

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

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The new Combi-MR4 with Dynamic 360°™ Steering

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Power up with a special offer from Makita UK

LEADING power tools manufacturer Makita UK is offering end users the chance to get their hands on a free MR002GZ01 Bluetooth Job Site Radio, or MP001GZ XGT 40VMax Inflator, or ML003G XGT 40VMax Worklight with the purchase and registration of selected XGT 40VMax machines.

Makita's XGT 40VMax range has been designed to offer tradespeople the high output, durability and fast charge times needed for regular professional use. From 1st April 2022 until 30th September 2022, Makita is offering end users the chance to expand their XGT collection with its latest on-line redemption offer. This redemption deal is available to those who purchase from a wide selection of XGT 40VMax machines (supplied with two batteries and a charger — body only models are not included), spanning across both construction and outdoor power equipment.

Qualifying products include twin kits, demolition hammers, rotary hammers, combi drills, circular saws, mitre saws, angle grinders, vacuum cleaners and dust extractors — as well as hedge trimmers, brush cutters, line trimmers and more.

When purchasing a qualifying XGT machine, users can simply register it online to redeem either the MR002GZ01 Bluetooth Job Site Radio (compatible with LXT, XGT and CXT batteries), or MP001GZ XGT 40VMax Inflator, or ML003G XGT 40VMax Worklight.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "Our XGT 40VMax range provides end users working across all trades with a selection of machines that they can rely on to tackle higher-demand applications with ease. Our new redemption offer is ideal for those looking to expand their existing XGT kit — or those looking to introduce XGT into their armoury."

To qualify for the redemption offer, qualifying models must be purchased from 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 and registered online within 28 days.

Makita

www.makitauk.com

<https://makitauk.com/redeemxgtspringsummer2022>

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The new Combi-MR4 with Dynamic 360°™ Steering

SINCE COMBILIFT launched its first C4000 model in 1998, multidirectional capability has been one of the major hallmarks of the company's wide range of handling solutions. Twenty-four years and thousands of R&D hours later, its latest product takes multidirectional capability to the next level. The Combi-MR4 is a four-wheel electric powered multidirectional reach-truck, which incorporates Combilift's new Dynamic 360°™ steering, which provides rotation on each wheel, enabling seamless directional change of the truck while on the move. The system allows this extremely agile forklift to work in forward, sideward and crab steer mode, guaranteeing swift operation and excellent manoeuvrability. Hence the full name of the new model: the Combi-MR4 Dynamic 360.

The impetus for the development of this latest addition to Combilift's portfolio was to develop a multi-directional truck, with a very low platform to maximise storage density within racking. The Combi-MR4 is available in two models, believed to be unique, with capacity ranges of 2,500-3,000 kg and 3,500-4,500 kg respectively, and can operate in aisles as narrow as 2,265 mm when guided (based on 1,200 mm deep material). To maximise all stor-



age space in racking systems the wheel configuration of two drive wheels at the rear and two sets of smaller dual front wheels provides a platform height as low as 380 mm, allowing otherwise redundant areas towards the floor to be used.

In keeping with Combilift's common overall design ethos, the highly versatile Combi-MR4 can handle long loads as well as palletised goods with ease, and can load and offload from delivery trucks. Driver comfort and safety are also major considerations, and this new truck definitely delivers the goods from an ergonomic point of view: a high visibility operator cabin, multi-function control joystick, AC-electric power steering and joystick operated hydraulic mast functions all make for a smooth ride and straightforward operation. The articulated rear axle with two rear rubber drive

wheels provides optimum traction for outdoor use, while still ensuring nimble and accurate truck placement.

To achieve this level of manoeuvrability, Combilift utilised its newly developed-in-house Dynamic 360°™ steering. This novel steering concept enables operators to manipulate the truck's positioning and orientation without the need to stop and change driving mode. Intuitive and easy-to-operate, this is achieved by simply twisting the control joystick right or left to adjust the wheel positions simultaneously — providing crab steering and allowing direction change on-the-go.

Combilift always likes to ensure that any new product has been thoroughly tried and tested in the field to make certain that it is 100% fit for purpose. Following the initial operation of 3,000 kg Combi-MR4 units, a 4,500 kg model was developed after receiving a request from Combilift's dealer in the BeNeLux region — Mabo BeNeLux, for a larger capacity unit for their customer TABS (Timber and Building Supplies Holland). One of the Netherlands' leading suppliers of timber products and building materials, with 104 outlets across the country, TABS has partnered with Combilift and operated its multidirectional trucks for more than 15 years. It now has MR4 trucks at several locations in the Netherlands and is about to take delivery of its 15th



and 16th trucks, which will work at its distribution centres in Zaan-dam and Bleiswijk.

Combilift CEO Martin McVicar said: "TABS are delighted with the ongoing successful implementation of their Combi-MR4s and the improved levels of efficiency thanks to the overall design and features such as low platform height as well as the advanced Dynamic 360°™ steering system. I have no doubt that this new additional electric model will grow Combilift's customer base. We are looking forward to showcasing the Combi-MR4 to our existing dealers, and potential new customers during the LogiMAT intra-logistics exhibition in Stuttgart at the end of May."

Combilift
<https://combilift.com/combi-mr4/>



Welsh timber group continues to expand

ONE OF the UK's leading timber groups has made a key new appointment as it continues to address customer need.

Premier Forest Products has appointed Gavin Williams as a sales executive at the Group's Merlwood Timber business, based in West Wales, to support the expanding business. Gavin's wealth of experience will help the Welsh-headquartered Group develop its range of softwood products and sheet materials.

Previously an external sales representative for Talbot Timber and with 12 years in the industry, Gavin turned to self-employment during the pandemic, working as a carpenter, but returned to the timber world with this role.

In his new role with Merlwood Timber, he will focus on serving customers with the company's extensive range of timber, panel products and milling services across South and West Wales.

Gavin said: "Premier Forest is a well-known and respected Group in the sector. Their ambition to continually increase both their company size and product offering is something that is very exciting and presents brilliant career development. Joining the Merlwood Timber business presents a great opportunity for me to offer a fantastic choice of quality timber products, and a bespoke profiling service to customers."

Joe Walker, managing director at Premier Forest Products, said: "I am delighted to welcome Gavin to the business. At a time when many firms are reducing their teams, Premier Forest is proud to be expanding, which is indicative of our strength and ambition. I'm confident Gavin will thrive here."

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

Service to forestry honoured

HAMISH Macleod, pictured, was awarded the 'Dedicated Service to Forestry Award' at the Confor Dinner and Awards ceremony this month, following the announcement of his retirement last year.

Still working part-time for BSW Group, Hamish joined the business as the Director of Public Affairs in 2012. This role saw Hamish represent the company in front of parliamentary committees to promote BSW's position as a low-carbon, solution-orientated business — ensuring that the group leads the way in the timber industry.

Hamish has effectively advocated to politicians and organisations for the social, economic and environmental benefits of a thriving forestry and timber sector. He has worked to establish positive relationships with stakeholders across the political spectrum in Westminster, Cardiff and Edinburgh to gather support for the whole industry, not only BSW. Every new political development or policy announcement has been an opportunity that Hamish has harnessed to engage with decision-makers, furthering the interests and image of the sector.

Tony Hackney, CEO of BSW, paid tribute to Hamish's work: "Hamish has tirelessly represented the BSW Group in numerous public, political and governing body arenas, ensuring that the voice of not only of BSW but of the wider timber industry was heard." As a member of the Group Operations Board at BSW, Hamish has taken a leading role in successful campaigns to demonstrate the benefits of using timber in innovative design as a sustainable product for use in construction when sourced from well-managed, sustainable UK forests.

Hamish served six years as non-exec Forestry Commissioner and Chair as part of the Forestry Commission Scotland National Committee. His passion for British forestry and championing of the sector continued with various roles on boards and committees such as the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Confederation of Forest Industries (Confor), Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group (SFTT), Strategic Integrated Research in Timber (SIRT), Timber Trade Federation (TTF), Wood for Good, UK Forest Products Association (UKFPA) and as President of the UK Softwood Sawmillers Association.

Tony Hackney added, "An expert in his field, Hamish is very well known within the industry for his passion, kindness and professionalism, and for those following in his footsteps, he is a role model. Hamish, who has now retired, continues to support BSW as a part-time Public Affairs Advisor, and we are incredibly grateful for all his tireless efforts."

BSW ● www.bsw.co.uk



MPs visit Covers to celebrate 175th anniversary year

COVERS Timber & Builders Merchants welcomed Gillian Keegan, the Conservative MP for Chichester and Nick Gibb, Conservative MP for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton to its depots at Chichester and Bognor Regis respectively.

Mr Gibb was given a tour of the depot by Bognor's depot manager, Paul Allwright, who explained its operations and products as well as how the business gets involved with community projects and charitable giving. Ms Keegan was given a similar tour by Chichester Trade Centre manager Martyn Beck and timber director Neil Woods.

Both also met Covers' chairman, Rupert Green. The Green family has been running the independent business since the 1940s. Nick Gibb also met Sean Clarke, regional director.

Gillian Keegan MP commented: "It was fantastic to be at Covers to celebrate its 175th anniversary. Covers is a brilliant local business, which has transformed many times over the years. Today it is at the forefront of sustainable living, offering a huge range of home improvements that will help the planet and help reduce energy bills."

Rupert Green added: "We've worked hard to become one of the leading businesses in the area. We've built a loyal customer base and encourage the local community to use us for their construction and DIY needs. It was a pleasure to welcome Ms Keegan as part of our 175th anniversary celebrations and to show her around."



Chichester MP visits Covers to celebrate 175th anniversary year. Left to right: Neil Woods, Rupert Green, Gillian Keegan and Martyn Beck.



Bognor Regis MP visits Covers to celebrate 175th anniversary year. Left to right: Paul Allwright, Nick Gibb, Rupert Green and Sean Clarke.

Nick Gibb MP commented: "Covers has, over the last few decades, become a well-loved established institution in the Bognor Regis town centre. It is the haunt of all those engaged in improving or extending their homes, whether as a DIY aficionado or a professional tradesman.

"It is a tribute to the Green family who own Covers, and who live in the area, that the firm remains a family-run business.

"Many congratulations on the 175th anniversary of Covers and I am sure we all wish the company continued success."

Paul Allwright added: "We've worked hard to become one of the leading businesses in the area. We've built a loyal customer base and encourage the local community to use us for their construction and DIY needs.

"It was a pleasure to welcome Mr Gibb as part of our 175th anniversary celebrations and show him around."

Covers
www.coversmerchants.co.uk

100 years of Otto Martin machinery

OTTO MARTIN Maschinenbau is celebrating its anniversary. Founded in 1922, the company still stands for woodworking machines that shape the market. Just in time for its 100th anniversary, the company is now presenting the next generation of machines that combine digital engineering with a machine construction that defines wood-working.

What started in 1922 with basic, solid machinery, MARTIN has expanded over the following decades into a product range that is now regarded as a benchmark for quality and functionality in its sector. The company set the course for success by strictly concentrating on its core business. While the initial range of planers, sliding table saws and spindle moulders has since been expanded to include automatic profiling machines, four-sided planers, horizontal panel saws and paper cutting machines, the product range today concentrates on standard machines such as spindle moulders, planers and sliding table saws. The product range is rounded off by a special sanding machine for window construction. This machine offers wood window manufacturers massive savings possibilities due to the omission of intermediate lacquer sanding.

ConnectControl control concept: In a modern production environment, software-based solutions are regularly the prerequisite for high production efficiency. By integrating digital engineering into the manufacturing processes, MARTIN offers users the opportunity to work in a network and thus significantly increase the efficiency of their work processes. The current expression of this strategy is the patented ConnectControl control concept, which controls the new generations of sliding table saws and spindle moulders from Ottobeuren. ConnectControl provides the user with a control technology that drastically expands the possibilities for operating standard machines and helps to utilise the potential of digital data exchange.

The ConnectControl technology consists of the components ConnectTouch, ConnectPad, ConnectApp and ConnectDrive, which can be used as expansion stages



with an increasing range of functions as required. ConnectTouch is a high-resolution 7" touchscreen in 16:9 format, which — installed as standard on the new T14 and T29 spindle moulders and the T66 and T77 sliding table saws — enables full operation of these machines. Here, the permanently integrated control centre provides all the necessary information to comfortably carry out simple machining tasks.

The user receives additional support with the optional ConnectPad extension, an Apple iPad Pro in 12.9 or 11" format. Unlike ConnectTouch, ConnectPad is mobile because it is magnetically attached to the control panel and can be removed at any time. The ConnectApp software running on the iPad logically extends the ConnectTouch user interface and provides a wide range of additional features, including tool and job management and a cutting plan display. In addition, interactive assistants support the implementation of specific tasks such as groove, tongue or tenon cuts. ConnectPad not only provides carpenters with enhanced machine operation, it also allows them to benefit from the advantages of network and internet connectivity. By establishing a connection to a cloud provided by MARTIN via ConnectDrive, various information can be transmitted, ranging from a simple text message to a com-



plete cutting plan from work preparation. It is also possible to manage and maintain the tool database of all MARTIN machines, to connect cutting optimisations and to exchange programmes. Remote maintenance can also be carried out via ConnectDrive. Finally, every machine equipped with ConnectControl can be networked — which allows the digital control of the entire workshop — and, as a cloud-based control system, ensure more efficient cooperation between several users.

New T14 and T29 moulders: The T14 fixed spindle moulder is one of the machines on which

MARTIN has currently installed the new ConnectControl control concept. Like all machines of the latest MARTIN generation, it features a new colour scheme. While the T14 aims to impress with its control system on one hand, it also offers a robustly designed, precise machine in a fresh look on the other. The manufacturer combines both aspects into a price-performance ratio that makes the T14 a lucrative entry into the MARTIN world of moulders. The new drive technology Synchro-Drive, which is used on both the spindle moulders and the sliding table saws, stands for synchronous motors

that combine performance and energy efficiency with infinitely variable speed control from 500 to 12,000 rpm. As standard, the fixed spindle moulder is equipped with a 5.5 kW drive; optionally, it can be equipped with motor outputs of up to 11 kW. Other features include a spindle stroke of 150 mm with electric motor-driven positioning of the moulding height, which — already included in the basic equipment — makes set-up noticeably easier. Thanks to the extensive options catalogue, which ranges from simple digital position displays of the moulding fence to a tool and programme identification system via scanner, each T14 can be perfectly adapted to any production requirement.

Just in time for the anniversary, the new T29 tilting arbor spindle moulder is also equipped with the ConnectControl control concept. With up to seven electronically displayed and controlled axes, it can contribute to a significant increase in efficiency in the workshop. The intuitively operated electronics shorten previously time-consuming measuring and setup work around the tool. At the same time, the new control concept of the tilting arbor spindle moulder makes it possible to use the comprehensive possibilities of networking. This not only has the effect of always up-to-date tool data, which can be managed and maintained centrally from the work preparation. The standard tool allocation also allows the fast set-up of moulding patterns. This means that set-up times can be reduced by up to 80% for complex profile settings with tilted spindle and by up to 20% for more simple profiles such as rebates. This way the tilting range of 2 x 46° can also be used efficiently. In addition to the options already available on the T14, the T29 can also be equipped with the electromotori-

cally positionable table rings invented by MARTIN, a setup time-reducing feed support or an HSK interface.

New T66 and T77 sliding table saws: With ConnectControl, companies can now also use the possibilities of digitalisation on the new T66 sliding table saw. MARTIN has developed the T66 as an all-rounder and equipped it for this purpose with a saw blade that can be tilted on one side from 0° to 46° and a continuously variable speed control from 1,500 to 5,500 min⁻¹. The T66 also works with the new SynchroDrive technology, which ensures demand-related power consumption. A 4.0 kW motor is installed on the saw as standard, with 5.5 and 7.5 kW available as options. The cutting height of the T66 is now 155 mm with a 450 saw blade, and 110 mm is achieved with a tilting angle of 45°. The saw blade is changed via ProLock. The new rip fence, which can now be folded to the right in its end position, can be conventionally positioned from the operating position using optional hand-wheel adjustment. For even more operating comfort, an electronically controlled rip fence can be selected, whose drive moves the

full cutting width without having to go into hold-to-run mode thanks to intelligent SafeDrive technology.

The innovative ConnectControl control technology combined with robust machine construction are the hallmarks of the T77 sliding table saw, the big sister of the T66. Even in its basic version, up to seven axes can be controlled digitally. Thanks to SynchroDrive, the cutting speed can be precisely adjusted to any material and the saw blade can be tilted on one or both sides, depending on the choice. The tilting range is unusually large, always a maximum of 47° to the right, and the saw blade can be tilted up to 46° to the left. When tilting through this large angle range, the Dual Drive technology with its chain pull on both sides ensures long-term reliability and precision. By designing the T77 for durability and stability, MARTIN has created the basis for demanding use in trade and industry, regardless of whether wood materials, solid wood, plastics or aluminium are to be cut. The user can decide whether he wants to operate his sliding table saw with the standard 5.5 kW with 7.5, 11.0 or even 15.0 kW. The other options range from the electric motor-positioned rip fence with SafeDrive technology and the PreX sawing unit to an electrically adjustable three-axis scoring saw and the RadioCompens angle cutting system to the VacuSlide vacuum workpiece fixing system. A special feature of the T77 is the optional motorised rip fence, which can be lowered in its outermost position. The special technology also allows smooth manual movement, despite the motorisation.

Portfolio expansion: T32 planer: With the T32, the Otto-

beuren-based machine manufacturer has added a combined planer and thicknesser to its product range. In addition to its space-saving design, the T32 is particularly impressive because of its flexibility: the user can switch between planing and thicknessing in seconds. Equipped with a powerful 5.5 kW motor as standard, the T32 can be optionally fitted with a 7.5 kW drive. In addition, the machine can be adapted to its tasks with different cutter block. While a Z4-TERSA solid steel cutterhead with HSS knives is fitted as standard, the Xplane cutterhead with its three spiral-shaped rows of knives is the option of choice if particularly low-cutting is required or noise emission is to be reduced. The Xplane cutterheads are operated here at speeds of up to 6,000 min⁻¹ instead of the standard 5,000 min⁻¹. The feed speeds of 6 and 12 m/min, which are also standard, can be switched directly during planing. The feed rates can be adjusted even finer with an optional infinitely variable feed control, which allows speeds from 5 to 20 m/min. The T32 is equipped as standard with one spiral-toothed steel in-feed roller and one rubber outfeed roller. The motorised height adjustment integrated as standard offers a resolution of 0.1 mm.

International player: The new generation of machines from MARTIN is part of a portfolio of which more than 65% of the machines leave Germany every year to be used in over 70 countries around the world. Since 1948, the Ottobeuren-based company has shipped more than 70,000 wood-working machines of 60 types all over the world.

MARTIN
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www.martin.info



Wiha receives the TOP 100 seal once again

EXCELLENCE in Innovation: the tool manufacturer Wiha Werkzeuge GmbH from Schonach, Germany, has once again been recognised for its innovative power at the 29th round of the TOP 100 competition. As a result, Wiha received the TOP 100 seal 2022. This award is only granted to particularly innovatives SMEs. On 24 June, the hand tool manufacturer will additionally personally be honoured for this accomplishment by the patron of the competition, science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar.

At the heart of the TOP 100 innovation competition is a scientific selection process that participants have to go through. Commissioned by com-pamedia, the organiser of the comparison, innovation researcher Prof. Nikolaus Franke and his team evaluated Wiha based on more than 100 innovation indicators in five categories: innovation-supportive top management, innovation climate, innovative processes and organisation, external orientation/open innovation and innovation success. In principle, the TOP 100 analysis focuses on the question of whether the innovations of a company are only a matter of chance or if they are systematically planned and therefore repeatable in the future. A special emphasis is on whether and how the innovations and product improvements are established on the market.



Ronny Linksdog and Wilhelm Hahn from Wiha.

Wiha is among the top innovators for the third time already. Wiha is one of the world's leading manufacturers of hand tools for professional use in trade and industry. Wiha regularly presents innovative new products from screwdrivers via pliers, bits, wrenches or multitools, up to electrical screwdrivers, electrician's cases and much more. Wilhelm Hahn, CEO of Wiha, said: "Creative thinking, searching for new ideas, the constant drive for progress and improvement are what moves Wiha in every company sector. From the highest management level down to each individual employee, we intensely apply a culture of innovation. We are very proud that our work, our innovative processes and structures were evaluated so positively within the scientific evaluation process that we are now able to celebrate the third star on the TOP 100 seal."

"How focused is a company on innovation? How consistently do its structures pursue this aim? This is what we look at with TOP 100," explained Prof. Nikolaus Franke, the scientific supervisor of TOP 100. "The most innovative SMEs receive the seal. It shows that they are excellently prepared for future challenges."

On 24 June, the top innovators of the year 2022 will gather in Frankfurt for the award ceremony at the Germany SME business summit to be congratulated by Ranga Yogeshwar. The science journalist has been involved in the innovation competition as a patron for eleven years.

Wiha ● www.wiha.com/gb/en/

Rochester builders merchant brings community boost

A ROCHESTER builders merchant has marked its official opening by making a £5,000 donation to charities.

Selco Builders Warehouse opened its doors on the Medway City Estate on Anthony's Way in December and has now held its official opening celebration, which was delayed due to coronavirus restrictions.

As part of its opening, Selco donated £1,000 to Kent based charity My Shining Star Children's Cancer Charity as part of its Selco Stars programme, while providing a £2,000 boost to charity partners Global's Make Some Noise and Cancer Research UK.

My Shining Star, which has its head office in Rainham, provides emotional and financial support for families which have children affected by cancer.

The donation from Selco will be used to extend the offering of trauma support for families.

Anita Marinelli, founder and chair of the Board of Trustees for My Shining Star, said: "We were thrilled to win the Selco Stars prize

and the donation of £1,000 will make a huge different to our work.

"We try and support up to 5,000 families across the country every year. That may be through providing financial assistance of helping with wellbeing and mental health.

"When a child embarks on a battle with cancer, it has an impact on the entire family and our aim is

to be there to help them every step of the way. We will use the Selco donation to strengthen our trauma support programme for families supporting children because we need everyone to be as strong as possible for what is inevitably a very testing time."

Global's Make Some Noise supports small charities helping dis-

advantaged people across the UK while Cancer Research UK, Selco's new charity partner for 2022, funds doctors, nurses and scientists to carry out pioneering research to help provide a solution to defeating cancer.

Mat Brice, Selco Rochester branch manager, said: "We are delighted to have opened a new branch in the area and there has certainly been strong interest in our first two months of trading.

"Supporting the local communities in which we operate is a major part of the Selco philosophy and My Shining Star is a fantastic charity which supports families through some of the most difficult times of their lives. We are also thrilled to be playing our part in backing the outstanding work carried out by Global's Make Some Noise and Cancer Research UK."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 72 branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Left to right: Selco colleagues David Alexander and Jack Reeve with branch manager Mat Brice and Anita Marinelli and Heather O'Keeffe from My Shining Star.

Bloqs open-access factory opens in Enfield



ON 10th FEBRUARY 2022, Bloqs welcomed Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor of London, and Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of Enfield Council, as guests of honour to officially open the brand new facility.

Bloqs is a revolutionary new facility providing professional makers and businesses with affordable workshop space, access to state-of-the-art equipment and the opportunity to become part of a vibrant community of like-minded people.

Bloqs offers an ambitious new model for open-access working, economising space and facilities on a scale which, it is believed, has never been done before, while maximising the scope of the businesses, organisations and individuals that use it.

The new space — designed in close collaboration with Bloqs by 5th Studio — provides 32,000 ft² of workspace with facilities for woodworking, metalworking, fashion and fabrics, engineering and spray finishing, as well as resources and services — including courses, classes and hireable meeting rooms.

Part-newbuild and part-adaptive reuse of a former vehicle testing facility, the light-filled, hangar-sized building is 6.5 (serviceable) metres tall with direct access to a service yard. New amenities open to the public include a café and event space as well as a shop stocking tools and materials.

Users have access to £1.3 million-worth of light industrial equipment, usually beyond the reach of most new businesses, including: industrial mills, lathes,



sanders, saws, CNC routers, laser cutting, 3D printers, spray booths and sewing machines.

Once registered, members can pre-book spaces and facilities as they need them. Current members range from fashion designers, furniture makers and interior designers to playground designers and makers, metal fabricators and eco-entrepreneurs.

An investment of £4 million by the Greater London Authority and Enfield Council has enabled this ground-breaking concept to treble the scale of its operations and meet the growing demand among professional makers for affordable workspace in London.

Meridian Water is a major £65 bn, 25-year programme led by Enfield Council, bringing 10,000 homes and 6,000 jobs to the borough. Bloqs will play a crucial role in defining the character of the area ahead of longer-term regeneration, demonstrating how the creative industries can form an integral part of successful mixed-use development and placemaking.

Bloqs co-founder, Al Parra, said: "From the very beginning Bloqs has been about providing profes-

sional makers and their businesses the right space and facilities to grow and make a living.

"We've done this by gathering a community that shares resources, and what really distinguishes us from other open-access workspace is that we're designed specifically to enable commercial activity.

"With this new facility, we can give our community the space to make it work, we can create partnerships with education providers, manufacturers, suppliers, and our local communities. We're deeply

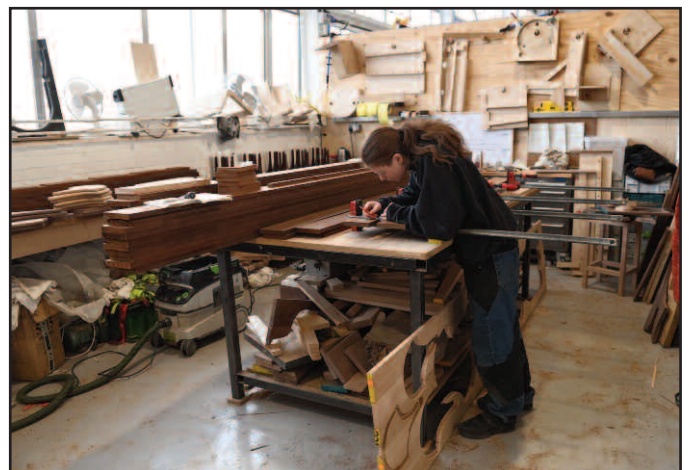
indebted and grateful to the many people and partners who have made this next step possible.

"We're proud of how far we've come together and we can't wait to show people around!"

The Bloqs model intensifies land use and machinery by grouping multiple businesses under one roof, so sustainability is part of its DNA. The new building allows Bloqs to further reduce its footprint with the addition of a biomass plant which converts waste woodchip and sawdust into heating and hot water while an extensive sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) contributes to the sustainability of the Lea Valley.

A new partnership with leading equipment makers Weinig UK/ Holz-Her UK means that members now have access to brand new state-of-the-art equipment including a Cube Plus automatic four head planer, a Streamer 1057 XL edgebander and Dynestic 7505 flatbed CNC router, in addition to a 5-axis CNC router.

Bloqs
<https://buildingbloqs.com/>



Perry Barr Residential Scheme smashes job creation target

THE INTERNATIONAL property and investment group, Lendlease, has announced that more than 500 jobs have now been created during construction of the Perry Barr Residential Scheme in Birmingham.

Lendlease, the principal contractor for the scheme on behalf of Birmingham City Council, announced that 512 jobs had been created against a target of 400, which was one of a number of objectives it was set in order to help support the local economy and bring wider community benefits.

Over £250 m has been spent with the local community and more than 1,300 people have been upskilled on the site. The workforce has also put in more than 2,300 hours of volunteering for local charities including Birmingham Crisis Centre and the food bank at Eden Boys' School.

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "We're determined that success for Birmingham will mean success for the people of



Birmingham and this milestone on the Perry Barr Residential Scheme demonstrates the incredible wider benefit for the community of such a transformational regeneration project. We're creating jobs, launching careers and delivering much-needed new homes for Birmingham and I look forward to seeing this vibrant new neighbourhood take shape."

The tallest building on the scheme tops out at 15 storeys and the first residents are expected to move in during 2023. The scheme is part of the wider £700 million-plus regeneration of Perry Barr in the north west of the city, including improved leisure and community facilities along with upgraded transport infrastructure.

Lendlease is the Management Contractor for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme, working with Kier, Willmott Dixon and Vinci UK to deliver the project. Anna Evans, Lendlease's Project Director for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme, said: "This is a major milestone for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme and shows the immensely positive impact that Lendlease is having on the local community. Our wider efforts to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability will also have a lasting impact, and it's something Lendlease will continue to strive for as we aim for net-zero carbon by 2025 and absolute-zero by 2040."

New site hoardings have recently been erected around the site, designed by students from Birmingham Metropolitan college with the brief of raising awareness of single use plastics (SUP). The hoardings were inspired by the SUP Ambassadors programme, a project developed with students from Eden Boys' School, that aims to raise awareness of SUP and its impact on the environment, people and wildlife. Lendlease, together with construction partners, also sponsored the production of a new book aimed at educating primary school children on single use plastics, which was launched at Calshot Primary School, and has now been distributed to over 450 pupils in primary schools across Birmingham.

Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme

www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50253/perry_bar_regeneration

Rotpunkt reports constant growth on a global scale

ROTPUNKT, award winning designer and leading manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture, is pleased to report constant growth on a global scale, as the company looks back on an extraordinarily successful 2021.

The company's annual turnover increased by circa 19% to deliver a health business income of €87 million. During this time, the core markets identified by Rotpunkt, reveal Great Britain, the Nordic countries of Scandinavia and France, are now rivalling the traditionally strong Germany and Benelux countries of Belgium and the Netherlands.

New sales territories also emerged last year, with Austria and South Tyrol becoming the latest territories to join the company's growing global supply chain. Dietmar Walter, trading agency specialist, helped facilitate this developing market and Sven Herden, managing director of sales & marketing at Rotpunkt, says: "Quality sustainable contracts were forged at the Küchenwohntrends trade fair in Salzburg last October, where our team formed new relationships with specialist dealers in

parts of Austria and Italy. These new connections have since intensified and are now an integral part of our plans to expand and develop in and around these regions."

UK: Rotpunkt has been able to successfully navigate a series of market challenges following Brexit and the pandemic, fully compensating for any market fluctuations worldwide to ensure a sustained level of growth. Thankfully, signs are now pointing to a full global recovery in 2022, which is why the company exhibited at the KBB

show in Birmingham (see separate report), in order to strengthen business ties among new and existing trade partners in the UK.

Germany: Conforming a steady 80% share in exports, Rotpunkt is pleased to report an even sales growth across all core markets to the brand, with Germany reaching consistent record highs. "In fact, Rotpunkt has significantly increased volume, seeing its German sales division experience double-digit growth rates in the past three years," explains Sven.

2022: The outlook for Rotpunkt in 2022 beyond, is extremely positive despite being subjected to the ongoing challenges in the KBB industry and daily operational factors, which furniture manufacturers face. Key objectives will concentrate on quality leads, supply chains, logistics, delivery times and energy efficiency. New product innovations will benefit from considered stock increases where possible, and the company will maintain its climate-friendly manufacturing processes and commitment to planet-friendly policies.

Support: the company has a clear stance on the ongoing impact of the global health crisis, and the management team at Rotpunkt, Andreas, Sven and Heinz-Jürgen have collectively pledged the following support: "We will act with our partners on a peer-to-peer level, considering any partnership on a literal basis among which, we are measured by. We see future growth as inevitable, and we aim to shape and influence the marketplace with a sense of proportion."

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



Selco bowled over by Warwickshire partnership

A LONG-STANDING partnership between Selco Builders Warehouse and reigning LV= Insurance County Champions Warwickshire County Cricket Club has been extended.

Selco, one of the UK's leading builders merchants, will sponsor the Family Stand at Edgbaston Stadium for its extensive programme of international and domestic cricket in the 2022 season.

The deal ensures Selco's sponsorship of Warwickshire will continue into an eighth year.

Selco has previously been a front of shirt partner for Warwickshire and Birmingham Bears in the Royal London One-Day Cup and the Vitality Blast, as well as retaining branding rights throughout the stadium, including the hover cover protecting the pitch from the elements.

While Selco has an ever expanding nationwide presence, its roots are firmly based in Birmingham with branches in Solihull, Tyseley, Tyburn, Perry Barr and Solihull and its Support Centre in Wythall.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director at Selco, said: "We have en-

joyed a strong relationship with Warwickshire over many years and are delighted to extend that further. The club has enjoyed strong success in all formats over our time as a partner, not least winning the County Championship last year, and Edgbaston has built a reputation as an outstanding sporting venue in the UK.

"It's a partnership which has worked brilliantly for both parties

and we are excited to be sponsoring the Family Stand and supporting the next generation of cricket fans in the Midlands and beyond.

"We are already planning a busy and engaging year of activity to ensure we enhance the match day experience for those attending Edgbaston, particularly in the T20 format."

Ben Seifas, commercial partnerships manager at Warwickshire,

added: "Selco has been a loyal and valued partner for several years and we are delighted to extend the agreement further. Our family stand is an alcohol free zone in 2022, as part of our plans to enhance the match day experience for those in attendance, so it's great that Selco will be at the heart of that activity through the Family Stand sponsorship."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Two more awards for BSW from STTA

BSW, believed to be the largest forestry and timber group in the UK, has continued its impressive run of award wins by picking up two more at the Scottish Timber Trade Association (STTA) Award Dinner — the Carbon Reduction Award and the Rising Star Award.

BSW Group was presented with the Carbon Reduction Award for its work with Selco Builders Warehouse, who purchased 8,000 woodland-generated carbon credits to offset the emissions generated by their delivery vehicles.

Facilitated by CarbonStore, the carbon-offsetting arm of BSW, Selco pledged to plant over 100,000 trees across 100 acres at a site situated in the Scottish borders.

The STTA also presented the Rising Star Award to Mark Walker, a former apprentice turned electrical engineer. Mark, who originally started at the company as an apprentice at BSW Dalbeattie, has gone on to make huge contributions towards the productivity of the company — helping turn it into BSW's most efficient mill within the group.

Tony Lockey, Group Learning and Development Manager, said: "We hired Mark because of his terrific potential. He knew exactly what he wanted to achieve and what he felt the future of our manufacturing industry required, in terms of taking it into the 21st century."

Mark's success story has made him a role model for other apprentices within the country, working hard to promote the apprentice scheme in schools and colleges. Tony predicts he will have a promising career, viewing him as a "future leader and an industry mover and shaker".

BSW
www.bsw.co.uk



Left to right: Alan Milne, Chief Financial Officer; Michael Donaldson, Executive Director of James Donaldsons & Sons; James Brennan, BSW Group Marketing Manager and Tony Hackney BSW Group CEO.

Wilsonart appoints new sales development manager to enhance retailer support

WILSONART UK, a leading manufacturer and distributor of high-pressure laminate surfaces, has appointed Dionne Starr as its new sales development manager, as the business looks to enhance the support on offer to its network of kitchen and bathroom retailers.

With a background in customer service and account management, Dionne will lead a sales development team of six, which will be responsible for cementing the Wilsonart brands' status as the top choices for bathroom retailers nationwide.



From support with merchandising and sales strategies, to ensuring retailers have the samples, displays and stock to meet evolving customer demand, Dionne and her team will also be on hand to respond to all manner of incoming enquiries relating to Wilsonart, with an initial focus on its Bushboard brand.

Prior to joining Wilsonart, Dionne's most recent role saw her manage a team of account managers for a major international packaging supplier, where she was responsible for overseeing the interaction between the brand and its clients, as well as forecasting business performance. This followed 20 years' customer service experience in the health and wellbeing sector. On her appointment, Dionne said: "The network of retailers we work with is a true extension of our brands and one of our greatest assets, so I'm looking forward to working closely with them in order to enhance their product knowledge and capacity to offer first-rate products and services to their customers. With a number of new products in the pipeline, this is an exciting time for our business and the product category as a whole."

Dionne's appointment coincides with the extension of Bushboard's award-winning wall panelling system, Nuance, to reflect changing interior trends and meet demand for natural looking bathroom wall solutions without the need for complex tiling. The updated collection includes 11 new, easy to install options which are inspired by natural materials, geometric shapes and tile effect layouts. Dionne continued, "As a team, one of our main goals is creating a culture where retailers feel confident in approaching us for support across a variety of requirements so we can act as a true extension of their team. By working in this way, we hope to ensure installers and homeowners alike can really benefit from the wealth of options and extensive knowledge available."

Wilsonart ● www.wilsonart.co.uk

Covers employee raises more than £2,000 for St Barnabas House

AN EMPLOYEE from Covers Timber & Builders Merchants in Chichester has raised £1,307 for St Barnabas House after completing the Brighton Half Marathon. As part of its fund matching scheme, Covers has agreed to donate an additional £1,000 making the total amount £2,307.

Jackie Redman, sales office manager at Covers Chichester, decided to take on the challenging 13-mile course to raise funds for St Barnabas House in Worthing. The hospice is close to Jackie's heart after taking care of her mother, who sadly passed away from cancer in October 2021.

Despite being a regular runner, Jackie has never completed an event more than 10 miles long. She said: "This is my first half marathon and, even though it was tough going, I was thrilled to finish in 1 hour and 52 minutes."

"My sister and I lost our wonderful mum in October. She had successfully beaten both breast and bladder cancer, but was sadly diagnosed with peritoneal cancer in May 2019. After numerous rounds of chemotherapy and a major operation, she went into remission. However, just six weeks later we were told the cancer was growing again. She fought to the end and endured horrendous side effects from her treatment. Eventually, after months of trying to beat the cancer, the hospital could no longer offer treatment and mum decided to spend her final days at home."

"Without the help of St Barnabas, this wouldn't have been possible. It is because of them that mum was able to spend the last weeks of her life in the place she loved most surrounded by her beloved cats."

Henry Green, managing director of Covers, added: "Congratulations to Jackie on her amazing achievement. We are delighted to contribute to her fundraising total with our match funding scheme. The scheme was set up in 2019 to support our staff with their charity endeavours and matches their fundraising amount up to £1,000. We hope that our contribution helps to make a difference to the people and families St Barnabas cares for."

Covers ● www.coversmerchants.co.uk



Ceremony in Birmingham honours Selco employees after completing apprenticeships



DOZENS of employees from one of the UK's leading builders' merchants donned their cap and gown to enjoy a special graduation day after completing apprenticeships.

Selco Builders Warehouse staged a graduation ceremony in Birmingham, attended by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, where more than 50 of its branch team members received nationally recognised qualifications.

The vast majority of the graduates came from the first phase of Selco's Rising Stars scheme, a management training programme designed in conjunction with training provider Realise to enhance the careers of colleagues.

Other Selco team members recognised at the ceremony included those who had completed Selco's Driver Academy, which offers people the chance to retrain and become fully qualified HGV drivers.

In total, 90 Selco employees have completed apprenticeships

during the pandemic, with more than 60 per cent of those already rewarded with promotion.

Mr Street, the former managing director of John Lewis who presented the awards alongside Selco CEO Howard Luft, said: "Having a background in retail myself, it is a real thrill to see Selco committed to training and developing its people locally to help them move to the next level and create a great career for themselves.

"The scheme implemented by Selco demonstrates the value of apprenticeship and training programmes — both for the employer and the employee — and a huge congratulations must go to all of the graduates.

"Selco's work is not only a great vote of confidence in the region's workforce, but also supports my 100,000 jobs plan as we look to bounce back from the impact of the pandemic."

Marc Lucock, HR director at Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "The graduation was a fantastic

event enjoyed by all and a fitting way to celebrate the hard work of our colleagues who have been rewarded for all their efforts over the last 12 to 18 months.

"Having the West Midlands Mayor in attendance provided additional prestige on the day and we are delighted our Rising Stars programme has got off to such a successful start.

"The idea behind Rising Stars is to give a high number of branch colleagues the chance to enhance their skillset and leave them well-positioned to progress their careers with Selco.

"We're using our Apprenticeship Levy contributions to fund the scheme and we are utilising a course with a high level of practical elements, which means that our colleagues are putting into practice their learnings on a day-to-day basis.

"We have already begun the silver and gold phase of the programme — which is training branch deputy managers and

managers of the future — and we are delighted to be offering colleagues a chance to create a genuine career path and providing them with the skills, techniques and self-development to progress."

The apprenticeships see applicants complete a host of modules, including business management and brand reputation, customer and communication, products and services, stock and merchandising and team and performance.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 72 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

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

Pictured: Selco CEO Howard Luft (seated front centre) with the Selco graduates.

Selco
www.selcobw.com

New acquisition for Premier Forest Products

LEADING UK timber importer, Newport-based Premier Forest Products, has announced the completion of a deal to acquire fellow South Wales timber company Monmouthshire Timber Supplies.

Established in 1974, Mon Timber becomes the latest brand to join Premier's expanding portfolio.

Mon Timber is a successful and well-respected supplier of timber products, joinery and roof trusses across the region, operating from three sites between Newport and Cardiff. With a customer base rooted in construction and joinery, the business has developed an excellent reputation for service and expertise, something that aligns well with Premier's own ethos.

Chris Worthy, managing director of Mon Timber, said: "Joining Premier Forest Products marks the beginning of a new period in our 48-year history. There is great synergy between our businesses, not only culturally, but also through our complementary product portfolio, service offering and customer-base."

Josh Worthy added: "I am posi-

tive that Premier will be excellent custodians of the Mon Timber brand and I am thrilled to continue with my role at Mon Timber guided by Premier's leadership team. The opportunities that come with being part of a larger group support our ambitious growth plans for the future."

Terry Edgell, co-founder and CEO, Premier Forest Products, said: "Acquisitions sit at the heart of our

five-year strategy for growth, but they have to be the right choice for us. So, when I received a positive reception to our approach to Mon Timber's shareholders, I was delighted. This purchase constitutes an excellent fit for Premier, dovetailing neatly into our ongoing plans for diversification and vertical integration, with each business being able to benefit from the strengths of the other.

"Mon Timber will further extend Premier's product portfolio and service capabilities, whilst Premier is able to bring clear benefits of scale, both financially and through its substantial distribution and purchasing network.

"We have no doubt that our shared resources will unlock further potential for both businesses, benefitting employees, customers and suppliers alike."

Premier has experienced substantial increases in both turnover and profitability over the past two years, and the business is firmly focused on further rapid growth to capitalise on the favourable market conditions. The company is already in high-level discussions regarding other projects.

Mr Edgell said: "This is the most exciting phase in the company's development since its launch in 1993. Success breed success, and we have a clear vision of where we want Premier to go. Bringing the Mon Timber brand into the Premier group is another significant step towards realising that ambition."

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



Left to right: Joe Walker, Terry Edgell, Chris Worthy and Josh Worthy.

Laser engraver just got smarter with Trotec Vision Design&Position

TROTEC Laser has upgraded its flagship laser cutting and engraving machine with a new lid camera which is designed to save even more time during laser processing.

The Speedy 400 Run on Ruby® laser system is already believed to be the fastest of its kind, with cutting speeds claimed to be up to eight times faster than other systems. The new 12 megapixel patent-pending Vision Design&Position lid camera further speeds up workflow by delivering a live image of the entire work area on to the operating PC in real time.



A full colour and detailed image of the laser bed and workpiece is displayed within Trotec's proprietary Ruby® software, allowing the laser operator to position the artwork file exactly where they'd like it to be cut or engraved, and to see a visual representation of how it will look before the job is started.

This new feature negates the need for manual positioning of the laser pointer and saving graphic position data to the software, making laser job setup faster and easier than ever before.

The Vision Design&Position camera is the latest feature to be added to the Ruby® software which incorporate all design and preparation stages of the laser cutting and engraving process to drastically reduce the time and cost of the workflow. The software is under continuous development by Trotec, with more time-saving features being planned for future releases.

Trotec's Speedy 400 Run on Ruby® laser system boasts a touch screen operation, thanks to Ruby®, making it possible to operate the laser in the network via Ethernet or WiFi without an additional PC. The versatile 1,016 x 610 mm working is suitable for many standard sheet sizes while power options up to 120 W and a maximum processing speed of 4.3 m/s make the Speedy 400 a highly productive professional-grade cutting and engraving system.

All Trotec Speedy systems are available with a range of accessories in addition to CO₂, fibre and flexx laser source options and are fully supported by a UK based technical service team.

Trotec Laser ● Tel 0191 580 1182
www.troteclaser.com

Forest School set for boost thanks to Selco

YOUNGSTERS at a Solihull school will be able to further explore the great outdoors this summer — thanks to a donation from a leading builders merchant.

St Patrick's Primary C of E Academy, based on Salter Street in Earlswood, has received fencing and other materials from Selco Builders Warehouse to utilise on its forest school project.



Simon Paris of Selco in Solihull with pupils Sophie Wong, age 7, and Abigail Wong, age 11, of St Patrick's Academy Primary School in Earlswood.

The donation will be used to further secure the forest school, allowing additional classes to use the facility, and for a wildlife pond to be created.

Sheela Fisher, a teaching assistant at St Patrick's and a major part of the forest school project, said: "We are hugely grateful to Selco for the donation they have made.

"The forest school is an integral part of our education offering and is very much enjoyed by children at the younger end of the school.

"We now want to enhance the area and open up the facility to as many of the 247 children in the school as possible. Selco's donation will enable us to make the improvements to do that and we are extremely grateful."

Simon Paris, manager of Selco's Solihull branch based on Ashbourne Way, said: "We are thrilled to be playing our part in helping St Patrick's deliver their vision for the forest school.

"I've visited the school and it's a fantastic facility which will only go from strength to strength with the plans in place.

"At Selco, we like to support the communities in which we operate where possible and this is a fantastic example of that."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 72 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence, including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Altendorf Group introduces new service app

IN THE INTERESTS of increasing efficiency and availability, production environments and processes in the processing of wood, metal and plastic are becoming increasingly digitalised. The support and service of production technology is also subject to increasing digitalisation.

In order to reduce support and service paths for users, the Altendorf Group offers a digital and direct channel to the proven Altendorf service: the new myALTENDORFGROUP app. After registering, customers can directly access the data of their own Altendorf and Hebrock machines, as well as machine documentation and training videos.

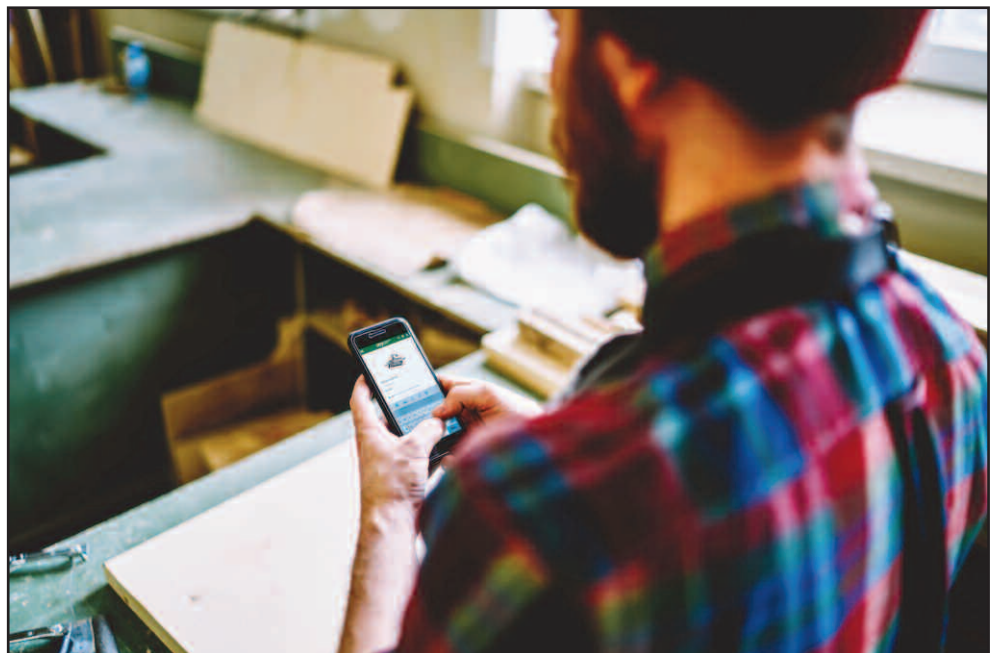
If, for example in a workshop, the Altendorf sliding table saw or the Hebrock edgebanding machine is malfunctioning, the carpenter can use the app to contact an Altendorf service technician directly via chat or video support. He then can directly provide digital support via chat or video call. Spare parts can also be requested and ordered directly via the app. With the help of the displayed service history, it is very easy to access all past service cases.

"The new myALTENDORFGROUP app makes it even easier for our customers to contact us. We can provide direct assistance via video support and thus contribute to fast machine availability. Of course, personal contact with our customers is always a central priority for us, so the app is an extension of our existing personal customer communication," says Jörg Woestkamp, head of service at the Altendorf Group.

In a further step, the app will also be made available to Altendorf Group dealers worldwide as their own support tool.

The myALTENDORFGROUP app is available now for iOS and Android.

Altendorf
www.altendorfgroup.com/myaltendorfgroup



Covers launches its Anniversary Challenge & Demonstration mornings

AS PART of its 175th anniversary celebrations, Covers Timber & Builders Merchants will be hosting a series of Anniversary Challenges & Demonstration Mornings at its depots starting with Southampton on Thursday 28th April.

These extra special trade mornings, which include a free hog roast, will run until the autumn and will be open to all customers.

Covers' top suppliers, including Bradstone, British Gypsum, Millboard, Rockwool, Sika, Spax, Toolbank, Mendes Doors and Woodpecker Flooring will all be in attendance providing demonstrations and offering visitors the chance to take part in a range of Anniversary Challenges to win up to £175 of Love2shop gift cards on the day. Challenges will include Bradstone's Test Your Memory, Rockwool's Fill The Frame, British Gypsum's Beat The Buzzer, Sika's Test Your Strength, Spax's Fastest Screwer, Millboard's Spin The Wheel and Toolbank's Scalextric.

All those taking part in the challenges will also have the chance to become one of Covers' Challenge Champions. Those with the most points for each challenge at the end of the demonstration morning will be added to a league table. As the demonstration mornings continue at Covers' depots across the year, other challenge winners will be added. The contestant who remains at the top of the board for



each challenge after the last trade day of the year will become a Covers Challenge Champion. Prizes for being top of the league include a Cello Notepad, Apple Watch, Apple iPad, 50-inch 4K TV, a Bose speaker and a £250 Love2shop gift voucher.

Ben Gale, Marketing Manager of Covers, said: "This is a great chance to come and celebrate with Covers during our 175th anniversary year, find out more about what our suppliers have on offer and take part in some fun challenges — who knows, you could be walking away with a top prize! We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible and hope that everyone who joins us enjoys the free food and activities on offer."

Covers Anniversary Challenge & Demonstrating Mornings will run from 7.30 am to 1 pm, are free to attend and include a free hog roast. No registration is required. Covers' Anniversary Challenge & Demonstration

Mornings will take place at the company's depots on the following dates: 28th April Southampton; 10th May Bognor Regis; 18th May Burgess Hill; 14th June Portsmouth; 15th June Horsham; 22nd June Lewes; 29th June Chichester; 13th July Rudgwick; 9th August Bexleyheath; 10th August Tunbridge Wells; 14th September Brighton; 20th September Alresford; 23rd September Gosport.

Covers

www.coversmerchants.co.uk

Selco gliding in to support Coventry Phoenix

COVENTRY PHOENIX women's ice hockey team will be getting their skates on in their quest for success in 2022 after securing a new high-profile sponsorship.

The Phoenix, who play in the Women's National Ice Hockey League Division One South, will be backed by leading UK builders merchant, Selco Builders Warehouse, this year. Selco, which has a branch on Austin Drive in Coventry, will be the main sponsor of the club which has suffered with interrupted seasons due to coronavirus restrictions over the past two years.

Zoe Vince, who plays in goal and manages the committee at Coventry Phoenix, said: "We are thrilled to have secured sponsorship from a major national company such as Selco. We look forward to representing them on the ice and hope to enjoy a long and successful partnership."

"The last couple of years have been very tough for everyone associated with the club. Games have been few and far between and securing funding has been difficult."

"We are a very inclusive club, with players aged from 15 to 55 from all backgrounds, and see ourselves as a big part of the local community. We play teams from across the country so there is a financial burden and the Selco sponsorship will make a huge difference."

The Phoenix play their home games at Planet Ice Coventry.

Selco Coventry branch manager, Eddie Johnson, said: "It is always exciting to support projects, organisations and sports teams from the local community and we are looking forward to our link up with Coventry Phoenix."

"It's a popular club in the city who are flying the flag for Coventry at a national level and we will be following their progress closely."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 72 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Wood Awards 2022 launches call for entries

THE WOOD AWARDS: Excellence in British Architecture and Product Design has launched its 2022 call for entries. Anyone involved in a UK-based wood project is invited to enter and has until 1 July 2022 to submit their applications. There is no entry fee.

Established in 1971, the Wood Awards recognises, encourages and promotes outstanding design, craftsmanship and installation throughout the UK. The Wood Awards' elite independent judging panel not only judges all submitted entries but also visits the shortlisted projects in person, making the Wood Awards a uniquely rigorous competition.

The Awards are split into two main categories: *Furniture & Product* and *Buildings*. The Gold Award is given to the project that the judges deem to be the winner of winners.

Jim Greaves of Hopkins Architects has been appointed as Chair of buildings judges. Jim comments, "I am pleased to be asked



Magdalene College Library — 2021 Gold Award winner.

to continue chairing the judges for the buildings panel. As the construction industry seeks to work in

greater harmony, with our natural world, it is increasingly turning to wood as the material of choice. We see this reflected in the Wood Awards, where every year the standard for entries continues to climb. It is a great privilege to be able to assess, and learn from, the many exemplar projects being put forward for consideration."

The 2022 buildings categories will be confirmed later this year, but they are likely to be Commercial & Leisure, Education & Public Sector, Interiors, Private and Small Project. Other awards, such as Structural and Existing Building awards, can be given at the judges' discretion.

Design critic, curator and journalist Corinne Julius has returned

as Chair of furniture judges. The Furniture & Product competition will be split into Bespoke and roduction Made. The Student Designer category is being re-introduced in 2022 to celebrate the work of students after the disruption many experienced in previous years from Covid.

With permission from the owner, anyone associated with a building or product completed in the last two years can enter. Buildings must be located within the UK, whilst furniture and other products must have been either designed or manufactured in the UK. Fitted furniture must be in the UK. There are no restrictions on the size or budget of a project. Entrants may submit more than one project. Entries must be submitted via woodawards.com

You can view the 2021 winners at www.woodawards2021.online

The 2022 shortlist will be announced in September. The Wood Awards has ambitious plans for a novel and exciting finale to the competition, details of which will be announced in due course. As a not for profit competition, the Wood Awards can only happen with collaborative industry sponsorship. Major sponsors of the Wood Awards 2022 include Carpenters Company, AHEC and Timber Development UK.

Wood Awards
www.woodawards.com/enter



Iso-Lounge Chair — Winner, 2021

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Tel: 0207 3204 5007
Email: info@woodawards.com
Web: www.woodawards.com
Twitter: @woodawards

The Building Centre
100 Spence Street
London
EC1A 3BE

30th Anniversary celebrations for GreCon Limited

GRECON Limited is celebrating a significant milestone, with 30 years of business and commitment to the UK & Ireland market.

Established in April 1992, GreCon is located just outside of Newcastle upon Tyne and is a member of the Fagus-GreCon Group. With a wealth of experience as a global market leader, GreCon demonstrates a strong understanding of customer needs and provides turnkey solutions for multiple industries, including the wood-based panel industry, manufacturing, recycling, biomass, pharmaceutical, food, hygiene and more.

GreCon's fire prevention technology protects industrial premises, processes and people, detecting and extinguishing ignition sources, making workplaces safer and enabling uninterrupted production. In addition, GreCon's measuring technology solutions help customers improve product quality in their production processes, using proven German engineering to reduce material and energy costs, ultimately maximising operational efficiency.

During those 30 years, the company has focused on developing sustainable relationships with its customers and adopting the role of a strategic partner. Founding GreCon Limited in 1992 enabled a more local connection and enhanced response times. As a result, customers across the UK & Ireland depend on GreCon for consultative and problem-solving sales engagement and first-class customer service. In addition, fast deliveries of parts and systems are possible due to comprehensive local stockholding and local manufacturing



of Water Pressurisation Systems, which provide a dedicated water supply for the company's fire prevention systems.

Due to a solid track record of performance and growth, it has been possible for GreCon Limited to include customer requirements in the technology roadmap and contribute to developing innovative new products. A recent example of this development is the launch of the GreCon IEM, the Intelligent Extinguishing Module.

The GreCon IEM launched in April 2022 as a fit for the future addition to the intelligent fire prevention solutions portfolio. The GreCon team is keen to discuss this newest product's features and benefits, how it can form part of a

compelling fire prevention solution, and how it can take the intelligence and reliability of existing spark extinguishing systems to the next level.

Critical benefits include more rapid extinguishing of sparks and harmful ignition sources. In addition, integrated intelligent extinguishing technology (IET®) enables highly precise extinguishing process monitoring and predictive maintenance control.

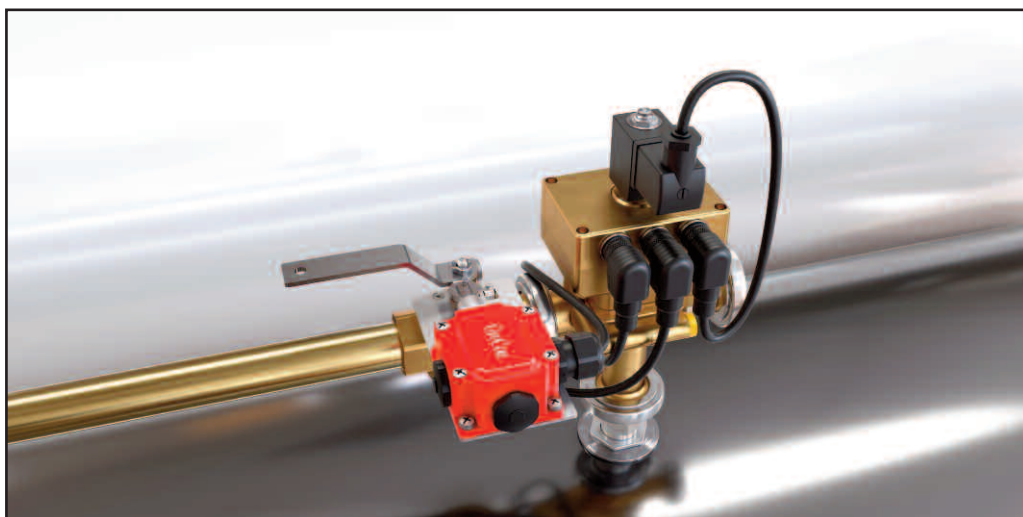
The company is also undertaking recruitment for roles in a new Service & Operations department, streamlining the former structure. A Head of Service & Operations and Service Coordinator are amongst the roles sought. This recruitment will ensure additional

skills and expertise address current and future needs and ensure customer expectations remain in focus.

Jonathan Hamill, managing director of GreCon Ltd, said, "We have a solid track record of providing a first-class service to our customers, who rely on GreCon to add vital protection and to help them optimise their manufacturing process. Today we celebrate our 30th birthday and pause to celebrate the contribution of the whole team and the loyalty of our customers. We also reflect on our business success and our tremendous opportunity to make people and places safer and factories smarter."

Uwe Kahmann, joint Group Managing Director, commented, "This significant business milestone and 30th anniversary reaffirms our commitment to the UK & Ireland market. We fully support GreCon Limited and are committed to our role as a strategic partner to our customers. We thank the team for delivering a vital contribution in looking after our customers even during difficult times such as the current pandemic. We will continue to invest in innovative products and equip our organisation to continue delivering the best in class customer service our customers expect."

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Destination Workplace revealed as the theme for 2023 Workspace Design Show

'DESTINATION Workplace' has been unveiled as the theme for the second edition of Workspace Design Show. Taking place at London's Business Design Centre on 27-28 February 2023, Workspace Design Show will once again be bringing together the entire commercial interiors community to discover and discuss tomorrow's workspaces.

The fundamental nature of how and where we work is changing radically and the once clear divisions between home, entertainment and work are now blurred. The purpose of the office in today's world is being contested continuously, but workspace specialists remain firm that the physical office continues to be integral to the function of successful businesses. The office is a space to bring teams together, encouraging collaboration and inspiring creativity, but for this to happen, workspaces need to offer a unique and agile user experience that cannot be achieved while working from home.

The theme 'Destination Workplace' is all about 'spaces where people want to be', and so Workspace Design Show 2023 will focus



on products that advocate building a culture that attracts, retains and motivates employees, thus re-centring the office as the heart of all business operations. This will be supported by a comprehensive Workspace Design Talks programme that will see thought leaders from across the commer-

cial interiors industry discuss key issues and current trends that are shaping the future of workspaces.

In the show's inaugural edition, founders Esha and Charlie Bark-Jones came up with a completely fresh approach to the workplace sector, which was welcomed by the contract industry. Over 2,500

architects, designers and specifiers visited with 71% having a specifying role.

Suppliers at Workspace Design Show's first edition came from over 20 countries and brought them more than 120 product launches spanning the worlds of furniture, lighting, design & fit out, surfaces & flooring, storage and technology, with agility in workplace design appearing to be the overarching theme, along with privacy, acoustics and sustainability.

Over 60% of the floorplan has already been booked for the 2023 show; this includes the official Acoustics Partner Woven Image, an international interior finishes company that has sustainability and design leadership at its core.

After the success of its inaugural show, Workspace Design Show is also launching an Amsterdam counterpart, creating a new opportunity for the BENELUX commercial design sector. The Amsterdam show will have a special focus on bringing UK exporters an opportunity to sell into the Benelux market.

Workspace Design Show, 27-28 February 2023, will be held at the Business Design Centre, London.

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REHAU expands RAUVISIO Crystal range with new Icelandic-inspired colours



IN LINE with the latest consumer trends in Scandinavian living, REHAU debuted two new colours at the renowned KBB showcase this March.

In two months, the review website Yelp found an increase of 33% in searches using the term 'lagom', indicating that the lifestyle trend has entered the mainstream and the furniture industry should respond to consumer demand. Centred around the philosophy of 'Lagom', the Swedish concept champions perfect equilibrium in our living spaces, with everything in balance between the sleek and modern and those personal touches that make our houses our home.

REHAU has launched two new colours — Laguna and Atlantico — to its RAUVISIO crystal glass laminate surface collection that was on display at the KBB showcase this Spring. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with the REHAU Furniture team at the NEC in Birmingham. Inspired by the magic of Iceland, Laguna and

SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

Atlantico are parts of a subdued colour palette that will accentuate furniture and ornaments in the Scandinavian style.

Speaking before the show, Scott Williams, national sales manager, said: "KBB will be a great opportunity for us to show the latest editions to the Passion for Colour range, following its initial success in 2020. We've been closely monitoring customer interests as they develop and wanted to expand the collection further. We noticed the earlier Hygge lifestyle trend had evolved into Lagom, with people wanting a mixture of minimalist furniture without compromising on homely effects. Thus, our aim with Laguna and Atlantico was to give people the chance to decorate their homes with colours that would act as an accent, rather than overshadowing, their personal belongings.

"For instance, Atlantico can be used with other shades of blue in a holistic approach. While an air of sophistication comes when using it in juxtaposition with the colour gold, or alongside concrete for a minimalist, industrial kitchen look. We anticipate Atlantico being popular with homeowners, following Pantone's announcement that blue is the colour of the year. Our other new launch, Laguna, is a subtle greyish-blue that encapsulates the Icelandic geography when in situ against the earthy tones of greenish-grey and aged wood."

Last year, REHAU's Designing Different research campaign discovered that 60% of homeowners prefer calm and neutral tones with the addition of vibrant accessories to introduce character into their living spaces.

"In search of more tranquil colour inspiration, we looked to the enchanting Icelandic landscape. For Laguna, we were drawn to the bodies of water — each lake and lagoon unique in shape, colour and appeal — nestled within the island's rugged terrain. While with Atlantico we channeled the Atlantic Ocean's connectedness. The vast ocean encompasses Iceland, connecting



the island to the rest of the world through its seas, covering a fifth of the Earth's surface," Scott Williams concluded.

Available in either high-gloss or matt, the RAUVISIO crystal range offers a versatile alternative to real glass without compensating on style or quality. The sheets are 50% lighter and ten times more break-resistant than glass. Able to be cut to size with standard woodworking tools, RAUVISIO can easily be milled or inlaid, resulting in less waste or costly breakages. Offering complete design freedom, there are multiple applications across the home, with thicker sheets used as front panels and utilised in recesses and wall panels.

REHAU

www.rehau.com/uk-en/interiors

www.rehau.com/uk-en/designing-different

The Joinery Network makes it easy to add timber doors to your product offering

THE JOINERY NETWORK comes to Stand M7 at FIT Show from 10 to 12 May at the NEC with its stunning new range of Lignum Timber Entrance Doors. With 57 varieties, the door range has been created with both joiners and installers in mind.



"At FIT Show we are focused on showing installers how easy it is to add timber doors and windows into the product mix they offer," says Luke Piper, director at The Joinery Network. "There's a lot more interest in timber than ever before. We have done all the hard work creating the range, and getting all the weather and security testing sorted to create the most beautiful collection of doors."

"Both the trade and consumer brochures include all the door designs with paint colours and glass options, as well as info on handles and hardware. The complete range is tested to PAS24:2016 and has Secured By Design accreditation."

"Visitors can also see Lignum entrance doors on our decorative glass partner RegaLead's stand, next to us at the show, and on the International Timber stand (R8). Both are Affiliates of The Joinery Network."

"We have taken a cue from the popularity of composite doors to make it really easy for homeowners to choose what they want. There's a huge choice of designs and colours, backed up with excellent consumer marketing."

Luke adds: "As well as talking to installation companies, we are looking for manufacturing partners across the UK."

It's definitely worthwhile heading over to The Joinery Network's stand as it is also part of the Glass Times Passport scheme. To be in with a chance of winning £10,000, visitors can swing by to get their passport stamped by a member of the Joinery Network team.

The Joinery Network ● www.thejoinerynetwork.co.uk

PEFC Ireland to host international sustainability summit

PEFC IRELAND is set to host PEFC's first Members' Meeting since 2019, with delegates from all over the world gathering for a long overdue catch up and to discuss timber's role in meeting global net zero targets. The highlight of the week is the Stakeholder Dialogue Day taking place at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin on 12th May. The deadline for registration was 29 April 2022.

The theme — Climate Change Mitigation: Winning with Wood — will see a range of speakers highlighting the whole value chain from forest to consumer, to explore how forests and wood-based products play a crucial role in the fight to combat climate change.

"We are thrilled that PEFC's first post-pandemic, international stakeholder meeting is taking place here in Ireland," said William Merivale who heads up PEFC Ireland. "It will be great to host so many people from all over the world, see some faces we have not seen for some time, and hear from a panel with a huge level of knowledge and expertise. Sustainably managed forests are so important and it's rare that so many people that play a day-to-day part in making the world a cleaner and healthier place, come together in one place."

Speakers from a range of sectors, trading in or using wood-based products, will share their experience including, Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Forestry, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, who will outline Ireland's COP26 goals and forestry's role in achieving them, Dr Pablo van der Lugt, Lecturer in bio-based building at Delft University of Technology and author of 'Tomorrow's Timber', will highlight why timber and circular thinking provide a 'futureproof' building material choice, and the afternoon session will be moderated by

Dr Dorothy Maxwell, Director of Sustainability at Davy Horizon's, one of HRH The Prince of Wales's Responsible Business Ambassadors and ex-Director of Sustainability at House of Fraser.

With an increasingly environmentally aware consumer base, influential market sectors such as construction, food to go, retailers and FMCG manufacturers are rapidly adopting circular habits and switching to renewable, recyclable and responsibly sourced materials such as timber and wood-based products.

"If we are to achieve the 2050 net zero carbon targets agreed at COP26," adds William, "using sustainable timber products such as those certified by PEFC is essential. We think all those attending our event will come away with a wider understanding of this approach and how it gets into their professional and personal lives."

PEFC UK Limited

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Overwhelming response to the Surface Design Show: "It's great to be back"



SURFACE DESIGN SHOW 2022 took place at the Business Design Centre from 8-10 February 2022 with the overwhelming response from both visitors and exhibitors being "it's great to be back". After a year of virtual events the appetite from visitors to engage, network and be updated on the latest surface materials and designs was clearly visible.

"It has been great to be back seeing people and their new and upcoming projects, over the last two years we have really missed the interaction within the industry," said Josh Stance of Mundy Veneer.

More than 160 exhibitors showcased the best in surface design, with almost 5,000 architects, designers and specifiers visiting over the two and a half days.

Once again, Surface Design Show attracted a high-quality audience. 84% of visitors worked in the architecture and design sector and 73% have direct purchasing authority. 69% of the audience came to source new products and 50% were looking to discover new design trends.

The overriding theme of the show, 'Sense of Place', which

looked at putting humanity and the planet's wellbeing at the heart of all decision making, was first introduced at The Opening Night Debate.

Held in partnership with RIBA, Climate Change and Future Proofing featured a stellar line up of industry experts. The passionate session hosted by Simon Sturgis, founder of Targeting Zero, brought together a younger generation of architects, designers and clients. They not only explored the issues around the future durability and adaptability of current projects, but also how we ensure that the commercial value of projects can be future proofed against climate change.

"Really interesting talks on sustainability within our industry and the responsibility all designers have to change thinking and behaviours," said Matthew Ward, director and co-founder at Copper & Ash.

Carrying on with the theme Sense of Place, many of the exhibitors brought new products to the show, which were both innovative and sustainable.

The Good Plastic Company showcased sustainable panels

from 100% recycled plastic, Wonderwall Studios had stunning wall panels made from salvaged wood, whilst Armourcoat launched its new natural clay lime plaster, Clime.

One of the standout trends of the show, Bio Magic, looked at how biodegradable ingredients continue to offer sustainable solutions with developments in colour dyeing and recycling processes, bringing new alternatives to the table using food waste.

Wildman & Bugby brought ecology leather to the show, which uses Olivenleder, a biodegradable tanning agent made using the fallen leaves of the Mediterranean olive harvest. Meanwhile Johnson Tan, one of 32 New Talents at the Show, created surfaces using food waste including eggshells and coffee to achieve delicate, subtle and translucent materials.

Indeed, one of the most visited and exciting areas of the show was the New Talent section. Surface Design Show is committed to supporting and promoting up and coming designers in the materials sector. Sponsored by Canon UK and curated by Jennifer Castoldi,

the 2022 show saw over 30 participants display a range of sophisticated and innovative designs from textile designs to augmented reality to 3D tiles. A recurring theme among many participants this year was the use of natural materials and dyes.

"I have found New Talent really helpful in terms of making new contacts. The organisation of the show has been great and really easy as a recent graduate to understand," said Rebecca Robinson, surface designer.

Amongst the 160 exhibitors, the Italian Trade Agency in conjunction with Confindustria Marmomacchine presented a pavilion of 28 companies representing the Italian stone industry. Showcasing new, innovative and luxury materials including stunning white marble from Elite Stone, Limestone from Fato Stone and porphyry natural stone from Avisio Porfidi Srl representing the best of Made in Italy.

Surface Design Show 2023 will take place at The Business Design Centre, London, 7-9 February 2023.

Surface Design Show
www surfacedesignshow.com

Rotpunkt expects renewed growth in the UK following KBB 2022



ROTPUNKT, award-winning designer and manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture for the contemporary home, is delighted to report a strong upward trend in UK sales as the KBB sector bounced back at Europe's biggest trade fair, KBB Birmingham after a bumpy ride for the British market.

Head of UK operations at Rotpunkt, Matt Phillips, says: "We had a very positive experience at the show after two years dominated by market volatility in the wake of Brexit and the pandemic. Now the situation has completely changed course and we have full confidence that UK consumers are keen to invest in their homes once more. In fact, we anticipate significant sales in the residential and the contracts sector as we prepare to enter a new fiscal year with our expanding network of retailers, sales managers and new collaborative strategy, Together to Zero, in partnership with MyClimate.org."

SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

▶ The UK is a key sales territory for Rotpunkt, second only to Holland, as the company's main export market. This is definitely evident as the company enjoys its highest average value transactions in the UK, with many consumers appreciating our strategic positioning for growing upper mid-level kitchen design in the marketplace."

Following four extremely busy days at KBB Birmingham, the Rotpunkt team had a great response to the exciting new launches showcased on its 130 m² stand. With four state-of-the-art fully interactive kitchen displays and two laundry storage solutions, KBB professionals could fully explore the iconic 'power of possibilities' in eco-luxe furniture by Rotpunkt.

Highlights included the UK launch of new Fenix colours, a new range of Memory RI door fronts, the latest contemporary finishes in Dark Grey Steel and Split-Line in split oak and the British debut of Blum's Revego pocket door system. Interestingly, Rotpunkt was the first manufacturer to show this pocket door mechanism in the UK, integrating the solution with its new Fenix Green & Sherwood Flamed wood-effect full height kitchen doors. The one-touch door system for single and double door applications, believed to be unique, is impressive, not least thanks to its fully integrated technology and ease of integration into the kitchen layout or furniture units. The smart fixed-width cabinet solution can also be easily incorporated into plans featuring standard cabinets and is available pre-assembled.

The Fenix Green super matt finish in combination with Sherwood Flamed, was shown on the popular Zerox furniture and benefits include an easy clean surface that is antibacterial, anti-fingerprint, high chemical resistance, high UV resistance with a premium super matt finish. Carcass is available in 78 cm and extra-tall 91 cm heights, with kitchen doors in standard and extra-tall 2.4 m heights featuring luxury interior shelves with metal edging for a refined industrial style.

"We are back and ready to take sustainable kitchen living to the next level. It has been fantastic to see so many customers in person and welcome new dealers to the fold. We have already sent out



full, comprehensive details of our new product offerings for 2022-3 and have advised countless retailers about what will be the best fit with their customer base and projected growth plans. Our new brochures include exclusive downloadable content so our UK specialists can use them across devices and locations for ultimate convenience."

Managing director sales and marketing at Rotpunkt, Sven Herden, says "We have flexibly adapted to changing circumstances, including the new trading landscape after Brexit and fine-tuning our operations to ensure a fully cohesive supply chain and supportive dealer network throughout the pandemic. In addition, the field sales team in the UK has continued to grow so that we are actively expanding brand awareness and outlining our point of difference — sustainability, transparency and contemporary ergonomic design for a better future."

Market confidence is in resurgence as the property season begins and Covid restrictions are all but over. Around 90% of UK retailers have not been able to meet their customers in person over the past two years as the Government focused on protecting public health with a combination of strict lockdowns, including travel restrictions. Naturally, this impacted sales as not everything can be discussed via online channels alone and in response, the company has invested a great deal of time and substantial revenue on additional costs like administration and logistics. This manifested due to Britain's decision to leave the EU and now, the team benefits from new systems that directly support retailers and end-users, helping them to navigate through unprecedented times. "With an ever-growing network, we are keen to upskill our UK brand partners, especially as we have significantly grown our presence in this territory despite the pandemic. Our UK leadership team stands ready to provide even more dedicated business support as demand for sustainable, modular furniture solutions continues to rise," adds Sven.

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

No more limits on innovation and creativity for your designer kitchens with SCM



STYLE, custom-design, comfort and attention to detail are the basic ingredients for designer kitchens in line with demands from a continually evolving market. This is the case, even more so, for top-of-the-range and luxury kitchens, designed for a customer looking, above all, to stand out from the crowd, often becoming the designer behind the chosen furniture.

Continuing to research innovative, quality materials with an increased focus on natural, eco-sustainable materials; sophis-

ticated, original lines and shapes with exclusive, quality finishings, without forgetting the final requirements of hardware, accessories, lighting and domotics systems ... all needing to slot in with fast delivery times, that are increasingly more complex for those not mass producing furniture.

SCM can provide you with advanced, flexible technological solutions that will allow you to implement your ideas without restrictions, and produce all your kitchen parts efficiently and eco-sustainably, with total control and

real-time production. With SCM's highly advanced technologies, in stand-alone or articulated version in builtin systems or with automated cell systems, you can:

- Increase your productivity, even with small batches;
- make your processes more economical and sustainable, reducing costs, remains and scraps;
- achieve modular, interlocking, modern kitchens that are also elegantly designed;
- effectively handle the entire production flow and optimise all your after-sales activities.

Beam saw and nesting

SCM offers a wide range of Gabbiani beam saws for board cutting, in stand-alone version or in cells or integrated lines with Flexstore automatic magazines. Some of the main advantages include fast, accurate tool setting thanks to the Saw-Set device, the possibility to perform even the most complex cutting programmes in very short periods of time with FlexCut and a drastic reduction in waste thanks to the Maestro Ottimo Cut cutting optimiser.

For nesting, the Morbidelli x400/x200 numeric control machining centres have been designed to satisfy the key demands of "batch 1" machining. Some of the advantages include the innovative labelling system and cutting speed of up to 50 m/min that result in a previously inconceivable productivity for machines in this category, according to the company.

Edgebanding and squaring

Working on straight and shaped boards, delicate edges and state-of-the-art materials with reduced set-up times and state-of-the-art flexible gluing systems. These are the positive aspects of the Stefani edgebanding and squaring range. From the stand-alone machines to the edgebanding and squaring





lines and cells, the range includes state-of-the-art technologies to machine softforming profiles that include the creation of J-Shape edges.

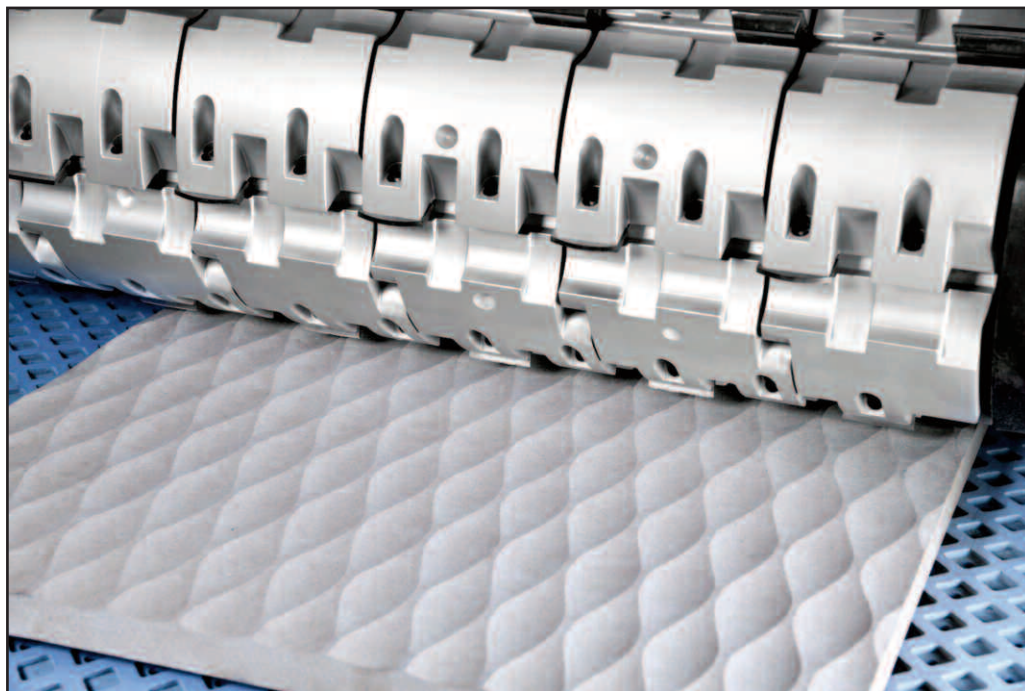
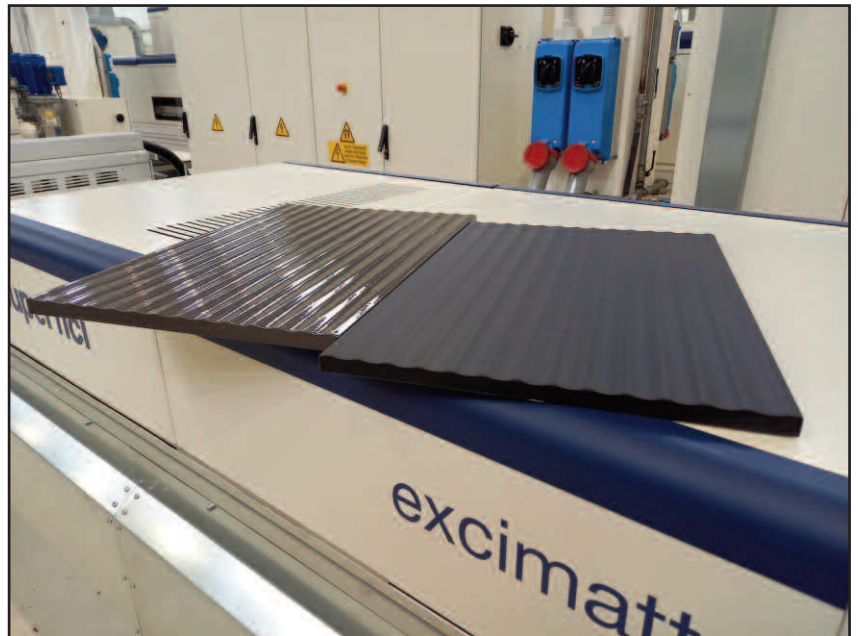
Drilling-routing-inserter

Also highlighted for shaped panels is the range of Morbidelli P200/800 machining centres for drilling, routing and edge treatment. The innovative edging unit can attach edges to panels as thick as 80 mm and the exclusive intelligent HE-POD suction cups allow the size of the worktable to be used in full thanks to the alternative lifting of the pieces.

Surface treatment

SCM offers a wide range of sanding, pressing/panel veneering and finishing systems to achieve exclusive sophisticated solutions, including the 3D effects increasingly sought after in the high-end kitchen industry. All this is possible thanks to the innovative operator units on the DMC sanding and calibrating machines and the Sergiani 3D Form membrane presses, to veneer with surprising effects even surfaces that are uneven.

For a finish of exceptional quality, SCM offers a vast



range of Superfici paint spraying and excimer treatment systems. Using this technology, guarantees an opaque appearance below 5 gloss, without resistance compromises and guarantees a natural and sophisticated effect. The advanced spraying robots adapt to the eccentric and unusual geometrical requests, guaranteeing extraordinary customised solutions for any surface.

Drilling and insertion of hardware parts

SCM has solutions for all drilling requirements within the Morbidelli range, ensuring maximum flexibility and productivity for even medium/small batches.

Morbidelli UN/CX numeric control drilling centres stand out thanks to the RO.AX electro-spindle with a rotation speed of up to 8,000 rpm, while Morbidelli

PWX100 and Morbidelli Z100 drilling machines for automatic lines are characterised by a productivity of up to 5,000 pieces/shift and excellent finishing quality and precision.

Assembly and packing

The range of clamps for Action cabinets guarantees accurate monitoring and efficient squaring of the piece of furniture. One new entry for assembly is the 3,050 mm version for Action P and TF.

SCM's already released models for packaging include: Cut C 200, an automatic punching machine for the just in time cutting and production of open cardboard boxes, with the required sizes and shape, and the Pack C 100 automatic solution for packaging with hot melt glue, starting with the pre-punched sheet of cardboard.

Automation systems

Optimise and simplify the process logistics. Relieve your operators from repetitive, low added value work.

SCM's automated, flexible cells can be integrated by articulated industrial robots, collaborative robots for assembly work, inserting hardware, glue dispensing and surface finish, and AMR (Autonomous Mobile Robot) that can be programmed according to the



productivity unit plant and ability to move with maximum safety.

Digital transformation and Industry 4.0

SCM provides software and digital services that can accompany you at any stage when creating a piece of furniture: data and machine program preparation, planning and optimisation, production and monitoring and after-sales assis-

tance. MES systems like Maestro easyFlow for a factor that is increasingly connected and integrated, line supervisors and Maestro Active Watch HMI software cell, simple and intuitive for monitoring the machining status, from the start to end of the process.

Supporting the production monitoring stages, machine main-

tenance and after-sales assistance, as well as Digital Services enabled by the Maestro Connect platform guarantee maximum performance of the production planets, together with constant support from SCM's technicians.

SCM Group
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Kitchen Kit by BA now available from Toolstation

BA, ONE OF the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke, made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialist components is pleased to announce that multi-channel retailer of tools and building materials, Toolstation, is now an official online supplier of its new trade offer, Kitchen Kit.

"Now that we have kitchen cabinets in our range, we really can offer the full kitchen solution and coupled with the wider Toolstation range, everything our customers would need to complete the job," says Cara Yates, category manager of kitchens and bathrooms at Toolstation.

"Easy to choose, easy to buy and easy to build", fitting a kitchen has never been faster or easier for Toolstation customers thanks to its new product line, Kitchen Kit. Made in Britain and available flat pack, Kitchen Kit features a quality range of furniture, worktops and complementary accessories so trade customers can include all components in one sku code.

Customers can choose from three door styles:

- J-Pull: 19 mm handleless doors with integrated J profile and 10 UltraMatt & SuperGloss finishes.
- Slab: 18 mm smooth slab door with PET foil laminate in 10 UltraMatt & SuperGloss finishes.
- Shaker: 15 mm Shaker-style door with 4 mm beveled internal profile and four UltraMatt finishes.

Available in standard sizes, the



Flatpack offer provides a range of quick-build cabinets with a three day despatch and a build time as little as 30 seconds. Cabinets hold FIRA Gold Certification for quality assurance and peace of mind.

A recent Houzz & Home Survey of more than 3,000 UK respondents reported that home renovation spend has risen to 36% in the last year with a focus on kitchens. The need for hassle-free ordering and super quick and stress free assembly is paramount for the UK homeowner, which is where Kitchen Kit succeeds others in the marketplace to offer unrivalled quality and de-

sign that literally 'clicks' into place for a toolless installation using innovative clic technology.

Toolstation has over 500 branches nationwide, which are open seven days a week. Customers who already have a Toolstation trade account will benefit from a 5% saving on all Kitchen Kit purchases straightaway. In order to receive this discount, customers must show their Trade Account card in store, or log into their online Toolstation Trade Account. Trade customers who do not have a Toolstation Trade Account can apply online or via the app and

once accepted, also save 5% (business only: conditions apply).

Added to that, all trade customers can benefit from the exclusive Kitchen Kit Kitchen Builder, which is embedded on the Toolstation website in order to choose, buy and build quickly and easily. The easy-to-use kitchen styler tool helps customers visualise the space and ensure the best style of kitchen for each and every project.

Peter Rush, CEO of BA says, "We feel this product will change how fitters work, freeing up time which will give them the opportunity to fit more kitchens and earn more. The added bonus of being able to design, price and order online 24 hours a day, means prices are transparent, quality is controlled, and delivery is fast and direct to site."

In January 2022, BA proudly announced that well-known TV presenter, Mark Millar is the new brand ambassador for Kitchen Kit. Based in Bristol, he has worked as a carpenter all over the UK, Europe and the US. Mark said, "I am over the moon to front a quality product by a UK manufacturer that has been trading for over 30 years. It's the UK best kept trade secret! The clic technology means you can build a kitchen cabinet in half the time. What a result for any fitter!"

BA

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www.kitchenkit.co.uk

Toolstation

www.toolstation.com



Waterlane House poolside kitchen by Brandt Design

CREATIVE and inspiring British interior design specialists, Brandt Design, created a 'room with a view' with this poolside contemporary kitchen featuring its ultramodern Urban Furniture Collection.

Julia Steadman, commercial director at Brandt Design, says, "We are well-versed in creating unique schemes for our customers, especially when it comes to balancing both the practical and extravagant elements of kitchen design. This newly completed kitchen living space is a great example of how enhancing the flow of the entire ground floor, will unify the design and residents in the home. As trends continue to err towards multi-generational living, a one-size fits all kitchen is now a thing of the past and instead, multi-discipline interiors have taken over to welcome a new era of 'high performance' kitchen living spaces."

Waterlane House is a kitchen living space that is all things to all people, providing a perfect space to cook, dine, entertain and even swim in, thanks to the connecting swimming pool off the main kitchen. Featuring a statement bar-style island, bank of appliances, hidden larder storage and the latest premium appliances for the modern home, the kitchen is zoned by a run of bi-fold patio doors and practical roof terrace with lantern windows that floods natural light throughout the ground floor.



To accompany the urban flavour of the concrete effect, handleless slab doors is a deluxe 60 mm porcelain worktop with square-edged profile, which completes the look and provides a practical surface to prepare and cook food. In the chef quarters, there is a fully integrated twin-set of Gaggenau combination microwave and steam ovens in Silver, as well as a BORA X Pure combined cooktop and extractor that sits alongside a Matt Back Sink by 1810 Company and Quooker Flex Black all-in-one hot water tap with flexible hose.

When admiring the pool, the homeowners can take advantage of the hidden breakfast station to their right. Featuring a Miele Coffee Machine with matching black toaster, marble effect countertop and splashback, this type of lifestyle solution is extremely convenient by creating a practical area to make coffee and prepare breakfast that disappears when not in use. Matt black fixtures and fittings complement the industrial-style elements throughout the kitchen space like contemporary door handles, light switches, window frames and bar stools. Large format square tiles in matching graphite have been designed to run continuously throughout the ground floor and this ensures a direct connection between inside and out.

Brandt Design
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More choice, when you need it, with IronmongeryDirect's latest catalogue

LEADING specialist trade supplier, IronmongeryDirect has released its latest catalogue, showcasing the key highlights from its range of over 18,000 in-stock products. Perfect for browsing whilst on the go, the 2022 Spring/Summer Edition is available to order for free delivery, or to view directly from the retailer's website.

Packed with information on its key product lines as well as new additions to the line-up, the new catalogue features a wide range of products for woodworkers, joiners and carpenters to choose from including:

Carlisle Brass: IronmongeryDirect has added more products from UK designer, Carlisle Brass. The stylish range includes Knurled Radio Cabinet Knobs and further additions to the Serozzetta collection of door handles and escutcheons. These premium products are available in five different finishes, including Polished Chrome, Matt Black and Antique Brass.

Rothley Hairpin Legs: For cabinet and furniture projects, a wide choice of hairpin legs from Rothley are now available to order. Modern, minimal and perfect for achieving an industrial, or mid-century modern look, these legs are available in a variety of sizes as two-pin or three-pin formats, with four finishes, including Polished Copper, Gun Metal and Matt Black.

Altro door hardware: The new



Carlisle Brass

catalogue also features a number of new products from IronmongeryDirect's exclusive Altro collection of door hardware solutions. This extensive range includes turn and release solutions suitable for every interior style, including Antique Brass, Matt Black and Satin Nickel.

Roland Etheridge, category manager at IronmongeryDirect said: "We are pleased to introduce our latest catalogue as a useful tool for busy tradespeople to browse while on the go. With over 18,000 products in stock, the catalogue showcases some of our key ranges, as well the latest products that we have introduced to ensure we continue to help professionals meet the different demands of each job."

IronmongeryDirect is believed to be the UK's largest online sup-

plier of ironmongery to the trade. With over 18,000 products in stock including everything from cabinet hardware to sliding door gear.

Woodworkers, carpenters and joiners can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including free next day delivery on orders over £45 ex VAT, same day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



Rothley Hairpin Legs



Altro

Larders vs Walk-in Pantries with Brandt Design



CREATIVE British interior design specialists, Brandt Design, welcomes the rise in demand for dedicated kitchen storage, as

homeowners seek to optimise and refine space management in the home.

Demonstrating a greater appre-

ciation for added-value features in the 'lifestyle kitchen', homeowners are prompting new layouts, furniture styles and interior solutions

that are pantry-inspired and provide a designated larder space for storing dry goods, long-life food, drink and, more recently, next-generation breakfast cupboards!

Julia Steadman, commercial director at Brandt Design, says, "Being prepared seems to be more important than ever as the global pandemic has changed all our lives and when it comes to groceries, kitchens are now having to factor in space, which accommodates increased bulk buying and more frequent online deliveries. Added to that, improving our well-being has also become a hot topic as we all find ways to stay healthy and this is being reflected in the type of food and dietary habits that UK homeowners are exploring, eg plant-based foods, veganism and new meat and dairy substitutes."

As the number of multi-generational households continue to rise, Brandt Design expects its customers will continue to enjoy preparing, serving and eating a greater variety of food and drink, which inevitably will fuel further attention on lifestyle-centred storage like larders and walk-in pantries. Julia adds, "As concerns about food security come at a time when inflation is at a 30-year high, we anticipate that grocery shopping will take up a greater share of household budgets going



forwards, and so providing ample space to store large numbers of provisions in the kitchen and utility room will only increase."

Brandt Design has noted two clear food storage trends step to the fore: (1) a renaissance in traditional larger storage either free-standing or built-in, and (2) the convenience of a dedicated walk-in pantry space. So how do you choose which style is right for you, and what are the features and benefits?

The appeal of a dedicated 'room within a room' to house all your foodstuffs is hard to beat, especially if you are catering for a large household.

Julia explains, "The pantry has a rich and varied history in the home, and I am delighted to see it making a comeback with the ability to be personalised to suit the needs of today's busy families. As with every kitchen there is no 'one size fits all' solution and we always recommend that you consider the architecture of your home to see which will work best for you.

"The advantages of having a walk-in pantry include the ability to keep your store cupboard essentials away from the main work area, which frees up more space

for dining, relaxing and more appliances to make life easier."

The new generation of quartz surfaces available ensure that customers can have the classic 'look and feel' of the traditional marble counter for keeping foods cool in a pantry without the high maintenance. A kitchen designer can help customers decide how to fit out a dedicated floor to ceiling space, with shelving and cupboards to separate and manage items. This cuts down on visual clutter and enables customers to store like with like and maximise storage potential so that they can store packet foods by use by date and avoid overstocking and under stocking.

A dedicated area for storing multi-packs and snacks is considered ideal when customers are catering for teenagers and their friends.

Having well-organised larder storage within a kitchen is ideal when customers love to 'cook together' and so zoning the kitchen around different tasks is fundamental. By arranging food cupboards next to the fridge-freezer, it is easy to have a dedicated cooking area with everything in easy reach to make meal preparation a



breeze. The latest kitchen wire-work and storage components mean that customers make every inch of a larder count with dedicated racks, drawers and pull-outs for the ultimate in store cupboard style.

Today's clever designs ensure that all elements can be adjusted to suit customers so they can store the ingredients and breakfast goods which are used frequently at a comfortable height a swell as keeping recipe books and storage containers to hand.

Julia says, "Centralising your larder at the planning stage sets you up for success for a well-organised kitchen living space which is truly life-enhancing. Being honest and realistic about what you like to cook and how often will help your kitchen designer to create a blueprint which is uniquely tailored to support your routine.

"Rather than having food items scattered in various top units or UTC cabinets, today's highly desirable tall units work well in contemporary and classic kitchen schemes to enable smoother household management, espe-

cially as the kitchen continues to function as an open-plan zone for cooking, dining, working from home and entertaining."

Making the most of the available kitchen space means customers can bring an unused corner into play as an extra storage area. With the simple addition of customised L-shaped shelving and tongue-and-groove panels, it can be transformed into a practical place to keep essentials tucked safely away from the main preparation zone but convenient for regular use.

"We believe there are no barriers to family-friendly storage, which is why we encourage our designers to get to know every aspect of your kitchen space. Finding creative and functional solutions is something we are very proud of, as we want our bespoke kitchens to evolve with our customers' changing needs over a lifetime, whether you have a young family, are looking to up-size or updating your forever home," says Julia.

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Kitchen trends from furniture specialist, BA



BA, ONE OF the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke and made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialist components, has

identified the latest interior trends helping to shape the UK kitchen market in 2022-23.

Nuala Brady, group marketing manager at BA, says, "We are not-

ing that the latest developments in kitchens are placing an emphasis on high-quality convenience and modern originality, and this has revealed a new desire for ex-

pedient furniture design that is transformative. Well-considered space planning is therefore centre stage right now, with custom furniture and bespoke design services taking the rather dated idea of four-wall kitchen design to new levels of open-plan living, which is discreet and perfectly styled to suit the individual and elevate both home and lifestyle. Colourful cabinetry and classic contemporary design continues to win-out as 'vintage' becomes a designer term in the modern kitchen and authenticity never outdates.

"Marrying two styles together to create a modern take on a timeless interior style and/or architecture, this shift towards eclectic kitchen interiors has stemmed from the market's love of industrial-style where mixed materials, opposing interior design styles and strong, defining hardware remain a firm favourite."

BA shares its thoughts on the 'top kitchen trends' for 2022-23:

Styles: Furniture is now riding the line between traditional and contemporary design, and the iconic Shaker-style period has



proved its worth, inspiring new options where the door is being used to add character and define the overall look and feel of the space. This has led to new in-frame style doors growing in popularity, with varying degrees of ornamentation added to the rail profiles to create classic square panel doors, designs with mock and narrow frames, through to V groove detailing to replicate a five-piece door. The latest handleless designs are also proving successful, especially in multi-generational households where ergonomic layouts and streamlined furniture solutions are called on to create high-functioning kitchen living spaces that are distinctly discreet.

Colours & Finishes: Heritage colours that are natural, earthy and sophisticated will continue to grow in popularity this year, as more UK homeowners look to unify both home and garden space. Trending colours continue to embrace varying shades of green and blue, partnered with accents of white and grey and the latest contemporary foils. In fact, foil finishes are also demonstrating huge value in today's kitchen, offering anti-bacterial qualities that are fully equipped to withstand modern day life.

Layout: Open plan living continues to champion the broken



plan layout, presenting a more flexible ground floor way of living as more and more homeowners want a kitchen that doubles as a social hub whilst retaining a dedicated space for cooking and dining. As a result, a need for practical island solutions like flush-mounted hobs and inset sinks continue to provide clutter free surfaces, as well as key design features like split level breakfast bars and essential low-level storage being used to separate the living

area from the main kitchen. We believe this increased demand for practical storage in the home is a direct result of open plan living now being central to all aspects of kitchen design, with many customers erring towards seamless layouts that help to avoid negative space and maximise on the kitchen's working layout.

Finishing touches: Widely considered as the jewels of the kitchen, beautiful hardware like sinks, taps and designer handles

are helping to define certain styles and create that all important signature style. Accessories are now elevating the latest handled kitchen designs, with standout metallic finishes like antique brass, nickel, matt black and wood being designed-in to evoke a heightened sense of luxury and personal feel.

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REHAU diversification strategy drives growth for WAIVIS subsidiary



BESPOKE furniture solutions distributor, WAIVIS, part of the REHAU Group, has reported a record year of sales in 2021, highlighting the merits of a diverse product portfolio as many UK sectors continue to fluctuate.

Over 2021 REHAU has continued raising its profile across the domestic KBB sector as well as the diversified commercial markets, which include servicing large original equipment manufacturers alongside smaller manufacturers, designers and workshops. In order to fulfil an influx of smaller-scale, bespoke orders, REHAU has depended on its subsidiary distributor, WAIVIS.

As a result, WAIVIS has specifically reported a resurgence in popularity and usage of tambour doors — once synonymous with 80s-style offices. Scott Williams, national sales manager at REHAU Furniture and WAIVIS, stated innovation in design and materials has led to these functional products becoming not only flexible solutions, but aspirational and stylish interior features. Local fabrication continued throughout lockdown to service an uplift in the medical industry where tambour doors remain popular due to their versatility and space-saving qualities. Similarly, the business expects to see the office sector start to slowly return towards previous demand levels over the next couple of years. WAIVIS also saw a major drive in the camper conversion market as consumer habits changed through restricted travel, continuing into 2022. Tambour doors have helped consumers improve their offering due to the flexible size and finish options available allowing limited space to be fully utilised whilst offering weight-saving capabilities.

Scott comments: "One of our company's strategic goals is for 10% of our sales to be made up of new product developments, demonstrating our continued drive for innovation. This approach also helps us to apply innovative thinking to existing products and markets. The possibilities are quite literally endless for our tambour doors, as well as our wide array of resilient surfaces and edgebanding. Last year was certainly a successful one and we very much look forward to working with existing and welcoming new customers across the diverse sectors building strong relations with forward-thinking furniture producers over this next year."

REHAU ● enquiries@rehau.com ● www.rehau.com/uk-en

Building greener homes safely with West Fraser

IN THE CURRENT climate, more businesses than ever are choosing to support the UK economy by purchasing homegrown products and brands. At West Fraser, formerly known as Norbord, all engineered wood panels are made in the UK and the company is committed to making better products for a sustainable future.

The latest generation of OSB3, SterlingOSB Zero, is made at the state-of-the-art facility in Inverness, Scotland. Each board has a smooth finish and is made without adding any formaldehyde, so is safer to work with and builds greener homes.

The range includes SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 and Sterling OSB Zero T&G. For specifiers and housebuilders looking for an OSB supplier who is committed to sustainable production and supply, West Fraser is the one, according to the company. With visible end-to-end supply chains and dedicated, streamlined logistics, coupled with excellent customer service, more companies are choosing West Fraser as their supply partner of choice.

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



Henkel publishes 31st Sustainability Report

HENKEL has published its 31st Sustainability Report, detailing its achievements and progress in 2021 while also outlining its new 2030+ Sustainability Ambition Framework.

"Sustainability is deeply rooted in our company DNA and integral to how we do business. Together with strategic priorities such as innovation and digitalisation, sustainability is at the heart of our Purposeful Growth agenda," said Carsten Knobel, CEO of Henkel.

"Sustainability is also one of our values and is reflected in our corporate purpose: Pioneers at heart for the good of generations. With the help of our more ambitious sustainability strategy, we will accelerate our transformation, evolving our portfolio and processes even more strongly towards sustainability."

"The past year tested our resilience as a company, as individuals and communities as the fight against the CoVID-19 pandemic continued. Our commitment to address environmental, social and political challenges, therefore, has never been clearer," added Sylvie Nicol, member of the Henkel Management Board responsible for Human Resources and Sustainability. "I am proud that in 2021, despite the challenging environment, Henkel further advanced sustainability in critical areas such as climate protection and circular economy."

In 2021, Henkel further anchored its sustainability strategy in the business, reduced CO₂ emissions in its operations (in particular by converting to green electricity) and made further progress in sustainable sourcing of raw materials as well as in sustainable finance, among others.

Henkel aims to reduce its carbon footprint by 65 per cent by 2025 (vs base year 2010). By the end of 2021, Henkel had already halved its CO₂ footprint in production. To achieve this, the company also focuses on improving its energy efficiency and sourcing 100 per cent of its electricity exclusively from renewable sources by 2030. By the end of 2021, Henkel fully transitioned production in 21 countries, including in Columbia and France, to electricity that is 100 per cent renewable. Today, Henkel stands already at 68 per cent renewable electricity usage.

In addition, Henkel is actively



committed to building a true circular economy, working with various partners along the entire value chain and cooperating on international initiatives such as Plastic Bank and the New Plastics Economy by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. The company's ambitious packaging strategy aims to reduce and recycle packaging materials and prevent them from entering the environment. One of its highlight targets by 2025 is for 100 per cent of Henkel's packaging to be recyclable or reusable. At the end of 2021, the share was already around 86 per cent. Henkel is also working steadily to increase the proportion of recycled material in its packaging to more than 30 per cent for all plastic packaging for its consumer goods products worldwide by 2025. At the end of 2021, the company increased this share to approximately 18 per cent.

Henkel also made good progress in its journey to source 100 per cent of its palm and palm kernel oil responsibly. In 2021, the company sourced 93 per cent of its total requirements and the derivatives as certified raw materials according to the RSPO ("Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil") mass balance model.

Henkel credits such success to its long-standing collaboration with development organisation Solidaridad, which supports smallholder palm oil farmers in South



America, Africa and Asia. Until today, the partners have been able to positively impact around more than 36,000 smallholder farmers around the world.

Another important milestone was the announcement of Henkel's new Sustainable Finance Framework, creating a direct link between its sustainability strategy and its funding strategy. The framework includes two possible forms of financing: the issuance of sustainability-linked bonds as well as green bonds. In 2021, Henkel placed the first two issues under the terms of this framework, making it what is believed to be the first company in its sector to place a euro bond whose interest rate is linked to the achievement of specific targets. In total, bonds with a

volume of more than 700 million euros were issued.

Henkel's 2030+ Sustainability Ambition Framework consists of three dimensions:

Regenerative Planet: enable a circular and net-zero carbon future by transforming the business, products and raw materials underpinned by science and innovation. **Thriving Communities:** help people lead a better life through the collective strength of the business and brands by supporting equity, education and wellbeing.

Trusted Partner: drive performance and systems change with integrity through values-based culture, deep rooting in science and passion for technology.

Henkel
www.henkel.com

Rotpunkt roll-out new Together to Zero climate strategy

ROTPUNKT, award winning designer and leading manufacturer of climate friendly German Kitchen furniture roll-out new Together to Zero climate strategy in partnership with MyClimate.org, to help shape the company's future and support the 17 goals outlined by the United Nations for sustainable development.

Matt Phillips, head of UK operations at Rotpunkt, says, "As the global pandemic recedes, we are planning the next stage of our brand evolution with Together to Zero. In line with increasing demand, an investment of double-digit million euros is planned to expand our headquarters in Bunde, in recognition of Rotpunkt's stability in the kitchen industry and its home location in North-Rhine Westphalia.

"The pandemic boosted our financial performance as consumers invested heavily in home improvements. In fact, we reported the best year to date, despite new challenges arising from disruptions in the supply chain. We are now inviting our dealer network and consumers to join us in reducing carbon emissions and making the world a better place on Rotpunkt kitchen at a time."

The key components of the new Together to Zero climate strategy comprise:

Greenline BioBoard Gen2: A sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional chipboards. Made by Pfleiderer Deutschland, BioBoard Gen2 is a resource-saving chipboard that consists of up to 90% recycled wood without compromising on style or quality. Fulfilling the world's highest requirements for formaldehyde emissions, BioBoard Gen2 is certified F4 star standard = 50% less emissions when compared to conventional chipboard to ensure a healthier living environment in the domestic home: 80% of Rotpunkt products are made of Greenline BioBoard Gen2.

Climate Protection: Using an approach grounded in 'avoid-reduce-compensate', all Rotpunkt carbon emissions are being reduced gradually and effectively. Any emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced will be offset via sustainability projects in partnership with MyClimate.org. For example, MyClimate.org and Rotpunkt are supporting hundreds of families in Kenya with efficient cookers. Currently, 849 Kenyans are already benefitting from better indoor air quality and more leisure time thanks to less time spent collecting firewood. In addition, the activities have preserved a forest area of 5.25 ha (equivalent to the size of 50 football fields) as a natural CO₂ reservoir.

Green Production: Optimising manufacturing processes and offering employees a healthy working environment ensures that the Rotpunkt sustainability pledge covers every aspect of its operations. For example, batch production at its Getmold plant has significantly reduced the amount of waste materials and Rotpunkt has also switched to green energy from approved suppliers. Staff also have the option of using mechanical exoskeletons to reduce the physical strain of performing heavy repetitive or overhead tasks. Rotpunkt production has been one hundred per cent climate-friendly since 2020 thanks to the use of green electricity and investments in sustainability projects.

Acting Responsibly: 95% of Rotpunkt kitchen furniture is Forest Stewardship Council-certified and the company only uses wood from sustainable forests in Germany, Austria and France where working conditions are fair and human rights are respected. This ensures that Rotpunkt is being socially and environmentally responsible, helping to protect people and trees. The Forest Stewardship Council is a well-respected international organisation that promotes the conservation and responsible management of forests worldwide.

Growing Together: For the past five years, Rotpunkt has been appraising its systems and practices with one overar-

ching aim — to make the business and its products more sustainable and climate-friendly. A carbon balance sheet dictates the future of the business so that economic, environmental and social costs and benefits are given equal consideration. Rotpunkt reviews its CO₂ emissions each year and takes measures to continuously reduce its carbon footprint.

Bringing innovation and ease to the contemporary, feel-good kitchen is key for Rotpunkt as the wellness living trend evolves and consumers seek substance and evidence for eco-friendly claims.

Matt continues, "We believe in controlled steady and sustainable growth as the way forward. Corporate growth is projected to continue in the future at Rotpunkt with a renewed focus on the end user, to better understand their needs and reflect them in the products offered with an emphasis on affordable luxury. We pride ourselves on having an open and transparent culture and believe that having both climate-friendly products and processes is a key USP as consumers will want more accountability and responsibility from manufacturers before investing in big ticket purchases in the future. Design, function and quality are integral to our latest Together to Zero climate strategy, and so is our partnership and collaboration with our outstanding kitchen dealers — the lifeblood of our Rotpunkt family. Every day Rotpunkt moves a little closer towards climate neutrality and we invite everyone in the industry to join us on this planet-changing journey — one mission to zero emission."

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www.rotpunktuechen.de/en/**



West Fraser's sustainability commitments

WEST FRASER has announced a commitment to set science-based targets to achieve near-term greenhouse gas ("GHG") reductions across all its operations located in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Europe. As the world's largest producer of lumber and oriented strand board ("OSB") and a leading manufacturer of other engineered wood and forest products, joining the Science Based Targets Initiative ("SBTi") demonstrates the company's commitment to sustainability leadership and contribution to global climate action.

SBTi helps companies to set emission reduction targets in line with climate science and Paris Agreement goals. It promotes best practice in science-based target setting and independently assesses companies' targets. To accelerate corporate climate action, SBTi is focused on significant reductions in global emissions before 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions before 2050.

"Committing to science-based targets through our SBTi pledge is a natural next step for West Fraser," said Ray Ferris, President & CEO, West Fraser. "By committing to reduce emissions in line with climate science and align with the Paris Agreement goals by 2030, we are building on our solid legacy of sustainability performance of our products while enhancing the social, environmental and economic benefit in the communities in which we operate."

West Fraser has set the following specific GHG reduction targets:

- Reduce direct emissions under West Fraser's operational control, Scope 1 GHG emissions, and indirect emissions from purchased energy, Scope 2 GHG emissions, by 46.2% by 2030 from a 2019 base year. These reductions are in line with a scenario which limits global temperature increases to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- Reduce all other indirect emissions within West Fraser's value chain, Scope 3 GHG emissions by 25% by 2030 from a 2020 base year. Scope 3 GHG reductions align with a scenario which limits

global temperature increases to well-below 2°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

To achieve these goals West Fraser will expend capital and adapt some operating practices, which will have broad benefits that improve the company's business. The company's capital plans from 2022 forward include projects that will make reducing GHG emissions a priority.

It is expected the average annual capital expenditures on GHG reduction projects to be approximately \$50 million and fit within the overall capital budget going forward. West Fraser anticipates investing at least \$400 million before 2030 to achieve the company's targets.

The SBTi process is initiated with a letter of commitment and provides a period of two years to develop targets for SBTi validation prior to organisational communication and disclosure.

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PANELS

Timber group focus on Premier products

INCREASED demand for sustainable products is fast becoming a key driver for the timber industry to develop new, innovative products to meet customer needs.

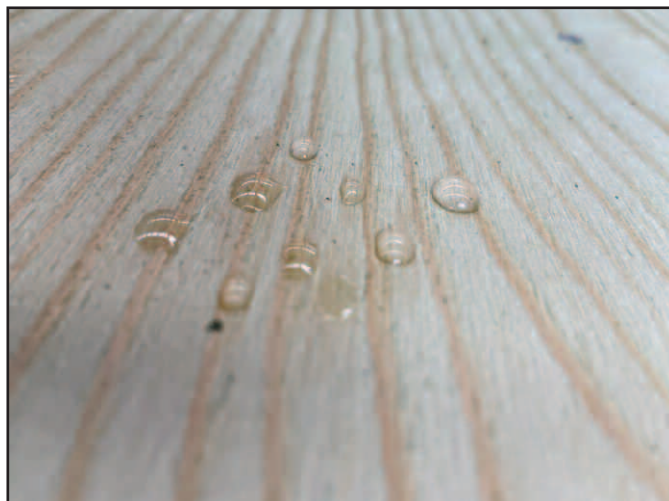
Premier Forest Products is constantly exploring creative solutions to address this demand.

Working closely with its customers and suppliers, the leading timber group has invested in expanding its product range, creating innovative, useful goods that will fill gaps in the market.

Their latest product, DryGuard, is a self-protecting structural plywood that will save contractors time, money and effort. Manufactured by leading European plywood manufacturer, Paged, DryGuard's water repellent properties are ideal for use in roofs, floors and walls.

They have also launched ProSite, a Medium Density Overlay (MDO) board that offers a practical, attractive solution for organisations which are working in highly visible locations and want to present a professional façade to the public. It has been incredibly well received thus far, with Littlewood Fencing using it in a significant project in Wokingham. Despite being onsite for over two years, the product is said to look as good as new.

Whilst researching and developing these new offerings, Premier Forest Products has realised that people are more focused on their environmental impact than ever before. People are increasingly keen to buy the right,



durable product once, minimising the waste sent to landfill, as well as saving time on installation and money on replacements. Their aim is to be the go-to organisation for long-lasting, top-quality products that reduce environmental impact and save companies time and money.

James Pickford, UK purchasing director at Premier Forest Products, said: "At Premier, we pride ourselves on listening to our customers and changing our product line to accommodate their wants and needs. In order to continue to grow and thrive, we have to continue to innovate, and our aim is to still do the traditional timber products well while simultaneously exploring new techniques and materials.

After fantastic feedback from Littlewood Fencing, our ProSite board is continuing to do very well amongst customers, and the launch of DryGuard has already led to increased sales with some very positive feedback. We hope to continue innovating and growing our product range, whilst continuing to develop our relationship with suppliers and customers alike."

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

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

International Timber provides Accoya for North Quay development in Cornwall

INTERNATIONAL TIMBER recently collaborated with construction company Corinthian on a brand-new housing development in Cornwall, providing timber supplies to be used for external cladding.

Corinthian is a construction company specialising in redeveloping sites that have historic interest, to create new homes and breathe life into neglected buildings and areas.

The North Quay developments consist of over 143 brand new units in the first phase, which features a mixture of townhouses and apartments built directly on the waterfront of the harbour. There are approximately 370 units in the second phase of the project, which will include affordable housing for locals.

For the project, International Timber provided materials to be used for external cladding for the apartment block known as Beach House. The timber will be used for cladding the other apartments within phase one and for the framework of the townhouses.

Accoya was also provided for use in the bin stores for the wharf houses in Cannery Row.

Initially, one of the main challenges was that the original designs featured aluminium cladding but was changed to timber due to program



constraints. The correct species needed to be sought to withstand the salty sea air and weather in an aesthetically pleasing way.

Accoya was chosen for its strength and durability. The brief for the project required a long-lasting cladding solution and a timber that performs well with treatments, such as paints and stains. The external cladding has all been painted to look almost black to fit into the industrial aesthetic of the project.

Site manager of Beach House, Lee Lawrence, said: "The quality of product from International Timber is always very good. They're reliable, deliver on time and everything is always as per our order. It's a pleasure working with them. We hope that we will be collaborating with International Timber on our sites in Wales and further beyond as the projects grow and the company expands."

Patrick Turner, senior sales executive at International Timber, said: "It was great to work with Corinthian on this project, and the designs look amazing. Accoya is a brilliantly flexible and versatile material and this is an ideal application for it."

Accoya
<https://internationaltimber.com/product/accoya/>



Art gallery starring SterlingOSB Zero comes home to roost

WEST FRASER'S SterlingOSB Zero board is often left exposed nowadays as it is en vogue! The earthy, rural look is fashionable and far more interesting than a white, untextured ply wall, according to the company. It is also the established, proven panel for roofing and timber frame applications — and it's carbon negative!

Showing the panel in all its glory is a recent project where an abandoned chicken shed in rural Suffolk has been salvaged and cleverly re-worked by James Grayley Architects (JGA) to create a bright, characterful print studio and gallery.

Founder James Grayley says that its transformation, on what he describes as “an ambitious budget”, was only possible through the use of economical materials such as softwood weatherboarding and SterlingOSB Zero, both of which have been thoughtfully and carefully detailed to create a refined, contemporary building that references the local vernacular.

This is the building's third incarnation. It started life as an aircraft repair workshop on the nearby Parham Airfield. After World War II, it was dismantled, relocated and rebuilt on its current site, where it functioned as a chicken shed for many years.

When JGA first became involved with the project, the shed's days as a home for chickens were long over. The building had no roof, its walls had all but disappeared and, apart from the remains of a giant rusty feed-hopper, the only element of the building still standing was a row of 10 triangular timber roof trusses, each supported on a pair of timber posts.

Unsurprisingly, the client's initial brief was to knock the shed down and replace it with a contemporary structure the same size and shape. But Mr Grayley had other ideas: “We realised we could use what was still standing and build the new gallery around it,” he says. “Our starting point was to take something that had been deemed worthless and, by placing a mute building around it, bring out the beauty inherent in the original structure.”

However, the old structure's instability and its lack of height were a major challenge to its reuse. Despite being quite a long building, it was only 2.3 m from the floor to the underside of the trusses. To avoid additional structural bracing impinging further on the interior, Mr Grayley has encased the entire superstructure in a rigid exoskeleton of 18 mm thick SterlingOSB Zero. “We realised that if we covered the building in a carefully cut skin of OSB, it would provide the sheathing and structure needed to keep the building standing while being both visually and structurally lightweight,” he explains.

For the building's insulated timber walls, the inner layer of SterlingOSB Zero provides both structural rigidity and has the additional benefit of allowing the depth of the timber frame to be reduced. A layer of plasterboard conceals the OSB to provide a neutral background for the gallery artworks. “There is nothing superfluous in the structure — everything has to be there to perform a function so we could build simply and economically,” explains Mr Grayley. By contrast, the SterlingOSB Zero shell has been left exposed on the underside of the roof. It has, however, been given a wash of milky-white flame retardant to prevent the spread of flame. The board's oriented strands are still partially visible through the semi-translucent finish. Mr Grayley says the benefit of exposing the OSB is that it provides a contrast with the white walls to help “lift the ceiling” while, at the same time, preventing the interior being a completely white box which might have been “visually overbearing”.

Mr Grayley describes the Printroom Gallery as “a simple building, built well for the long term”. He says the use of SterlingOSB Zero made that possible in a way that might not have been realistic with plywood. “I think that where we've used one skin of OSB, we might have had to use two skins of plywood boards, all of which would have to be overlapped, so using OSB has saved us time and money as well as making for a more efficient structure,” he explains.

Now that the transformation of the collapsed chicken shed is complete, Mr Grayley is convinced that the decision to reuse the existing structure was the right one.

What's more, because the building has been designed and built to a good technical standard, if its function as a print gallery were to end, it could easily be adapted for other functions — a fourth reincarnation perhaps?

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<https://uk.westfraser.com>



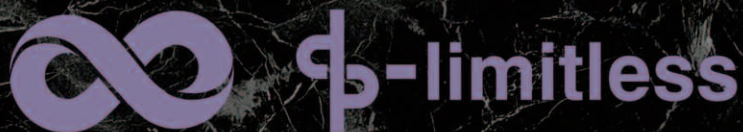
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Photographs courtesy of David Grandorge



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SterlingOSB Zero stars in Westminster housing and retail community project

STERLINGOSB ZERO panels, popular with specifiers, architects and builders, are not only durable, strong and easy-to-handle, they are carbon negative and employed for interesting aesthetic properties. An interesting example which demonstrates the flexibility of the boards can be seen at Ebury Edge in Pimlico.

Jan Kattein Architects' (JKA) Ebury Edge is a colourful, temporary development for Westminster City Council which will be used for five years. The scheme was conceived and built to give the soon-to-be-displaced residents of the 1930s Ebury Bridge Estate a tangible experience of the regeneration process while providing a focus and hub for the community ahead of the estate's demolition and renewal. The cluster of wooden buildings includes a terrace of two-storey affordable retail and workspace units, a single storey structure housing a café and community centre, a community garden raised above the scheme on a scaffold platform, and an illuminated scaffold tower at the site's leading corner.

It is not the tower but the colourful, timber-clad terrace of two-storey retail and workspace units that give the scheme its charm. Beneath a distinctive sawtooth roof, the units provide an affordable foothold for small local businesses by providing micro-shops at street level and larger workspace units upstairs.

"The project creates an active edge to the estate and brings economic activity," says Gabriel Warshafsky, director of projects at JKA. "Units are quite narrow so each can have a shop front on what is quite a busy street to gain exposure and visibility".

Perpendicular to the terrace, and equally cheerful beneath its cladding of teal-coloured timber shingles, is the single storey cafe and community hall building. This is designed to be flexible with the two spaces sharing a common core to allow events and functions to flow between the two. Hidden behind the terrace and community buildings is a sheltered courtyard linked to an existing green play and seating space. The scheme's temporary nature meant JKA wanted to reduce the carbon embodied in materials used in its construction.

"That really speaks in favour of timber products to me," says Mr Warshafsky. Timber also has the benefit of being relatively lightweight: "We wanted to work with timber to reduce the weight of the buildings and therefore the loads on the foundations," he adds. Despite the building's short lifespan, solid foundations are vital. Obstructions in the ground and limited budget meant that shallow mass concrete foundations are used to support the simple steel ground frames on which the timber structures stand. The intention is that in the future the concrete could be crushed and used in the piling mat for the main scheme.



The ground beams support modular, pre-fabricated timber-framed cassettes that form the floors of both buildings. SterlingOSB Zero panels give the cassettes their strength and provide a surface on which to lay floor coverings. The naturally ventilated cavity beneath the cassettes also helps deal with any potential ground contamination. "SterlingOSB Zero is lightweight, economical and provides the rigidity we need to make the panels work structurally," explains Mr Warshafsky. SterlingOSB Zero-sheathed prefabricated timber cassettes also form the first floor and the mono-pitched roof structures of the terrace units. By contrast, prefabricated timber trusses are used to accommodate the larger span of the asymmetric cafe and community block roof. These have been left exposed to add to height and an element of drama to the column-free spaces. Prefabricated timber-framed panels also form the walls of both the community and shop buildings. However, these panels were supplied with SterlingOSB Zero sheathing applied to their outer face; the inner face is left open to allow insulation and electrics to be installed on site before being fitted with a gypsum board lining. The building's exterior cladding of timber shingles and feather-edged timber boards were also site applied. "It is a façade that will weather and patinate to celebrate its temporariness," says Mr Warshafsky. He says a major benefit of using a timber panel system to construct a meanwhile building comes when dismantling them at the end of the project: "The intention is that the linings and cladding will be removed and the lightweight building can be dis-assembled and erected elsewhere."

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

REHAU invests in the future with Decorative Panels Lamination

REHAU'S furniture division has adapted its business strategy to circumnavigate the fallout from Brexit and Coronavirus and ensure its UK customers continue to receive its high-quality edgeband, surface and tambour door solutions.

2021 was another successful year for REHAU as the company continued to build awareness around its innovative and on-trend kitchen, bathroom and furniture solutions. With its diverse product portfolio, the company expanded its reach in the market, working with large original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), small and medium manufacturers, design workshops and fitters.

To further address this demand in 2022, REHAU is now collaborating with reputable manufacturer and distributor Decorative Panels Lamination, based in the North of England. This new partnership will allow REHAU to grow its UK presence and facilitate the more efficient supply of materials across the country.

National sales manager, Scott Williams, says: "We're thrilled to be working alongside Decorative Panels Lamination who have long established themselves as leaders within the sector. Having been in the industry for over 100 years, manufacturing and distributing laminated sheet materials throughout the UK, the company is the ideal choice for REHAU's furniture division. Decorative Panels Lamination will be holding large amounts of our stock, including our popular and award-winning RAUVISIO noble matt range,



meaning the supply will be readily available for UK-based manufacturers and fitters."

Although some businesses have suffered because of the pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU, REHAU was able to defy the odds and grow its UK furniture business significantly last year.

This was against a backdrop of general trade decreasing by 23.1% in the first quarter of 2021. Further supply chain disruption and a global recession has meant that imports from the EU have remained stagnant with figures for December 2021 remaining flat.

"Essentially, we aim to reduce

lead times through this new partnership, ensuring we continue to meet demand following the challenging past few years for the industry. Already in place is our distributor Waivis, specialising in tambour doors and edgebanding, and while this remains sufficient for smaller bespoke orders, it is now necessary to adapt our approach to meet growing demand. With seamless kitchens on trend, our customers will now be able to find our all-in-one surface, edgeband and tambour ranges directly from one single source. These are exciting times for REHAU, as partnering with Decorative Panels Lamination will allow us to further develop new and existing relations with our customers here in the UK."

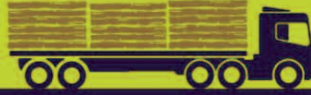
REHAU
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www.rehau.com/uk-en



How is SterlingOSB Zero made?

SterlingOSB Zero Continuous line production

1. Wood Yard Storage



Timber logs collated.
1300 tonnes/day green timber (already de-branched and cut to size).



2. Debarker

Strips bark from green timber.
Bark is used as fuel for dryer and press heat, or horticultural.



5. Cyclones

Separates steam and strands.
Gases are recirculated for energy recovery before controlled emission.



4. Rotary Drum Dryer

Reduces the moisture content to <4%.
Burners are fueled with 100% Biomass and production process residue.



3. Ring Strander

Shreds the wood chips into strands.
48 knives rotating at 400rpm are accurate to 0.8mm.



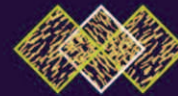
6. Screening

Separates material by size.
Strands are separated for use in the core and surface layers.



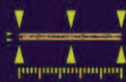
7. Blenders

Coat the strands with a mix of wax and resins.
The core and surface strands are prepared separately for the forming line.



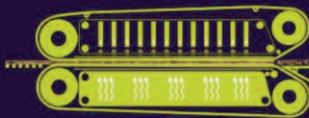
8. Forming Line

Arranges 3 layers at 90° to each other.
The cross oriented strands give the board its name and strength.



11. Online Quality Control

Checks, marks and trims the board.
All approved panels are dated and certification stamped.



10. Continuous Press System

Heats and compresses the strands together.
Accurate, constant pressure and temperature produces high quality board efficiently.



9. Metal Detector

Removes any ferrous material.
The mat is rejected if non-ferrous material is detected.



12. Star Cooler

Allows the panels to cool.
Panels must be fully cooled before finishing.



13. Finishing Lines

Panels are cut to desired sizes.
Tongue and groove edges and special finishes applied.

14. Warehousing



Stacks and packs boards for dispatch.
Customers include distributors, merchants and manufacturers.



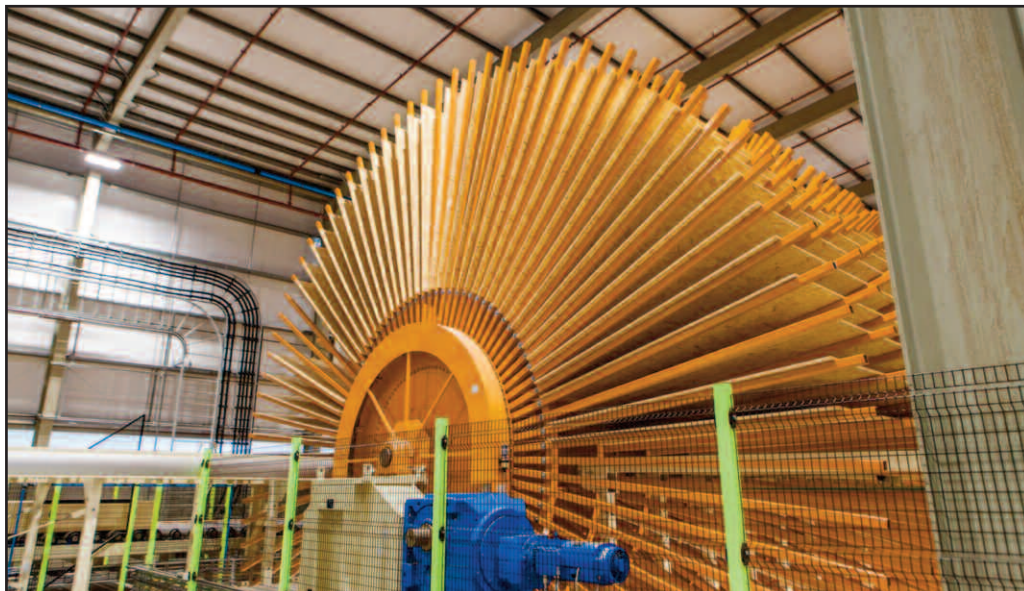
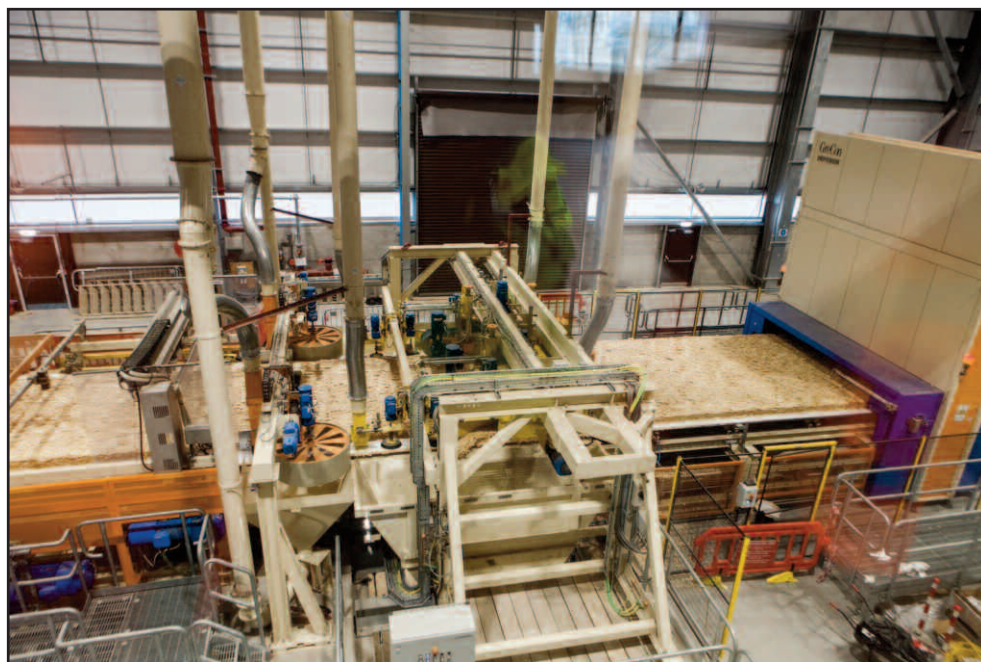
STERLINGOSB ZERO is one of the most popular panel products used by the UK construction industry: developers, builders and self-builders alike. It's the go-to panel for a multitude of roles today — from the basic functional to the trendy aesthetic feature wall — but how is it made and what goes into it?

With the growing need to fully understand the impact of building materials on the environment, specifiers, architects and builders can now follow the creation of SterlingOSB Zero panels from the delivery of timber at West Fraser's state-of-the-art plant in Inverness right through the continuous line production process. West Fraser's commitment to producing a sustainable product for the construction industry can be seen from sourcing locally grown timber, thereby cutting embodied carbon from transportation while supporting the local forestry industry, through to the self-sufficiency of the plant where otherwise wasted product is burned on site producing the energy to manufacture the boards.

Logs delivered to Inverness are stripped of bark before being fed into a high-speed ring of blades which produces flakes for the OSB (pictured top right).

The flakes are dried, separated and resins added. Sterling OSB Zero is believed to be the first OSB product to be made in the UK with zero added formaldehyde, ensuring an even 'greener' board that meets all standards with ease.

The flakes are then layered in specific orientation to give the boards their strong structural properties. The formed flakes go through a high-pressure and high-temperature press



produce the board: the forming line is pictured above prior to entering the press.

Once cut, the boards are loaded on to the "star cooler" (pictured left) to release the heat from the panel. Panels are then cut to size and quality checks carried out before the packs are taken to the warehouse for shipping.

The whole process can be followed on an informative video on West Fraser's YouTube channel and on a downloadable information sheet from the *Documents and download* section of the West Fraser website.

West Fraser
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Offsite construction: West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is the answer to green, speed and cost demands



IN A RECENT House of Commons research briefing addressing the housing shortage in England, it was estimated that 340,000 new homes would need to be supplied every year to meet demand. Offsite timber frame construction could be the solution for housebuilders and using West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is just the ticket in terms of green, speed and cost when considering essential board materials. In fact, MTW Research forecasts a rapid rise in timber frame buildings across the residential and commercial sectors in 2022.

Offsite construction is one of the most environmentally-conscious processes in the industry through the use of sustainably-produced materials manufactured locally around the UK and Ireland.

Why timber frame?

The growth of timber frame is changing long-established practices within housebuilding as the construction industry embraces the idea of off-site manufacture. This approach is due mainly to the fact that offsite manufacture

means a huge reduction in the site-based activities that define a traditional building firm. The reduction in on-site activity means that, once the building's foundations are installed, erection of the main structure follows very quickly, typically taking only two or three days to complete. New timber-framed homes can therefore be brought to market at a much faster rate than is possible with traditional brick-and-block. Crucially, this also has the effect of extending the building season which, traditionally, slows significantly during the winter period. Housebuilders can therefore be more productive throughout the year if they build with timber frame.

After land prices, the two biggest cost factors in housebuilding are time and labour. Timber frame scores significantly on both counts since off-site manufacture reduces not only the erection time on site but also the amount of traditional building skills required. The factory processes employed in the manufacture of timber frame cassettes

can be largely automated, unlike traditional site-based building trades.

Structural timber technology addresses many government concerns associated with the procurement of housing — including environmental impact and energy efficiency, as well as speed of construction and cost. The materials that go into a timber frame system are generally more sustainable and more energy efficient than traditional masonry.

For example, West Fraser's oriented strand board, SterlingOSB Zero, is one of the most widely-used components of UK timber frame systems, OSB is an essential component of all timber framed panel systems and a major contributor to their growing popularity. SterlingOSB Zero is manufactured in Scotland from home-grown forest 'thinnings' (slender, immature trees harvested as part of sustainable forest management) while its zero-added formaldehyde (ZAF) formula is designed specifically for safer construction and healthier buildings.

Besides 'traditional' timber

frame construction, newer timber-based off-site technologies, such as cross-laminated timber and structural insulated panel systems (SIPS), are strengthening timber's share of the housebuilding market. The benefits of these systems, being comparably lower energy intensive and emission producing in their manufacture and possessing greater thermal efficiency in their use, is helping to support their specification in the timber frame market.

Manufactured using renewable heat from on-site biomass boilers, West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is a sustainable, low-energy product with excellent physical performance characteristics. West Fraser's OSB portfolio comprises SterlingOSB Zero 3, SterlingOSB Zero Tongue and Groove, and SterlingOSB Zero StrongFix. They are variants of the precision-engineered OSB3 board; BBA-approved and designed for humid conditions. The board is certified according to the guidelines of the FSC or PEFC. **West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921** <https://uk.westfraser.com/carbon-negative/>

Charred Kebony Cladding by Shou Sugi Ban completes Warwickshire development

LOCATED in the heart of Warwickshire on the outskirts of historic Rugby, BoBen Construction's most recent development, Bilton Fields, is a shining example of quality, contemporary and sustainable construction. Completed with Charred Kebony timber cladding, the luxury residential development is sustainable in outlook with a unique appearance that retains its rural farmyard essence and the charm of the surrounding area without compromising on modernity.

Built using sustainable building methods, the latest technology and the highest quality products, the development's material palette is simple but effective with zinc roofing, farmhouse brickwork and expansive glazing. Crafted with an inherent appreciation of the natural landscape, Bilton Fields reflects an ongoing commitment from BoBen Construction to meet the ever-growing consumer appetite to create architecturally distinguished homes for the modern lifestyle.

Charred Kebony Cladding by Shou Sugi Ban was selected to provide a long-lasting and attractive timber finish for the homes' exterior. Using ancient Japanese methods, Shou Sugi Ban timber is burned to create a long-lasting product with a distressed appearance, resulting in a sleek and fragile aesthetic. Developed in Norway, Kebony's pioneering wood-processing technique sees sustainably sourced softwoods heated with furfuryl alcohol, an agricultural by-product, modifying it to maintain the same durable properties of industrial hardwood but without the same contribution to the carbon footprint.

Designed to allow the indoor living area to extend and naturally co-exist with the outdoors and woodland views, each dwelling boasts open plan internal spaces with floor to ceiling glazing surrounding all aspects of the house to create a truly light and spacious home. The properties benefit from energy efficient underfloor heating throughout, a stylish log burner, a choice of wooden flooring, tiling or carpet, as well as en-suite bathrooms



to all bedrooms. A multi-purpose studio annex with separate access offers several living options whether that may be used as a home office, nursery, gym, multi-generational living or a cinema/games room. The double garage is large enough for a workshop with capabilities for an electric car charger to be installed.

Constructed through sustainable means with minimal impact to the environment, the quality of workmanship on the Bilton Fields project has been recognised by the Local Authority Building Control (LABC), who recently awarded BoBen Construction with 'The Bricks' certificate. Following 24 months of works, Bilton Fields successfully overcame obstacles beset to the construction industry by the coronavirus pandemic. Built across the courtyard of a former potato farm, the two-storey dwellings not only feature the aesthetics and spacious characteristics traditionally associated with rural UK properties, but also accommodate the modern expectations of urban family life. Already, the project has proven popular, with 10 of the 12 luxury homes having been sold to new owners.

Images: BoBen Construction.

Kebony ● www.kebony.com

OSB and straw hide connects with wildlife

A NATURE HIDE designed and built by post graduate students from Kingston School of Art using straw bales and Sterling-OSB Zero supplied by West Fraser, formerly known as Norbord, will help neighbourhood school children connected with wildlife.

The project is part of the March course run by Takeshi Hayatsu, principal of Hayatsu Architects, which is involved in collaborative ecology projects with the local community. He says the idea of building the nature hide came from a visit the students made to the nearby Tolworth Moated Manor nature reserve in South West London. The visit resulted in a mini architectural design competition, which included judges from local ecology action group Citizen Zoo and community group Community Brain. The winning design was a wooden hide based on two interconnecting vertical cylinders.

The students collectively developed the hide's construction details. "We try to mimic the professional environment so we assigned roles to each, including project, health and safety, finance, drawing and workshop manager," Takeshi explains. In the final scheme, load-bearing straw-bale walls are used to form the hide's interlinked curved walls. The bales are laid in a stretcher bond pattern to enhance stability, the bond clearly visible inside the building where the straw is left exposed.



Positioned on top of the curving straw-bale walls is a 450 mm wide, figure-of-eight shaped ring beam formed by joining together curved sections of SterlingOSB Zero. The beam supports a grid of timber joists which, in turn, holds the building's mono-pitched, transparent corrugated plastic roof in place. "The students did look at using glass as a more sustainable alternative, but time, a limited budget and Travis Perkins' location adjacent to the college resulted in profiled plastic being selected," laughs Takeshi.

A series of 50 mm by 100 mm vertical timber posts at 600 mm centres circle the outside of the straw-bale walls to mechanically tie the ring beam and roof structure to the floor some 2,700 mm below.

OSB is key to the floor's construction, which is formed of prefabricated cassettes assembled using a softwood frame sandwiched between a sheathing of two 18 mm thick SterlingOSB Zero sheets. The cassettes are supported on a grid of 50 mm by 200 mm timber beams anchored to

the ground by six screw piles. "The structure touches the ground lightly using ground anchor screw piles," explains Takeshi.

The entire assembly was prefabricated at the School of Art for assembly on site. Prefabrication included assembly of window frames of West Fraser-donated SterlingOSB Zero, which are the same size as a straw table. For Takeshi, SterlingOSB Zero added to the aesthetic of the hide. "I do very much enjoy the OSB's surface texture resembling the texture of the straw bales," Takeshi says.

Students assembled the hide on the nature reserve over the summer. The precise location of the windows was determined on site once the walls were in place and the best viewing positions had been established. Window openings were created by simply replacing a straw bale with a window frame.

Externally the building is clad in larch panels. These have been decorated in nature motifs by local school children using paint made from clay recovered from a local building site, linseed oil and flour.

The design is successful and the hide has proved popular with local schools. Although, with hindsight, Takeshi admits that leaving the straw bales exposed inside may have been a mistake as the children take home stalks as a souvenir of their visit.

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

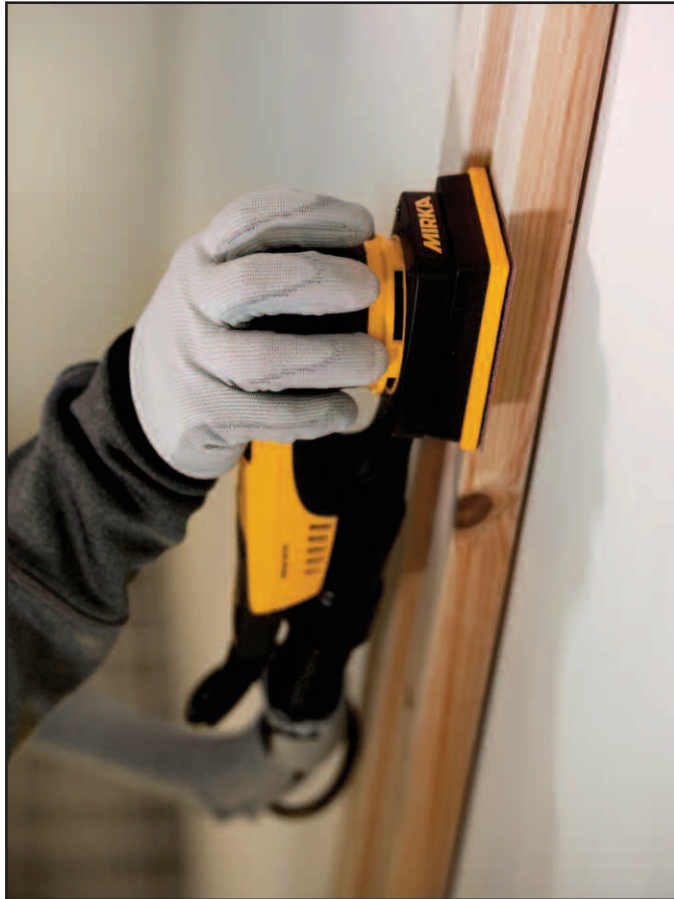


New Mirka® DEOS is a perfect size for hard-to-reach areas

MIRKA is spearheading sanding innovation in 2022 with the addition of the new Mirka® DEOS 343CV sander to the DEOS product family. The tool has been designed to handle multiple applications that range from detail sanding to furniture and window frames, while the tool's 75 mm x 100 mm pad enables easy access to hard to reach areas.

The Mirka® DEOS 343CV has been developed by the R&D team in Jeppo, Finland, with the user in mind. Its low profile allows the tool to get closer to the surface, making it easier to control. The lightweight ergonomic design provides the user with a comfortable grip that will allow the tool to be used for extended periods, while also making it easy to move from job to job. Even though the Mirka® DEOS 343CV is a compact direct electrical orbital sander, the brushless motor provides the power that enables it to perform at the same level as the bigger members of the DEOS family.

From an abrasive perspective, the Abranet®, Abranet Ace® and Iridium ranges provide the DEOS 343CV with a selection of premium abrasives



that will provide the user with a consistent scratch pattern and a high-quality finish, no matter the application.

Pete Sartain, industrial sales manager for Mirka UK, says: "Tooling innovation is an ongoing commitment for Mirka and the launch of the DEOS 343CV is the next chapter for us. Even though this tool is small, we believe it has a big future because of its versatility and ability to make the hardest and most inaccessible jobs look easy. In turn, this will lead to increased efficiency and productivity and means users will see the tool as an asset from the first use."

Mirka ● www.mirka.com/uk/



IniFlex brings infinite flexibility to industrial finishing automation

THE NEWEST innovation in Graco's finishing automation capabilities is now released for sale. The IniFlex platform of colour change components offers manufacturers the infinite flexibility they need to decrease colour change times and reduce flushing of waste.

IniFlex fits into almost any application that requires compact colour change valves. This includes, but is not limited to:

- painting robots with on-arm colour change capability;
- reciprocators with automatic paint spray guns;
- single and plural component mixing systems.

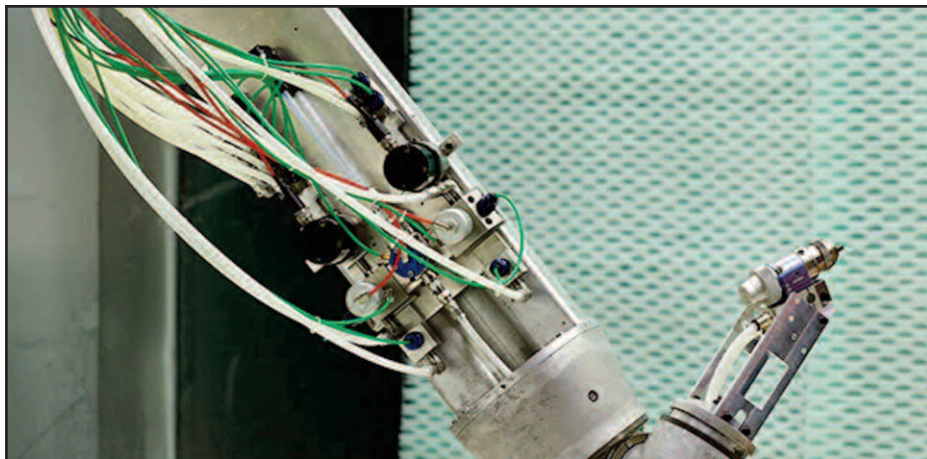
If you want to cut colour change times and waste less solvent, you will especially benefit from



IniFlex. The design of the colour change valve assembly, believed to be unique, causes it to flush cleanly without having to use a lot of solvent.

An animation shows how fluid flows through the IniFlex valve assembly: this can be found at <https://bcove.video/3CVJ9VW>. Its innovative design ensures there's no opportunity for accumulation. Less dead space requires less solvent and saves you money.

Graco
www.graco.com



Interpon's new Redox One Coat delivers total corrosion protection from a single application

AKZONOBEL has further enhanced its Interpon Redox range of powder coatings with the launch of Redox One Coat, the corrosion prevention solution that delivers all the protection you would expect from the Redox name but in a single coat.

Easy to apply and no additional requirements to pre-treatment, just a single application of Interpon Redox One Coat offers agricultural and construction equipment,

metal outdoor furniture, lighting, leisure equipment and steel products protection up to corrosion category C4M (ISO 12944). And because it is so simple to use, no outsourcing or specific staff training is required.

Interpon Redox One Coat differs from conventional coating systems which require a primer and topcoat, adding to its sustainability credentials by saving on material usage and energy, and improving productivity without compromising on protection.

The new powder coating also combines an ideal finish with high weatherability, delivering results that are not only high functional, but



that also look good. As with all products within the Interpon powder coatings portfolio, the range also comes free from Volatile Organic Compounds, solvents or any other potentially harmful components, and produces less waste.

Jorrit van Rijn, global industrial segment manager of powder coatings at AkzoNobel, says the range is meeting some of the most complex challenges in the market today: "We know that corrosion

protection is not a nice to have, it's essential. We also know that you need simple solutions to get the job done. Through our constant innovation and investment in R&D, we've created a solution that does both, and will help you realise savings in time and money without sacrificing anything in quality and performance."

Backed up by AkzoNobel's 50 years of experience in over 70 countries and in-depth knowledge of corrosion protection Interpon Redox One Coat is the latest innovation from the Interpon Redox collection.

AkzoNobel ● <https://industrial.interpon.com/redox/>

Makita puts the power in your hands

MAKITA UK has expanded its powerful XGT 40VMax range of machines to offer professional users even more high-power products to aid their efficiency and productivity on site.

LS003G XGT 40VMax 305 mm brushless slide compound mitre saw: The new LS003G has been designed for high precision and consistent smooth cutting. It has an LED lamp that casts a helpful shadow of the saw blade onto the workpiece, acting as an accurate cutting line. The LS003G delivers an impressive no-load speed of up to 3,600 rpm and has a maximum mitre range of 60° to 60° (L-R) and bevel range of 48° to 48° (L-R). For maximum versatility, the LS003G's rail forward design means that the rear of the machine can be placed close to the wall, and the subbase supports a wide workpiece.

For improved safety, the LS003G also features Makita's auto start wireless system that automatically connects the LS003G to compatible dust extractors via Bluetooth so that when the machine is in use, the dust extractor automatically runs.

AS001G XGT 40VMax brushless dust blower: The AS001G is an incredibly versatile machine and can be used across a range of tasks including tool maintenance and cleaning, inflating and deflating inner tubes, blowing dust away from equipment and cleaning air conditioner filters thanks to its blower and vacuum modes. For increased usability, it delivers a maximum air volume of 1.1 m³/min, sealed suction of 10.3 kPa and air pressure of 20.6 kPa. With four air volume options to choose from and one touch nozzle replacement, it is easy to adjust the tool to suit the task in hand.

The AS001G also includes a filter to prevent foreign matter from



being sucked in and damaging the tool.

VC001GL and VC003GL XGT 40VMax L-class dust extractors: With Makita's powerful XGT 40VMax technology at their core, the VC001GL and VC003GL dust extractors deliver impressive output that is equivalent to corded alternatives. Both machines can house two XGT 40VMax batteries so that when the first battery runs out of charge, the second one automatically kicks in to keep the machine running for longer. To improve productivity further, the VC001GL and VC003GL have large tank capacities of 8-litres and 15-litres respectively, preventing the

need to regularly down tools to empty the bag. With numerous power options available, including 'high power' and 'quiet' modes, users can easily select the most appropriate setting for the application. The VC001GL and VC003GL can also be used for both wet and dry vacuum cleaning,

providing professionals with a solution for every job. For wet vacuuming, the machines benefit from IPX-4 water resistant rating.

The VC001GL and VC003GL's quiet operation means they can be used in occupied premises with minimal disruption to the building's occupants.

CW001G XGT 40VMax Cooler/Warmer box: The CW001G is considered the perfect jobsite companion. This 20 litre cooler and warmer box has seven temperature settings ranging from -18° C up to 60° C, to either cool or warm food and drink items, for year-round usability. It also features a bottle opener and USB output port for charging mobile devices. For ease of transportation, the CW001G has large 100 mm caster wheels and a carry handle with grips for added comfort.

The CW001G can be powered by four sources, so it can be easily added to any tradesperson's Makita collection. Users can choose from using their XGT or LXT batteries, or a car DC utility socket, or an AC adapter.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "At Makita, we are dedicated to offering tradespeople a wide range of cordless solutions to suit any job or on-site need. Our XGT range of products are ideal for those looking to expand their existing Makita cordless toolkits with a selection of even more powerful models suited to higher demand applications."

Makita
www.makita.uk.com

Protecting woodworkers' respiratory health

FROM APRIL 2022, woodworking businesses across the UK will be visited by Health & Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors to ensure duty holders know the risks associated with woodworking and to inspect whether effective controls are in place to protect workers' respiratory health.

To help businesses prepare, Arco, a leading UK safety company, is sharing expert advice, ahead of the HSE's updates, to support employers with people involved in woodworking.

In January 2020, the HSE introduced new and revised workplace exposure limit guidance for 13 substances, including wood dust. Wood dust is a hazardous substance and inhaling the fine particles can develop into respiratory diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and occupational asthmas. Settled dust contains the fine parti-



cles that are most likely to damage the lungs and hardwood dusts, such as oak, western red cedar and iroko, are carcinogens that can cause sinonasal cancer.

In addition to the respiratory threat posed by wood dust, it is also a fire or explosion hazard. Unconfined wood dust can ignite and spread flames across a cloud in the air, while wood dust that is contained can build up pressure when ignited and lead to destructive explosions.

The serious health and safety threats demonstrate the essential need for appropriate controls and protective measures for woodworking environments. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) guidelines set out the legal requirements for organisations to protect their workers' health from hazardous substances. Due to the health risks, wood dust is covered by COSHH and thus risk aversion controls are a legal requirement.

Kevin Williams, Respiratory Team Manager at Arco Professional Safety Services said: "The risk from wood dust should be minimised, ideally by using methods that do not generate wood dust or by removing it at source. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be issued as a last line of defence once all other control measures are in place. The HSE will expect to see a clear education and understanding of the control measures put in place by employers to protect workers from harm. It is also a legal requirement for all employees to receive appropriate training and supervision for any related equipment to ensure safety standards are implemented accordingly. Workers should also be encouraged to be involved in health and safety as they are often the best people to understand the risks and help find solutions. Through worker involvement you can act together to reduce accidents and ill health within the workplace, by paying attention to layout, worker movement and keeping workshops and storage areas tidy.

Arco

www.arco.co.uk/expert-advice/respiratory-protection/hazards/wood-dust

Safety most important consideration for construction workers

NEW RESEARCH being launched by WASP Site Safety has recently unveiled the demand for advancements in site safety from construction workers across the nation. The research coincides with the company's latest market offering, The Site Safety Box, an all-in-one solution to essential safety workwear.

WASP Site Safety was founded in 2019 with a mission to revolutionise the construction industry by taking the sting out of site safety, making it easy and convenient for workers and companies to access the best safety workwear.

Tom Skerritt, co-founder of WASP Site Safety, said: "WASP Site Safety was born based on a wealth of concerning industry insights — almost half of UK tradespeople have been seriously injured at work, a figure that's frankly too high and needs to be dealt with. Our latest product launch brings an all-in-one solution to the mar-

ket that makes it easy for workers to stay safe on any site.

"We know there's a demand here, our latest research found that 89% of construction workers' lives would be made easier if they were able to purchase all their safety equipment in one place. It also unveiled that just under half of construction workers reported 'cost' and a 'lack of stock' as the main barriers when sourcing correct safety workwear. Today, we're thrilled to be launching the solution to these problems."

The nationally representative survey was carried out with construction workers of all seniority levels and various demographic breakdowns across the UK. Key findings include:

In the wake of the pandemic, 62% of business owners and senior managers in the construction industry have invested further into health and safety measures for their business. This trend is here to



stay with a further 28% of owners and managers looking to invest in this area in 2022.

Young people are even more safety conscious, with 93% of 16-24 year olds considering safety as an important factor when working in construction, more so than cost and turnaround time: while 91% of 16-24 year olds find it difficult to source safety workwear, citing obstacles such as lack of stock (51%), long delivery times (38%) and expense (36%). Only 9% of 16-24

year olds surveyed did not find it difficult.

The new Site Safety Box offers the following: 1 x safety helmet, 1 x safety glasses, 2 x Hi-Vis vests, 1 x cut level D work gloves, 1 x ear defenders and 1 x ear plugs. The workwear is provided by trusted UK suppliers, according to WASP Site Safety.

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