, Sanjit Dosanjh, in December 2022.**



Following their popular Rewards promotion last year where participants won prizes including a Lay-Z-spa, a Kärcher pressure washer, a Samsung TV and even a brand-new Mercedes van, West Fraser is giving away not one, but two, Mercedes vans in the 2023 promotion.

To enter the 2023 promotion, customers spending as little as £25 on SterlingOSB Zero, CaberFloor P5, CaberDek, CaberShieldPlus or CaberMDF at Gibbs and Dandy, Jewson and Travis Perkins can gain entry to the monthly prize draw for a great chance to win great prizes. The more you buy, the more chances to win!

Participants just need to purchase products and upload a receipt at the West Fraser Rewards website.

A complete list of participating merchants and full terms and conditions can be found at the website below.

**West Fraser ● 01786 812921**  
[www.westfraserrewards.co.uk](http://www.westfraserrewards.co.uk)

# Leeds College of Building appoints new Assistant Principal

**CHRIS TUNNINGLEY has been appointed as Leeds College of Building Assistant Principal for Adult Learning and Higher Education.**

Chris, formerly the Head of University Centre for Architecture, Engineering & Construction at Leeds College of Building, succeeds retiring Assistant Principal Brian Duffy.

Speaking of his appointment, Chris said: "I am thrilled to start in this post at Leeds College of Building. I'm passionate about how education can raise prospects and know that gaining a sought-after trade or profession while attaining maths, English and digital skills can be life changing. Studying part-time or following a vocational higher-education pathway like a degree apprenticeship is a hands-on and economical route that ultimately leads to the same successful career destination as traditional academic routes."

Leeds College of Building Principal & CEO, Nikki Davis, said: "Huge congratulations to Chris after a competitive selection

process against a high calibre of candidate. Chris succeeds outgoing Assistant Principal Brian Duffy, who worked at the College for many years before retiring in December. Brian was critical in the growth of our higher education provision, and I know that Chris will be instrumental in building on this success. May I join others in wishing Chris well as he moves into this role."

Chris will oversee adult learning

and funding to combat regional skills shortages, plan for future skills needs (such as sustainable construction), and widening participation in education. Chris will also lead on higher education strategy, which incorporates the new Leeds College of Building University Centre, and work closely with employers and other professional bodies.

Chris continued: "I came from a working-class background when

university wasn't an option, so I started my career as an apprentice with British Gas. I progressed to a qualified gas engineer, technical engineer, quality assurance engineer, and then technical support manager. I am also a professionally registered Incorporated Engineer (IEng) with the Engineering Council through membership of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). I always took any opportunity to better myself and gain extra qualifications through work.

"I have first-hand experience of learning on the job as an adult and understand the challenges of studying part-time while balancing life and family commitments. Through the Open University, I progressed to a BSc in Engineering, Science & Design before gaining a master's degree in Building Services Engineering — all while working. I hope these experiences will help me in my new role, having walked in our students' shoes and lived it myself."

**Leeds College of Building**  
[www.lcb.ac.uk](http://www.lcb.ac.uk)



# Selco and Realise create Rising Stars

**LEADING UK builders merchant Selco Builders Warehouse's innovative apprenticeship campaign, delivered by established training provider Realise, is continuing to bring in success.**

Selco colleagues across its 74 branches have been given the chance to enhance their careers through its 'Rising Stars' initiative.

The programme was originally launched in 2020 to mark Selco's 125th anniversary and offers the chance for Selco colleagues to complete level two, three or four nationally recognised retail qualifications.

More than 160 Selco colleagues have either completed their apprenticeship, are part way through their qualifications or are about to begin.

Simon Ball, HR development manager at Selco, said: "We were excited about this programme at the start and it has proved to be a huge success.

"We selected a course with a high level of practical elements and then made it bespoke to the requirements of the operations here at Selco. That means that our colleagues are learning by putting into practice the work they do on a day-to-day basis, gaining greater knowledge for their current job and having a tangible benefit to their careers.

"We have already seen a high number of our colleagues not only complete their apprenticeship and achieve their qualification but also secure a promotion off the back of it.

"We are committed to giving colleagues the chance to create a genuine career path and providing them with the skills, techniques and self-development to do that. We are looking forward to celebrating many more apprentices in the future."

Those celebrations feature a full graduation ceremony, with successful apprentices wearing cap-and-gown attire.

Greg Scott, managing director of Realise, said: "The Rising Stars initiative has been fantastic to be involved with and we are delighted to help Selco introduce such a comprehensive training package for their branch colleagues. It's brilliant to see a major national company like Selco investing heavily in its people and being fully committed to their development."

The courses run for between 12 and 18 months and focus on 16 key areas, including customer, financial, leadership, technology, team performance and the environment. Regional classroom sessions are also held around the country.

Level two qualifications are open for colleagues who aspire to progress to be a supervisor, level three is for colleagues holding a supervisory position who wish to have the opportunity to become a duty manager and level four offers duty and deputy managers the chance to enhance their skills and further develop their knowledge relevant to Selco.

**Selco** ● [www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)



# Liberon polishes up student woodworking competition

**STUDENTS at Burton & South Derbyshire College have been put through their paces by Liberon as part of a carpentry and joinery competition. The woodcare experts called on learners on the college's City & Guilds Bench Joinery course to design, build and finish a stool for children, using Liberon's Wax Polish Black Bison Paste.**

Teams of students were given fifteen teaching hours in total to complete the project. The winning team came up with the idea to incorporate a cartoon-like rabbit theme, with eye-catching ears forming a back rest



Left to right: Brandon Sweeney, James Hall and Tom Woodyet.

and a highly appealing bunny face seared into the main stool surface. The project incorporated a European Softwood for most of the stool, and Douglas Fir was used to create the bunny ears, with the latter deriving from former local church pews that had been salvaged by the college. A laser was programmed to sear in the facial features and the legs were formed using a lathe. The design went through several iterations, with the students finally settling on an endearing flopped-down style for one of the rabbit's ears. A feature of the ears was a contrasting central section, created to resemble those of the real-life animal. This was achieved by inlaying Douglas Fir and smoothing it off.

Richard Bradley, marketing manager at the competition sponsors, Liberon, says: "The students' designs were wonderful — a real testament to their skills. We'd like to congratulate the winning team, and wish all the students on the course the best of luck in their future carpentry and joinery careers."

Course leader, Ian Vanes-Jones, added: "All the students should be very proud of what they achieved in this competition. I've been so impressed with the way they have worked together in teams. Being asked to design, build and finish a project within a tight time frame has brought out the best in them. It's great that it has introduced them to new skills such as using the lathe and the laser. I've always been a strong advocate of Liberon's Wax Polish Black Bison Paste, which really brings out the beauty of wood, but this competition has highlighted its attributes even more."

The entries were judged by staff at the college who agreed that the standard of work was high and that making a choice had not been an easy decision. The three members of the winning team each won a £25 Amazon voucher provided by Liberon.

**Liberon** ● [www.liberon.co.uk](http://www.liberon.co.uk)

## EXHIBITIONS

# Trotec to demonstrate leading large format laser cutting at Sign & Digital 2023

**TROTEC is returning to Sign & Digital 2023 between 21-23 March 2023. Visitors to stand J30 will experience first-hand demonstrations of laser cutting and engraving technology for the signs, display and print sector. Featuring laser systems to suit all budget requirements, the show marks the return of the award-winning SP3000 laser cutter to a UK trade show.**

Developed to address the need for highly productive and reliable laser cutting for the sign and print industries, the SP series offers a host of time and money saving features to optimise production. Tandem Assist is an exclusive feature of SP2000 and SP3000 laser cutters, which splits the working area of the laser system into virtual zones. While the laser is processing in one zone, the operator can load and unload materials in the other zone for non-stop production. In addition, Sonar Technology™ auto-focusing, a travelling exhaust and cutting speeds up to 2 m/s ensure high productivity without any compromise on the quality of the finish. A fully enclosed beam path protects operators while allowing access to all four side of the laser bed.

The Sign & Digital show will also mark the return of the flagship Speedy 400 laser plotter and the Q500 mid-range laser cutter. With CO<sub>2</sub> laser power up to 120 watts, an engraving speed of 4.3 m/s and up to 5 g acceleration, the Speedy 400 is a reliable workhorse for sign and display companies capable of processing acrylics, plastic laminates, woods and more with ease. The Q500 also offers 120 W laser power but has a larger working area of

1,300 x 900 mm and is considered ideal for cutting acrylics, wood, textiles and more up to 15 mm thick.

Trotec's range of laser systems covers a solution to suit most budgets and visitors to the show will be able to see how the different laser models compare with live demonstrations taking place throughout the duration of the three day event. Registration for Sign & Digital 2023 is free of charge. Visit Trotec on Stand J30.

**Trotec** ● Tel 0191 580 1182 ● [www.troteclaser.com](http://www.troteclaser.com)



# The new 'made in SCM' automation on stage at Ligna 2023

**SCM IS PREPARING for the upcoming edition of Ligna (Hanover, 15-19 May 2023) consolidated by a growth in double figures, that brought the Group's turnover in 2022 to 850 million Euro, and with technological proposals that meet the most current needs of a highly customised, versatile, interconnected and sustainable production.**

In an exhibition area covering 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> between Hall 13 and Hall 16 (the latter referring to the Superfici technologies for finishing), visitors to Ligna will have an opportunity to discover the vast range of new products developed by the Italian Group to meet every production need when machining panels, solid wood, timber construction and joinery production.

Innovation with a common goal: to make processes more efficient, keep down costs, consumption and waste and simplify their management, as is the case with the Smart&Human Factory that will be presented in Hanover in two distinct versions for industry and the artisan.

"At Ligna", declares Pietro Gheller, SCM's Product&Markets Director — "we will give solid evidence of our ability to provide top-quality solutions for every woodworking application. We will present advanced automation systems that stand apart for being modular and configurable to suit the customer's needs and support a top-quality, flexible production while still guaranteeing high standards in efficiency and productivity."

The new SCM digital factory, continues Mr Gheller, "is integrated and interconnected to the company's MES systems to optimise more complex production flows. Furthermore, it allows for real-time, 360° planning and monitoring of all the process stages, even remotely: from the order to design, right up to the after-sales service.

"The aim is to encourage an optimal, more sustainable use of energy resources and the materials used by the customer, as well as improve the plant's resources, by pre-empting the need for maintenance and preventing any machine stops thanks to the data collected being processed."

The system of flexible cells on display in Hanover can produce around 400 furnishing components per shift and is mainly aimed at furniture kit manufacturers.

This is one of the many configurations that the Smart&Human Factory can assume based on customer demands. The cells are integrated with articulated robots and connected by unmanned AMR shuttles.

In the beam saw area, SCM will be presenting its new Gabbiani GT2 flexible cell with articulated robot for automatic loading and unloading.

The cell has been designed to optimise shifts and combine "batch 1" machining need with those of large-volume production. The cell is enhanced by the new Maestro optiwise optimiser, and has been designed for manned or unmanned use, allowing for immediate and automatic switching between one mode and another;

the robot positions or removes the additional modules between the shelves, for efficient working. In automatic mode with robot, the cell allows for work to be done with no shift limitations, relieving the operator of low-value work, and allowing for even small, finished pieces to be handled very easily. Pack cutting can be performed when operating in manned mode.

In the edgbanding area, SCM will be presenting a Stefani Cell E flexible cell that combines the numerous advantages of the Stefani X industrial edgbander, in terms of productivity and machining quality, with the advantages of a flexible and automated integration of the entire production loop. In a logic of complete automation, the panels are supplied autonomously to the edgbander by an industrial articulated robot. On exiting, the Pickback bridge system guarantees the timely return of the panels after longitudinal or transversal machining. The cell is governed by Maestro Active Edge HMI software for a simple, intuitive control, and is designed for an intensive use over several shifts, with a speed of 25 m/min. It guarantees an ideal application of the edge without the use of glue, thanks to AirFusion+ technology, and outstanding machining quality even on the most delicate, state-of-the-art materials thanks to electronic controls.

Other new entries include the Morbidelli CX220 drilling and dowelling flexible cell with robot that creates all the parts of a piece of furniture more efficiently, even with pieces that differ considerably from one another. The cell produces a panel per minute and up to more than 400 panels per shift with a single operator in just 50 m<sup>2</sup>. Its exclusive layout al-





lows for two possible uses: unmanned, thanks to the integrated robot on the rear side that performs all the loading and unloading operations in complete autonomy for a continuous production cycle: with partial supervision by the operator who, in complete safety, can load and unload the panels at the front of the cell while the robot continues to machine on the opposite side.

The process is completed with the Cut C200 right size box-making machine, a new solution for "batch 1" cardboard box packaging that produces up to four boxes per minute in different shapes and sizes. The secret? The high advancement speed and use of a brushless motor with extremely fast positioning set-up while the order-by-order production is enhanced by separate longitudinal cutting and creasing units and by a transversal unit. Another advantage is the optimisation of the consumption of cardboard based on the actual size of the box produced, choosing between three kinds of feed: single-sheet cardboard or continuous module, with flanked modules or with automatic switch up to eight modules.

Also taking centre stage at Ligna is an integrated cell for flexible and customised production from the raw material to the finished piece of furniture. As well as MES Maestro easyFlow, ideal for creating the perfect integration between the office and production area, the cell benefits from the advantages of the machines involved, considerably reducing times and margins of error.

The Invincibile SI X circular saw is reinforced by SCM's Thundercut optimiser-cutting sequencer, the only one to guide the operator one step at a time when inserting the panel into the machine and when cutting.

Startech CN Plus CNC drilling centre has been designed to produce furniture parts easily and flexibly without repositioning the tools and without a need for operator intervention.

The ME 40TR edgebander, complete with a new rounding unit, allows you to achieve excellent quality finished products, without further machining required.

Flanking both of SCM's Smart&Human Factory processes will be a vast integrated proposal of software, MES and digital services on display in the "Digital Integrated Woodworking Process" area. Software and services that support the customer at each stage: data preparation, planning, production, monitoring and after-sales assistance, increasing efficiency and connecting the office to the factory.

The CAD/CAM office programming software is updated for the preparation of data for Maestro CNC machining centres and the 3D Maestro Pro View simulator for machining panels and solid wood.

For production planning, optimisation and control, the MES Maestro easyFlow is the plug&play solution integrated with all of SCM's software and machines, coupled with both the Smart&Human Factory for industry and the one for joinery work to manage the 4.0 programming, management and interconnection of the entire production flow.

There are also new entries among the cutting optimisers. Maestro Optiwise for the single blade and angular beam saws ensures you get the best out of the cut with minimum waste for both large and small production batches. Furthermore, it offers the best solution in terms of waste, time and costs and a user experience that is even simpler and more efficient.

Maestro Power TMS, the software that simplifies and optimises the management of tools inside CNC machining centre magazines is making its mark with the machining of solid wood. Depending on the kind of machining required, the software operates to maximise the capacity of the magazines and to speed up the tool change according to the production mix: more than 100 tools readily available, a reduction in times and an increase in productivity.

The HMI software and Maestro Active line supervisors have also been updated for an even simpler, optimal control and interaction with all the SCM machines.

In support of the production monitoring stages, machine maintenance and after-sales services, the digital services enabled by the IoT Maestro Connect platform are further enhanced. The aim is to guarantee maximum return on the machines and plants in conjunction with the constant support from SCM technicians. Nowadays, this IoT platform is integrated into the "Woodworking made Lzy" project conducted by the most important machinery manufacturers who, together, have defined a standard interface and a common language for connecting the machines and MES to one another, which allows for overall control of the production process.

Making its mark among the panel CNC machining centres is the new FlexDrive system that will be applied to a Morbidelli M100 "All-in-One Technology" drilling-routing centre at the trade fair: via an innovative po-

sitioning system, this worktable allows for manual set up without the possibility of error thanks to the built-in light indicators on bars and suction cups/clamps.

Making its début at Ligna is also the Accord 500 CNC machining centre to produce doors, staircases and windows in solid wood: this solution offers 30% higher production compared to market standards, according to the company, and an intelligent management with Maestro Power TMS, the software that simplifies and optimises tool handling in the machine's magazines.

For panel edgebanding, SCM is further expanding its range with the new Olympic 500 and Olympic 300 models designed for artisan businesses. These edgebanders are equipped with large (from 10" to 15" in the standard version) new touch controls and offer a simple and intuitive use and can connect and synchronise with company management systems. Some of the advantages include machining even thin panels, generally used to manufacture drawers, and with a thickness of up to 60 mm, even in rounding.

Complete, versatile and fully electronic, Olympic 500 guarantees machining with both EVA and polyurethane glue and can machine two real radii with all the units, without compromising.

Also on show with its world preview is the Olympic 300 automatic edgebander, the new entry level solution in the range for a demanding artisan production.

The SCM Surface Technologies integrated offer for surface treatment proposals has also been enhanced with new devices and models to meet every kind of process demand and end product type as well as achieve sophisticated finishing solutions.

Making its début at Ligna will be SCM's new laser unit applied to the DMC System automatic sanding-calibrating machines, real flexible abrasive modular numeric control machining centres. This multi-purpose innovative unit is particularly suited to creating three-dimension scoring on parquet, wooden elements, MDF panels to be veneered, fibre cement panels and solid surfaces of any length. Furthermore, thanks to the exclusive "Self-Refilling" technology, a distinctive advantage of SCM's laser unit, it is possible to make the most of the features in terms of power without further interruptions to the production flow. A vast range of new Superfici solutions for finishing will also be presented in Hall 16 (stand C6-D5). A dedicated area will be given over to the new Compact XL in the sprayers section: designed to offer excellent production capacity, it reflects the company's worth, increasingly focused on energy saving, thanks to a more efficient paint recovery system and improved air circulation. All this "spiced up" by a completely new design.

Also on display is a UV led polymerisation system with several UV monochromatic sources of different wavelengths to achieve a controlled multi-chromatic emission in a wider spectrum compared to the pure UV LED radiation. The result is chemical-physical performance fully comparable with standard UV polymerisation, while maintaining the typical advantages offered by LED.

For extra-opaque effects on the finish of the most varied end products and materials, another new entry will be the Superfici Excimatt: excimer technology offering surprisingly smooth effects with high levels of opacity but with no more compromising on surface resistance.

Important new entries for the timber construction industry are being presented as well. SCM will be presenting Oikos XS, the new CNC machining centre designed to meet the needs of new applications and new markets. Maximum implementation speed, precision and reduced bulk are the advantages of this model designed for all those companies involved in the production of prefabricated walls, trusses, roofs and blockhaus.



Also highlighted is the new Maestro Active Beam&Wall human-machine interface software for all the CNC machining centres used in timber constructions. Programming, control and optimisation of the production flow directly on the machine are now possible in an even simpler, more intuitive fashion.

Even SCM's solutions for sanding are now applied to timber construction. SCM will be presenting DMC System XL, the highly modular automatic sanding-calibrating machine, capable of machining X-lam/CLT wall panels up to 3,700 mm in width and 500 mm thick.

Alongside the SCM stand, in Hall 13, there will be an opportunity to discover the latest from Randek, innovative technologies manufacturer for the prefabricated housing market and partner to SCM in providing solutions for the entire timber construction industry.

On display, for solid wood machining, will be the Hypsos 5-axis machining centre with integral booth, devised for designers and the three-dimensional machining of complex-shaped and large parts.

Space is also given over to the Connexus FJ numerically controlled tenoning-mortising machines, completely new at Ligna 2023, designed to satisfy all the machining demands of different kinds of solid wood or coated MDF cabinet doors in a single machine, including complex joints such as mitre door, face frame and French joint on cabinet doors and shutters.

The squaring-profiling technology will be represented by a Celaschi SP single-sided profiling unit designed to machine parts of cabinet doors and characterised by a working unit made up of an electro-spindle with HSK attachment associated to an automatic 8-position tool magazine. The relative eye-M console will show all the potentials of the new Maestro active square interface.

Among the new entries for woodworking, making its début is the Startech CN K compact 3-axis machining centre, ideal for any kind of routing, decorations, scoring, creation of signs and 3D model prototype. The only one in its category to have a 2.4 kW electro-spindle, the machine, with integral booth, guarantees protection to the operator and a clean working environment; it is also very easy to program thanks to the virtual "open" human-machine interface for the importing of G-code from any kind of CAD/CAM software.

Also being highlighted are the new eye-S compact touch controls on edgebanders and the exclusive "Blade Off" technological solution applied to circular saws and fitted with exclusive smart sensors to machine in complete safety.

These and other SCM solutions not on show at the trade fair will be examined more closely in live demos and linkups with the Group's Technology Centre.

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# The woodworking community meets in Hannover at Ligna 2023

**OVER 105,000 square metres of exhibition space and more than 1,100 exhibitors: Ligna 2023 (15-19 May 2023) celebrates its return to in-person meeting with a comprehensive overview of the woodworking and wood processing industry. Despite the tense global political situation, the positive booking status confirms Ligna's status as a world leading trade show. Global players and renowned companies from all over the world come together to showcase tools, machinery and equipment as well as smart solutions and new technologies. In addition to companies from Germany, firms from Italy, Austria, Turkey, Spain, China, Sweden, Slovenia, Denmark and the Netherlands account for the largest proportion of exhibitors by area. In the process, the world's leading trade show has even been able to expand its exhibitor portfolio: this year, more than 180 first-time exhibitors intend to take advantage of the opportunities for business initiation and networking.**

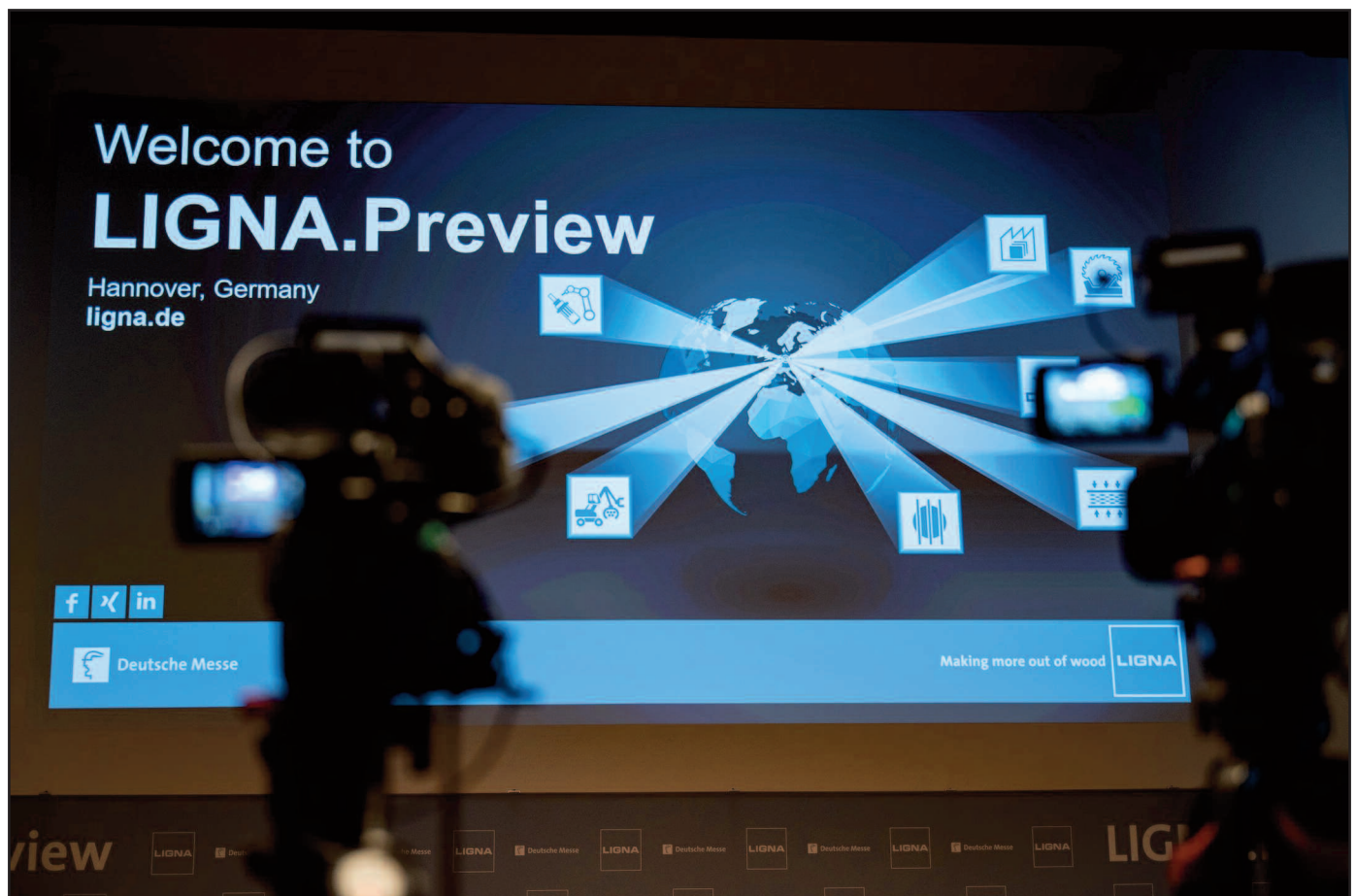
"Ligna offers a unique overview of the entire value chain of the woodworking and wood processing industry. It is the international showcase for innovations and the stage for world firsts. We have been receiving a wave of euphoria from the community ever since planning began. The industry is looking forward to the face-to-face experience in Hannover," said Dr Jochen Köckler, CEO of Deutsche Messe AG, highlighting the importance of the event at the LIGNA.Preview on February 16 in Hannover. "At Ligna 2023, visitors will meet exhibitors from 44 countries. This is where trends are set and discussed that shape the industry and point the way to the future."

Ligna 2023 will also live up to its role as a trendsetter in its choice of focus topics. The topic of digitisation is shaping the development of the

industry and is a prerequisite for production that is as resource-efficient as it is flexible. Under the title "Woodworking Transformation", it is also receiving a great deal of attention at Ligna. Exhibitors will show how far the networking of machines, tools, components and materials has already gone and will present innovations in the fields of robotics, automation and software. The buzzwords Smart or Connected Factory, Industry 4.0 or Internet of Things and IoT platforms will continue to become tangible at Ligna with concrete examples.

On the way to an economy based on renewable resources, wood as the most important renewable raw material forms a central foundation. The wood-based bioeconomy is considered an innovative technology driver. The framework conditions for expanding resource-efficient wood use are part of the European Green Deal and pillars of a circular bioeconomy. This is a development that will rightly be the focus of attention at Ligna 2023. On display will be development lines of the wood-based bioeconomy and technological innovations for responsible use of natural resources, as well as process technologies for shaping chemically digested wood fibres.

Wood is also steadily gaining importance as a recyclable building material in the construction industry. The share of total construction volume accounted for by purely timber buildings and timber-mixed structures is growing continuously both nationally and globally. Ligna reflects this industry trend in the focus topic "Prefab Building Processes": because the increasing importance of timber construction also results in new requirements for technology and equipment. At LIGNA.Preview, Bernd Oswald (GROPYUS) and Professor Achim Menges (University of Stuttgart) therefore spoke on this topic. Conclusion: The construction industry







needs a technology boost to produce in a contemporary and efficient manner — in prefabrication as well as on the construction site. At Ligna, interested parties can discover suitable solutions and approaches that will determine the future of timber construction.

The focus topics are also a common thread running through Ligna's additional formats.

The LIGNA.Stage presents the live audience in Hall 12 with a varied forum programme of solution- and user-oriented presentations and panel discussions along the Ligna focus topics as well as recruiting and sustainability. For those who cannot be present on site, the various program items will also be available as a stream live and on demand on the Ligna website.

Visitors can also look forward to the Guided Tours again — this year in a hybrid format. The tours offer a tailored overview of various topics. In groups of up to 25 participants, interested parties will be guided to selected exhibitors and given exclusive presentations and live demonstrations directly at their stands. Like the LIGNA.Stage program, the Hybrid Guided Tours are available live and on-demand in streaming in English and German on the Ligna website.

“By streaming our additional formats, we want to make Ligna and relevant industry developments accessible to those who can't be there on site,” says Stephanie Wagner, Ligna project manager. “Independent of location and time, we can thus extend Ligna's appeal far beyond the event period.”

In addition, a networking service is available to all event participants. The Ligna ticket is a prerequisite for access. After registering, visitors and exhibitors can activate the service via the Ligna website and then receive contact suggestions and the opportunity to arrange appointments.

In view of the shortage of skilled workers and concerns about young talent, Ligna also provides an overview of research, education and career opportunities in the woodworking and wood processing industry. The LIGNA.Campus provides information on education and training courses offered by universities, technical colleges and technical schools. Teaching also presents current research projects.

At LIGNA.Recruiting, potential employers meet interested skilled per-

sonnel. A digital job wall allows companies — whether exhibitors or visitors — to post attractive job offers. This offer can not only be viewed and accessed digitally at the recruiting area at Ligna, but is supplemented by on-site opportunities for personal matchmaking between human resources and interested parties and by company pitches from participating companies.

In addition to a VDMA lounge, the LIGNA.Future Square powered by VDMA will present start-ups with lean solutions and new ideas.

Tickets for Ligna are available now via the website. Visitors will also benefit again this year from a special ticket cooperation: whether Interzum (9-12 May 2023, Cologne) or Ligna (15-19 May 2023, Hannover), the admission tickets for both trade fairs entitle the holder to visit the partner event in each case. This gives visitors an all-encompassing overview of furniture manufacturing and interior design, as well as the woodworking and wood processing industries.

Ligna encompasses the entire value chain of the woodworking and wood processing industry and presents itself in a total of seven product segments:

- Tools & Machinery for Custom & Mass Production (Halls 11-15, 27)
- Surface Technology (Halls 16, 17)
- Wood Based Panel Production (Hall 26)
- Sawmill Technology (Hall 25)
- Energy from Wood (Halls 25, 26, open-air site)
- Machine Components and Automation Technology (Hall 16)
- Machinery for Forestry, Roundwood & Sawntimber Production (open-air site, P32-35)

What is believed to be the world's leading trade fair for the woodworking and wood processing industry is jointly organised by Deutsche Messe and VDMA Woodworking Machinery. It showcases the entire range of products and services for the primary and secondary industries — tools, machines and systems for custom and mass production, surface technology, wood-based panel production, sawmill technology, energy from wood, machine components and automation technology, as well as machines and systems for forestry, round wood and sawn wood production.

**Ligna** ● [www.ligna.de](http://www.ligna.de)

# Two Supreme Winners at the 2023 Surface Design Awards

**SURFACE DESIGN AWARDS** once again set a benchmark for global architectural design, receiving well over 130 entries from 12 countries. From the dozens of projects that were entered, a total of 40 made the shortlist across the 11 initial categories. The winners of the categories were announced during a breakfast ceremony on the final day of the 2023 Surface Design Show.

This year the judges were blown away by the quality of this year's entries, which led to a Surface Design Show first with the decision to crown not one but two entries as the Supreme Winners: Glade of Light by BCA Landscape (pictured below), won the Landscape & Public Realm category and the Winner of the Commercial Building Interior category was MONC (pictured on the following page) by Nina + Co with Smile Plastics.

Glade of Light is a living memorial to those who lost their lives in the May 2017 terror attack at Manchester Arena: a space for reflection and remembrance. The abstract design is an emotional response to the ineffability of sorrow and loss. It's a special place where people can briefly pause time, find a place of quiet and stillness in their busy lives, providing a space to reflect and linger a while.

MONC is a retailer selling sustainable eyewear and its debut store in Marylebone, London was designed with circularity in mind. Almost everything brought into the building was entirely bio-based or recycled. The furniture within the store is expertly built to last but can also be disassembled for re-use, recycling or return to the Earth as nourishment.

The differences of the two outstanding projects, a landscaped living memorial and a retail interior, proved challenging for the judges, with

strong opinions divided. After a long debate it was decided that the only fair decision that they could make was to award the Supreme Award to both. The judges said of Glade of Light, "It is a special place, which creates a moment and makes you feel safe" whilst MONC was praised by the judges for "its powerful design with all the wow factor and beauty, yet still retaining a fantastic sustainability focus, something that we could all learn from."

Andy Thomson and Shivani Gunawardana from BCA Landscape were at the breakfast presentation to accept the award for Glade of Light. Andy said "It was a sensitive journey for everyone who worked on the project", whilst Shivani explained "The materials played a really important part, from the Carrara marble to reusing the existing paving."

Amongst the team to collect MONC's award was Nina Woodcroft from Nina + Co who said about the project, "Both the client and I were like-minded when it came to circularity. It was important that sustainable design decisions were made when it came to the materials and the way they were applied."

Other winners of the categories all had a strong sustainability message and stood out within their respective categories. The Commercial Building Exterior category was awarded to Design District Building D2 by Mole Architects, a two-toned compact and angular building which contributes to the vibrancy of the Design District in Greenwich. Knitted Eaves by Studio AVT Architects Pvt, was highly commended within this category.

One of the Supreme Winners, MONC by Nina + Co with Smile Plastics, also took the award in the Commercial Building Interior category. This





project not only prioritised the reuse of regenerative materials, but it also created products with multiple lifecycles in mind, making disassembly easy by limiting the use of adhesives. This is a fantastic example of circular design.

Andre Kong Studio's Stepped Loft won the category of Housing Exterior. An extension of a Victorian terraced house in South East London, this project features a series of stepped brick volumes, extruded to create a host of new rooms. The design asserts presence to the new levels in a contemporary way, whilst still being sympathetic to the colours and materials of the existing house.

This year the award for Housing Interior is shared between Wiltshire Farmhouse, by Emil Eve Architects and Southwark Brick House by Satish Jassal Architects. The Wiltshire Farmhouse scheme demonstrated how a farmhouse kitchen was transformed using terracotta tiles both inside and out, which brings warmth to the new extension. The other winner in this category, Southwark Brick House, by Satish Jassal Architects, is a new-build which impressed the judges with its reuse of existing materials from the garage and the selection of other materials for their longevity.

In the Light & Surface Exterior, the Yards St Martin's Courtyard Terrace by Brimelow McSweeney Architects was highly commended, with the winner named as Knitted Eaves by Studio AVT Architects Pvt. This project uses unique and natural designs to create a pattern which has its own solidarity, yet works together in a combination depicting the process of hand-weaving and textile production.

For the Light & Surface Interior category, Sky Lantern House by Proctor & Shaw Architects took the prize. This whole house refurbishment and extension project looked to the rhythm of traditional dormers on an existing roofscape to inspire the radical transformation of a London home. Expressed externally as an assemblage of stacked luminous boxes, the rear extension evokes the ethereal quality of a floating 'sky lantern' at night.

The Digi-Tech Factory by Coffey Architects won the Public Building Exterior category. Coffey Architects threw a delicate white mesh over a practical teaching block to give it a light, enigmatic and joyful touch. The external screen of white powder-coated aluminium mesh or corrugated

aluminium unifies the building's form and modulates the interior and exterior environments. In short, this is a building of beautiful lightness and air. The Sutton Hoo visitor experience by Nissen Richards Studio was highly commended.

The Public Building Interior category award was given to Jiva Spa and Wellness Centre by Emil Eve Architects. Located in the Victorian cellars of the luxury Taj Hotel, the unique interior of this new wellness centre in London has been designed to complement the philosophy of Jiva's traditional Indian treatments and their local partner Temple Spa.

Supreme Winer Glade of Light, by BCA Landscape, also won the award for Landscape + Public Realm. A contemporary memorial landscape with an emotional power and honesty, it has become a significant place in the heart of Manchester for the personal and communal process of remembrance, grieving and healing.

The Temporary Structure category award was also shared between two practices. A Cautionary Bench/Mark by Andre Kong Studio was one of the recipients. This structure was built from reclaimed materials and is sat on two levels. The lower bench invites passers-by to sit and reflect, with the higher-level looming 2.6 m above, predicting the water level expected during a severe tidal storm in 2030. Sharing the spoils is the River Book by Atelier YokYok. This is a volumetric interpretation of the geography and the history of Jiaxing, a city in the northern Zhejiang province in China. Its design results in dancing swirls, enticing visitors to come closer.

Introduced last year, The Architectural Photography award was one by Sanaa Aftab for their image of the National Museum of Qatar, 'A Deserts Rose'.

**Surface Design Awards** ● [www surfacedesignshow.com](http://www surfacedesignshow.com)

# Bespoke business saves money on bills with wood waste heater

**BESPOKE furniture manufacturer, PR Bespoke Interiors, has purchased a wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology to save money on its heating and waste disposal costs.**

PR Bespoke Interiors Ltd is developing a reputation for offering luxury high-end furniture to its clients, including those involved in commercial and manufacturing projects as well as private customers and interior designers.

When the business launched in 2019, the team moved into a workshop in Bredbury, near Stockport that had no heating. Having previously worked for a company that used a wood waste heater, directors Ryan and Patryck knew that investing in a wood waste heater was the perfect solution for their business due to the amount of wood waste generated, so started to research some options.

Office manager, Holly Wallis, explains: "When we moved into the building in spring, we knew one of our first investments needed to be a wood waste heater, so we could burn all our waste wood to create free heating for the factory in winter, and also save money on waste disposal. We were recommended to speak to Wood Waste Technology due to the quality and durability of its heaters by a trusted colleague, and we're so pleased we did!"

After speaking to Kurt Cockroft at Wood Waste Technology and arranging a quote and site survey, PR Bespoke Interiors ordered a WT15 which was installed by Wood Waste Technology's experienced engineers, who managed to vent the heat generated to key areas of the workshop.

Holly explains: "We're delighted with our new wood waste heater. We'd hate to have to heat the building any other way, as the open plan nature of the workshop and high ceilings would be awful for retaining heat and our heating bills would be a fortune! Wood Waste Technology's installation team was exceptionally helpful, in that the engineers were able to direct the majority of the heat to the areas we need to keep warm the most. The advice and help from the team at Wood Waste Technology has been excellent, and we've been really impressed with how the heater operates and how easy it is to use."

Managing director of Wood Waste Technology, Kurt Cockroft, says: "We've been delighted to help the team at PR Bespoke Interiors and are so pleased they're delighted with the results. We're very grateful to the people who help to spread the word about Wood Waste Technology by recommending us to others — and are proud to be manufacturing such high quality heaters here in the UK."

Wood Waste Technology offers a full range of wood waste heaters, from small hand fired units to larger fully automatic systems, and offers site survey and design, as well as manufacture, installation and on-going maintenance. The company also services all types of wood waste heaters and supplies genuine spares.

In addition, Wood Waste Technology is the UK's official distributor for Gross Apparatebau GmbH, a German manufacturer of dependable,

engineered shredders and briquetters. The company is also a distributor for Putzmaus boiler tube cleaning systems — a powerful but gentle routine maintenance solution that is quick and easy to use, and helps to increase boiler efficiency and lower operating costs.

**Wood Waste Technology ● Tel 01785 250400**

**[www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk](http://www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk)**

**[www.grossuk.co.uk](http://www.grossuk.co.uk) ● [www.putzmaus.com/en/main/](http://www.putzmaus.com/en/main/)**



# 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](http://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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# Stock machines from Masterwood GB

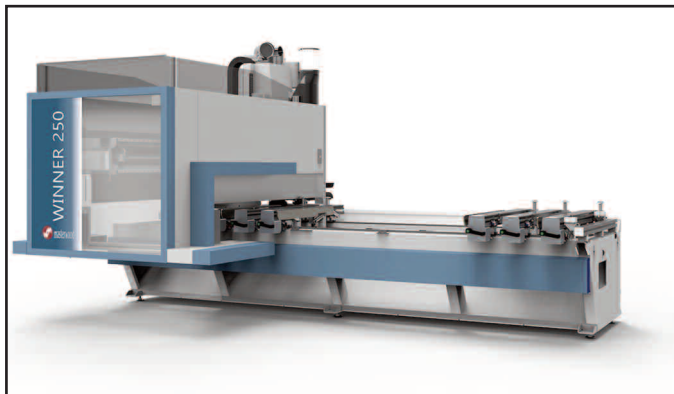
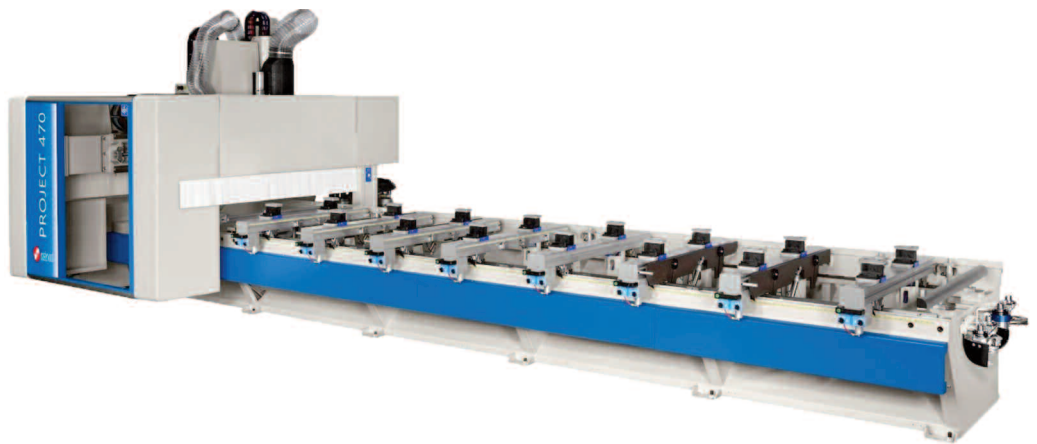
AS SUPPLIERS of parts and materials, across all industries, endure the ongoing global struggle, Masterwood GB was facing delivery times of up to six months for new machines. As the demand for these is still going strong, Masterwood GB has pre-ordered a range of machines, to go into production at the Rimini factory in Italy.

The machines are built to mid-range specifications, with the ability to retrofit additional options, such as waste conveyors and a fourth axis, so every machine can meet the customer's requirements without the need to compromise. Alternatively, items initially added to the machine can be removed if not required, to avoid unnecessary costs for the customer.

When a Masterwood customer in Northern Ireland found their 18-year-old CNC was no longer viable for repair, the decision was made to purchase a new Masterwood Project 470L. As the machine was near completion when the order was placed in early October, delivery from Italy and installation was completed in just four weeks.

The current range of stock machines available from Masterwood GB includes:

- The versatile 4-axis Project 470L, also available as 3-axis.
- Winner 250 — Masterwood's entry level short bed CNC; suitable for doors, windows, cabinets and other bespoke work.
- Winner 845L — Fixed specification full 5-axis long bed CNC.
- TF 600 KT — The latest addition to the Masterwood CNC drilling range. High speed drilling on all six faces of a panel, plus routing above and below with a six-position tool changer.



Masterwood continues to develop its full range of CNC machinery, as well as the recently added beam saws and panel saws, which have already been selling well across Europe and received high praise from customers for their quality and build strength. Special machines for doors, windows, and frames are still an integral part of the Masterwood range, and with the option of automation and full production lines, Masterwood can provide solutions to business, large and small.

With the support of KDT Machinery and Masterwood's own software house, the Italian manufacturer is moving forward with upgrading existing software design packages, as well as creating new packages. The software available covers standard windows, traditional box windows, door sets, staircases, cabinets, nesting, and 3D, for three, four and five axis machines.

A new version of the long-established MasterWorks CAD/CAM system is under development and will be available on new machines, and as an upgrade for existing customers.

Masterwood GB can offer bespoke demonstrations on a range of products and software at the company's showroom near Gatwick Airport. On show is a five axis pod & rail, four-axis matrix bed, compact drilling machine, high speed drilling machine, and a beam saw.

**Masterwood GB**  
**Tel 01293 402700**  
**office@masterwoodgb.co.uk**  
**www.masterwoodgb.co.uk**

# Keep downtimes low with Leitz's CompleteCare Tool Management System

**LEITZ has taken the next step to providing its customers with a complete Tool Management package with CompleteCare. The system makes effective use of digital logistics software in order to help automate the ordering and monitoring process of tooling supplies.**

"We are all well aware of the issues that machine downtime can have for our businesses," said Simon Liddell, managing director at Leitz Tooling. "From lost efficiency and reduced through-put to complete factory shutdown, there's a whole host of issues that can arise when a company's tooling processes are improperly managed.

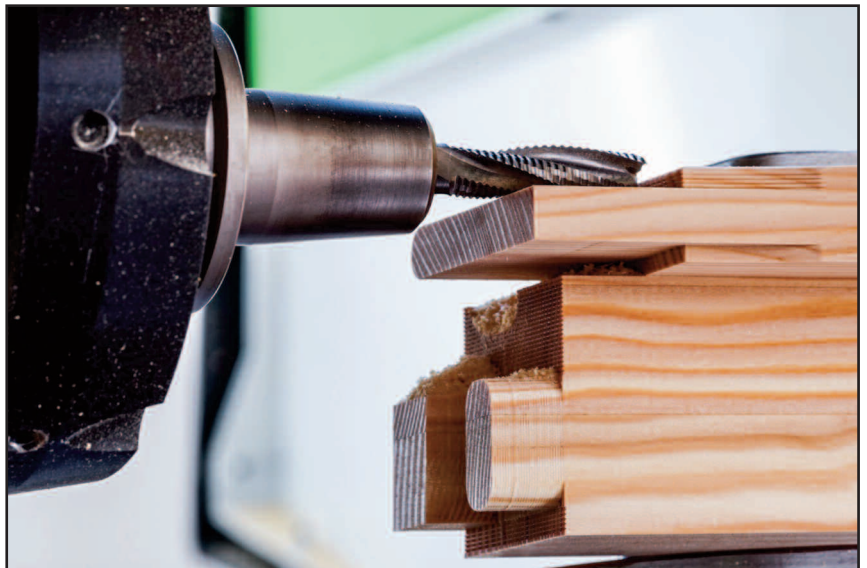
"There is a huge amount of work that goes into getting tooling parts where they need to be, when they need to be. Leitz's CompleteCare package ensures that your machinery supply chain is expertly and efficiently managed, without the requirement to purchase tools outright." Ensuring that parts are where they need to be on time will significantly help to reduce downtimes and keep business' manufacturing rates high.

CompleteCare provides a complete tool supply service from a single source, which makes it ideal for companies with large batch sizes. Invoicing is based on agreed production figures, which means that pricing is adapted based on real-time costs and data. As well as this, Leitz uses its expertise to make processes more productive and efficient, ensuring that your stock is managed effectively to minimise disruption.

Leitz has invested in developing a long-term partnership with customers for mutual success. Leitz also supports customers by advising on how they can begin to redesign their processes and adapt their production line to meet the demands of the future.

**Leitz Tooling**

[www.leitz.org/en-gb/](http://www.leitz.org/en-gb/)



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# Neville Trust celebrates an amazing 475 years of staff service

**NEVILLE TRUST**, a long established family-owned group of businesses, has held its first Long Service Awards, post pandemic, and celebrated a record-breaking total of 475 years of exemplary service from 37 very special team members.

Neville Trust, which includes Neville Funerals, Neville Special Projects and Neville Joinery has a long tradition of employing locally and a reputation for a focus on staff welfare, training and career development for those that join. Those recognised with a Long Service Award this year represent a significant 20 per cent of the overall workforce.

Vicky Trumper, director of Neville Trust: "We really could not be more proud of everyone who was awarded a Long Service Award this year, and we thank them for all the hard work and dedication they bring to their roles every day. We hope that these extraordinary numbers are reflective of the environment of personal and career development that we take so seriously across all our Neville businesses. It's important to celebrate these milestones and acknowledge what they make possible for both the business and its customers. In times when people are quick to change their jobs or careers, it's heart-warming to see that our employees want to stay and grow with us. In return, we fully appreciate the enormous skill, enthusiasm and dedication that all our employees bring to work daily. They are all remarkable every day."

The continued cost of living crisis is causing more employees to change their jobs in an attempt to increase their earnings. It was recently reported that 26 per cent (7.7 million) of the UK workforce is planning to change jobs and 68 per cent of these people are looking to do so within the next six months.

Despite this, Neville Trust is bucking the trend by keeping its staff happy through continuous career development and opportunities, mental health support for those who need it, and a work culture that truly brings the best out of people.

Steve Tott, at Neville Special Projects, who just received his 40-year long service award, added: "I'm very proud to say that I have been working alongside Neville Trust for the past 40 years, having seen the company grow and prosper each year makes me feel like I'm having a real impact. The long service awards were a fantastic way to show appreciation, with many members from Neville Funerals, Neville Special Projects and Neville Joinery coming together to highlight our work.

"I truly believe that working for Neville's is like working with your family, our ideas are listened to and our opinions matter, something that can't be said about every workplace."

The Neville Trust is an independent family run group of companies that has been operating successfully across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas for many years.

Neville Joinery was founded in 1875 and since April 2015, has become a separate trading company within the Neville Group of companies. From consultation through to building and installation, Neville Joinery offers a complete service with expertise in joinery and woodworking, supported by a design service with leading CAD drawings and modelling, a high level of attention to detail and superior finish.

**Neville Joinery**  
[www.nevillejoinery.co.uk](http://www.nevillejoinery.co.uk)



*Dave Taylor, plant and transport foreman at Neville Trust, with Vicky Trumper, director of Neville Trust.*



*Steve Tott, painting and decorating manager for Neville Special Projects, with Vicky Trumper, director of Neville Trust.*



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# Brandt Design shortlisted at kbbreview Retail & Design Awards 2023



**BRANDT DESIGN, luxury kitchen and interior design specialists, is proud to announce it has been shortlisted at the prestigious kbbreview Retail & Design Awards 2023, as Georgie Robbins is named one of four finalists up for Kitchen Designer of the Year £30-£50 K.**

Identifying a bespoke Heritage kitchen designed and installed by Brandt Design, this award nomination recognises the virtues of eclectic design where diverse elements like classic furniture, modern functionality, a rich colour palette and bold choice of hardware come together to create a truly personal kitchen environment.

The date for entering this year's kbbreview Retail & Design Awards close on 17 November 2022 whereby the esteemed judging panel were able to evaluate and independently score each entry before revealing the 2023 finalists.

In the second stage of judging, the shortlisted finalists will present their shortlisted project to the

judging panel via Zoom, where they will be subject to an in-depth Q&A about the design for further deliberation. The winners will be announced at a black-tie awards ceremony, which takes place on 20 April 2023, at Cardiff's ultimate warehouse events space, DEPOT.

Georgie Robbins, designer & showroom manager at Brandt Design Hampstead, says: "This project presented us with a few unique challenges, such as needing to work within the parameters of a period-style property with existing architectural features, an inflexible blueprint and limited natural light.

"However, I love a challenge and was immediately inspired by this very artistic brief requiring the intensity of colour and need to reflect the homeowner's love for being creative whilst being sensitive to the surroundings. For instance, her fondness for traditional French cuisine is echoed throughout the room thanks to the eclectic mix of colours, country-style

décor and choice of antique hardware."

Julia Steadman, commercial director at Brandt Design, adds: "We have always regarded the kbbreview awards as the Oscars of the KBB industry, so we are absolutely thrilled to be recognised and be able to champion the design talents of one of our own. It is a real honour to be shortlisted, especially as our growing design team continues to take an intuitive approach to interior design where the client is (and will always be) front and centre of the entire design process. George's hugely talented and her aptitude for reading the customer, supporting their ideas, and then guiding them on the best, most original design for them is a real skill, and one that she's worked hard to master. It was only a matter of time that her talents were recognised industry wide, and the entire team has everything crossed!"

Rebecca Nottingham, Editor at kbbreview explains, "What a short-

list this is. We've got a great mix of familiar names and new names, and I don't envy the judges in trying to pin down the winners. I can't wait to find out what they decide, so good luck to all the finalists. A massive thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to enter."

The nominated project is designed in a parallel layout to allow the kitchen furniture to work in tandem with a series of freestanding appliances. Bespoke Heritage Furniture made by Brandt Design offers a series of in-frame cabinets with traditional-style toe-kicks that feature a recessed plinth at the base to give the look of independent pieces of furniture, alongside solid oak wooden worktops and matching plinths. Hand-painted in Pelt by Farrow & Ball with contrasting antique brass fixtures and fittings, this kitchen also includes a classic ceramic white sink.

**Brandt Design**  
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# Award-winning production layout

**WITHIN just four months, the Altendorf Group, a world market leader in sliding table saws and edge banding machines, doubled output at its Hebrock plant thanks to a new production layout and digitisation of store floor management. The well-known German publisher WirtschaftsWoche awarded the CONCEPT AG, which developed the concept and actively supported its implementation, with the first place in the Manufacturing & Operations category of the “Best of Consulting SME 2022” competition for the successful project.**

In order to satisfy the rising demand and increased order volume for edge banding machines, Hebrock needed to find a solution to significantly increase output in production. Since extended delivery times were not an option, the machine builder tasked CONCEPT AG to find a solution to the problem.

Until now, the Altendorf Group manufactured its edge banding machines in conventional batch production at the factory of the traditional Hebrock brand. Even the first analyses showed: for a higher production output, the assembly of components and the existing, but not clocked assembly line had to be converted into a clocked line assembly.

The consulting team developed three scenarios as a basis for decision making. Implementation started just one month after the assignment. Within the summer break, which lasted only three weeks, production within the existing buildings was converted to

line production and the factory halls were equipped so that the machines move continuously from station to station with a uniform cycle time.

Parallel to the establishment of line production, the store floor management was digitalised. BI cockpits were used to create transparency for sustainable stabilisation and establish detailed, synchronised assembly planning. This makes work much more efficient, as the previous time-consuming “paperwork” is no longer required. Employees now easily record process data via tablets. This makes the assembly situation transparent so that adjustments can be made quickly if necessary. The likewise newly established continuous improvement process (CIP) helps to sustainably consolidate the standards and optimisations achieved.

Peter Schwenk, CEO of the Altendorf Group, praises the very good cooperation on this project: “As a machine builder, we have achieved the goal of increasing production output from the previous 2.8 machines per

day to 5 machines in a short space of time — accompanied by a significant increase in the efficiency of existing capacities. A great advantage in times of shortage of skilled workers.

“The ‘hands-on mentality’ of CONCEPT AG’s consultants, their good cooperation with our executives and the convincing work they did with those involved in the assembly contributed significantly to achieving this excellent result within a few months.”

**Altendorf Group**  
[www.altendorfgroup.com](http://www.altendorfgroup.com)



## SURFACES: DESIGN & MANUFACTURE

# New website for Decorative Panels Group

**DECORATIVE PANELS is excited to announce the launch of its new and improved website. The company has worked hard to create a sleek and modern design that is not only visually appealing, but also easy to navigate. The new layout makes it simple for visitors to find all key information about individual Group companies: Decorative Panels Lamination, Decorative Panels Components and Decorative Panels Furniture and quality services they offer.**

The company wants to make your experience as smooth and seamless as possible, so it has developed some great features with you in mind. One of the major improvements the company has made to the website is the addition of new features such as a favourites button on each of the swatches and the ability to download each swatch image. Every visitor now has a place to create and save their favourite designs from any of the collections in an unlimited number of projects. Want to save your design options for your latest kitchen project? Simply click the love heart on your chosen design and save it to your project.

As well as these additions to the swatches, the company has also changed the presentation of all ranges — dp-specialist, dp-decor and dp-limitless. The individual collections within these now have a dedicated page with more product information, key feature icons and bespoke filters for the different collections. This makes it much easier for visitors to find what they are looking for and have all the relevant information in one place.

The Marketing department worked hard to make sure that the new site is full of new and relevant content. The Media Hub is where you will find all the latest news stories, company videos and an Inspiration page — a place to see how designs can work together on furniture and within interior spaces featuring some of their latest and greatest swatches.

Team Spotlights is another new page addition. The team is crucial to the success of any business. The spotlight area has been created to tell you a little more about the company’s fantastic team behind the scenes, some of which have worked for Decorative Panels for over 30 years! Read

about their amazing stories and learn more about their culture. They will be adding a new team member each month.

Other features of the new website include improved search functionality and increased mobile responsiveness. With more and more people accessing the internet on their smartphones, it’s crucial that the website is optimised for mobile devices. Decorative Panels’ new website has been designed with this in mind, and it looks and works great! This new website is fully responsive, meaning that you can view it with ease on any device, whether in the office, at home, or on the move!

The Decorative Panels Group is very excited about the launch of the new and improved website, and hope that you will find it to be a valuable resource. They will continue to make updates and improvements to the website to provide the best possible experience for everyone. Please take a moment to check it out and see for yourself all the great new features and improvements they’ve made.

**Decorative Panels Group** ● [www.decorativepanels.co.uk](http://www.decorativepanels.co.uk)



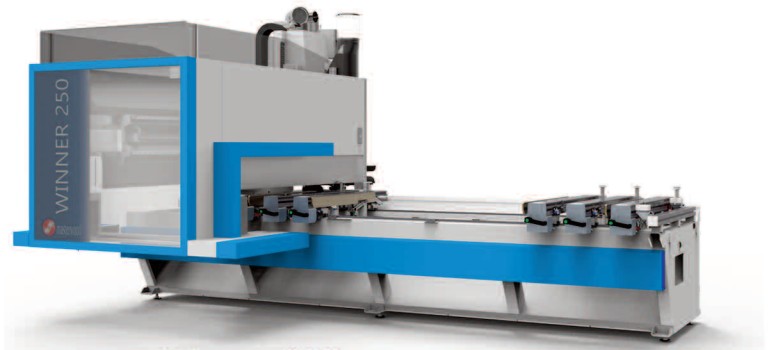
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Winner 250  
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Project 470L  
Long bed 3 or 4 Axis CNC

# Rotpunkt low carbon kitchen project by John Willox Design

**ROTPUNKT**, leading designer and manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture support luxury kitchen showroom, John Willox Design, in taking a low carbon approach to home architecture as it recently completes a sustainable newbuild property on a site previously used as farmland.

Together with Mr Ryan Urquhart, the homeowner and architect on this project, former agricultural land has been sensitively repurposed into a modern new-build property that promotes the use of renewable energy sources and virtues of low carbon living. Joanna Dereniowska, showroom manager at John Willox Design, explains, "For me, this has been a highlight of my design career to date, given the huge importance on green living and how society is making changes to help protect the environment. We knew they wanted a modern, industrial-style kitchen with an emphasis on low carbon products to help both home and daily life run more efficiently. Our go-to climate friendly furniture of choice is by Rotpunkt, and we recommended the Zerox FM door in Carbon: a fine matt dark grey finish. Plus, standard features include a range of integrated LED light options, which are compatible with today's smart home systems so the homeowner can fully automate the property to further optimise the homes energy consumption."

Matt Phillips, head of UK operations, Rotpunkt, says, "Mindful consumerism continues to be a priority for anyone seeking to make a difference and address climate change in the home, with big ticket items like the kitchen helping to reduce environmental impact and promote a greener way of life. I think this project shows that you can now be design-forward while being kind to the planet, reducing a property's carbon footprint without compromising on style and performance. Our climate-friendly furniture is just one element of this low carbon home that is sustainable by design, and we are blown away by the attention to detail and specialist understanding shown once again by Joanna and the team at John Willox Design."

**Furniture** — Rotpunkt Zerox FM Furniture in Carbon finish, handle-less/slab doors & drawers: Rotpunkt climate-friendly furniture, made of BioBoard Gen2 ethically furnished the main kitchen living space. Home products made from sustainable materials have a much longer lifespan, so the Rotpunkt kitchen has helped reduce this home's overall carbon footprint, as well as benefit from the re-use and recycling of materials.

**Surfaces** — Dekton in Trilium 20 mm worktops: Trilium offers a mixture of colours inspired by volcanic stones and the intensity of black and grey. Created with up to 80% recycled material, Trilium was the first ecological colour available by Dekton for a truly environmentally friendly industrial look.

**Flooring** — Karndean LooseLay Hudson LLP99 flooring, made using a mix of high-quality 100% virgin PVC and recycled PVC, which is manufactured using salt: a sustainable resource.

This former brownfield site was constructed as sustainably as possible to create a green living environment that lends itself to a low carbon lifestyle. From repurposing old concepts and preserving existing archi-



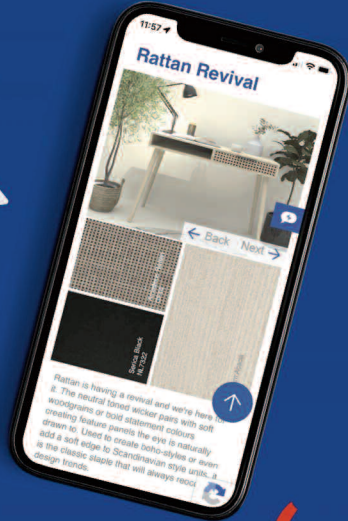
tectural elements through to the introduction of climate-friendly materials and energy saving product solutions, this home is green to the core. The inclusion of an air source heat pump provides an efficient heat and hot water system, and when combined with the mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system, the entire home benefits from a constant supply of fresh air that is warmed and circulated as needed. The property's insulated concrete framework also provides complete thermal insulation to the walls of the finished building to achieve an overall air tightness of 2.67 W/m<sup>2</sup>K.

For optimum control, efficiency levels and solar gains, this low carbon smart home provides automation of the heating, lighting and blinds, which over time will start to work intuitively by becoming attuned to the home's day to day behaviour. The blinds will react to the time of day and/or weather, the heating can be controlled remotely or via an App, and the lights are fitted with specialist dimmers enabling the bulb to run at 85% capacity without impact to room visibility.

**Images: Rory Raitt, Raw Format Photography**

**Rotpunkt UK** ● [matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com](mailto:matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com)  
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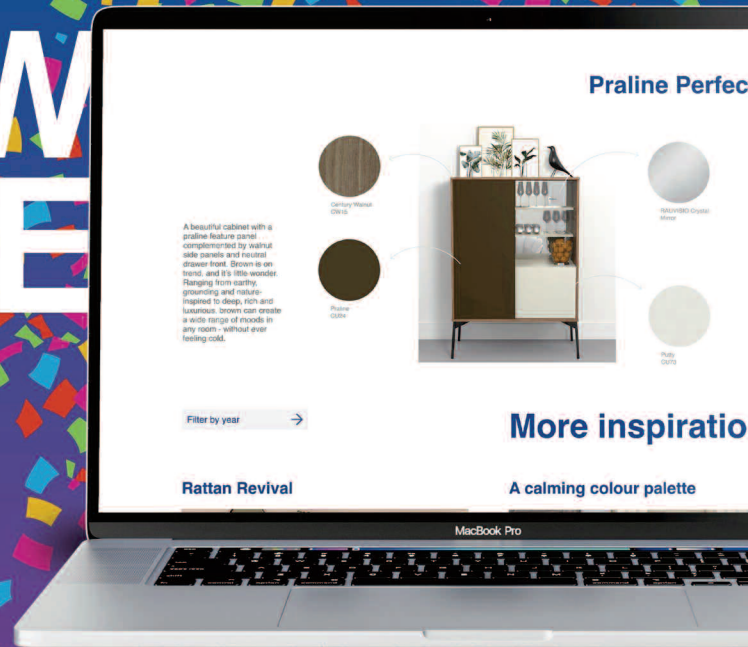
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# Building with sustainable timber should become “new normal”

**NORMAN WILLEMSSEN**, chief executive officer of Kebony, a global leader in the production of sustainable wood, recently spoke out in support of European Commission’s President Ursula von der Leyen’s landmark call for Europe to “address the global challenge of deforestation by giving people a sustainable alternative,” and help save up to 40% of global carbon emissions by building with timber instead of concrete.

Norman Willemsen stated: “The international community is now recognising the absolute need to build with sustainable and sustainably sourced materials. We must halt our dependence on heavy pollutants and materials which are directly triggering mass deforestation of our vital rainforests and follow the pathway set out by the European Commission, and globally, to ensure sustainable wood is accepted as the new industry norm. We greatly welcome the urgency and clarity of Ursula von der Leyen’s words.”

The statement comes just weeks after five more common hardwoods, include Ipe and Cumaru, were formally listed in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendix II — meaning they will now be better protected and safeguarded against deforestation, with closer controls over trading enforced, in a landmark effort to fight dangerous deforestation.

Easing this global dependence on the common hardwoods, and therefore on deforestation, is central to Kebony’s company mission. Utilising a patented wood modification technology, believed to be unique, Kebony produces an enhanced, superior wood that is both environmentally friendly and cost-effective. By permanently transforming sustainable softwood species such as pine into Kebony wood with features that are comparable, and in some cases superior, to those of tropical hardwoods, the company is successfully diverting the need for deforestation of precious and sanctioned hardwoods and helping to protect vital carbon sinks like the Amazon.

Mr Willemsen continues: “Building with sustainable timber should become the new normal for architects, developers and end customers looking to make an effective and positive change to what has become a heavily polluting industry.

“Today, more than ever, the impact of climate change is becoming increasingly apparent. Droughts in Europe, wildfires in the United States, floods in Pakistan and vast changes to normal weather patterns are among several of the most detrimental environmental effects that the world has seen in recent months. Despite years of warnings, fears remain that significant damage to our world and environment may be inescapable.

“A unified global effort will likely be required to turn the tides of climate change. In large parts of the world, it is undeniable that the construction sector is heavily polluting and remains largely unsustainable, with the value chain from materials through to operations accounting for over one-third of annual greenhouse gas emissions. Soon, it will become an imperative for all built environment professionals to meet sustainability targets. For them to succeed, it is vital that sustainable solutions and alternatives are effective, comparable (if not better) than their counterparts, attractive, durable and affordable.”

**Kebony**  
[www.kebony.com](http://www.kebony.com)





# Banking on acoustics with Troldekt

**THE BUSINESS GARDEN** Wrocław is a remarkable 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> development in the heart of Wrocław, Poland. Comprising nine offices and service buildings along with retail units, this LEED Platinum development includes the new headquarters of Santander Bank, designed by architects Workplace Solutions.

The headquarters is a remarkable bright, lively and inviting environment for both staff and visitors, a world away from the stuffy banks of old. With large open spaces, break-out areas and conference rooms, the

designers needed to find a way to control the acoustics. As a result, they specified over 600 m<sup>2</sup> of Troldekt's acoustic panels across large parts of the building from Modern Classic, Troldekt's local partners in Poland.

Troldekt is considered a perfect choice for this kind of application because it provides the twin benefits of superior acoustic performance and sustainability. Here, Troldekt ultrafine panels are used in both natural wood and white to break up the ceilings and create an interesting mosaic effect.

Founded on the Cradle-to-Cradle design concept and recently attaining Gold certification, Troldekt's natural and inherently sustainable panels are available in a variety of different surfaces and colours and contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, DGNB and LEED ratings. In addition, panels which incorporate Futurecem™, the patented new cement from Aalborg Portland, have a significantly reduced CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. Overall, over the entire product life cycle, the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint is 26.4 per cent lower than for Troldekt based on gray cement and whopping 37.7 per cent lower than for Troldekt based on white cement.

In addition to their high sound absorption and attractive tactile surface, Troldekt acoustic panels offer high durability and low-cost life-cycle performance. Available in various sizes and in four grades, from extreme fine to coarse, the panels can be left untreated or painted in virtually any RAL colour.

Samples, case studies and technical guidance are available from the company.

**Troldekt** ● Tel 01978 664255  
[www.troldekt.co.uk](http://www.troldekt.co.uk)



# Top performing CaberMDF Pro and Pro MR from West Fraser

**BOTH CaberMDF Pro and CaberMDF Pro MR from timber product specialist, West Fraser, are premium grade medium density fibreboards developed for interior joinery: their uniform consistency offering all the benefits of timber, but without the natural defects.**

Due to their construction and smooth surfaces, CaberMDF Pro and Pro MR are considered ideal for use where intricate detailing is required; plus, the boards are ideally suited to machining and surface finishing, as well as being able to accept high quality paint finishes. Both are easy to saw, drill and rout cleanly without chipping or splintering. Therefore, elaborate detailing is possible, while for the most artistic of interior designers, developers or builders, the boards will even accept foils and ornate veneers.

The versatile panels are suited to shop fitting, general purpose joinery and furniture making, as well as wall panelling, architectural mouldings, and the production of doors. They are also frequently specified for exhibition stands, staircases and even fire surrounds, as well as in public buildings banks and hotels.

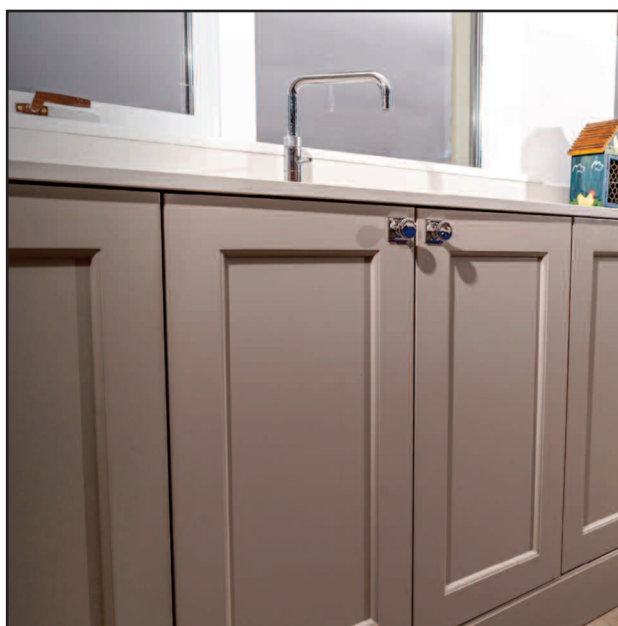
Then in terms of the product designation, the MR refers to the moisture resisting treatment and conditioning given to the CaberMDF Pro MR boards during their production, making them suitable for use in kitchens, bathrooms and utility rooms or other situations where the environment is prone to high humidity.

Ruggedness as well as accuracy of manufacture is also enhanced by the industrial grade's superior screw and fastener holding over other types of panel product, thanks to the board's carefully selected, high quality fibres and internal bond strength.

At 1,220 mm wide, both boards are available in lengths of 2,440 or 3,050 mm; and in thicknesses of 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 30 mm. For CaberMDF Pro, extra options include sizes of 1,525 and 1,830 mm, plus 2,745 x 1,220 mm with the longest board measuring 3,660 x 1,220 mm.

For peace of mind, the boards also conform to European E1 emission standard, comply with BS EN 622: Parts 1 and 5, and carry the CE mark.

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# Dekodur's® range added to Lathams portfolio

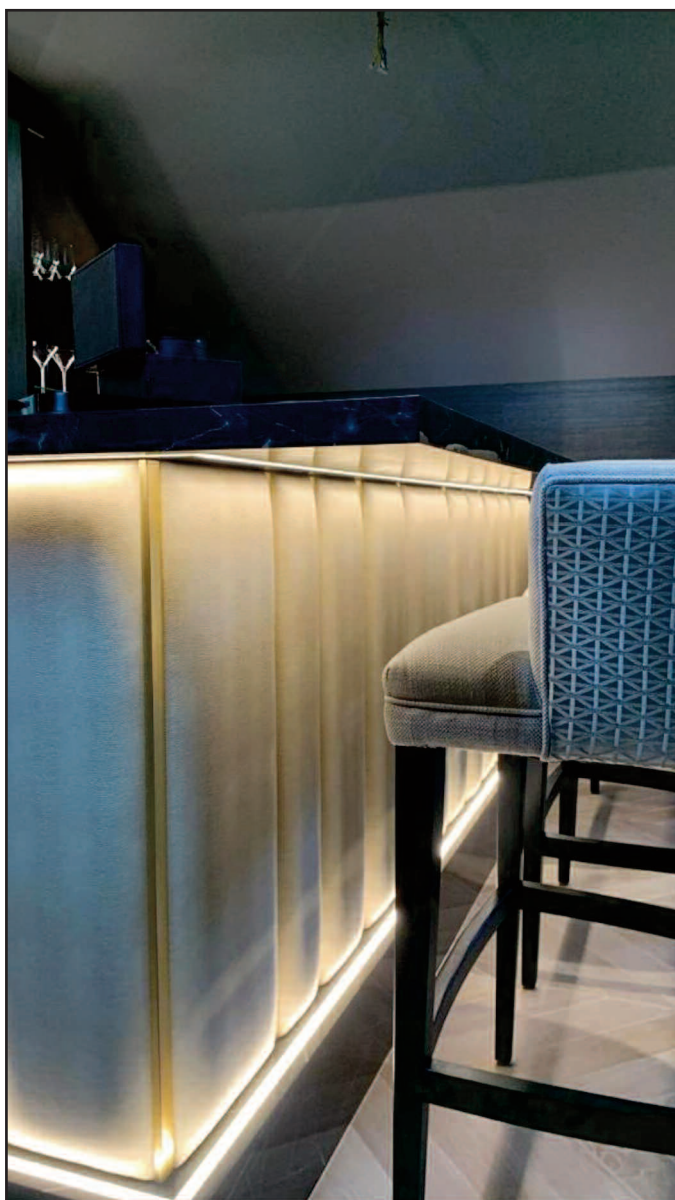
**JAMES LATHAM (Lathams), one of the UK's leading distributors of architectural materials, announces the introduction of Dekodur Architectural Metals to its product catalogue.**

Architectural Metals is the latest collection from premium laminates brand, Dekodur, comprising a range of high-pressure laminates (HPLs) with a real metal surface and phenolic paper backing.

Lathams is the UK and Ireland's largest and only fully-national stock-holding distributor for this innovative product range, which is a game-changer in material terms, addressing the longstanding challenge of successfully applying real metals as laminates.

The definition of style and sophistication, the visual appeal of the Architectural Metals range makes it ideal for use in luxury hospitality, high-end retail, marine and contemporary commercial interior schemes.

In terms of the options, there are a wide range to choose from. Highlights include the versatile Aluminium Collections, a wide array of sheets which comes in a range of different styles, from popular brushed metal and highly-reflective mirror finishes to toned-down fine matt and tactile, textured surfaces. Beyond aluminium, the range comprises a Specialities Collection, which includes real copper and stainless-steel laminates, for a truly authentic-to-the-touch look and feel. Offering unrivalled design flexibility, the Architectural Metals range is fully customisable, and can be embossed, etched, and even specified with a writeable magnetic layer. Going further, there's also a Unique Art Collection, which is hand-painted by artists using techniques that allow for repeatability.



The entire range is coated with special lacquer coat to withstand scuffs, cuts, chemical exposure and collision impact without showing any visible signs of wear and tear. Easy to fabricate, and formable, they are suitable for a variety of interior and furnishing applications, for example: wall panels, accent walls, reception desks, table tops, store fixtures and point-of-sale (PoS) displays. Those surfaces featuring a polished finish are also anodised, so will not tarnish, ensuring they are fully protected and maintain their aesthetic appeal day-in-day-out. At 0.8-0.9 mm thick, sheet dimensions are 2,440 x 1,220 mm and 3,050 x 1,220 mm, with a minimum order of one sheet depending on style selected.

From a sustainability perspective, Architectural Metals' specially-manufactured Eco collection consist of pre-consumer materials (post-production, pre-consumer by-product metals) that are phenol-free and carbon neutral. The core is also made from 100% biological secondary components, obtained from renewable sources and fully recyclable.

Distributed nationwide from Lathams' 14 depots, a selection Architectural Metals most popular styles is available to view on its new Digital Showroom, it is the latest new release to support the distributor's wider Decors Campaign.

The introduction of the Architectural Metals range represent the next step in Lathams' aim to be the most innovative and lowest-carbon materials distributor in the UK and Ireland, committed to sustainable design and construction.

Lathams ● [www.lathamdigitalshowroom.co.uk](http://www.lathamdigitalshowroom.co.uk)

# Timber group continues to grow team



**PREMIER FOREST PRODUCTS, one of the UK's leading timber groups, has made a key new appointment in Wales as it continues to expand its product range.**

Shaun Griffiths has been appointed as Premier Forest's newest business development manager to support the expanding business and ensure that customer service remains at the core of its ongoing strategy.

Shaun's wealth of experience will help the business continue to grow and develop its bespoke product offering as well as supporting new business opportunities.

Shaun has worked in the timber industry for 35 years, previously working for James Latham and Timbmet, specialising in manufacturing, cladding, decking and fire treatment and coatings.

In his new role, Shaun will be the first point of contact for customers seeking hardwoods, manufactured goods and cladding in particular, helping to develop new products and consolidate relationship with new suppliers.

On his appointment, Shaun said: "I was planning to relocate to West Wales with my family and when I spoke to the team at Premier, I knew that was where I wanted to be as they were so enthusiastic and the role sounded perfect for me.

"They have a clear strategy and being part of their next stage of development into hardwood and cladding offerings is very exciting. I love working in the timber trade, having started work in a joinery shop when I was 15 it's all I know, and I'm looking forward to this new venture."

Joe Walker, managing director at Premier Forest Products, said: "I am delighted to welcome Shaun to Premier. He brings with him a wealth of experience and will be a great addition to our ever-growing team and aid the development of our new product offering.

"At Premier it is of paramount importance that we employ people with not just expertise but enthusiasm in the sector, so that we can continually improve on the service we provide to our customers."

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

# SterlingOSB Zero offers all-round performance for Smart Spaces Surrey

**A SURREY-based business specialising in the design and installation of modular garden rooms and home offices has based its manufacturing process around the performance benefits of West Fraser's fully-certified SterlingOSB Zero T&G panels, helping it to offer clients high insulation standards, durability and value for money.**

Established in 2015, Smart Spaces Surrey has up to four crews out on site installing the prefabricated buildings which are produced at its premises in Camberley. The company's customer base stretches from the South Coast across Hampshire and Surrey, Berkshire and Greater London.

In order to speed-up the build process and deliver high insulation values, Smart Spaces Surrey has its own SIPs or Structurally Insulated Panel press where two sheets of 12 mm SterlingOSB Zero T&G are injected with breathable PU foam to create a 97 mm thick sandwich. Plastic spacers are used to leave a 50 mm rebate right around each panel, which is filled by an interlocking strip of the foam as the pods are assembled on site. In most instances, the floor structure features more of the SIPs fixed across a timber frame, supported by screw piles, and then the roof uses 18 mm SterlingOSB Zero in a more traditional build-up to ensure good airflow and avoid condensation.

The company's founder, Shade, says: "We specialise in bespoke rooms which are prefabricated in our workshop. We use a construction of SIP, which is a high-end insulation and structural timber by pre-building it in our workshop. This enables us to cut down the build time by more than half. We do all the cutting in the workshop so when it arrives on site, within seven days we can have it painted and finished. We installed close to 200 pods last year and use SterlingOSB Zero for the floors, walls and roofs to all of them. We originally chose it because of its net carbon negative credentials and find it very good to work with as well. The largest one we've created was L-shaped and had a floor area of 60 m<sup>2</sup>.

Available in thicknesses of 18 and 22 mm, the 2,400 mm length boards come in widths of 625 and 1,200 mm. They are strong enough to meet most load-bearing applications, are BBA approved and recognised by NHBC Technical and Zurich Municipal standards for housing applications. SterlingOSB Zero T&G also bears the coveted UKTFA Q-mark, a quality certification that provides a benchmark for manufacturers, and offers confidence to designers and end-users across the UK.

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<https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>



# Celtic Offsite teams up with Premier Forest Group as it targets an exclusively Welsh supply chain



Left to right: Neil Robins, Celtic Offsite, and Terry Edgell, Premier Forest.

**CAERPHILLY-based social enterprise, Celtic Offsite, has teamed up with one of the UK's leading timber suppliers, Premier Forest Products, as part of the company's ambitious plan to develop a Welsh supply chain to reduce its carbon footprint and support the local economy.**

Celtic Offsite, part of the United Welsh Group, manufactures low carbon homes by producing high quality, sustainable timber frame structures, complete with factory fitted insulation and windows, to build up to 250 low carbon homes a year.

Premier Forest Products was initially approached by Celtic Offsite to supply oriented strand board (OSB) for sheathing for timber frame panels, plywood and chipboard. However, thanks to Premier's growing product offering,

the company has recently started supplying roof trusses, engineered floor joists and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) for structural beams, taking Celtic Offsite ever closer to the goal of using Welsh suppliers for more of the company's manufacturing work.

Neil Robins, managing director of Celtic Offsite, said: "We are actively committed to making the areas in which we work better and more environmentally sound. We have been certified as a Climate Positive Business by Earthly, meaning we will remove more greenhouse emissions than we produce. One of the ways that we will do this is by working with local suppliers who have a similar mindset to our own. We have been so impressed by the service and quality of the products supplied by Premier Forest that we have con-

sistently increased the range of items that we order from them."

Co-founder and CEO of Premier Forest Products Terry Edgell said: "As an organisation, we firmly believe that the use of timber should be at the forefront of sustainable housing development. At the moment, wood in construction is the only commercially viable carbon capture and storage system so, simply by using more wood in construction, we can turn our built environment into a weapon against climate change.

"It is so inspiring to be working with an organisation in Wales that not only recognises the benefits of using timber but is actively working to build a sustainable supply chain, hopefully changing the ways that homes are built."

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation

engaged in the importation, sawmilling, processing, merchanting, and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its 12 sites in the UK.

As part of its commitment to the local community, Celtic Offsite offers an on-site training suite to provide skills development and apprenticeships for green construction jobs. The factory has been awarded two prestigious International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certifications: ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 14001 for environmental management. Celtic Offsite has also achieved PEFC certification for the chain of custody of forest-based products and were awarded Gold by the Structural Timber Association in their latest audit.

**Premier Forest Products**  
<https://premierforest.co.uk>

# West Fraser — perfect for your 2023 panel projects



**AS AN EXPERT** in innovative engineered wood panels for the UK construction and housebuilding market, West Fraser supports its customers in lots of ways. The popular downloadable checklist for housebuilders and interactive product guide proved invaluable in 2022; they are simple tools which ensure you are choosing the best panel product for your project.

You can download the checklist which will help in the selection of the perfect product from floor to roof. As you'll see, the checklist is just one of many resources, designed especially for the housebuilder.

The housebuilders' page includes a fully interactive product guide to download, details of projects using West Fraser's popular boards, answers to frequently asked questions, and samples and brochures to order. A simple click on the tabs at the side of the guide opens up the chosen product, application or technical information page. Whatever the project, the easy-to-navigate guide makes choosing the right product simple. The guide contains all the information needed on panels in the SterlingOSB Zero, CaberFloor, and CaberMDF portfolios, including detailed technical product data and installation advice. In addition to this,

West Fraser's guide highlights different applications, including roofing, flooring, walling, timber frames, hoarding, shopfitting, and furniture among others such as moulding and packing.

If you prefer a paper copy of the guide, which also encompasses contact information for general enquiries and technical expertise, you can request one from the company.

As you would expect from West Fraser, the company is committed to playing its part in reducing its emissions and is greener than you might think: the products are net carbon negative.

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC-certified and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transport.

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

# “Two-Faced House” showcases contemporary reimagining of a classic American homestead

A **STYLISH** reconstruction of a 1950s ranch house in Nashville, Tennessee, has recently completed, making use of sustainably sourced Kebony wood for a luminous, modern makeover to this classic South-eastern US home. The “Two-Faced House” project, named for the distinct, contrasting characters of the property’s front and back façades, is the brainchild of local architect and contemporary designer, Michael Goorevich.

Owned by a young couple, the “Two-Faced House” was originally planned to be a full-scale design and construction of a new home. However, consultations with the architecture team resulted in the decision to renovate an existing ranch house, therefore minimising environmental impact through the repurposing of a pre-existing structure.

The front, street-facing side of the property remains faithful to the ranch’s classic midcentury aesthetic, clad in white painted brick and with large windows to connect the homeowners with their natural surroundings. At the rear, a series of bay windows stretch the length of the house, connecting the spectacular contemporary kitchen to the garden and landscape beyond.

Kebony, the sustainable alternative to tropical hardwoods, has been used to clad the back of the home, framing and accenting the large glass windows.

Kebony cladding mirrors the wood accents in the home’s interiors, as well as the woodland which wraps around the property, completing the theme of a home seamlessly blending into nature.

Developed in Norway, Kebony’s pioneering wood-processing technology sees sustainable softwoods modified to maintain the durable properties of industrial hardwoods without the significant carbon footprint or compromise on appearance.

The choice to use Kebony facilitates a sense of harmony between the house and the surrounding landscape, not only in the appearance of the richly coloured timber material, but also in the cladding’s production life-



cycle, steeped with respect for the natural environment. Kebony is also weather resistant, requires little or no maintenance and, over time, will transform from its rich brown colour to acquire a unique silver-grey patina.

For the house’s interior renovation, its eight-foot ceilings typical of mid-century ranch houses were raised, making use of unused attic space. Large, new window openings were added to allow the living spaces to benefit from increased natural light and beautiful views.

The project is phased, and future expansion will see a pool terrace and a pavilion added to the home layout to deliver on the architect’s vision to transform this dwelling, once set for demolition, into a modern family home inspired by its own history and surrounding natural environment.

Michael Goorevich, architect behind the Two-Faced House, commented: “With their bifurcated, front-and-back organisation and access to services from above and below, it’s relatively easy to update these 1950s ranches to become more responsive to modern living. The use of Kebony gave me a chance to explore wood buildings here in Tennessee and the opportunity to tap into the spirit of agrarian structures that would have been here 200 years ago.”

Nina Landbø, international sales manager at Kebony, added: “It is great to see the ways in which Kebony can be used to awaken new identities in classic home structures, such as this unique “Two-Faced House”. We are delighted to be involved in a project that reflects both its natural surroundings and the architectural heritage of what came before, while still creating a sustainable, modern home space that we hope families will enjoy for years to come.”

**Images:** Kristian Alveo

**Kebony** ● [www.kebony.com](http://www.kebony.com)

# Rotpunkt new Velvet Green soft-coat lacquer finish



**ROTPUNKT, leading designer and manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture preserves the timeless qualities of the Shaker kitchen with the launch of Velvet Green: a brand new soft-coat lacquer, seen here on the modern Smala door with 12 mm modern frame.**

Offering homeowners enhanced durability, the new Velvet Green by Rotpunkt promises a colour-rich finish, which is anti-fingerprint and easy to clean. The new soft-coated furniture colours make this method of protection a good option for the planet as it produces less waste by-product and a significantly smoother surface when compared to liquid coatings, according to the company.

Matt Phillips, head of UK operations, Rotpunkt, says, "Conscious design is key to the modern kitchen this year and our new Velvet Green soft-coat option perfectly caters to this trend with its contemporary styling and lasting finish. Providing a modern alternative to the traditional Shaker door, Smala adds visual depth to linear furniture and prevents daily wear and tear, while our new Velvet Green answers the latest style trends where dark and light shades of green are a top accent colour for many."

The new Velvet Green kitchen concept pictured, features the following innovations by Rotpunkt:

**Soft-coat lacquer surfaces:** The new SC doors feature a durable soft-coated surface, which presents a smooth matt finish that can also translate across kitchen doors, walls and side panels: perfect in an integrated room scheme where the kitchen is open to the living area. Durable by design, the soft-coated furniture is anti-fingerprint, highly resistant to chemicals and scratches, and easy to clean, so it can be kept looking good with very little effort.

**On-trend:** Regarded as the new neutral, all shades of green continue to top the interior design charts and given its growing association with health

and wellbeing, it has now become the go-to for introducing nature in the home. The new Velvet Green colourway is a medium-dark shade of green and is one of 24 soft-coat colours, which are available in either matt or gloss.

**Ergonomic storage:** Contemporary kitchens rely on creative storage solutions, and as open-plan living arrangements continue to grow, cabinets are no longer adopting the usual top and bottom format and instead, are taking to the walls and island unit for added flexibility. The featured island unit shows how choosing an opposing material like wood can be used to emphasise practical areas in the kitchen, as well as create a welcome contrast to a block colour scheme. Pastel Smoke wood-effect creates accent details on the island units' open cubbyholes, and stylish box unit in the wash zone being used as a practical herb garden and extra storage for cooking oils and chopping boards.

**Climate friendly manufacture:** All Rotpunkt furniture is designed and created under the company's award-winning Together to Zero climate strategy to reduce carbon emissions at every stage of manufacture. For example, the Pastel Smoke wood elements carry the mark of responsible forestry being FSC® Certified. The gold standard of eco-friendly kitchen design, all design elements in Pastel Smoke offer a greener alternative for the UK homeowner, with the new Soft-coat Velvet Green answering the call for longer lasting products that optimise a material's value to prevent waste.

Matt adds: "We pride ourselves on responding to the needs of the market in real time, with the ability to reinvent traditional design elements that serve the modern home and lifestyle. Our new Velvet Green finish not only pays homage to a classic furniture style, but also reflects the reality of hybrid living where the kitchen is facing new levels of demand."

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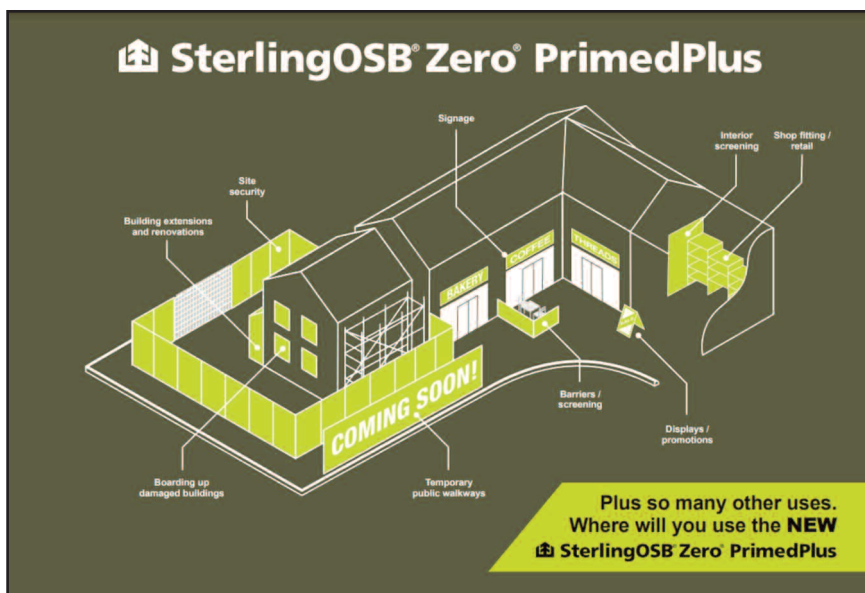
# SterlingOSB Zero 'primed for action' across the board

PANEL product manufacturer, West Fraser, has introduced a new ready-primed version of its SterlingOSB Zero board which is considered ideal for use in a wide range of situations from site hoardings through to building exhibition stands and other installations where appearance is important.

SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is being produced in 18 mm thick, square-edged sheets measuring 1,220 mm wide by 2,440 mm long. The top face is primed with a UV putty and the sides are sealed to reduce water ingress, leaving the sheets ready for decoration or the application of graphics. The high-quality surface is smooth while the structure is free from knots or voids and from an environmental perspective the 'Zero' in the name assures specifiers that the product contains no added formaldehyde.

West Fraser's Dom West, sales director for UK and Ireland, commented: "SterlingOSB Zero is the first UK manufactured OSB with zero-added formaldehyde to deliver health as well as several other technical benefits, making it superior to softwood plywood as well as particleboard. The factory primed, ultra-smooth surface presents a blank canvas for marketing messages and other types of promotional display. Being rugged and weather-resistant, the SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus boards can be used outside for security applications, such as screening or walkways while we're already getting strong interest from the hospitality sector and shopfitting specialists, as well as housebuilders and other contractors."

SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is CE-marked and complies with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and BBA Agreement requirements. The



boards are supplied in packs of 50 to cover a total area of approximately 150 m<sup>2</sup>. Right across its range, West Fraser has been making substantial investment in reducing the environmental impact of its production processes including signing new contracts with its energy suppliers to ensure that all its power comes from renewable sources that are covered by REGO (Renewable Energy of Guaranteed Origins) certification. For peace of mind, the boards also conform to European E1 emission standard and comply with BS EN 622: Parts 1 & 5.

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

## CaberMDF Industrial — a cut above the rest

**CABERMDF Industrial, which is manufactured at the UK's first dedicated site for medium density fibreboard production, delivers high levels of accuracy when being crafted using all types of woodworking equipment, from CNC routers to hand tools.**

Indeed, timber specialist West Fraser is proud to call it 'the ultimate MDF', while the product has proved its benefits across countless applications, in particular where the more intricate profiles are being created: even if deep and angled. Meanwhile, as it does not splinter or crack, un-

like natural timber, there is minimal waste or need for reworking.

As well as achieving a higher quality end result for the carpenter, shopfitter or furniture manufacturer, CaberMDF Industrial's smooth surface will also accept paint and special surface finishes, including the application of paper foils and veneers.

Improved workmanship is further facilitated thanks to the boards offering superior screw and fastener holding compared to competing types of panel product, which is down to the high-quality fibre used in the man-

ufacture of CaberMDF, as well as its internal bond strength.

Unlike many of West Fraser's MDF boards, CaberMDF Industrial is produced to order, so offering the specifier the utmost in flexibility and design opportunities for applications such as flexibility and design opportunities for applications such as shopfitting, furniture, fire surrounds, architectural or wrap mouldings, staircases and wall panelling.

Fashioning furniture, shelving and general-purpose joinery are other common uses. CaberMDF Industrial is able to withstand humid conditions so is ideal for kitchen and bathroom furniture too.

For peace of mind, the boards conform to European E1 emission standard, comply with BS EN 622: Parts 1 and 5, and carry the CE mark.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921

<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

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