

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

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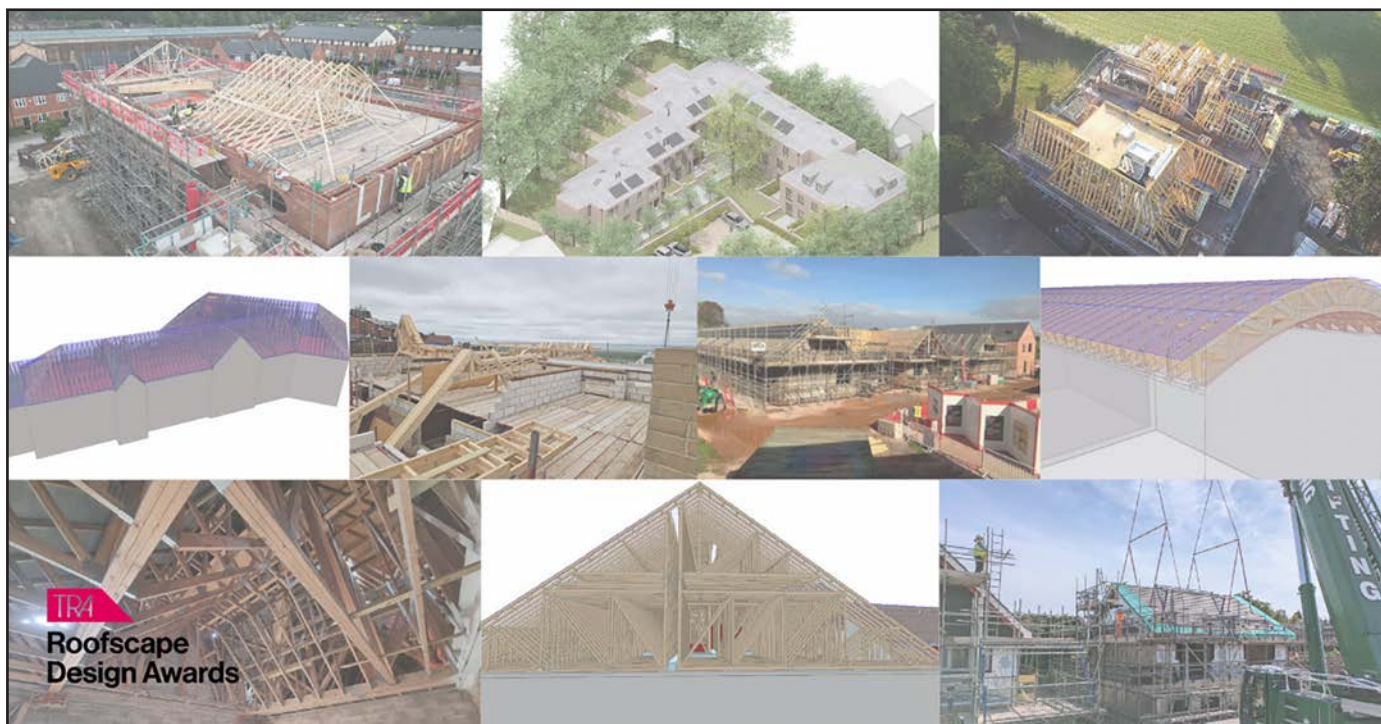
Covering the full spectrum with James Latham

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Winners of the Roofscape Design Awards 2025 Announced at TRA Annual Event



THE TRUSSED Rafter Association (TRA) has revealed the winners of the 2025 Roofscape Design Awards during the evening dinner at its Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Recognising innovation and technical excellence in roofscape design, the awards this year featured six categories. Three project-based categories — Commercial Project of the Year, Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year, and Residential Project of the Year — were complemented by three new individual awards: Career Champion of the Year, Innovation Champion of the Year, and Safety Champion of the Year.

The judging panel praised the winning entries for their complexity, attention to detail, and thoughtful integration of health and safety, sustainability, and practicality.

The AGM and conference, sponsored by leading TRA suppliers, featured two supplier focus sessions. Attendees had the opportunity to connect directly with members and sponsors, including BPC Fixings, Hundegger, ITW Construction Products, Simpson Strong-Tie, and Virtek.

This year's winning projects demonstrated outstanding technical skill, creativity, and a clear commitment to health and safety and sustainability. The winning projects are:

Commercial Project of the Year

Learning Disability and Autism (LDA) unit, Langdon Hospital, designed by Jamie Underwood of Crendon Timber Engineering.

The entry was recognised for its technical complexity, including a large metal web joist scheme and challenging intersections. Judges praised the detailed submission and the thoughtful integration of an essential vapour barrier.

Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year

The Engine House, designed by Elicia Brumley of Acorn Timber Engineering.

The judges were impressed by the comprehensive submission, which addressed every aspect of the project. The intricate roof structure, long spans, and shallow pitch were handled with exceptional attention to detail.

Residential Project of the Year

Plots 1 and 2, Knowle Road, designed by Ranjit Gill of Wyckham Blackwell.

Praised for reducing the need for a steel frame and avoiding a cut roof,

this project tackled complex elements such as rooms in the roof and a mix of vaulted and flat sections, supported by strong health and safety and sustainability considerations.

Individual award winners were:

Career Champion of the Year

Jack West-Jordan, Crendon Timber Engineering (nominated by Tim Wilson).

Recognised for exceptional dedication to training, development, and supporting the next generation of talent in the industry.

Innovation Champion of the Year (Joint award)

Sam Kirkham, ITW Construction Products (nominated by Scott McAndrew).

Celebrated for outstanding leadership in advancing innovation across technology, sustainability, and operations.

Innovation Champion of the Year (Joint award)

Craig Smith, ITW Construction Products (nominated by Sam Kirkham).

Honoured for driving innovative solutions and continuous improvement in product management.

Safety Champion of the Year

Ed Kirk, Crendon Timber Engineering.

In recognition of his dedication to maintaining and promoting safe practices within the trussed rafter industry.

Nick Boulton, chief executive of the TRA said: "This year's Roofscape Design Awards have once again raised the bar. The entries demonstrated outstanding creativity, technical know-how, and a strong commitment to safety and sustainability. It's inspiring to see how our members continue to innovate and take on increasingly complex projects while maintaining such high standards.

"We were also proud to introduce individual award categories this year, recognising the people driving progress behind the scenes, from innovation and safety to career development. These awards highlight the importance of celebrating individual contributions, and we encourage all members to continue nominating their colleagues and peers in the future."

Trussed Rafter Association ● www.tra.org.uk.

Alcove Architecture and the SterlingOSB Zero competition

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

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

Here, Sian Briggs and Julian Evans of Alcove Architecture, whose Sports Climbing at Grant's Quay Wharf entry won the 2024 Zero to Hero competition, talk to West Fraser about their use of SterlingOSB Zero.

What inspired your design concept for the competition?

Sian Briggs: "We wanted to make it as much for the spectators as it was for the participants. We wanted to take the spectators on the journey as well as giving them that real feeling of height, vertigo, scaling a cliff face. We chose the location because it was within two high rise buildings, and we were trying to get a feeling of a bit of a chasm that you are climbing up — with excellent views of all the London landmarks! That was our starting point and we chose SterlingOSB Zero due to the product's modular nature."

Julian Evans: "We live in a very modular world today — with bricks, blocks and the advent of board material. In this competition, we wanted to save all the cutting and just use the bare face material to give the diameters and the parameters of the whole thing. Hence, we've ended up with a 2.4 m-high terrace where normally you'd expect about 300 mm. We know we are not structural engineers but, going back to the good old days of slot A fits into slot B, we decided to use a stack of cards effect."

What are some of the common challenges you face in meeting sustainability targets?

Julian Evans: "I think the key thing for us is always fabric first. We are architects; we are not experts in technology. It's a fabric first approach for us. Everything's about insulation. However, we are also a practice that thrives on modular. If you come to us for a building, we'll design it with modular lines, whether that be to brick dimensions, log dimensions. There needs to be less cutting going on."

How has designing with SterlingOSB Zero informed your view of the material regarding its versatility and aesthetic?

Sian Briggs: "I think SterlingOSB Zero is interesting because of the zero element. In the past, we've always been a bit worried about OSB because of all kinds of additives and glues, and the added formaldehyde. The fact that this board has zero-added formaldehyde appealed. Also, the smooth feel made us think it would make a good facing material. It's not just for a sheathing board — you can use it as the finished product, and it looks textural; it is honest and does not need to be covered."

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Left to right: Claire Ironside (marketing executive at West Fraser), Sian Briggs and Julian Evans (Alcove Architecture) and Jan-Carlos Kucharek (deputy editor of RIBA J).

Julian Evans: "I think it also complemented what we were doing. Obviously, there's the climbing wall on the other side which isn't a wall; it's just lots of plastic with little bits and bobs going on. When you look at the OSB, there are different layers that you can see. It's just a nice complement as you have got the smoothness with the roughness and oddity of the climb."

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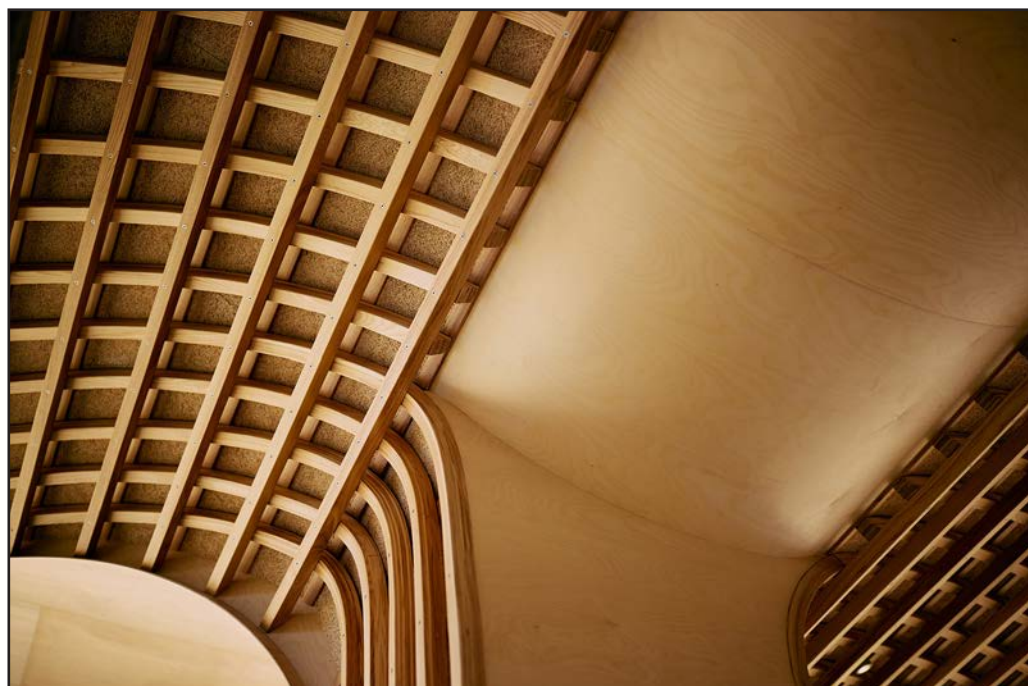
Enter the Wood Awards 2025: celebrate excellence in timber design

THE WOOD Awards 2025 is now open for entries, offering a prestigious platform to showcase and celebrate the UK's finest timber architecture and design. This is your chance to have your work recognised by some of the most influential figures in the industry.

Every single entry to the Wood Awards will be reviewed by distinguished panels of independent expert judges, including leading architects, structural engineers, furniture designers and makers.

In the Buildings category, the panel includes Jim Greaves, lead building judge and principal at Hopkins Architects, Andrew Lawrence, global timber specialist at Arup, David Morley, partner at David Morley Architects, Nathan Wheatley, director at Engenuiti, Kirsten Haggart, associate director at Waugh Thistleton Architects, Jonas Lencer, director at dRMM Architects, Neil Smith, director at Max Fordham, Andrew Trotman, founding director at Timberwright, and Ruth Slavid, architecture journalist.

The Furniture & Objects category is judged by Sebastian Cox RDI, lead furniture & objects judge and fine furniture maker, Caroline Till, co-founder at FranklinTil, Hugo Macdonald, critic and curator, Johanna Agerman Ross, Conran Foundation chief curator at



Small Project winner, 2024 — 'Rhodes House Garden Pavilion' by Stanton Williams.

the Design Museum, and Sophie Sellu, founder of Grain & Knot.

These leading industry figures will personally visit all shortlisted projects, assessing them based on design, craftsmanship, sustainability, and impact. Their collective expertise ensures that only the very best in timber design will be recognised and celebrated.

For over 50 years, the Wood Awards has been a benchmark

for excellence in timber design, and winners receive more than just a trophy — they gain recognition, exposure, and lasting prestige within the design world. The Wood Awards is free to enter, with every entry judged entirely on merit. Your timber project deserves more than to be seen — it deserves to be remembered.

The competition is open to UK-based projects completed in the

last two years, where timber is a primary material. Categories include Buildings, which can range from large-scale commercial projects to beautifully crafted private homes, and Furniture & Objects, which include both handcrafted and production pieces.

The entry period runs from Wednesday 5th March through to Friday 23rd May. The 2025 shortlist will be revealed in early September, leading up to the Wood Awards Shortlist Exhibition at Gallery@Oxo, during the London Design Festival. Shortlisted projects will receive exclusive invitations to attend the exhibition's Opening Night and the Wood Awards Ceremony in November at the iconic Carpenters' Hall.

The Wood Awards 2025 is the UK's most prestigious timber design award — will your work make the shortlist?

As a not-for-profit, the Wood Awards is only made possible with the support of valued industry partners and sponsors, the American Hardwood Export Council, The Carpenters' Company, and Timber Development UK.

The Wood Awards
Tel 020 7291 5377
info@woodawards.com
www.woodawards.com



Research & Innovation winner, 2024 — 'Uist House' by Koto Design and Hiraeth Architecture.

Pioneering solutions from Venjakob



VENJAKOB Maschinenbau will be presenting innovative solutions for woodworking and wood processing at LIGNA 2025 in Hanover (26th to 30th May) under the slogan "GET READY FOR THE FUTURE".

The company will be show-

casing the latest developments in automated surface finishing and process optimisation at its booth (Hall 16, Booth C22).

With the entry-level system VEN SPRAY ONE, Venjakob enables a simple and cost-efficient switch to automated coating.

This is a particularly attractive solution for companies that are struggling with a shortage of skilled workers and still need to focus on efficient production.

One highlight is the new VEN SPRAY ADVANCED spray coating machine.

This new system was developed based on the experience gained from working very closely with customers and offers maximum flexibility, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Venjakob shows how modern system technology is shaping the surface coating of the future.

Venjakob uses innovative add-ons such as "OPTI-feed", "OPTI-track" and the "CMS Zero" colour management system to further optimise production. The focus is on sustainable and energy efficient solutions that drive the industry forward.

Visitors to the trade fair will have numerous opportunities to discuss the latest trends in industrial automation, smart factory and energy efficiency. It is particularly noteworthy that Venjakob offers all the necessary technologies from a single source and combines them individually according to requirements.

Visit Venjakob at LIGNA 2025 and find out how future oriented solutions can optimize your processes.

Venjakob
www.venjakob.de/en/



SCM at Ligna: a strategic business partner for each stage of the production process

AT THE 50th edition of Ligna, which will also mark the 50th anniversary of SCM's presence at the trade fair, the Italian Group will consolidate its role as a global leader in the woodworking sector, demonstrating how the combination of state-of-the-art technology, specialist advisory and digital innovation can transform any challenge into a growing opportunity.

From bespoke technical support to proactive maintenance, SCM is present at each stage of the customer's production process, anticipating the specific needs and adapting the services to each industrial organisation's priorities. The aim is to maximise the machines' efficiency, improve product quality and reduce operating costs, allowing companies to focus on the growth of their businesses. A proactive approach which, as will be clear at the trade fair, marks a turning point and SCM works in close contact with the customer, to achieve the same goal.

Pietro Gheller, director of the SCM Wood Division points out: "The numerous innovations we will present at Ligna demonstrate SCM's ability to develop a long-standing, continuous and shared relationship with customers, and to support their needs



not only throughout the entire life cycle of a machine, but for the whole duration of their business. This is possible not only thanks to technology, which is still the core of the group's experience, but by offering an ecosystem of software, services and skills with a very high added value".

State-of-the-art technology and services

The machines and systems that

will be displayed at the Group's booths represent the most advanced technology applied to wood machining. Designed to guarantee precision, efficiency and sustainability, these solutions meet the needs of automation and flexibility of modern production processes, adapting to different industrial situations, from small business to large international groups. As of 2025, for all the new SCM machines, the ad-

vanced "Additional Care" service program will be available, in line with SCM's servitization strategy, which guarantees efficiency, reliability and greater operating duration.

Continued innovation: data-based performance

Innovation is at the centre of SCM's proposal with data-driven solutions which allow for performance to be monitored and enhanced in real time. In recent years, SCM has enhanced its commitment towards the concept of smart manufacturing with the integration of advanced technologies and intelligent automation systems like SCM Group's platform which facilitates the machines' data management, the creation of analytical reports as well as features like cyber-security which has become increasingly important in the industrial world.

Ligna 2025 will see the preview presentation of the only MES/MOM native solution for the woodworking sector, a modular suite which ensures the complete integration of the factory.

Bespoke services: solutions to optimise processes

Directed by a customer-centric vision, SCM offers well-aimed service solutions to help companies optimise operations and achieve



new levels of production. Each service is designed to specifically meet the companies' needs, guaranteeing support that evolves with their priorities and objectives. The offer of services was expanded with pro-active service systems based on machine learning algorithms and tools that guarantee efficient intervention.

Integrated cell system for the furniture industry

The solution displayed includes a flexible beam saw and edgebanding cell, followed by a subsequent drilling cell. The system combines the advantages of integrated automation with a flexible production and high quality to meet the growing demand for sought-after, bespoke furniture solutions. The strong point of this range that machines up to 1,200 furniture components every shift, lies in the integration of SCM machinery, some of the most admired on the market for its sturdiness and reliability, with automatic storage systems, articulated robots, handling systems, software and advanced digital services, aimed at guaranteeing production continuity and high levels of efficiency. It is also a highly versatile range: depending on the configuration of the technologies used, the system may be best suited to a "batch 1" production or for average-sized batches.

The cutting stage is done with a "gabbiani a2" angular panel sizing machine which, thanks to the automatic sequence of longitudinal and transversal cuts, allows for maximum flexibility both for batch-1 and large-scale production. This machine is powered by an automatic storage of shaped panels "flexstore hp", for an optimised and just-in-time management of semi-finished products both in homogeneous stacks and mixed ones.

Unloading is also done automatically with an articulated robot which picks up the sawn panels and then drops them off on a roller conveyor for the next step in an automatic labelling machine and followed by the edge bander. The positioning of the labels outside of the magazine allows for set-up operations without interrupting the cutting stage and power supply of the panel sizing machine.

At the same time, the articulated robot's flexibility at the sizing machine's output point means even the panels not going to the edge bander and destined for

other machinings are also unloaded.

The edgebanding is carried out in a flexible "stefani cell E" that not only guarantees high levels of productivity and machining quality thanks to the industrial "stefani s" edge bander, but also allows for flexible and automated integration of the entire production loop. With a focus on complete automation, the panels are fed autonomously by an industrial articulated robot. The panel return is managed automatically with the pickback gantry system that guarantees the timely return of the panels after longitudinal or transversal machining. Even the unloading stage is automated as the same pickback system stacks the finished panels on another dedicated roller conveyor. The cell offers the possibility to manually unload the pieces exiting the edgebanding loop

At this stage, the process can terminate or move on to drilling. The new "morbidegli fx100" drilling machine will be presented for this machining stage, developed for batch-1 machining and capable of performing drilling work, dowelling and milling on four sides of the panel. This solution allows for levels of unparalleled flexibility and productivity given the possibility of integration onto

the production lines, always keeping quality as the key objective.

As well as the cell on show, automated, integrated and complete processes for all the wood-working sectors will be on display in multimedia mode: furnishing and kitchens, windows and doors, flooring, construction, surface treatment, joinery, boats and caravans. All this with a clear focus on multi-materiality thanks to the integration with CMS solutions, another of the group's brands specialising in technologies for machining other materials like glass, marble, metal, plastic and composites.

CNC machining centres for nesting: "morbidegli x50"

This solution allows you to achieve high performance in compact spaces. The new PRO-SPACE version will be on display at Ligna and among the main advantages will be: the SMS — Spoilboard Management System software that facilitates spoilboard panel management and indicates in advance any adjustments or replacements; the work table with High Grip Vacuum technology, unique in guaranteeing the best grip on the piece which evenly distributes the vacuum across the whole surface, together with high flexibility and efficiency in handling even the smallest pieces.

Furthermore, it will be possible to see in action the new and exclusive SCM patented spoilboard panel which allows for 90% consumption reduction compared to a standard wood spoilboard panel, by also increasing the work-piece's grip. The operator's safety is guaranteed with bumpers protection system which locks the machine only in case of accidental contact with the operator.

CNC machining centres for drilling and routing: "accord 500"

Designed to satisfy even the most complex needs when producing doors, windows, staircases and solid wood elements, "accord 500" will present numerous upgrades dedicated to the world of furniture. Among the more conspicuous new entries applicable to the asymmetrical machining areas, like the "Optizone" patented system connected to the Maestro lab software which requires just one click to establish the size of the two work areas as early as the programming stage based on the pieces to machine, and the SVP — Single Vacuum Pods function to separately lock the pieces on each half-plane. Also being highlighted is the new chain tool magazine, Quadro 35 which can always ensure a variety of tool stations are on hand in a limited space.



Beam saw: "gabbiani pt95"

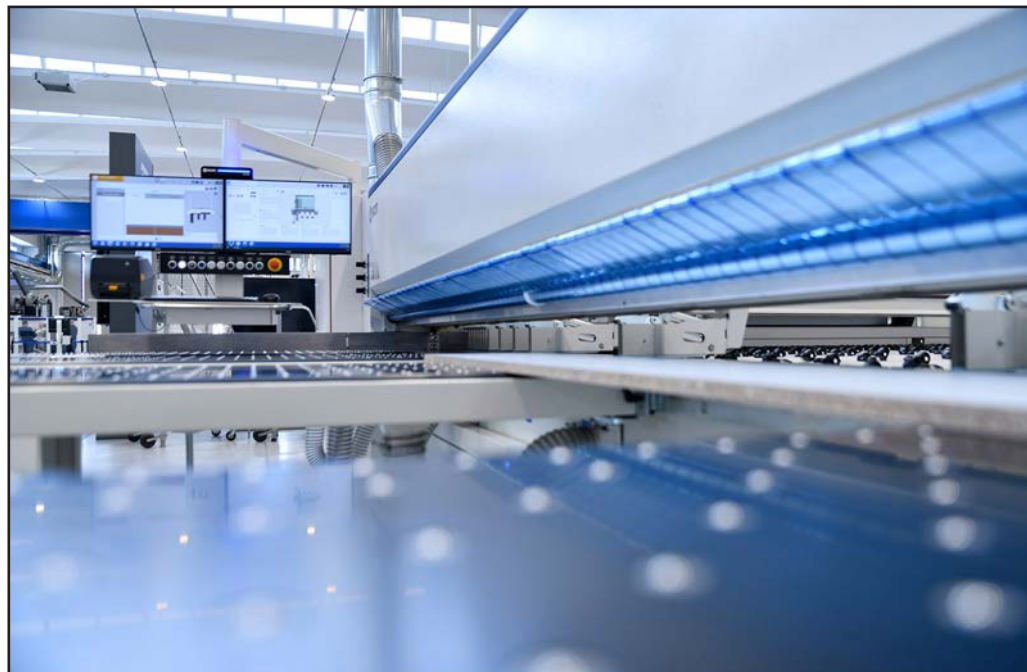
A highly efficient solution suitable for both batch one and mass production, "gabbiani pt95" offers all the higher-end functions and options most valued by the market for the SCM panel sizing. These include the Flexcut unit for side-by-side bars up to 600 mm, blade motors with power up to 18.5 kW, led indicators for both front and rear loading, led device for guided positioning of movable air floating tables and angular cutting device.

Edge bander — "stefani m"

Highly configurable and customisable industrial edge bander, designed as a competitive investment that ensures reliability and machining quality both in standalone mode and within integrated cells. The "electronic touch" of the electronic working units is easy to use even with the most complex machining on delicate, state-of-the-art materials. The machine's completely automatic set-up guarantees repeatability, quality and precision of the production processes.

Timber construction: new CNC machining centre "oikos xs 650"

At Ligna, the "oikos xs 650," the latest addition to the "oikos" CNC machining center range, will make its international debut. This model retains all the advantages of the range while improving performance, offering greater productivity and flexibility when processing beams of cross section up to 650 mm x 310 mm. The new machine will be equipped with the updated "Maestro lab beam&wall" software, developed



internally on the new SCM "Maestro lab" CAD/CAM software. It enhances the functionalities of the current programming software, to the advantage of the machine performance and the operator's user experience.

Next to the SCM booth in Hall 13, visitors will also be able to discover the latest innovations from Randek, SCM's partner in supplying complete systems for the timber frame sector.

Solid wood machining: "topset xxl" throughfeed moulder

Making its world premiere, "topset xxl" expands SCM's automatic throughfeed moulders offer to meet new customer requirements. Increased working sections, spindle speeds of up to 12.000 rpm, customizable com-

positions and feed worktables with micrometric settings for optimal tooling set-up, are just some of the innovative features of this new machine.

Joinery machines

Spotlight pointed on the new "evocut 350i", "nova si 4" and "minimax si 4" circular saws.

The new "evocut 350i" stands out for its compactness, excellent machining quality and high level of safety. The machine features the performance of a circular saw in a small footprint, allowing the cut of panels or solid wood up to 46" tilting; all this through a simple and intuitive programming carried out by the new "eye-S" control panel.

Representing the historical "nova" range and the top performing segment of "minimax"

range, new "nova si 4" and "minimax si 4" models come up as the most versatile circular saws in their category, thanks to the new highly reliable sliding carriage, guaranteed for 10 years; and the possibility to customise the machines depending on customer's demands: for example, the new optional "Quick Lock" squaring frame that enables the quick set-up change of the fence in a few seconds.

On show will also be the "L'invincibile si 3BO" circular saw with the innovative "blade off" safety system, the "L'invincibile ti 7" electronic spindle moulder, the "L'invincibile fs 7" surfacing thickening planer, the "t 40" automatic edgebander, the "minimax tw 55es" spindle moulder fitted with the new manual "HSK" interchangeable spindle, the "startech cn k" compact routing machine and the "scm maker" compact portable CNC router.

Surface treatment

A vast range of solutions for surface treatment will be on show at the SCM-Superfici stand (D05), in Hall 16. This is a process where the Italian Group is a market benchmark with an integrated and complete range of products and services for sanding, pressing and painting developed to achieve exclusive, sophisticated and state-of-the-art finishes.

Concerning sanding technology, the "dmc system t" automatic sanding-calibrating machine will be on display with the exclusive CO₂ laser unit which allows you to create three-dimensional scorings on parquet, wooden el-



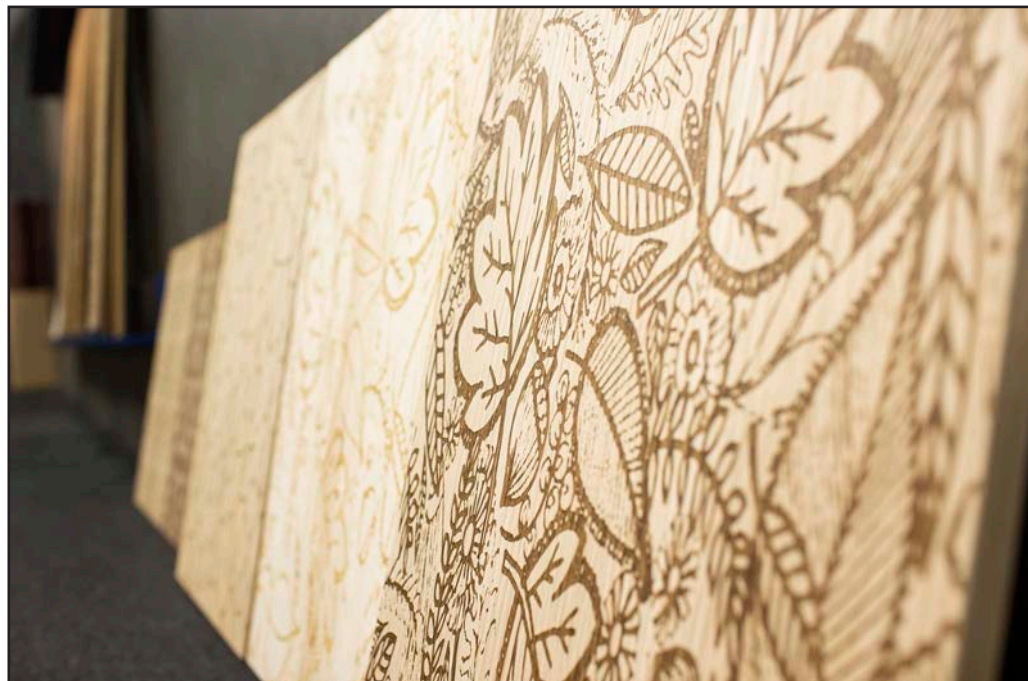
ements, MDF panels to veneer, in fibre cement and solid surfaces of any length. Thanks to the exclusive "Self-Refilling" technology, it is possible to make the most of the features in terms of power without interrupting the production flow.

In order to achieve excellent finishes on both raw panels and coated ones, the "dmc system tm 1350" sanding and calibrating machine with crossbelt unit will be on display: a configuration expressly dedicated to the furniture industry and contractors who require sanding machines and systems for intense jobs. The crossbelt unit allows you to achieve superior quality finishes, while simultaneously maximising the duration of the sanding abrasive belts.

For the Superfici range of finishing solutions, "maestro" will be on display, a painting robot specialized in coating applications for windows and doors, presented for the occasion with new software featuring even more highly innovative functions.

The "mini" automatic spraying machine which offers an uncompromising paint finish in terms of quality and flexibility with just a small investment, will be even more advanced with a new integrated colour-change system.

Also in the limelight is the "magnum", a top-performing, highly



automated machine featuring advanced colour-change systems, cleaning carriage replacement and filter change capabilities.

As part of the roller applications, "valtorta f1" is expanding its application options thanks to flexible rollers which allow for the coating of even unusually shaped surfaces.

The latest innovations in paint polymerisation will also be featured, specifically the UV LED Matrix system, with more mono-

chromatic UV sources of differing wavelengths, in order to achieve chemical-physical features fully comparable with conventional UV polymerisation, maintaining the typical advantages of LED.

Tecno Logica

Tecno Logica will be alongside the SCM stand in Hall 13. This is a company recently acquired by the Italian Group and specialises in industrial automation and robotic solutions suited to bespoke projects. Visitors to Ligna will be

able to immerse themselves in a journey through extreme innovation and discover a new industrial production standard with top levels of automation, productivity and flexibility. The Tecno Logica systems complete the offering of engineering solutions already designed and supplied by the SCM Group for big industry.

SCM Group

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www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/



XYZ and WARDJet at FESPA 2025

JOIN XYZ and WARDJet at FESPA Global Expo 2025 in Berlin from 6th-9th May, where the company will be showcasing the latest advancements in CNC routing and waterjet cutting technology. Visit the stand in Hall 25, Stand D45 and discover how XYZ and WARDJet solutions can elevate your business with precision, efficiency and versatility.

The team of technical specialists will be available to answer questions and provide expert guidance on selecting the right CNC or waterjet solution for your business. Experience live demonstrations on two of the company's most advanced machines, designed to deliver unparalleled cutting accuracy and workflow efficiency:

XYZ TRIDENT — A game-changing router-knife hybrid system, perfect for sign-making, woodworking and fabrication. This high-performance machine can process aluminium, acrylic, foam, wood and more, offering superior precision and the flexibility to achieve complex cutting styles.

XYZ INNOVATOR — Engineered for high-quality, cost-effective



routing, the INNOVATOR is considered an ideal solution for prototyping, sign-making, woodworking and education. Featuring an optional three-position tool

changer and the A2MC controller, it seamlessly integrates with industry standard software, delivering efficiency and reliability with every cut.

WARDJet: Precision Waterjet Cutting — As a leader in waterjet cutting technology, WARDJet delivers high-pressure waterjet solutions capable of cutting through metals, composites and plastics with precision and speed.

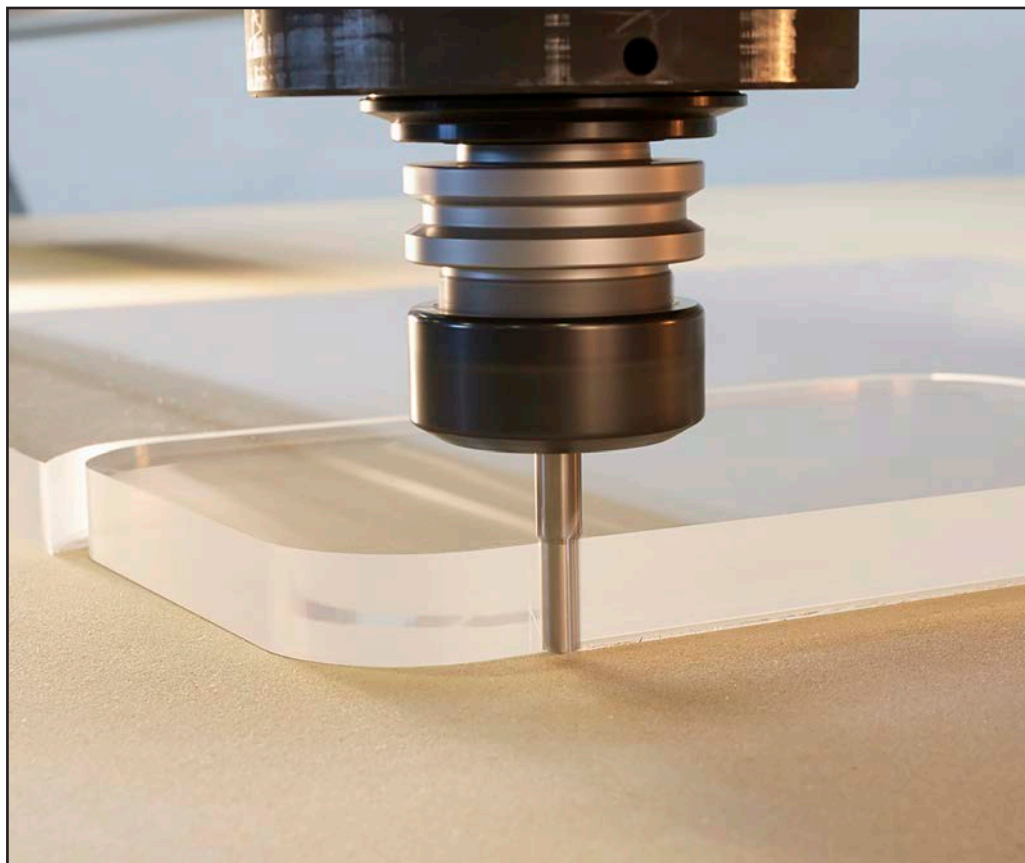
Designed for a wide range of industries, these advanced systems allow businesses to achieve fast, efficient and accurate cutting with minimal material waste.

The company's experts will be on hand to guide you through the extensive range of models, ensuring you find the perfect solution for your production needs.

XYZ and WARDJet understand that every business is unique, which is why the company provides customised CNC and waterjet solutions tailored to your specific needs.

Whether you're looking to increase production speed, improve cutting accuracy, or expand your material processing capabilities, the company's innovative technology can help you achieve your goals.

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SCM, A STRATEGIC PARTNER, BY YOUR SIDE AT EACH STAGE OF YOUR BUSINESS PROCESS

SCM has always stood alongside companies in the woodworking sector and we assist our clients not only throughout the entire life cycle of the machines but principally for the development of their entrepreneurial activities, thanks to an **ecosystem of software, skills with significant added value and proactive service systems based on machine learning algorithms**, to achieve the highest levels of performance.

A **customer-centric vision** which ensures SCM becomes your strategic, solid, reliable and omnipresent partner at every stage of your company's production process, **with technological solutions and services which are constantly connected to maximise the machine's efficiency, improve product quality and reduce operating costs.**

Scm is more. **You are more.**



Come and see us at Ligna 2025
and you will discover a world of services
and solutions to suit your every need.

26-30.05.2025 HANNOVER, GERMANY
HALL 13 - HALL 16

www.scmwood.com



is more

Government commits to increase the use of timber in construction

AMBITIOUS new plans to increase the use of timber in construction were announced by Environment Minister Mary Creagh at the Timber in Construction Summit in London.

The new Timber in Construction (TiC) Roadmap is being introduced to help get Britain building using timber — creating economic growth, rural jobs and helping meet housebuilding targets in a sustainable way.

The TiC Roadmap was first published at the end of 2023. This new and improved version goes even further, highlighting the Government's ambition to boost the domestic timber industry and kickstart the construction sector without compromising on quality, safety or carbon emissions. It also demonstrates how the use of timber in construction fits with the Government's own growth agenda, by encouraging the use of sustainable, low-carbon building materials and ensuring carbon emissions are considered during the design, construction and use of buildings.

Using timber in construction is one of the best ways to reduce emissions from buildings. Around 25% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions come from the built environment, and larger buildings can store up to 400% more carbon when built out of engineered timber products compared to building with concrete. However, 80% of the timber the UK currently uses is imported.

Key updates to the Roadmap place greater acknowledgement on the importance of reuse and species diversification, as well as revealing powerful actions to create a low-waste circular construction sector and drive further investment into domestic timber and wood-processing supply chains. These include:

Demand: Government will explore the use of Government Buying Standards to encourage the adoption of sustainable, low carbon building materials.

Safety: Government will work with industry, academia and the Building Safety Regulator to research outstanding safety, durability, and competency questions towards closing the evidence and competence gaps of engineered mass timber over the next five years.

Environment Minister Mary Creagh CBE MP said: "This Government is getting Britain building. Our Plan for Change will build 1.5 million homes this Parliament. Timber will play a vital role benefitting development and nature."

David Hopkins, chief executive officer of Timber Development UK,

said: "The Government's commitment to the Timber in Construction Roadmap is a real boost to the low-carbon construction sector. We have a great opportunity to increase our housing stock while growing our forests and reducing our emissions output.

"As a bio-based industrial supply chain, the timber sector can play a unique role in the low-carbon economy — sequestering emissions in the forest and storing them in our buildings. With a rough value of £10 billion to the UK, this growth in timber construction can also play a vital role in the Government's wider growth agenda."

Forestry Commission chief executive, Richard Stanford, said: "To reach net zero, we must increase timber production from homegrown trees and use that timber in our buildings to sequester carbon. The Timber in Construction Roadmap will propel forestry production in England to ensure timber security, reduce our dependence on imports, and address the nature crisis by boosting biodiversity, improving water quality, and providing more green spaces for people."

Alex Goodfellow, chair of the Confederation of Timber Industries, and CEO of Donaldson Offsite, represented the timber industry when he said: "The Minister's support for the Timber in Construction Roadmap shows the Government's firm commitment to a growth agenda: growth for forestry, for housing, for low-carbon skills and for the economy. The timber supply chain is a major economic player in the UK, connecting rural and urban environments.

"Timber frame construction is a well-proven technology and business model for delivering houses rapidly and sustainably while improving quality. By accelerating this growth we can build more low-carbon housing today while providing a market pull for expanding forests. As a supply chain we will support the Government to deliver on all of the goals in the Roadmap and help build a more sustainable future."

Stuart Goodall, chief executive of Confor, commented: "Confor welcomes the UK Government's commitment to working with partners, including the timber industry, to deliver the important ambitions of the Timber in Construction Roadmap.

"In light of domestic timber security, we particularly welcome the roadmap's focus on increasing productive forestry and on promoting the use of homegrown wood-based construction products. Both of these actions will make an important contribution to achieving the UK's net zero target and economic growth."

Andrew Carpenter, chief executive of the Structural Timber Association said: "This is a substantial step forward and we are extremely pleased to see the Government underlining its commitment to meeting these ambitious house building targets.

"Increasing the use of structural timber and offsite manufacturing is one of the most effective ways of ensuring the rapid and high-quality delivery of these vitally needed homes, while also meeting urgent decarbonisation obligations."

Timber Development UK will continue to work with industry and Government to promote the use of timber in construction and the development of a more sustainable, environmentally friendly supply chain.

TDUK

www.timberdevelopment.uk



David Hopkins, CEO Timber Development UK

SCM Open House focuses on timber



TUSCANY, in the heart of Italy, has always provided the world with sophisticated technology. Here, SCM boasts a highly specialised industrial facility which, in recent years, has grown gradually and significantly to provide the timber construction industry with ever more innovative, smart and connected solutions.

SCM's new entries were presented from 13 to 15 March at the "Timber Construction Days" open house. These include the greatly anticipated new CNC Machining centre OIKOS XS 650, the latest in the OIKOS range with all its advantages while offering improved performance, greater productivity and flexibility when machining beams with a cross-section up to 650 x 310 mm.

The event also shone the spotlight on Maestro lab beam&wall, the SCM software dedicated to all AREA and OIKOS CNC machining centres and developed on the new CAD/CAM Maestro lab, to the advantage of the machine's features and the operator's experience of use.

A great deal of attention was placed on the digital services enabled by data, especially the new version of the IoT platform, Maestro connect, a monitoring application for the performance and productivity of connected machines.

The official inauguration was held at the modernised industrial plant

during the open house. The existing plant is now not only 50% larger but will have a further 3,000 m² of production space, totalling 10,000 square metres overall. An expansion aimed at increasing production capacity and optimising internal logistics, in order to promote competitiveness and technological innovation.

Innovation, digital transformation and much more: at the "Timber Construction Days" there were also prominent industry experts from customer companies, partners and institutions, all of them working with SCM. A vast programme of presentations focused on key topics in the sector like the digital transformation in mass timber, the future of timber construction in Industry 4.0 and on case studies concerning successful projects in different countries.

"In line with the high demand from the timber construction industry, both in Europe and overseas, we have speeded up our R&D path and we are proud to showcase the many results at the open house next March" says Tommaso Martini, business unit manager for CNC Machining Centres and Systems for Timber Construction, speaking before the event. "We started out with the production needs linked to the construction of timber buildings using mass timber and moved towards promoting a new concept of 'smart timber'. We did so with solutions that allow our

customers to make their processes smarter, optimising workflows, saving on material and covering a wider spectrum of applications".

At "Timber Construction Days", it was possible to directly assist in the presentation of what's new as well as take a guided tour of the factories and see other models, such as OIKOS XS 450, OIKOS X, OIKOS XL and AREA X, designed for machining different kinds of beams and CLT elements. SCM's additional technologies for machining CLT panels were also presented: sanding machines and double-end profiling machines.

As with all the most important events in the industry, the Swedish company Randek was present, an SCM partner supplying complete systems for the timber frame sector.

Lastly, there were numerous technological partners who have been working with SCM for some time supplying complete customer solutions: tool suppliers and software houses such as Oertli, Leitz, Cadwork, Hsbcad, Sema, Dietrichs and Innorenew.

SCM opened its doors to customers and partners to present its latest technological innovations, discuss the industry's new trends and show off its production plant. A unique opportunity to discuss with experts, expand their knowledge and discover the competitive solutions and advantages that SCM can offer.

SCM Group • Tel 0115 977 0044
scmuk@scmgroup.com
www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/



TIMCON February meeting in Manchester

DELEGATES from the wooden pallet and packaging industry heard how new regulations will soon impact on their businesses at a general meeting of the Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON).

Held in Manchester at the end of February, the event featured presentations on the development and implementation timelines of new UK and EU packaging rules. In an update on the Pack-

aging & Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), Marcus Kirschner of German association HPE said European recycling targets are set to increase to 25 per cent this year and 30 per cent by 2030.

As the EU continues to develop the new rules, Mr Kirschner said the packaging industry was seeking greater clarity on PPWR definitions — and acknowledged the role of continued industry lobbying by organisations such as HPE,

FEFPEB, and TIMCON in securing key exceptions and special considerations for wood pallets and packaging.

Meanwhile, David Daw of environmental compliance specialist Valpak outlined the expected impact of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations on the UK industry, adding that finalising complex details could lead to a delay in the implementation of the new regime.

The meeting also featured updates on the wooden pallet and packaging sector from Heikki Vidgren of AFRY — which produces TIMCON's monthly market index — and the worldwide timber market by Rob Driessen of pallet and packaging wood purchasing specialist Connec3.

Jeff May, deputy chief executive of the Construction Products Association (CPA), gave an overview of the construction industry's priorities including its sustainability goals of decarbonising industry and ensuring compliance with government expectations.

TIMCON president John Dye

said: "TIMCON meetings always aim to provide key updates for our membership, and our speakers this time gave essential insights into the changes in packaging rules that will affect their businesses in the months ahead."

"This meeting also showed how important our engagement in the lobbying process is to achieving positive results for our business — and the fantastic turn out shows how much our members value the opportunity to hear first-hand and discuss updates on regulations and other aspects of the business."

"Working closer with pallet and packaging using industries, our forest-based sector counterparts, and our international colleagues makes all our businesses stronger and in today's increasingly complex global market, is more important than ever."

TIMCON

Tel 0116 274 7357

Email info@timcon.org

www.timcon.org



From left to right: Rob Driessen, Connec3; David Daw, Valpak; Jeff May, Construction Products Association (CPA); John Dye, TIMCON; Heikki Vidgren, AFRY; and Marcus Kirschner, HPE.

NEWS

IronmongeryDirect's prize draw

IRONMONGERYDIRECT, a leading UK online ironmongery specialist, has announced the winner of its TradeXtra prize draw.

David Marguet-Turner, owner and founder of DMT Facilities based in Broadstairs, Kent has been announced as the lucky winner of 150,000 loyalty points to spend with IronmongeryDirect's TradeXtra Rewards loyalty programme.

The prize draw ran between 7th October 2024 and 12th January 2025. Any IronmongeryDirect customer who opened a TradeXtra Account and registered for TradeXtra Rewards during this period was automatically entered into the prize draw.

David, a customer of IronmongeryDirect for over ten years who opened a TradeXtra Account in October, was thrilled to be presented with the prize and revealed that he is planning to use the points to book a holiday. "I can't believe I have won!" he exclaimed. "This is a huge prize and I am really looking forward to spending the points against a great choice of items. I'd love to use the points to take the family on a special holiday. IronmongeryDirect is my go-to supplier — its customer service, delivery options, and range of products are top-notch. Thank you to IronmongeryDirect for this amazing prize!"

IronmongeryDirect's TradeXtra Account provides customers with instant interest-free credit of up to £10,000 for up to 60 days, easy online account management, exclusive discounts and offers, and early access to promotions and prize draws — all with no annual fee or hidden costs. TradeXtra customers can opt-in to join the TradeXtra Rewards loyalty programme, where members earn one loyalty point for every £2 spent on products from IronmongeryDirect which can then be redeemed against a comprehensive catalogue, including rewards such as giftcards, exotic holidays, smart televisions, and gaming consoles.

Keri Bryce, sales & marketing director at IronmongeryDirect said: "We

were delighted to award David with the 150,000 loyalty points prize and hope he and his family enjoy whatever they decide to spend their points on. We are extremely proud to offer TradeXtra as a platform to support and reward our loyal trade customers with exclusive benefits and discounts. It's just another way we are continuing to deliver our promise to provide great value products and service to our customers."

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

IronmongeryDirect ● www.ironmongerydirect.co.uk/tradextra



Dan to tri his luck for Team GB gold

A TEWKESBURY triathlete will be flying the flag for Team GB on the other side of the world in his quest to become a world champion.

Dan Derrick is preparing to compete in the World Triathlon Championships in Wollongong, Australia, in the World Triathlon Age Group Championships in October. And Dan's quest to compete on the global stage has been supported by leading national builders merchant Selco Builders Warehouse and Cheltenham based commercial and residential property specialist Coombs Group. The two businesses have each provided Dan, who turns 40 in August, with £1,000 to help fund the cost of the trip.

Dan, who is chief executive of health and wellbeing charity Move More which helps children to live healthy and active lifestyles, said: "To compete for Team GB in a world championship in any sport is an absolute dream come true."

"The sponsorship Selco and Coombs Group have provided has made travelling to compete in the event financially viable as it's a very expensive trip otherwise. I'm extremely grateful to both companies and hopefully I can do them proud. I used to play rugby for Tewkesbury and have only been doing the triathlon for 18 months. It's going to be a great experience and the aim is definitely to come away with a medal."

Dan will compete in the 40-44 year category of the two-discipline Aquabike event, which features a 1,500 m swim and a 40 km bike ride.

Hanna Mclean, branch manager of Selco Cheltenham which can be found on Runnings Road, said: "We learned about Dan's exploits through one of our customers, the Coombs Group, and we are delighted to be supporting him."

"It's a fantastic achievement for Dan to have reached such an elite level within a very short space of time competing in the sport. We look forward to following his performance in Australia and hopefully bringing back a medal for Team GB."

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Sector-specific standards from JELD-WEN

LEADING UK manufacturer of high-quality timber doorsets, JELD-WEN UK, has launched a new brochure to support easier specification across a range of market sectors — and to highlight its commitment to sustainability.

The brochure has been designed to provide specifiers and contractors with all the information they need in one place across a range of sector specific uses, including education, hospitality, healthcare, residential settings, student accommodation and offices.

Recognising the increased importance of a demonstrated ESG policy in the supply chain, the brochure also clearly sets out the company's commitment to sustainability.

Taking a top-level view, the brochure sets out all the key factors needed to specify doors in each setting, clearly signposting performance testing for standards including acoustics, fire resistance, durability and security — as well as guarantee details and fire door data tagging capability.

Further to highlighting the testing needed for use in a particular sector, the brochure flags up the additional technical expertise offered by JELD-WEN to support accurate specification at the earliest stage of a project, including QR links to the NBS specification platform and CPD training.

Breaking down the qualities of the door by project application, the brochure also includes details such as DDA compliance, Part M compliance, access control, and bespoke sizing.

Taking a closer look at JELD-WEN's sustainability commitments, the brochure sets

out key targets, and benchmarks the company's performance in meeting these.

The brochure also details how the company can support compliance under the Building Safety Act through third party certification and the use of its recently launched fire door data pin, which is embedded into fire doorsets to store vital information to evidence the golden thread through the product's lifetime.

Marketing manager at JELD-WEN UK, Amy Holmes, said: "The doorsets created by JELD-WEN are tested to incredibly high standards and meet the demands of a range of settings.

"We wanted a platform that could really showcase the breadth of this offering. Using standout graphics and lists, we aim to show at a glance how JELD-WEN doors meet the highest standards to allow for confident

specification in sectors that require specific testing to be demonstrated.

"The demand for accessible data and information has become increasingly urgent and we wanted to make it as easy as possible for specifiers to find a doorset that meets the needs of their project — and we have flagged up the depth of support we offer beyond that initial specification.

"JELD-WEN is committed to meeting the very highest standards in performance and we are delighted to be able to bring this together in one place to show the range of applications that our doorsets can confidently be used in."

JELD-WEN

www.jeld-wen.co.uk/literature



Senior appointment at Mon Timber

MON TIMBER, a branch of leading timber supplier Premier Forest Products, has appointed Martin Hallam as general manager of engineering.

Martin joined the team at Mon Timber as business development manager last year, excelling in building and strengthening customer relationships and continued positive promotion of products to suppliers.

As Mon Timber looks to develop its engineering services following customer demand, Martin was promoted to lead the division from the site in Newport. His day-to-day management of the branch, working closely with the yard staff, office team and sales team, will help ensure lead-times are kept to a minimum and customer satisfaction remains at the forefront.

Martin has also played a part in the development of the newly launched timber engineering facility at Duchy Timber based in Cornwall, as it looks to expand its territorial reach across South Wales and the West. Both engineering sites focus on the design and off-site manufacture of roof truss and floor joist solutions.

On starting his new role, Martin said: "I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Mon Timber and am

pleased to be promoted to a leadership role where I can continue to enhance our exceptional engineering service for our customers. In fact, our lead times have already improved and we are achieving project turn-arounds of one week.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the already fantastic growth of the division and ensuring that Mon Timber Engineering is at the front

of customers' minds for every project that they're working on."

Terry Edgell, co-founder and CEO at Premier Forest Products, said: "We're delighted to have Martin at the helm of the engineering division at Mon Timber Newport.

"Since joining us last year, his expertise has been invaluable, making him the natural choice for the role.

"I'm excited to see his vision unfold as he continues to enhance our service and support for our customers."

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

Premier Forest Products

<https://premierforest.co.uk>



Selco lines up on British Touring Car Championship grid

SELCO Builders Warehouse has put itself in pole position by agreeing an exciting new partnership with a title-winning British Touring Car Championship team.

Selco, one of the UK's leading builders merchants, will be backing Laser Tools Racing with MB Motorsport for the 2025 campaign when its driver Jake Hill will be defending his title.

As well as enjoying a strong branding presence on the car and through other team assets, the new partnership will see nationwide hospitality and innovative activation campaigns across Selco's stores.

The agreement will also see MB Motorsport — a team headed up by former Formula One driver Mark Blundell — working alongside Selco on community engagement initiatives.

David Lennon, commercial director of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We are delighted to be launching our new partnership with MB Motorsport in the BTCC.

"From our very first conversation, this programme felt like a very natural fit for Selco, our trade customers, colleagues and suppliers — as well as the communities in which we operate — and we look forward to bringing this partnership to life.

"The BTCC touches many areas of the country and the platform provides us with a unique opportunity to drive engagement and impact right across our loyal and trusted customer base.

"The unveiling of the car livery has really stepped up the countdown to the new campaign and we can't wait to

see Jake in action for the first time this season at Donnington Park at the end of April."

The new partnership announcement comes at the same time as the much-anticipated reveal of MB Motorsport's 2025 challenger BMW330i, with a striking new livery ahead of Hill's title defence.

Mark Blundell, sporting director of MB Motorsport, said: "It is fantastic to announce our exciting new partnership with Selco Builders Warehouse.

"Here at MB Motorsport, we are proud of our record of welcoming big names and highly reputable companies into the pitlane and we are doing exactly that with Selco — another household name right across the UK.

"Like ourselves as an organisation, Selco has a passion for service and putting their trade customers first and we are united in that commitment. We can't wait to showcase to Selco just how we can take this partnership forward with their customers, colleagues and suppliers."

Selco's first race weekend 'appearance' on Hill's BMW330i was at Donnington Park on April 26 and 27.

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

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Nine Zero secures SBD accreditation

NINE ZERO Timber Windows and Doors has achieved Secured By Design (SBD) accreditation, reinforcing its position at the forefront of secure, sustainable and forward-thinking construction.

This latest achievement means Nine Zero's timber products not only meet but exceed the rigorous security standards expected in today's high-performance building projects, offering a competitive edge for

trade professionals, architects, and specifiers — and even more assurance for today's increasingly savvy homeowners.

While the industry is acquainted with SBD, Nine Zero is adding the accolade and stringent criteria to its advanced CNC manufacturing processes, FSC-certified sustainable timber solutions, exceptional quality products, expertise and advice — to set a new standard in a rapidly evolving and highly competitive market.

"Achieving SBD accreditation is a significant milestone for Nine Zero, in an equally significant time," says company director, Steve Winscott.

"At a moment when building regulations and consumer demands are progressing at pace, adding the SBD stamp of approval to our portfolio proves we're ready for the challenges ahead.

"Today's trade professionals, architects, and specifiers need compliant solutions that add real value to their projects — and homeowners expect high security as a given.

"Working closely and tirelessly with SBD means Nine Zero can offer the powerful combination of secure design, sustainable materials, energy efficiency and beautiful, bespoke craftsmanship that is built to last."

Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors
www.nine-zero.co.uk



JELD-WEN secures BM Trada Q Mark

UK DOORSET MANUFACTURER JELD-WEN has secured BM Trada Q Mark certification allowing it to expand the range of internal fire doorsets it manufactures.

Complementing its position as a Licensed Door Processor, securing the UKAS-verified certification provides a guarantee that fire doorsets manufactured by JELD-WEN meet stringent, ongoing, third-party certification standards.

To support the application, JELD-WEN has dedicated an area of its manufacturing plant in Sheffield to be used solely for the manufacture of BM Trada Q Mark certified fire doors.

This will be used to process a wider range of door cores that can then be fabricated to a range of specifications, including different finishes, colours, glazing options and hardware to meet project specific requirements.

While JELD-WEN already manufactures its own range of fire doorsets, it can now process components and parts for other BM Trada Q Mark certified manufacturers — operating as a fabricator to supply the finished solution for projects, with certification carrying through to the final product.

The BM Trada Q Mark certification complements the existing Certifire and Certisecure standards that JELD-WEN meets, allowing

the company to offer its widest range of doorsets. This underlines its commitment to meeting the highest standards through third-party, independently tested product certification while offering customers a wide choice of doors.

Having secured approval for BM Trada Q Mark certification within the space of nine months, the first doors manufactured under the scheme came off the production line at the end of January.

Glyn Hauser, engineering and innovation manager at JELD-WEN UK, said: "At JELD-WEN we pride ourselves on achieving the highest safety standards when manufacturing fire doorsets and the gold standard in demonstrating this is through third-party verification.

"BM Trada upholds the very highest standards across the supply chain.

By becoming a verified member of the scheme, JELD-WEN can now work with other suppliers also holding BM Trada certification to deliver a wider range of products to meet varied specifications.

"This is a great way to complement the already comprehensive offer from JELD-WEN as a specialist doorset manufacturer — and to produce high quality, design-led doorsets that meet the highest standards in fire safety."

JELD-WEN
www.jeld-wen.co.uk



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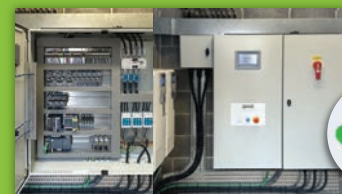
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Volunteers chip in to help Bristol care home

KIND-HEARTED volunteers from a leading builders merchant rolled up their sleeves to help a local care home improve its garden area ahead of spring.

Half a dozen volunteers from Selco Builders Warehouse's Bristol Bishopsworth branch spent two days on site at Brunelcare's Robinson House Care Home. The branch also donated chippings and paint to dramatically revamp the home's outdoor space. Meanwhile, employees from LS Bristol Ltd and NJE Maintenance also got involved in the project by supplying the digger and pressure washers, as well as sending volunteers.

Maria Jones, lead homemaker at Robinson House, said: "We are so grateful to everyone who donated materials and volunteered their time to help us. I was lost for words when I saw the garden after the work — it looks amazing. The volunteers dug up the bamboo and laid the landscape fabric before putting the chippings down. All of the paving was also cleaned along with the furniture.

"The residents have been watching the progress from their windows and can't wait to get out there in the spring. We run many activities in our outdoor space so it will really make a difference."

Robinson House is a 70-bed care home providing a nursing-care lifestyle for older people with specific nursing needs, particularly for those living with a dementia.

Selco is committed to helping local communities around its 75

UK branches and all colleagues are encouraged to get involved by using a paid volunteering day each year. It means more than 20,000 hours will be donated to allow colleagues to support projects close to their hearts on a normal working day in 2025.

Steve Chandler, branch general manager Bristol Bishopsworth, on Cater Road, said: "We were delighted to be able to help Robinson House and its residents. The garden gives people the chance to get out and enjoy some fresh air in a calm environment. We hope they enjoy their new facilities when spring finally arrives in a few weeks. Our colleagues love to get involved with the local community — and having a paid volunteering day means there is time set aside to help groups in need."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Volunteers in action at Robinson House.

TDUK sees increased pine supplies

THE UK construction supply chain is seeing an increase in imports of European Redwood (Pine) as European sawmills face significant disruptions that are impacting the availability of European Whitewood (Spruce).

Timber Development UK has issued a Trade Note on the subject, reassuring members that this does not mean there is a shortage of timber available to the UK, but simply that the mix of species being imported is changing.

The UK construction industry heavily relies on coniferous timber, with about 65% of our requirements being met through imports. European Whitewood (Spruce) and European Redwood (Pine) are the dominant species, but recent Bark Beetle infestations, geopolitical factors and changing forest management priorities have seen some European sawmill lines temporarily closing.

TDUK Chief Executive Dave Hopkins said: "Spruce has traditionally been preferred for use in construction projects due to its visual appeal and smooth finish.

However, market changes are causing us to see a higher proportion of Pine imports. It's important that merchants and contractors understand that Pine has exactly the same strength grading as

Spruce, and so while it may be slightly different visually, it can be used for C16, C24 and TR26 applications in the same way as Spruce without concern. Merchants can be confident that each piece

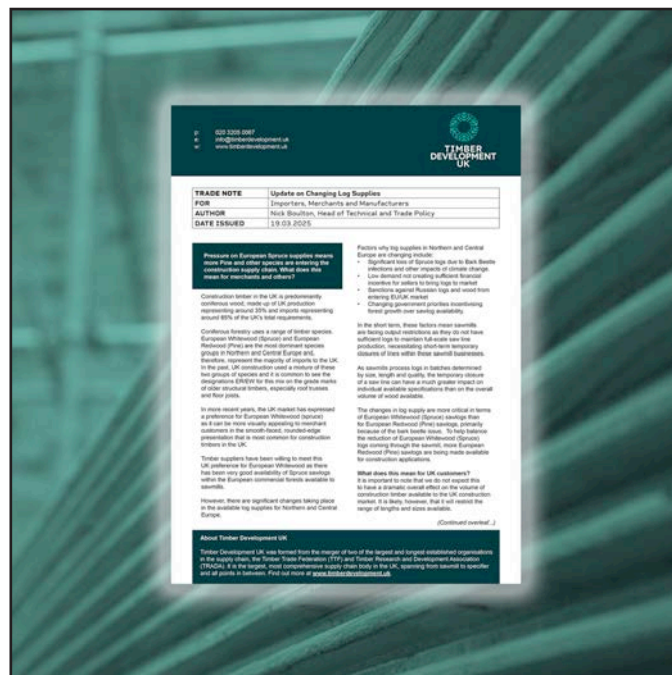
of structural timber will meet the strength class performance stamped on the piece — whether they are Pine or Spruce."

In fact, for garden and exterior products such as decking and cladding, Pine is more readily able to absorb preservative treatments, allowing it to achieve Use Class 3 and Use Class 4 more easily than Spruce, which requires incision for ground contact Use Class 4 applications.

Dave continued: "We have not yet seen any major change in the overall volume of timber being imported to the UK, it is simply the mix of timber species that is changing, and by ensuring they choose the correct strength-graded timber, merchants and builders can remain confident in their timber products."

TDUK members can read the Trade Note 'Update on Changing Log Supplies' online by logging in to their member account at the website below.

Timber Development UK
www.timberdevelopment.uk



Makita's new tabless XGT battery delivers improved performance for the most demanding tasks

MAKITA has launched an innovative new battery for its 40VMax XGT range of high performance tools. The 4.0 Ah BL4040F battery is the first Makita battery to include cutting-edge tabless technology, which allows more efficient power delivery, better runtimes, and cooler running. As the latest Makita F-Type battery, it is engineered for performance on the very highest demand applications.

The tabless lithium-ion cells in the new BL4040F eliminates the bottleneck caused by current concentration by connecting the entire end of the electrode to the end of the cell, instead of connecting to tabs at each end.

With a larger connection area inside the cell, heat generation is minimised. This means that even under high load, the cell temperature is reduced compared to standard designs, which has a positive effect on the overall service life of the battery. A further benefit is that the battery can be charged immediately after intense use, with no need for a cooling phase, meaning shorter overall charging times. The tabless 4.0 Ah BL4040F battery delivers up to 36% longer runtimes and operates 32% cooler compared to the standard 4.0 Ah BL4040.

Like all Makita F-Type batteries, the BL4040F is a high-output battery designed for enhanced performance and better runtimes on higher drain tools such as chainsaws, breakers and demolition hammers. The new 4.0 Ah BL4040F delivers the same 2.1 kw maximum output as the 5.0 Ah BL4050F. This means customers now have the choice of the larger, higher capacity 5.0 Ah battery or the smaller, lighter 4.0 Ah battery to achieve the high output that demanding tasks require. In fact, the BL4040F is 34% more compact and 28% lighter than the BL4050F.

As with all Makita's XGT 40VMax batteries, the BL4040F is built for the toughest environments with an impact resistant and shock absorbing casing to protect the battery cells, as well as a triple layer structure to protect against water and dust ingress.

XGT batteries also feature Makita's digital communication system that connects the tool and battery to actively protect against overload, over-discharge and overheating.

The XGT range has over 125 40VMax and 80VMax (2x 40VMax) products including drills, impact drivers and wrenches, angle grinders, nailers, dust extractors, and circular, mitre and reciprocating saws. There is also a wide range of XGT garden and grounds maintenance machines including mowers, chain saws, blowers, brush cutters, hedge trimmers and earth augers.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita said: "The new tabless BL4040F is specifically designed for the most demanding applications and will deliver superior performance and runtimes as well as the long service life that customers expect from Makita products. The launch of this cutting edge, next generation battery is just the latest part of our ongoing drive to ensure professionals have the high-performance products they need."

Makita UK

www.makita.co.uk/tabless-technology



Completed apprenticeship at West Fraser

AS A leading UK manufacturer of timber-based panel products, West Fraser is pleased to announce that the company's continued investment in apprenticeships, as well as wider staff development training, has seen one recruit successfully complete his modern apprenticeship; achieving the technically rigorous 'Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship in Processing Industries Operations Controlling Processes and Operations at SCQF'.

Thomas Henderson joined West Fraser, at the Cowie plant, in 2021. On joining West Fraser, as is normal practice at the company, Thomas was allocated a mentor to help him acclimatise, and to ensure his progression included placements in appropriate and diverse areas of the factory. With these placements, Thomas could ascertain his aptitudes and confidence. His mentor was Michael Scott-Ramsay, who had himself progressed through West Fraser's graduate scheme, working within the Engineering Development and Quality teams.

Commenting on Thomas successfully completing his apprenticeship, Michael said, "Being able to witness Thomas developing from a fairly inexperienced young person into the hard working and conscientious professional that he is today, and to be part of that journey, has been one of the most fulfilling parts of my time at the company. Having finished his apprenticeship, Thomas has actually begun a full-time job with West Fraser on our particle-board press which is one of the most demanding jobs in the Cowie plant because of all the monitoring involved."

Offering his own perspective on his time with West Fraser as well as undertaking day release at the Forth Valley College in Falkirk, Thomas added: "The Process apprenticeship has provided me with hands-on experience that significantly enhanced my technical skills and deepened my understanding of the press operator's role, and the business as a whole. I had the privilege of working alongside experts within the company, who offered me invaluable guidance and mentorship helping me to grow professionally and personally. It's an interesting and demanding job running the particleboard line, despite much of the process being computer controlled. Particularly on a 'start-up,' you are out on the production lines checking the presses and manually opening valves to set the process in motion. You're always looking out for problems like a build-up of material in the pipes but, running continuously, we produce 1,200 boards or more during a shift. I really appreciate West Fraser's support in enabling me to complete my apprenticeship. Everyone went over and above to facilitate my course. I am settled into a full-time position now and can see a career path ahead, with the apprenticeship meaning I am qualified to possibly become a shift manager at some point in the future."

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



West Fraser visit by business management students

WEST FRASER EUROPE has welcomed higher business management students from Culloden Academy to visit its plant and learn how the company provides career opportunities and pathways as a key employer for the local community. Twenty-eight students from the academy joined West Fraser staff including process engineer, Calum Tynan, and graduate mechanical engineer, George Beamish, for an in-depth look at their day-to-day roles at the manufacturing facility to see a hands-on example of how efficient operations management helps the business run smoothly on a daily basis.

The students also had an opportunity to speak to the management team, including Steve McTaggart, health safety environment and quality manager, at the Morayhill site to learn from their combined years of managerial experience and ask them any questions about their roles in driving the business forward.

Claire Thomson, teacher at Culloden Academy, said: "The visit was an excellent and inspiring educational experience for our students, who saw how the topics they've learnt on their course can be applied in an active industry environment. We'd like to thank West Fraser for providing

this fantastic chance for our students, who also learnt more about the wide array of careers and job opportunities that they provide to the community."

Linda McDermott, HR manager at West Fraser in Inverness, said: "As a key employer for the region, we've always been thrilled to share our know-how and expertise with the next generation of business leaders. We're glad to hear that the Culloden Academy students found their tour inspiring and educational — we're sure they'll continue taking steps to ensure they have bright futures in the world of business."

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



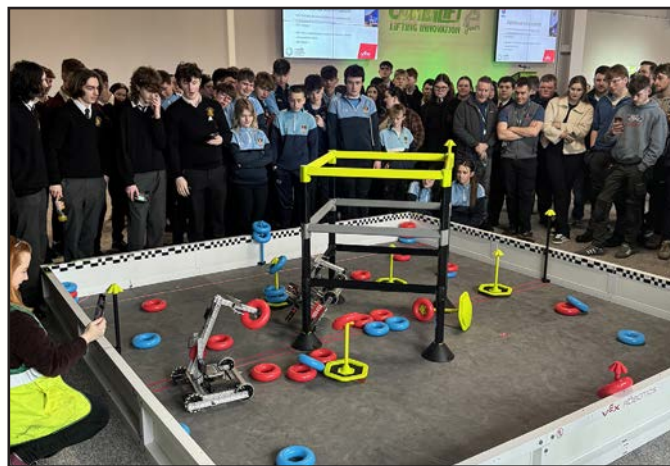
Combilift invests in the engineers of the future

AS PART of Engineers Week, Combilift opened its doors to local schools in an initiative aimed at promoting STEM education and announced that the Regional VEX Robotics championships will be held within the Combilift headquarters, with winners getting a chance to qualify in the world championships.

Combilift, a global leader in innovative material-handling solutions, is dedicated to supporting STEM education and nurturing the future workforce. By hosting this event, the company aims to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry applications, encouraging students to explore careers in engineering and technology.

At the event, St. Macartan's VEX Robotics Team, winners of the 2025 the North West Regional Finals, presented their award-winning robot to over 250 students from local schools and talked about the process and skills involved in designing, building and programming a robot. To get a full overview of the competitions a friendly match was held, highlighting the excitement and technicalities of the high-calibre VEX competitions.

Brendan Mc Avera, St. Macartan's College teacher said: "I am the computer science teacher and in 15 years of teaching, this is probably the best thing I've ever been involved in. It really shows the inspiration you can get back from your students when you give them a project to do, and



they put their heart and soul into it, and they get their rewards since they've won three awards this year."

Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on experiences, young learners gained insight into the real-world applications of STEM and the vital role robotics plays in modern industries.

Martin McVicar continued: "By engaging with these cutting-edge technologies, students can develop skills specific to robotics, hydraulics, and programming, as well as other vital skills such as teamwork, strategy, and problem-solving. These abilities are essential for students' curricula and are transferable to their future careers in STEM, including potential apprenticeships at Combilift or paths in engineering."

Martin McVicar also emphasised: "Listening to the skills these students have developed; it makes you proud. It feels like you have a Formula One team in front of you. When you look at the different roles each person plays and the skills they have developed, these abilities will serve them well throughout their lives."

Through initiatives like this, Combilift continues to play a prominent role in motivating young minds to think innovatively and develop the skills necessary for their futures. By investing in the next generation of engineers, Combilift is helping to shape a brighter tomorrow for everyone.

Combilift
<https://combilift.com>

Bradford joinery apprentice targets 'WorldSkills Shanghai 2026'

FOLLOWING national success at SkillBuild 2024, Bradford College's joinery apprentice Ahmed Shakir has been short-listed for a chance to represent 'Squad UK' at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

Supported by his Bradford employer, Abrahams & Carlisle, Ahmed now joins an intensive 18-month training programme with the end goal of competing against other young tradespeople at the 48th WorldSkills Competition in September 2026.

WorldSkills, also known as the 'Skills Olympics', is the largest and most prestigious skills competition in the world.

The 2026 edition will bring together 1,500 competitors from across 80+ countries to compete in over 30 technical skill areas. These specialties range from engineering and digital technology to construction and hospitality.

Speaking about his latest achievement, Ahmed said: "I'm delighted to have made it into the Squad UK joinery category, alongside three other competitors! The training programme will be intense, but I know it will push me to be the best I can be. I'm excited for the challenge ahead!"

"Both Abrahams & Carlisle and Bradford College continue to be

hugely supportive of my journey. Abrahams & Carlisle helped with preparation for the SkillBuild final back in 2024, even transporting all my tools to Milton Keynes, and are fully on board with my training and further opportunities. Training and competing means time away from work, but both my employer and the College are fully behind me, which is really nice!"

After already proving himself as one of the country's best young joiners, Ahmed Shakir will now have the chance to replicate this on a world stage.

The WorldSkills event is an international platform for showcasing excellence and driving up standards in vocational education and training.

Jonathan Hemingway, director at Abrahams & Carlisle, added: "Since beginning his journey at Bradford College and starting his apprenticeship with us, Ahmed has shown natural ability and outstanding dedication."

"We're incredibly proud and can't wait to support him with this next step. He's definitely got a bright future!"

The talented joiner's journey with Bradford College started back in 2021, enrolling onto a Carpentry & Joinery course and



progressing through both Level 1 and 2.

Following this, in 2023, he began his Bench Joinery apprenticeship at Abrahams & Carlisle. Throughout this period, his skills and confidence grew, leading to a mounting list of achievements.

Bradford College is proud to support the continued success of apprentices like Ahmed. With strong partnerships and expert-led teaching, the College provides apprentices with the foundations to excel in their chosen careers across healthcare, professional services, construction, engineering, dental, pharmacy, early years, and teaching.

Bradford College
www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/

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Transforming custom kitchen design at Plykea with XYZ Routers

FOUNDED in 2016 by two friends seeking an affordable yet high-quality solution for customising IKEA kitchen and wardrobe cabinets, Plykea has revolutionised bespoke design by customising IKEA's Metod, Pax, and Platsa cabinets with high-quality plywood doors, drawer fronts and worktops.

Offering a seamless process for homeowners and professionals to tap into a unique blend of affordability, sustainability and design led craftsmanship to elevate their kitchens and wardrobes, Plykea combines IKEA's functionality with bespoke design elements, delivering a handcrafted, design-led aesthetic at a fraction of the cost. From its East London workshop, the varied client base includes not just homeowners but B2Bs made up of architects, contractors and interior designers emphasising precision, quality and sustainability.

To achieve this level of precision and scalability, Plykea turned to XYZ routers, a pivotal decision that has defined its success.

In its early days, Plykea relied on outsourcing to meet production demands. However, as demand grew, it became evident that external manufacturing limited the company's ability to maintain consistent quality, meet customisation requests and scale operations. The company needed a solution that would enable in-house manufacturing to maintain the quality and precision critical to its offerings. With a growing customer base and increasing demand for its custom plywood fronts, Plykea required advanced technology to streamline production while ensuring consistency and quality. The result would: ensure precision in cutting and customisation; maintain high-quality finishes that align with Plykea's bespoke offerings; and increase production efficiency while reducing reliance on external manufacturers.

Plykea brought production in-house in 2018 with its first CNC router. When asked why they changed: "Initially, the machine required manual tool changes which restricted efficiency", said

Ben Price, production manager at Plykea. Recognising the need for advanced automation, Plykea upgraded to the XYZ INFINITE CNC router, featuring automatic tool-changing capabilities and advanced features tailored to Plykea's needs. This investment transformed their production process.

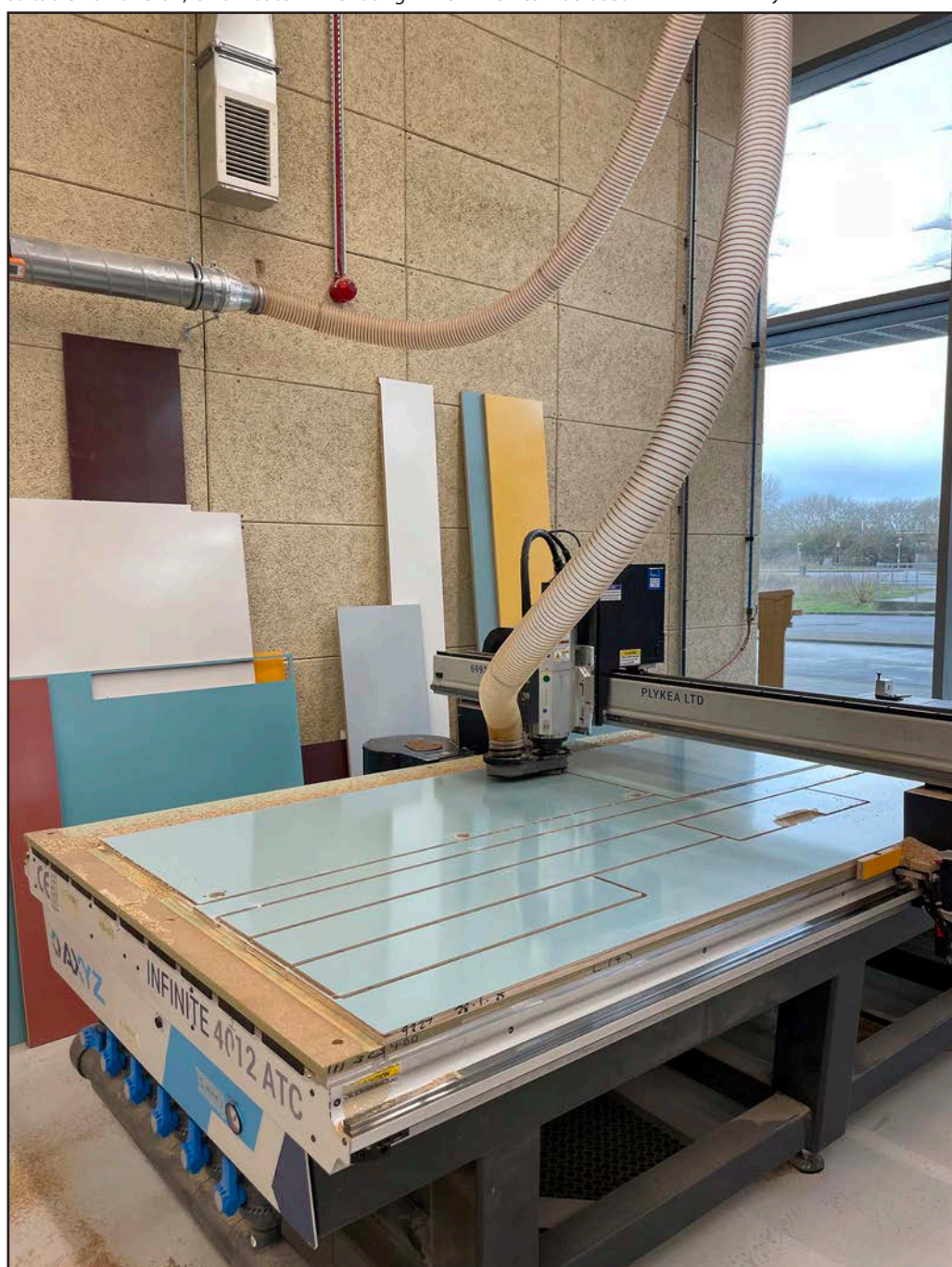
The INFINITE router is a highly configurable CNC machine that is suitable for one-off, small batch

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

to process soft goods material.

When asked why Plykea chose XYZ Ben explained the following: "The INFINITE router is compact and reliable: XYZ routers fit seamlessly into Plykea's workshop, making them an ideal choice for the space constraints. Cost-Effectiveness: XYZ routers deliver high performance within budget, eliminating the need for expensive outsourcing.

"Durability and Precision: Built



to last, XYZ machines offer the reliability Plykea needs for daily production while achieving the exacting standards of the custom designs."

XYZ routers handle the precise cutting of Plykea's signature plywood fronts, ensuring seamless alignment with IKEA hardware with precise placement of hinge holes and fixings. The machine also supports the company's ability to accommodate custom sizes, from non-standard door dimensions to bespoke worktops and modular shelving units.

The automatic tool-changing capability of the XYZ INFINITE drastically reduced setup time and eliminated manual errors.

This automation not only enhanced productivity but also allowed the team to focus on design and innovation.

By bringing production in-house, Plykea eliminated outsourcing costs and external markups. This move not only reduced expenses but also provided the flexibility to scale efficiently. Over time, the optimised machine settings further minimised material waste, contributing to Plykea's profitability.

By tailoring the machine's settings to its materials XYZ routers provided consistent, high quality finishes to Plykea's premium materials, such as birch plywood with veneers of oak, walnut or ash. The machine's precision en-

abled cleaner cuts and superior results, enhancing Plykea's reputation for excellence.

With XYZ routers managing core production tasks, Plykea had more resources to innovate, such as introducing Ürtil modular shelving units and custom pantry designs.

"Integrating advanced CNC technology posed initial challenges, such as learning new workflows and optimising the router for specific materials. However, XYZ's technical team provided exceptional comprehensive support, including prompt troubleshooting guidance and on-site assistance, ensuring a smooth transition allowing Plykea to fully leverage the machine's

capabilities", said Ben. "The introduction of automation has been a positive experience for Plykea's team. They affectionately named the XYZ INFINITE router 'Greg'", he continued, underscoring its integration as a vital member of the Plykea family. Employees welcomed the efficiency and precision automation brought to their workflow, viewing it as an opportunity to focus on craftsmanship and innovation. Automation has also enhanced job satisfaction by streamlining workflows and providing opportunities for advanced CNC training.

Plykea ensures smooth operation with a strict maintenance schedule, including daily cleaning, internal cleaning schedule and an annual service for "Greg." This proactive approach minimises downtime, ensuring uninterrupted production and keeping the machine running at peak efficiency.

Plykea's success with XYZ technology has set the stage for future growth. Looking ahead, Plykea plans to expand production capabilities and therefore aims to add another XYZ CNC router to meet increasing demand. This addition will enable Plykea to scale its operations while still maintaining the precision and quality its customers expect.

Plykea's partnership with XYZ routers exemplifies the power of automation in modern manufacturing. By embracing XYZ's cutting-edge technology, Plykea has maintained its commitment to craftsmanship while scaling operations to meet growing demand. With its dedication to quality, sustainability and innovation, Plykea continues to transform the way kitchens and wardrobes are designed, proving that bespoke design can be both functional and beautiful.

Plykea has achieved unparalleled precision, efficiency, and quality, solidifying its position as a leader in bespoke kitchen and wardrobe design. With its commitment to sustainability and innovation, Plykea is poised—with the help of XYZ machines—for continued growth and success.

Plykea

Tel: 020 8064 0780

Email: hello@plykea.com

www.plykea.com/

XYZ

Tel: 01952 291600

www.axyz.com



Sikkens Wood Coatings: combining sustainability and performance



SIKKENS Wood Coatings, part of AkzoNobel, has enhanced its portfolio of market-leading wood coatings with RUBBOL WF 3350, a midcoat and topcoat that contains bio-based material to deliver excellent performance while supporting end-users toward their sustainability goals.

RUBBOL WF 3350 is a sprayable 1K waterborne opaque coating for wooden components. Suitable for both interior and exterior use, it delivers good hiding power, excellent weather resistance and no dirt pick-up.

With an impressive 22%-24% bio-based content, as verified by external C-14 testing using ASTM D6866 (Method B), RUBBOL WF 3350 offers several notable advantages over traditional solventborne coatings:

Reduced carbon footprint: RUBBOL WF 3350 has a significantly lower carbon footprint — around 5% for BW01 and 8% for BN00, compared to the non-bio-based equivalent.

Excellent performance: The product maintains the high-quality standards expected from Sikkens Wood Coatings, tested and verified in accordance with AkzoNobel's Global Weathering Program.

Peace of mind: RUBBOL WF 3350 is backed by the Sikkens Wood Coatings Extralife warranty program, providing end-users with added confidence in its longevity and performance.

Advancing sustainability in wood coatings

The bio-based content used in the new product are renewable materials derived from plants. By reducing the dependency on fossil-based raw materials and lowering the use of non-renewable resources, RUBBOL WF 3350 helps to contribute to the circular economy.

Sabrina Garasi, regional product marketing manager, EMEA wood Finishes at AkzoNobel, comments: "RUBBOL WF 3350 represents a step forward in coating technology. We've successfully developed a product containing bio-based materials that matches the high-performance standards of equivalent coatings, ensuring that beauty and value endure, even in the harshest weather conditions. It showcases our leading edge R&D capability and our commitment to developing innovative products with more sustainable benefits* for our customers."

**Compared to traditional solventborne coatings.*

Tessa Slagter, sustainable innovation manager at AkzoNobel, emphasises the product's credentials: "The introduction of RUBBOL WF 3350 aligns perfectly with AkzoNobel's commitment to sustainable inno-



vation. By utilising bio-based raw materials, we're not only helping to reduce our environmental impact but also paving the way for a more circular economy in the wood coatings industry and supporting our customers on their own sustainability journeys. We work closely with customers, helping them to identify opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint and make their businesses more profitable and this new product presents a perfect opportunity for this."

RUBBOL WF 3350 seamlessly integrates with AkzoNobel's 'It all adds up' campaign, which emphasises that every action counts when it comes to sustainability. The new coating exemplifies the campaign's core message by demonstrating how small changes in product formulations can lead to sustainability benefits, while meeting the coatings needs of end-users and their customers.

Sikkens Wood Coatings ● www.sikkens-wood-coatings.com

Liberon two-product combo keeps decking protected and looking great for longer

WE ALL KNOW how lovely decking is when it's new. It provides a great focal point in the garden, and can be the perfect space for entertaining.

So, when it comes to applying any kind of treatment to its surface, it's important to feel very confident that what's being used is completely reliable.

The use of two products, one after the other, from the wood-care expert, Liberon, is helping homeowners to transform the look of their decking and protect it too. Liberon Tough Deck Clean & Revive plus Liberon Superior Decking Oil are viewed by many as the 'dynamic duo of decking care'. Liberon has been trusted by professionals for years to achieve beautiful results, which means homeowners can too.

Liberon Tough Deck Clean & Revive is specifically formulated so that wood can be revitalised without altering it. It effectively cleans and removes mould, mildew and black spotting, elimi-

nating greying and restoring the natural beauty of the wood. Its concentrated formula provides high coverage that can easily tackle heavily soiled areas and even stubborn stains.

V33 Tough Deck Clean & Revive can be applied on either bare or oiled decking. Firstly, brush the wood to remove excess dirt. Dilute the cleaner in a proportion of one unit of cleaner to two units of warm water. This solution can then be applied in two ways. If using a pressure washer, spray the decking and then leave it for ten minutes before rinsing with clean water. If using a brush, the solution can be poured onto the surface using a watering can, left for ten minutes, rinsed, and then scrubbed using a hard-bristle or patio brush, followed by more rinsing. One litre of V33 Tough Deck Clean & Revive with two litres of water will tackle approximately 60 m².

Next comes the application of Liberon Decking Oil, which is for-



mulated to penetrate deep into the wood. It is highly water resistant with UV filters to prevent fading, and will help to restore colour and beauty to decking that's already weathered.

Firstly, stir the oil well before use. Apply a generous coat with a paintbrush or roller. Allow the oil to penetrate for 15 to 30 minutes, then apply a second coat without waiting for the first to dry. Continue to apply more coats until the timber no longer absorbs the oil. Wipe any excess with a lint-free cotton cloth and allow to dry for 24 to 48 hours before using the decking. Liberon Decking Oil is available in a choice of Clear, Medium Oak and Teak finishes and comes in two tin sizes: 2.5 L or 5 L.

As oil brings out the natural col-

ours of timber, it's a good idea to try the decking oil on a separate piece of wood before beginning the job to see what the finished effect will look like. Another tip is to select one such as Liberon's that can also be used on fences, garden sheds or gates to make money go further.

Liberon
www.liberon.co.uk



Innovative Working Platform floor system from Staircraft supports heavy loads

STAIRCRAFT, a leading innovator in the housebuilding supply sector, is highlighting the benefits of its Working Platform, a structurally designed floor system that transforms upper floor construction.

The Working Platform's innovative structural design allows it to support heavy loads at strategic points, eliminating the need for underpropping by housebuilders while seamlessly integrating with standard floor installations.

This capability not only enhances the load-bearing capacity but also contributes to a more efficient and streamlined construction process. A major benefit to housebuilders of this innovative system is that it offers immediate and safe access to upper floors, replacing traditional underpropping methods and delivering significant improvements in safety, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Working Platform is designed to handle block stacks, scaffolding loads and internal fit-out materials without additional reinforcement. It does this because Staircraft has engineered the system to support high construction loads, minimising structural risks.

The Working Platform system remains in place at the end of the project, creating a more robust and durable floor, reducing call-backs and improving the homeowner's experience.

The Staircraft Working Platform addresses longstanding challenges in the housebuilding sector, particularly the time-consuming and costly process of traditional scaffold-based underpropping.

By eliminating the need for this laborious approach, the new Working Platform system allows builders to begin loading floors immediately after decking, potentially saving two to five working days per site.

"Our Working Platform represents a huge advance in site safety and efficiency. It's a complete rethinking of how upper floor construction is approached and one that housebuilders have been seeking for some time," said Neil Wycherley, head of technical at Staircraft.

"We've designed the system to handle high construction loads, reducing the risk of structural failures and site hazards while significantly improving project timelines and cost-efficiency."

Neil Wycherley added: "We are confident that housebuilders will also realise that our Working Platform gives them a superior end product, meaning a more robust and durable floor, reducing callbacks and enhancing homeowner satisfaction. The Working Platform represents Staircraft's commitment to innovation that addresses real-world challenges faced by housebuilders every day."

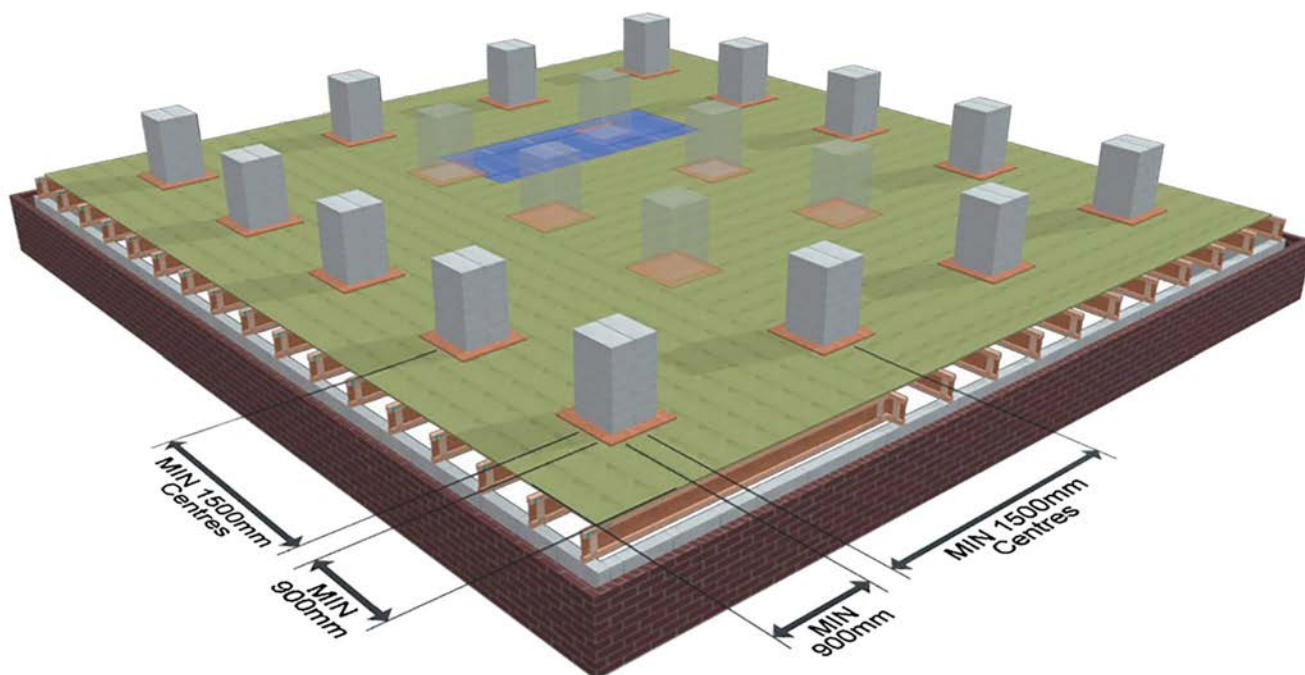
As part of a system-based approach, Working Platform is available with a range of options including Staircraft's Well-Safe™ Frame for installation over the floor opening area as well as Open & Guarded Rails.

The Staircraft Working Platform comes at a time when the construction industry is increasingly focused on sustainability and efficiency. By supporting the circular economy through improved resource utilisation and reduced waste, this system aligns with modern construction practices and environmental considerations.

Now available from Staircraft, the Working Platform sets a new standard in floor construction for the housing industry, offering a solution that combines safety, efficiency and innovation in one comprehensive package.

Staircraft

<https://staircraftgroup.com/kb-post/working-platform/>



Sustainable floor repairs: saving time, money, and the planet



By Paul Lanzarrotti,
Founder of Floor-Fix Pro

FLOORING is the foundation of every space, but when it comes to repairs, the industry often relies on wasteful and costly methods.

For decades, fixing loose tiles, hollow floors, or uneven surfaces often meant tearing up entire sections and sending perfectly good materials to landfill. But thanks to innovations in floor repair technology and the growing sustainability movement, that's changing for the better. At Floor-Fix Pro, we're leading the charge with sustainable solutions that not only save time and money but also help protect the environment.

The flooring waste crisis

One of the largest sustainability issues the flooring industry faces is its attitude towards waste. Every year, millions of square meters of flooring are needlessly discarded due to repairable issues like loose tiles or hollow spots. Traditionally, the only solution has been to rip out large sections of flooring and replace them — a process that creates huge amounts of waste, costs thousands of pounds, and disrupts homes and businesses.

That's not the only example of

waste in the floor repair industry.

In the UK alone, over 100 million plastic adhesive cartridges are thrown away annually, contributing to mounting plastic pollution. The plastic cartridges are fitted with sub-standard cartridge tips that allow the adhesive to dry and become unusable. The industry's solution? Simply throw it away and buy a new one.

The flooring industry is responsible for sending thousands of tonnes of tiles, wood, vinyl and flooring adhesive cartridges to landfill each year, much of which is unnecessary with the right repair tools. At Floor-Fix Pro, we saw an opportunity to transform the industry with sustainable, non-invasive repair products that significantly reduce waste.

Smart, sustainable solutions

As an inventor, I tend to look at problems from a different perspective — which is why I've ended up creating several different flooring solutions. The most recent is Injectafix, a sustainable floor repair solution designed for both professionals and DIYers.

Instead of ripping out entire sections, our Injectafix range allows you to inject a low-viscosity, self-levelling adhesive through a tiny, 2 mm hole. The adhesive flows beneath the surface, filling gaps and locking the flooring back in place. Loose tiles, hollow floors, and subfloor imperfections no longer need to be ripped out and replaced, saving huge amounts of time, money and labour.

Environmental Impact

By opting for targeted repairs over full-scale replacements, In-

jectafix helps divert tonnes of flooring waste from landfill. Instead of throwing away perfectly good tiles or boards, users can restore them in minutes.

Additionally, the 1.9 mm stainless steel cartridge tip on Injectafix products features anti-clog technology, which prevents the adhesive from drying out and extends the product's lifespan. This reduces the need for single-use plastic cartridges, making the repair process more sustainable.

Cost and time savings

Beyond its environmental benefits, sustainable floor repair is also far more cost-effective and efficient. Traditional flooring replacements can cost upwards of £4,800 per room and take days to complete. Alongside that, there's the time and hassle of finding a floor repair specialist, getting a quote and waiting for your appointment. In contrast, Injectafix repairs can be performed in under 10 minutes with minimal disruption by DIYers and professionals.

For example:

Loose tiles: The adhesive is injected into cavities beneath the tiles, re-bonding them to the subfloor without lifting or replacing the flooring.

Hollow floors: Injectafix levels the subfloor by filling undulations, reducing bounce and movement once cured.

These quick and precise repairs save homeowners and businesses significant money on labour and materials.

Innovations for DIYers and professionals

Sustainable floor repair shouldn't just be for industry experts. That's why we've created solutions for both professionals and DIYers, making sustainable repair accessible to everyone.

Injectafix Squeeze: The first adhesive of its kind that doesn't require a gun. Its easy-squeeze design makes it perfect for DIYers tackling small-scale repairs.

Injectafix Precision Floor Adhesive: Designed for tradespeople, this professional-grade solution offers fast, mess-free application — ideal for larger flooring projects.

Both products deliver professional results with minimal effort, helping reduce downtime and keeping renovation projects on track.

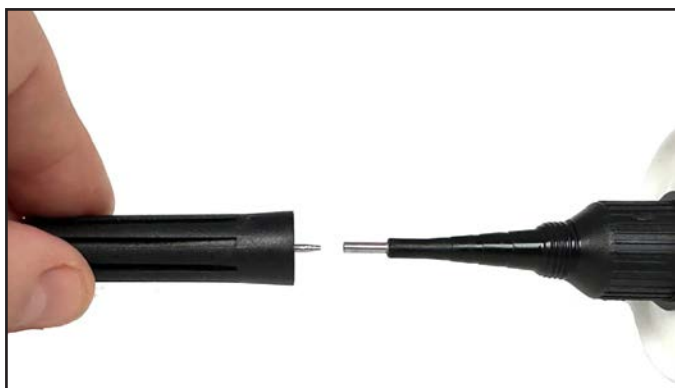
A sustainable future for flooring

At Floor-Fix Pro, sustainability is more than a trend — it's the foundation of everything we do. Our mission is to eliminate unnecessary waste and make floor repair fast, easy, and environmentally responsible.

As the flooring industry continues to evolve, we believe targeted repair solutions will become the standard. Instead of replacing floors prematurely, homeowners and businesses alike can extend the lifespan of their existing surfaces, reducing their environmental footprint and saving thousands of pounds.

Floor-Fix Pro

<https://floorfixpro.co.uk>



Reduce sound transference with CaberAcoustic

CABERACOUSTIC from West Fraser is a highly versatile, effective and economical sound-reducing flooring solution. Reducing both impact and airborne transmitted sounds, it can be laid over concrete and timber floors in both new and existing buildings. CaberAcoustic comes in 18 mm and 22 mm thicknesses.

CaberAcoustic is recommended to be laid and fitted with D3 PVA glue in the tongue and groove joints. 19 dB is the reduction in sound transference when CaberAcoustic is installed on its own. Greater reductions are reached when used within a system for noise transference reductions. There are three flooring systems; detailed on the West Fraser UK website.

CaberAcoustic cannot be fitted directly on to flooring joists — it is an overlay board. It should always be laid as a floating floor directly on top of an existing flooring deck.

CaberAcoustic reduces sound; it will not completely proof buildings or rooms from the transference of sound.

The felt that is bonded to the underside of the chipboard is environmentally friendly as it is made from recycled fibres. CaberAcoustic is laid with the felt side down. The transference of sound through air or impact is reduced when the flooring has been laid using the correct system.

CaberFloor P5, CaberDek or CaberShield Eco should be used in conjunction with CaberAcoustic in new build projects. For renovations, CaberAcoustic can be used on top of the existing floor.

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

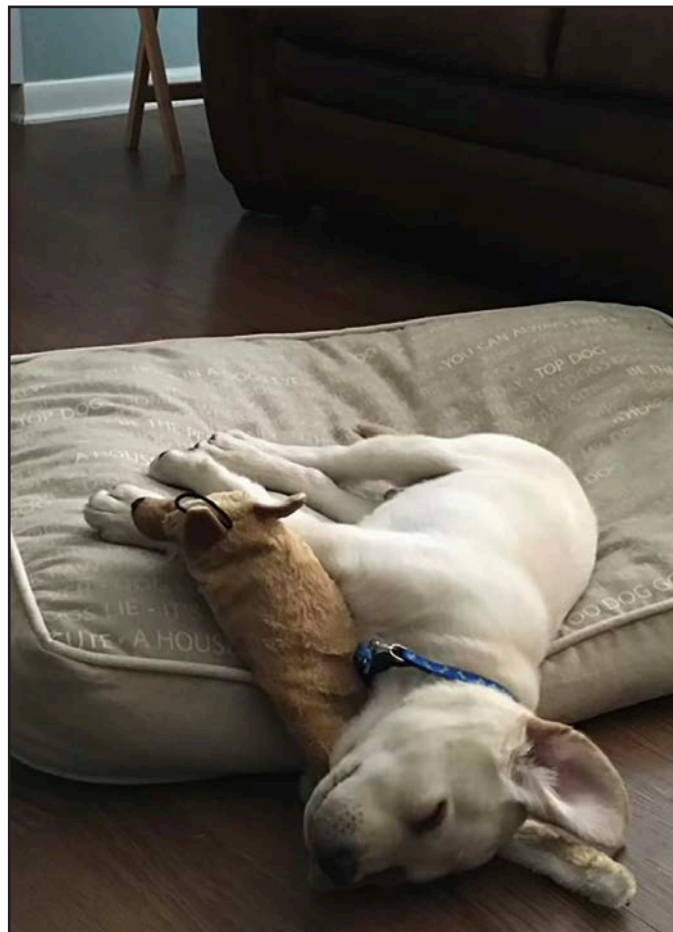


Photo by Jenny Jackson on Unsplash.

West Fraser boards for bespoke house builds

AN ESSEX-based building company, established by a former building control surveyor and with high standards of quality and sustainability, makes extensive use of panel products from the West Fraser range: including CaberDek on its current eight-month conversion and extension project.

Jigsaw Construction Essex was founded by David Bellinger in 2015 and has a strong reputation bringing a succession of recommendations. The property taking shape close to Hockley started out as a three-bedroom bungalow but is being remodelled as a four-bedroom three-bathroom house by adding two extensions and a completely new timber-framed first floor level with a pitched roof. While the ground floor extensions have been built using cavity blockwork, Jigsaw has reverted to its preferred site-cut timber frame assembly above with the CaberDek laid across the first floor joists.

David Bellinger explains, "As well as my business partner and one other regular employee, we tend to bring in trades like plasterers and electricians when we are ready. Having worked as a building control surveyor for ten years I was tired of seeing builders using materials incorrectly, not following manufacturers' guidance and those trades that just wanted to 'smash the work out'. That's just not my mentality and I prefer a more methodical approach, tackling one project at a time.

"We chose to install the West Fraser product across our first-floor levels as it offers good protection from all the mess which the plasterers and decorators tend to leave. Instead, you just cut it out at the end and the floor doesn't look like it's been trashed.

"Overall, it's neater and gives you that bit of extra protection, plus CaberDek locks in well together, so we have no issues with installing the boards. We use CaberFix D4 adhesive to help ensure the finished floor is squeak-free.

"We use the merchants, Chandlers, to buy most of our products including CaberDek, while the other West Fraser panels we have used a lot in the past is the tongue and groove SterlingOSB Zero, which we find ideal for flat roofing applications. You get accurate joints and a good solid platform for installing the waterproofing system. We feel that quality, sustainable products like these, combined with high standards of workmanship, are helping us strengthen Jigsaw as a brand."

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



Henkel makes progress in sustainability



HENKEL has published its sustainability report for 2024. The company has advanced further, especially in the areas of climate protection and circular economy, but also in social issues. Already this year, Henkel voluntarily reports in line with the content-related requirements of the European Union's new Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and its European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).

"We have made great progress and delivered tangible improvements in sustainability over the past year — across all areas of our sustainability strategy," said Carsten Knobel, CEO of Henkel. "Even in challenging times, we stand by our fundamental values: through our products, processes, and contribution to society, we are committed to a more sustainable world. This is also reflected in our net-zero roadmap aimed at reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent by 2045."

"I am proud of our progress on key sustainability initiatives," said Sylvie Nicol, executive vice president human resources, infrastructure and sustainability. "In 2024, for example, we have increased the proportion of recycled plastic in our consumer goods packaging to 25 percent. And we introduced gender-neutral parental leave of at least eight weeks with full pay worldwide — which has received an excellent response. In addition, we have implemented the first sustainability report in line with the content requirements of the new ESRS, which has also further improved our internal processes."

New targets for climate protection

By the end of last year, Henkel had reduced CO₂ emissions in its production per ton of product by 64 percent compared to the base year 2017 and increased the energy purchased from renewable sources to 47 percent.

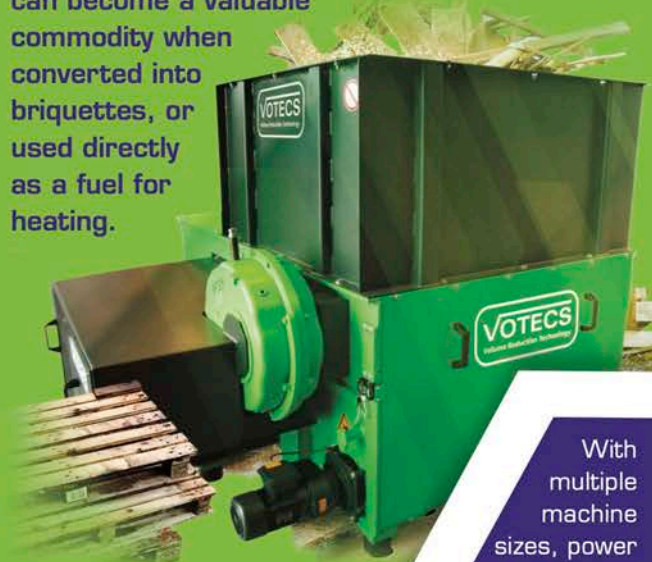
Henkel also set Net-Zero targets last year, which cover a larger part of the value chain than its climate targets before. By 2045, Henkel aims to reduce its absolute scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 90 percent. As short-term climate targets, Henkel plans to reduce its absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 42 percent and its absolute scope 3 GHG emissions by 30 percent by 2030 (compared to 2021). The new targets have been validated by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), a climate change organization that supports companies in setting GHG reduction targets that are in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. By the end of 2024, Henkel had reduced its scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions by 20 percent (compared to 2021).

To further decarbonize the value chain and better capture CO₂ emissions in the supply chain (scope 3), Henkel accelerated its engagement program for its global suppliers last year. It collects emissions data and defines specific measures to reduce emissions.

Henkel ● www.henkel.com

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Ecogate® controls Riverside airflow

AT RIVERSIDE Wood Products Ltd, in Darwen, Lancashire, Extractly Ltd has carried out a significant upgrade and re-configuration of the company's dust extraction system, including the installation of energy saving 'extraction on-demand' technology.

Headed up by Paul Sullivan, RWP is a well-established, family owned joinery shop offering a wide range of machining services. As well as processing high volumes of panels and 'cut & edge' boards, plus timber components in all shapes and sizes, the company also undertakes everything from carcassing and assembly work, to individual bespoke furniture projects.

For over a decade the company had enjoyed steady and continuous growth in the relative comfort of a 9,000 sq. ft. workshop. In more recent years, however, having invested in several new machines to keep pace with the demands of an ever-expanding order book, it's fair to say the company's workshop was bulging at the seams. So, in early 2024, when the adjacent warehouse space unexpectedly became vacant,



To serve all the newly-located machinery, Extractly installed Nordfab Quick-Fit ductwork throughout the expansive production space.

Paul Sullivan took the decision to literally 'knock through to next door' and has more than doubled the available floor space.

The now vastly improved pro-

duction facility includes an impressive line-up of Homag machinery; including several CNC machining centres, plus a couple of edge banders, as well as a hori-

zontal beam saw. "When all these high-speed machines are in operation, the need for an equally efficient dust extraction system is obviously essential", says Paul Sullivan, "and this reorganisation of the factory presented us with the perfect opportunity to upgrade and reconfigure the system as we relocated the various machines."

Extractly's sales director, Jake Oldfield, had initially been invited to assess the company's requirements for a complete new extraction system, including the supply and installation of a new filter unit. Subsequently, however, following the winding down of production at L&G Modular Homes' factory in Yorkshire, and obviously with a keen eye for a good deal, Paul Sullivan had acquired a substantial pre-owned filter unit, complete with its 75 kW main extraction fan. "Getting it transported across the Pennines and fixed securely in place here was the easy part," Paul conceded, "but installing new ductwork throughout the factory, and getting the whole system to work safely and efficiently with a second-hand filter unit, was definitely a job best left to the professionals!"

"Although we'd had to forgo an order for a new filter unit," says Jake Oldfield, "this was still a sizeable project for Extractly and, because the fan and filter Paul had installed



Enabling the fan to operate well below capacity, it's estimated that Ecogate® technology will save RWP around 40% off its electricity bills at current usage; giving a projected ROI of under 30 months.



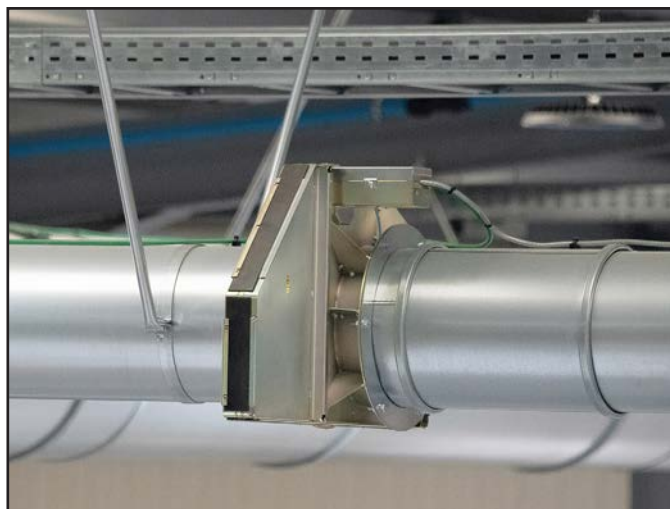
Newly-commissioned, the pre-owned filter and fan unit are in 'as new' condition.

was probably powerful enough to extract from a factory twice the size, our revised proposal also included for the supply and installation of Ecogate® energy saving 'On-Demand' extraction control technology." Without Ecogate® installed, the main fan would be operating at full power, throughout the working day, with a total annual electricity consumption estimated at around 180,000 kW.

However, with an Ecogate® greenBOX controller continuously monitoring individual machine usage and, via the Ecogate® PowerMASTER™, continually adjusting fan speed to exactly match extraction demand, huge reductions in electricity consumption are possible — resulting in correspondingly significant cost savings, as Paul confirmed: "Although the fan's motor has the capacity to give us up to 75 kW worth of extraction power, the Ecogate® system provides real-time data on power consumption and typically, with most machines running, we're only using around 35 kW... but that then reduces at break

times, as machines are powered down, and once all machines are shut down the fan also shuts down automatically." And, as Paul also points out: "The workshop is a much calmer, quieter place to work than it used to be!"

Although the Ecogate system is configured to control electricity usage at current production



Ecogate's patented 'Smart Gate' is the world's only automatic damper that continually monitor airflow in its duct.



Extractly's 'Clean-up' tool accessory extracts directly to the main ductwork.

levels, it has more than enough capacity in reserve to continue providing efficient extraction if RWP invests in further new machinery. The Ecogate® greenBOX installed at Riverside is the highly intelligent 'Nxt' model which has the capacity to control the operation of an extraction system with multiple main fans and up

to 72 individual workstations, so the extraction system is now effectively 'future-proofed'. The Nxt controller has an industrial PC on-board, and a built-in web server provides remote access for fast, automated software updates. In addition, with systems controlled by a greenBOX Nxt, the processor integrated into each 24 V DC motorised 'Smart' damper provides reports on pressure, air velocity, and air volume and, to ensure employees' safety, minimal airflow is automatically managed across the entire ductwork system to reduce the risk of fire or explosion.

"I had a lot of confidence in the team from Extractly", Paul explains: "In the past we've probably been guilty of just going with the cheapest quote for extraction work, but once bitten, twice shy, and Extractly's onsite installation engineers, led by experienced operations director, Graham Day, were a credit to the company."

Extractly Limited

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Premier Forest Products launches first-of-its-kind product

LEADING UK timber supplier, Premier Forest Products, has launched an exclusive product, believed to be the world's first fire-retardant and water-resistant plywood, DryGuard FR.

Following feedback from Premier Forest customers, the plywood, believed to be unique, has been developed using groundbreaking technology pioneered by leading European manufacturer, Paged. DryGuard FR is believed to be the world's only plywood that combines advanced water and fire protection.

Building on the success of Premier Forest's first DryGuard water resistant plywood product launch in 2021, this fire-retardant upgrade is durable and safe, with low formaldehyde and VOC emissions; it has a Type III Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

For use in roofs, floors and walls, the plywood is treated with a REACH compliant hydrophobic coating to reduce rainwater absorption, while still allowing the building to breathe, preventing damp and mould and creating safer health conditions. By repelling water, DryGuard FR retains its



structural integrity so the risk of remedial work is reduced, saving contractors time, money and effort. In addition, there is no need to cover the plywood during build, again increasing efficiency on site.

Robust and versatile, the applications for DryGuard FR in the built environment are broad and varied, including commercial, residential, education, leisure and public sector buildings, airports,

train stations and even server rooms.

DryGuard FR has been rigorously tested and is compliant with the relevant EN standards, is CE2+ certified and FSC® certified (FSC®-C020012).

James Pickford, commercial director (panel products) at Premier Forest Products, said: "We are incredibly proud to launch this world-exclusive product that I am confident will be revolutionary in the timber industry. DryGuard FR will provide customers with the peace of mind of fire retardancy for their building, while increasing productivity and efficiency on site with an all-weather product."

"We've listened to our customers and together with Paged, we've been able to create something one-of-a-kind to address their needs."

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, processing, machining, engineering and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its multiple sites in the UK.

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



An HPL to yell about from James Latham



JAMES LATHAM, a leading UK and Ireland independent distributor of timber, panels and decorative surfaces, has announced that it has become both territories' sole stockist of premium HPL brand, Merinolam.

With large stocks available nationwide across all 12 strategically positioned depots, this new range further enhances James

Latham's expansive portfolio, which already boasts over 2,000 high-quality decorative finishes.

Versatility Meets Style

Exclusive to James Latham, Merinolam is suitable for a wide variety of applications, from washroom panelling and kitchen counter-tops to interior cladding and decorative features. Combining durability, aesthetics, and ease of use,

it's the go-to material for home, workplace, and busy public areas alike.

James Latham now stocks the entire range of 55 on-trend decors, with colour highlights for 2025 including solid timber-inspired Sea Beech and Smoked Rioja Oak to muted-grey Castor Terrazzo and Crub Concreto. This reflects the growing appetite in the global specification community for biophilic design and warm minimalism.

Performance-Driven Innovation

What truly sets Merinolam apart is its performance-enhanced collections, including FR+ PF, speciality surfaces and super-matt anti fingerprint Luvih.

FR+ PF Laminates are post-formable for optimum versatility, and have been tested in accordance with EN 13501-1 2019, achieving a B-s1, d0 fire classification. Available in bold colours, woodgrains, and patterns, they also offer scratch and impact resistance.

The Luvih collection is a super matt, anti-fingerprint laminate engineered to create a luxurious satin smooth feel. Designed for toughness and hygiene, Luvih is highly resistant to fingerprints, grease, and smudges. Its anti bacterial properties make it ideal for high-traffic areas such as reception lobbies, domestic kitchens, domestic and public furniture.

Finally the Speciality surfaces

showcase Merinolam's innovative approach towards developing HPLs which meet evolving audience preferences and requirements. The selection includes Uni+ through colour, hyper realistic metallic, whiteboard and powerful magnetic options.

Commenting on the latest addition to the distributor's catalogue, Dave Green, laminates product champion at James Latham says, "Merinolam represents some of the highest quality premium HPL on the market today. This is a welcomed addition to our robust bank of decorative panels, further strengthening our commitment to offering our audiences real choice when it comes to achieving their vision. Its dedication to ethical sourcing and manufacturing processes echoes our own dedication to sustainability and social responsibility. Our depot teams across the UK and Ireland look forward to introducing customers to the full range over the next 12 months."

The entire Merinolam range is available in a variety of dimensions (3,050 mm x 1,300 mm, 4,300 mm x 1,550 mm, 2,440 mm x 1,220 mm) and thicknesses ranging from 0.7 mm to 1 mm.

For more information and to explore the full range of Merinolam colours, tones, and hues, visit the James Latham website.

James Latham
www.lathamtimber.co.uk



Timber frame specialist growing business with West Fraser boards

AN ABERDEENSHIRE based timber manufacturing and building solutions company is growing its client base and reputation for delivering on sustainability as well as customer satisfaction, employing a selection of high-performance panel products from the range of West Fraser.

Brudon Joinery was established in 2013 with workshops and offices located at Lumphanan, close to the Granite City itself, and has some 50 employees covering all the construction trades.

Significantly, by blending traditional bench joinery skills with the use of contemporary CNC technology and a proactive management set up, the company can offer a full spectrum of services from the production of bespoke furniture and fitted kitchens, through the delivery of large-scale building projects to full turnkey developments. On site, the company's NHBC and Federation of Master Builders accreditations ensure that the building solutions delivered are in the hands of experts with the broadest possible knowledge in all building services from complete properties to extensions and renovations: meaning they not only meet client expectations but exceed them.

The Procurement Manager for Brudon Joinery, Mike Rowson, comments: "Almost all our work is in the North-East, working for individual self-builders as well as a few regional builders and multi-unit developers who we supply with bespoke, high-performance kits manufactured by our Brudon Timberframe business.

"Our expertise in off-site or Modern Methods of Construction ensures our timber frame packages are well taken care of from design through to completion. Importantly, we can offer the complete build service from the groundworks — with the services and casting the ground floor slab — right up to the full install with brickwork, the roof covering and internal joinery. We even landscape the gardens if required.

"We use a lot of the CaberDek and SterlingOSB Zero so we always take full loads as just-in-time deliveries through International Timber in Grangemouth, to manage our stock control. Brudon has used a majority of West Fraser product over the years, while I have extensive experience of the range from my previous roles.

"Now since I joined the company just over a year ago, we have moved to using the manufacturer exclusively for our board products: showing the benefits of increased volumes — and you can see these feeding through into customer care and satisfaction.

"While the ground floors are normally concrete, we tend to use CaberDek for the first floor install with its 'peel-clean' membrane as it leaves a good fresh floor surface once all the trades have finished.

"The OSB3 we use primarily for the walls as well as for sarking boards across the roof trusses, and in the floor cassettes. Then we will go to the manufacturer's P5 chipboard, laid with the glue across the joists, if the client's budget can't stretch to CaberDek.

"Right across the range, though, we can say that the boards' quality and dimensional accuracy — along with the tongue and groove joint — are absolutely faultless which means we have no problems with the install."

Referring to the strong environmental credentials of West Fraser's panel products, Mike added: "It is normal, at tender stage, for our clients to be emphasising the need for the use of sustainable products across our supply chain — it is an essential part of the agreement or partnership between Brudon and our customers. We know that West Fraser delivers on that."

Offering a perspective on the relationship with Brudon Joinery, West Fraser's Business Development Manager for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Andy Byer, added: "I had the pleasure of visiting Brudon recently and it was clear that the care Mike and the team put into each project's finer details is a sight to behold; and is evident when viewing their final product.

"This pedigree of workmanship is a perfect match for our industry leading SterlingOSB Zero and CaberDek. To operate at this level consistently, they need a product that offers repeatable quality and on-time deliveries they can rely on through varying market conditions — every time. The fact Brudon exclusively requests our product is about as big a compliment we as a manufacturer can receive."

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The look of painted wood, perfected.

NAMURI



5 SURFACE FINISHES



A deep woodgrain emboss
with a refined two-tone finish
capturing the look and feel of
painted wood.



Frost
White



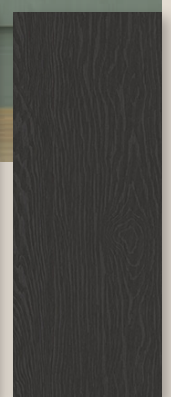
Cashmere



Reed
Green



Kombu
Green



Dark
Grey



Covering the full spectrum



JAMES LATHAM, one of the UK's leading independent timber, panel and decorative surface distributors recently provided Valchromat for the refurbishment of the Science Museum's Wonderlab, its interactive gallery for children.

This pioneering MDF was selected as the primary material for a rainbow-themed installation in the gallery's 'Colour Room,' where its ability to successfully blend aesthetics, durability, and versatility, whilst doing so safely and sustainably, made it a go-to choice.

A popular material for leisure, attraction, and retail fit-outs, this project showcases Valchromat's performance and visual appeal; especially how it gives specifiers and fabricators creative freedom to realise even the most ambitious briefs.

Taking a closer look at the project...

True colours

The Science Museum is one of the UK's best-loved cultural destinations for adults and children alike, with a focus on inspiring futures and making science accessible for everyone.

This overarching goal comes to life in Wonderlab, an interactive hands-on experience developed to ignite scientific curiosity and fuel the imagination. Originally opened in 2016, by 2023 its popular Colour Room, an immersive space designed to communicate the science of colour, was due a refurbishment.

A core object of the refresh involved replacing worn fittings with new ones and reinvigorating the space with a vibrant landscape mural, incorporating a prominent rainbow feature that would help show how the colours of the rainbow appear under monochromatic light.

Golden opportunity

The type of material chosen for the rainbow feature was important. Not only did it need to be structurally robust, able to withstand the rigours of a high footfall environment and deliver the visual impact stipulated within the design brief, it also had to meet a set of regulatory requirements unique to public attractions.

The feature would be subject to constant physical interaction

from visitors of all ages, so every aspect of the fit-out has to meet strict safety and sustainability standards, including non-toxicity. Furthermore, it had to be easy to clean to ensure the highest levels of hygiene.

It was a delicate balance for the museum's spatial & exhibitions designer, Laurence Deane, to strike, working with fabricator Hadley Interiors and its long-time distribution partner James Latham.

Out of the blue

Once the brief had been shared with James Latham's expert specification team, one material immediately leapt out as a clear front-runner: Valchromat.

A pioneering, lightweight MDF panel, available in a wide spectrum of colours, its balance of form and function immediately impressed Laurence who chose seven different shades to faithfully represent a rainbow. His team was also particularly impressed by the consistency of colour running through the entire body of each panel as well as its ultra-smooth finish.

Pushing the visual dial even

further, to ensure each colour popped, James Latham recommended treating each Valchromat sheet used with pigmented oils from specialist manufacturer Koate. This treatment not only added extra tonal depth and higher contrast, it also protected the feature making it easier to maintain.

Simple to work, Valchromat is also a fabricator firm favourite, as it can be cut to almost any shape, from an expansive arch to a tiny tile. Even better, as demonstrated in the rainbow display, Valchromat can be bonded, planed, or sculpted to create 3-D decorative features.

With flying colours

The results speak for themselves, with visitors seeing this vision in Valchromat as soon as they enter the room.

In Laurence's words, "The Koate-treated Valchromat leaps out as soon as you enter the room, providing an important visual anchor. The vivid, matt tones also perfectly achieve the objective of the piece: demonstrating how colours appear under monochrome light. A huge thanks to



James Latham for their consultancy on the project, we look forward to working with them in the future."

James Latham is one of Valchromat's most trusted distributors, possessing the largest range of the product in the UK. There are over 10 colours to choose from and it's available in the following board sizes:

2,500 mm x 1,850 mm/1,250 mm, in 8 mm, 12 mm, 25 mm, or 30 mm thicknesses.

James Latham

www.lathamtimber.co.uk/products/panels/mdf/valchromat



CaberDek earns top marks from Home Counties carpentry specialist

A SPECIALIST carpentry sub-contractor covering housing sites across a large swathe of the Home Counties has come to value CaberDek from the West Fraser range for a variety of reasons: not least because the high quality panel product doesn't destroy his operatives' electric saws!

Karl White is a fully trained carpenter who started his college course straight from school in 2002 and has worked in the construction industry ever since, setting up Regent Carpentry six years ago.

The firm is currently working on six developments across Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, providing comprehensive first and second fix trade packages for clients such as Stonebond and Patrick Ruddy Homes.

Karl explains, "I employ 25 carpenters to provide housebuilder



clients with the complete carpentry package, from installing all the joists — once the main timber frame is up — right through the first fix studwork, stairs, second fix carpentry and the roof. We even

install the kitchens on some of the contracts.

"While we don't specify or purchase the materials, we certainly have our preferences and will tell companies that we prefer West Fraser's CaberDek for a number of reasons. On the Stonebond sites, it is being supplied by Staircraft, part of Travis Perkins.

"It's not just that it's good quality, which means it can stand the little knocks when being handled while the accuracy makes them easier to install; it's also the membrane which comes away cleanly in one piece when all the following trades have finished.

"That isn't just a matter of speed and cleanliness. With some of the peel clean products on the market, bits of the film get stuck in the lads' Skisaws, but you don't know about it until the motor burns out!

"Also, unlike some of the rival products, CaberDek isn't prone to swelling up so, along with the manufacturer's special adhesive, you end up with a really good, squeak free finished floor."

Now backed by BBA certification for the 60 days' protection against the elements, and meeting BS EN312: part 5 standards, CaberDek provides a secure working surface with a robust film that withstands impacts, punctures, and tears which are common on

construction sites. For optimal bonding, CaberFix D4 adhesive is recommended for securing flooring to joists and within the tongue and groove joints, as well as along exposed edges.

For use in the harshest winter conditions, CaberFix X-treme Tape can withstand the most severe temperatures.

Designed to exceed the acoustic requirements of Building Regulations Part E, CaberDek, together with CaberFix D4, also achieves an impressive 44 dB sound reduction. Available in a convenient T&G format measuring 600 mm wide by 2,400 mm long, CaberDek is distributed through West Fraser suppliers. It's an ideal choice for housebuilders and sub-contractors seeking swift installation and resilience in challenging on-site conditions.

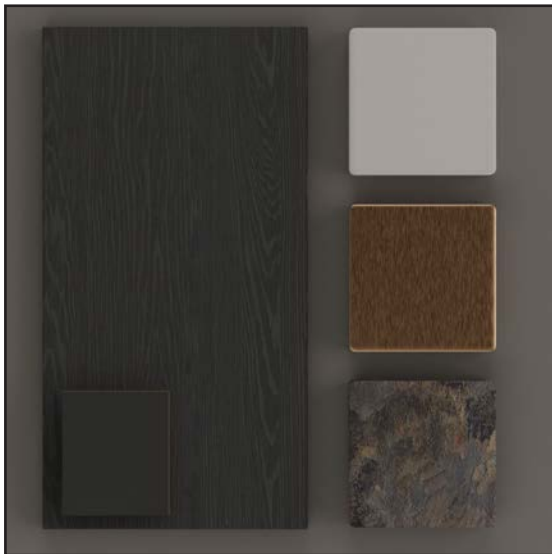
All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation.

Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

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



Decorative Panels expands dp-specialist range with Namuri designs



DECORATIVE PANELS is pleased to introduce Namuri, the latest addition to the dp-specialist range.

Developed by LX Hausys, Namuri represents a significant advancement in decorative surfaces, featuring an innovative very deep emboss that delivers a striking two-tone effect.

This cutting-edge technology creates a realistic painted wood aesthetic, combining depth, texture, and enhanced durability.

Namuri's deep emboss structure sets it apart from traditional supermatt foils. The troughs in

the emboss hold the supermatt finish, ensuring greater surface protection, while the peaks feature a subtle gloss level, creating a visually dynamic two-tone effect. The result is a finish that is not only more resistant to damage but also offers a refined painted appearance that can be appreciated even from a distance. Unlike flat supermatt surfaces, Namuri has a true three-dimensional quality, enhancing the natural character of the design.

With its deep emboss and carefully crafted finish, Namuri delivers the richness of painted

wood with the added benefit of durability and consistency. This innovative surface is designed to meet the needs of modern interiors, providing a premium aesthetic without the maintenance challenges of traditional painted finishes.

To ensure a seamless, high-quality finish, Decorative Panels will be laminating Namuri designs with matching Serica backing, delivering a fully coordinated solution. This allows for a perfect match with five existing Serica colours — Dark Grey, Cashmere, Reed Green, Kombu Green, and Frost White —

ensuring a consistent and high-end look across applications.

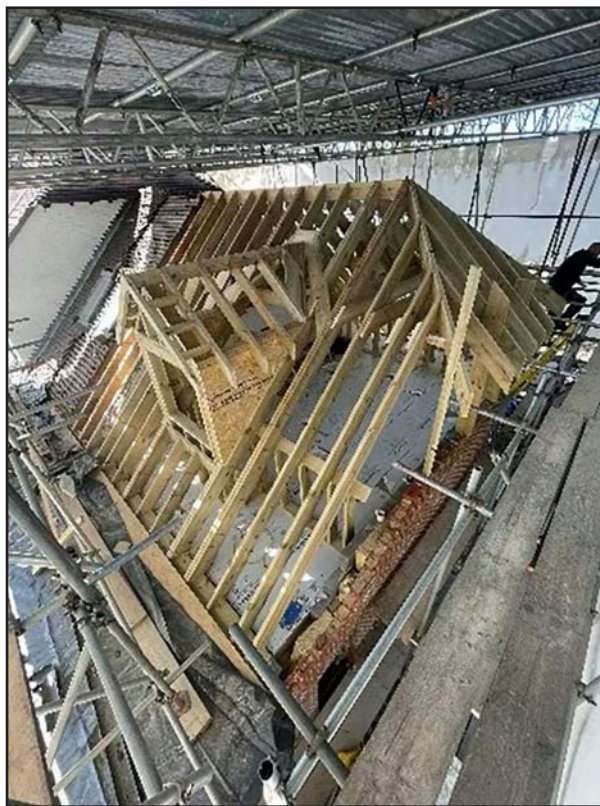
Namuri is available to order now on MDF or dp-lite at 1,220 mm wide, making it an accessible and versatile solution for interior projects.

As part of the dp-specialist range, Namuri reflects Decorative Panels' commitment to innovation, quality, and technical excellence. Offering a distinctive balance of design and performance, Namuri is set to become a key material choice for contemporary interiors.

Decorative Panels
www.decorativepanels.co.uk



West Fraser range delivering key benefits for South-East carpentry company



AN EXPERIENCED carpenter and building site manager who has recently set up his own company is using high performance panel products from the West Fraser range to undertake a variety of construction projects, stretching from garden rooms and extensions to restructuring an old barn, for clients across Surrey and Sussex.

Sam Perry established Luxe Signature Homes in 2024 in partnership with his brother-in-law, Tobi, a Dubai-based property investor/developer and has set about establishing a reputation for high standards of workmanship as well as trying to offer homeowners innovative and inspirational solutions, which will add maximum uplift in value for the property concerned.

Importantly, the time-served carpenter who has worked on schemes varying from high volume timber frame developments to multi-million-pound mansions, has been using West Fraser boards since the day he started work in the building industry.

Sam explains, "While I run the technical, site operations, Tobi

takes care of all the financial management and liaises with customers on matters such as how to maximise the value of their properties, drawing on his experience and contacts across the property market.

"Since we set up, I've done a large extension, reconfigured a town house where the living accommodation was brought down to the ground floor and replaced by an extra bedroom, and also built a large garden room which serves as both a home office and playroom with composite deck to transform the garden itself.

"The project where I'm working at present has involved me creating a 60 m² flat roof and a joist frame; and now I am back putting the roof on which involves extending the ridge out over the new space."

Although Sam is now running a burgeoning business of his own with a growing order book, like many tradesmen he started as a humble apprentice, but also got an early education in the benefits of using West Fraser board products.

Sam recalls: "I started work at 16 in a timber frame workshop

and was fixing SterlingOSB Zero sheathing on the panels and have used a lot more over the years. We also install a lot of CaberDek because the quality is always there and never causes us any problems.

"As for the company's chipboard — CaberFloor — one of the things which sets it apart from rival brands is having the lacquer coat on both sides which avoids it flaking: it's just more durable and doesn't swell up if it gets wet in a rain-shower.

"Then the accurate dimensions avoid you getting steps or creep in the tongue and groove joints during installation. I also like the way the peel clean finish gives you a brand-new surface once the plasterers and other trades have finished.

"And I sometimes use West Fraser's CaberShield Eco whose toughened surface gives you extra protection in the winter and allows you to get the roof on early, so other work can proceed.

"Previously on the timber frame builds, we would have to install a temporary chipboard floor and then throw it in the skip

— so you were basically doing the job twice."

As a leading UK supplier of timber panel products, West Fraser offers a wide choice of precision engineered square edge or tongue & groove boards which are selected for applications such as flooring, roofing and offsite cassette or timber frame manufacturing, for practical and economic reasons.

Additionally, although the 'Zero' in the SterlingOSB Zero name refers to there being no added formaldehyde in the formulation, it also resonates with the brand's potential to help combat global warming.

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation.

Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812921

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