

# PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

*Issue No. 189/190*

*February/March 2024*

## Brushed Metal HPL from Decorative Panels Lamination

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# Selco backs next generation of tradespeople

**THE TRADESPEOPLE of the future are being backed by one of the UK's leading builders merchants in an exciting colleges partnership.**

Selco Builders Warehouse has donated thousands of pounds worth of materials to college students carrying out trade and construction courses around the country.

Students have also been invited into Selco branches to learn more about how a builders merchant operates and the relationship it has with tradespeople.

West London College, Leeds College of Building, Exeter College, Bournemouth and Poole College and Birmingham Metropolitan College are amongst the education establishments partnering with Selco on the scheme.

Each college has received £3,000 worth of materials and its students are currently undertaking at least three visits to their local Selco branch.

In 2024, West London College will receive an additional £5,000 of materials to continue supporting its 'Green Skills' courses as part of its offering around sustainability, a key pillar of Selco's long-term strategy.

Enda Mulloy, deputy head of construction at West London College, said: "The Selco partnership



is proving a fantastic initiative and an absolutely invaluable experience for learners.

"A builders merchant plays such a significant role in the life of a tradesperson that introducing our learners to them so early in their careers will stand them in really good stead.

"The materials and tools that Selco has kindly donated have also been an incredible help. We

want our learners to carry out as much practical work as possible but that comes at a significant cost which we wouldn't be able to meet without donations such as the one Selco has made.

"We can't thank Selco enough for the work it is doing with our college and others around the UK and the significant difference it is making to the future of the industry."

Alison Wong, head of communications and sustainability at Selco, said: "We are committed to supporting tradespeople at every level so this is an extremely exciting project for us to be involved with.

"We are delighted to be playing a small part in the educational journey of the next generation of tradespeople, whether that be through the donation of materials and tools or the insight that our branch managers and teams are providing in how a builders merchant plays a vital part in the day-to-day life of tradespeople.

"We look forward to continuing supporting the learners heading into 2024."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 75 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 — as well as a 'Dial & Deliver' telephone service — to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

**Selco**  
www.selcobw.com





# Altendorf Group honoured with “Best of German Industry” award

THE ALTENDORF Group, a leading global manufacturer of premium woodworking machinery and technologies, is proud to be featured as one of the outstanding companies in the illustrated book “Best of German Industry” by Studio ZX (ZEIT publishing group). The illustrated book highlights the resilience and clout of world market leading German industrial companies in times of challenging global developments.

German industry is currently facing challenges such as the war in Ukraine, climate change and growing international competitive pressure. However, the illustrated book “Best of German Industry” raises the question of whether the feared deindustrialisation is imminent or whether the creativity, innovative strength and resilience of German (global) market leaders and hidden champions are securing the country’s prosperity.

The first edition of “Best of German Industry” presents over 50 portraits of German industrial companies, including the Altendorf Group, as symbols of resilience and innovative strength. The companies, including well-known names such as Abus, BASF, Pilz and Wöhner, are the focus of the illustrated book and represent the strength of the German economy.

Iliane Weiß, Managing Director of Studio ZX GmbH, explains: “Telling company stories in a unique way — that’s what Studio ZX stands for. We are therefore delighted to be able to publish this new, high-quality illustrated book on important German industrial companies in close collaboration with Dr. Florian Langenscheidt. This builds on the success of previous joint publications such as ‘From the Best Family’ and our strong work ‘Brands of the Century’. In this way, we are making entrepreneurial excellence visible for our customers.”

The illustrated book “Best of German Industry” is published in German and English in order to do justice to the international market environment. Dr. Florian Langenscheidt, publisher of the illustrated book, emphasizes the importance of German industry: “Industry, the private sector and SMEs in particular have been the locomotive for growth, prosperity and innovation for decades.”

“Receiving the “Best of German Industry” award and being named in the first edition of the “Best of German Industry” publication is a great confirmation of our continuous innovation work to make our customers’ work even more efficient and safer with our machines and solutions,” says Peter Schwenk, CEO of the Altendorf Group.

The official premiere of the “Best of German Industry” publication, in-



From left to right: Ansgar von Garrel, head of marketing Altendorf Group, Hagen Hille, head of operations Altendorf Group, Jörg Woestkamp, head of service Altendorf Group, Dr. Florian Langenscheidt, publisher “Best of German Industry”. Photo credit: Phil Dera.

cluding the ceremonial presentation of the “Best of German Industry” award by Dr. Florian Langenscheidt to the award winners, took place in December 2023 at the Adlon on Pariser Platz in Berlin, Germany.

“Best of German Industry” is a project of the media brand “Deutsche Standards”, which the ZEIT publishing group has been publishing as part of its SME initiative since 2018. The projects also include “Brands of the Century” and “From the Best Family”. The media brand offers companies a wide range of formats in the form of print products, podcasts, videos and events. The “Friends of German Standards” network connects family businesses, brand owners, global market leaders and industrial companies. The website and the associated LinkedIn channel ensure greater visibility for “Deutsche Standards”.

Altendorf ● [www.altendorfgroup.com/en/](http://www.altendorfgroup.com/en/)

# ALTENDORF®

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# Roofscape Design Awards return

**THE TRUSSED Rafter Association's (TRA) Roofscape Design Awards is back to showcase and celebrate the ingenuity and technical skills of designers in the trussed rafter sector. Following a successful launch in 2023, the awards are back for a second year. The awards will recognise projects that showcase the highest design, innovation, and sustainability standards in using timber-trussed rafter roofs.**

The Roofscape Design Awards will recognise excellence in three categories: Commercial Project of the Year (for all non-domestic projects), Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year (for existing housing projects), and Residential Project of the Year (for newbuild dwellings).

Last year's winners included Harry Peate (Truss Form (Midlands) Ltd), who designed the roof for a Grade II listed structure built over 180 years ago; Gemma Weston (DWB Anglia) who created an open habitable roof space without vertical posts or large steel structures; and Sue Darbyshire's (Donaldson Timber Engineering) complex design which facilitated the installation of a mechanical and electrical component while allowing the external roof envelope to be covered.

Nick Boulton, chief executive of the TRA says: "Trussed rafters are a widely used modern method of roof construction made from the use of nature's most sustainable building material, timber.

"Although it is estimated that there are about 60 million trussed rafters in service

in the UK today, the design skills involved in their construction often remain underappreciated within the construction industry. The Roofscape Design Awards will shine a spotlight on the roof truss designers' problem solving skills while showing the timber engineering design as an attractive career for the next generation. The 2023 entries were spectacular and inspiring, and we will be celebrating the beautifully completed projects of 2023."

The TRA Roofscape Design Awards are now open for entries from all TRA member companies in the UK and Ireland. A panel of experts in timber engineering, architecture and sustainable design will judge the entries. Winners will be announced at the TRA AGM in April 2024.

The deadline for entry is 15 March 2024, and entries must be submitted online via the TRA's website. The awards are free to enter for all TRA

member companies; each company can submit one entry to each of the categories.

The Trussed Rafter Association (TRA) represents the trussed rafter and metal web joist industry in the UK and Ireland.

Members include the principal manufacturers of trussed rafters, metal web joists, suppliers and professionals involved in roof truss and engineered wood floor joist design and manufacture.

**Trussed Rafter Association**  
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## 'Leap into Precision' with AAG

**AAG, a leading manufacturer of CNC routers and waterjet cutting systems, is thrilled to unveil its latest promotion, 'Leap into Precision', offering exclusive deals on both AXYZ and WARDJET machines. The promotion is set to run from 6th February to 15th March 2024, providing customers with an exceptional opportunity to enhance their precision machining capabilities.**

WARDJET, known for its state-of-the-art waterjet cutting systems, is offering customers who purchase a new A or X-Series WARDJET during the promotional period a substantial reward — £3,000 worth of CNCSHOP Credit, redeemable on CNCSHOP.com.

Additionally, customers will benefit from a complementary one-year extension to the standard warranty at no extra charge.

On the AXYZ front, customers investing in any standard router during the promotion will enjoy a 10% discount on their purchase. Furthermore, AXYZ is offering £600 CNCSHOP Credit, which can be utilised on CNCSHOP.com, along with a complementary one-year extended warranty at no additional cost for that extra peace of mind.

Key Promotional Details:

WARDJET: £3,000 CNCSHOP Credit on the purchase of a new A or X-Series WARDJET; additional one-year warranty at no extra charge.

AXYZ: 10% discount on all standard routers; £600 CNCSHOP Credit on the purchase of a new router; additional one-year warranty at no extra charge.

This promotion is an exciting opportunity for businesses to elevate their precision machining capabilities with cutting-edge AXYZ and WARDJET machines. "We encourage our customers to take advantage of these exclusive offers during the 'Leap into Precision' promotion", said an AAG spokesperson.

**AAG**

Tel: 01952 291600 ● enquiries@axyz.com

AXYZ routers ● www.axyz.com

WARDJET range of waterjets ● www.wardjet.com

Machine upgrades and tooling ● www.cncshop.com

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# IronmongeryDirect launches new delivery service

**LEADING specialist supplier, IronmongeryDirect has expanded its delivery options with the launch of a two working day delivery service. Providing even greater flexibility, the move is part of the online retailer's commitment to meeting its customers' needs. Costing just £3.95 for orders under £50 ex VAT, with no charge for orders over, the new option is a cheaper alternative for non-urgent items, which alongside recent price drops, support's IronmongeryDirect's commitment to helping customers save money.**

The new two working day delivery service joins an expanding suite of options that enables customers to work flexibly around project lead times and demand. For those that require their products more quickly, customers have the choice of FREE next day delivery when they spend over £50 ex VAT, next day before 12 noon and next day before 10.30am, with options for Saturday and Sunday delivery. There is also a same day delivery service for selected postcodes in London and the East. For even greater choice, IronmongeryDirect can also deliver to 6,500 pick up points across the UK via Click & Collect.

Kelly Wing, Senior Category & Direct Sourcing Manager at IronmongeryDirect said: "We constantly listen to our customers' needs and review how we can continually improve our service levels, so that tradespeople have a choice of flexible delivery options to help them complete projects as efficiently as possible. We are delighted to offer this additional option to customers as part of our commitment to deliver the products they need, exactly when they need it."

IronmongeryDirect is believed to be the UK's largest

online supplier of ironmongery with over 18,000 products in stock, including everything from door, window & cabinet hardware, to storage kits and accessories, plus a new electrical range that includes sockets & switches, lighting and ventilation.

**IronmongeryDirect**

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



# New SCM subsidiary in Slovenia

**SCM CONTINUES to make investments to guarantee a capillary and direct presence in the most strategic international markets.**

This mission is met with the opening of a new SCM subsidiary in January 2024, based in Trzin, near Ljubljana in Slovenia. It is being opened to directly follow clients in both the Slovenian and Serbian markets, preserving their local characteristics and identities. In addition, it will work alongside and provide even more efficient support to the dealers already operating in Croatia and Bosnia.

The new subsidiary, SCM's first in the Balkans, is expected to become a benchmark for the entire region where, for a number of years now, the wood-furnishing industry has recorded a more than positive trend and includes businesses that are increasingly technologically advanced.

The facility will have an exclusive 1,500 square metre Technology Centre offering a wide and varied range of the latest SCM innovations, with machinery and services strongly in line with the production requirements of this market.

SCM will also be able to rely on a team of technicians and sales engineers who are highly specialised in all the application fields of secondary wood processing: from the joinery workshop to large furniture industries, right up to windows and doors and timber construction, which is recording strong and continuous growth throughout the region.



Being able to interact directly with the SCM team also means taking a closer look at, and selecting from, an exclusive offer of technologies and software which are claimed to represent the widest range of wood processing solutions internationally.

There are also considerable advantages for customer care: the client can take advantage of more punctual after-sales support both with regard to technical maintenance and management of spare parts, as well as having rapid access to the numerous digital services enabled by SCM's IoT platform, Maestro connect, for an ever more efficient proactive and predictive assistance.

"With the opening of this new branch, businesses in the industry will benefit from an all-round commercial and technical partnership," says

Lorenzo Trolese, SCM Country Manager for the Balkans area. "Our team, which will continue to grow, even in the coming months, with the addition of new sales and services resources, can provide the client with all the support, consulting and training needed to optimise its production processes. This represents a huge leap in quality for this market because it can continue along a direct line and an ever more efficient and direct service, from pre to post sales".

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# Selco places more bricks in the wall



Chiltern Brick and Tile managing director Chris Magill, centre, with Selco colleagues.

**SELCO Builders Warehouse has taken another step towards laying the foundations for a successful 2024 by significantly developing its brick offering.**

'The Brick Store' has been created in four Selco branches — brought to life by show walls featuring more than 200 different product samples — to mark the start of a partnership between the leading builders merchant and Chiltern Brick and Tile.

The initiative has been initially launched in Enfield, Milton Keynes, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans, with plans for a further expansion to the partnership across Selco's branch network as the year progresses.

Customers entering the branches can either simply match their brick with one displayed or use the QR code to provide their

information and request a follow up call.

Howard Luft, chief executive at Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "The Brick Store is taking our offering to tradespeople to the next level and securing Selco's place as a go-to destination for bricks.

"We now offer more than 200 bricks from a wide range of different manufacturers which will either be available in branch to collect immediately or delivered to our customers' jobs within a matter of days in the quantities they require.

"We are constantly developing our services to make working life as convenient as possible for tradespeople and this is another move to ensure they can access everything they need for their jobs under one roof."

Chiltern Brick and Tile was

launched a little under 12 months ago, with founder and managing director Chris Magill utilising his 30 years' experience in the construction supply sector to oversee the new initiative.

Chris said: "We are delighted to have partnered with Selco, a true market leader when it comes to the supply of building materials and products in the UK.

"We have strong relationships with all the leading brick manufacturers across the UK and Europe and we will be ensuring we utilise our expertise and contacts to work alongside Selco to establish a premium service.

"In the four branches we have already established The Brick Store, each display has bricks which are unique to the local area and we have consulted with manufacturers to ensure we have

the right bricks for jobs most likely to be carried out in that geographical location.

"We are also creating and training 'brick champions' in each Selco branch to ensure customers have the very best advice and guidance when it comes to selecting and purchasing bricks."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 75 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 — as well as a 'Dial & Deliver' telephone service — to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

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



# James Latham branches out



**JAMES LATHAM, one of the UK and Ireland's leading timber, panel, and decors distributors, affirms its ongoing commitment to, and investment in, Ireland's thriving building products market, with a complete brand refresh for its businesses in the Republic and Northern Ireland.**

Bringing its entire distribution network into the James Latham brand family, the move will see its existing partners, Abbey Woods and IJK Timber Ltd, officially adopt the parent company's name, aligning with the business's other Irish division, Latham Direct Timber.

Not only does this initiative underscore the company's unwavering dedication to growth and innovation within the Irish market, but it also celebrates the similar values, ethos, and approaches shared across the whole business.

Whilst customers will experience the same great service and expert support they've come to expect, they will also benefit from the enhanced proposition this strategic recalibration will bring.

## Stronger together

James Latham first took a footprint in the Irish market in 2019 with the acquisition of Abbey Woods, followed by IJK Timber Ltd in 2021 and the establishment

of Latham Direct Timber's direct from port operation in the same year. Since then, it has worked to fine-tune its proposition across the territory and now with island wide coverage, it possesses one of the territory's most extensive ranges of timber, décors, and timber panels.

The decision to rebrand Abbey Woods and IJK Timber Ltd marks a new chapter in the company's 268-year history. Both will begin trading as one entity, under the existing group name: James Latham.

Assimilation with the parent brand will improve internal processes, strengthen supply chains, and boost confidence in the company's security amongst customers, investors, and stakeholders alike. Importantly, it will position the business as one of Ireland's largest, and furthest reaching, material distributors.

## Access all Ireland

The Irish rebrand will also see James Latham increase its distribution and logistical efficiency, to get products to clients, from enquiry to delivery, as quickly as possible.

To help achieve this goal, it has merged Abbey Woods's Cork and Dublin depots, increasing capacity in one centrally-located hub. This will facilitate faster distribution of products to both Northern Ireland and the Republic of

Ireland alike. James Latham will continue to maintain IJK Timber's existing foothold in Belfast.

Combining a personal touch and local knowledge with the wider support of the entire James Latham portfolio of services, the territory's two distribution depots are fully equipped with a wide array of premium products sourced worldwide, including hardwoods, softwoods, engineered and modified timber, decorative surfaces, cladding, decking, shingles, and specialist panels.

## A dedicated and direct service

The Dublin and Belfast depots work closely with the 'Latham Direct Timber Team,' a specialised division based in Naul, focused on supplying bulk quantities of timber direct from Dublin Port to large volume users such as furniture and joinery shops, scale-housing developers, and timber & builders' merchants. A valuable part of the Group's Irish offering, this service offers the advantages of unprecedented speed and cost-efficiency through direct load shipping.

To complement this robust distribution network, Latham Direct Timber also has extensive kilning facilities in Co. Kildare, ensuring timber distributed is perfectly dry and ready for immediate use (if required), meeting even the most immediate needs.

## Unmatched expertise

That's not all. The Irish market will have access to James Latham's entire service proposition, bringing its broader network of 12 depots and support services, including decorative timber and cladding specialist Dresser Mouldings, closer together than ever before.

Customers will also have cross-border access to the company's full complement of seasoned timber professionals, each poised to offer expert advice and guidance, even for the most challenging of briefs.

Commenting on the move, Andrew Wright, Managing Director at Lathams Ltd says, "Ireland is one of our fastest growing markets. This division alignment is a gesture toward how much we value our presence in the territory and our ongoing commitment to supporting our amazing colleagues in the region. Customers can look forward to greater access to a wider variety of materials, ensuring a one-stop solution for all timber, décors, and panel product needs. The streamlined service from merged depots ensures efficient and reliable distribution across Northern Ireland and the Republic, delivered by familiar teams, but with more resources and support from the wider James Latham Group."

**James Latham**  
[www.lathamtimber.co.uk/](http://www.lathamtimber.co.uk/)

# Selco partners with UK kitchen specialist Magnet



**SELCO Builders Warehouse has extended its kitchen product portfolio by launching a new collaboration with leading kitchen specialists Magnet.**

The inaugural Magnet showroom opened in Selco's Walthamstow branch on January 29 and was followed by Selco Enfield and Selco Tottenham by the end of February.

The partnership is launching on an initial pilot trial, with plans to expand it across the Selco branch network if the concept proves successful.

The kitchen showrooms within the Selco branches will give trade professionals access to over 250 kitchen ranges, including award winning products such as Magnet's pre-built cabinets, which have held the *Which? Best Buy* for six years running. In addition to the wide range of products, the partnership will give Selco's customers access to a full kitchen design and quote within 24 hours for the first time, with a seamless ordering process including onsite delivery, on time and with free onsite measuring also available.

Magnet kitchen specialist consultants will be on hand in all three branches to provide design services, as well as insight into the style, functionality and durability of Magnet's award-winning ranges and the options available to trade professionals and their clients.

Howard Luft, Chief Executive of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We are thrilled to have entered into a partnership with Magnet who have a fantastic reputation and tradition for supplying premium kitchens in the UK. Not only

will our customers see a greater product and design choice, but they will also benefit from accelerated lead times and the expertise of Magnet's in-house design specialists. We are confident this will be a successful partnership and hugely beneficial to our customers, who will enjoy outstanding service from both ourselves and Magnet."

Kristoffer Ljungfelt, executive vice president at Magnet, said: "Magnet has a heritage of over 100 years, founded as a trade business in Bingley, Yorkshire in 1918. Although we've come a long way from our humble Yorkshire roots, our connection to the trade has always been at the heart of what we do, which is why we're delighted to be partnering with Selco, who have achieved remarkable growth over the past two decades, having positioned themselves as the go-to choice for tradespeople across the UK.

"This exciting new venture will give their customers access to our premium kitchen designs, offering more choice and an enhanced range of quality products all under one roof."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 75 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

**Selco**  
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# Häfele UK announces addition of Samsung to its appliances offering



**HÄFELE UK has bolstered its appliance offering, by partnering with Samsung to supply its built-in cooking, refrigeration, and laundry units to the KBB and merchant sectors.**

As one of the UK's largest appliance brands, Samsung has teamed with Häfele on the provision of its major domestic appliances (MDA) to consolidate its position in the market, taking ad-

vantage of Häfele's expansive and trusted network.

The addition of Samsung to its roster of appliance partners further strengthens Häfele's portfolio, with brands including Smeg, Rangemaster, Hoover, Candy and Mercury already available through the distributor.

Since establishing the partnership, Häfele's team members have undergone training at Samsung's

Concept Store at Kings Cross, London, to ensure they serve customers with the highest quality product knowledge, service and assistance.

Häfele will display a selection of the Samsung products it has available on its stand (S72) at the KBB Show, held in March at the NEC, Birmingham.

Commenting on the partnership, Gareth Bevan, Chief Sales Officer at

Häfele UK, said: "Samsung is renowned for its modernity, innovation, and ability to push boundaries with technology, so it's the perfect fit for our customers.

"The smart capabilities of Samsung's MDAs are changing the way consumers use their homes and now, we'll be able to arm our networks with these products, enabling them to keep up with ever-changing market demand.

"Establishing this partnership is testament to the hard work we put into adapting our service and product range to meet the needs of our KBB and merchant customers, and we're looking forward to building on our relationship with Samsung even further with this in mind."

Jonathan Hartley, channel manager for UK Kitchen Retail at Samsung UK, said: "Häfele is the market leader when it comes to relationships within KBB and merchant networks, and we believe that the business will prove to be an effective channel for distributing our products and solutions.

"Our two brands share the same high levels of dedication to service and expertise, so this is a very natural fit and we're excited about the future, working together."

**Häfele UK**  
[www.hafele.co.uk](http://www.hafele.co.uk)



# Abode supplies 412 new homes at The Stage

**ABODE, an award-winning designer and distributor of market leading kitchen taps and sinks, Pronteau hot water taps, bathroom taps and showering solutions, has joined forces with Cain International, McCourt, Vanke, Galliard Homes, The Estate Office Shoreditch and C J O'Shea on London's most exciting project, The Stage: a world-class mixed-use development project in Shoreditch.**

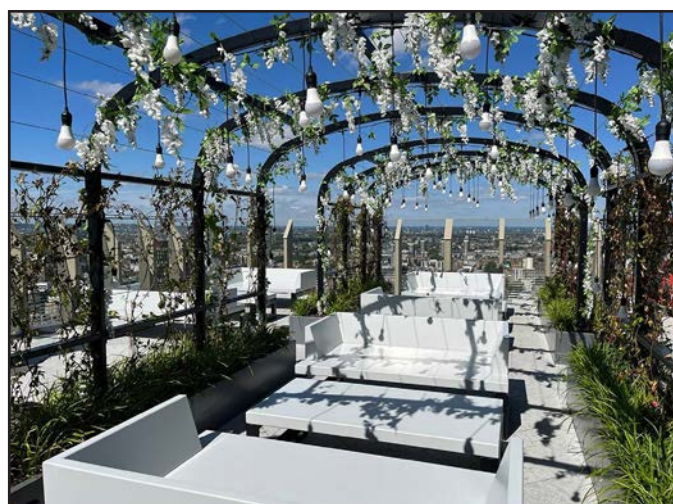
Designed by ground-breaking architects Perkins+Will, The Stage comprises over an acre of public space, with more than 400,000 square feet of living, office, retail and leisure space, set within new and historic buildings, crowned by the excavated 16th century remains of Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre in a heritage centre. With 412 urban luxe apartments rising to 37 storeys, buyers can choose from chic studios and one, two and three-bedroom apartments and four-bedroom duplex penthouses.

Graeme Blythe, National Contract Sales Manager at Abode says, "Mixed-use developments are key to urban renewal as we cater for a new generation of eco-conscious homeowners. Perkins+Will is recognised as one of the world's pre-eminent sustainable design firms and like Abode has a strong commitment to ESG. We are proud that our products were chosen after extensive consultation between Euro Cucina

and O'Shea/Galliard Homes to cement the brand relationship with the furniture and the integrated appliances by Miele and Siemens. We are dedicated to trends-mapping and are already a carbon neutral business, so we fully support trailblazing partnerships within both the construction industry and the KBB sector. Our attractive design, WRAS approval and the safety and performance that this ensures along with an affordable price tag in the context of the overall project meant we could deliver a great package to our clients as well as a superb end-user experience."

To complement the high specification of London's finest residential project, Abode supplied both its designer Pronteau Prostyle 3 IN 1 hot water tap and bestselling Althia Single Lever tap in a contemporary Graphite finish. Both of these WRAS-approved taps reflected the eclectic industrial style of Shoreditch as an exciting creative quarter. The sleek monobloc Pronteau Prostyle ensures that end users can enjoy the convenience of domestic hot, cold and 98° instant steaming hot water, thanks to the Proboil.2X intelligent hot water boiler which can be fitted quickly and easily with best-in-class tool installation.

The slimline Althia Single Lever has a minimalist design and can be operated with just one finger for ease of use, making it the ideal choice for a busy lifestyle.



Elegant and simple, its clean contours make for clean lines in the blended kitchen living space and it is supplied with a five-year warranty.

With elevated landscaped gardens, and a new heritage centre at the site of the recently discovered Curtain Theatre, The Stage is set to become a landmark cultural landmark for London. The magnificent mixed-use development will present a combination of fascinating Shakespearean heritage, Shoreditch creativity and City glamour all in one place. The Stage is set to redefine prime property in the flourishing East London market and provide a whole new cultural landscape, comparable to Downtown Manhattan.

Each property at The Stage will exude five-star style. Resi-

dents will enter through a double-height reception foyer, with handpicked interiors by A-list design Nicola Fontanella, interior design visionary and founder of Argent Design. These set the scene for refined living whilst echoing the fashion-frenzied flavour of Shoreditch. Facilities will include a 24-hour concierge and access to a screening room, games lounge and 32nd floor terrace. Situated adjacent to the new Amazon headquarters, just minutes from the City of London, The Stage will occupy one of the capital's most sought-after Zone 1 locations with Liverpool Street underground, overground and Elizabeth Line stations a few minutes' walk away, making the West End accessible in under 10 minutes and taking travellers to Heathrow in just 40 minutes.

Argent's design vision for The Stage was self-evident: stripped-back surfaces of brick and concrete are juxtaposed with unique, tongue-in-cheek artwork commissioned by one of London's foremost street artists; furniture is clean-cut, timeless in its simplicity, yet laced with immaculate detailing, reminiscent of traditional craftsmanship and humble expertise; statement pieces live up to their name in open-plan schemes. Argent Design have ensured that interior design and functionality take centre stage within these cutting-edge apartments, making Abode the natural choice for supplying the all important kitchen taps.

**Abode**

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www.pronteau.co.uk





# Makita bolsters 40VMax XGT range with two cordless jigsaws

MAKITA has added two cordless jigsaws to its growing portfolio — the 40VMax XGT JV001G Top Handle Brushless Jigsaw and the 40VMax XGT JV002G Barrel Handle Brushless Jigsaw. Highly effective for the smooth cutting of thick materials even under heavy load, the new models are the first jigsaws to join the manufacturer's powerful XGT battery platform.

Both models benefit from Makita's brushless motor technology that delivers constant speed control to easily manage the demands of tough



cuts as well as pieces that require fine precision and control, with each providing up to 266 mm stroke length.

Offering smooth and efficient cutting, the jigsaws can cut up to 135 mm thickness in wood, 10 mm in steel and 20 mm thickness in aluminium. The variable speed control dial and three orbital settings mean users can easily match the appropriate speed to the application they are working on, choosing between 800 and 3,500 strokes per minute for the JV001G and between 0 and 3,500 strokes per minute for the JV002G.

Engineered with an ergonomic design, the JV002G is compact and lightweight with a D-handle providing optimal manoeuvrability and reducing fatigue during extended use. The compact JV001G features power buttons on each side of the barrel grip housing to offer superb handling and ease of use — whether working upright or upside down, left or right handed.

Both models feature toolless blade change for efficient operation and the dust extraction port can be attached on either side of the foot, to minimise obstruction depending on the direction of work. Both also include twin LED lights with pre-glow and afterglow functions, which facilitate superior illumination and more accurate work.

The JV001G and JV002G are also available with a range of accessories, including a suite of jigsaw blades, guide rails and bag, and guide rail connector.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK commented: "We are delighted to introduce the first jigsaw into our XGT portfolio. This is our most compact and comfortable cordless jigsaw to date, as well as our most efficient when compared to any of our other AC and DC jigsaws to date."

**Makita**  
[www.makitauk.com](http://www.makitauk.com)

# Abode supplies 89 new homes in London regeneration project

**ABODE**, an award-winning designer and distributor of kitchen taps & sinks, Pronteau hot water taps, bathroom taps and showering solutions, has collaborated with Flawless Kitchens, Durkan Homes and Southwark Council on the prime development, Manor & Braganza: an innovative building project in Kennington, SE17.

In a quiet corner of South London where Braganza Street meets Manor Place, lives a modest community with big personality at the heart of an exciting regeneration project. Comprising of 89 new homes across neighbouring sites, this development offers a series of one-to-four-bedroom apartments, duplexes and three-storey townhouses with 33 affordable homes and three intermediate homes being offered for sale and rent. Just two minutes' walk from Kennington tube station to give easy access to the West End and City of London, the first phase was finished in Autumn 2023, with the remaining homes scheduled for completion early 2024.

Graeme Blythe, National Contract Sales Manager at Abode says, "Creating new homes in established neighbourhoods requires careful planning and creative design, which is sympathetic to the needs of the community and



anticipates future living trends. As the aesthetic at Manor & Braganza is bright and beautifully finished while demanding quality at the highest level, we were delighted to collaborate with kitchen furniture supplier, Flawless Kitchens, on the design and supply of all sinks and taps."

To complement the high specification of this prime London development, Abode supplied both its Globe Single Lever tap in

Matt Black and bestselling Matrix 1.5 bowl stainless steel sinks. The sleek WRAS-approved Globe Single Lever features a slim body and sleek spout with discreet hot and cold indicators, making it a perfect complement to the practical luxury of open plan living. The on-trend Matt Black finish makes Globe an ideal tap choice for a deluxe modern kitchen and is supplied with a five-year warranty.

The bestselling Abode Matrix

1.5 bowl stainless steel sink ensures that homeowners can take care of food preparation and home hygiene with ease. The very latest pressing technology has been used to create a very precise shape to the sink with almost square radiuses to ensure that the kitchen planning team could make the most of the available worktop space without compromising on style. The Matrix sink can be installed undermounted or as a low profile inset option, and is available in both a left hand and right-handed option.

As a homebuilder of choice for London and the South East, Durkan Homes is committed to excellence, expertise and innovation, and like Abode it thrives on continually responding to the ever evolving needs of homeowners while delivering a robust ESG policy which supports local communities. In addition to new affordable homes, the project will be adding a new health centre, pharmacy, café and employment space to an area of Southwark, which already benefits from a strong sense of community pride and reputation as being a great place to live.

**Abode**

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# Abode debuts new granite sink range, Synchronist

ABODE, an award-winning designer and distributor of market leading kitchen taps & sinks, Pronteau hot water taps, bathroom taps & showering solutions, galvanised the UK wet zone with the launch of Synchronist, a new Granite Sink Collection in a range of reversible designs, sizes, finishes and install options with three complementary accessories: a roll-up Drainer Trivet, Stainless Steel Colander and Bamboo Chopping Board.

Claimed to be the complete solution for today's modern kitchen, Synchronist puts the end user in control of the design process by allowing them to customise their sink arrangement to create a fully synchronised kitchen workstation. Designed to fit any standard size base unit, customers can choose between a large or compact bowl size, which is made of high quality granite and is available in three contemporary finishes: Matt White, Metallic Black and Metallic Grey.

Durable and hardwearing, the new Synchronist granite sink range offers a sleek profile designed with 11 mm softened square-edge bowl corners to deliver a premium look that is easy to clean.

Available with or without a fully recessed drainer, every model within the collection can be installed undermount or inset and features an innovative slimline rinser with flush plate overflow so homeowners can confidently



fill Synchronist to the brim and increase the capacity of the main bowl.

Providing huge benefits in a compact space to pour away liquids while washing up, rinse or store a kitchen sponge, the slimline rinser gives all the benefits of a traditional 1.5 bowl combination with a much smaller footprint and double the water capacity.

Offering a comprehensive range of options, the new Synchronist Granite Sink Collection by Abode includes:

**Synchronist Compact:** 420 mm x 460 mm without drainer

— White, Metallic Black and Metallic Grey; 600 mm x 460 mm with drainer — White, Metallic Black and Metallic Grey.

The Synchronist Compact Sink is claimed to be an ideal solution when optimising space in the kitchen or utility room, and both sizes are designed to work in tandem with 450 mm standard base units so customers can enjoy a modern streamlined look, which is in proportion with the rest of their home.

**Synchronist Large:** 555 mm x 460 mm without drainer — White, Metallic Black and Metallic Grey; 900 mm x 460 mm with drainer —

White, Metallic Black and Metallic Grey.

Designed to fit any standard 600mm base unit, the Synchronist Large Sink is designed with an impressive 28 litre capacity, which doubles the volume of water able to be filled in the main bowl.

All sink models come with a stainless steel flush plate overflow, orbit waste and all pipework is included.

**Synchronist Accessories:** Drainer Trivet roll-up; Stainless Steel Colander; Bamboo Chopping Board. Workstation functionality is enhanced by the stylish range of Synchronist Accessories, which are securely held in place on the integrated smart rails and are available to buy individually or as a set of three.

All accessories are supplied with a one-year guarantee.

Unlike conventional sink models, a key feature of Synchronist is the absence of a tap deck so customers can opt for either horizontal or vertical orientation while positioning the kitchen taps behind the sink for a truly contemporary aesthetic. Synchronist is also reversible, which means you can position the drainer on the left or right-hand side depending on user preference and available space.

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# For this year's kitchen storage trends, choose IronmongeryDirect

**WITH hidden storage widely considered to be a key trend for kitchens in 2024, leading online supplier IronmongeryDirect has updated its portfolio with a wide range of solutions to help installers meet this design objective.**

According to a commentator for *The Times*, concealing countertop appliances and storage areas with the likes of folding cabinets, hidden sections and pull-out shelving is set to be a key customer brief for kitchen projects this year. In response, IronmongeryDirect has a broad range of solutions that span from the simple and functional, to the clever and ingenious, with each providing installers with the essentials to meet the needs of customers looking to optimise their kitchen space.

Roland Etheridge, category manager at IronmongeryDirect comments, "As an essential centrepiece in many households, the kitchen has become a key focus for those looking to create order and calm to what is often a multifunctional living space. As such, the demand for hidden pantries and appliances is expected to continue this year, with many looking to find ways of reducing visual clutter. With a portfolio that spans over 18,000 products, IronmongeryDirect has a wide variety of solutions that offer convenience, function, design and organisation."

Indeed, IronmongeryDirect considers its exclusive Klug pocket door range to be a key solution that will help to facilitate the creation of hidden pantries and larders. Using a horizontal track that slides the door into a cavity in the wall, carpenters and installers can create zones that can be opened or closed off neatly and quickly, as well as allowing homeowners to maximise floor space.

Backed by a comprehensive 10-year guarantee, the Klug Pocket Door Kits include the essential components for installation including universal headers, support studs, door hangers, door guides, screws and nails.

Further solutions to the retailer's line-up include a new range of Emuca products that can be combined and configured to meet storage needs with ease. The collection includes pull out cabinet and larder organisers as well as useful accessories such as hanging cutlery and knife holders, and even a solution for neatly hanging a smart tablet away from the countertop.

Also in stock is the versatile MOVENTO range from Blum. This concealed runner system provides a sophisticated solution for ultra-smooth opening and closing of drawers. Engineered to provide excellent stability, these runners are suitable for heavy load bearing and deep drawers,



so that even substantially sized appliances can be stored out of sight.

The AVENTOS wall cabinet range, also from Blum provides installers with enormous scope to provide easy and elegant access to cabinet contents with full freedom of movement using an in-built lift mechanism. The bi-folding variations in this range also provide a neat countertop solution that can conceal everything from kettles to air fryers.

Roland Etheridge at IronmongeryDirect concluded, "We are delighted to support the trade with more products added to our stocked collection, with a wide range of options that can help our customers enhance kitchen projects in response to this growing trend."

IronmongeryDirect has a comprehensive range of kitchen solutions as part of its extensive range of over 18,000 products, including everything from cabinet hinges, handles and knobs to draw runners and sliding door kits. Customers can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including next day delivery, same-day delivery to selected postcodes, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

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





# Selco launches HSS Hire partnership

**SELCO Builders Warehouse has further enhanced its reputation as a 'one-stop shop' for tradespeople by launching an exciting new partnership with a leading UK tool and equipment hire specialists.**

HSS Hire has opened its first two satellite operations in Selco's branches in Slough and Milton Keynes.

The Tottenham and Ashton-under-Lyne branches of Selco will also

benefit from the hire service before the end of the year with a significant expansion to the partnership planned in 2024.

Each HSS Hire satellite desk will be found at the trade counter at Selco branches, with HSS Hire teams in place to offer specialist advice for the offering.

Howard Luft, chief executive of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "This

is a perfect partnership and an exciting development for our customers heading into 2024.

"Here at Selco, our commitment is to offer everything a tradesperson might need to go about their daily work all under one roof and the relationship we have formed with HSS Hire strengthens that proposition even further.

"At the heart of the ethos of both ourselves and HSS Hire is to offer outstanding service, so it's very much a win-win scenario for our customers.

"We are excited to have launched the partnership and look forward to it continuing for many years to come."

Bart Murphy, director at HSS Hire, added: "We are looking to expand into strategic locations across the UK and this partnership with Selco represents an ideal chance to do that.

"There is a natural fit between the services offered by a builders merchant and a tool and equipment hire specialist, and we are delighted to be working in tandem with Selco to enhance the journeys for both sets of customers."

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



Left to right: Ali Raza (HSS regional director), Craig Bowler (Selco head of development) and Andrew Vincent (HSS head of merchants and materials).

## EXHIBITIONS

# Venjakob exhibits at Holz-Handwerk 2024



**VENJAKOB Maschinenbau, the German specialist for individual finishing lines, will once again participate in this year's Holz-Handwerk in Nuremberg.**

The focus will be on the VEN SPRAY ONE spray coating machine, a specially developed alternative or supplement to the manual spray booth for craftsmen and small businesses.

The compact spray coating machine is designed to meet the needs of entry-level users. Visitors to the stand will be able to get an idea of the VEN SPRAY ONE and find out about other system features.

Venjakob also invites visitors to rethink their coating processes. Reduce paint consumption, achieve reproducible results, respond better to customer requirements: In the industrial production of furniture, windows, doors, stairs and building elements, surface treatment is the most important part of the entire manufacturing process.

Venjakob develops customised solutions to simplify and optimize surface coating processes, making them more economical, and presents these concepts to interested visitors at its stand.

In addition to spray coating, dipping, flow or curtain coating, Venjakob, in cooperation with Wo-Tech, has been expanding its expertise in the field of roller application systems for several years and offers sophisticated solutions for a wide range of applications, including the application of hot melt adhesives.

**Venjakob Maschinenbau ● [www.venjakob.com](http://www.venjakob.com)**

# Rotpunkt exhibit at KBB Birmingham 2024

**ROTPUNKT, an award-winning designer and manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture, reveals its latest innovations to UK trade customers at this year's KBB Birmingham, Stand Q90.**

Europe's leading four-day KBB event, KBB Birmingham takes place on 3rd to 6th March 2024 at the NEC and is set to bring together over 250 leading brands from the industry to build vital business connections and discover new products and resources for future projects.

Matt Phillips, Head of UK Operations at Rotpunkt says, "As a returning show partner and exhibitor at KBB Birmingham, Rotpunkt is thrilled to be able to once again inspire the next generation of suppliers, designers and specifiers in such a design rich, market ready environment. With a natural foresight in the trends of tomorrow, we are excited to display our latest range of climate friendly innovations exclusively designed for the kitchen, utility, laundry and bedroom space to offer the very best in furniture design, use of colour, quality material selection, and overall aesthetics."

Rotpunkt will launch a series of brand-new innovations at KBB Birmingham, including:

- Anti-fingerprint paint shown on Smala 12 mm frame solid oak doors in Black
- Buster + Punch kitchen hardware in partnership with Rotpunkt and displaying a series of new handle designs. E.g., Furniture Knob, T-Bar and Pull-bar
- 900 mm Glass Dresser in Smala Black
- Memory RI paint colours in new Terra Grey
- W 750 mm units including premium cabinet hardware from Kesseböhmer in the Arena Pure design
- H 2470 mm tall units
- Fenix colours for cabinet fronts and worktops in the same decor in new Grigio Londra
- XGFB handle rail profile with recessed grip
- Illuminated Wall Solution with integrated LED Manila smart lighting, horizontally milled
- Italian Walnut wood décor laminate range
- Carbon Industrial K Dressing Room with furniture, accessories and lighting including glass storage units in multiple heights and widths, plus clothes rails, hangers, shelving, deep drawers and pull-outs

Taking centre stage on Stand Q90, Rotpunkt will make full use of the entire 117 m<sup>2</sup> booth (13 m x 9 m) and display four complete kitchens, a walk-in dressing room, dividing interior wall solutions with integrated smart lighting, a custom media unit, and a hidden utility room with discreet access door that opens in reverse to provide discreet entry through a continuous run of tall units.

Extra stand activity will take place throughout the 4-day event and include the new partnership between Rotpunkt and home fashion label, Buster + Punch, a ready supply of hot and cold refreshments, as well as dedicated stand tours for show visitors, and media presentations with digital press packs available, which are loaded with the company's latest product offer and 2024 brochures.

**Rotpunkt ● [matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com](mailto:matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com)  
rotpunktkuechen.de/en/ ● [rotpunkt.co.uk](http://rotpunkt.co.uk)**





# Rob Axe appointed general manager for Warringtonfire's High Wycombe laboratory

**WARRINGTONFIRE has appointed Rob Axe as the general manager of its fire testing laboratory in High Wycombe.**

Rob, who began his career as a technical officer at the High Wycombe laboratory, most recently held the role of technical manager for Warringtonfire — a global leader in Fire Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC). With over 15 years' experience in the field of fire resistance testing and passive fire protection systems, Rob is one of the industry's leading authorities on testing timber fire doors, penetration seals, cavity barriers, load bearing and non-load bearing wall systems and glazed screens.

In his new role, Rob will assume responsibility for Warringtonfire's testing team in High Wycombe, including recruitment, training and management; as well as developing the laboratory's on-site testing capabilities.

Since his appointment, Rob has already recruited several new team members into varied roles and is currently scoping out the expansion of the laboratory's mid-scale furnace to accommodate penetration seal testing and increase overall testing capacity at the site.

Rob commented: "Having spent the majority of my career working at the High Wycombe laboratory, it is a real privilege to be appointed general manager for testing at the High Wycombe site. It is an incredibly dynamic time for the industry, as building product manufacturers adapt to the ever-evolving legislative landscape. I am looking forward to working closely with our customers to deliver best-in-class fire resistance testing, while also collaborating with our management team to evolve our own testing capabilities and capacity here in High Wycombe."

Leigh Hill, director — built environment at Element Materials Technology, added: "Rob brings with him a wealth of technical expertise alongside a deep understanding of our testing facilities here in High Wycombe. Our fire testing laboratory is set to play a pivotal role in our wider strategy for the built environment throughout 2024 and beyond, and we are delighted to have an individual of Rob's calibre at the helm."

**Warringtonfire** ● [www.warringtonfire.com/testing-services/fire-resistance-testing](http://www.warringtonfire.com/testing-services/fire-resistance-testing)



# BSW Chairman Tony Hackney announces retirement

**BSW Group's UK chairman, Tony Hackney, has announced his plans to retire at the end of March 2024, following a 30-year career in the timber sector.**

Tony has been the figurehead of BSW for more than 15 years, having joined as chief executive officer in late 2008 and stepping into the role of UK chairman last year.

Under Tony's leadership, BSW has undergone a period of unprecedented growth and acquisition, with turnover increasing from approximately £100 m annually to over £900 m.

Strategic acquisitions have included Maelor Forest Nurseries, Tilhill Forestry, Dick Brothers Harvesting, SCA UK (now BSW Timber Solutions), Bayram Timber and Scott Pallets, as well as a joint venture with Powersheds.

The organic growth and acquisitions developed the BSW Group into a fully integrated, multifaceted, circular business with a complex offering of products and services.

A hugely respected figure across the entire timber supply chain, Tony Hackney's efforts were also recognised formally in 2012, when he was named Ernst & Young Scotland Entrepreneur of the Year before appearing at the UK Entrepreneur of the Year final.



Tony's vision and determination, combined with his strong leadership skills, propelled BSW into its position of a market leader. He led the management buyout team, supported by Endless LLP, that ultimately resulted in the landmark sale to Binderholz in 2021.

Tony stated: "Leading BSW through challenging times has been a fantastic experience. I would like to thank all of my colleagues and friends across the UK, Latvia and Slovenia for their extraordinary efforts in developing BSW during my period of stewardship. I have valued very highly the relationships with our loyal customers and suppliers and again thank them for their support. I wish you all every success in the future."

"I am very proud of the progress we have made, which has assisted in bringing the company to the strong position it is in now.

"It presents a good moment for me to choose to retire from BSW to pursue my own business interests and spend more time with my family."

"We would all like to wholeheartedly thank Tony for his leadership and contribution to our business, and we wish him our very best for the future," said the UK Board of BSW Group.

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

# MKM founder receives CBE from Princess Royal

MKM Building Supplies founder David Kilburn has been honoured with the prestigious Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by HRH The Princess Royal at an Investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Mr Kilburn was named in the King's first birthday honours last year for his remarkable contributions to the construction industry and his extensive charitable work.

At the investiture, which took place on January 31, 2024, David Kilburn received his award alongside 10 other CBE awardees, as well as those receiving OBEs and MBEs. Accompanied by his wife Linda and daughters Vicky and Georgina, the event was a family celebration and was followed by a gathering with close friends and family at a London restaurant.

Reflecting on the occasion, David Kilburn shared, "It was a once in a lifetime experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I am deeply honoured and humbled by this recognition. It's a reflection of the hard work and dedication of everyone who has been a part of my journey, especially my family, friends, and colleagues at MKM."

David's extraordinary career spans 60 years in the construction sector. Since co-founding MKM alongside Peter Murray in 1995, he has grown the company from a single site in Hull to over 100 branches across the UK, turning it into a £1 billion turnover operation. His community involvement extends beyond business mentorship. He has been instrumental in supporting local businesses, including his involvement with Hull City's MKM Stadium, Hull KR and various community initiatives such as 'For Entrepreneurs Only', a local group dedicated to improving the local economy.

The CBE is one of the highest-ranking honours below a knighthood, awarded to individuals playing a leading role in regional affairs, community service, or making a distinguished contribution in their field. David Kilburn's recognition by King Charles III cements his status as a key figure in the national construction industry and a community leader in Hull.

"MKM looks forward to continuing David's legacy and congratulates him on this momentous achievement," a spokesman said.

**MKM Building Supplies** ● <https://mkm.com>



# Selco continues apprenticeship push

**SELCO Builders Warehouse has demonstrated its commitment to developing its own talent to take management positions by launching a new apprenticeship programme.**

To mark the start of National Apprenticeship Week, the leading builders merchant has launched a new Women in Leadership programme.

The apprenticeships will be delivered by training provider Instep and nearly 50 females amongst Selco's workforce have already expressed an interest in beginning either a Level 3 or Level 5 apprenticeship.

Selco launched a substantial apprenticeship offering in 2020, with more than 200 Selco colleagues having either completed their apprenticeship or are currently midway through the qualification.

Sally Kerr, HR director for Selco, said: "Our apprenticeship programmes have become a crucial part of our people strategy over the last four years as we help colleagues fulfil their potential and progress their careers. We are continuing to promote our apprenticeships strongly to all our colleagues internally and our aim is to secure another 100 starting a programme in 2024.

"As part of that pledge, we are keen to support the progress of women in our industry as we continue to take steps towards becoming a fully diverse and inclusive workforce.

"Around 90 per cent of our current female managers or deputy managers have come through internal promotion and we want to continue to give other women the opportunity and confidence to push their career to the next level with Selco.

"We've already had 23 women commit to starting an apprenticeship in the coming weeks and we are looking forward to seeing that number con-

tinue to grow. We have a programme which is built by female leaders for female leaders and will help our colleagues continue to develop."

The apprenticeships will take up to 18 months to complete and consist of up to 10 modules including strategic leadership, transactional analysis and people and talent management.

Selco's current apprenticeship offering includes Rising Stars — which helps branch colleagues complete retail qualifications under the guidance of leading training provider Realise — and the Selco Driver Academy which re-trains current colleagues as newly-qualified HGV drivers.

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





# School outdoor space receives Selco boost

**PUPILS at a Leeds primary school are ready to further embrace the great outdoors thanks to a donation from a leading builders merchant.**

Shakespeare Primary School and Nursery, which has around 700 pupils and is based on Lincoln Road, have been donated materials by the Leeds Roundhay branch of Selco Builders Warehouse.

The products provided included decking and timber and will allow the youngsters to embark on den building sessions.

Julian Gorton, headteacher of Shakespeare Primary School, said: "Outdoor learning is a huge part of the school ethos and philosophy and incorporated into our engaging curriculum wherever we can.

"Since we moved to this location five years ago, we have always looked for opportunities to extend our outdoor learning provision so we are hugely grateful for Selco's donation of materials which is going to enable us to deliver the den building area we have long since craved.

"As we are situated relatively centrally to the city centre in Leeds, there aren't a huge amount of opportunities for the pupils to engage in woodland den-building type activities outside of school so we are delighted to provide them with the opportunity thanks to Selco."

Selco's Leeds Roundhay branch is based on Roundhay Road while it also has a second branch in the city on Elland Road.

Chris Lowry, branch manager of Selco Leeds Roundhay, said: "We hope the materials we have donated will help further enhance the learning opportunities for the pupils of Shakespeare School. Here at Selco, we are committed to supporting the communities in which we operate and we were delighted to be able to support such a large primary school.

"We hope there are many hours of education and enjoyment spent by the pupils in the new den building area."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 75 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)



# Boxing clever with West Fraser donation

**WEST FRASER Europe has donated £600 to support a local boxing gym which provides training and workouts for members of all ages. The Doghouse Boxing Club, located in Stirling near the company's manufacturing plant in Cowie, Scotland, was established in 2023 and focuses on providing a healthy exercise outlet for the community through boxing classes and training sessions for both youngsters starting out through to experienced professionals.**

The donation will enable the group to continue offering even more expert-led sessions to promote healthy and active lifestyles within the community, as well as act as a social hub in the community.

David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser Europe, said: "As a major employer to the local area, West Fraser recognises the importance of supporting the local community and the businesses making a huge positive difference within them. We were more than happy to support the team at Doghouse Boxing Club with these funds and are excited to see it continue its recent trend of knockout success in providing fantastic classes and facilities for everyone across Stirling to enjoy."

**West Fraser**

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



*Pictured are David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser, and Iain McDonald of The Doghouse Boxing Club.*



# Abode names Bluebell Wood Hospice as latest charity partner

**ABODE, an award-winning designer and distributor of market leading kitchen sinks & taps, bathroom taps & showering solutions and Pronteau instant hot water taps, is proud to offer support to its latest charity partner, Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.**

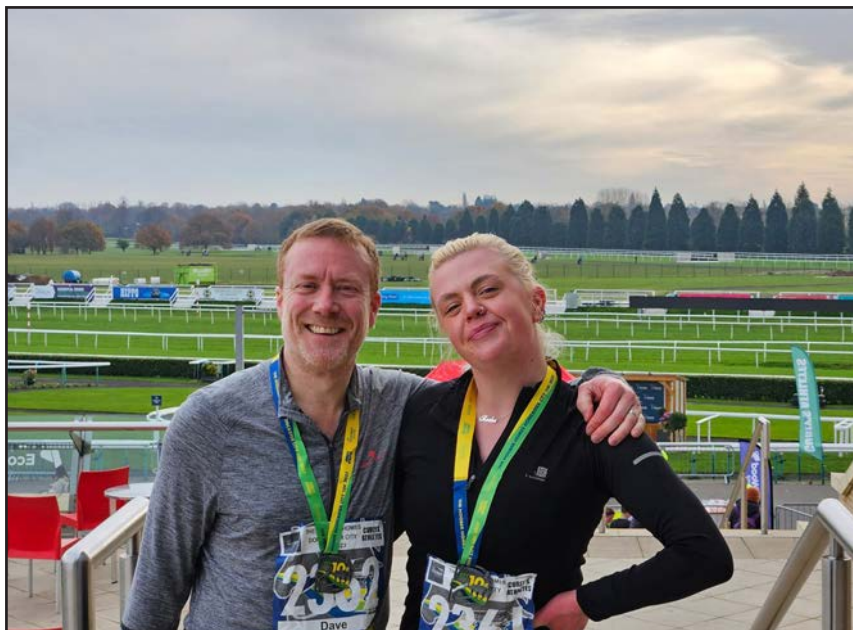
So far, members of the Abode family have helped raise over £3,300 for this worthwhile cause, which offers support and palliative care to families who have a child or young adult with a shortened life expectancy and complex medical needs. Located only 24.5 miles from the company's headquarters in Barnsley, the ongoing fundraising efforts by Abode continues to help patients of Bluebell Wood to be cared for at both the hospice in Rotherham, and also in their own homes.

Providing an extremely valuable service to hundreds of families local to Abode, the Yorkshire based charity has been helping those in need since 2008, from South Yorkshire to North Derbyshire, through to North Nottinghamshire and parts of North Lincolnshire.

Abode forged this strong partnership following the donation of a Pronteau Prostyle 3 in 1 tap, so all staff at Bluebell Wood can benefit from instant steaming hot water on demand, whenever they need it. Since being installed, the feedback Abode has received just goes to prove how a hot water tap can have a positive impact, helping to save time and money as people no longer have to wait for the kettle to boil or queue up to use a water heater. In fact, a member of staff at Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice says "Just made a brew with it and the difference in water quality is insane! This hot water tap has enabled us to remove the hot water boiler from the kitchen, reducing one or two risks and saving us a lot in energy costs!"

Most recently, five Abode employees took part in the Doncaster City 10 k run on 26th November 2023 to raise money for Bluebell Wood with appearances from Steve Belli, Dave Boddy, Mark Fletcher, Lindsay O'Donnell and Sorcha Baker. In response, Sorcha Baker at Abode says, "I really enjoyed taking part in the Doncaster 10 k with four of my fellow colleagues as no matter how hard it was, the overall reward is 100% worth it!"

The Hallow'een Coffee Morning and Sample Sale later that month was also very well supported, to once again show how making a difference really does matter to both brand and business. For several years now, Abode has selected a local charity to partner with to be able to create a real social impact through volunteering time, product donation, and dedicated fundraising events to contribute to local organisation's that make life better in the community.



Leanne Adamson, marketing manager at Abode says, "Many of our staff live locally to our headquarters in Barnsley, which makes supporting our local community a universal priority within the business. We pride ourselves on being a close-knit team by maintaining a family friendly business culture.

"Extending the same level of compassion to impactful outreach programs that are local to us is really important to everyone at Abode, which is why we all come together as one big family to decide on the charities we support. In fact, we've helped a variety of both local and international campaigns over the years, such as donating taps and showers to a Sri Lankan orphanage following the tsunami in 2004, as well as the sponsorship and planting of a new rose garden in Wilthorpe Park, Barnsley to commemorate the longest-reigning British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II."

As the Abode family continues to develop its ongoing commitment to sustainable growth and quality water management, its support of local charities is also set to grow.

Moving forwards, Abode plans to extend opportunities for volunteering to its employees, along with company-wide sponsored charity events to continue to raise funds. In fact, the company's dedicated ESG committee has been up and running for two years now and is made up of Abode employees from each area of the business.

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# IronmongeryDirect continues to support Basildon Mind

AS PART of its ongoing work with the local community, leading supplier, IronmongeryDirect, has raised £1,229 for Essex based mental health charity, Basildon Mind in its recent employee raffle, with prizes donated by some of the company's suppliers. In addition, IronmongeryDirect has undertaken a number of other fundraising activities.

Basildon Mind is an independent mental health charity, affiliated with but not funded by the national charity, Mind. Donations are key for the charity in order to run its services and to support people in Basildon, Billericay, and Wickford experiencing mental health difficulties. By hosting the recent employee raffle, IronmongeryDirect has raised a total of £1,229 for the charity and the cheque was presented to Stuart Short, lead fundraiser and John Birkett, chair from Basildon Mind.

Beth Jones, HR & Comms Coordinator at IronmongeryDirect commented: "We have been working with Basildon Mind for a few years and all our staff are really proud to be supporting such an important charity in our local community. We are so pleased that our efforts will go some way in helping keep vital services for the charity running and provide people in need with support and information about help in their area."

IronmongeryDirect has been supplying architectural ironmongery for over 50 years and has the UK's largest range with over 18,000 products in stock and a wide choice of flexible delivery options

for anyone looking to renovate or embark on a new project. Customers can choose from next-day delivery or same-day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England.

IronmongeryDirect ● [www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk](http://www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk)  
Basildon Mind ● [www.basildonmind.org/](http://www.basildonmind.org/)



Left to right: lead fundraiser (Basildon Mind) Stuart Short, chair (Basildon Mind) John Birkett, Pauline Spencer, Beth Jones (IronmongeryDirect).

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# Wood waste heater for Midland Mouldings

A WEST MIDLANDS joinery company has purchased a new wood waste heater to help lower the business's carbon footprint and save money in the process.

Midland Mouldings is a family business, with three generations of experience in the industry. The business has been established since 1991, supplying joinery services and timber mouldings from its manufacturing base in Brownhills, near Walsall.

When Midlands Mouldings' existing wood waste heater needed to be replaced, the company started looking at the heaters produced in the UK by Wood Waste Technology, and contacted the business to find out more.

Managing director of Midlands Mouldings, Tom Williams explains: "At Midland Mouldings, we're committed to being as sustainable as possible with



everything that we do. That's why we've enjoyed the positive environmental benefits of owning a wood waste heater, to recycle all our wood offcuts and create heat for the factory. We've heard great things about Wood Waste Technology's heaters, so rather than re-purchasing the same machine from the original supplier, we ordered a WT10 instead.

"We've been delighted with the new heater. As it is newer, it's so much more efficient than our older model. The new heater can heat the whole factory, whereas there were always a few cold patches that the heat didn't reach with the old heater. It's now a much nicer temperature for our team of ten people to work in.

"Whilst our main driver for the purchase was to be more self-sufficient and sustainable, we can't ignore the huge cost advantages that a wood waste heater gives. There is no other use for the offcuts, so, without the wood waste heater, they would simply have to be disposed of. This way, they have a positive use, to heat the factory. Buying a wood waste heater is the easiest investment decision we've ever made, with such a great payback. We couldn't be happier with our experience of using Wood Waste Technology. The wood waste heater does everything promised, but it's not just about the product. From the team in the office to the engineers who installed it, everyone has been so friendly and helpful, making the whole experience an absolute pleasure."

Managing director of Wood Waste Technology, Kurt Cockroft says: "From our view, once a business has experienced the benefits of a wood waste heater, they will never want to be without one again! And especially in the current economic climate when businesses are trying to reduce operating costs and expenditure. We're thrilled that the team at Midland Mouldings is so pleased with the new heater."

Wood Waste Technology ● 01785 250400  
[www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk](http://www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk) ● [www.grossuk.co.uk](http://www.grossuk.co.uk)

# Powerful new policy report shows path to net zero with timber

**TIMBER DEVELOPMENT UK (TDUK) — the UK's trade association for the timber supply chain — in collaboration with Waugh Thistleton Architects — has released a study on policies from across the globe which encourage the use of timber in construction.**

Timber Policy is a comparative study of policies, across six countries, which can act as a powerful tool to support policy makers on their journey to decarbonise construction in the UK, and beyond.

Commissioned by TDUK and written by Waugh Thistleton Architects, this new report follows hot on the heels of the UK Government's Timber in Construction (TiC) Roadmap, which aims to safely increase the use of timber in construction. Timber is a low-carbon, natural, renewable material, at the heart of transitioning to a sustainable, circular economy for the UK and many nations around the world. This study is a snapshot of a rapidly evolving movement.

David Hopkins, chief executive of Timber Development UK said: "What we need to see this year is ambition turned to action. This means forward looking policy — and politicians brave enough to create a framework which places value on low-carbon construction. Timber is the ultimate low-carbon material, and countries across the developed world have rightly recognized this — working to create comprehensive policy frameworks that support the growth of the timber industry.

"The UK Government's roadmap is a fantastic starting point, but without more action, there is a risk the UK falls behind. We need a clear timeline for change, starting with limits on embodied carbon in buildings, which is currently unregulated.

"Embodied carbon can account for more than half of the emissions of a building over its lifetime — hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon per year — but this is currently ignored by UK politicians and policy makers. Our new book, commissioned by TDUK and written by Waugh Thistleton Architects, highlights the policies being put in place in a variety of countries around the world.

"The UK Government, if they are serious about achieving the goals of their roadmap, now need to look at what policies would work in the UK. We hope that these examples give food for thought and we can start to engage policy makers on making this happen, rather than simply relying on the market to change.



*Goldsmith Street is a timber frame scheme of 100 sustainable, community oriented socially rented homes for Norwich City Council, which won the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2019. Photographer: Tim Crocker.*

"This year we must turn pockets of excellence, like the Stirling Prize winning Goldsmith Street, the Phoenix Development in Lewes, or the pioneering Black & White Building from exceptions to the norm. The opportunity has never been greater."

Andrew Waugh, director and co-founder, Waugh Thistleton Architects, said: "As pioneers in timber construction, we are proud to collaborate with TDUK to author the Timber Policy Book. Working at the forefront of global timber construction and participating in extensive research with European partners, we understand first-hand the impact of government policies on sustainable, low-carbon construction.

"While the UK once led the world in mass timber construction, recent years have seen a shift in global leadership. Recent assessments, such as the Climate Change Committee's critique of the UK Government's Carbon Budget Delivery Plan, highlight the urgent need for accelerated policy development in the UK.

"While we commend initiatives like the Timber in Construction Roadmap, our research for Timber Policy reveals that current UK efforts fall short of addressing the urgency of the climate crisis. Bold leadership, as demonstrated by progressive nations such as France, Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark, mandating limits on embodied carbon and investing in sustainable timber projects, is essential for a meaningful transition to a low-carbon future. The Roadmap sets out timelines to consider options, encourage voluntary reporting, and seek advice, after which revisions to policy will be put in place. The Timber Policy Guide shows how this process has already happened in the six example countries and policies which have already been implemented.

"Despite challenges, some progress in the UK is evident; for example, the DfE's flagship project to standardise mass timber school fabrication underscores its commitment to innovation. Additionally, the Mass Timber Insurance Playbook and New Model Building Guides, funded by Built by Nature, a philanthropic organisation, provide invaluable resources for navigating the complexities of timber construction.

"The urgency of climate action cannot be overstated. With projections indicating a 1.5° increase in global temperatures by 2050 and up to 3 degrees by the end of the century, decisive steps must be taken. The Timber Policy book serves as a beacon of hope, illustrating how public-private partnerships can drive systemic change towards a sustainable future."

Embodied carbon is recognised by major policy influencers such as the United Nations, Royal Society and World Green Building Council, and in the UK by the likes of the Climate Change Committee and Environmental Audit Committee as crucial to overcoming climate change.

Despite a wide array of evidence and calls from these bodies to implement key policies, such as the regulation of embodied carbon, there has been a highly variable policy approach across the world. The UK, once positioned as a leader in sustainable construction using timber, now lags behind many other nations due to its regulatory environment.

With this book, Timber Policy, TDUK outlines how six different countries around the world are helping to support the transition to low-carbon construction.

This is the second in a trio of essential books, with the first edition, Timber Typologies, providing clarity on different timber systems. The final book in the series, Timber LCA, will demystify lifetime carbon analysis for timber buildings. Collectively, these books are intended to act as a stimulus for action — in the UK, and beyond.

**Timber Development UK**  
<https://timberdevelopment.uk>



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# XYZ routers at RC Motorhomes

**FORMED** by Richard Churchill, RC Motorhomes Ltd is a renowned manufacturer and supplier of luxury motorhomes, catering to the needs of discerning travellers seeking comfort and style on the road.

To meet the demands of their highly specialised industry, RC Motorhomes has turned to XYZ, a leading provider of CNC routers and cutting solutions. This case study delves into how XYZ's routers have revolutionised RC Motorhomes' manufacturing processes and improved their position in the market.

"In 2017, I was keen to improve production of our motorhomes' interior fixings and furniture using newer 'digital' technology and remove many of the issues/inconsistencies that occurred from cutting and routing materials by hand," explained Richard Churchill.

"My first machine, the 4008 series with a processing area of 1.5 m x 2.4 m was therefore introduced. Realising the benefits that I had anticipated, I took the decision to take on a larger machine capable of enhancing production of our larger exterior materials in 2022 which was the 8022 Infinite with a processing area of 2.6 m x 3 m. Both have helped to 'future-proof' production moving forward," he continued.

Before integrating XYZ Ltd routers, RC Motorhomes faced several manufacturing challenges:

**Precision Cutting:** Crafting intricate interior and exterior components for motorhomes requires a high degree of precision and accuracy, which was difficult to achieve with manual methods. XYZ routers are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, ensuring precise and consistent cuts even for complex designs.

**Inefficiency:** The traditional manual cutting and routing methods were time-consuming, labour-intensive and hindered the company's production capacity. By automating the cutting and routing processes, XYZ routers significantly reduced production times and labour costs, resulting in a vast increase in efficiency.

**Material Waste:** Inefficient cutting methods resulted in higher material wastage, affecting both costs and sustainability efforts. The routers' intelligent nesting and programming capabilities minimised material wastage resulting in material optimisation, contributing to cost savings and environmental sustainability.

**Customisation:** RC Motorhomes struggled to efficiently produce customised components for individual clients. XYZ routers allow for quick and easy adaptation to custom designs and specifications, enabling RC Motorhomes to meet individual client needs efficiently.

XYZ provided RC Motorhomes with a customised CNC router solution that addressed these challenges effectively.

"I use the machines to cut all of my interior and exterior materials, including fixings, furniture, main body panels, partitions/walls etc. The use of the machines has enhanced production in all of these areas. Much less time is taken and consistency is at a much higher level. I am able to store all of my design/material dimension detail digitally and recycle it as and when required. Cutting/routing is more accurate with minimal error, resulting in less needing to be 're-done' and a reduction in waste material," said Richard Churchill.

With the introduction of the of XYZ routers, RC Motorhomes harnessed the capabilities of XYZ routers in various applications including:



**Interior Components:** The routers were instrumental in shaping and cutting interior components like cabinetry, countertops and wall panels to precision thus ensuring a luxurious and well-finished interior.

**Exterior Panels:** XYZ routers helped craft exterior panels, awnings and other components with consistent quality and accuracy.

**Customisation:** The routers facilitated rapid customisation, allowing RC Motorhomes to offer tailor-made solutions for their customers with customisation capability: RC Motorhomes can now efficiently cater to the unique requirements of individual clients enabling them to expand their market reach.

## Results and benefits of implementing XYZ routers

The implementation of XYZ routers brought about a series of remarkable outcomes for RC Motorhomes. Improvement in areas of production has increased by approximately 50% when compared to previous 'hand-based' tooling methods used pre-2017. This enabled the company to redirect/reinvest resource to positively impact other areas of the business, such as new design, fit-out, servicing and retrofit.

The efficiency the machines offer has greatly reduced many of the



variables the company had little control over. Error rates were reduced and coupled with the natural time saving, there has been a large positive impact. Also reduced labour costs and material wastage contributed to cost savings, boosting the company's bottom line, and the minimised material wastage aligned with RC Motorhomes' sustainability goals.

Increased efficiency, via automating processes, has enabled RC Motorhomes to significantly reduced production time, allowing them to fulfil orders more swiftly, resulting in shorter lead times and thereby increasing production capacity. The enhanced precision cutting of the components exhibited by XYZ routers, resulted in improving the overall quality of RC Motorhomes' motorhomes.

Errors and imperfections have been greatly reduced, enabling the company to work inside much smaller tolerances due to the accuracy and precision of the machines, which in turn has reduced time spent reworking or performing corrections. More complex working has become easier and more time efficient as they have been able to reduce some of the variables and risks present in their previous working processes, mainly due to less 'human' involvement.

The purchasing of the larger router meant the RC Motorhomes move to a larger site to incorporate the machine with the 7 m bed, a commitment that was a challenge across the business, due to the wealth of changes that it brought to everyone involved. The physical size of the machine and size of materials it can cut/route has meant the company



had to modify the methods/techniques it uses, with some designs changing due to the capabilities of the new technology. They continue to try and optimise as much as they can by constantly looking for improvements and new processes. This has included increasing their workforce and putting some of those employees through training to operate/maintain the machines correctly. RC Motorhomes has had to reprioritise some aspects of production in line with the speeds that the new machine offers and therefore certain aspects of production processes have also had to change, which has had an impact on other areas, such as supply.

When asked how employees at RC Motorhomes adapt to working alongside the XYZ machines,

and what additional training or skill development was necessary Richard said: "All those who I had planned to operate the machines initially were present during the installations and received training or instruction from the XYZ representative present at the time. Seemingly this has been enough for us to utilise the machinery to meet our needs, and since then I have ensured any knowledge is given to anyone else who requires it. XYZ after-sales teams have been on hand to help when contacted, but this has been minimal, with appropriate advice/resolution received each time. I currently have no outstanding issues or needs in order to operate machinery as required."

The INFINITE router is a highly configurable CNC machine that is

suitable for one-off, small batch production as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including woodworking, plastic fabrication, engineering plastic machining and so much more. For a wide range of routing operations, one can choose from high-speed spindles ranging from 5 HP to 15 HP. For knife cutting, choose from a tangential knife, which can be used for creasing and folding applications, or an oscillating knife, which can be used to process soft goods material.

Looking to the future, RC Motorhomes is currently more than satisfied with the benefits from its current machines/set-up offers and is constantly working to optimise the use of machinery to its full potential. There are no immediate plans to automate further due to the bespoke 'coach-built' nature of the product. However, they wouldn't rule out the possibility if more 'mainstream' builds were required in the future and/or if their production line was expanded.

The integration of XYZ Ltd routers into RC Motorhomes' manufacturing processes has proved to be a game-changer, enabling precision, efficiency, cost savings and customisation that have elevated the company's position in the luxury motorhome industry. XYZ Ltd routers have become an indispensable tool in their quest to provide top-quality, customised motorhomes to their clientele.

**XYZ Ltd**  
**Tel: 01952 291600**  
**www.xyz.com**





# Maestro Lab and Cargo system: new cutting-edge SCM CNC machining centres

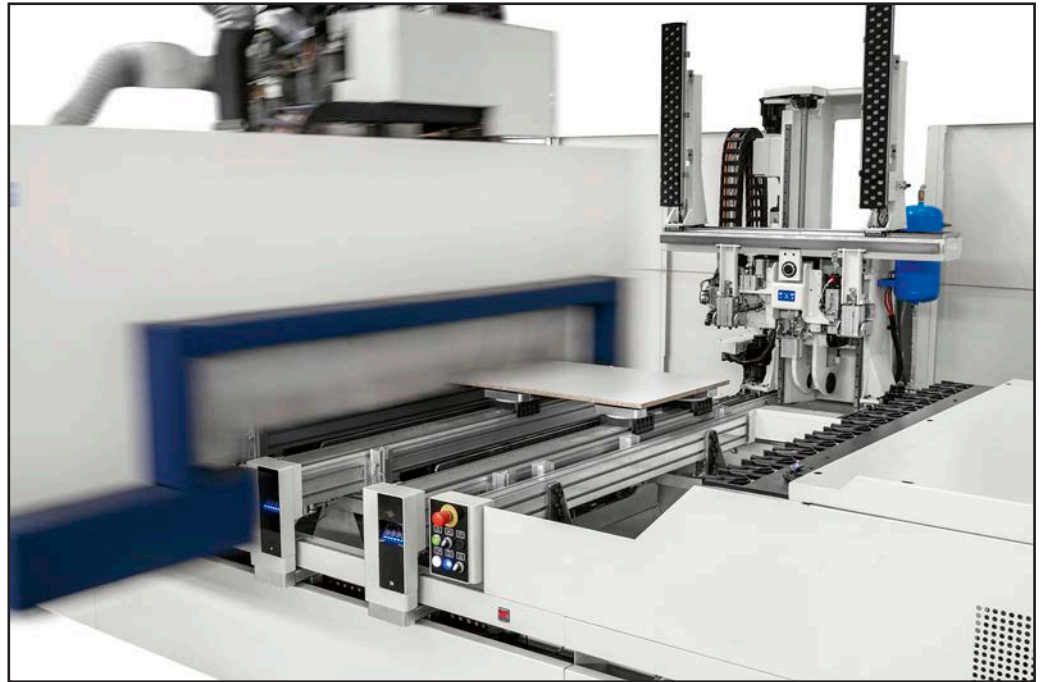
**MAESTRO LAB** is the new CAD-CAM programming software and **Cargo** is the patented automatic system for loading and unloading doors and panels for CNC machining centres.

From a simple idea, to its transformation into wood; from the office directly to the machine, these solutions aim literally to inspire the mind and to empower the hand in order to increase productivity by making the most common operations as simple as possible.

Maestro Lab is a state-of-the-art CAD/CAM software for both office and machine use. Intuitive and dynamic, it offers an innovative home screen able to guide the operator even before starting programming. This space wants to give a clear view and the best user experience a customer can ask for.

Out of all the technical and design implementations by Maestro Lab, attention is put on the following essential aspects. First of all, the function of importing and managing Layers, especially considering all those customers using external CAD software to draw.

Also, the new geometry tree is essential for individuals who regularly work with a large number of geometries. This tree simplifies the process of identifying and selecting a geometry, while also



setting aside a dedicated space for each element inserted into the project.

Another significant feature is the preview and multi-project view. It is now possible to open multiple projects simultaneously, allowing for seamless element copying between programs. This saves time by previewing pieces when selecting a program, reducing programming time.

The machine environment

looks different too: now, equipping the machine worktable is much faster. It is not important to know the exact name of the suction cup of the clamp needed, but how it looks like will be more than enough. Last but not least, you can now switch the entire Maestro Lab software, to dark mode.

On the other "hand", Cargo is the SCM's groundbreaking automated system for loading and unloading doors and panels of var-

ious sizes. This solution is able to ensure the maximum productivity by offering patented pendulum processing, a capability exclusive to us in the market. The system's flexible arm allows continuous loading and unloading while the machine handles the operations. Cargo is available on the Accord 500, Accord 600 and Morbidelli M200.

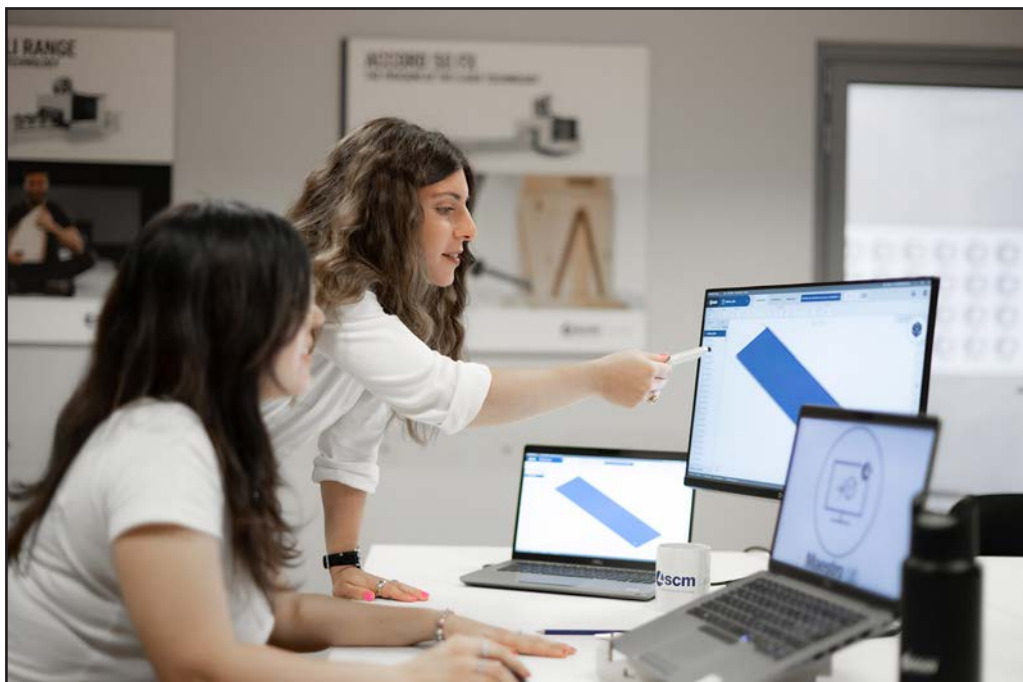
This solution is fully automated, transforming the machining centre into an autonomous cell and eliminating the need for continuous operator supervision. It excels in precision positioning, thanks to a pre-alignment system that aligns panels precisely in both X and Y axes, even against mechanical stops on the worktable.

Accessibility is another advantage, as both loading and unloading of the stack can be easily and safely accomplished with a forklift or pallet jack, guided by light signals indicating proper positioning.

Furthermore, Cargo is seamlessly integrated, with programming managed entirely through the Maestro Active HMI software.

Users can activate the machining centre without the automatic loading and unloading system with a simple click.

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# Dependable Liberon brand offers wood dye advice

**WOOD DYES** are used for changing the colour of wood, and are usually used before a wood finish like wax, oil or varnish. Liberon, the woodcare brand trusted by professional users, has some advice on choosing the right dye.

Liberon recommends first of all considering the wood to be treated. If working with a dense hardwood such as mahogany or oak, then a dye featuring extra absorbency is a must. The dye's solvents must be capable of achieving a high level of penetration into the wood. This capability also makes it ideal for already-finished timbers. Liberon's Spirit Wood Dye is an ethanol-based wood dye, which is ideal for this type of application, and is suitable for use on new and reclaimed timbers. It may be over-coated with wax, oil or varnish, and even used to tint French Polish.

Liberon's Spirit Wood Dye has a same-batch colour consistency, and any of the eight colours in which it is offered may be mixed together to achieve the preferred shade. It is available in Antique Pine, Dark Oak, Ebony, Georgian Mahogany, Light Oak, Medium Oak, Teak and Walnut.

If high density wood is not the issue



and there is a specific finished shade to be achieved, this can be done by mixing any of the 13 colours in which Liberon's Palette Wood Dye is available. Palette Wood Dye is a quick-drying, top quality, water-based option suitable for either soft or hardwoods. The dye's formulation includes light stability for excellent colour retention. It is easily absorbed, and its specialist acrylic formula minimises the raising of wood grain.

Liberon's Palette Wood Dye is available in Antique Pine, Dark Oak, Ebony, Georgian Mahogany, Golden Pine, Light Oak, Medium Oak, Teak, Tudor Oak, Victorian Mahogany, Walnut, White and Yew.

If varnishing is also required, it is possible to save time by mixing Liberon's Palette Wood Dye with the company's Natural Finish Varnishes to create a single-application product. This achieves a beautiful result more quickly than having to apply the two products one after the other.

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



# Chrome plating solution from AkzoNobel

**AKZONOBEL'S powder coatings business has partnered with Aakaar Iron Creations to help the leading innovator of metal furniture and components for world-class retail brands in Europe and the US make the switch from chrome plating to a lower environmental impact chrome effect powder coating from Interpon.**

Aakaar, originally founded in India, used chrome plating because historically it was the only solution capable of achieving the results its customers demand. The environmental drawbacks of the process, however, led the business to seek a more sustainable solution. It found a viable alternative in the Interpon Cr Chrome Effect powder coating from AkzoNobel and has now become one of India's first manufacturers to use the powder coating for mass production.

Subhashish Das, general manager, Aakaar Iron Creations, says sustainability is now a key factor in customer decision making: "We required a process that provides the same beautiful finish we're known for, whilst being significantly more sustainable. This is crucial not only for our business but for our customers who're always interested in buying from sustainably minded brands."

What Aakaar discovered was that the powder coating didn't just support the company's desire to be more sustainable, but it also improved production: "When you spray liquid paint, not even 60% is being converted into your end product," Subhashish explains.

"With powder, 80 to 90% of the powder coating is used, it's much easier to apply, and any overspray can be captured and re-

used. That means it is more cost-effective and gives you a better-quality output."

This need for consistent quality is critical. It can take 12 months from a piece leaving the factory to receiving a complaint that a product is scratched or starting to corrode. Reputation is key, and a bad review online can be damaging. Subhashish and his team, however, believe that AkzoNobel gives them total confidence in the quality of its powder coatings, with control systems in place to ensure its product is consistent every time it's used, without any deviation in color or performance.

Certainty of delivery is also key: "If we have committed to using certain materials such as Interpon Cr on their product, we keep our commitments," Subhashish adds.

As well as Interpon Cr, Aakaar is now exploring how other powder coatings within the Interpon range can protect and enhance a new range of outdoor furniture that it is developing, where weathering and corrosion is more of an issue. This includes how powder coatings can be applied to heat sensitive substrates.

"We're delighted about helping Aakaar make the switch from liquid to powder and similarly delight its customers with the quality of its products," says Sirvan Canitez, Commercial Director South Asia of AkzoNobel powder coatings. "Our partnership has already helped Subhashish and his team turn the tables on sustainability and we're excited about what our future innovations can deliver."

**AkzoNobel**  
[www.akzonobel.com/en](http://www.akzonobel.com/en)



# Bristol builder banking on West Fraser boards

**A BRISTOL-BASED building company, active across a variety of sectors, relies on the performance and physical robustness of the panels manufactured by West Fraser Europe Limited for a wide range of applications.**

PPS Building Services Ltd was established in 2015 and has established a strong reputation with both private and commercial clients for high standards of workmanship and professionalism, undertaking projects from carrying out repair and conversion work to building new homes and offices. The company recently converted an old barn into a two-bedroom, two-bathroom property, using CaberDek to create a

new upper floor, where solar powered Velux roof windows also featured.

The managing director of PPS Building Services, Steve Hill, comments: "We have a full-time workforce of a dozen tradesmen as well as another 20 sub-contractors who get involved in our contracts, carrying out refurbishment work, building extensions, loft conversions and individual new homes or small developments; all around Bristol and from Exeter across to Swindon. Carpentry is a big element of the work we do and, although we have used other makes for boards in the past, with a lot of them you find the corners or the edges are coming off through normal handling, or the dimensional accuracy just isn't as good.

"We employ SterlingOSB Zero for flat roofs and as a sheathing, while all of our floor constructions feature CaberDek. It's a great board to use and we always buy the manufacturer's glue from their CaberFix system as well to avoid having any squeaks. Also, being conditioned, they cope well with any rain if we're slow getting installations covered up, as well as what the plasterers drop. I doubt there's anything we've built in the last four or five years that doesn't have CaberDek on it."

Available in either 18 mm or 22 mm thickness panels, CaberDek panels measure 600 mm by 2,400 mm and are produced from moisture resisting P5 particleboard. CaberDek is available in an easy to install and familiar T&G format, making it an ideal choice for housebuilders or sub-contractors to ensure rapid installation, ready to face the toughest of conditions on site.

**West Fraser**  
**Tel 01786 812 921**  
<https://uk.westfraser.com>

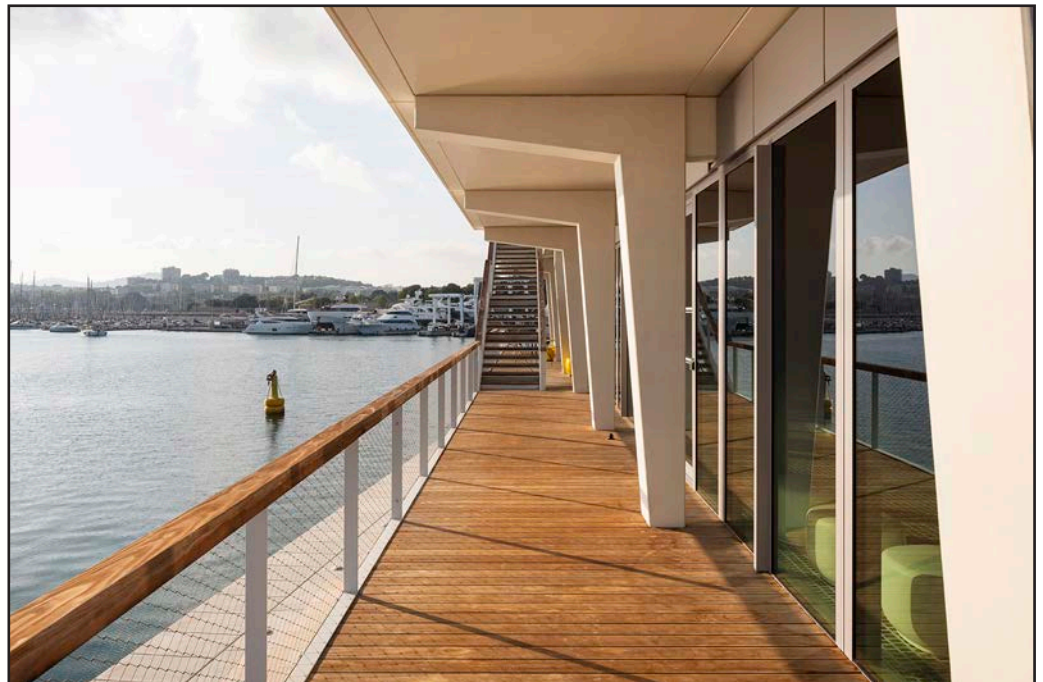


# 'Billionaires' Quay' restoration on the French Riviera transforms Europe's largest yachting harbour

**IN PORT VAUBAN, Antibes, lying between Cannes and Nice on the French Riviera, the Quai des Milliardaires — 'Billionaires' Quay' — has undergone an extensive transformation, consolidating its position as a leading yachting hub in the Mediterranean. A paradise for yachting and super yachting enthusiasts, Port Vauban is believed to be Europe's largest yachting harbour, with over 1,500 berths and 18 superyacht berths of up to 160 metres.**

Since May 2023, both the quay and IYCA (International Yacht Club d'Antibes) building — which houses a yacht club, bar, and crew centre — have been renovated to renew both the appearance and infrastructure of the quay, making it the centre of a 21st century port, focused on offering a range of high-end, high-quality utilities, combining amenities, technical services, a concierge service, and festive and sports events. Also crucial was preserving its refined aesthetic appearance that complements the architectural character of the local area and surrounding landscape, with the terraces of the Quai des Milliardaires facing the Mediterranean horizon on one side, and the heritage old town and Fort Carré on the other.

The entire complex now boasts a distinctive and compelling architecture, masterminded by Atelier d'Architecture Philippe Prost, combining traditional heritage techniques with cutting edge construction technology and materials. Concrete, stainless steel,



marble, intelligent glass, and ceramics are blended to produce an engaging visual façade, while the decking surfaces of the quay itself, as well as the stairs, pontoons, benches, and handrails, have been made from environmentally friendly Kebony Clear wood. Its elegant knot-free appearance and silvery patina allow it to blend harmoniously into this prestigious setting, whilst its enhanced durability and minimal maintenance requirements — guaranteed for 30 years — mean it can withstand all the demands of an exposed marine environment.

Developed in Norway, Kebony transforms sustainable softwoods, such as pine, into products with comparable aesthetic

and mechanical characteristics to tropical hardwoods. This diverts the need for deforestation of the planet's vital rainforest sinks, helping to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The wood is first infused with a bio-based liquid, activating a reaction in the wood cell walls to become 50% thicker, increasing the dimensional stability, durability, and hardness of the wood. The resulting Kebony wood has a significantly reduced water sensitivity and does not splinter which, alongside its minimal environmental impact and refined aesthetic finish, made it an ideal material to deal with the high levels of weathering and intensive use in the coastal setting of the Quai des Milliardaires.

As the lead architects from Atelier d'Architecture, Philippe Prost, commented, "The desire to use strips of wood for large outdoor terraces came early on, by analogy with boat decks. Kebony wood was chosen for its aesthetic qualities, its durability — particularly in a highly exposed marine environment — and for its natural character."

Nina Landbø, International Sales Manager for Kebony, adds: "The regeneration of Quai des Milliardaires represents the versatility of Kebony, providing a simultaneously sustainable, beautiful, and high performing modified wood product that will last for many years to come."

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







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panels  
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# Making acoustics work at the office

**INTERNATIONAL** Danish food company Danish Crown's new headquarters has just been completed in Randers, Denmark. The 13,000 sq m complex comprises offices, meeting rooms, fitness centre, show kitchen, canteen and break-out areas.

Designed by CEBRA Architecture, the interior maximises natural daylight and focuses on a healthy indoor climate and healthy materials.

As part of the scheme for materials in natural tones and hard surfaces, Trolldtekt acoustic panels were also specified for all the ceilings to ensure good acoustics and a comfortable sound environment for the many employees throughout the building.

There are different variants of Trolldtekt acoustic panels throughout the building. The award-winning 'Trolldtekt® line' from the design solutions range, in a natural finish, blends harmoniously with the brickwork in the many open areas, walkways and offices.

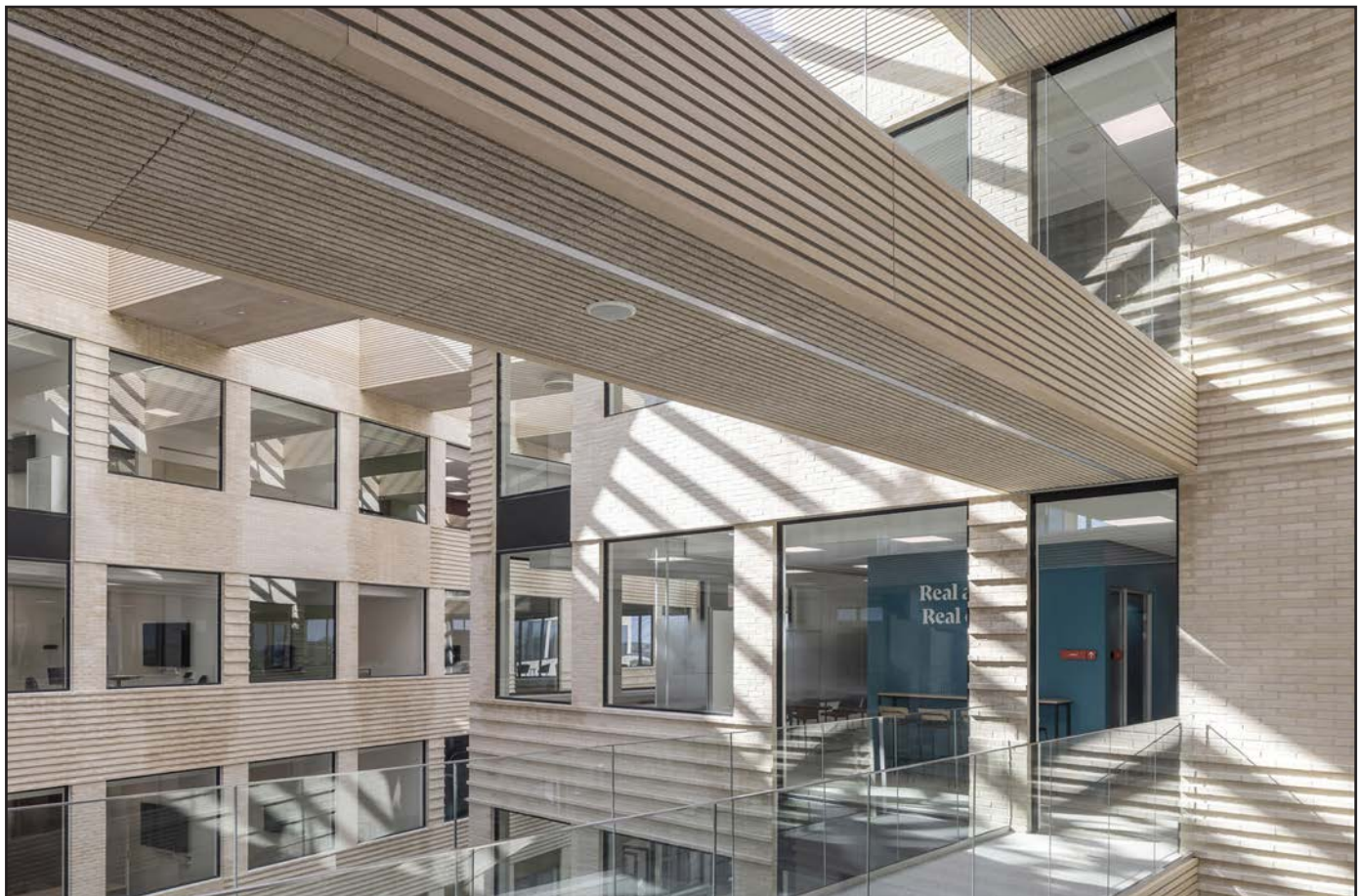
Mikkel Frost, architect and partner at CEBRA Architecture, commented "Trolldtekt line was a perfect match for the broken bond brickwork, while at the same time creating a good acoustic environment. The natural colour also matches the brick, so it was a bit of a no-brainer for us".

Trolldtekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different structures and colours and combine superior sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Trolldtekt range has a minimum expected life cycle of 50 years coupled with excellent resistance to humidity and tested to meet ball impact stan-

dards. The range is available in various sizes and structures and can be supplied as natural wood or finished in almost any RAL or NCS colour.

Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively. Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points.

**Trolldtekt** ● [www.trolldtekt.com](http://www.trolldtekt.com)







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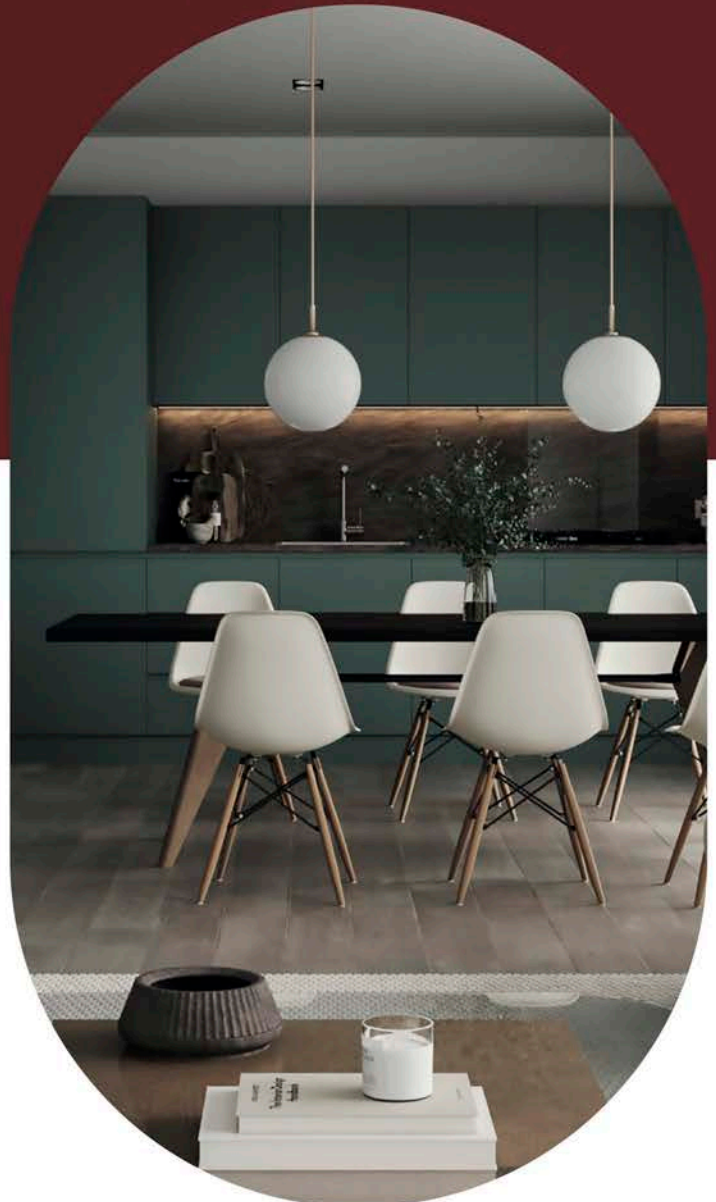


**E EGGER**

# Perfectly matched.

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### SHOWCASING:

Garnet Red | Stone Green | Pebble Grey | Onyx Grey

# A strong accent in the interior — Brushed Metal HPL now available from Decorative Panels Lamination

**IN RECENT YEARS, we have seen the growing popularity of metallic design accents in interior and furniture design. Adding a touch of glamour and elegance, metallic details are a great way to liven up any space. Regardless of the style in which we decorate our interiors, decorative metal surfaces fit perfectly and add a unique touch.**

Decorative Panels now offers a range of six brushed metal HPL designs from Kronospan — a leading manufacturer of wood-based panels. These Metal HPL finishes are modern and sophisticated and include Brushed Aluminium, Brushed Titan, Brushed Inox, Brushed Gold, Brushed Copper and Brushed Bronze. These metal decors, made from high-quality MDF substrate, are coated with real aluminium sheets, and covered with protection foil. They are suitable for vertical applications such as doors, as well as horizontal surfaces like home and retail countertops, offering a stylish and tactile experience in residential, business, or commercial spaces.

In an arrangement where straight lines and neutral colours dominate, decorative metal surface additions are an interesting contrast and eye-catcher. We can use them, for example, in the form of furniture fronts, which will provide unique focal points in the space. Nowadays, interior and furniture design are no longer limited to wall colours or the choice of furniture. The Group's designers are looking more and more for original solutions to give rooms and furniture a unique character and elegance.

One such trend is the inclusion of metal accents in interiors and furniture, which add a touch of glamour and luxury. If metal accents in furniture are not enough for you, you can also opt for larger metal HPL surfaces, such as walls. Decorative Metal HPL surfaces are particularly eye-catching, with the advantage that the metallic brilliance and elegance will always be visible and eye-catching, never fading into the background.

The shine and lustre of metallic decors adds elegance and luxury to any room. We can use Metal HPL surface on the walls as a decorative ele-



ment. These types of surfaces go well with both modern and classic arrangements. This is just another way of incorporating sparkle into interior.

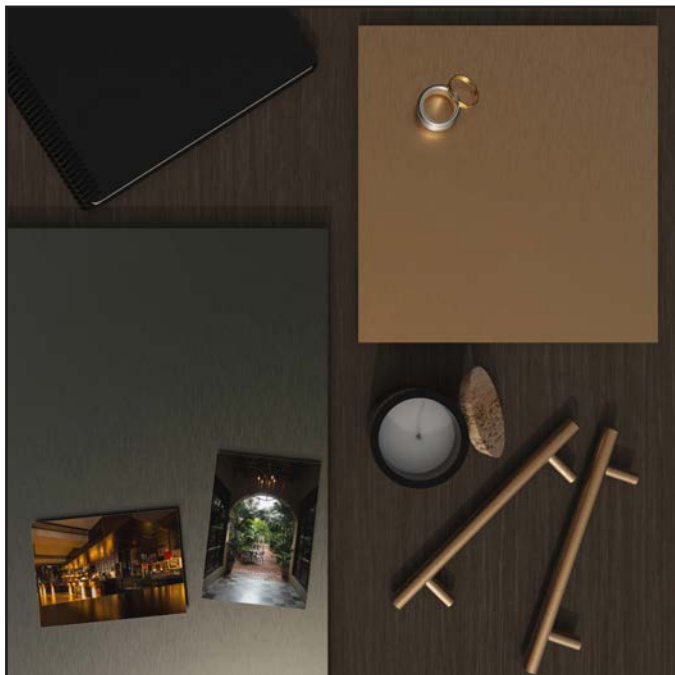
A striking metal HPL finish is highly resistant and durable. It is expressive and elegant in its unrivalled simplicity. Distinctive metal surfaces are an alternative to traditional decors. Metal decors are long-lasting, stylish, and fashionable. This makes a Metal HPL surface a possible winner over for example traditional wood chests of drawers. In addition to classic painted furniture, metal HPL decors are very effective. Metal HPL with the effect of brushed metal surface will certainly attract people who are bored with traditional solutions and love these raw, expressive accents.

Functional and almost indestructible Metal HPL surface in an interior bring an atmosphere of calm and order to the room.

If you are one of those who appreciate subdued elegance and pure functionality in furniture, Metal HPL surface collection from the dp-limitless range is excellent for you. Brushed Copper, Brushed Gold and Brushed Bronze accents adding warmth and nobility to interiors and combining fantastically with most of the decorative surface materials. Metal HPL Brushed Inox, Brushed Aluminium and Brushed Titan on the other hand, takes us into a more industrial atmosphere. Metal provides a feast for both the eye and the sense of touch. Regardless of the style of the interior, metal finishing introduces intriguing material contrasts into the designed space.

Possibly one of the most evident characteristics of metal HPL surface is that it is a much more resistant material. Metal, in addition,





compared to other materials, is not affected by excessive exposure to light and withstands from the lowest to the highest temperatures.

Resistance also gives them durability. Metal HPL material can last for many years with minimal care. In fact, the care they require is another of their advantages; cleaning is very easy and simple.

Metal HPL is extremely resistant both to weight and to possible damage caused by use, such as scratches. They do not present problems of breakage or peeling of edges. Thanks to its durability, in the long term it represents a saving, as they do not go out of fashion and are kept in perfect condition.

Beyond its strength, durability and quality, the use of Metal HPL has also become popular because of the variety of design possibilities it offers. Metal HPL's have simple but unique brushed lines, and metallic effect integrates harmoniously into any decorative style. They are compatible and can be combined with furniture made of other materials.

Metal HPL's surface is considered an ideal choice for the home. In fact, they are trendy, and not only in more industrial styles, as they combine perfectly with wooden furniture. They can be part of an eclectic decor with warm elements.

It is thought that because metal cools a room, it can be a difficult material to work with. However, with careful application, it can become the focal point of any interior design. For example, warmer tones can then be used to surround the colder tone, producing a stunning effect of balance and statement.

Your furniture selection is a tangible representation of your inner world and the ideal way to communicate your ideas and sense of self. Along with modern Metal HPL designs, your furniture pieces will radiate its unique personality.

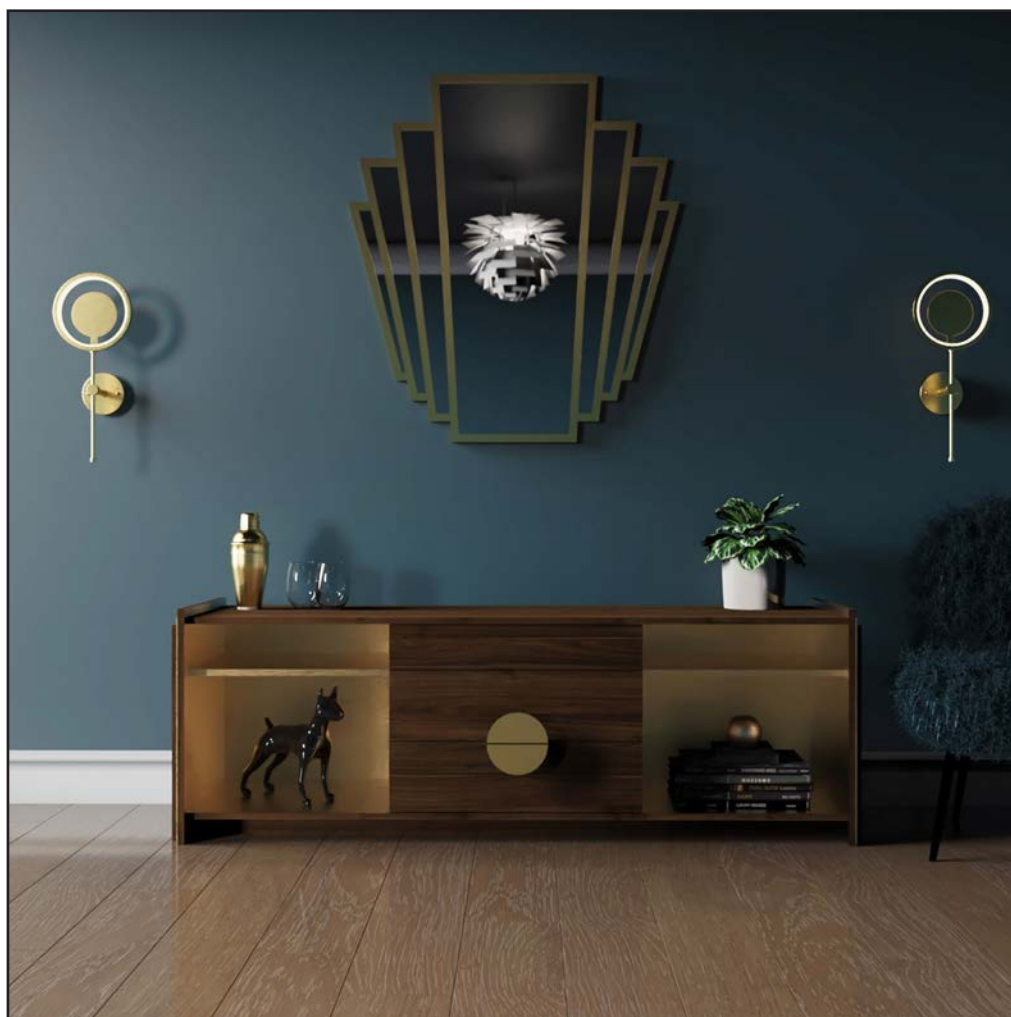
Discover how to transform your interiors with Metal HPL accents

and create unique, striking spaces that will delight everyone. Get ready to discover a new dimension in furniture design and join the ranks of trendsetters who know how to incorporate a touch of glamour into their home. Decorative Panels Lamination is here to give you endless possibilities from their dp-limitless range.

Available board sizes: 3050 mm x 1310 mm, available substrates: 15 mm & 18 mm MDF.

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# Perfectly prepared with SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus

WEST FRASER has introduced a new ready-primed version of industry-leading SterlingOSB Zero board which has been created for site security and hoardings, barriers/screening, temporary public walkways,

and the boarding up of damaged buildings, signage, interior screening, shop fitting/retail, displays promotions, building extensions and renovations.

In essence, it is a blank canvas for colourful marketing messages.

Everything the specifier needs to know about SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is detailed on a new downloadable factsheet.

The new panel is available in white and grey and produced in 18 mm thick, square-edged

sheets measuring 1220 mm wide by 2440 mm long.

The top face is primed with a high-quality cross-linked epoxy acylate UV cured coating to front, giving a smooth finish and the sides are sealed to reduce water ingress, leaving the sheets ready for decoration or the application of graphics. 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. SterlingOSB Zero is believed to be 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, according to the company.

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; hospitality, shopfitting, and housebuilding are other key markets. SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is CE-marked and complies with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) 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.

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**Pre-painted OSB3,  
READY FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
or the application of graphics**

- ✓ Available in white or grey
- ✓ A blank canvas for marketing messages
- ✓ Save time and money vs traditional hoardings
- ✓ All the inherent benefits of SterlingOSB Zero

**Designed for...**



Thickness: 18mm  
Length: 2440mm  
Width: 1220mm

High quality cross-linked epoxy acylate UV cured coating to front, giving a smooth finish

Sealed with a unique wax impregnated hydroscopic edge treatment to reduce water ingress

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# Kebony at Hotel Krallerhof

**ATMOSPHERE** by Krallerhof, a new spa and adult-exclusive wellness facility designed by award-winning Hadi Teherani Architects, has officially opened at the five-star Hotel Krallerhof in Leogang, Austria, expanding the luxurious Alpine resort's suite of recreational services and facilities.

Blending harmoniously into the surrounding alpine landscape and creating a year-round space for relaxation and regeneration, 'ATMOSPHERE' builds on the long tradition of luxury accommodation synonymous with Hotel Krallerhof, first opened by the Altenberger family in 1956. Making use of innovative Kebony wood decking, the spectacular hotel delivers a contemporary wellness experience enhanced by themes of sustainability and healthy architecture.

German studio Hadi Teherani was commissioned to develop an extension to Hotel Krallerhof's interior and exterior leisure facilities in 2019, with all works on the project successfully delivered last summer. "I wanted to create a building that is subordinate to this wonderful landscape, but is still present," comments lead architect, Hadi Teherani. "ATMOSPHERE engenders a quiet experience of great intensity, especially in the 50-metre-long infinity pool, embedded in a large natural swimming lake and the vastness of this unique landscape."

The Krallerhof Spa is located on a slope, minimising the visual impact for guests looking out from the hotel while, at the same time, remaining characteristic of the local alpine terrain. The centrepiece of the new facility is a 5,500 m<sup>2</sup> natural swimming and bathing lake which incorporates a 50 m Olympic sized heated infinity pool at its heart, surrounded by an open-floor sun lounging space decked entirely in Kebony wood. The wooden decking extends into a circular trail, moving outwards from the spa building and enveloping the entire lake, offering multiple viewing platforms that each provide unique, calming perspectives of the neighbouring Steinernes Meer plateau and Leoganger Steinberge mountain range.

Developed in Norway, Kebony wood is dually modified™, providing a durable and beautiful building material that is also environmentally friendly. The patented Kebony® technology transforms sustainably sourced softwoods, such as pine, to mimic the durability and dimensional stability of tropical hardwood. In addition to its material and aesthetic qualities, Kebony wood is also weather resistant, withstanding the extremities of the European winter, and requires little to no maintenance following installation, bypassing any extended periods of spa closure for the treatment of the decking.

The use of Kebony embodies the eco-conscious ethos of the 'ATMOSPHERE' project, evident in the creation of a new plant belt in the lake which uses the excavated material from construction for the new zen garden, supporting biodiversity and local flora and fauna. In a further piece of innovation, the heating of the infinity pool has been delivered by means of a biomass power, utilising local wood chips from a timber construction enterprise only 200 m from the hotel.

After circumnavigating the lake, the wooden path enters into the main resort via a descending glass façade, seamlessly linking the tranquility of the outdoors to the world-class suite of treatments available at Hotel Krallerhof. The new facility includes a sub-zero 'Ice Grotto' therapy room, a 'Blue Grotto' water vault, a White Himalayan infrasauna room, a Finnish-style and herbal all-wooden 'Amphi-Sauna' and a café, each providing guests with a holistic selection of relaxation experiences, alongside the Hotel's programme of wellness activities, including yoga and Ayurveda. Locally produced wood and glass adorn

the exposed concrete walls of the building interior with vertical boarding, while special furniture carved from provincial alpine marble completes the calming, eco-friendly vision of this iconic new project.

Nina Landbø, International Sales Manager for Kebony, comments: "ATMOSPHERE by Krallerhof Spa and Hadi Teherani Architects is one of the largest applications of Kebony decking in the world. This successful project demonstrates that modern hospitality design can be achieved both at scale, while remaining intimate and rooted in the comfort of nature, therefore providing a unique, high-quality recreational experience."

**Kebony**

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