

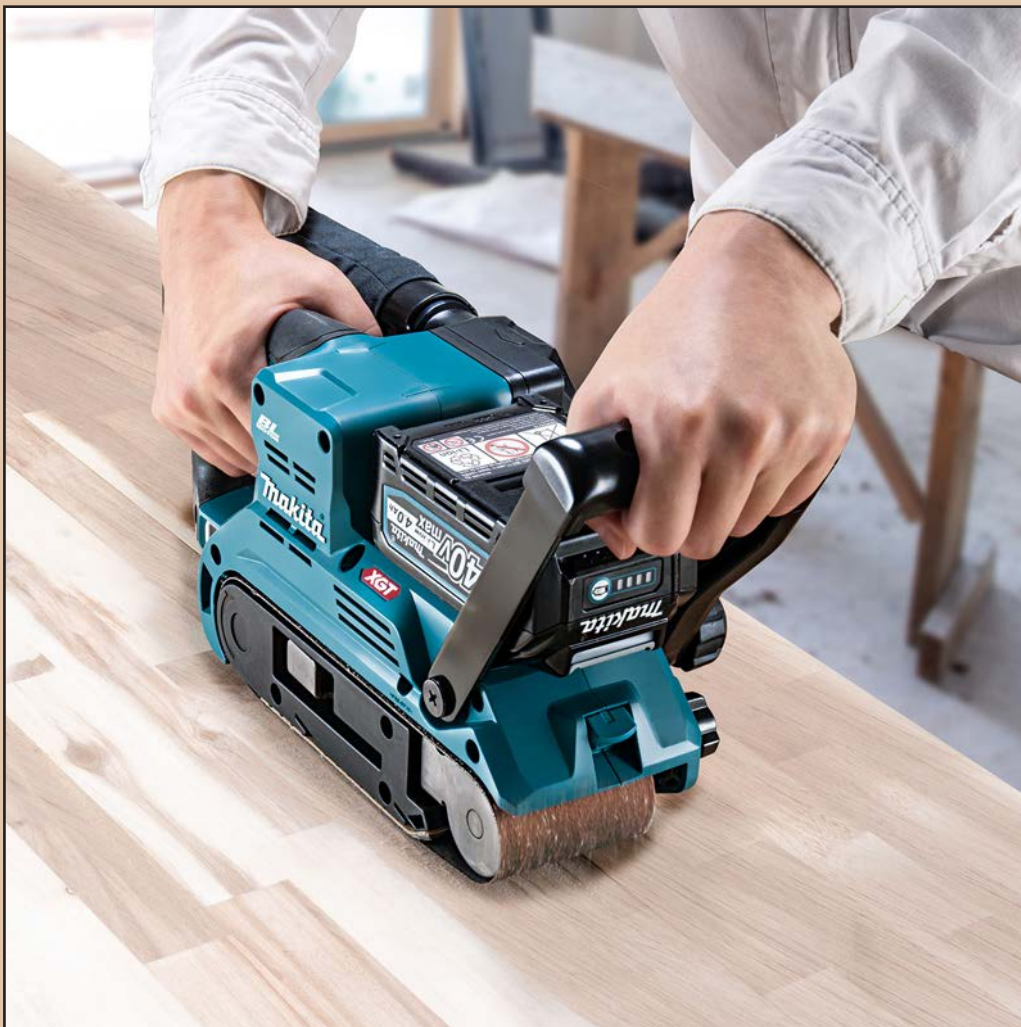
PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 201/202

February/March 2025

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Daval furnishes Dylan Hartley's private suite

DAVAL FURNITURE, award winning British designer and manufacturer of quality fitted furniture, is delighted to announce it has been commissioned by former England rugby captain, Dylan Hartley, to design and install a bespoke furniture scheme for his private suite at the world-famous Allianz Stadium in Twickenham.

The Daval Special Projects division delivers a small number of non-residential projects every year and has previously been commissioned by brands like technical outdoor apparel maker, Thrudark, for its headquarters in Dorset, winner of BBC Two's Interior Design Masters, Lynsey Ford, and TV personality and influencer, Lucy Mecklenburgh to name a few.

Dylan Hartley is a former rugby union player who represented England and Northampton Saints. He also captained the England rugby union team from January 2016 until the end of his international career in 2019, where he earned the title of the team's most capped hooker of all time with his first cap in 2008.

James Bodsworth, creative director at Daval is working directly with Dylan on this unique design project, helping to create a tailor-made, custom bar and entertaining area for the corporate suite, which will be used to host VIP guests on match days.

James says, "Twickenham is revered as the home of English rugby and as a brand steeped in our own British heritage, we couldn't



be more pleased to offer our support and design expertise. In fact, Dylan has given us free rein to design a space that is both modern yet classic and provides comfortable and luxurious surroundings for him to enjoy with his guests on match days. With this in mind, we are working on an exciting scheme centred around a made-to-measure bar using our Lugano Boston Oak cabinetry. This is complemented by a raised bench with integrated seating, which is designed to offer a direct view of the pitch. We have also partnered with Little Greene paint and Hende & Hende handles on this project, to ensure that our furniture is both stylish and durable."

The Lugano furniture range by Daval is manufactured on-site at the company's 100,000 sq ft factory in Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, and presents a sophisticated furniture range in solid oak that is rich in appearance with prominent woodgrain and fine, even

texture. Naturally light in colour with deep golden tones, this new furniture range is precision engineered in the UK and made using responsibly sourced materials.

The finished project was installed in Dylan Hartley's private suite in Twickenham by the end of October 2024. Dylan Hartley says, "I was keen to use a British brand that manufactures here in the UK, so Daval's manufacturing heritage and excellent product combined with James's creative and

design expertise is the perfect match. I'm really looking forward to seeing the finished result."

Simon Bodsworth, managing director at Daval says, "We are thrilled to be selected for such a prestigious venue by Dylan Hartley, someone I have admired in sport for many years. To be able to play our part in helping more people enjoy the very best in hospitality at such a great sporting institution is very exciting for the brand. Our Special Projects division is growing from strength to strength as more and more brands appreciate the importance of working with experts in furniture design and manufacture. Watch this space for more exciting new announcements as we continue to put Daval in front of new, global audiences."

Image shows former rugby union player, Dylan Hartley, shaking hands with James Bodsworth, creative director at Daval Furniture at the Allianz Stadium in Twickenham.

Daval Furniture
www.daval-furniture.co.uk

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'Tiny Homes' growing bigger with SterlingOSB Zero

A BUSINESS set up just three years ago in rural North Wales is enjoying steady growth based on a concept already popular amongst Americans and the ANZAC nations: offering clients the opportunity to have the home of their dreams, custom-built at a genuinely affordable price. SterlingOSB Zero from West Fraser features prominently in this timber-based, eco-friendly construction method.

TWT Tiny Homes was founded by Henri Brown and Lucy Robertson, drawing on their experience as a trained carpenter and a career in television design respectively, which led the pair to creating their own bijou property. Although still small, the company now calls on the assistance of like-minded individuals to meet the demand for a dozen properties a year, destined for all parts of the UK. While operations are currently undertaken in two workshops on a family farm, planning permission has been obtained to erect larger production premises nearby in Spring 2025.

Each project begins with a site visit and an in-depth consultation to determine the customer's needs and ambitions, followed by the provision of detailed drawings along with 'mood boards' to facilitate the choice of materials for the fit-out. The materials can include areas of the SterlingOSB Zero being left exposed along with the solid timber sections, from which many of the interior fittings are fashioned. Primarily, however, the rugged and versatile orientated strand board is utilised for its structural performance.

Henri explains: "Our journey began three years ago when we decided to build our own Tiny Home and we fell in love with the concept of living small, realising that you don't need much space to be content. It has also opened the door to investing the money we save from renting into ourselves and our business. This quickly turned into our passion as a profession — creating personalised homes for our clients. Every build we undertake is a reflection of our commitment to delivering the best product which suits our customers' lifestyles and needs.

"We take pride in using eco-friendly materials in the construction of our Tiny Homes. We use Welsh Sheeps wool as insulation and locally milled wood for cladding, we source everything from the UK. All the wood we use is low toxicity, and so is the paint we use for the walls. Even the wall filler is natural! Our main concern is ensuring that our Tiny Homes are healthy habitats that do not emit harmful fumes from cheap wood glues or dangerous fibres.

"Having no added formaldehyde, SterlingOSB Zero definitely fits well with us and, having tried rival products in the past, we never use anything else now. We get through a full pack of 110 boards a month now — with all the panels being made up on a table in the framing shop, where the squareness of the boards means there's no need for trimming. We use the 18 mm thickness for the floors, and then sheath all the wall panels to give them strength and rigidity: sometimes covering both faces. Then, for the roof structure, the SterlingOSB Zero forms a skin on top, we then waterproof membrane and clad it with metal sheets or wooden shingles. Another important point is that we find that the Sterling produces a lot less dust when it's being cut, which means it is cleaner and safer."

Normally assembled on a road-legal galvanised trailer chassis, each Tiny Home is built to a high standard, and to last a very long time, though the company targets Part L requirements on energy performance to make them easier to heat and can also make them DDA compliant if required.

Most clients opt to have a wood-burner installed as the primary form of heating, while LPG and electric boilers are also available. Then, depending on the specification for the fit-out, prices start at £35K.

West Fraser
Tel 01786 812921
Uk.westfraser.com



Selco makes 500 apprentices pledge

SELCO Builders Warehouse has marked National Apprenticeship Week (10-16 February 2025) by committing to delivering 500 apprenticeships for its colleagues by 2030.

The leading builders merchant has delivered a number of innovative apprenticeship programmes in recent times, ranging from Rising Stars for its colleagues working in branch, Driver Academy for team members wanting to switch to a career as a HGV driver and a new Women In Leadership programme launched last year.

Selco has now taken its apprenticeship offering to the next level with the pledge for the next five years as part of the Builders Merchants Federation's challenge for the industry as a whole to deliver 15,000 apprentices by 2030. Selco's commitment has got off to a flying start with more than 100 colleagues already engaged in or signed up for an apprenticeship — including 37 new Rising Stars and Sales Academy enrolments just prior to Christmas.

Sally Kerr, HR Director for Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We are extremely proud of our training offering to colleagues and the apprenticeship delivery plays a huge role in that.

"There are a number of reasons we are so passionate about apprenticeships and they include driving career development progression opportunities for our colleagues and ensuring our teams are constantly pushing the boundaries when it comes to delivering outstanding customer service. We have seen great success in our apprenticeship pro-

grammes so far and look forward to seeing that continually expand in the months and years to come."

Run in conjunction with one of the UK's leading training providers Realise, Rising Stars is available at gold, silver and bronze level and helps branch colleagues move to the next level of their careers.

Sally added: "All our programmes are tailored to meet the specific needs and offering of Selco. We select courses with a high level of practical elements and then make it bespoke to the requirements of our operations here at Selco. That means that our colleagues are learning by putting into practice the work they do on a day-to-day basis, gaining greater knowledge for their current job and having a tangible benefit to their careers. We have already seen a high number of our colleagues not only complete their apprenticeship and achieve their qualification but also secure a promotion off the back of it. We are committed to giving colleagues the chance to create a genuine career path and providing them with the skills, techniques and self-development to do that. We are looking forward to celebrating many more apprentices in the future."

In addition to the main schemes, Selco colleagues are currently also completing apprenticeships in other business areas including finance, data analysis, HR and project management.

All apprenticeship successes are marked at special graduation ceremonies where colleagues wear traditional university cap and gown attire.

Selco
www.selcobw.com



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Premier Forest Products welcomes national sales director

LEADING TIMBER supplier Premier Forest Products has appointed Andrew Stevenson as group sales director as the company consolidates its national presence.

Premier Forest Products is a highly successful, diverse and well-respected vertically integrated timber group within the UK. With multiple sites across the country, the Welsh headquartered business has expanded its reach in recent years to serve its broad customer base.



Andrew Stevenson & Terry Edgell.

Andrew has joined the business from CWG Choices where he held the post of sales director and brings with him 27 years of experience within building products and manufacturing sectors. His strong connections and experience in driving a customer centric value proposition throughout the organisation will allow him to develop Premier Forest's sales team from the head office in Newport, focusing on developing its existing customer base alongside driving new business opportunities.

On his appointment, Andrew said: "I'm very excited to have joined such a well-respected business as Premier Forest. The ambitious vision and pedigree of the business is well known throughout the industry and it is reflected by the commitment from staff across all functions and, indeed, its customers.

"It is so pleasing to join such a strong team within a business that focuses on their performance and their people in a perfectly balanced way. I'm looking forward to helping the growth of the business and consolidating its place as a market leader, whilst supporting our customers at each turn."

Speaking in late 2024, Terry Edgell, co-founder and CEO at Premier Forest, said: "We're delighted to welcome Andrew to the Group and his experience will be invaluable in leading our UK-wide sales teams.

"Our aim is to align our efforts across our branch network to ensure that we are providing our customers with the best possible product choice and service at all times.

"As we continue to look for new business opportunities that support our growth, Andrew will be a key figure in the team to help us reach our goals through the remainder of 2024 and beyond."

Premier Forest Products Ltd is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, wholesale distribution, milling, processing, merchandising and manufacture of timber products from multiple sites across the UK.

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

Daltons Wadkin appoints new specialist

DALTONS WADKIN, a leading UK multi-material machine solution supplier, has expanded its team further by hiring a specialist to lead the company's fiber laser and sheet metal offering.

Adrian joined the family-run and Nottingham-based business this month as a fiber laser sales manager, bringing over three decades of experience in the fiber laser and sheet metal market, working for some of the most prestigious names in the industry. He will now lead on managing Daltons Wadkin's exclusive partnership with CNC and fiber laser producers, Kimla, to grow the fiber laser installations across the UK and Ireland.

In 2022, Daltons Wadkin announced that it had become the sole distributor for Kimla's range of cutting-edge CNC routers and fiber laser cutters, following a 15-year partnership. The business recently unveiled the all-new Kimla five-axis 'mini-mill', an exclusive for the UK market, at its recent Wood and Panel Machinery Open house in October. In 2024, Daltons Wadkin exhibited at the Mach Exhibition for the first time since 1996. The leading industry event showcases manufacturing technologies and engineering in the UK and allows Daltons Wadkin to present to the market its state-of-the-art sheet metal and composite machining solutions.

Buoyed by that, the business' managing director Alex Dalton said the important next step was to appoint a specialist to build on the successful components already in place to continue driving growth in the sheet metals

market. He said: "We're excited to welcome Adrian to lead our fiber laser division. His deep expertise in the sheet metal arena and fiber laser sector is exactly what we need to propel our growth. Kimla's fiber laser technology is truly cutting-edge, supported by our robust network of trained engineers across the UK and Ireland. Adrian's appointment is the final piece, allowing us to bring these components together and advance confidently in the market with a dedicated expert."

Adrian Wright said: "I can't wait to join the team at Dalton Wadkin, and especially the fantastic opportunity to show customers and companies alike the Kimla range of products, including the incredible Kimla Fiber Lasers machines. Kimla and Dalton Wadkin have built up a tremendously close working relationship over the past 15 years, and I intend to fully utilise and embrace introducing these machines to customers.

"Key to our success will be showcasing our machines to their fullest potential via live demonstrations in either Nottingham or Poland. Kimla are not just machine builders but are true innovators invested in developing the fiber laser machine from the ground up.

"Designing and manufacturing their own linear motors, coupled with their unique machine design, are just two examples of what makes a Kimla Fiber machine cut materials faster with unrivalled part quality."

Daltons Wadkin

www.daltonswadkin.com



Selco named one of UK's best places to work

SELCO Builders Warehouse has cemented its position as one of the UK's most engaging and enjoyable employers.

The leading builders merchant, part of the Grafton Group, has been named the 11th Best Big Company To Work For in the Best Companies survey.

Best Companies is an independent award decided by the workplace surveys of thousands of companies measuring workplace culture and engagement, with employee feedback dictating the finishing positions of a business.

Sally Kerr, HR director for Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We are absolutely delighted to feature so highly in the Best Companies list for businesses with more than 2,000 staff and we are proud to be flying the flag for the builders merchant sector.

"Best Companies is an extremely well-respected guide so to feature so highly in rankings which are decided by direct feedback from colleagues is very pleasing.

"Our colleagues are our biggest asset and we will continue to work hard to enhance and improve the workplace, embedding



a culture for all our people to enjoy a positive and enjoyable workplace environment."

In 2024, Selco has introduced a paid volunteer day for each of its near-3,000 colleagues, allowing each member of its workforce to take a normal working day away from the individual's traditional environment to support a local

good cause or project under full pay.

The 'EarlyPay' scheme, a financial wellbeing tool which allows colleagues access to wages they have already earned in advance of pay day, has also been launched.

Selco's commitment to offering its colleagues career development opportunities has been en-

hanced further with the introduction of a Women in Leadership apprenticeship.

More than 200 colleagues have now been involved in apprenticeship programmes since they were introduced by Selco.

Selco
www.selcobw.com



Makita nails it again with its latest launch

MAKITA has added a new 18V LXT Framing Nailer to its range of high-performance cordless tools. The new DBN900 offers significant advantages over pneumatic and gas nailers including improved ease of use and greater working flexibility.

The DBN900 18V LXT Framing Nailer, designed specifically for first fix framing applications, can be used in the same way as a pneumatic nailer but without the additional setup time, complication and restriction of a compressor and air lines.

In addition, unlike gas nailers, the DBN900 has no additional consumables, reducing the cost and inconvenience of replacing the cartridges.

The latest addition to Makita's range of cordless nailers, the DBN900 is compatible with clipped head nails between 50 mm and 90 mm and nail gauges between 2.9 mm and 3.3 mm. Its magazine will accommodate up to 58 collated nails and incorporates a quick and easy reloading mechanism. The inspection window makes it simple to check the number of nails remaining. It also features a variable drive depth, with the required adjustment made using the easy-to-use dial on the nose of the tool.



Furthermore, the DBN900 features two operation modes. In sequential actuation mode, it drives a nail each time the trigger is pressed, while the contact actuation mode allows continuous nailing, with a nail driven every time the tip is pressed to the material for as long as the trigger is held. Using a Makita 6.0Ah LXT battery (BL1860B), it can drive up to 1,000 nails on a full battery charge at a rate of up to two nails per second.

The DBN900 has been designed for both convenience and enhanced safety. The anti-slip nose of the tool makes working on angled materials easier and more accurate, while the LED job light with pre-glow and after-glow function improves visibility of the work surface. It features both a rafter hook and belt hook, allowing it to be hung on ladders, scaffolding and timbers or clipped to the user, keeping it close at hand. The DBN900 also includes both an anti-dry-firing mechanism, which activates before the last nails in the magazine are driven to prevent missed nails, and an anti-restart function to prevent accidental activation.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK said: "Our new, long awaited DBN900 18V LXT framing nailer is an excellent alternative to the conventional pneumatic or gas nailers and has been engineered to streamline framing tasks and similar first fix work. It is easy to use, even in restricted spaces and offers far greater flexibility when compared to traditional pneumatic tools."

Makita UK
www.makitauk.com

IronmongeryDirect expands its Jigtech offering

LEADING specialist trade supplier IronmongeryDirect has expanded its Jigtech door furniture range, adding to its portfolio of over 18,000 products. The new additions include handles, door kits, turn and releases, and latches, designed to make installation quick and easy, thanks to the revolutionary Professional Installation Jig Kit.

The extended door furniture range now offers complete door kits and knurled design handles as well as additional size Smartlatches — with trend-led finishes such as Matt Black and Antique Brass in stock.

The Jigtech line up now also comprises a number of FD30/60 fire rated products such as the brand's Cresta Door Handle on Rose and the Textura Door Handle on Rose. Designed with a split spindle for secure fitting to the door and sleeved bolt-through screws, their sleek and attractive appearance makes them an ideal choice as customers are not forced to choose between functionality and style. Also available are Smartlatch Passage Latches in both 45 mm and 57 mm buckets. When fitting the fire rated Smartlatches, the Jigtech Intumescent Kit must be used to ensure compliance with fire regulations.

Notably, each product is compatible with the Jigtech system installation kit comprising a Jigtech jig, 25 mm and 44 mm holesaw and arbors, 32 mm spade



bit, a latch tapper and keep locators, providing professional installers with all the essentials to install their products in under five minutes.

Kelly Wing at IronmongeryDirect said: "We are delighted to introduce these high quality and innovative products to our range from Jigtech, as they not only deliver on quality and appearance but can also significantly reduce labour and installation time for our trade customers."

IronmongeryDirect is believed to be the UK's leading online ironmongery specialist, with over 50 years of trusted experience and over 18,000 products in stock. Partnered with leading couriers, customers can order by 9 pm for next day delivery (4 pm on Saturdays) or choose Click & Collect from over 10,000 DPD parcel shops nationwide.

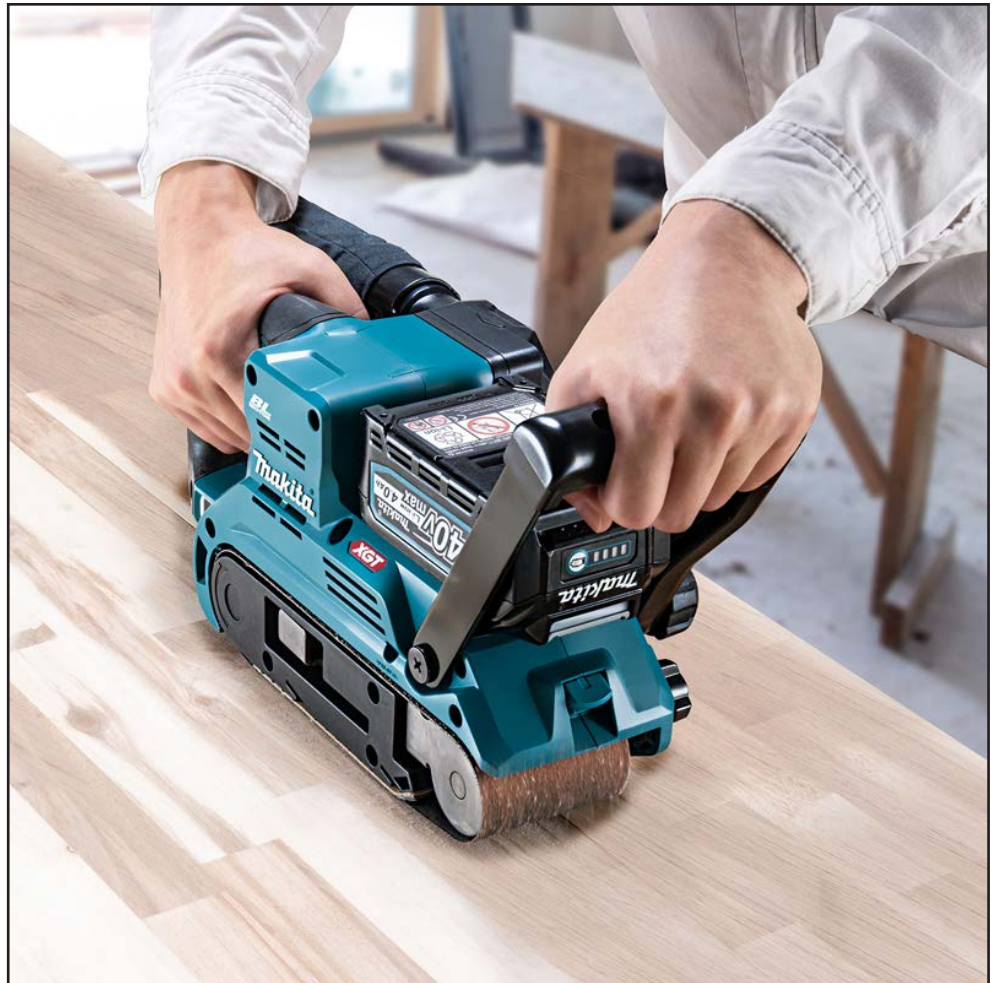
IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk/brands/jigtech

New 40VMax belt sander from Makita

MAKITA has expanded its range of high-powered 40VMax XGT tools with the addition of the BS001G cordless belt sander. The BS001G easily matches the performance of a corded version while providing greater convenience and boasting new features not seen on similar machines.

The BS001G has been designed for efficient sanding with a 76 x 533 mm sanding belt to make sanding large surfaces quicker and easier. The tool-less belt changing means it is simple to switch between sanding grades when moving from course to fine sanding tasks. The BS001G is comfortable to use horizontally or vertically depending on the task and has been engineered for an optimal weight balance to deliver even sanding. The sander has a variable speed control conveniently located beside the rear handle, allowing the user to select the required belt speed from 120 to 470 metres per minute (2.0 to 7.8 metres per second). There is also a lock on button for more comfortable use when sanding large areas.

The BS001G includes the option for use as a stationary bench sander due to the completely flat top of the housing. Using specially designed clamps available separately, the sander can be securely fitted upside down to a solid surface to act as a bench-top sander for smaller workpieces.



It is also easy to manage dust thanks to Makita's innovative Auto-Start Wireless System (AWS) technology built into the tool. This connects the sander to compatible dust extractors via Bluetooth to run the dust extractor automatically when the tool is in use, therefore streamlining the process.

The new sander also has the option to use the large on-tool dust bag, which includes an anti-drop feature. When used vertically, the newly designed lock mechanism prevents the dust bag dropping off under its own weight.

For ease of use, the BS001G has an adjustable front handle, with four positions from 30 degrees backward to 60 degrees forward. This allows the sander to be held in the most comfortable and effective position for the task at hand.

Moving the handle to the vertical or back position allows sanding up to walls or other vertical surfaces. The design of the BS001G also allows sanding flush to edges on the right side of the tool. Additionally, the sander has a LED work light, the angle of which can be adjusted to better illuminate the surface of the material.

Finally, for significantly extended run-times, the BS001G is compatible with the Makita PDC1200 or PDC1500 portable power packs. These backpack-mounted power sources feature 33Ah and 43Ah batteries respectively and can be used with a wide range of Makita's twin 18V (36V) LXT and 40VMax XGT tools.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK commented: "The BS001G is the ideal alternative to corded belt sanders as it matches or even surpasses the performance of similar mains-powered sanders. By removing the need for cables and improving dust management through the use of our AWS technology, the BS001G also makes work easier and safer."

Makita ● www.makitauk.com

New appointments at Wilsonart

WILSONART UK, a leading manufacturer and distributor of laminate surfaces, has announced two significant appointments as part of its strategy to prioritise consumer needs. Steve Fisher has been named product lead for the UK & Ireland, while Emma-Louise Braham has been appointed as junior product manager.

Steve brings a wealth of experience to Wilsonart, having spent 16 years at International Decorative Surfaces (IDS), most recently as product director. Meanwhile, Emma joins from Nobia with a decade of ex-

perience in product design and project management, to further strengthen the team.

Together, Steve and Emma will leverage their extensive expertise, including global product launches and market introductions, to create innovative designs across Wilsonart's portfolio of brands which include Bushboard and Wetwall. In her new role, Emma will focus on monitoring the evolution of product design across the home interiors market to stay ahead of trends, while Steve looks to develop innovative, market-driven products that cater to the diverse preferences of the market and buyers.

Commenting on his new role, Steve said, "My experience in the industry has given me the opportunity to oversee product streams from concept to completion. This hands-on approach has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of both the product and the market, which I'm eager to share with our customers. It's always been my goal to bring something new and inspiring to the market. Therefore, when it comes to product design, it's important to consider all angles and think about the wider needs of the market and buyers, as well as the business."

Emma expressed her enthusiasm, saying: "With the introduction of new technological advancements and prioritisation of sustainability, I'm eager to be a part of a company adopting production practices and design methodology that work towards minimising environmental impact. I'm thrilled to join these efforts and introduce innovative designs to the wider market."

These appointments mark a significant step for Wilsonart as it continues to innovate and adapt to the evolving needs of its consumers, ensuring that its products remain at the forefront of design and functionality.

Wilsonart UK ● www.wilsonart.co.uk



FIRA gold status for Wren bedroom installations

A LEADING UK kitchen and bedroom retailer, Wren, has officially acquired FIRA Gold status for its bedroom installations, as the company continues to expand its consumer offering.

With this announcement, Wren Kitchens & Bedrooms is believed to become the first UK retailer to hold seven different FIRA Gold accreditations across kitchens and bedrooms (retail and contracts), for both product and installation, further underlining the company's status in these sectors.

FIRA Gold Certification is a mark of genuine quality across the furniture industry, highlighting products and installation services which comply with all relevant legislation and meet high standards. This certification is only awarded after rigorous testing against specified performance indicators, backed by an ongoing audit and re-testing programme to ensure certification standards are continually met.

FIRA International Ltd is a market leader in testing, inspection and certification services, specialising in providing comprehensive assessments of products and services within the furniture industry.

Matt Weatherill, head of installations at Wren Contracts, said: "This latest achievement means that now both our kitchen and bedroom installation offerings are FIRA Gold certified, a first in the UK kitchen sector. It's a true testament to our commitment to driving change, delivering excellence and continuing to raise the bar for quality and service."

Howard James, technical manager at FIRA International Ltd, said: "We are delighted to recognise Wren Kitchens and Bedrooms as the first UK manufacturer to achieve seven FIRA Gold accreditations across the retail and contract areas of their organisation."

"This outstanding achievement is a testament to their commitment to the quality of both product and installation performance. Such an achievement demonstrates Wren's leadership and dedication to delivering the highest standards to their customers."

Wren ● Wrenkitchens.com



FLEX power tools in Crown Decorating Centres



FLEX, an award-winning power tool manufacturer trusted by professionals throughout Europe and North America, has launched in a network of Crown Decorating Centres across the UK, and online. The collaboration with Crown Decorating Centres underscores a continued commitment to the UK market by FLEX Power Tools, making its extensive range of products available to a wider audience.

With a total of 140 sites nationwide, Crown Decorating Centres are a market leader for trade professionals, stocking a comprehensive range of professional and DIY paints, primers and decorating accessories, for interior and exterior use.

A network of 30 Crown Decorating Centres will stock five dry wall and decorating power tools from FLEX, and abrasives, from the comprehensive FLEX Power Tools catalogue. A more extensive range of FLEX products will be available online via the Crown Decorating Centres website.

Leading the charge is the GE 6 R carbon composite wall and ceiling sander, the lightest Giraffe of all time from FLEX. Making easy work of even the toughest sanding tasks, the lightweight GE 6 R has been developed by professionals to guarantee perfect results.

In addition, a range of three corded FLEX sanders will be offered at the selected Crown Decorating Centres (ORE 5-150, OSE 2-80 and ODE 100). For flawless surfaces on every project, the random orbit, delta and orbital sander are powerful, innovative and durable machines, featuring brushless motors with variable speeds and vibration-free running.

Thanks to an integrated extraction system for a low-dust working environment, every FLEX sander can also be mated to a FLEX or workshop vacuum. The VCE 26 L MC safety vacuum cleaner will also be available to Crown Decorating Centre customers. It features a manual filter cleaning system and 25-litre capacity.

Handy and compact, this vacuum cleaner is easy to use and transport. Its high-performance turbine ensures high suction capacity and excellent extraction results, with wet and dry suction functions.

To mark the start of the milestone relationship between FLEX and Crown Decorating Centres, representatives from FLEX attended the Crown Commercial Briefing.

The event introduced key Crown stakeholders, including managing director Naiem Wafa, and store managers from the around the UK, to the FLEX brand and its innovative range of products. Attendees gained insight into the cutting edge FLEX merchandising solution, which features dynamic QR code integration so that customer can scan while they shop. A more formal launch took place at the Crown National Conference on 14th January 2025, with the roll out of FLEX products following in February 2025.

Benjamin Warcup, managing director FLEX (UK), said: "The partnership between FLEX and Crown Decorating Centres represents an important step as FLEX continues to expand its presence in the UK. FLEX remains a key player with trade professionals and DIY enthusiasts throughout Europe and North America, following massive investment, including the introduction of a UK warehouse and domestic warranty and service support, more and more UK customers are discovering the award-winning premium power tools and accessories from FLEX."

Danny Griffiths, buying manager, Crown Decorating Centres added: "We're thrilled to have FLEX in store and online in 2025. It's all part of Crown's mission to continue to raise the bar for painters, decorators and dry wall professionals."

FLEX Tools UK ● www.flex-tools.com/en-gb
Crown Decorating Centres ● www.crowndecoratingcentres.co.uk

MKM opens four new branches

MKM Building Supplies (MKM), a UK independent builder's merchant, continues its growth plans with the opening of four new branches in February 2025.

The openings in Plymouth, Bridgend, Bangor, and Cheltenham will create 74 new jobs and reinforce MKM's commitment to customer service, community engagement, and sustainability.

Each new branch is designed to serve its local area with a comprehensive product offering, a customer-first approach, and a deep-rooted connection to the community.

The new sites will feature state-of-the-art kitchen and bathroom showrooms, expert-led landscaping displays, and a commitment to stocking leading national brands, ensuring both trade professionals and the public have access to the best products and advice.

Each branch will provide free, local next-day delivery and same-day delivery where possible. Trade customers can also expect trade rewards schemes, consistent pricing, and flexible 60-day credit accounts. And, of course, good, free hot drinks — an MKM staple.

MKM Plymouth, believed to be the first new builders' merchant in the city for over two decades, is led by branch directors Mike Kerslake and Simon Channings, both lifelong Plymouth residents. The branch has already pledged sup-

port for Plymouth Argyle Community Trust as its charity partner, alongside grassroots teams including Parkway FC and Tamar Saracens. With a 16,000-square-foot drive-thru timber facility, MKM Plymouth offers convenience for trade customers, alongside top brands such as Kingspan, Velux, Symphony Kitchens, and DeWalt.

Simon said: "Plymouth has been ready for a fresh approach to builders' merchants, and we're delivering just that. Whether you're a trade professional or tackling a DIY project, we're here to support you."

MKM Bridgend brings 18 new jobs to the area and is led by branch directors Shaun Cox and Jonathan Thomas, who together have over 80 years of experience in the trade.

With a strong focus on community support, the branch has already pledged partnerships with Prostate Cymru, Sandville, and The OddBalls Foundation.

Customers can expect an extensive selection of building materials, including specialist plumbing and heating products, and trusted brands like Actis, Kingspan, and Siniat.

Shaun said: "We're not just here to sell materials; we're here to build relationships, support local initiatives, and set the benchmark for customer service in Bridgend."

MKM Bangor is creating 21 new



jobs for North Wales, marking a milestone for Parc Bryn Cegin, a site that has remained vacant for over 20 years.

Branch director Paul Painter leads the branch with over 25 years of experience in the building and housing industries ensuring the branch is built around both trade and public needs.

The branch is proud to support local suppliers such as Welsh Slate and Mona Precast, providing a dual language offering to reflect the local community.

Paul said: "We are more than just a builder's merchant — we're part of Bangor's story. From creating jobs to supporting Maes G Showzone and other initiatives aimed at improving opportunities for young people."

MKM Cheltenham is believed

to be the first MKM branch to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating, setting a new benchmark for sustainability with Solar PV panels, air-source heat pump and MVHR system, electric vehicle chargers, and 100% LED lighting.

Creating 17 new jobs, the branch is led by branch directors Dave McCombie and Jamie Cole, both with nearly two decades of experience in the industry.

The team has already pledged support for local food banks, Men's Shed, and Saracens U18s football club.

Jamie said: "We want to bring back the feel-good factor to the building trade, offering a level of service that national merchants have lost touch with. Cheltenham deserves a merchant that truly cares about its customers and community."

MKM's expansion reflects its ongoing investment in people, sustainability, and innovation. The Cheltenham branch's BREEAM-certified facilities highlight MKM's commitment to reducing its environmental impact, while the Bangor branch's support for Welsh-speaking customers and local suppliers reinforces its focus on regional identity.

MKM's community-first approach is evident across all four new locations, with each branch pledging support for charities, grassroots sports teams, and local initiatives. With tailored stock offerings, state-of-the-art facilities, and expert customer service, these new branches will provide builders, tradespeople, and homeowners with everything they need to bring their projects to life.

MKM

<https://mkm.com>



Selco delivers for Coventry scout group

ONE of Coventry's longest standing scout groups is undertaking a major refurbishment of its hut after more than 60 years in its current premises.

The 74th Coventry (Whitley) group has started work on the project to modernise the facilities at its base off Abbey Road — and has now received the backing of one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

The Coventry branch of Selco Builders Warehouse has donated £1,000 worth of building materials to the group which has 65 young people attending four groups each week.

On top of that and to cement its support for the group, a team of 10 volunteers from Selco also visited the scout hut for a day to support with the ongoing works by building decking and two sheds.

Simon Caughey-Rogers, lead volunteer for 74th Coventry, said: "The scout group has been going since 1943 and we have been in our current hut since the 1960s.

"Inevitably over that time, the

condition of the building has deteriorated and we need to carry out changes to make our facilities suitable for 21st century scouting.

"A couple of years ago, one of our leaders — Stanley Visley — sadly passed away and he left a small amount of money to the scout group which made the renovations something we could think about doing.

"We do, however, still need support from the community and the backing from Selco makes an absolutely massive difference.

"We are so grateful for the materials they have provided and then to have members of the team come down to volunteer was truly a fantastic gesture.

"Amongst the improvements we are making are building a new camp fire area, upgrading the storage areas so that we keep the kit we have in good condition and making the toilets accessible to all. It's a big project but will enable us to future-proof the scout group for many years to come."

The 74th Coventry group in-

cludes Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, as well as playing host to the Godiva Explorers, and hosts meetings on three different nights each week.

Matt Hunt, branch manager of Selco Coventry which is based on Austin Drive, said: "We are delighted to be supporting the 74th Coventry group.

"It provides a fantastic service for the young people in and around Coventry and supporting its quest to create a new hut is something we are very proud to be a part of.

"Any initiative which helps secure the long-term future of community organisations such as scout groups is something we see as vitally important.

"We were determined to support the group with materials and it was also fantastic that members of the team from the branch joined forces with our colleagues from marketing to put in a hard day's volunteering to support the ongoing development of the hut."

Selco
www.selcobw.com



Selco volunteers at the scout hut.

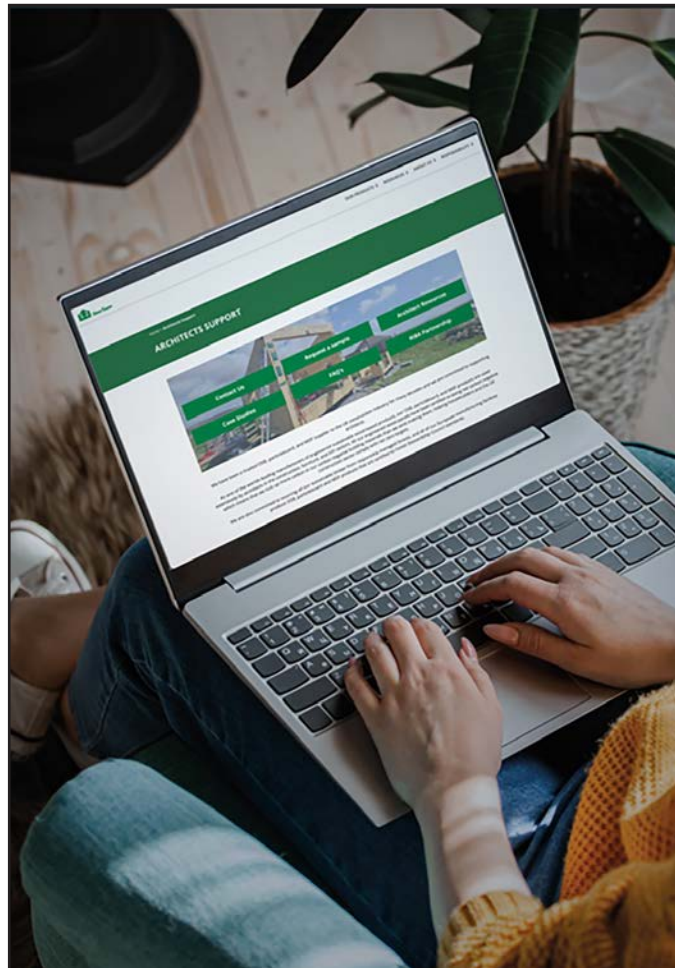
West Fraser's new Architects' Support page

THE INTEREST from architects in West Fraser products, and the company's environmental credentials, has led to the development of a new architect-specific hub — <https://uk.westfraser.com/resources/architect-support/>. The page provides tailored information such as CPDs, downloadable product datasheets and BIM objects while the architect can also order product samples. The page is easily navigated, and provides a space for many architect-specific FAQs.

As one of the world's leading manufacturers of engineered wood-based panel products, West Fraser's OSB, particleboard and MDF products are used extensively by architects. Crucially, all West Fraser's engineered wood panels have been certified as being net carbon negative which means that they lock up more carbon in the products than is emitted making them, helping the UK construction sector comply with net zero targets. The company is also committed to sourcing all timber from responsibly managed forests, and the European manufacturing facilities manufacture products that are certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards.

In addition, the popular RIBA J SterlingOSB Zero annual competition has a dedicated link. The competition, which is celebrating its ten-year anniversary, with a different brief each year, has been hotly contested by some of the industry's most creative architectural practices, all vying to win the top prize of £2,500.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● Uk.westfraser.com



Altendorf: “Brand of the Century”

ALTENDORF from Minden is a global market leader in the manufacture of premium sliding table saws. The Altendorf Group is delighted to have been honored with the prestigious title of “Brand of the Century” at a book launch ceremony for this award.

This prestigious award is presented by Studio ZX, the brand studio of the ZEIT publishing group, and recognizes outstanding German companies that stand out through innovation, consistency and sustainability.

With its premium sliding table saws, Altendorf stands for the highest quality, safety and technical excellence worldwide. With this award, Altendorf joins the ranks of leading German brands that set standards in their respective product categories. Other award winners include well-known companies such as Melitta, Faber-Castell and ARAL.

Symbol for vision and transformation

A central theme of this year's edition of the “Brands of the Century” is the concept of transformation. Iliane Weiss, managing director of Studio ZX, emphasizes: “The ‘Brands of the Century’ are a symbol of entrepreneurial vision, sustainable values and the will to change. They recognize companies that are not only successful, but also have the courage to set new standards.”



Left to right: Christian Depping, Hagen Hille (both Altendorf), Florian Langenscheidt.

Peter Schwenk, CEO of the Altendorf Group, adds: “Our inclusion in this book and the honor of being named ‘Brand of the Century’ is impressive proof of our commitment to developing innovative and sustainable solutions for our customers worldwide. This recognition is a motivation to further expand our global leadership and pioneering position in the industry.”

Many years of excellence and global market leadership

In addition to many technological

innovations in the past, Altendorf has once again demonstrated its innovative strength with the development of the globally unique HAND GUARD sliding table saw with AI-based safety assistance system. HAND GUARD is not only certified by German health safety authorities, but also sets new standards in the processing of wood, metal, plastic and other materials. HAND GUARD helps to prevent accidents in connection with sliding table saws worldwide. This development underlines the company's commitment to driving technological progress and the safety of its customers worldwide.

Versatile presentation of the award winners

The “Brands of the Century” are presented in a high-quality book, which was presented at a celebratory book launch at the Hotel Adlon in Berlin. Christian Depping, head of purchase, and Hagen Hille, head of operations, accepted the award on behalf of the company from Florian Langenscheidt. Altendorf is proud to be represented in this book together with many well-known global companies.

About Altendorf and the Altendorf Group

Altendorf is the global market leader in the manufacture of premium sliding table saws and is one of the hidden champions of

the German SME sector. The company was founded in 1906 and has a strong brand awareness worldwide. Its most successful product is the F 45 sliding table saw, also known as “The Altendorf”. It is internationally synonymous with the sliding table saw product category. The latest innovation is HAND GUARD. A globally unique early detection system with two cameras that helps to protect people, machines and materials. Together with the company Hebrock with its high-quality edge banding machines, Altendorf has been part of the Altendorf Group since 2018. With subsidiaries in Australia, China, India and the USA, the group employs around 400 people worldwide.

About Studio ZX

Studio ZX is the brand studio of the ZEIT publishing group and is known for its creative and informative presentation of brands and their stories. With projects such as “Brands of the Century”, Studio ZX sets standards in the appreciation of entrepreneurial vision and innovative strength. The studio's publications include high-quality books, digital media, podcasts and other formats that focus on inspiring success stories. Studio ZX works closely with leading design agencies and industry experts to make the transformation and success of brands visible.

Altendorf
www.altendorfgroup.com



Radii Planet Group adopts new AI-powered Interpon service to enhance coating line efficiency



RADII Planet Group, one of the foremost global manufacturers of aluminum partitions, knows that small, incremental improvements to its powder coating line can add up to a significant competitive advantage.

It's why for the last four years it has sought the technical knowledge, service support and product knowhow of the Interpon team at AkzoNobel Powder Coatings to make the 'best' even better, further improving the quality of its products while reducing reject rates, minimising waste, and contributing to a more sustainable operation.

It's also why Radii Planet Group became an early adopter of Flightpath Pro, a software developed by coatingAI in close partnership with AkzoNobel Powder Coatings, that enables a more uniform, consistent coating to be achieved during powder application, accommodating variabilities in spray pattern caused by distance, reciprocator speed and powder type.

Alex Vlase, production manager at Radii Planet Group says that Flightpath Pro was especially useful in validating the coating line performance: "Whilst we knew our process was good, we are always looking at ways of making it better through continuous improvement. Having Interpon team use this software as part of our periodic health checks was part of this activity."

It was an exercise well worth undertaking; in trials, Radii Planet Group was able to improve uniformity by a further 9.3%, and cut powder waste by more than 6.0%, reducing the likelihood of products needing to be reworked or rejected with the inherent benefits of improved sustainability and cost efficiency.

The decision by the firm to build its own powder coating line in 2021 and bring the process in-house was a major step forward. With a fully automatic, continuous coating line, the firm can coat around 6,000 pieces every week. Providing the benchmark 'standard' powder coating in the volumes required is AkzoNobel.

Fraser Green, division director, had previous insight of AkzoNobel's technical knowledge: "I had worked with the Interpon team before in validating the technical performance of a particular coating in a corrosive environment," he explains, "and found them very easy to deal with."

"Their technical service, combined with the accessibility and availabil-

ity of their products, and in the more popular colors and finishes that our customers are looking for, made them an obvious choice. The strength of the Interpon brand, which is very well recognized among architects, was also important to us in delivering customer confidence."

AkzoNobel provides Radii Planet Group with a broad range of powder coatings from its architectural portfolio: this includes but is not restricted to its durable Interpon D1036 and superdurable Interpon D2525. It also includes the Interpon Futura collection and Precis Ultra Matt, and many other colors and finishes to ensure designers and architects are always on trend. It similarly takes advantage of Interpon's color matching service, if there is a particular colour or finish that its customers are seeking.

"We have our more popular colours such as RAL 9005 jet black," Fraser continues, "and that probably accounts for up to 30% of what we manufacture. Knowing that we can provide virtually any colour, and in almost any texture or finish, however, is a major advantage."

Introducing a new colour or finish onto the line is made easier by the close attention paid by the Interpon team: "They provide us with a good level of information so we can understand the product, and then support us with recommending machine parameters to ensure a consistent, uniform finish or finding a fix to any problem we might face," Alex adds.

Fraser says that when it comes to product performance, durability and consistency is also key: "Our partitions are installed internally and can come under a high level of scrutiny by the end user so having a consistent and quality finish is important."

Another advantage to using Interpon D is that they are backed by an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). This means the raw materials, manufacture and transportation associated with creating the powder coatings have been assessed by an independent third-party for transparent sustainability credentials.

"This is critical," Fraser concludes. "Sustainability has become increasingly important in recent years and was another reason for choosing Interpon. It has made it easier to integrate its products into our own sustainability program."

Interpon ● www.interpon.com/gb/en/

IronmongeryDirect raised over £6,000 for charities in 2024

AS PART of its ongoing commitment to give back to the community in which it works, staff at leading specialist supplier IronmongeryDirect have raised over £6,000 in 2024, to support a number of local and national charities, including Basildon Mind and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Employees at the Essex-based company took part in fundraising, giving, and volunteering activities across the year to support the worthy causes that had been nominated by the WOW Team at IronmongeryDirect.

The WOW Team comprises a group of employees who represent each department and work together to organise company and charity events. As the voice for all staff across the business, the team selected a range of local and national causes to support over the course of the year. Basildon Mind, Basildon Food Bank, St Luke's Hospice, and Wat Tyler Country Park in Basildon were all recognised as part of the company's mission to help local causes, as well as the Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan Cancer Support.

By hosting various fundraising activities, which included an employee Christmas raffle, and a charity bake sale, the company raised a combined total of £6,575 for the charities during 2024.

Additional activities included over 30 employees spending six hours volunteering at Wat Tyler Country Park to undertake litter picking and grounds maintenance. Plus, a donation of 60 kg worth of food and toiletries to Basildon Food Bank to aid people in crisis.

A key fundraising highlight of the year was hosting the UK's first ever inter-trade football tournament held at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge, which saw 50 tradespeople from different sectors compete in 'Match for the Mind'. Organised by IronmongeryDirect, the event, which coincided with Mental Health Awareness Week, raised over £4,000 alone for Mind, the national mental health charity.

Jayke Ingram, HR business partner and chairperson of the WOW Team at IronmongeryDirect commented, "We are delighted to have raised over £6,000 to help support these brilliant organisations and the valuable work they do."

"A huge thank you goes out to all the IronmongeryDirect staff for their efforts throughout the year, in raising this fantastic sum of money, and donating their time to these causes."

Jayke continued, "Giving back to the community is integral to who we are as a business, and we are very proud to be able to contribute in this way and look forward to doing even more in 2025".

IronmongeryDirect is a leading UK online ironmongery specialist, with over 50 years of trusted experience and over 18,000 products in stock. Partnered with leading couriers, customers can order by 9 pm for next day delivery (4 pm on Saturdays) or choose Click & Collect from over 10,000 DPD parcel shops nationwide.

IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



Community skatepark ramping up facilities

A BIRMINGHAM DIY skate park is expanding to make its facilities more accessible to a larger section of the local community — thanks to the help of a leading builders merchant.

Based in Selly Oak, Bournbrook DIY Skate Park was the first facility of its kind to be officially opened by a council in the UK and is now set to increase its number of ramps and features to make its facilities more suitable for learners looking to take up

the sport for the first time. The Stirchley branch of Selco Builders Warehouse, based on Charlotte Road, has donated bricks, cement and other materials which will be used to help provide additional ramps, banks and obstacles for skateboarders just taking up the sport to enjoy.

Berni Good, director of Birmingham Skate Spaces, a Community Interest Company which created the facility, said: "Since we opened in 2021, Selco has been

one of our largest and most consistent supporters.

"This is the third time that we have received materials from Selco and each time they have helped us take the skate park to the next level.

"Our main priority in the short term is to build an extension to the skatepark to help ensure we are able to accommodate people just starting out on their skateboarding journey, as well as those who have great experience and ability.

"We will be installing two further ramps and features to add to what we already have to increase our offering to the Birmingham skateboarding community.

"Now skateboarding is an Olympic sport, there has been a surge in interest and we want to do everything we can to encourage people to participate.

"So much of what we have achieved would not have been possible without the support of Selco's donations. We will be forever grateful as funding is very difficult to secure."

Selco has five branches around Birmingham, with the others based in Perry Barr, Tyseley, Tyburn and Solihull.

Michael Mushen, branch manager of Selco Stirchley, said: "We have formed a close relationship with Berni and the Birmingham Skate Spaces team and it's been fantastic to watch — and support — their progress.

"This latest donation will help the skate park continue to serve as a fantastic facility for the whole of Birmingham and will attract more skateboarders than ever before.

"We are delighted to support a free-to-access outdoor facility that enables people to learn a new activity in a safe location and be part of a thriving and growing community."

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



IronmongeryDirect donates to hospice

IRONMONGERYDIRECT has raised £1,545 for St. Luke's Hospice in Basildon through its Christmas employee raffle, with prizes donated from some of the company's valued suppliers.

St. Luke's Hospice, located nearby to IronmongeryDirect, is a charity providing compassionate palliative and end of life care to people whose illnesses are no longer curable, as well as providing support to family and friends of those living with a life limiting illness. By hosting the recent Christmas employee raffle, IronmongeryDirect raised a total of £1,545 for the charity.

The charity was selected by the WOW Team, which comprises of a group of employees who represent each department and work together to organise company and charity events.

Jayke Ingram, HR business partner and chairperson of the WOW Team at IronmongeryDirect commented: "We are all so proud to contribute to such an important charity in our local community.

"The funds raised will go towards helping St. Luke's Hospice to maintain its vital services, providing people and their families with much needed support."

Leanne Stewart, corporate fundraising officer at St Luke's Hospice commented "Every penny raised will go towards supporting local people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families, when they need us most.

"We rely on the support from our local community to help fund our services across

Basildon, Thurrock, and the surrounding areas. Thanks to the generosity of companies like IronmongeryDirect, we can continue to provide specialist palliative and end of life care."

IronmongeryDirect is a leading UK online ironmongery specialist, with more than 50 years of trusted experience and over 18,000 products in stock.

IronmongeryDirect ● www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



Warrington school surprised with £10k prize in national competition



From left to right: Laura Simms, Rachael Penn and Lucinda Duffy from Fantastic Fox Wood School with Selco Builders Warehouse's David Lennon and Paul Asquith and some of the school's pupils.

A SCHOOL in Warrington is set to buy specialist wheelchair-friendly play equipment for its disabled pupils after winning top prize in a national competition.

Fox Wood Special School successfully scooped the jackpot after securing the most votes from the public in Selco Builders Warehouse's Community Heroes competition.

There was more good news for the school, based on Holes Lane in Woolston, when Selco surprisingly announced the prize money had been doubled from £5,000 to £10,000.

Fox Wood Special School caters for children with complex learning needs, giving them meaningful and exciting opportunities to improve their day-to-day lives and their mental health.

"We just couldn't believe it when Selco turned up at the school and told us we had won £10,000," said Rachael Penn, PTA

chair at Fox Wood. "To come first up against some other fantastic good causes was exciting enough, but now we are ecstatic."

"This money will make such a big difference to our pupils who use wheelchairs. They will get so much enjoyment from the new equipment, including a wheelchair swing and a wheelchair trampoline."

"We will also be able to make the whole play area wheelchair accessible. School budgets just don't stretch to things like that so it means a lot to us and Selco's donation is helping make the dream become reality."

Selco invited organisations, schools and charities to enter its Community Heroes initiative, which had a total prize pot worth £21,000.

More than 2,000 groups put themselves forward, with 12 finalists selected over the course of six months, each winning £500 of building materials from their

nearest Selco. The dozen finalists went before a public vote to decide the winners. Fox Wood Special School secured more than a quarter of the 9,000 plus votes.

Rachael added: "The whole Community Heroes experience has been an incredible journey. We will be eternally grateful to Selco for what they have done for our community and to all the people who voted for us to win."

St Christopher's Hospice in London finished a close second — and its prize was also boosted from £1,000 to £5,000.

David Lennon, Commercial Director at Selco which has a branch on Milner Street in Warrington, said: "It was fantastic to visit Fox Wood School and announce we were going to significantly increase their prize money."

"It was a brilliant moment and it was great to hear what a huge difference the donation will make to the school and its pupils."

"Community Heroes is our flag-

ship initiative for charities and community groups or organisations that always captures the imagination.

"We are proud to be able to demonstrate our commitment to supporting good causes right across the country at a time when, for many, the need is so great."

"We look forward to launching Community Heroes 2025 shortly."

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

Selco
www.selcobw.com

Why 'Zero' is a Plus for West Fraser's SterlingOSB

THE UK government classified formaldehyde as a carcinogen in 2016, prompting industry to observe restrictions on its use, and West Fraser is one company that has gone above and beyond to reduce the chemical compound's impact on the built environment and building occupants, who cannot normally know it is present.

Anomalies regarding its use remain, such as the 'caged salmon industry' being permitted to employ the chemical as a disinfectant. It was also once favoured in the NHS for sterilising soft instruments such as arthroscopes. Statistics for formaldehyde's full impact on health outcomes are unclear, but caution is definitely the wise option.

This is because we do know of formaldehyde's dangers not only as a carcinogen, but an acute respiratory irritant and being highly corrosive to skin. In the home, it has long been found in materials like plywood, panelling, adhesives and foam insulation. Surprisingly, shampoo, skin lotions, and even baby washing products have been shown to contain it; while the emissions from gas hobs, fabrics and floorcoverings all emit it.

It is inevitable that particleboard and plywood are listed as in fact, formaldehyde occurs naturally in trees: so, there is no such thing as formaldehyde-free wood products. The crucial issue is what the concentration rises to when wood is processed.

Currently, the HSE directs that the workplace exposure limit (WEL) for formal-

dehyde should not exceed two parts per million (2.0 ppm) as a time weighted average over an eight-hour period. Beloved as a symbol of the English countryside, an oak tree, emits just 0.009 parts per million (ppm) of formaldehyde in its natural form.

Unfortunately, the amount of formaldehyde present increases during the processing of wood into wood-based panels — unless, that is, they are sourced from West Fraser, as a specialist which has developed a methodology which results in there being no added formaldehyde introduced during the manufacturing process. And it is this fact which enables the company to claim that it produces "the only UK-manufactured OSB With Zero-Added Formaldehyde."

Hence, we see panel products with appellatives such as SterlingOSB Zero, SterlingOSB Zero OSB3, SterlingOSB Zero Tongue & Groove, and SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus being utilised across construction, including by housebuilding, commercial development and by offsite specialists as well as fabricators generally. So, it makes sense when one sees all the everyday fixtures and fittings within the buildings where we live and work, containing elevated amounts of formaldehyde, to take the opportunity to minimize its presence wherever possible. And an opportunity to do this is by specifying panels with the lowest of emissions.

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812921

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



SterlingOSB Zero engineers out carbon

STERLINGOSB Zero, from timber panel specialist West Fraser, represents a choice of precision-engineered square edge or tongue & groove boards which are selected for applications such as flooring, roofing and offsite cassette or timber frame manufacturing; for practical and economic reasons. Additionally, although the 'Zero' in the name refers to there being no added formaldehyde in the formulation, it also resonates with the brand's potential to help combat global warming.

Interestingly, although formaldehyde is not itself a major greenhouse gas, it can indirectly contribute to climate change by reacting in the atmosphere to form compounds that have climate-related effects; as well as having a detrimental effect on the health of building occupants. Yet, the environmental benefits to SterlingOSB Zero are much broader.

While its burgeoning popularity can be attributed to an array of technical benefits, in these days of heightened environmental awareness and the push to achieve Net Zero, SterlingOSB Zero can also assist the construction industry to cut carbon emissions. The board is primarily manufactured from a natural product which in itself locks in CO₂ from the atmosphere, with round wood sourced as sawmill residues and co-products in the form of peeled chips. The traditional alternative, plywood, requires the peeling of much larger tree trunks taking longer to grow.

West Fraser, furthermore, ensures that all of its wood fibre is sourced from responsibly managed forests via stringent due diligence assessment, carrying chain of custody meaning stocks are conserved by replanting and carefully planned cropping.

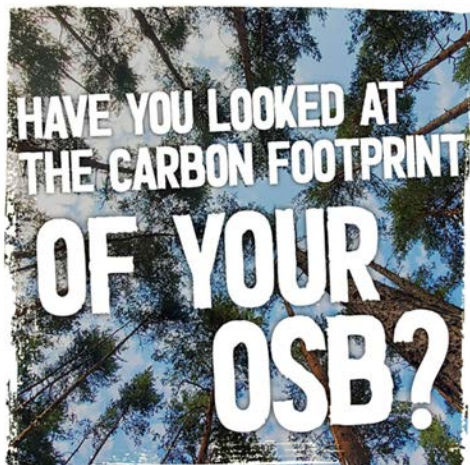
West Fraser is also investing heavily in a new rail head for its Inverness plant and buys only renewable electricity for the site and has switched from gas power to biomass for its drying process. Across the group, ESG commitments are being delivered, and Inverness is on course to attain its 2030 targets next year.

After leaving the factory gates, because SterlingOSB Zero is precision-made, there is less waste on building sites or in MMC fabrication, and the associated costs of disposal to landfill are significantly mitigated. Contractors also report lower waste in handling because SterlingOSB Zero is more resilient to damage than rival products and is much easier to align when used for tasks like sheathing or laying floors. The accuracy of manufacture is especially good for producing SIPs panels with no need to "size" boards in the factory or suffer misalignment during installation.

David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser, concludes: "Environmentally, we are delivering on many fronts; not only helping to lock carbon into well-engineered, low-maintenance, high-efficiency sustainable panel products like SterlingOSB Zero, but we are doing so in a way which is supporting forestry and wider ecological efforts. Across Europe, the company's target is to become carbon negative by 2030. It is currently on track to have achieved a 56% reduction by 2025 against a 2019 baseline. A major contributor to this has been to construct the new Inverness plant without fossil fuel sources; instead burning biomass and switching to electric fork-lift trucks along with other changes."

West Fraser • 01786 812921

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



SAVE ENERGY REDUCE COSTS



In many manufacturing facilities, extraction fans operate continuously, at full power, throughout the working day.

Even when some machines are not in use, and often during factory breaks, the powerful, energy-consuming fans continue to run at full speed – wasting valuable energy... and money!

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BSW Group strengthens 2025 position with major investments and sustainability progress



BSW Group, a leading UK integrated forestry and timber business, is enhancing its commitment to the UK timber industry, having made several investments throughout 2024 towards operations across the group, while making key strides in sustainable practices.

Owned by Binderholz GmbH, BSW Group is starting the new year in a strong position and has further investments and projects planned throughout 2025. All of this continues to cement the company as a market leader, while the wider industry continues to recover from the unprecedented challenges of the past few

years. A snapshot of just some of the activity across BSW Group can be found below.

Melton investment and expansion

In December, BSW announced that it will be investing significantly in its BSW Timber Solutions and Bayram Timber sites in Melton, near Hull, where it will be expanding production operations and enhancing IT infrastructure. Following recent investments in a new automated crosscutting line, BSW will now be expanding into a third Melton site, where a new 100,000 m³ capacity per annum treatment tank will be located. The investment into this addition-

al site, along with improvements to IT operating platforms, will create a significantly enhanced offering for BSW's existing and potential customer base.

Sustainable business practices

As a fully integrated business with a hand in every step of the forestry and timber production process, BSW is uniquely placed to create systems and efficiencies that make the most of every natural resource, piece of machinery and co-product.

A great example of this is Scott Pallets' pressboard product, launched last year. Not only does it minimise waste by utilising saw-

dust and recycled wood chips, but the lightweight, stackable pallets are also more space-efficient and environmentally friendly than traditional pallets. They have seen great success, being used by major global brands such as Bosch and Siemens.

Scott Pallets' partnership with Mowi, a world leading seafood company, offers another example. A new pallet production line was installed at BSW Timber's Fort William site to produce pallets specifically for Mowi's operations, using locally grown timber and significantly reducing transportation needs. This collaborative effort will save an estimated 43 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually — equivalent to 290 miles of transport per load of pallets.

The Pallet LOOP

The Pallet LOOP, BSW Group's circular economy reuse scheme for pallets in the construction sector, has made impressive progress in its first year. With over 450,000 of the distinctive green pallets issued and financial incentives of up to £4 per pallet returned, the scheme has already paid out £150,000 to participants and saved businesses up to £800,000 in waste disposal costs.

Through The Pallet LOOP, companies can claim a share of



a whopping £1.5 million+ and industry-leading companies like Saint Gobain and British Gypsum are making wide use of the scheme.

Forests With Impact Partnership

In 2024, BSW Group announced its partnership with Forests With Impact, a social enterprise establishing commercial tree nurseries in prisons. These nurseries provide vital skills in horticulture, nursery management, and environmental conservation, while contributing to the UK's biodiversity and tree-planting targets.

Maelor Forest Nurseries played a critical role in the initiative by helping to establish the first polytunnel (vital for creating the ideal growing con-



ditions or young plants) at HMP Haverigg, which has already

produced 250,000 saplings. The programme's success has set the stage for large-scale expansion in the coming years.

Improving workplace certification and fleet investment

BSW Timber was awarded ISO 45001 and ISO 14001 certifications, joining its existing ISO 9001 standard. These certifications reflect BSW's dedication to workplace safety, risk reduction, and environmental management. The recognition follows a Gold Award at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Health and Safety Awards, cele-

brating BSW's commitment to creating safer working environments.

Tilhill Harvesting (previously known as Dick Brothers) has also seen huge investment in its fleet, now consisting of 84 machines, including harvesters, forwarders, excavators, traction winches and skyline winches.

To ensure safety and efficiency, these machines are replenished every 5-6 years. Tilhill Harvesting will also roll out in-house training over 2025 to make sure this growing fleet has a continuous supply of expert operators.

Celebrating 50 Years at Fort William Sawmill

Finally, 2024 saw BSW Timber's Fort William Sawmill celebrate 50 years of operations. Opened in 1974 by King Charles (then Prince Charles), the sawmill has grown to become a vital part of the local economy, employing over 200 people and processing 500,000 m³ of timber annually. Over the decades, BSW has invested in the site's infrastructure, including the construction of a second sawmill, K2, in 2013, which doubled the facility's capacity.

Alan Milne, Chief Financial Officer at BSW Group, said: "We are delighted to be starting the year in such a strong position. We have been able to make the right investments to strengthen our leading position and ensure a bright future for the group."

"We're particularly pleased to have integrated a number of subsidiary businesses and welcomed others. We'll continue to invest in initiatives that give us longevity and stability, while improving sustainability, driving innovation and creating value."

BSW Group
www.thebswgroup.co.uk



Lower air leakage performance sees “Natural-SIP” specialist warm to SterlingOSB Zero



A CUSTOM housebuilder, whose focus is on achieving excellent energy performance coupled with high environmental standards, has adopted the use of SterlingOSB Zero from the range of West Fraser, in particular favouring the well proven panel product's superior standards of airtightness. Makar Ltd designs and manufactures a range of affordable homes, one off exemplar homes and commercial properties.

Established at Clachandreggy near Inverness in 2002, Makar Ltd has delivered an average of one property a month over the past two decades, concentrating on exceeding the requirements of the Building Standards (Scotland) as well as meeting all clients' aspirations for style and comfort, achieving this through the use of innovative off-site construction methods. Creating homes that are healthy to live in and good for the environment is an ethos for which SterlingOSB Zero is ideally suited, given its use of responsibly sourced timber and featuring zero added formaldehyde.

As Makar's Scott Reid commented: "Instead of a standard SIP panel which is filled with polyurethane foam insulation, we employ the 11 mm SterlingOSB Zero as a lining to the inside face of the 220 mm wall structure to provide racking, retain the Warmcel insulation and provide airtightness. Significantly, we ran independent 'blind' testing comparing the SterlingOSB Zero to one of its European made competitors and it came out as showing a variance of 20%. Both the dimensional accuracy of the boards and their actual structure contribute to our achieving a figure of 0.6 (M³/m²/hr) which is in line with PassivHaus standards. Then we add a 40 mm wood fibreboard externally, plus on the roof there is a 245 mm rafter depth with two layers of the wood fibre with multiple covering solutions available."

West Fraser's renowned SterlingOSB Zero boards appear again as part of the build-up for the intermediate floors, where the 18 mm thick version is installed to offer a working platform for the duration of the build phase, as well as providing racking strength to the structure overall. This deck is then normally covered by a hardwood flooring overlay.

Scott continued: "It is one of the key selling points to our system that the selection of materials serves to control moisture movement across the fabric of the building.

"We don't use any plastics in our buildings and the SterlingOSB Zero is therefore acting as a partial vapour barrier — and we use a condensation risk analysis. This demonstrates how the moisture can move through the fabric and be expelled.

"Then for the past ten years, there has been MVHR* in place to provide tempered fresh air to the occupants." (* MVHR Mechanical Ventilation & Heat Recovery).

Makar has found a formula which is resonating with a widening customer base, as Scott concluded: "We are set up to deliver 12 custom designed homes or commercial properties a year — though that capacity is steadily increasing, and we have recently made changes to the set-up, where our system will also be used for affordable housing. We have also done some work with Logie Estate."

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921 ● Uk.westfraser.com

"SterlingOSB Zero just made lots of sense"

THE ANNUAL SterlingOSB Zero/RIBA competition is now in its 11th year and established as a prestigious event — as well as one that produces great discussions with panelists and entrants alike.

It is designed to encourage architects to push the creative boundaries when considering the use of SterlingOSB Zero, the first UK produced OSB panel to be net carbon negative. The competition, where the winners enjoy cash prizes and industry acknowledgment, has seen some incredibly innovative creations in its time; each year poses a different challenge which is designed to reflect real-life topics in the architectural world.

Here, Matthew Walker of Woo Architects talks to West Fraser about his use of SterlingOSB Zero. Matthew Walker, Helen Wilson and Kevin Owens created the commended entry, Transformational Venue, in the West Fraser SterlingOSB Zero/RIBA competition: Zero to Hero.

What inspired your design concept for this competition?

The inspiration for design was to create something small, bespoke, and also modular. It also needed the capability to be rebuilt, reformed, taken away, taken apart and put back together again. We gravitated to this concept because we thought OSB gave us all those properties. It's sustainable. It has the ability to be shaped into various different forms. It has its structural capabilities and also gives the right aesthetic for what we were going for in terms of a temporary and kind of unique one-off venue.

What are the most common issues you face when meeting sustainability goals?

Generally, the cost of the material and the time it takes to build with are definitely two big factors. We think that OSB gives a good, clear and understandable narrative when it comes to sustainability.

How has designing with OSB informed your view of the material in regards to versatility and aesthetic?

It's a simple one. It's a sustainable product. It can be completely recycled at end of use and is an easy swap for other sheet materials on site. It's definitely got the aesthetic that we were looking for. In terms of choosing OSB for its versatility, its structural capability and also its finish, whether we're going for a painted finish to highlight the texture of the material or whether it's just a straight OSB finish, the material provided us just what we were looking for. In terms of offering a sustainable yet temporary facility, where we could build something that's modular and quick to put up, quick to put down and can be re-used, and is cost effective, SterlingOSB Zero just made lots of sense.

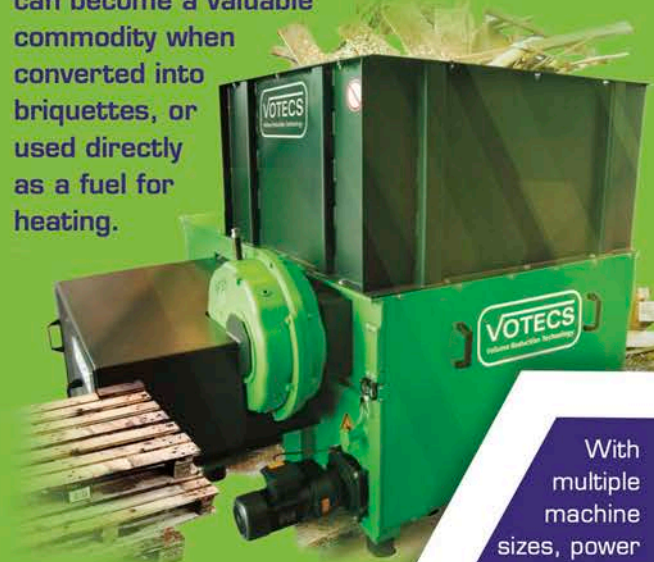
West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>



Left to right: Claire Ironside (marketing executive at West Fraser), Helen Wilson, Peter Richardson and Matthew Walker (Woo Architects) and Jan-Carlos Kucharek (deputy editor of RIBA Journal).

WASTE WOOD IS WOOD WASTED

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West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is key in modular green build on Isle of Skye



AN ARCHITECT, whose work involves residential new-builds and extensions across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, has chosen to use an innovative new modular construction system for a small scale development of his own on the Isle of Skye, with West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero featuring as a key component for the assembly of individual wall and floor units.

Aiden Junor and Rhiann Junor have acquired a small piece of land on the beautiful isle, North-west of Glasgow and are in the process of building a "Tiny House," a trailer mounted cabin which makes use of the WikiHouse system which was launched just four years ago to offer an eco-friendly and economic means of erecting domestic and other properties, potentially in situations not accessible to many timber frame and other off-site solutions. The couple 'learnt on the job' carrying out the assembly work themselves; and realising how rapidly their productivity was rising.

Aiden explained: "While I am an architect working for Fern +

Birch Architecture, my wife and I have set up our Samhach business offering holiday lets and decided to use the Wiki system to create a trailer mounted cabin with a combined living space and kitchen plus bathroom, with the sleeping platform mounted in the loft space to the 3.4-metre-high assembly.

"The primary attraction of the Wiki solution was the ease of assembly, the buildability, and then the energy efficiency, with the 200 mm wide insulation filled units offering a much better U-value than is required by Scotland's Caravan Act — plus very good airtightness. And externally, the structure is going to be clad in a Proctor PassivHaus standard membrane, and a bitumen sheeting in a green colour.

"Our overall budget, including servicing the plot is £45K and we hope to be completed in time to be ready for the Easter holiday season.

"The actual Wiki modules have been supplied in a kit form by Geo:Ply which is a fabricator from near Edinburgh that is actu-

ally treating our project as a trial for the system. This has included some 135 sections of the OSB, which is a material I am quite familiar with, as it has also featured in many of the domestic builds I have helped design with contractors such as AJ Contractors.

"And with the WikiHouse wall and floor units you quickly pick up speed once you've completed the first block."

Mike Addington, a founding partner at Geo:Ply added: "I have a background in 3-D modelling and manufacture so, when I was made redundant from a corporate job in 2021, I set up a in a 'maker space' at Humble to produce bespoke kitchens, bathrooms and general joinery, but was aware of WikiHouse from early on.

"Last year we invested in a full-size industrial CNC machine and are in the process of becoming one of their approved suppliers, so the project for Aiden is our first real job with the kit.

"Previously, we had used a lot of plywood for our work, but now we've switched to the Sterling-OSB Zero.

"We like the ethics of the product — with no added formaldehyde — and not only does it cut more cleanly than rival boards, the dust it produces is far less of a problem.

"I also like the aesthetics; you see it all over the place now and we've fitted out our workshop with it.

"My business partner, Andrew, has been sourcing the West Fraser boards from Tartan Timber and we intend to stick with it for our future projects."

Originally prototyped in 2011, WikiHouse is a zero-carbon building system, maintained in the UK by Open System Lab, and offers a comprehensive selection of key components which can be shared as code and produced in small local workshops, rather than a large factory. Crucially, the WikiHouse blocks are produced to an accuracy of 0.1 mm and can be rapidly assembled by a small site team, requiring none of the traditional trade skills.

West Fraser
Tel 01786 812921
Uk.westfraser.com

Passivhaus excellence with MEDITE SMARTPLY

TIMBER INNOVATIONS, experts in timber frame and structural insulated panel (SIP) construction, used SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT for the Duck End Barns Passivhaus project in Cambridgeshire. This five-bedroom home combines sustainable design with natural materials, promoting health and well-being while achieving outstanding energy efficiency. Designed by Archangel Architects, it blends perfectly into its rural surroundings and sets a benchmark for sustainable living.

SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT was key to the award-winning Larsen Truss twin-stud wall system, recognised for its ability to reduce thermal bridging and simplify construction. SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT highly engineered OSB panels helped achieve the Passivhaus airtightness standard of 0.6 Air Changes per Hour (ACH), replacing traditional airtight membranes with an easier, more effective solution.

"SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT not only delivered the airtightness we needed but also made on-site detailing and installation much simpler," said Joshua Perry, project lead at Timber Innovations.

Simplifying Passivhaus construction

Passivhaus construction demands rigorous performance for thermal bridging, thermal insulation and airtightness. SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT helps to meet these demands by simultaneously addressing both vapour control layer (VCL) and air barrier requirements. Airtightness is engineered directly into the OSB panel substrate, while SMARTPLY's advanced surfacing technology ensures an integrated



vapour barrier across the entire surface. By eliminating the need for separate membranes and reducing reliance on weather-dependent installations, SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT significantly streamlined the construction process.

"Our structures feature complex junctions that demand high-performance materials," explains David Himmons, managing director at Timber Innovations. "SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT delivered exactly what we needed — simplified detailing and excellent airtightness results."

Aesthetic and environmental harmony

Timber Innovations brings a unique touch to low-energy

homes with exposed or high-lighted glued laminated timber (glulam) and cross-laminated timber (CLT). These materials combine structural strength with the natural beauty of wood, adding warmth and character to architectural designs while emphasising sustainability and craftsmanship.

"Our reputation depends on delivering both high performance and exceptional design," says Apos Petrakis, Architect at Archangel Architects. "Timber Innovations and its partners, including MEDITE SMARTPLY, helped us meet the rigorous Passivhaus standards but also enhanced the visual appeal of the project, seamlessly blending functionality with aesthetics."

A vision for sustainable living

Duck End Barns showcases thoughtful integration that is sensitive to its rural setting. Built on a previously developed farmyard, the home features a C-shaped layout that creates a sheltered courtyard while maintaining a discreet, low-profile aesthetic. The black timber roof and walls align with the agricultural context, seamlessly blending the home into its surroundings.

Key features of the Duck End Barns project:

Energy efficiency: Designed with low energy demand in mind,

the project incorporates renewable energy solutions such as photovoltaic panels and ground-source heat pumps.

Sustainable materials: Timber was chosen for the frame and exterior finish, reflecting its recyclability and carbon-sequestering properties.

Water and waste management: The development integrates rainwater harvesting and on-site sewage treatment to reduce its environmental footprint further.

This project demonstrates how innovative materials like SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT, paired with outstanding architectural design, can deliver energy-efficient, sustainable homes. It reflects Timber Innovations' dedication to raising the bar in low-energy construction while showcasing MEDITE SMARTPLY's role in supporting the future of low-energy building solutions.

"Having worked with MEDITE SMARTPLY for over four years, we value the product quality and technical support that make construction projects like Duck End Barns possible," adds David. "Our partnership exemplifies how innovative materials can transform construction practices, meeting sustainability goals while enhancing performance."

MEDITE SMARTPLY
<https://mdfosb.com/en>



A circular approach, with Sharps and EGGER

FOLLOWING a company-wide ESG audit, Sharps has revolutionised the way it manages waste timber, investing in in-house processing and partnering with leading UK MFC board manufacturer EGGER, to contribute to material circularity.

Sharps, a leading UK fitted bedroom furniture and wardrobes specialist, places emphasis on producing beautifully crafted and bespoke products with care for the environment, that includes the use of EGGER's decorative faced board in production.

As part of its ongoing sustainability efforts, Sharps recently carried out an ESG audit, assisted by EGGER, which included an analysis on waste. The findings revealed that Sharps generated a significant amount of waste MFC cut-offs during production and manufacturing. As a result of the audit, Sharps began to look at more efficient ways of both reducing the amount of waste generated and recycling it, via waste service providers.

Speaking about sustainability, Peter Welsh, operations director at Sharps said: "As an industry leader and a manufacturer, we really need to pay more attention to this. On a brand level, it's important that we do the right thing for our customers and for the planet. Our products are covered by a long guarantee, showing that they are truly designed and build to last. We've also partnered with Forest Carbon to offset our carbon emissions and use renewable electricity in our showrooms — just some examples of how we are actively working to reduce our environmental impact."

"After researching the market and speaking with EGGER, we decided to work with Timberpak (a subsidiary of EGGER UK) and Olivers Transport. The waste MFC off cuts were collected, processed and then transported to EGGER for use in the production of future MFC boards at their Hexham manufacturing plant. This brought with it numerous benefits for us as a manufacturer and the wider industry. From a material circularity and environmental perspective, recycling the waste back into useable material for production is hugely positive. As well as helping to prolong the lifecycle of the product and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, it can preserve precious raw materials and store in captured CO₂ for longer. It was also a more cost-effective process, when compared to the waste collection and removal fees we were previously paying."

Sharps then chose to take this one step further, installing a woodchipper on its Bilston site. This enabled any waste wood material to be processed directly by Sharps before being collected and delivered to EGGER, helping to cut down on transport costs and 'empty miles'.

Peter continued: "Historically, the waste timber material was collected in skips and then transported to various recycling centres at third party sites. Now, by processing the timber in-house, the overall process is more streamlined and the waste chips are far easier to store and transport than solid board off-cuts, meaning there are less lorries on the road."

"Wood is an incredibly valuable and natural commodity. As such, if through this initiative we can reduce the number of virgin trees being used in manufacturing, extend the lifecycle of our existing timber and use less transport, it can only be a positive. Indeed, if everyone were to recycle more,

our planet and its inhabitants would all benefit."

Mark Hayton, head of wood purchasing at Timberpak, said: "I believe it's key to highlight the importance of the waste hierarchy in waste disposal; we need everyone to understand the value of wood as a resource and as such, ensure we use it fully before it's burned."

"We encourage collaboration to facilitate recycling and provide producers with outlets, all while promoting sustainable waste management practices."

For EGGER, acting sustainably is more than mere a duty. Its main ambition is management with future generations in mind and recycling is a big part of that, with 45% of its UK MFC products being manufactured from recycled timber.

Sharps
www.sharps.co.uk
Egger
www.egger.com



Specialist joinery firm serves up sustainable partnership with global restaurant chain

LONG-STANDING family-run firm Neville Joinery has replaced more than 160 time-critical waste recycling units across more than 80 Welsh restaurants of a global franchise to help them comply with new Government legislation. The family-run company, headquartered in Luton, is part of Neville Trust Group of Companies, which celebrates a milestone 150-year anniversary in 2025.

Embracing new legislation for Wales, which came into force in April 2024, restaurants and businesses have started to implement new means of separating their waste — a process which aligns with emerging sustainability values.

As a result of this legislation, Neville Joinery was commissioned to serve 89 Welsh restaurants with more than 160 the new recycling stations, produced, delivered and fitted in just six weeks.

The legislation requires all businesses, charities and public sector organisations to separate their recyclable materials in the same way most households already do. With the aim of improving the recycling rate of waste material collected by Welsh local authorities, which is currently at just over 65%, this client is one of many corporations implementing changes to reduce its carbon emissions.

Neville Joinery was involved in the project from the design stage. As per its contract, the Neville Joinery team partners with a third-party timber-based panel manufacturer, who was able to take delivery of the waste materials from the old recycling stations and process it into new, usable product. This product then re-enters the supply chain where it is sold back to joinery firms, giving the client, as well as the Nevilles Team, full visibility over the life cycle of its recycling units.

Andrew Knowles (pictured), manager at Neville Joinery, said: “New Welsh legislation has meant that businesses needed to implement separate food waste storage and collection processes quickly and efficiently. For many of our business partners, this has meant accelerating their solutions which reduce and manage waste, while also transitioning to more sustainable packaging and materials.

“The recycling units we create had to be built with sustainability in mind, allowing businesses to easily manage their waste materials, liquids and food waste, while still being consumer friendly. By managing waste better, in line with new legislation, businesses, restaurants and charities alike can contribute to a more circular economy, allowing for more experiments to be done on transforming food waste into renewable energy and liquid fertiliser.”

“The supply chain plays a vital role in ensuring we, as a nation, continues to act responsibly. The Neville Joinery team was able to pick up the old units from across the Welsh restaurants, get them back to our workshop and deliver and install the new designs within a tight time frame.”

Long standing business partnerships plays an important role in the company's 150-year history. Neville Trust will celebrate its milestone 150th anniversary throughout 2025, showcasing its long-term partnerships and historic projects with which it has been a part of.

Andy continued: “Since the very beginning of our company in 1875, we have recognised that our clients demand a more proactive, hands-on approach to their specialist joinery requirements, and

we understand the need for delivering time-sensitive and demanding schemes that are finished to a high standard.

“This is why our long-standing partnerships are so important to us — it demonstrates how we can collaborate with our clients to help them deliver their own business ambitions. For this Wales project, we have researched and trialled greener materials made from natural polymers, we've worked with third parties to review the environmental impact of our own supply chain, and we're constantly looking for ways to cut down on packaging, recycling and reusing where possible.

“It's great to be a cog in this machine, and to have been a part of the company's own journey over these last 50 years.”

Neville Joinery is part of Neville Trust group of companies, which includes Neville Funerals and Neville Special Projects. It operates nationwide and has a reputation for skilled craftsmanship, whether it be in installing manufactured items and interior finishing or creating specialist joinery to a wide range of clients. It is an accredited holder of FSC certification, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable procurement.

Neville Joinery ● www.nevillejoinery.co.uk



Damping solutions from Titus Group

AT BAU Munich 2025 (13-17 January 2025), Titus Group showcased its innovative damping solutions, claiming to set a new benchmark in precision motion control. For the first time, Titus participated in this premier trade fair, offering an opportunity to experience cutting edge technologies that redefine comfort, functionality, and durability in modern interiors, according to the company.

Titus is pleased to introduce its flagship damping solutions, tailored to meet the demands of diverse applications ranging from architectural interiors to consumer appliances. Key highlights include:

Slidix Damping Systems — Engineering Versatility and Control

The Slidix product range exemplifies Titus' expertise in damping technology, delivering consistent, smooth motion across applications like sliding doors, furniture, and wardrobes.

The Slidix family offers a comprehensive range of damping solutions designed for internal sliding door systems, wardrobes, and drawer appli-



Slidix Damping System.

cations. Featuring Titus hydraulic damping technology, Slidix provides controllable damping action, enabling fine-tuning to specific applications and ensuring consistent performance across a wide range of door weights (5 to 120 kg) and materials such as wood, glass, and plastic.

Slidix Solo 50/100: Adaptable systems for interior and exterior doors up to 120 kg. Slidix Centro: Damping solutions with centring function for middle doors in wardrobes and partitions. Slidix Duo 50/100: Versatile damping for barn doors and heavy-duty sliding systems.

Each system features modular designs and customisable damping forces, ensuring reliable operation in temperatures ranging from -30°C to $+85^{\circ}\text{C}$.

PushTrio — Enhancing Pocket Door Functionality

Titus introduces PushTrio for pocket sliding doors. This system integrates push-to-open and two-way damping solutions into a single mechanism.



PushTrio

Its seamless design enables fully retractable doors, providing a minimalist aesthetic and effortless functionality.

Features include: fully concealed doors flush with the wall; consistent, reliable damping in both directions; easy door release with a light push; and customisable to meet specific needs.

The PushTrio system allows pocket doors to retreat fully into the wall, creating a clean, open passageway. With a slight push, the doors close smoothly and quietly, thanks to integrated damping in both directions. The system's modular design enables easy customisation and fine tuning, making it an ideal solution for applications where aesthetics matter, such as pantry units and other handle-free sliding systems.

Damping Innovations and Adaptive Response Technology (ART) — Tailored Damping for Every Application

Titus continues to push the boundaries of damping technology with recent innovations that deliver enhanced performance across a variety of applications. The new, more compact damper designs offer high performance damping in limited spaces. We have also upgraded our dampers to handle extremely high forces from heavy loads or long closing paths, suitable for products like toilet seats, drop-down doors, and waste bins.



Adaptive Response Technology.

Titus's innovations extend the temperature range of our dampers, ensuring reliable operation in both cooler and hotter conditions with temperature range spanning from -30°C to $+150^{\circ}\text{C}$, which is particularly beneficial for ovens, refrigerators, automotive, and aircraft industries. Additionally, the latest developments in damping curve types, such as the multi-stage curve to eliminate bounce and reverse damping for limited spaces, have been well received by consumer appliance manufacturers, including producers of ovens and kitchen hinges.

The Adaptive Response Technology (ART) further refines damper performance by adjusting to the door's weight and speed, providing smooth and quiet operation while preventing damage from slamming or sudden stops. ART dampers offer a wide damping range, allowing a single damper to accommodate various door weights while maintaining low opening forces. This versatility extends the lifespan of sliding doors, providing manufacturers with a reliable solution for a wide range of applications, including customised damping times for sliding doors based on their specific weight, speed, and required damping intensity.

By minimising impact forces and reducing pull-out force, ART technology not only protects doors and components but also enhances user comfort, highlighting its suitability for premium applications by delivering a consistently smooth and reliable experience.

Redefining Excellence with Multi-Industry Solutions

Titus' commitment to innovation extends beyond furniture hardware, with damping solutions customised for automotive, consumer appliances, and architectural applications. With high force capacity and fine-tuned motion control, our technologies empower designers and manufacturers to achieve unmatched precision and reliability.

Titus Group ● www.titusplus.com

Surface Design Show 2025 in review

THIS YEAR'S Surface Design Show has now come to a close. With 180 exhibitors welcoming leading architectural and design practices it was an unmissable event, with visitors flocking to see talks, live demonstrations and survey the best of what the industry has to offer.

Exhibitors created eye catching stands highlighting the sustainability and innovation credentials of their materials which truly engaged with the audience of architects and designers.

Highlights included metallic wall art by Amron, colourful chains by SWAY, Surface Spotlight, Italian Stone Federation and a live muralist for Furnishing Futures. Visitors heard from the likes of Christos Passas — director at Zaha Hadid, Sophie Harper — editor of Hotel Designs, Dagmar Zvonickova Fredholm of NOVAVITA and Identity Designs, Kate Watson Smyth — founder of MadAboutTheHouse and Vanessa Champion — founder of Journal of Biophilic Design as part of a collection of popular panel discussions and talks.

New for the 2025 edition was the Innovation Gallery, designed to champion up-and-coming material innovators, it was the place to discover groundbreaking materials and concepts emphasising new companies at the forefront of material innovation where both

The Royal College of Art and the Green Grads were present.

During the show the organisers heard from Stone Tapestry, a repeat exhibitor, who stated that "It was brilliant to see Interior designers play with different types of natural stone, touching and moving the samples to mix and match tones and textures to see how natural stone can bring their projects to life."

Alys Bryan, editor of Design Insider and the host of the Opening Night Debate commented "I come every year and have long been an advocate and fan of the show; this year Commercial Interiors UK created a Supplier Finder Material Library which showcased the materiality and expertise our members. We were delighted with the space and had a steady stream of architects and designers eager to explore the 150+ material samples which were displayed"

After not exhibiting for a few years, Granlyn Specialist Coatings Ltd decided to exhibit for 2025 after attending the 2024 edition, "When I visited last year, I realised its one of those places you just must be... It's amazing just the variety and the quality of the products that are here... It's an eclectic mix of high-end artisan products."

Visitors and exhibitors alike expressed their enthusiasm for the show, praising the high-quality engagement with architects and



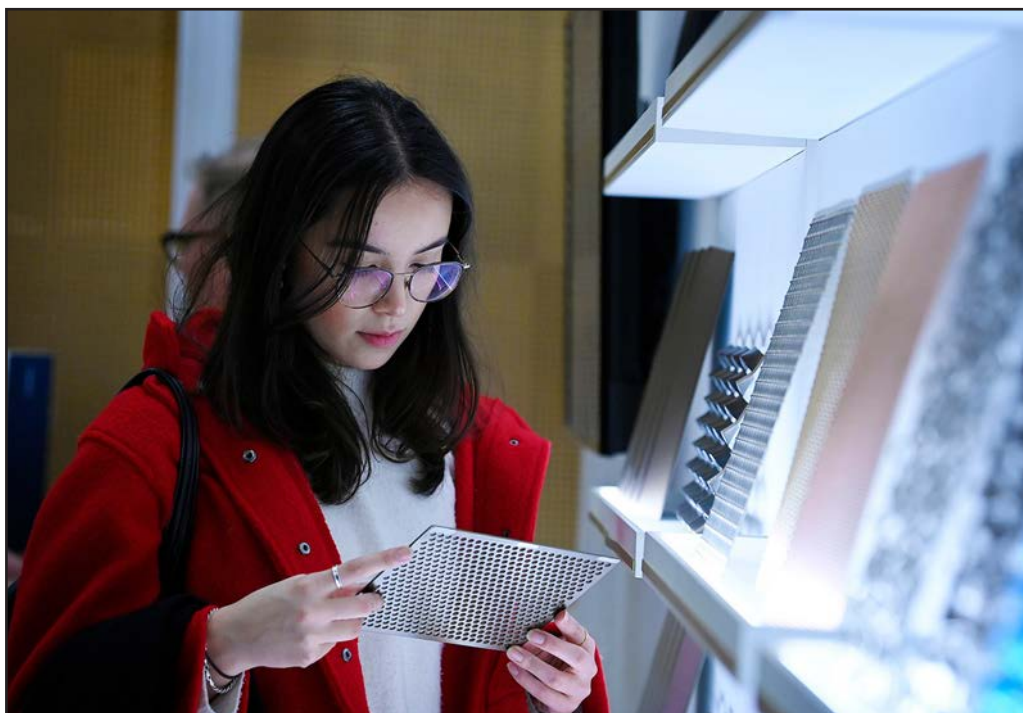
interior designers and the opportunity to view the latest products and services.

The Surface Design Awards ceremony, a highlight of the event, recognized exemplary design accomplishments in both interior and exterior environments, celebrating innovative and sustainable projects. The Museum of Meenakari Heritage & Flagship

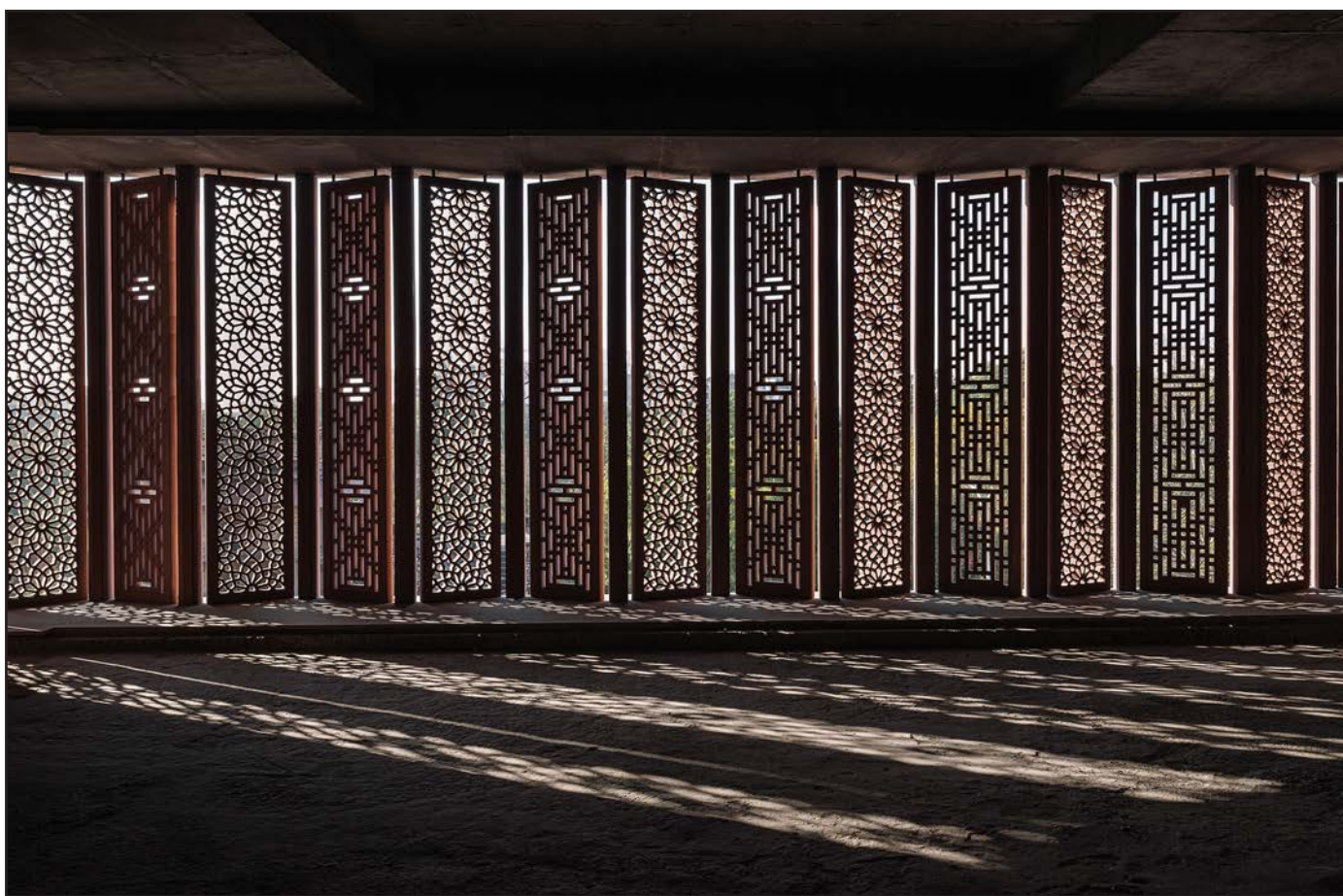
Store for Sunita Shekhawat by Studio Lotus was awarded the prestigious title of Supreme Winner. David Todd, event director at Surface Design Show said of the 2025 edition: "The enormous efforts made by our exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, panellists and media and content partners made the 2025 show a resounding success. Crowds were already formed before the doors opened on the Tuesday afternoon and the excitement and anticipation from both visitors and exhibitors was palpable. A huge thank you to every one of our incredible 180+ exhibitors, speakers & curators who helped to create an amazing show. We can't wait for 2026 !!"

Surface Design Show 2025 successfully fostered collaboration and inspired innovation within the design community. By emphasizing the importance of sustainability, ethical practices, and user-centric design, the show empowered attendees to create a more sophisticated and responsible built environment. Business Design Centre looks forward to welcoming participants next February for Surface Design Show 2026, anticipating another year of groundbreaking discoveries and material experimentation.

Surface Design Show
www surfacedesignshow.com



Surface Design Awards 2025 winners



Museum of Meenakir Heritage & Flagship Store for Sunita Shekhawat by Studio Lotus.

Surface Design Awards has proudly announced the winners of its prestigious 2025 awards, celebrating excellence in the innovation and use of surfaces across the built environment.

The awards ceremony saw hundreds of people gather to celebrate the winners. Held on the evening of Wednesday 5th February, it brought together the design and architectural community to recognise outstanding projects that demonstrate both creativity and a commitment to sustainable practices. Presented by property expert and broadcaster Kunle Barker, winners were presented with trophies designed using repurposed plastic by The Good Plastic Company.

The 2025 Surface Design Awards, which are part of the larger Surface Design Show (SDS), received a wide array of submissions from around the globe, showcasing a diverse range of projects that push the boundaries of material use and design. The winners were selected by a panel of distinguished design and architectural professionals, led by

Jorge Méndez-Cáceres, founding director of For Everyday Life, and Tony Chambers, founder of TC & Friends.

The judging panel also included Amrit Seera, architect at Vabel, Jon Eaglesham, managing director at Barr Gazettas, James Dixon, director at Darling Associates, Vicki Odili, director of sustainability at TP Bennett, Lee Roberts, director at Zebra, Pernille Bonser, CEO of Resonate, Simon Hamilton, interior designer and associate lecturer & future practice leader at The Royal College of Art and Amber Luscombe, head of ESG and senior development manager at Oxygen.

Sponsored by Informare, the Commercial Building Exterior award was won by the Museum of Meenakari by Studio Lotus. Judges praised its 'gorgeous use of terracotta' enabling the 'interpretation of tradition in a modern way'. The Commercial Building Interior award went to Roast&Toast by the GRID architects, a cafe and bakery in India which utilises local materials including clay and cow dung.

The Housing Interior category sponsored by Fabco went to Cousins & Cousins for their beautifully maximalist Parisian Apartment and the Housing Exterior award went to Novak Hiles Architects for their work on Bella Mews. Judges stated that the design was 'super clever' with particular intrigue over the use of brick.

Grilinda restaurant Mayfair by Accanto Interiors LTD took home the award for Light and Surfaces Interior and A reflection of who we are by Neolith won the Light and Surfaces Exteriors award with judges loving the "evocative idea behind capturing the light without even knowing what is behind the mirrors".

Wonderlab the Bramall Gallery by De Matos Ryan won the Public Realm Interior Award, and the Public Realm Exterior award went to Horatio's Garden Chelsea by Harris Bugg Studio with judges stating that they "love the use of the terracotta, which is made even better with it being an eco-product".

Sponsored by The Good Plastic Company, Surface of the Year

Interior went to Brecciasphere Lite by Sphere8, and Surface of the Year Exterior was won by Buttermarket Oseng-Rees Recycled Glass Shingle Facade courtesy of Architectural Thread.

Judges commented on the 'great use of bespoke material' and 'a brilliant historical reference'.

The Architectural Photography winner was Old Billingsgate Rooftops by Phil Hutchinson. Judges liked the "strong use of vertical angles from the frame to the building itself".

The Supreme Winner award sponsored by Business Design Centre goes to the project or surface that the judges deemed to be the best of the best from the selection of finalists.

The award was given to the Museum of Meenakir Heritage & Flagship Store for Sunita Shekhawat by Studio Lotus.

Judges stated that it was "a beautiful surface with beautiful character" and that it "lights up like a jewel at night".

Surface Design Awards
www.surfacedesignshow.com

Neolith wins the Light & Surface: Exterior Category at the Surface Design Awards 2025

NEOLITH is proud to announce its victory in the Light & Surface: Exterior category at the prestigious Surface Design Awards 2025. Recognised for its groundbreaking art installation, "A Reflection of Who We Are", at Casa Decor 2024, Neolith has once again demonstrated its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and the seamless fusion of nature with architectural surfaces.

The Surface Design Awards are a globally recognised benchmark for excellence in material innovation. Now in its 13th edition, the awards highlight outstanding achievements in architecture and interior design, judged by professionals within the industry. Each year, they celebrate pioneering projects that redefine the use of materials in built environments.

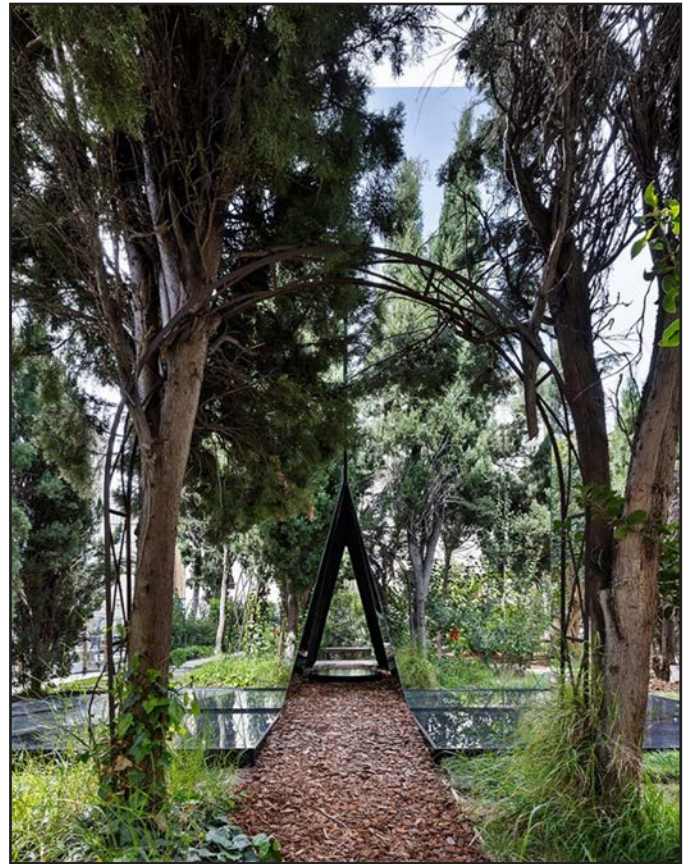
Winning at the Surface Design Awards 2025 reaffirms Neolith's position as an industry leader in sustainable and innovative surfaces. The Light & Surface: Exterior category specifically celebrates projects that push the boundaries of material usage while maintaining a strong environmental ethos.

Ross Stewart, UK senior sales manager for Neolith UK, comments: "Winning this award is a fantastic recognition of Neolith's ongoing commitment to sustainability and innovation. The Casa Decor 2024 project truly showcases the versatility and beauty of our sintered stone surfaces, demonstrating how they can transform outdoor spaces while respecting and enhancing the natural environment."

A groundbreaking installation

Designed in collaboration with SUMMUMSTUDIO, Neolith's "A Reflection of Who We Are" transformed the historic gardens of Palacio de la Trinidad in Madrid into an immersive sanctuary. This pioneering outdoor space, completed in April 2024, masterfully blended Neolith's sintered stone surfaces with the natural environment, reinforcing the brand's philosophy that nature is both a muse and an integral part of design.

Through a meticulous interplay of light, water, and mirrored reflections, the installation invited visitors to experience the passage of time and their connection to the world around them. Neolith's Amazonico



and Layla sintered stone models were used to recreate a forest floor and revitalise a historic pond, demonstrating both aesthetic excellence and durability in outdoor applications.

From the outset, this was an ambitious project. The installation posed significant challenges due to weather conditions, complex assembly, and its position at the intersection of architectural design rather than just interior styling. However, Neolith's sintered stone emerged as the ideal solution, offering exceptional durability against UV rays, rain, humidity, and temperature fluctuations.

Sustainability at the core

Neolith has long been a trailblazer in sustainable architectural surfaces, and this installation was no exception. With materials crafted from up to 98% recycled components, the EcoVadis Gold certification, and Zero Waste also achieved as Excellent, Neolith continues to set industry standards for environmentally responsible design. The Casa Decor project further highlighted the company's dedication to circular economy principles, as discussions are underway to repurpose the installation materials for future projects.

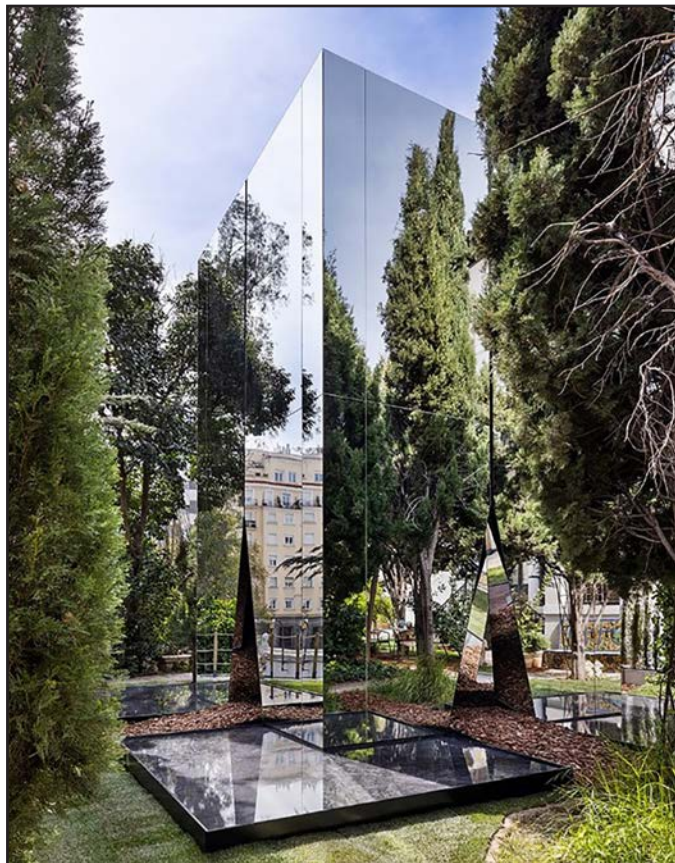
Further strengthening its sustainability credentials, Neolith's science based targets were officially approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) in 2024, following the company's commitment to the initiative a few years prior.

This confirmation underscores Neolith's proactive approach in tackling global warming and advancing decarbonisation, which remains the company's top priority within its sustainability agenda.

As a temporary exhibition, Casa Decor ran from 11th April to 26th May 2024. Following the event's conclusion, the installation was carefully disassembled. However, with Neolith's fully recyclable materials, they can be repurposed in future projects — reinforcing the brand's dedication to sustainability and responsible design.

Photography: Nacho Uribe Salazar

Neolith ● www.neolith.com



HOLZ-HANDWERK 2026 under starter's orders: Secure your stand now!

HOLZ-HANDWERK, a leading trade fair for machinery, tools, materials and system solutions for the woodworking trade, is now welcoming registrations for the next event in 2026.

As of now, companies can book a stand and benefit from early bird rates until 31st March 2025. In 2024, the trade fair pairing welcomed around 75,000 visitors who discussed the latest trends in woodworking and wood processing and window, door and facade construction with the 973 exhibitors at the venue.

Under the slogan "Experience. Discover. Do.", the fair in Nuremberg will again become the key gathering for joiners, carpenters and cabinetmakers from all over Europe from 24th to 27th March 2026. Live demonstrations and interactive formats allow visitors to experience innovations first-hand and discover new trends.

"We maintain close contact with our customers and their strong commitment to HOLZ-HANDWERK is evident in our personal conversations with them. Especially in challenging times, it is important to be visible and fly the flag for the industry. HOLZ-HANDWERK is more than just a trade fair; it's a vibrant platform that is actively helping to shape the future of the woodworking trade," explains Stefan Dittrich, director for HOLZ-HANDWERK.

"We don't just want to show what is possible but also inject momentum into the industry. We deliver an event that is authentic, practice-driven, and packed with experiences."

FENSTERBAU FRONTALE, the world's leading trade fair for windows, doors and facades, takes place alongside HOLZ-HANDWERK and has become established as an additional source of inspiration for the woodworking industry.

One ticket provides access to both trade fairs — an added benefit that makes a visit to the event even more attractive. "The FENSTERBAU FRONTALE team tells us that registration has got off to a good start involving many of the key players. This increases the anticipation of our trade fair pairing even more!" Dittrich adds.

Wide-ranging programme and fresh impetus

In 2026, the focus will again be on the hands-on nature of the event. HOLZ-HANDWERK offers numerous opportunities to find out about the latest developments and leading-edge topics. Participants can look forward to established formats and exciting new features in the programme. At the "Young Innovators" pavilion, which is subsidised by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), start-ups will showcase their latest ideas and products. This is where young talent and fresh inspiration take centre stage with a view to enriching the industry in the long term.

Stability and innovation as factors for success

In 2026, HOLZ-HANDWERK will once again exemplify the combination of stability and innovation. As the key platform for products, technology and services, it offers the perfect framework for reinforcing long-term partnerships and tapping into new business opportunities.

HOLZ-HANDWERK, which will enter its 22nd round in 2026, will be jointly organised by the VDMA's Woodworking Machinery Association and NürnbergMesse GmbH. The co-sponsor of the event is the Bavarian Carpentry Association (FSH).

HOLZ-HANDWERK ● www.holz-handwerk.de/en



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INNOVATIVE MACHINE UPGRADES FOR UNMATCHED PRODUCTIVITY!



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Traditionally perfect for manufacturers of doors, windows, stairs, and solid wood elements, the **accord 500 and 600** now **bring unmatched efficiency to the furniture sector.**

With the power of **'Optizone' technology**, adjust your work areas precisely to component sizes, **maximising flexibility and minimising downtime.**

Advanced vacuum management with **SVP** (Single Vacuum Pods) ensures secure, precise positioning with individual suction activation on each part of the table, enabling piece-by-piece loading for ultimate control.

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Upgrades to the Accord 500 & 600 models



THREE years after the launch of “accord 500” and “accord 600” by SCM Group, solutions which have dramatically changed the rules of play in the production of doors, windows, staircases and solid-wood elements, new finishing upgrades to the range, for machining the panel and the furniture world, but always “According to wood”, starting from the intrinsic peculiarities of the material machined and the client’s most pressing demands, have been announced.

The strong points of this range, which has conquered leading clients at international level, remain unvaried, such as the dual motorised “gantry” structure, the 5-axis operator unit with excellent performance, the innova-



tive suction systems to guarantee maximum cleaning of the machine and the surrounding environment, the high-capacity tool magazines with Maestro power TMS intelligent management system and the CAD/CAM Maestro Lab software for designing and programming.

The latest upgrades from SCM Group are:

The “Optizone” patented system connected to the Maestro Lab software, which is revolutionising the CNC bar machining centres: with a simple click, the size of the two work areas can be defined as early as the programming stage, based on the pieces to be machined. This function is also available for the clamps.

New SVP (Single Vacuum Pods) function to independently secure

the pieces on each semi-table: it is possible to have several separate vacuum areas, and the pieces can be loaded onto the machine by activating one suction unit at a time. This allows for excellent management of the scraps.

The two functions mentioned above, developed to deal with the vacuum, are particularly useful in the case of asymmetrical machining areas.

An increase in the length of the 1900 mm y-axis work surface compared to the current 1600 mm y-axis enables the operator to carry out horizontal machining more effectively and simply inside the pieces blocked with clamps with the 5-axis electrospindle.

Greater configurability of the operator unit with new boring and drilling heads and new multifunction units is also available.

The new chain tool magazine, Quadro 35, positioned on the rear side of the mobile gantry-type structure, is considered ideal for those always needing numerous tool positions easily and rapidly to hand in a reduced space.

As Bruno Di Napoli, Business Unit Manager for SCM's machining and drilling centres explains: "Once again leading all the developments in these new solutions is the will of the company to place the client and their experience in using the machine at the centre of everything."

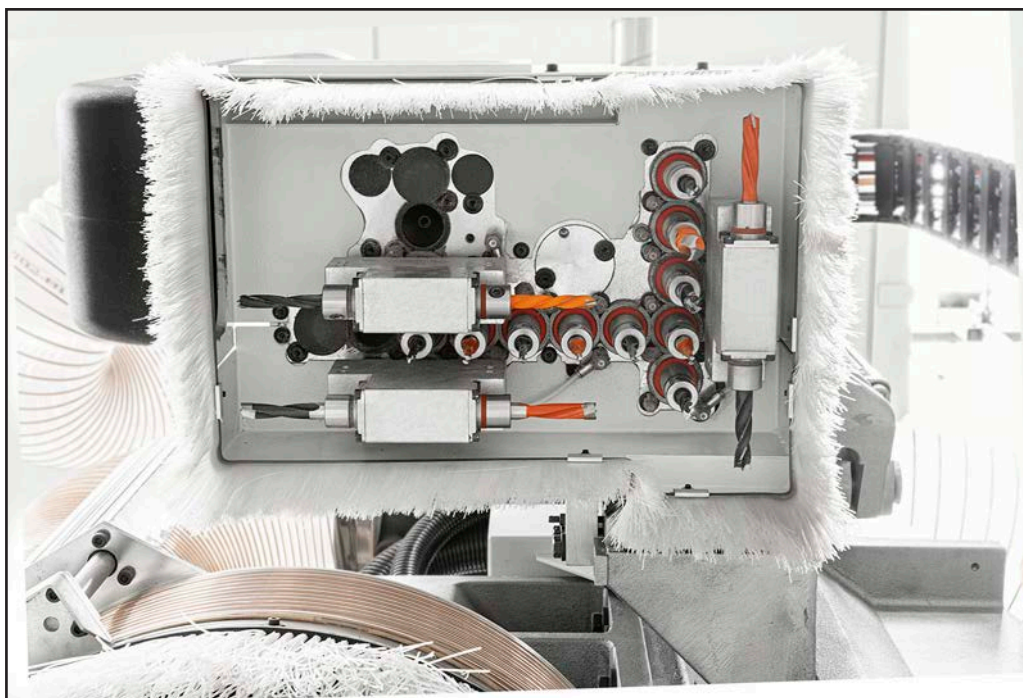
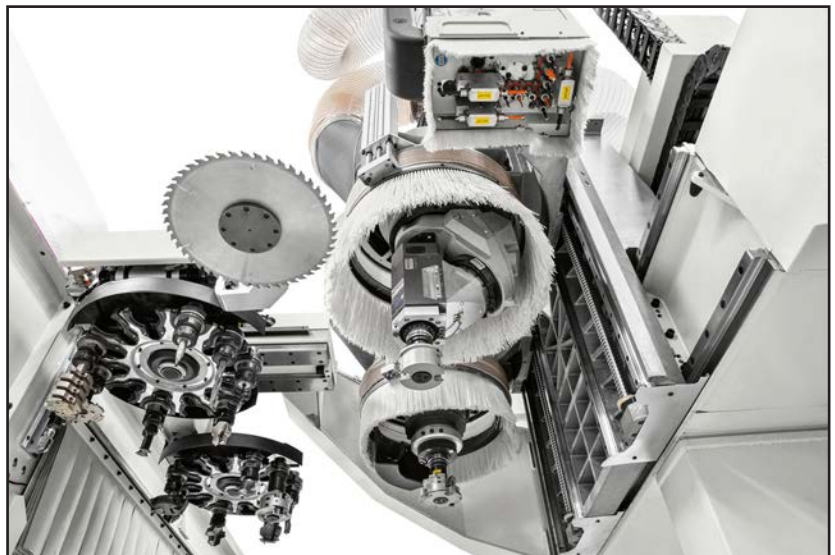
"Whether we are dealing with aspects of software programming, digital connectivity or ergonomics and ease of use, we aim to ensure the operator always works under maximum safety conditions without compromising in any way on practicality and production efficiency".

SCM Group

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www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/



From wardrobes to weatherproof decking, West Fraser has the answer for housebuilders



MORE favourable borrowing costs led to September 2024's market figures indicating that UK house prices have risen at their fastest rate for two years, adding to the political pressure on housebuilders and their supply chain partners to increase the level of completions in order to meet demand. Timber panel product specialist West Fraser is well placed to help customers of all sizes respond; these include companies which are embracing Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) as well as those still preferring to employ traditional building techniques.

As a manufacturer whose range encompasses multiple grades of MDF used for kitchens and other interior fit-out work, to its ubiquitous SterlingOSB Zero, and super tough CaberDek, which offers 60 days' exposure resistance, West Fraser has long been renowned for creating products that meet the physical challenges involved in creating new homes. In addition, the company has also been

investing heavily improving sustainability while also enhancing service levels.

Not only is the production process for SterlingOSB Zero free of any added formaldehyde, along with the rest of the range it is made in plants like Inverness where all of the energy comes from guaranteed renewable sources, while efforts continue to drastically reduce the use of fuels such as diesel, with a switch to electric powered forklifts and loaders.

In fact, Inverness is on track to achieve its 2030 sustainability targets within the next year thanks to changes such as replacing the use of gas for the drying plant through to investment in biomass technology. Other sites are also making good progress on their own road maps to Net Zero.

West Fraser makes significant contributions to cutting carbon emissions by reducing waste, both in customers' factories and on site, with products like CaberFloor, CaberDek and SterlingOSB Zero being dimensionally very accurate as well as rugged in

use. This means that, when contractors are laying floors and roof decks or closing in dormer structures and other features, far less time is spent on alignment or cutting. Consistency of size is also of enormous value to the suppliers of timber frame wall panel systems, including roof and floor cassettes or SIPs. In common with many installation contractors, these customers also often chose to make use of West Fraser's own adhesives, tapes and other ancillary products.

Dom West, West Fraser's sales director UK & Ireland, comments: "The recent introduction of products like SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus, which is ideal for site hoardings or securing buildings, and which needs no painting, as well as the new version of CaberDek that is BBA-certified for 60 days, underlines our commitment to ensuring the range is fit for any purpose. Meanwhile, our dedicated key account managers make certain customers' needs will always be met, including communicating with the buyers

and plant or site managers to verify our production schedules will cope with any spikes in their usage. In addition, all relevant technical support on certification, and particularly safety, are provided in a timely manner. Our UK-wide production and distribution coverage offers security of supply to the UK's housebuilders and to their supply chain manufacturers producing the SIPs, closed panel systems and other fabrications that are enabling the industry to increase efficiency and ultimately build more new homes. It is a partnership we are committed to expanding."

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

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

dp-lite: the lighter choice

Decorative Panels Lamination has developed a substrate designed to meet the evolving demands of modern manufacturing across a variety of industries—including furniture, mobile leisure, exhibition, marine, commercial, and architectural sectors.

dp-lite is a lightweight, high-performance “sandwich” board that delivers outstanding benefits in both cost-efficiency and sustainability.

Significant Weight Savings

dp-lite offers up to 60% weight reduction compared to traditional chip-board, allowing manufacturers to cut down on material costs and simplify handling during production and transportation. Whether you're designing furniture, creating mobile leisure products, or crafting exhibition displays, dp-lite ensures that the end product is lighter and easier to manage without sacrificing structural integrity.

Superior Strength with Honeycomb Core

The innovative honeycomb core of dp-lite provides exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, giving your products added durability while keeping a lightweight profile. This makes dp-lite an ideal material for industries where both strength and weight are critical factors, such as in marine, architectural, and commercial applications.

Easy Processing

dp-lite is designed for ease of onward processing, offering versatility in cutting, drilling, and shaping, reducing production time and costs. Its reliable performance during post-processing ensures that manufacturers can achieve high-quality finishes with less effort, making it a practical choice for both mass production and bespoke designs.

Sustainability

The construction of dp-lite uses less wood-based raw material compared to traditional substrates, resulting in a reduced environmental impact. By choosing dp-lite, manufacturers can reduce their carbon footprint while still delivering high-quality, functional products.



Versatile Applications

dp-lite is highly versatile, making it suitable for a wide range of applications:

Furniture: Lightweight, durable, and easy to process — perfect for modern, high-performance furniture designs.

Mobile Leisure: Ideal for caravans, RVs, and other mobile applications where weight-saving and strength are paramount.

Exhibition: Easy to handle and transport, yet strong enough to withstand the rigors of temporary displays.

Marine: Resistant to the tough conditions of the marine environment while keeping the weight down.

Commercial & Architectural: Provides structural strength with a lighter profile, perfect for modern office spaces, retail environments, and architectural features.

Ready to Transform Your Designs with dp-lite?

dp-lite is considered the ultimate substrate for anyone looking to create high-quality, lightweight products for the furniture, exhibition, and mobile leisure sectors. With its superior performance and versatility dp-lite is the smart choice for modern manufacturers and designers.

Decorative Panels combines manufacturing and furniture design skills to provide you with a solution that enhances your products while streamlining your operations. From concept to final product, they are committed to helping your business succeed with their innovative lightweight substrate.

Contact Decorative Panels today to find out how dp-lite can bring your projects to life — with less weight, more strength, and greater flexibility.

Decorative Panels

Tel 01484 658341

info@decorativepanels.co.uk

www.decorativepanels.co.uk

Martin Howlett Furniture uses MEDITE MR to create stunning bespoke furniture projects



© Simon Punter Photography

HAVING FIRST used MEDITE products when he was in college, Martin of Martin Howlett Furniture is well-versed in using MEDITE's MDF panels to bring his beautiful projects to life. So much so that he has been using them throughout his 25-year career to create the cabinets, wine rooms and media walls of his customers' dreams.

Thanks to the product's ability to deliver the consistently high quality results that a master furniture maker needs, Martin has chosen to use MEDITE MR for a wide range of products including Shaker door production, carcasses, shelves, mouldings and even skirting for free-standing furniture. Martin has created his projects using a range of thicknesses of MEDITE SMARTPLY's moisture-resistant MDF panels, including MEDITE MR 6 mm, 12 mm, 18 mm, 25 mm and 30 mm.

Although he has tried products from a range of brands when creating his projects, Martin notes, "I always come back to MEDITE because its spray finish is so consistent, and you just don't get that with other products I've tried."

Martin repeatedly turns to MEDITE MR because it doesn't absorb paint like similar products he has tried in the past. He estimates that using MEDITE MR requires around 50 per cent less paint, explaining that MEDITE MR needs only three primer coats and two top coats of paint while similar products require many more primer coats. He also explained that when applying paint to the panels, the finish is completely smooth and free of any imperfections, which has not been the case with other MDF products he has tried.

"When customers expect nothing but perfection every time, I need a

material that delivers the best possible results consistently. This is why I choose MEDITE — in fact, customers often ask me how the finish looks so good, and the answer is MEDITE MR!"

When asked how he achieves his desired finish using MEDITE MR, Martin notes, "It's all about the process. It machines really well when using table saws and hand power tools and it sands up perfectly, which enables superior finishes when the panels are sprayed with paint."

He also prefers using MDF panels in some applications rather than solid timber panels as he believes they work better in a lot of cases. "With solid timber panels, you run the risk of experiencing substantial shrinkage either during the building process or after installation, which means you're guaranteed to get a call back from an unhappy customer. But with MEDITE MDF, that doesn't happen since the panels don't shrink as much."

From start to finish, including drawing, cutting, spraying and installation, Martin's projects usually take around three to four weeks to complete. MEDITE MR has saved him time at all stages of the process thanks to the panels' consistency and ability to take but not absorb paint once applied. Furthermore, the guarantee that the panels will be the exact thickness he needs means that he does not have to make allowances for error margins when drawing in the workshop, saving him time and making the entire creation process easier.

Image: Simon Punter Photography

MEDITE MR

<https://mdfosb.com/en/products/medite-mr>

dp-lite. the lighter choice.



Household



Healthcare



Commercial



Leisure



Marine



Equestrian



Architectural



Educational

Extremely **low in weight** and has **excellent stability** allowing vast creative freedom.

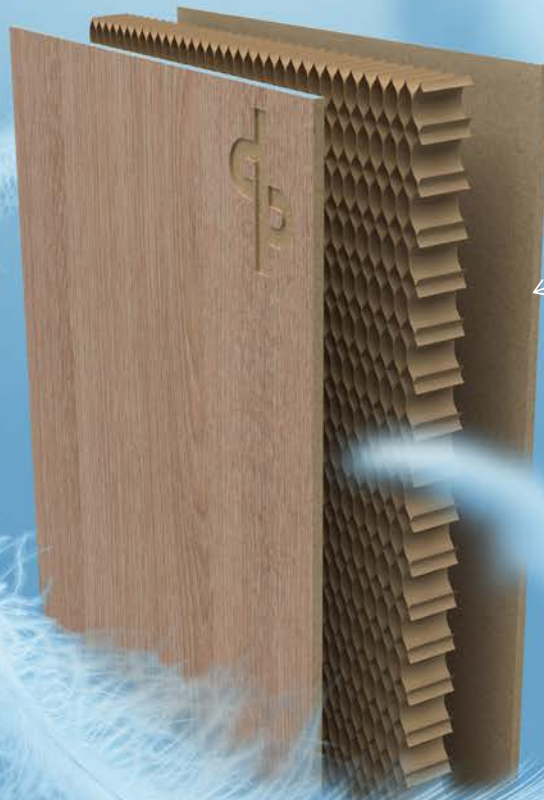
Offers **weight savings** compared to chipboard of some **60%**.

Manufactured in a **range of sizes and thicknesses** – can be supplied **raw or laminated**.

A **full range of competitively priced fixings** available.

Can be supplied with **longitudinal rails or completely frameless**.

Plywood skins can also be applied for extra weight savings.



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60%
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