

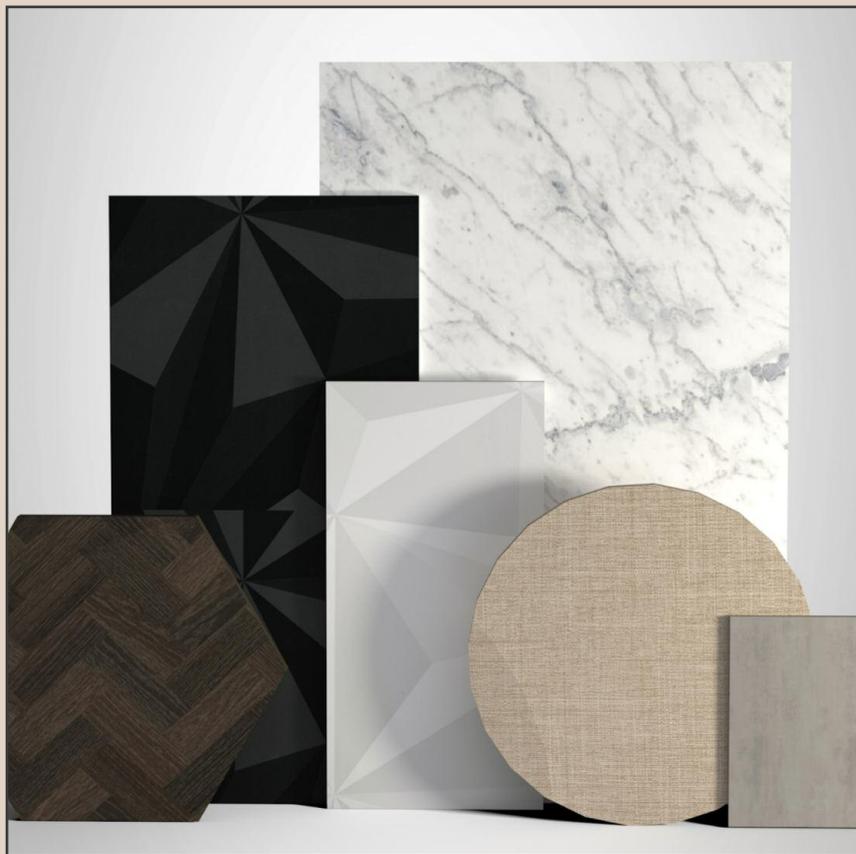
PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 169/170

June/July 2022

Fantasy Living with Decorative Panels Lamination

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Formerly known as Norbord

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LEADING wood-based panel manufacturer, West Fraser (formerly known as Norbord) is offering customers the chance to win some amazing prizes.

Customers spending as little as £25 on SterlingOSB Zero, CaberFloor P5, CaberDek, CaberShieldPlus or CaberWood MDF at participating builders' merchants can gain entry to the monthly prize draw for a chance to win great prizes. The more you buy, the more chances to win! Participants just need to purchase products and upload a receipt at the West Fraser Rewards website <https://www.westfraserrewards.co.uk/> between

June and November. Among the top-branded prizes on offer are a Lay-Z-spa, a Kärcher pressure washer and a Samsung TV. Each month will see a different selection of prizes and there's even a chance to be entered into the November draw to win a brand-new Mercedes van!

A full list of participating merchants and full terms and conditions can be found at www.westfraserrewards.co.uk/

West Fraser
Tel 01786 812921
www.westfraserrewards.co.uk/

Winning streak continues for Keystone Group

KEYSTONE has picked up an impressive 12 industry award wins in the past six months, resulting in a record-breaking year for the group.

Keystone Group brands Keystone Lintels, Keylite Roof Windows, IG Lintels and Keyfix have all come away victorious at recent industry award events, with multiple nominations and shortlist successes in addition to the wins.

Keystone Lintels: In recognition of its outstanding customer service, Keystone Lintels was delighted to be awarded 'Supplier of the Year' by Buildbase for the second year in a row; an accolade that has never been achieved before in the history of the Buildbase Supplier Awards.

The award win came shortly after the brand's success at the BMJ Industry Awards, where Keystone Lintels was crowned 'Heavyside Supplier of the Year' by builders' merchants across the UK and at the Builders' Merchants Awards where the brand was shortlisted as one of three finalists for 'Supplier of Year' alongside Keylite.

More recently, Keystone's customer experience has been celebrated at the Fortis Supplier Awards, where the company was honoured with the title of 'Civils and Groundworks Supplier of the Year'.

Keylite Roof Windows: In December, Keylite triumphed at the BMJ Industry Awards, picking up 'Roofing Supplier of the Year' for the fourth consecutive year. This was shortly followed by the brand's unique Integrated Expanding Thermal Collar being crowned 'Best Roofing System or Product' at the 2021 Build It Awards.

Keylite also came away victorious at this year's Builders' Merchants Awards, taking home the title of 'Supplier of the Year' at the 20th anniversary event. Then in the 2022 Housebuilder Product Awards, the brand was awarded 'Best Building Fabric Product' for its Integrated Expanding Thermal Collar.

Most recently, Keylite was crowned 'Joinery Supplier of the Year' at the Fortis Building & Timber Conference Supplier Awards, which are designed to recognise excellence within the Fortis supplier base. Keylite was also selected as a finalist in the 2022 Irish Construction Excellence (ICE) Awards, for its Integrated Expanding Thermal Collar in the 'Product Innovation' category.

IG Lintels: IG Lintels took home the coveted title of 'Supplier of the Year' at the Bradfords Awards for Excellence 2022, demonstrating its outstanding professionalism and commitment to its customers.

Keyfix: Celebrating excellence in the provision of products and services to the housebuilding industry, Keyfix has been awarded 'Best Site



Product' in the Housebuilder Product Awards and is also a finalist for Housebuilder's 2022 'Product of the Year' award. Just recently, Keyfix was delighted to have been awarded 'Manufacturing Innovation' by the Made in Northern Ireland Awards and the 'Construction Product Innovation' award at the ICE Awards for its Non-combustible Cavity Tray system.

IG Masonry Support: IG Masonry Support was also shortlisted in the 'Product Innovation' category at this year's Irish Construction Excellence Awards. Up against both Keylite and Keyfix, the brand's B.O.S.S. A1 solution was a successful finalist.

Sean Og Coyle, Keystone Group Commercial Director, said: "For over 30 years, Keystone Group has been synonymous with excellent customer service and has put its partners at the heart of the Group's ethos. We are absolutely thrilled that our dedication to forming strong customer bonds has been rewarded with a staggering amount of recent award wins.

"As well as prioritising service, we are continuously investing in research and development to provide our customers with sector-leading solutions. It's fantastic to see our product innovations being recognised and celebrated by the industry as a whole."

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Panel, Wood & Solid Surface

is published by

Pawprint Publishing Ltd

121 Warren Drive

Hornchurch

Essex RM12 4QU

Tel 07913 783510

email info@pawprintuk.co.uk

www.pawprintuk.co.uk

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Makita UK marks 50 years

MAKITA UK is celebrating 50 years of trading in the UK. With over 100 years of heritage and since entering the UK market in 1972, Makita UK has been at the forefront of innovation and delivered a wide range of high-quality, durable tools that tradespeople across the country can rely on to tackle any job.

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Makita's first UK office. For half a century, the company has forged a strong presence in the UK with a national network of distributors and merchant partners, as well as investment into four purpose-built Factory Service Centres and training facilities throughout the UK.

Makita is recognised as a market leader in the power tool market having built a reputation for delivering best in class, quality products for professional (and personal) use, to cover a wide range of construction sector applications as well as garden maintenance, landscaping and grounds maintenance tasks.

With over 100 years of experience, the company's dedication to and investment in product development has resulted in a vast range of cordless machines that deliver the flexibility and safety needed for regular, professional use.

Today, the company offers over 270 LXT and 50 XGT cordless models in its portfolio — a huge collection of highly durable machines that can tackle any task. With long battery life and short charge times, the LXT and XGT ranges ensure faster and more efficient work.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "We are delighted to be marking our 50th year of trading in the UK. We are incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve since 1972 — and the vast array of cordless products and new technologies that we can offer tradespeople to aid their productivity and efficiency on site."

To mark its 50th anniversary, Makita UK will be announcing a number of exciting promotions and product launches throughout the year. To find out more about Makita UK and its wide range of cordless products, please visit the website below.

Makita ● www.makita.co.uk



Selco unveils UK jobs boost under expansion plans

MORE THAN 1,000 jobs are set to be created after a leading builders merchant unveiled ambitious expansion plans. Selco Builders Warehouse is set to extend its branch network from its current number of 73 to 100 by the end of 2026, increasing its selling space by more than one million square feet.

Part of the Grafton Group, Selco has undergone a major expansion over the last decade by more than doubling in size and now plans to further accelerate that growth. Having recently opened branches in Liverpool, Orpington, Canning Town, Rochester and Exeter, Selco will also have a presence in Cheltenham and Peterborough over the coming months.

A wide range of locations have also been identified for branches to launch over the next four years, including opening the company's first branch in Scotland.

Chief executive Howard Luft said: "This is an exciting time for all connected with Selco and the latest plans for expansion will have economic benefits right across the UK. We currently have a very strong branch presence across London, Manchester and Birmingham and, as well as further bolstering those heartlands and other areas of the country where we have branches, we will also be taking the unique Selco offering into new towns and cities.

"Along with our every-growing digital presence, we want to provide a flexible and multi-channel offering to tradespeople who are able to enjoy the benefits Selco provides — unrivalled availability, with the widest range of products in stock, as well as excellent customer service and trade pricing."

Each new branch will lead to at least 30 in-store vacancies while additional business-wide functions will also be created at the company's Support Centre in Birmingham.

Mr Luft added: "Our recruitment policy has always been to employ people from the branch's local community and that will continue to be our strategy. Working for Selco represents a genuine opportunity for an individual to enhance their career, whether that be through our Rising Stars apprenticeship programme or through our Driver Academy scheme in which we offer colleagues the chance to retrain as an HGV driver. At every opportunity, we look to promote from within and the colleagues working for Selco now will be the managers of the future for many of our new branches."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Daval celebrates 20 years in Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire

AWARD-WINNING British designer and manufacturer of custom fitted furniture, Daval, is set to celebrate 20 years in Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire, which has earned the Sunday Times accolade as “the best place to live in the North & North East 2022”.

The state-of-the-art Daval factory and flagship showroom opened in the canalside mill village in the Colne Valley, Huddersfield back in the summer of 2012 and plays a key role in a community brimming with independence, imagination and true Yorkshire grit.

Simon Bodsworth, managing director at Daval, says: “We are delighted that our part of the world has been recognised as such a brilliant place to live and I can’t imagine us being based anywhere else. We’ve been in Slaithwaite for 20 years this summer and it’s been amazing to see the village thrive and develop over time. Moving our family business here was a big decision and it gave us the opportunity to grow and support eco-friendly fitted furniture design in a way that was ahead of its time. Today we feel very proud to be part of such a vibrant and creative community where we can work closely with like-minded independent specialists like Paragon Oak and acclaimed interior designer, Lynsey Ford, who lives and works locally.”

Founded in 1978, Daval Furniture is strongly committed to business excellence locally, regionally



and nationally as part of the post-Covid recovery and Northern Powerhouse project. The company’s commitment to innovation and eco-friendly design has been consistently recognised in the Yorkshire Business Masters Awards, Northern Design Awards and the Made in Yorkshire awards as well as within the UK kitchen industry thanks to its pioneering Renzo design which boasts 100% recycled furniture. Daval Furniture has an extensive luxurious furniture portfolio that offers each customer a range of different styles, materials and finishes with the opportunity to select from sustain-

ably-sourced hand painted oak and ash kitchens to the latest Shaker-inspired units which have a revolutionary self-repairing foil finish for extended lifespan.

Simon Bodsworth explains: “Kitchen living has transformed in the past two decades and is set to become a pivotal part of the home experience as we continue to invest in our environments and shop with a conscience. I think today’s consumers are keen to make choices which will benefit the planet alongside their quality of life.”

With this in mind, the Daval leadership team is supporting a 100-

strong national Partner network to create designs which can be specially tailored to the home as home bars, media rooms, home offices and dressing areas for the master suite becoming more popular.

James Bodsworth, design director at Daval, says: “I think that there is a new appreciation of how bespoke furniture can enhance the home and support the flexibility required to maximise family life. The creative thinking which has always been a key element in traditional joinery and modern furniture design is going to a whole new level to accommodate the new essentials of modern life. Just as the ONS reviews what is in the consumer shopping basket every month, we carry out our own research to make sure we are offering the most suitable storage solutions and developing new products, finishes and combinations for our customers. This year’s trends for Refined Country and Urban Renewal, demonstrate that home comforts are more important than ever as a strong foundation for hybrid working and optimising properties of all ages.”

The Daval design team is constantly inspired by the combination of countryside, connectivity and community in Slaithwaite and will be marking its 20th year in the Colne Valley and its 44 years in business in style — so watch this space for more details!

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Selco arrives in Exeter as new branch opens

EXETER has become the home of the latest Selco Builders Warehouse branch to open.

The ever-expanding builders merchant has officially cut the ribbon on its branch on Filmer Way in Marsh Barton. It takes the number of Selco branches to 73 and strengthens its presence in the south-west of England, where there are already two branches in Bristol.

Howard Luft, Selco's chief executive, said: "We are committed to a major branch expansion strategy and Exeter is the next step on that programme.

"The number of tradespeople using our unique offering is growing all the time and this is another area where we can offer that one-stop shop

for the trade. As a genuine multi-channel builders merchant, we want to give tradespeople the chance to get their building materials in the most convenient way possible to them, whether that be through branches or through our growing digital offering. We are here to serve the trade and meet their every need and we are thrilled to be open in Exeter."

The official launch of the Exeter branch saw Selco continue its commitment to supporting the local communities in which it operates by donating £3,000 to good causes.

Selco awarded £1,000 to Jay's Aim, which funds defibrillators for community groups across the south west and CPR training, through its Community Heroes scheme. The charity was founded in 2018 by the family of James Osborne who died at the age of 28 following a fatal cardiac arrest while on a run with what was subsequently revealed to be an undiagnosed hereditary heart condition.

In addition, it committed £2,000 to its nominated charity, Cancer Research UK.

The official opening also saw a special darts event where customers and colleagues were given the chance to play nine darts challenges against two big names from the sport — rising star and world number 16 Ryan Searle and former BDO World Champion and current Sky Sports pundit Mark Webster.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



West Fraser UK appoints new sales director

THE NEW sales director for West Fraser, UK and Ireland, is Dom West (pictured). With an extensive career in key sales positions — most recently as sales director and interim VP at Aliaxis UK — Dom's role will encompass managing the sales team and wide-ranging customer base, looking for growth opportunities and promoting the company's strong technological and environmental innovations.

Dom explains more, "I am looking forward to leading the already well-established sales organisation in the UK & Ireland. As well as driving the sales of West Fraser's leading OSB, MDF and PB products, I will be working with our team to identify new opportunities for growth. I will be focused on establishing early working relationships with our customers and learning all about our products and value-added services. Also, we are in the process of evolving our sales organisation and I will be supporting our senior sales managers in the recruitment process. I am excited about furthering our environmental status and messaging. More and more of us are aware of our impact on the environment; so being able to represent a business whose products are net carbon negative is important to me. Finally, my family was involved for many years within the timber industry in France, starting a saw milling business in the early 1950s, around the same time as the Ketcham brothers started their first planing mill in Quesnel. So, it's great for me to be able to continue our family tradition too."

West Fraser UK

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New from Makita

LEADING power tools manufacturer Makita UK has expanded its XGT 40VMax range of machines with the launch of the DK0014G 2-Piece Combo Kit, DK0172G XGT 2-Piece Combo Kit, KT001G Kettle, KP001G Planer, HS011G Circular Saw and VC005GL, VC002GL and VC004GL Dust Extractors.

A must have for any tradesperson, the DK0014G and DK0172G combo kits both feature two of Makita's most popular professional cordless power tools in a convenient storage solution. The DK0014G includes the TD001GZ XGT 40VMax Impact Driver and HP001GZ XGT 40VMax Combi Drill. The DK0172G includes the TD001GZ XGT 40VMax Impact Driver and HP002GZ XGT 40VMax Combi Drill.

Both kits also include two 2.5 Ah XGT batteries and the DC40RA Fast Charger, and everything is helpfully packed into a type 3 Makpac case for easy storage and transportation. The kits also come with the 191C10-7 ADP10 charger adaptor, so tradespeople can use the DC40RA to charge their existing LXT batteries, making it even easier to switch between tools and tasks.

With the TD001GZ close at hand tradespeople can easily remove or drive screws into harder materials — and the HP001GZ and HP002GZ make screwdriving and drilling applications a breeze.

The incredibly powerful KP001G is perfect for smooth, rough and thin planing. It has a planing width of 82 mm and an impressive cutting depth of 4 mm, and can deliver a no-load speed of 15,000 rpm for maximum efficiency and rapid cutting. With left

and right chip ejection, the brushless KP001G also features a foot on the base plate to raise the base of the machine off the bench or material when not in operation, which protects the workpiece from scratches and damage.

To ensure user safety, this machine has an electric brake that works to quickly stop the blade once the tool is powered down. It also includes Makita's soft start technology — and an anti-restart function to prevent accidental start up. Thanks to the inclusion of Makita's Auto-start Wireless System (AWS), the KP001G can also be wirelessly connected to a compatible dust extractor via Bluetooth, enabling the dust extractor to automatically start when the tool's trigger is engaged.

Compatible with a guide rail, the powerful HS001G XGT 40VMax (270 mm) circular saw is designated for precision rip cutting and delivers output that is equivalent to corded alternatives. It has a no-load speed of 3,5000 rpm, it bevel cuts up to 1° (left) and 60° (right) and has a maximum cutting capacity of 101 mm at 0°, 71 mm at 45° and 51 mm at 60°.

The HS011G features constant speed control that works to maintain the blade speed and ensure optimum cutting performance. To ensure user safety, this machine includes AWS technology for efficient dust extraction and includes an electric brake to quickly slow down the wheel rotation.

The VC005GL, VC002GL and VC004GL dust extractors have been developed to offer tradespeople a powerful solution for quickly and effortlessly cleaning up at the end of the workday. All machines deliver a maximum



sealed suction of 23 kPa and have large tank capacities (VC005GL 8 litres, VC002GL 8 litres and VC004GL 15 litres) to prevent regular work breaks to empty the tank. The VC002GL and VC004GL also include an automatic self-cleaning filter to prevent blockages and ensure optimum efficiency.

The VC005GL can be used for dry vacuuming and the VC002GL and VC004GL are both suitable for vacuuming finer, airborne particles.

The KT001G Kettle is considered a perfect jobsite companion. It can be powered by Makita's XGT 40VMax batteries or the PDC1200 portable power pack to boil water wherever you are on site. It is equipped with an anti-spill lock button to prevent accidental spills and it stops boiling automatically

when the kettle or power supply stand is lifted to ensure safety. It has also been designed to provide high heat retention, while keeping the kettle surface cool.

Thanks to the carry handle on the power supply stand, the KT001G is easy to transport around site.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "Our latest 40VMax products join the wider, expanding XGT range, which now consists of over 50 models that can all be powered using the same XGT batteries. This means that professionals can effortlessly switch between tools and tasks to maximise their on-site productivity and efficiency, or even pour themselves a hot cup of tea!"

Makita ● www.makitauk.com



Covers Burgess Hill donates materials to charity

COVERS Timber & Builders Merchants in Burgess Hill has donated more than £500 worth of materials, including decking and sleepers, to the children's charity, WellChild.

WellChild provides garden makeovers for children living with complex are needs. Its latest project, Max's Garden in Burgess Hill, is on behalf of 11-year-old Max who has four limb cerebral palsy, is non-verbal and has hearing and vision problems. He uses a wheelchair and requires full adult support, 24 hours a day. The current family garden, which didn't allow Max to spend time outside, was converted to address his needs and provide enough outside space to allow him to build up his strength using mobility aids.

The project was scheduled to start at the end of March and involved a group of volunteers from ServiceMax, who were given just two days to complete the work.

Speaking before the work was completed, Luke Brown, Helping Hands Project Manager for WellChild, said: "It's great to have so many people getting involved with this project and for companies, like Covers, providing us with the essential materials and equipment we need to complete the project. We are so grateful to Covers and everyone else who has made sure this project will be possible."

Terry Lace, depot manager of Covers Burgess Hill, added: "We are delighted to be helping WellChild with this important project. We cannot wait to see Max's Garden once it has been completed."

As a thank you, the family presented Covers' staff with a cake shaped into a bulg bag featuring the company's logo.

Covers Timber & Builders Merchants
www.coversmerchants.co.uk



Farnley Falcons pitch upgrade receives Selco backing

A PROJECT to dramatically upgrade the facilities at a Leeds amateur rugby league club has received the backing of one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Farnley Falcons is currently undertaking a significant round of improvements to its home pitch on Butt Lane after being a recipient of a grant from the Rugby League World Cup 2021's CreatedBy programme aimed at supporting community clubs.

Selco Builders Warehouse, an official partner of the tournament to be held in England later this year, has now thrown its support behind the Farnley project by donating £5,000 worth of materials and products.

The improvements will see the creation of two additional changing rooms, a referee's changing area, new toilets and an improved social and kitchen space.

Jonny Adams, club secretary at Farnley Falcons which has nine junior boys and girls teams and two adult teams including one playing in Yorkshire League Division 2, believes the project will help transform the club and the entire community.

He said: "This will totally change the future direction of the club and give us a real security for the future. Farnley is one of the more deprived areas of Leeds and the fact we have 200-plus people of all ages training or playing at the club every week makes us a real focal point of the local community. The grant we have received through the CreatedBy scheme made the project viable but support from companies such as Selco has also been crucial. We are making good progress and will hopefully complete the work later this summer and we will have a facility everyone associated with the club can be proud of."

Selco has two branches in Leeds, one on Elland Road and one on



Roundhay Road and marketing director Carine Jessamine said: "This is a hugely significant development for the community of Farnley and we are thrilled to be playing our part in supporting it.

"Our partnership with the Rugby League World Cup has a strong community element and we are seeking to support grassroots rugby league, as well as celebrating the elite tournament which will be played later in the year. Helping to provide the new facilities for Farnley Falcons to enable it to continue its growth as a club is something we are proud of."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero provides vital foundations for new lifeboat centre in Dornoch

WEST FRASER, formerly known as Norbord, has donated SterlingOSB Zero, made in the company's Inverness plant, to the team building a new lifeboat centre for the East Sutherland Rescue Association (ESRA) in Dornoch, Scotland. The panel product was donated to the independent lifeboat charity to create flooring in the new centre's upper floor which features a training room, office space and showers for the 16 volunteers to make use of.

The new ESRA lifeboat centre has been created to commemorate the group's 40th anniversary of providing vital support for anyone who has found themselves at risk in the neighbouring coastline.

Stuart Hendry, general manager at West Fraser's Inverness mill, said: "We are always happy to support great local initiatives in any way we can, so we were thrilled to help ESRA to continue their life-saving duties. By donating our sustainable wood product for construction use, we hope that we have been able to play an important part in supporting the work that the volunteer team at the new lifeboat centre carries out.

Antony Hope of the volunteer lifeboat charity said: "We are hugely grateful for this kind donation from the West Fraser team; it provides a massive step forward in the creation of our new lifeboat centre. Over the past four decades, ESRA volunteers have been called out to over 400 emergency calls so it's vital that we have the best possible location for our volunteers to operate from. Our new lifeboat centre provides that space."

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



Covers Chichester employees walk 5K for local hospice charity

STAFF at Covers Timber & Builders Merchants in Chichester have raised funds for local hospice charity St Wilfrid's after walking 5K.

The team of 18, which included Covers' employees and their family members, followed a route across the South Downs, taking in the beau-

tiful countryside around Madehurst, including the bluebell woods.

St Wilfrid's Hospice provides end of life care both in the community and at its hospice. It supports patients living with a terminal illness, and their family and friends. Services are provided free of charge thanks to the ongoing support of local people and businesses.

Dawn Hogg, sales management support at Covers Chichester, said: "Covers has been a keen supporter of St Wilfrid's, as well as other local hospices in the communities we operate, for many years. It's been an absolute pleasure to take on this walking challenge with the team and do something extremely rewarding that benefits the charity and helps St Wilfrid's to continue its important work supporting families in the area.

"Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to those who donated and helped us to raise money for such a worthy cause."

Laura Eastwood, head of fundraising at St Wilfrid's Hospice, added: "Thank you so much to all the staff at Covers and their families who took part and raised vital funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice.

"Covers are fantastic supporters of the Hospice and we are extremely grateful for everything they do. Their support makes a real difference to local people's lives living with terminal illnesses and supporting their family and loved ones. Congratulations to all who took part."

Covers Timber & Builder Merchants
www.coversmerchants.co.uk



Daltons Wadkin adds Kimla's Fiber Laser to growing machine portfolio

DALTONS Wadkin, a long established UK distributor and manufacturer of industrial woodworking machinery, is taking a big step into the metal manufacturing industry after adding the Kimla Fiber Laser to its expansive portfolio.

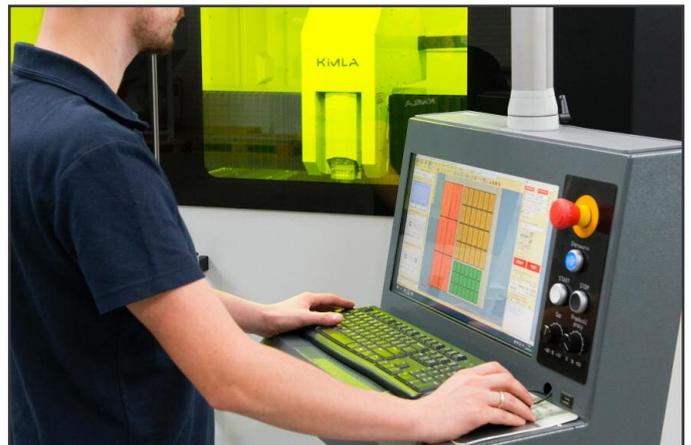
The product addition was confirmed after Kimla, a European specialist CNC manufacturer, appointed the family-run company as an official UK and Ireland agent for its advanced range.

The partnership between Daltons Wadkin and Kimla goes back more than a decade.

Fibre laser cutting machines are high power, precise and efficient cutting devices for processing sheet metals. Kimla's models have won multiple awards for innovation boasting operational speeds of up to 4,000 mm per second made possible through the use of high-speed linear drives to each axis. As with all Kimla CNC machines, the Fiber Lasers feature a monolithic precision machined frame, which requires no special foundation for installation, while its compact working footprint saves valuable factory space for businesses.

Speaking about the news, Alex Dalton, director of Daltons Wadkin, said: "As a company, we have typically been dealing with woodworking machinery for the last 100 years. However, over the last two decades we have developed more into advanced materials, including plastics, composites, rubber and foam. Fiber Lasers go hand in hand with our other CNC machinery and represent another significant step for our business.

"All machinery needs support in the field and this is something we have always taken very seriously. We have invested heavily in our support services team to ensure our Fiber Laser customers receive market leading service for the lifetime of the machine."



Jakub Jarzabek, Kimla's international director, added, "Daltons Wadkin has been instrumental in establishing the Kimla brand in the UK and Ireland with sales growing year on year.

"Their enthusiasm for the product and ongoing investment in support and training is exactly what we look for in our sales partners. Kimla Fiber Lasers are already well proven with hundreds of installations across Europe."

Daltons Wadkin has also confirmed that the business continues to grow year-on-year.

The business recorded one of its largest ever turnovers during 2020, despite the pressures of the Covid-19 lockdown, and grew by a further 60% in 2021, with the demand in its products being fuelled by the growing demand and increased market share.

Daltons Wadkin

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Mirka UK introduces the Edge Protector to its accessories range



MIRKA UK is expanding its accessories range with the introduction of the Edge Protector for its Mirka DEROS 150 mm. This new product has been designed to fit easily and will prolong the lifetime of the backing pad as it helps prevent damage to the periphery of the pad.

In addition, the Edge Protector safeguards adjacent surfaces as it avoids scuffing or damaging when the user is sanding into corners and edges.

Peter Sartain, national sales manager Industrial for Mirka UK, says, "We are constantly listening to the feedback from our customers and have designed the DEROS 150 mm Edge Protector to provide an effective guard against scuffing or damage when users need to sand right into corners and up to edges. We are confident that it will ensure the Mirka backing pad works better for longer."

Mirka ● www.mirka.com/uk/

Makita: the right router route to efficiency

MAKITA UK has expanded its offering with the launch of two new corded routers. The RP2303F 1/2" Plunge Router and RT0702C 1/4" Router Trimmer offer the power and precision needed to make light work of any woodworking task.

The RP2303F delivers an impressive no-load speed of up to 22,000 rpm, ensuring it can tackle wood cutting with ease. Designed as an upgrade to its predecessor model RP2301F, this machine features a linear ball bearing plunge system for super-smooth action. It has a deep plunge capacity of up to 70 mm and an easy-to-read cutting depth scale, for precision work. What's more, variable speed control and constant speed control work to optimise output for maximum cutting efficiency. To ensure user safety, the RP2303F includes Makita's anti-restart function and an in-built dust collector so it can easily be connected to an extraction unit. The machine can be bought as machine only (RP2303FC) or with a Carry Case (RP23030FCJ) and is available in 110 V or 240 V versions.

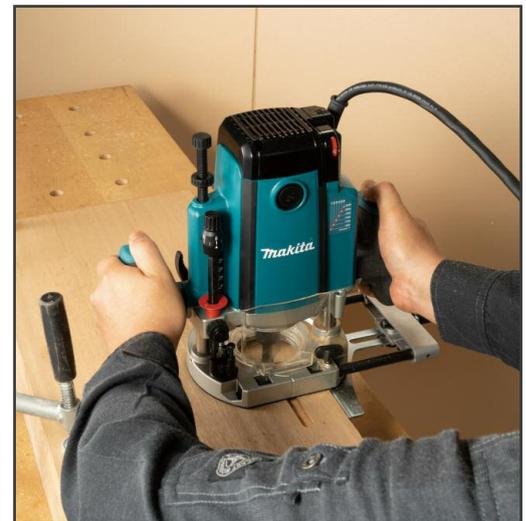


The slim and ergonomically designed RT0702CX2 1/4" router trimmer features four different base assemblies for added versatility — users can quickly remove the base to install either a trimmer base, tilt base or plunge base depending on the task. The powerful 710 W motor delivers up to 34,000 rpm and thanks to easy depth adjustment, users can always ensure precision cutting. Variable speed control and constant speed control ensure the machine is always working at optimum efficiency.

The RT0702CX2 is available in 110 V and 240 V versions, and also features Makita's anti-restart function and in-built dust collection so it can be connected to an extractor.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "The RP2303F and FT0702C are useful tools for any woodworker or general contractor to have in their kit. These corded machines offer the power and efficiency needed for professional use — and will make light work of any wood cutting task."

Makita ● www.makita.com



TIMCON head welcomes collaborative approach to wood industry challenges



JOHN DYE, President of the Timber Packaging & Pallet Association (TIMCON) has commended the increasing trend for wood-based organisations representing different parts of the industry to work closer together, with the shared goals of tackling challenges and improving the position of the sector overall.

TIMCON has developed increasingly close relationships with wood sector associations in the UK and Ireland, as well as government bodies including DEFRA, DAERA and Coillte, during the past decade.

“For several years, TIMCON has sought to work in partnership with a cross-section of the wood industry’s leading associations and spokespeople,” said Mr Dye. “This has formed an extremely strong foundation for progressing our work during the pandemic. It can also now play a central role in tackling the wood industry’s latest challenges, with joined up, collaborative solutions.

“With crises affecting availability and price of raw materials, severe delays and price hikes impacting on international shipping, and staff shortages threatening the viability of many industries, it is more important than ever that we put our heads together across the wood-based sector to find mutually beneficial solutions to these and other issues.”

At its last general meeting, held in Manchester in March, the organisation welcomed speakers from Coillte; Wood Recyclers Association (WRA); Wood Panel Industries Federation (WPIF); and Timber Development UK (TDUK) — the organisation formed by the recent merger of the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) and Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA). The general meeting was attended by more than 50 delegates.

“It was great to see so many TIMCON members and colleagues from other wood-based organisations at our first face-to-face meeting this year,” said Mr Dye. “It has always been useful to come together and share information and ideas and it’s now essential that we put our heads together to work on the unprecedented challenges and great opportunities our industry faces in the months ahead.”

TIMCON ● Tel 0116 274 7357 ● info@timcon.org ● www.timcon.org

Makita heats things up with a new heat gun

MAKITA UK has introduced the DKG181ZJ heat gun to its LXT 18 V range. Designed with air volume and temperature adjustment functionality to reach up to 200 l/min and 550° C, the new heat gun is ideal for a wide range of applications.



The DHG181ZJ delivers an air temperature of up to 550°C and air volume of up to 200 l/min depending on the setting chosen. The air volume and temperature are both adjustable, so users can easily set the output to suit the job; simply flick a switch to change between the two air volume settings and adjust the air temperature with the dial.

To protect the operator, the DHG181ZJ features an anti-restart function that prevents accidental start up. There is also a quick release, tool-less mechanism to allow for easy nozzle replacement without the need to touch any hot metal in the process. Supplied in a Makpac Connector Case, Glass Protection, Wide Slot, Reflector, and Reduction Nozzles are all included as standard.

To keep professionals working disruption free for longer, the DHG181ZJ offers impressive run times of 30 minutes in low mode and 21 minutes in high mode when using a fully charged 6 Ah LXT battery, ensuring maximum user efficiency.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: “We are delighted to introduce this new tool to our line-up, which is compatible with a wide range of accessories to suit every application, including a Welding Nozzle, Solder Sleeves Reflector and Scraper Sets. What’s more, professionals can use the same LXT battery to power over 270 products across the LXT range — making switching between tools and tasks effortless.”

Makita
www.makita.com

New cassette system for area storage: stacking laminates more intelligently



WITH A NEWLY developed cassette system, IMA Schelling makes the storage of thin laminates much easier. They can be stored by type in transport cassettes, and the cassettes can also be stacked in the area storage system. This saves valuable storage space and makes transporting the laminate sheets much faster.

In conventional area storage, the stacking heights of the 0.5 to 2 mm thick thin laminates are limited due to their physical properties. In addition, each type requires its own storage space, which means that the space is not used efficiently. In the newly developed cassettes, the laminates can be stored up to 50 mm high and sorted by type.

The laminates are stored fully automatically. The gantry carriage with suction pads distributes the delivered sheets by type into the cassettes at a suitable point in the warehouse and stacks them on top of each other

at the storage locations. The loaded cassettes can thus be stacked up to a height of 2,000 mm. In this way, the storage space is clearly used more efficiently. Since sorting, pre-picking and storage do not require a system operator, they can also be carried out when the cutting system is idle. During storage and removal, sensors in the suction crossbeam check the thickness of the laminate sheets. This ensures that exactly the desired number of sheets is moved. Transporting the laminates in cassettes increases efficiency, as not each panel individually, but all together are moved as needed to reach the next type of material.

The parameters of each stored panel are stored in the logistics system. From the storage bins, the saw can thus be fed directly, quickly and fully automatically for cutting. Likewise, customer orders for raw panels can be retrieved easily and in a time-saving manner, regardless of whether

they are single-grade or so-called "colourful stacks" of different materials.

Converting an area storage system to the new cassette system requires little technical effort. The cassettes are made of aluminium profiles and weigh 86 kg when empty. To be able to pick them up and move them, the suction crossbeam is modified. The load capacity of the cassette is 250 kg. The gantry carriage transports the cassettes via travel beam and bridge over the entire surface over storage widths of up to 22 metres and storage lengths of up to 100 metres and more if required.

IMA Schelling Deutschland GmbH

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www.imaschelling.com

IMA Schelling UK Ltd

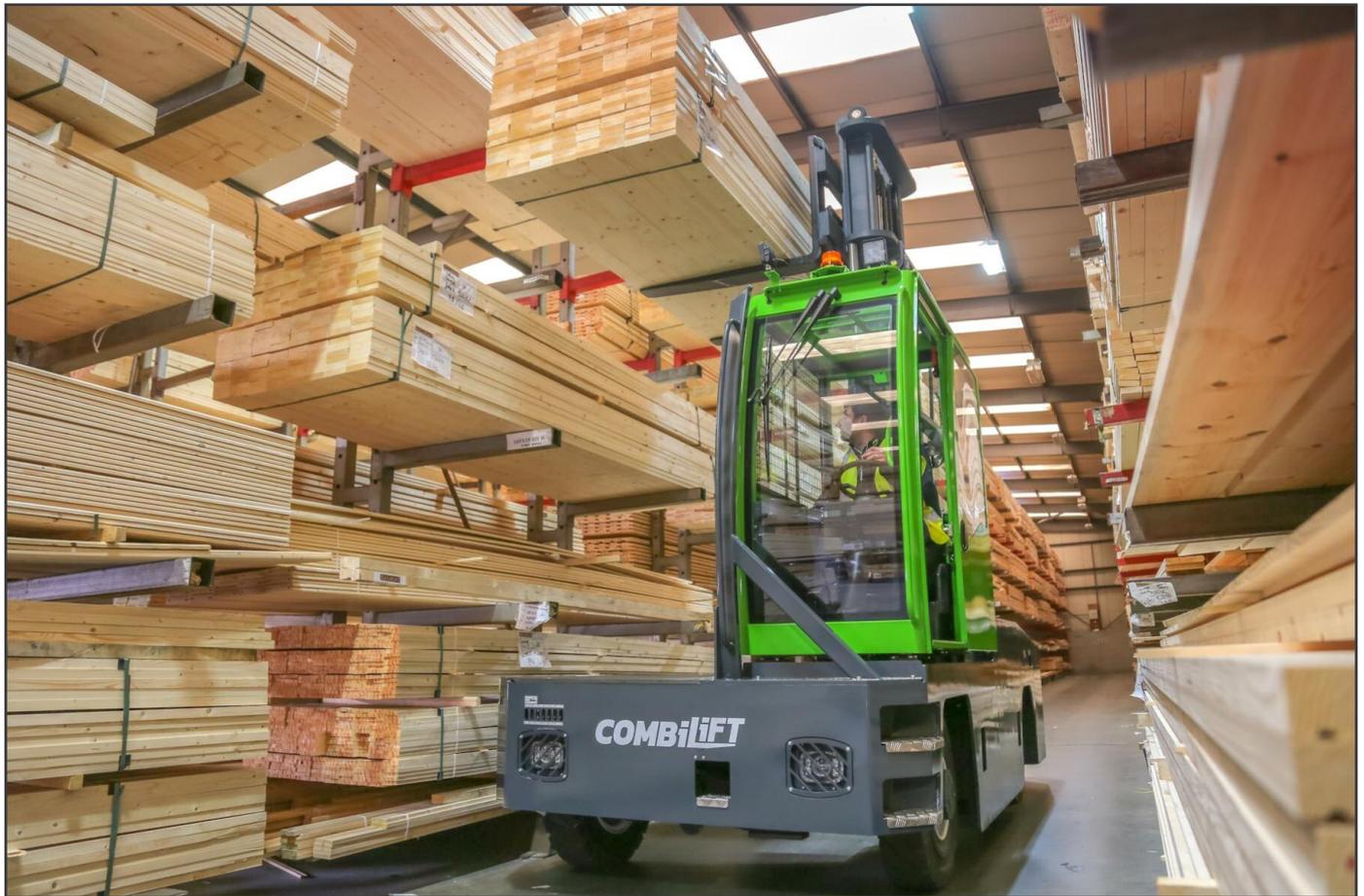
Tel 01937 586340

Email sales.uk@imaschelling.com

www.schelling-solutions.co.uk



Introducing the Combi-FSE — the new electric sideloader from Combilift



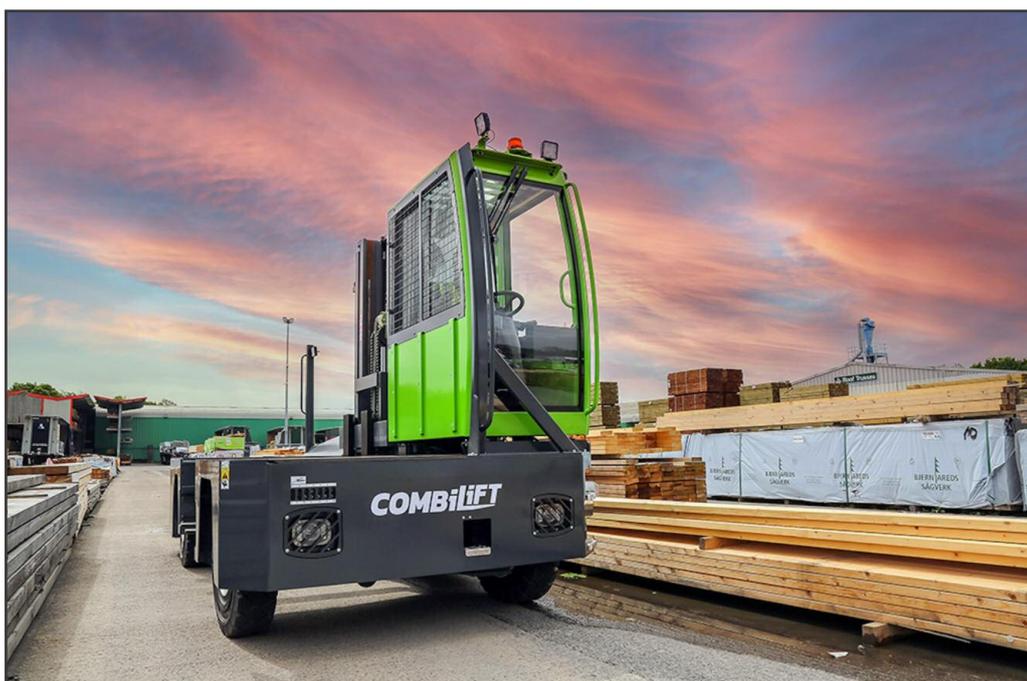
IRISH FORKLIFT manufacturer Combilift has added yet another addition to its now extensive electric range with the launch of

the Combi-FSE — a four wheeled, two directional sideloader in both 5,000 kg or 6,000 kg lift capacity.

As part of Combilift's drive to help customers achieve their aims of more sustainable operations, over 60% of the company's output

is now electric. Recent models such as the Combi-XLE and now the Combi-FSE focus on heavier duty application for industry sectors such as timber, steel, tubes & pipes and builders merchants. Thanks to Combilift's immense engineering and design experience, the Combi-FSE delivers on all aspects of reliability, durability, powerful performance and ease of maintenance, combined of course with the quiet and emission free electric operation that more and more customers are demanding.

The patented traction system in this new product plays a major part in ensuring the optimum performance of the Combi-FSE in all weather conditions. Sensors in the front steering axle linked to the innovative Electronic Traction Control system enable the two independent 15 kW drive motors on the rear axle to be controlled individually, with the speed of each wheel governed by the steer angle of the front wheels to provide improved steering control for





the operator, better truck turning radius and reduced tyre wear. This new technology, when combined with regenerative braking (which recaptures the truck's kinetic energy during deceleration and can be used to recharge the batteries to extend battery life), makes for Combilift's most advanced steering system on its four wheeled trucks to date.

The generous glazing of the cab, particularly the roof to floor wind-screen, allows the operator to have

an excellent field of vision of the load, the machine and the surroundings. Considerable engineering development to ensure optimum visibility for the driver saw the perfection of the under-deck battery system, with the power pack strategically placed at the rear of the truck between the drive motors — giving a clear line of sight to the rear and when reversing, and guaranteeing the best operator visibility of any comparable truck. This position also enables

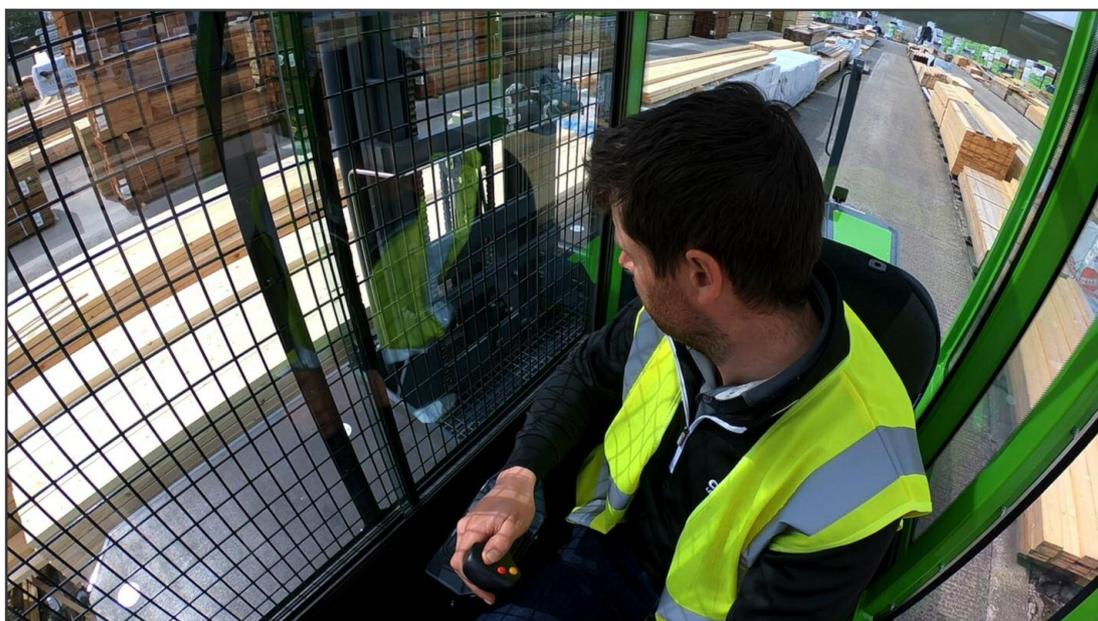
safe and easy battery removal from the low-level rear of the truck.

Maintenance time has been kept to a minimum due to key service features such as its quick interchangeable battery for shift work, centralised grease points on the front and rear of the load platform and removable panels for easy access to the motor.

Combilift CEO Martin McVicar commented: "We introduced our first four-wheel sideloader around 10 years ago after initial requests

from companies in the timber sector, and it has since become pretty much a standard solution for those who run intensive schedules which clock up many operational hours. The technological advancements in battery technology since then means that it was a natural progression to develop this electric model, which will help customers to drastically reduce their carbon footprint."

Combilift
<https://combilift.com/combi-fse-electric-sideloader/>



Sustainable Selco turns to electric

SELCO Builder Warehouse has accelerated its evolution towards a sustainable transport fleet by adding 12 electrically powered counterbalance forklift trucks.

The leading builders merchant has also extended its use of alternative fuels by introducing the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) in its fleet. HVO is cleaner alternative to diesel and is manufactured from 100 per cent renewable and sustainable waste, offering a cleaner way to fuel commercial fleets and leading to a reduction in carbon emissions of up to 90 per cent.

Selco also has seven compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles currently



in operation, with plans to introduce a further three for the company's delivery hub in Birmingham.

Both Selco's delivery hubs — in Birmingham and Edmonton — will operate fully off a combination of CNG and HVO fuelled vehicles.

The electric forklift trucks, which are manufactured by EP, are being utilised in Selco's latest branch to open in Exeter, as well as Walthamstow and other locations throughout its network.

Richard Evans, head of transport operations at Selco, said: "We have been clear about our commitments around sustainability and we are now making swift and sizeable progress in terms of reducing our carbon footprint within the transport fleet.

"The introduction of our first electric forklift truck is another milestone we are very proud of and we are now beginning the process of transferring our entire forklift truck fleet of over 300 to electric.

"That transition will take a period of time, but every new branch we open moving forward will have electric forklift trucks.

"HVO will play a huge role in businesses operating commercial fleets reducing their carbon footprint in a responsible and efficient way and we are delighted to be stepping up our commitment to alternative fuel."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

HEALTH & SAFETY

Timber laboratory refurb at BM TRADA

BM TRADA, specialists in testing, inspection and certification services, has unveiled its modernised timber laboratory following an extensive refurbishment and investment.

Part of Element Materials Technology, BM TRADA's three-month long revamp at its High Wycombe facility includes a complete overhaul of the laboratory's layout. The space is now divided into two dedicated areas, with one room designated for timber inspection and timber species analysis, and the other room for woodworking and timber testing.

Alongside the new layout, the laboratory has been stripped down and a host of new equipment has been installed. This includes new storage, dust extraction units, boil tanks and water baths for woodwork testing; and microscope testing kits to analyse timber specimens.

The organisation has also fitted new tools and rigs for fastener and fixing testing for structural timber connections, which will be operated by Element Material Technology's Warringtonfire brand; as well as a cast iron engineering table for measuring the straightness of wood samples and inspecting for timber distortion.

Ben Sharples, commercial lead at BM TRADA, said: "We decided to refurbish our timber laboratory following an increase in demand for timber testing and

certification requirements. We are also anticipating a sharp rise in demand for Warringtonfire's new fastener and fixing testing for structural timber connections, due to the looming UKCA marking deadline.

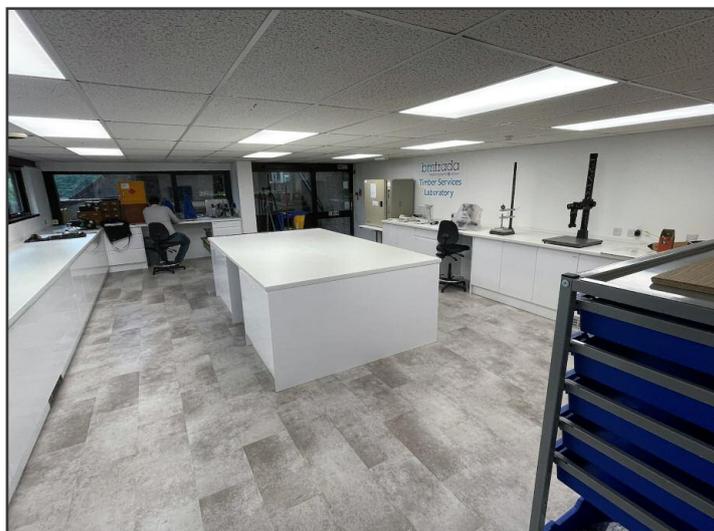
"As well as timber construction, we've witnessed more demand for timber species verification from a wide variety of markets. We house one of the biggest libraries of timber specimens, known as a xylarium, in the country at High Wycombe. With our new laboratory and equipment, we can continue improving on this service and providing even more accurate advice and knowledge on different types of wood."

In addition to the new test equipment, the refurb project also brings

a significant saving from energy usage. New LED lighting has been installed throughout the laboratory, which will reduce energy consumption by up to 75% over the course of the year.

Mr Sharples concluded: "As part of the largest global organisation in testing, inspection and certification, one of our key commitments is to be as sustainable as possible. Our investment into new lighting will not only create a better working environment for our colleagues, but drastically reduce our energy output and carbon emissions too."

BM TRADA
www.bmtrada.com



Casella shares expert advice on measuring wood dust exposure

Casella specialises in occupational hygiene and workplace hazard monitoring systems.

Tim Turney, global marketing manager at Casella, shares expert insights on quantifying dust levels, so that businesses can protect workers from hazardous exposure levels.

WOODWORKING businesses across the UK are being visited by Health & Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors to help tackle occupational lung disease.

Wood dust is a substance hazardous to worker health, potentially causing skin disorders, asthma, rhinitis, nasal and lung cancer. Wood dust is produced when the material is processed, and the quantity and type of the exposure problem will depend on how it's processed.

Types of activity that can produce high dust exposures over a long period of time include machining operations such as sanding by machine, hand assembly of machined items or bagging of dust from extraction systems. Bad housekeeping is also an issue, for example, workers may use compressed airlines or sweeping to clean up, which should always be avoided.

Understanding the legal limits

These health hazards are covered by regulations, where exposure limits are typically set separately for hardwoods and softwood. There is a duty of care and a need to carry out a suitable risk assessment, ultimately to prevent exposure or adequately control it.

If there's a known dust exposure issue, then businesses should implement measures that control the hazard at source. If the risk assessment reveals a significant exposure risk, and businesses need to quantify what the dust levels are, then personal air sampling can offer a solution.

Exposure limits for hardwoods and softwoods vary depending on the location in the world, for example in the UK both hardwood and softwood dusts have a Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL). The WEL for hardwood dust is 3 mg/m³ (based on an eight-hour time-weighted average) and the WEL for softwood dust is 5 mg/m³ (based on an eight-hour time-weighted average).

Exposure limits can be as low as 1 mg/m³ in some countries, so businesses operating in multiple geographical areas should check the local limits. The WELs refer to an individual's personal exposure, therefore the preferred method for air sampling is using a personal air sampling pump.

Air sampling, what is involved?

Air sampling involves wearing a personal air sampling pump, generally on the belt. The pump draws in volume of air with a very accurate flow, so that the total volume of air sampled is known. The pump is connected via a tube to a sampling head in the breathing zone, that is within 30 cm

of the nose and mouth. The sampling head contains a filter, where the filter is weighed before sampling. This should be achieved using a recognised laboratory, with an accurate weighing scale that can weigh down to a few milligrammes.

Generally, the pump is worn for the worker's entire shift so that it samples their complete exposure. Once sampling is complete the filter is weighed again, so the weight difference reveals the weight of dust. In combination with the volume of air sampled, the concentration of dust can be calculated, and subsequently the exposure levels, which can be compared to permissible or recommended exposure limits.

To establish what flow rate to use, which sampling head to select and what filter media, businesses can refer to the relevant method provided locally. There is a level of competence required for air sampling to ensure an accurate sample is taken. For example, understanding how to handle filters, setting up the pumps and calibrating, are all important factors to make sure a highly accurate sample is achieved.

When selecting an air sampling pump, businesses should ensure that the following items are taken into consideration: the pump conforms to ISO 13137 which is the international standard for air sampling pumps; the pump is capable of flows greater than 2 litre/min as that's mostly where sampling for wood dust occurs; it's light and comfortable to wear for the worker, to ensure the employee wears it for the whole day; it's robust and capable of the harsh environments and therefore has a good ingress protection (IP) rating; and that the pump is intrinsically safe, if it is potentially going to be used in flammable atmospheres.

Businesses should also get all the relevant equipment to do the sampling such as a flow meter to calibrate the pump and the relevant sampling heads, tube and other accessories. Personal sampling using a recognised method will ensure an accurate exposure assessment, and confidence in results.

Selecting the right equipment

Personal air sampling is a perfect tool to get accurate assessments of an individual's eight-hour exposure. However, this method can only provide an average. Other instruments such as real-time dust meters can help fill the gaps as to when exposure occurred.

Real time instruments can allow a walk-through survey so problem areas can be easily identified, and exposed workers prioritised accord-

ingly. They can be left in an area to see when exposure is occurring: are specific events and processes responsible for significant levels of exposure? They can check on the effectiveness of control measures and instantly check the effects of process changes. They provide instant results, avoiding time waiting for a laboratory to weigh a sample. They can also be used as a training tool, showing operators what they are exposed to, making them aware of the risk and illustrate how their activity changes dust levels.

Ultimately, wood dust is a significant risk to a worker's health. Air sampling is a way to quantify exposure or measure residual risk and ensure control measures are effective.

Personal sampling pumps, when used in a way demonstrated in an approved method, can provide accurate exposure levels. Real time instruments can complement this by allowing identification of sources and the immediate effectiveness of control measures.

Casella

www.casellasolutions.com



Selco inspires next generation of Nottingham tradespeople

DOZENS of student joiners from Nottingham have received an insight into their future careers from one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Young joiners in the construction department of Nottingham College, mostly aged between 16 and 18, were given a presentation from Adam Newbold, Selco Nottingham's trade sales manager.

Karl Bishop, joinery lecturer at Nottingham College in Basford, said the visit had provided invaluable advice for the students.

Karl said: "Our aim with the course is not just to provide the technical and practical training for joiners but also to give a complete overview of life as a tradesperson. A big part of that is selecting a supplier of choice and thoroughly understanding how the builders merchant industry works. Adam provided an excellent overview of that, covering off topics including product range, sourcing the stock and working throughout the pandemic and we are grateful to both him and Selco for their support."

All students were provided with Selco Trade Cards to enable them to access Selco's range of products, services and materials to assist with their studies.

Adam Newbold, from Selco Nottingham based on Mar City Park on Radford Road, said: "Our ethos at Selco is to provide the best possible service to the trade at every level."

"Apprentices and students are a crucial part of that and I was delighted to go into the college and provide a glimpse into the future for the youngsters. We look forward to supporting the students in their studies and welcoming them into Selco in the coming years to assist them in their work."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Working for West Fraser could be just one click away with a new careers page



RECOGNISED internationally as a leading supplier of wood products, West Fraser, which operates two sites in Scotland and one in England, has always recognised that its staff is its greatest asset.

With a proud history of training for young people and many team members having enjoyed long, progressive careers with West Fraser (formerly known as Norbord), the website now hosts a page dedicated to spreading the word about all the benefits of working for an internationally renowned company.

Visitors to the new website page will find current vacancies, details of the generous benefits commensurate with a company that values good employees and information on their respected undergraduate trainee and graduate development programmes.

West Fraser
<https://uk.westfraser.com/about-us/careers/>

New Kitchen Kit Training Academy opens

BA, ONE of the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke and made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialist components, is pleased to announce the launch of a new Training Academy for its trade offer, Kitchen Kit, launched in May 2022.

Each free event scheduled at the new Kitchen Kit Training Academy in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, is suitable for up to 15 participants, with parking available on site and lunch is provided on the day. Nuala Brady, group marketing manager at BA, says: "Embodying the core message of 'Kitchens Made Easy', the new Kitchen Kit Training Academy is open to our trade customers who want to become experienced in all aspects of the product, sales, delivery and application.

The new Training Academy is an excellent way to facilitate ongoing learning for new and existing customers, providing an enriched environment for learners to grow, develop and hone their Kitchen Kit expertise.

Specially designed to enable customers to apply these new skills in their own businesses and future contracts, Kitchen Kit is 'Easy to choose, Easy to buy and Easy to build', so that fitting a kitchen is faster and easier than ever before.

Visitors will get the chance to experience a series of full-scale



kitchen displays in a lifestyle setting to get a real feel for the product, as well as provide a visual aid for each trainer.

Made in Britain and available flat pack, Kitchen Kit features a quality range of furniture, worktops and complementary accessories so trade customers can include all components on one sku code. Customers can design, price and order online 24 hours a day, to offer added peace of mind that Kitchen Kit prices are transparent, product quality is controlled and delivery is fast and direct to site.

Customers can choose from three door styles:

J-Pull: 19 mm handleless door with integrated J profile and 10 UltraMatt & SuperGloss finishes.

Slab: 18 mm smooth slab door with PET foil laminate in 10 UltraMatt & SuperGloss finishes.

Shaker: 15 mm Shaker-style door with 4 mm beveled internal profile and 4 UltraMatt finishes.

Available in standard sizes, the Flat-pack option provides a range of quick-build, FIRA Gold certified cabinets that are despatched from 48 hours.

For further information on the new Training Academy and upcoming workshops, please use the contact details below.

Kitchen Kit by BA
Tel 0333 6665 999
customerservices@kitchenkit.co.uk
www.kitchenkit.co.uk

Awareness of apprenticeships is central to filling skills shortage in timber industry

THE SKILLS shortage in the UK forestry and timber industry cannot be filled until there is more awareness of the exciting apprenticeship opportunities available in the sector.

That's according to the largest forestry and timber group in the UK, BSW Group, who welcomed Member of Scottish Parliament Kate Forbes to its BSW Timber sawmill in Fort William during Scottish Apprenticeship Week.

During her visit, Ms Forbes toured the site and met with apprentice engineers and saw doctors, to hear first-hand about their experiences and the growth of the industry. Group learning and development manager Tony Lockey believes the visit was crucial to raising awareness about the skills shortage that exists in the timber sector.

He said, "In the wake of COP26, there has been an emphasis on the fact we need to promote working in timber and forestry, and how a career in our industry can support



Fort William's mill manager Oliver Stephen was thrilled to promote BSW Timber to MSP Kate Forbes.

young people's values about protecting the environment. A lot of the time, the apprenticeships that the Government pushes are fo-

cused on public sector needs, such as a call for 30,000 new NHS workers. Having the opportunity to show one of our region's MSPs

around is great, and we welcome more MSPs to come along and see what we are doing.

"The passion that our apprentices were able to get across enables Kate [Forbes] to go to Westminster and promote apprenticeships in timber and forestry businesses."

The largest sawmiller in the country and a subsidiary of BSW Group, BSW Timber has a strong history of apprenticeships, with 22 of the 25 taken on in the last ten years still working for the business. For Mr Lockey, building awareness of apprenticeships schemes beyond national frameworks is vital to getting people into the industry.

He added: "What people often forget is that we need to educate parents and colleges on various types of apprenticeships too. It's not very often that parents will advise their children to look at an apprenticeship with us, but they might push them towards an office style apprenticeship. Getting people down to the sawmill can be an eye-opener, which really represents what career opportunities there are in our sector.

"Some of our leading lights have come from the apprenticeship route. We are always keen to put them forward for awards as



MSP Kate Forbes is pictured with fourth year mechanical apprentice Ryan Boyle.



MSP Kate Forbes is pictured with Jamie Duncan, a third year saw doctor apprentice.

they not only promote the fantastic work they are doing within the sector, but it raises the profile of apprenticeship schemes. When people see the technical side of what we do, it presents our worlds to a wider audience.”

Mr Lockey added: “When we select young people for our programme, it is to provide them with a career in our business at the end of it. We want apprentices to capitalise on opportunities with the aim that they will stay within our teams into the future.”

Former apprentice Shaun MacLeod played a starring role in Ms Forbes’ visit to Fort William. Mr MacLeod, who was nominated for a Scottish Apprenticeship Award, has not only helped BSW Timber to reduce its carbon footprint, but also to save money.

Innovations developed by a team of apprentices, and driven by Mr MacLeod through Skills Development Scotland’s Fuel Change Challenge, included the idea of introducing a new electric-powered mobile side-loader fleet to the mill in Fort William.

The initiatives explored by the 21-year-old and his team offered new ways of working and could potentially deliver annual savings of £400,000 a year for the mill, with the added opportunity to cut carbon emissions by thousands of tonnes per year.

Shaun began his Modern Apprenticeship in Electrical Control Systems with BSW Timber straight from school and completed his apprenticeship in November last year.

“Technically I really progressed my learning in electrical and mechanical areas and my understanding of industrial manufacturing through my apprentice-

ship,” said Mr MacLeod. “My apprenticeship has also helped me massively with my personal skills, my confidence, and being able to communicate with others. I’m currently in a mentor role for the younger apprentices going through the Fuel Change Challenge, so this has helped my leadership skills.”

The Fort William management team is well-versed in apprenticeships, with electrical supervisor Stuart Matheson working his way through the ranks after joining the firm as an electrical apprentice in 2015, while engineering manager Robert Wojcik was appointed in December to support employee development as an apprentice mentor.

Mill manager Oliver Stephen was thrilled to promote the site to Ms Forbes and believes it can be a catalyst to getting more young people interested in the industry. He said: “The visit was great, and it gave Kate [Forbes] the opportunity to hear first-hand from Shaun, Jamie Duncan (a third-year saw doctor apprentice) and Ryan Boyle (a fourth-year mechanical apprentice) on what they do day to day in the mill.

“It’s important to have these visits from people like the Cabinet Secretary as it gives us the opportunity to showcase what we are all about and discuss future growth plans.

“The benefits of taking part go much further than helping the business, as it also engages young people and enables them to influence their colleagues by coming forward with different ideas about ways of doing things, which has been a very positive experience.”

BSW Group
www.bsw.co.uk



Fort William’s mill manager Oliver Stephen and MSP Kate Forbes recently.

2020 Technologies at Holz-Handwerk

AFTER more than four years, craft and technology unite at Holz-Handwerk in Nuremberg, Germany, on 12-15 July 2022. 2020 Technologies GmbH is starting its second attempt and is looking forward to the trade show premiere in Nuremberg after the last show was cancelled due to the pandemic in 2020.

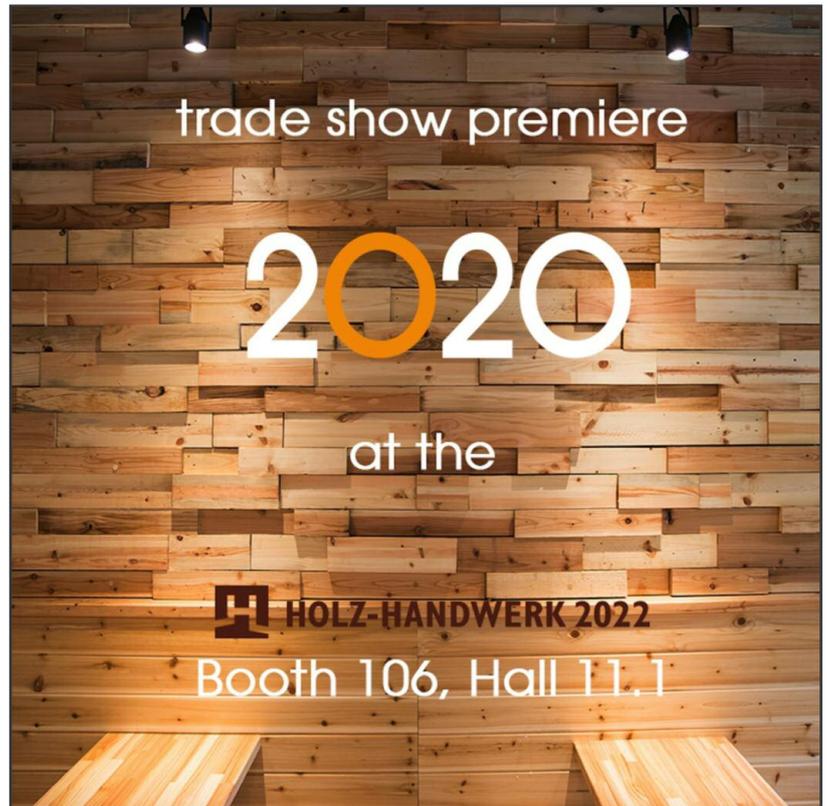
A lot has happened since 2020. As a provider of end-to-end solutions to the furniture and woodworking industries and the contract and shopfitting sectors, 2020 Technologies GmbH has put a lot of development resources into enhancing project functionalities and manufacturing topic such as machine integration, asset management, and the connection and creation of its own optimisation consoles.

Furthermore, in addition to the ERP solution, 2020 now also offers an advanced MES solution for manufacturers that can be integrated into any existing IT landscape.

The first-time exhibitor was also successful in winning well-known customers such as the companies Oldenburger, Reichert and Schuhbauer from the woodworking and architectural millwork domain since 2020.

As a highlight in the summer edition of the exhibition, 2020 Technologies GmbH will present the virtual 3D factory for the first time at a trade fair. On tours through the virtual factory, visitors can experience in 3D how productivity can be increased along the entire process chain in object and store construction with the help of modern software. Never before have the advantages of ERP & MES systems been so tangible. 2020 Technologies GmbH is looking forward to many interesting discussions and visitors at booth 106 in hall 11.1.

2020 Technologies GmbH
www.2020spaces.com/de/



Switch to automated coating easily and cost-effectively

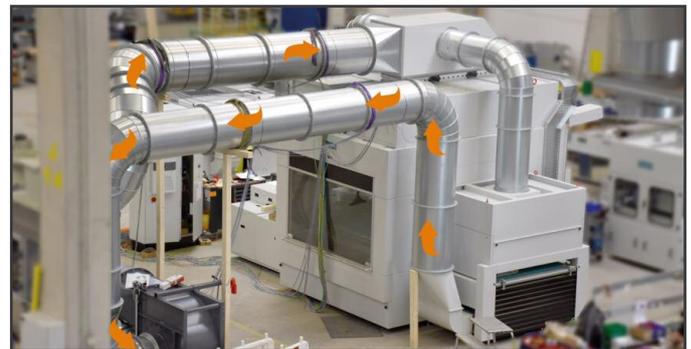
AT this year's Holz-Handwerk in Nuremberg, Venjakob Maschinenbau will focus on the VEN SPRAY ONE. As a sensible replacement, or as a supplement to your hand-held spray booth and the growing demands for reliability and quality, Venjakob Maschinenbau offers an interesting alternative with the VEN SPRAY ONE model.

The compact spray coating machine is specially designed for the needs of entry-level users. The

extra-large touch screen and the self-explanatory user interface of the control make machine operation easier.

The stand-alone solution has an integrated control cabinet. This means that commissioning can be carried out quickly and easily, which saves installation costs and time. The solid and inexpensive technology convinces the users of the performance and surface quality produced.

Those interested can find out



more about the VEN SPRAY ONE on display at the Holz-Handwerk in Nuremberg in Hall 11, Stand 201 (12-15 July 2022).

Furthermore, Venjakob invites a rethink of coating processes.

Resource shortage, environmental protection and sustainability are buzzwords that are on everyone's lips. Venjakob is happy to take up these topics at the trade fair and provide information on what the company has done to optimise users' production processes with its technology. For example, by installing an innovative, resource-saving recirculation system in the large-capacity booth

of the VEN SPRAY PERFECT spray coating machine for the application of water-based coating materials. This has proven to save heating energy and reduce environmental emissions. An integrated air humidification system for highest coating quality with low energy consumption.

The experts for surface technology are looking forward to discussing interesting requirements in the course of the exhibition. Venjakob will be happy to discuss individual approaches to solutions, or to present individual projects.

Venjakob
www.venjakob.com



Soft Play Revolution with a Sagetech saw



PLAY REVOLUTION offers creative and exciting solutions for the indoor soft play industry. The design team is constantly pushing at the boundaries in order to create innovative, fun filled play structures. The company needed a robust, reliable and space saving vertical panel saw for the workshop to cope with increased demand. The Koolkut KK12 wall saw from Sagetech Machinery was just the answer!

The existing table saw machine was becoming very unreliable, spending more time broken than operational and with space at a premium within the workshop a new vertical panel saw was needed to replace this outdated machine. Losing production time was not an option for Play Revolution, with daily sheet cutting increasing week on week, they needed to act now for a wall saw that could cope with growing demands while still being at an affordable price.

"As most people do, we searched Google for a UK based company that provides manufacturing, installation and training on vertical panel saws. Once we read into Sagetech's history we knew that they were the company for vertical panel saw machines. Hands down to Rob, one of the engineers from Sagetech, who after the delivery and installation process provided excellent training on the wall saw for the whole team," said a company spokesman.

Play Revolution noticed after a couple of weeks that production time had improved from the old saw — as well as not having any down time meaning they really were on top of production and orders. The new Koolkut KK12 machine has allowed the company to fulfil orders more quickly and without issue, helping the business bounce back in style.

This new Koolkut KK had a face lift in 2019, which comes in two sizes of either 8 ft x 4 ft or 10 ft x 5 ft working area. With some great features such as 50 mm max depth of cut, dual quick stop system, manual rise and fall back supports and a mid level fence for cutting smaller pieces of material cross the whole of the machine, the KK wall saw is ideally suited to businesses across many industries.

Sagetech ● Tel 0191 691 3044 ● www.sagetechmachinery.co.uk



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HAND GUARD from the Altendorf Group: a new safety system for sliding table saws

A CAR without airbags in 2022? Definitely unimaginable. A sliding table saw without an AI and camera-based safety system to effectively prevent injuries? Also no longer an option in the not-too-distant future.

HAND GUARD is now certified as of 9th May 2022 by the German Wood and Metal Trade Association (BGHM) and redefines the safety standard for sliding table saws on the global market with the German "GS" seal of tested safety.

This means that the up to 120 reportable accidents per month in Germany in connection with sliding table saws can be almost completely prevented, according to the Altendorf Group.

Following the immediate EU-wide start of deliveries, HAND GUARD will also be shipped in North America after successful UL/CSA certification, coinciding with the worldwide marketing launch.

A product must comply with all current standards before it can go on sale in Europe. This guarantees a homogeneous level of protection to prevent accidents when using machinery. Even with misuse, safety is then also guaranteed.

When these criteria are met, the product receives the CE mark. The manufacturer can usually award

this certification mark itself — an independent inspection body does not have to be used.

Such, however, is not the case with sliding table saws. As these are listed in Annex IV of Machinery Directive (MD) 2006 EC and are therefore classified as dangerous machines, the manufacturer must commission an approved inspection body with a test examination to inspect for standards compliance and concomitant therewith for the CE mark. So far so good: But what happens if there is still no standard for a technical achievement?

This was the Altendorf Group's challenge with HAND GUARD, a completely new safety system for sliding table saws. To date there was no standard for AI and camera-based safety assistant systems, therefore the Altendorf Group commissioned an EC type examination with the Trade Association (TA).

Along with thousands of material, design and functional tests, the TA also defined the following conditions for the certification:

1. Functionality with hand speeds of up to 2 m/s (typical reflex- and slipping movement).
2. Performance level C (requirement, previously placed on sliding table saws).

3. Appropriate hand detection reliability (oriented on the taxonomy criteria for autonomous and AI systems).

The TA's goal with HAND GUARD was to redefine a high safety standard for sliding table saws. This will apply in the future as the benchmark for all other market participants. As an AI and camera-based safety system for sliding table saws and the correlated definition of a completely new safety standard are extremely complex, the machine had to be examined by an independent test institute.

After most intensive testing, it's happening: HAND GUARD gets the GS seal of approval. Potential buyers can now clearly see that its safety has been confirmed by a test institute.

"As a developer of premium sliding table saws, for us it was especially important to conduct further research, to ultimately bring a safety system that would almost entirely prevent accidents to the market. We're moving forward as pioneers with HAND GUARD. There is no comparable system, which also complies with the conditions of this certification," says Peter Schwenk, Altendorf Group CEO.

Technical progress is always

preceded by a vision. No more injuries in the timber trade — was the Altendorf Group's vision. And so the company based in Minden, Germany, developed HAND GUARD. In all probability, in the future, no joiner or carpenter will work on a sliding table saw without an AI or camera-based safety system. Utopia? Well no, not really. But at the end of the day, nobody drives without airbags either.

The Altendorf Group is a global market leader in producing premium sliding table saws. The company was founded in 1906 and enjoys strong brand recognition around the globe.

Its most successful product, the F 45 sliding table saw, also known as "The Altendorf", is considered an international synonym for the sliding table saw product category. The HAND GUARD safety system is the company's latest innovation.

With its impressive top-quality Hebrock edgebanders, Hebrock has been part of the Altendorf Group since 2018.

The Altendorf Group has subsidiaries in Australia, China, India and the USA and employs more than 360 people around the world.

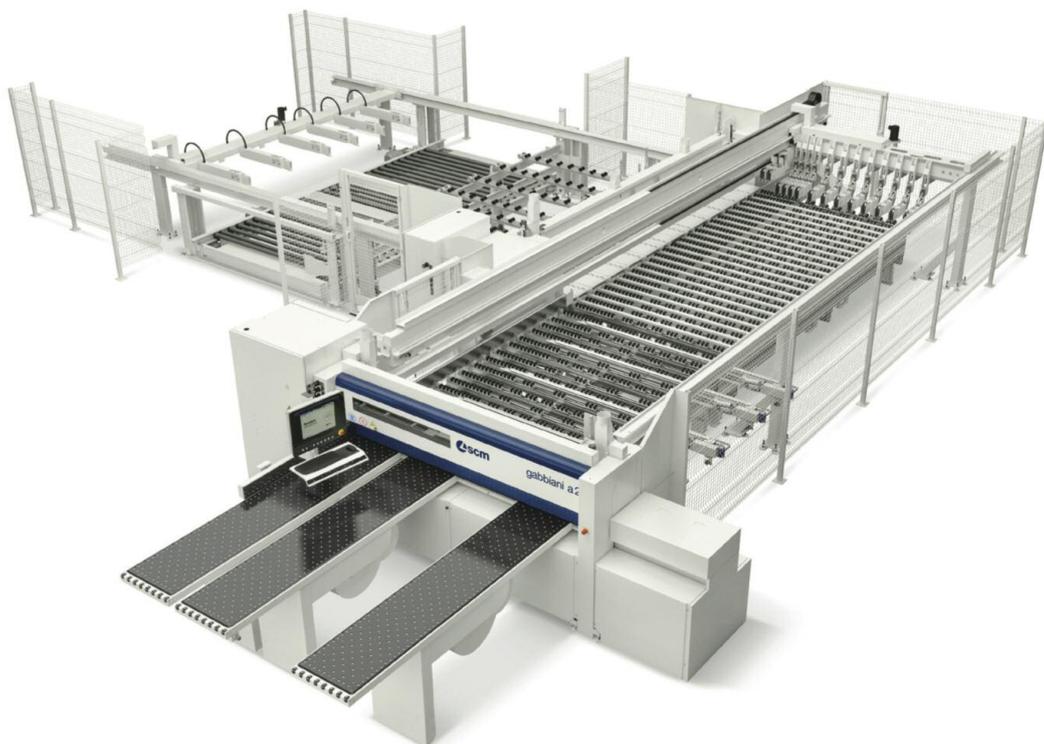
Altendorf Group
www.altendorf-handguard.com



SIMPLE AND AUTOMATED PRODUCTION FROM ALL ANGLES

gabbiani a2 is the innovative Angular Beam Saw that meets all the needs of both mass and batch 1 productions. The new operating units offer maximum performance in terms of productivity and cutting quality, while granting outstanding cleanliness of machine and work environment.

- **SAW SET:** In a few seconds, the "SAW-SET" device performs a quick and precise electronic setting of the blades.
- **ZERO-DUST SYSTEM:** The automatic system of dust control curtains in sections operates along the cut to contain the sawdust and guarantee its complete evacuation.
- **FLEXCUT 1D:** 2 pushers with completely independent stroke allows simultaneous processing of several bars with complex cutting patterns in very short cycle times.



DISCOVER MORE



West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero set the standard for OSB3

MANUFACTURED to the highest standards by timber products specialist, West Fraser (formerly known as Norbord), SterlingOSB Zero is a precision-engineered OSB3 board which can now boast of being the greenest of its type in the UK.



Produced in Scotland, West Fraser's load-bearing board has been extensively developed to be free from added formaldehyde.

This achievement complements the company's efforts to be carbon neutral; while for builders, reliability of supply is also key in an increasingly unpredictable global market.

This is backed by the knowledge that by choosing OSB3, they will be working with a product that is made from timber grown and processed in the UK; resulting in lower embodied carbon from transportation and a highly energy efficient production process.

West Fraser's zero-added formaldehyde OSB3 offers further benefits too: being precision-engineered means there is less waste on site as well as production, with the rugged panels being of uniform dimensions and without weak points such as knots or voids. Importantly they will not delaminate, while the boards are easier to saw, plane, drill and fix: where screws or even nails can be driven as close as 8 mm to the panel edge without splitting.

Being a smooth OSB means that sanding is now obsolete, according to the company — even for GRP roofing applications — while the board's homogenous surface ensures it performs well in the UK's often humid environment, as well as offering improved adhesion for all flat roofing applications.

Suitable for structural use in multiple applications, SterlingOSB Zero OSB3's inherent strength makes it ideal for decking or sarking as well as for boarding up vacant properties, as well as for hoardings. Here the product can accept most surface treatments used for marketing messages and logos around a site's perimeter.

Finally for specifiers and developers seeking to secure the higher BREEAM categories or to reinforce their environmental commitments, they can be assured that the CO₂ locked within the BBA-approved SterlingOSB Zero during its lifetime is greater than that involved in its production.

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921 ● Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com
<https://uk.westfraser.com/> ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>

Selco takes steps to further offset carbon emissions

SELCO Builders Warehouse has further demonstrated its commitment to delivering long-term sustainable operations by planting a second forest.

To mark Earth Day, the leading builders merchant has announced it has directly supported the planting of 160,000 trees across more than 60 hectares on a site near Llandrindod Wells in Wales.

Following on from the planting of more than 100,000 trees near Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders last year, this latest development represents the second phase of supporting ambitious tree planting projects by Selco. The trees will offset around 7,000 tonnes of carbon during their

lifecycle, the equivalent of almost two years of Selco's customer deliveries, and forms part of a wider package of measures designed to reduce the company's carbon footprint.

Carine Jessamine, Selco's marketing director and head of sustainability, said: "We are committed to continuing our investment in the future by playing our part in protecting our people, the environment and the planet. This is a project for the long term and the planting of the second Selco Forest is a small step along the journey. We have a long-term vision to deliver alternative fuel vehicles across the entire Selco business and implement a wider programme of many operational changes to ensure we are playing our part in tackling climate change.

"While those tests and trials are being carried out, we have made the decision to offset our carbon emissions in the short term through the planting of trees, as well as making progress in our transport fleet, recycling and the introduction of LED lighting and a new gas management system across our network, all designed to lower our carbon footprint."

The site of the second Selco Forest, in Tyn Y Berth, is the equivalent of more than 100 football pitches with the trees planted including Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir, Norwegian Spruce and broadleaves such as Silver Birch, Alder and Rowan. Selco has joined forces with the landowner and key timber supplier BSW Timber, together with BSW Timber's subsidiary companies Tilhill and Carbon Store, on the project.

Carine added: "We are delighted with the new site. Not only will the forest help us reduce our carbon footprint but it will also enhance the surrounding landscape, with native species creating biodiversity value."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Supporting wildlife in Northumberland



NORTHUMBERLAND Wildlife Trust has welcomed Hexham based EGGER (UK) Ltd as its first gold category corporate supporter of 2022.

The wood based materials manufacturer is part of an international, family owned, Austrian business, which has been based in Hexham for the past 38 years. It employs over 600 people and makes chipboard panels in the UK for the furniture and interior design industry, and structural flooring for the housebuilding industry.

The wildlife charity has a number of nature reserves near EGGER's Hexham plant including Juliet's Wood, Tony's Patch and South Close Field and is particularly impressed with the company's commitment to the environment.

EGGER is committed to producing high quality products that have as little impact on the environment as possible. The Hexham site is thriving with local wildlife and it actively maintains and promotes biodiversity in the area.

Each year hundreds of sand and house martins migrate to the manufacturing site to nest in the log yard. The team at EGGER has

built bespoke nest boxes for the birds, which start to nest in March and lay in June, to protect them from daily site movements. In addition to this, EGGER also welcomes oyster catchers, stoats and hedgehogs to the site.

After the floods in 2015, Egger installed defences to protect its site. As part of this, the team planted wild flowers to provide pollinators and insects with leaves, pollen, nectar, shelter and places to breed. The site is also home to over 200,000 bees. Four beehives to help pollinate the local area, and provide delicious honey for the employees!

In addition to this, EGGER operates a Sustainable Urban Drainage



System onsite. The log yard sites on a minor gradient so that any surface water drains towards a reed bed, which cleanses the water before it enters the natural watercourse.

Sarah Dunn, energy and environmental manager at EGGER UK (Ltd), said: "We are delighted to become a gold supporter of The Northumberland Wildlife Trust. We

embrace the local wildlife that chooses to visit our site and actively look for ways to protect and promote it. Wildlife is a vital part of our local ecosystem and, like the sustainably managed forests we source our timber from, it must be maintained."

Mike Pratt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust chief executive, says: "I am thrilled to have EGGER as our first gold supporter of 2022.

"As a company, EGGER has provided great career opportunities and worked closely with the local community to ensure its success. We too work very closely with local communities, many of whom have turned to nature for the sake of their mental health and well-being, so it is great to have the support from an organisation that thinks the same way we do."

EGGER (UK) Ltd
www.egger.com



SterlingOSB Zero is the answer for Mike Keen's renovation project

MIKE KEEN has found SterlingOSB panels to be the perfect solution for his renovation project.

"The building was originally an old Colt house built in 1949, a Cedar shingled (walls and roof), three-bed single storey house with an all-timber frame on a float, with two brick fireplaces and chimneys," says Mike.

"It had been empty for two years before we took it on and was uninhabitable. Water damage had rotted most of the chipboard walls.

"It sits in 1.5 acres, surrounded by fields in rural Suffolk.

"We added a small extension to take it to four bedrooms and totally reconfigured the living spaces. The flat roof became a pitched roof and the whole building is now vaulted.

"We had to replace the entire frame, incorporating some elements of the existing frame into the much-beefed-up new frame, so we remained under Building Control regulations as the extension came under permissible development. The roof is now slate with larach cladding while most of the southern-facing roof is covered with an in-roof solar system providing 6 kW. We have five Fakro roof windows on the non-solar aspects and use rainwater harvest tanks to provide water for the garden while an air source heat pump drives the underfloor heating. We have no hot water system — two electric showers and an on-demand hot tap in the kitchen provide the hot water.

"We wanted the project to be as eco-friendly and sustainable as possible. SterlingOSB Zero was the obvious choice: being made in the UK was a plus for us so we cut travel costs. Zero-added formaldehyde is also a big plus; with it being in so many everyday items, reducing the amount of chemicals surrounding the family was really important. Our carpenters also preferred working with it as it is smooth and easy to use while also providing an excellent rigidity to the frame.

"It's the first time I've used the products and I'd definitely use them again. We have a second phase build planned for next year where we will convert a 25 m pigsty into a kitchen and photography studio, so we'll be using SterlingOSB Zero again. SterlingOSB Zero has been used throughout the building for external and interior walls and roofs. It's really easy to work with, doesn't crumble and no splinters! The product was purchased from PGR in Maldon."

Along with its many practical attributes, the SterlingOSB Zero range has strong environmental credentials. 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 made from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation. SterlingOSB Zero is also believed to be the first OSB product to be made in the UK with zero added formaldehyde, ensuring an even 'greener' board that meets all standards with ease.

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921 ● Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com
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New software for SCM CNC machining centres



THERE are many new features related to SCM software and digital services, with particular reference to CNC machining centres, and they are part of a truly integrated ecosystem: the “Digital Integrated Woodworking Process”.

This is a collection of digital and integrated technologies — ie software and digital services — that interact to define what products are to be manufactured, as well as how and when they are to be

manufactured. Within this framework, SCM software and digital services can support customers at every stage of their process in creating furniture and the 2022 innovations concern all these stages.

Preparation: Maestro cnc

The first thing to do is prepare the information, data and programs for production. Design, CAD-CAM software and simulators can dramatically shorten time and reduce errors from the office to the machines.

According to Maestro’s software mission, SCM provides specific software to support customers in the design, optimisation and data generation for the machines in the shopfloor.

In the office, before production, the design and programming system Maestro cnc presents new updates and features. Maestro cnc is the CAD-CAM software for the design of the workpiece and it ensures that all the machining operations are quickly and easily programmed thanks to smart functions (app and macro libraries) built to program with just a mouse click. Another click away and CNC programs are automatically generated.

Maestro cnc offers large graphic previews of the workpiece with the machine operations, the machine and of the tools together with immediate functions which are able to be the most comfortable to use and produce the best results.

Also in evidence is Maestro

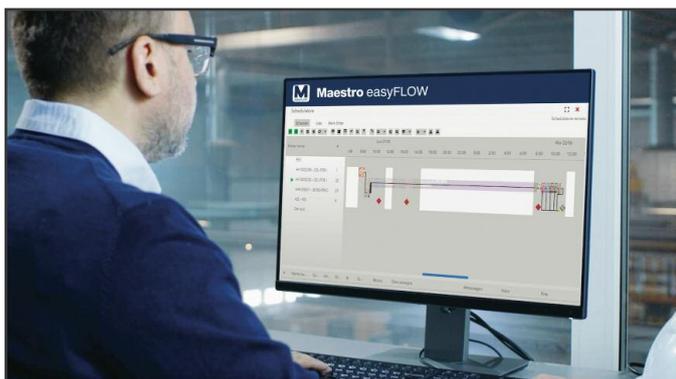
preview, the 3D simulator software that allows users the access to a three dimensional model of the machine in the office and to overview the operations that will be carried out during the production in advance on a PC.

Planning and optimisation

Once all production data have been defined, it’s time to optimise, schedule and plan the jobs and the production. Production scheduling and planning can be handled with dedicated software, the so-called MES (Manufacturing Execution System). On the other hand, optimisation has to do with incrementing processes such as cutting, drilling or routing.

● **Maestro easyFLOW** is the new-born plug&play MES software powered by SCM that ensures well-executed production plans, complete visibility and optimisation of production and processes across the enterprise.

Maestro easyFLOW is extremely simple to use and able to support even small businesses with





programming and production flow management as well as 4.0 interconnection.

● **Maestro power TMS** is the new software of the new Accord 500/600 CNC machining centres for solid wood machining. It further optimises and simplifies tool management. Thanks to this program that maximises the ability of the storage and optimises programming, there is no need for the operator to waste time and energy in looking for the most suitable tool: the software will identify and

indicate the tool's exact position in the storage thus minimising machining times.

Preparation: Maestro active cnc Smart manufacturing employs different technologies to make machines more and more intelligent, smart and interactive. In this concept, a smart factory has machines provided with HMI software facilitating the user experience and interaction with the machine.

Maestro active is the unified operator interface software for all SCM technologies, including CNC

machining centres. A single operator can easily and safely manage multiple machines at a time, thanks to the consistency maintained between all interfaces: regardless of the machine, Maestro active maintains the same look and feel, thus ensuring the same approach to interaction.

The new interface has been specifically designed and optimised for immediate use via touch screen. Graphics have been redesigned for simple and comfortable navigation, with tablet-like

icons on touch screen controller.

Productivity has been improved thanks to integrated help and recovery procedures that reduce the possibility of error from the operator's side.

Monitoring and servicing: Maestro connect

Once the production has been started and for the whole life cycle of the machine, Maestro connect Digital Service platform ensures machine status monitoring, maintenance optimisation, issue management, spare parts suggestions, smart learning as well as augmented reality service support with Smartech.

The Maestro connect IoT platform is linked to the new "My SCM" portal. This is a new service where customers and partners can open tickets for technical assistance and track the status of their requests. By tracking all support requests, SCM Service can manage the cases in an easier and more effective way, cutting off waiting times and providing faster solutions. The ticketing service is just one of the many services available on the portal and all customers and partners who have connected machines can enter the platform IoT Maestro Connect through it.

SCM Group
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www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/



James Latham launches cutting-edge digital surface specification platform

JAMES LATHAM, one of the UK's leading and most forward-thinking distributors of timber, panels and decorative surfaces, announces the launch of its powerful new online surfacing specification tool, the Digital Showroom Platform.

With the number of specifiers embracing online design solutions likely to grow over the next decade, James Latham, known for its market agility and pioneering sector innovation, decided to meet this demand directly by digitally enhancing the selection process.

This trend was recently evidenced in NBS' Digital Construction Report 2021, which found almost 70% of specifiers are now predominantly using digital tools for design tasks, particularly product selection.

Following two years of in-depth audience research and back-end development, Latham's Digital Showroom is directly responding to the architectural and design community's rapid move to online channels for material selection.

Significantly, the platform offers exploration, selection, sampling and direct engagement with Latham's expert design consultants, all in one location.

An Intuitive Journey to Selection

Latham's Digital Showroom takes the selection experience to the next level, offering the same experience of visiting a physical showroom, and more. Developed specifically for specifiers, it allows for maximum creativity, enabling users to mix and match almost any scheme, style or palette.

Furthermore, with access to hyper-realistic, interactive 3D models of over 1,400 of the dis-

tributor's surfaces and finishes it will take the user on an intuitive journey, to explore every surfacing possibility across a single, or multiple, projects.

Starting out, users will initially be greeted by a user-friendly selection process, broken down into three alternative paths:

1. Guided Search — refining products by intended use (eg kitchen worktop), type (eg laminate), colour and finish.

2. Visual Search — Users can scroll through a wide range of decors and then click to view a curated selection of products similar to the chosen theme.

3. Quick Find — Users can go straight in, building a custom search using a wide range of descriptor tags to hone down a specific product type or brand.

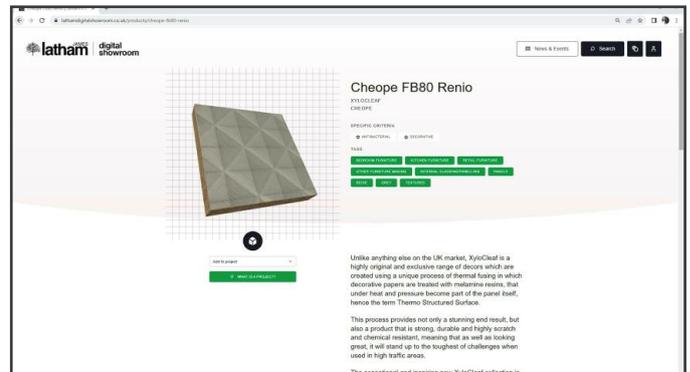
Once a preferred surface has been selected, the user is taken to a dedicated page where they can see the material, colour and finish expertly rendered, as mentioned above, in a realistic, interactive 3D animation. The selected product can be viewed from any angle, under a number of lighting conditions to get an authentic impression of texture or grain.

Most importantly, in an increasingly remote-working landscape, specifiers can do all this from any location, at a time which suits them, helping them meet the project brief through seamless, painless material selection.

In the evolving age of online specification, the Digital Showroom is bringing James Latham, and its extensive collection of premium surfacing brands as close to the architectural, design and fit-out community as possible.

Sampling Made Seamless

The intuitive and thematic selec-



tion process is only one aspect of the overall digital showroom experience. Now specifiers will be able to interact with the James Latham range like never before.

Significantly, they will be able to create a unique profile to access a dedicated hub where they can create inspirational mood boards, mixing and matching multiple styles and colours, until they find the right one for their project. These can then be saved and returned to at any time.

With the profile activated, specifiers will also be able to request samples of any selected material, delivered to their door within 48 hours of request, regardless of the time it was made.

Ultimate Phy-gital Engagement

Despite the wholesale move to digital, James Latham's market research found specifiers were still keen to receive a similar experience to the physical showroom in an online iteration.

As such, beyond the presentation of the distributor's decorative brand portfolio and its user-friendly sampling service, the Digital Showroom also offers a facility to directly engage with James Latham's dedicated team of surfacing consultants remotely.

Following sample ordering, users will have the opportunity to book a virtual meeting, with a showroom manager, with time slots designed to fit around the busiest schedule. Here specifiers can discuss the samples and their properties with an expert who can advise on the perfect choice, whatever the brief.

News, Knowledge and More

Adding further value to the experience, the Digital Showroom also offers regular updates on news and events as well as a com-

pendium of its entire bank of CPD seminars, covering all manner of surface design and specification topics.

The Digital Showroom complements James Latham's suite of powerful assets including its technical information hub, NBS Source integration, CPD seminars and Carbon Calculator, as well as its physical depots and showrooms.

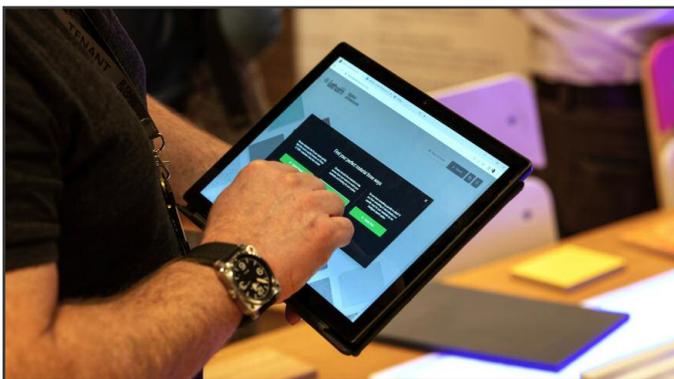
Commenting on this landmark new service, Andrew Wright, managing director at James Latham, says: "For over 260 years, we've prided ourselves on pioneering the very latest innovations to meet the requirements of our customers, enhancing their work and enabling them to deliver exceptional results. Part of this is continual engagement with our various audiences, understanding their unique challenges and how we can provide the solutions."

"Noticing a strong uptick in online specification since the Pandemic, and a more-dispersed multi-location client base, we responded immediately with an offering which would augment our physical showrooms, bringing a like-for-like experience direct to the specifier's location."

"The Digital Showroom delivers just that, allowing specifiers to explore our extensive range of premium surfaces with ease, at their convenience. Backed by our signature customer service and in-depth knowledge, once again we're proving why we're the UK's most agile and trusted surfacing distributor."

The new digital showroom is now live and available to experience, complemented by a concise video-tour on YouTube.

James Latham
www.lathamdigitalshowroom.co.uk



Appy days are here for Selco

SELCO Builders Warehouse has continued its digital expansion by launching a new app for its customers. Both Apple and Android versions are available and will provide customers at the leading builders merchant with another method to purchase products and materials.

The app is packed with a series of features to make life as convenient as possible for the tradesperson, both online and in branch.

Simon Humpage, Selco's head of multi-channel marketing, said: "We

want to provide as many options, and as much flexibility, to our customers as possible when it comes to purchasing materials and products.

"Click & Collect and Click & Deliver are available through the app and customers can access our materials calculator, project lists and other functions available through the website.

"We know how busy tradespeople are and this app will further allow them to save time by planning for their next job and making purchases through the click of a few buttons while they are on the go."

Login can be achieved using fingerprint and facial recognition and it automatically displays the nearest Selco branch, wherever the user is in the country.

Simon added: "We discontinued our previous app as it was overtaken by our new website but there are a series of functions in this app which will make life considerably easier for our customers.

"The recognition functions mean the worry of customers forgetting passwords to sign into their accounts via the app or the website is eliminated.

"The customer's Trade Card is also displayed in the app and they can simply scan the displayed barcode when making purchases in branch. It means the customer can always have their Trade Card in their pocket and not have to worry about carrying their card or remembering their account number, making shopping with Selco easier than ever."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

The screenshot displays three screens from the Selco app. The first screen shows the 'Walthamstow London' branch with a 'Show on map' button, contact details (T: 0208 501 8700, E: walthamstowsales@selcobw.com, Manager: John Smith), and an 'OPENING TIMES' section listing hours for Monday-Friday (6.30am-6pm), Saturday (7am-4pm), and Sunday (10am-4pm). The second screen shows 'YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH' as 'Walthamstow E4 8SU' with a 'More info' button, and lists other branches: Barking (4.1 miles), Wimbledon (4.1 miles), Kingston (8.4 miles), and Orpington (11.6 miles). The third screen displays the 'Your Trade Card No: 827682', a barcode, and the 'TRADE CARD' logo. A bottom banner reads 'WE'VE GOT IT!' with social media icons.

DESIGN & INNOVATION

Tryka performs perfectly at Swansea Arena

THE STRIKING Swansea Arena is a brand new £135 m music and theatre venue, operated by Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG). Set to attract some of the world's most famous music acts and much-loved theatre productions, the 3,500 capacity indoor arena will no doubt become a popular entertainment venue in the city.

The new arena is part of a large-scale development in the centre of Swansea, called Copr Bay. This will also offer new shops, restaurants, apartments and parkland. The area will be serviced by two new multi-storey car parks and a ground-breaking pedestrian bridge over Oystermouth Road. This is to improve connectivity between the city and the beach. Swansea Arena will also be home to 2,000 m² of exhibition space. This will have the capacity to host 2,500 people, with dining capabilities for up to 750 guests.

The design and architecture of the building are revolutionary, firmly putting the arena at the forefront of modern and future-proofed leisure and entertainment venues. Its stunning LED façade is particularly notable, making the venue instantly eye-catching and awe-inspiring. To achieve this, 97,000 LumiNode Pixel LEDs, from leading LED specialist Tryka, have been used on the façade. The LumiNode Pixel LED is a full-colour, 16-bit, RGBW solution, guaranteeing smooth dimming and optimising colour output for the most vivid image and video playback. For the Swansea Arena, the LumiNode has been made to measure to suit the specific needs of the

project, with pixel pitches ranging from 110 mm through to 435 mm, whilst the custom-moulded body is designed to suit a 30 mm aperture for a panelised installation, allowing ease of installation as well as any future maintenance or system upgrades.

The luminaire is manufactured from an IP68 sealed, injection-moulded clear body, with sprung ears for direct panel mounting to a 30 mm aperture. Pre-linked injection moulded cables link the LED nodes, available with custom LED pixel pitch, with a maximum of 128 pieces per string. Adding to its extensive list of features, the LumiNode Pixel LED offers an ultra light-weight design and compact dimensions that ensure a discreet installation.

When partnered with Artnet DMX to SPI control protocol, LumiNode allows complete control for decorative and architectural lighting and, if required, full image and video playback effects. This makes it perfect for architectural, entertainment, advertorial applications or more lighting effects, according to the company.

For Swansea Arena, the bespoke LumiNode luminaire arrangement is powered by 12 V Meanwell HLG power supplies and ARTNET control interfaces. They are housed in a custom-built, by Tryka, weather-proof enclosure. Other elements of the control system are from leading controls expert Pharos. This includes the Pharos VLC 1000+ for the façade, and the Pharos LPC and RIO D for landscape controls. The control system was programmed by Tryka.

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Award-winning Accoya pavilion in Belfast celebrates city's heritage

THE Built: East Pavilion project began life in 2017 as a design concept, put forward by OGU Architects and Donald McCrory Architects for The Belfast Flare competition.

The design contest, held by the Royal Society of Ulster Architects, offered £30,000 for a semi-permanent pop-up pavilion in east Belfast, with the judges asking for 'beautiful, intriguing and inspirational' proposals.

The East Pavilion entry took the top prize, and was praised for celebrating the rich industrial heritage of the city, including taking inspiration from the local history of the site by referencing waste shipbuilding timber.

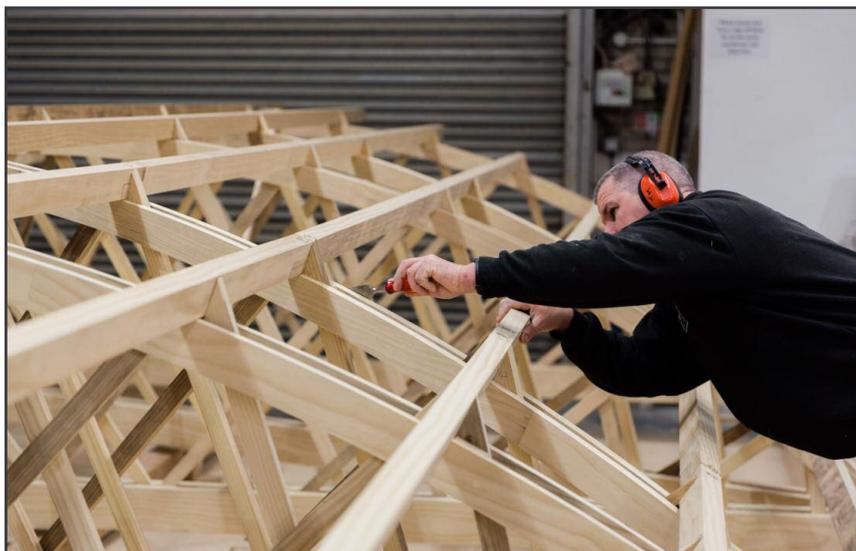
To bring their winning vision to life, OGU Architects and Donald McCrory Architects approached International Timber, a leading UK importer and distributor of bespoke, sustainable timber and panel products, and their sister company, merchants JP Corry — who were also sponsors of The Belfast Flare competition.

The pop-up pavilion was constructed from sustainable and versatile Accoya®, a highly reliable and durable timber that does not swell, shrink or distort, and can last in climate for more than 50 years. It also has unrivalled sustainability, with FSC® and Cradle to Cradle Gold™ certification.

International Timber supported with advice on sourcing the most practical sawn sections, working closely alongside the technical team at Accsys to maximise on the Accoya's properties.

The raw materials were then sent to JP Corry for onward delivery to a local joinery company, Big Picture Joinery, that machined and manufactured the structure.

Using the off-site approach, the structure of the pavilion was manufactured and tested in the factory, before moving to the site for assembly. Following completion, the project won many fans, including winning the



'Small Projects' category at the Wood Awards 2021.

David Hogg of International Timber said: "I'm so pleased with the outcome of this project, and that it has since been recognised at the Wood Awards for its unique design.

"A lot of hard work went into supporting the architects to select the most practical timber sections, balancing aesthetics and cost-effectiveness and the project went really smoothly."

Chris Upson, director at OGU Architects, said: "The design was our winning entry in a pavilion design competition run by the Royal Society of Ulster Architects and sponsored by JP Corry. The aim was to support design culture and emerging architecture practices in the city. It was fantastic to see our vision come to life, and the result is a striking architectural asset to Belfast that will be enjoyed by many for a long time to come."

International Timber
<https://internationaltimber.com>

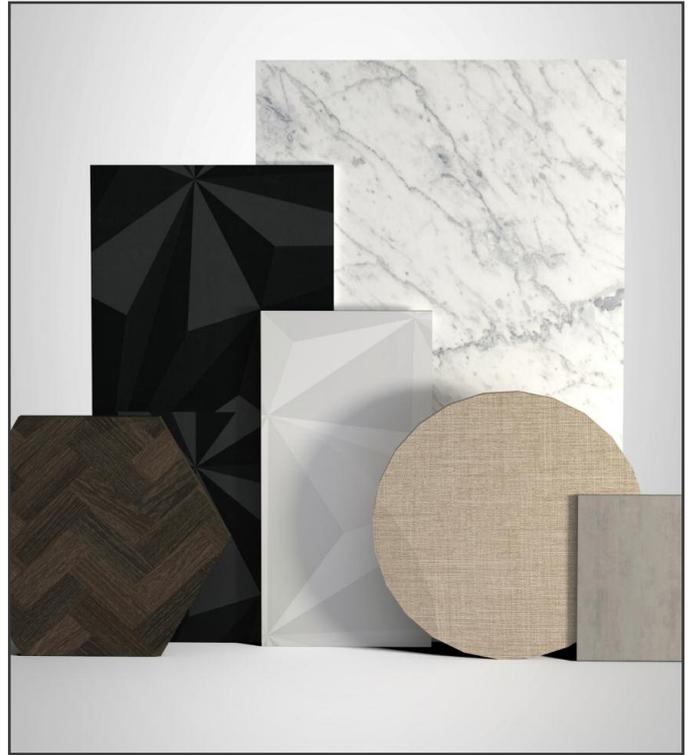
Fantasy Living with Decorative Panels Lamination

PART of the dp-decor range from Decorative Panels Lamination is the wonderful dp-fantasy collection. This range of surface finishes comprises an array of stylish papers foils perfect for a whole host of interiors.

Constant design innovation and trend analysis has resulted in a collection of designs that will inspire and enable manufacturers and specifiers in the challenge of an ever-changing marketplace.

The fantasy collection brings together realistic finishes that do not compromise on performance. From the geometric print of Trigolo in both black and white to the more subtle finishes of Hessian or Maxim White 3D.

There is a design for all styles. Greta CF82 is a classic herringbone de-



sign which is extremely on trend, flourishing from the recent demand for geometric prints. Oxide Concrete CF83 adds a cool industrial edge to any furniture piece or kitchen. From a more toned-down feel it can be paired with any of the pastel colours from Dust Pink CU35 to Fjord CU28.

For a statement look use Trigolo Black CF80 or Trigolo White CF81 on furniture fronts, why not use both to create a bold monochrome design. Marble Rocks CF85 is available through special order and will instantly elevate your design to create a luxurious finish without the cost of processing the real thing!

Hessian CF10 is perfect for many homeowners wanting to create a peaceful interior. Complimenting perfectly with muted greens to bring nature indoors.

When you add the vast range of substrates available in various widths and thicknesses, with foils available ex-stock, the dp-decor range becomes unrivalled in the industry.

Advancements in material technology within the printing industry has brought incredibly elevated levels of design realism to the finished product. Digital technology used in the creation of the artwork and the engraving of the printing cylinders plus the development of the optical lacquer technology, have contributed to not only the visual appeal of designs but also added tactile qualities that have previously not been available.

The surface resistance of paper foils has also increased with the majority now being able to meet FIRA 6250 and BS6222 severe use so they can be used in kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms on all but worktops.

Of course, one of the significant advantages of using paper foil as a surface material is that as well as being flat laminated to board it can be profile wrapped to provide fully matching parts so giving a perfect solution for framed doors, corner posts, pelmets, and any matching moulding requirements.

Decorative Panels Lamination is constantly developing the range of designs available to ensure that the collection reflects the latest trends within the market.

Get in touch today for samples of the dp-fantasy collection or any design within the dp-decor range.

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Kebony completes sustainable state-of-the-art waterfront pavilion



IN A DISPLAY of modern luxury, the Valle San Nicolás Clubhouse makes use of sustainably sourced Kebony wood to complete its spectacular Mexican lakeside vision. Located on the outskirts of Valle de Bravo, the Clubhouse has been expertly designed to celebrate its surroundings with a 360-degree vista of the adjacent lake and neighbouring mountains.

The Clubhouse is the result of a collaboration between Mexican architecture studio, Sordo Madaleno Arquitectos, and developers Grupo Terraforma. Situated only two hours away from Mexico City, the Valle San Nicolás Clubhouse is perfectly positioned to offer an escape into nature, complete with a sustainable conscience and focus on well-being.

Decked in Kebony timber, the sustainable development offers a magnificent wellbeing experience enhanced by an intimate connection to nature, as modern architectural style meets cutting-edge environmentally friendly building technology.

The 385-hectare develop- ▶

ment features a circular floor plan which is unique in design, drawing attention to the spectacular scenery, with the open layout allowing the sun to flood through the structure from dawn until dusk.

The site consists of an 800-metre water-ski lake and the showpiece Clubhouse pavilion, as panoramic views of the lake are framed by rolling hills.

Sordo Madaleno Arquitectos' emphasis on open corridors and exposed rooms allows for 360-degree views of the surrounding topography, including forests and mountain vistas, from almost every position of the Clubhouse's interior.

A central sunken passageway feature splits the Clubhouse into two wings, each of which are fitted with a vast range of relaxation, socialisation and wellbeing amenities, framing an internal body of water.

The west wing grants access to the gym, outdoor jacuzzi, spa cabins and steam room, whilst the east wing allows groups to unwind with the choice of a bar, kitchen, dining area, barbecue and firepit. A swimming lane and sunbathing area located on a pier extension also offer a serene experience which complements the outdoor scenery.

With two ringed walkways spanning its interior and exterior, the Clubhouse makes use of Kebony Character for the decking.

Developed in Norway, Kebony's pioneering wood-processing technology sees sustainably sourced softwoods heated with furfuryl alcohol, an agricultural by-product, modifying the wood to maintain the same properties of tropical hardwoods but without the same contribution to the carbon footprint.

Kebony wood is cost effective and a rich brown colour, making it a natural choice for this state-of-the-art pavilion which embraces the environment and places an importance on sustainability.

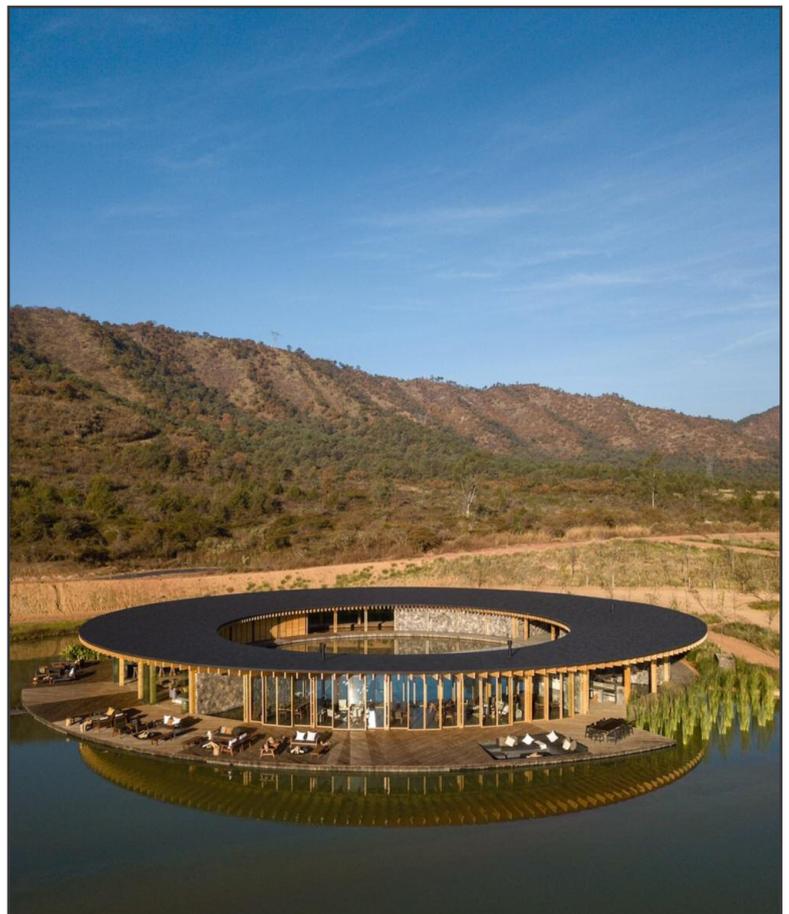
The Valle San Nicolás Clubhouse demonstrates an awareness of the every-growing demand for luxurious wellbeing experiences which are committed to sustainable construction and the protection of natural sites such as the local Mexican panorama.

Other finishing touches serve to complement the cross-laminated timber (CLT) structure, including volcanic stone and an American red oak roof.

Nina Landbø, international sales manager at Kebony, added: "The Valle San Nicolás development honours a strong commitment to sustainable construction with no compromise to the building's inspired aesthetic. The installation of Kebony with its natural earthy tones promises high durability and stability, requiring little maintenance, thus making it the perfect choice for an outdoor waterfront pavilion deck."

Images: Rafael Gamo

Kebony ● www.kebony.com



Life made simple with a Rotpunkt kitchen, designed by Zen Kuchen

ROTPUNKT, an award-winning manufacturer of climate-friendly German kitchen furniture, is the natural choice for luxury kitchen & bathroom design studio, Zen Kuchen, as it commissions the brand to furnish a luxury open-plan kitchen for the owner, Zen Bitri, in his contemporary townhouse in Cobham, Surrey.

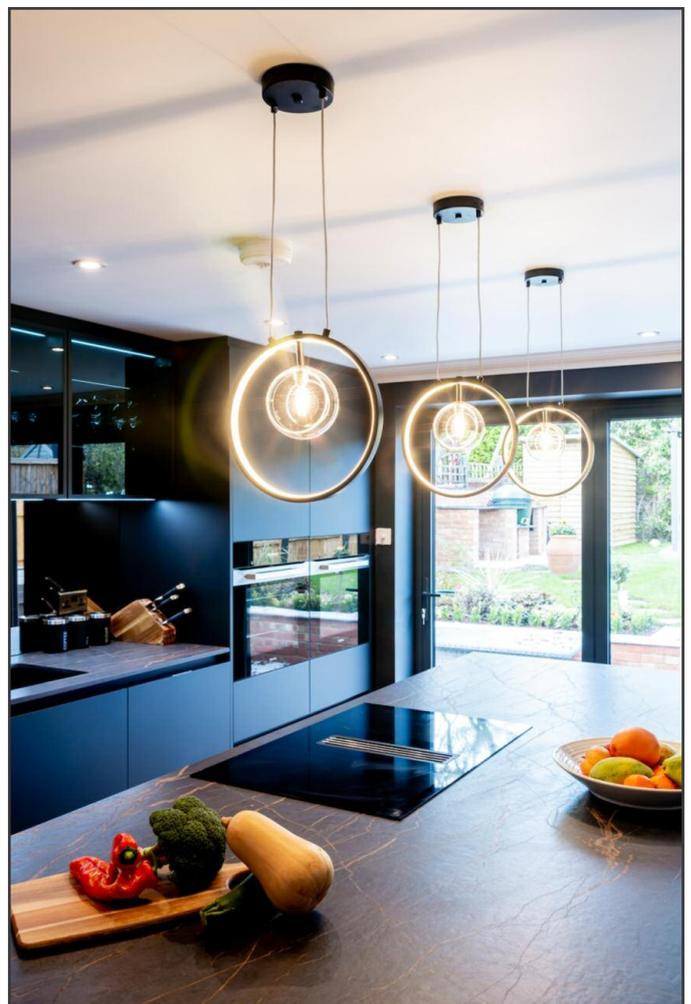
Helena Flahive, designer at Zen Kuchen, says, "This highly personal and welcoming kitchen dining space was created with Zen's passion for hospitality and love of modern art in mind. As a generous host who loves having a houseful of family and friends to entertain, we felt that Rotpunkt could supply statement contemporary furniture that would elevate the home dining experience and create a real sense of occasion. With this in mind, extra tall units provide maximum storage where there is a



minimal footprint in the cook zone, and stylish integrated light-

ing adds an extra layer of sophistication to enrich the 'going out at

home' feel. In fact, Zen has a love of technology and he was de-





lighted that the smart-ready LED lighting as standard by Rotpunkt, would allow easy control of the lighting to create the right mood for a casual supper or a special dinner party as required.

“As the owner of Zen Kuchen and known specialist when it comes to design and exclusivity, Zen is a true design connoisseur with an instinctive feel for colour and pattern. The recommendation of using intense black kitchen plays into this narrative, heightening the dramatic look and feel of the space, as well as creating the perfect background for Zen’s vivid artwork also on display.”

Rotpunkt specialises in creating life-enhancing kitchen furniture for the blended space, where customers can enjoy spending time cooking, relaxing and eating together as the desire for beautiful, functional hybrid spaces is set to continue this year. “According to Waitrose Food & Drink Report, six in ten of us are taking more pride in home cooking with 49% planning to go out less now that Covid restrictions have ended. This has also led to a greater awareness of sustainable design and manufacture, with many homeowners wanting to play their part in reducing carbon emissions and so we are delighted that our climate-friendly furniture solutions are able to answer this demand stylishly and sustainably,” says Matt Phillips, head of UK operations at Rotpunkt.

Combining the very best in industrial style and contemporary home comforts, the bestselling Zerox furniture range by Rotpunkt

forms the work area of this kitchen, allowing the space to become a lifestyle destination in the home. The wash zone also features a sleek black sink by Blanco and brass patinated Quooker hot water tap, which complements the bronze toughened mirror splashback and glass-fronted top units. Introducing an urban edge, the matt black furniture is complemented by a twin set of two Miele ovens. Each oven is set at an ergonomic height to the right of the sink area, which not only ensures direct access to the statement island but also provides a buffet-style dining element, with plush velvet bar stools. The studed door knockers bring an extra touch of luxury to this kitchen liv-

ing space, which also boasts a wine room and adjoining dining area able to seat up to 12 people in one sitting!

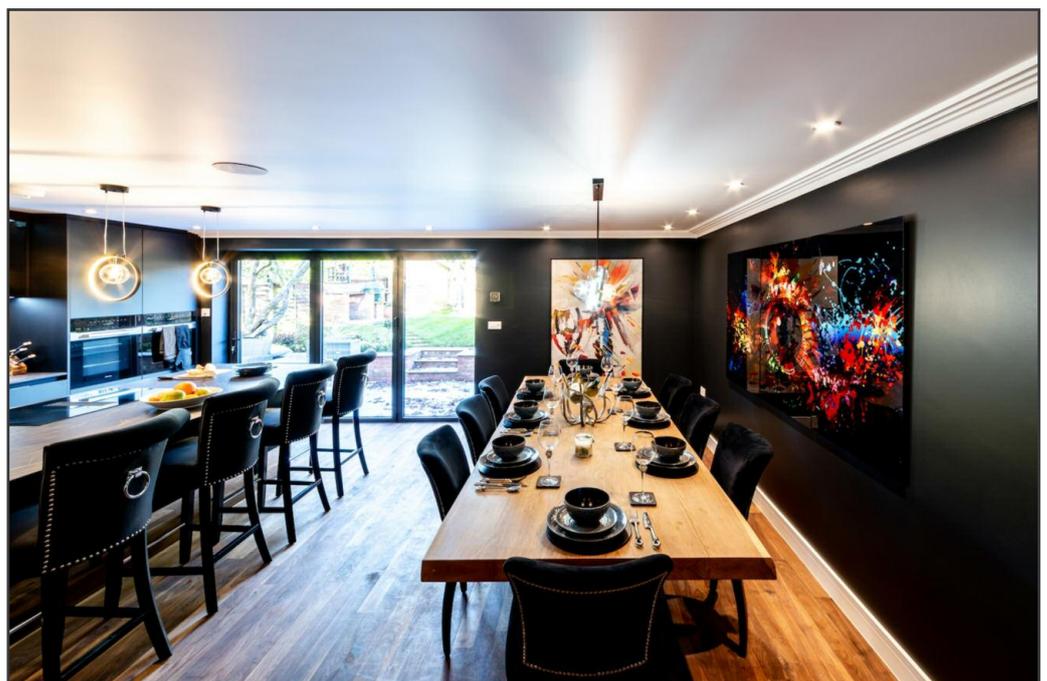
The floating-effect island is achieved through a reduced pedestal, which is discreetly positioned beneath the main island unit for a clean silhouette that is original and provides plenty of leg room when entertaining friends and family. A fully integrated Miele induction hob complete with downdraft extraction takes prime position and the surfaces in Dekton Laurent, offer subtle gold and copper tones for added depth against the matt black kitchen doors.

“By empowering homeowners and designers to explore er-

gonomic modular furniture, we are seeing a new era of bespoke kitchens coming to the fore, which are defined by personality and everyday life. Black remains a timeless design staple when creating sophisticated kitchen interiors with gravitas, and with the addition of our iconic high performance laminate finish, customers can enjoy a kitchen that is durable and high fashion,” adds Matt.

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International Timber supplies bespoke Accoya solution for Armadilla

INTERNATIONAL TIMBER recently teamed up with experiential accommodation constructor Armadilla to provide cladding for its brand-new product called the 'Wave', which was assembled on a customer's site near Fort William in the northwest of Scotland.

This new product required cladding timber measuring six metres in length, and which could be curved and bent to create an organic wave-like shape that gives the product its name.

The structure was composed of Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPS) which were designed to be attached to a rib structure which in turn supports the Accoya cladding.



The project was not without its challenges, with initial difficulties in sourcing timber of sufficient length and several failed attempts when joining sections to create sufficient length.

However, International Timber was able to overcome these problems with the use of Accoya. What's more, they contacted partner Accsys, who used its production facility in Belgium to create the bespoke six-metre lengths needed for the project.

Accoya was of particular interest to Armadilla, with its 50-year rot-free warranty and the huge sustainability benefits.

The project was completed in summer 2021 in time for the UK lifting of restrictions on travelling for holidays. Thanks to the boom in the staycation market over the last year, the five Waves built on the site have been almost fully booked since opening.

Archie Hunter, managing director from Armadilla, said: "The support we received from the entire team at International Timber Grangemouth was incredible and has enabled us to develop a world-leading product. The Waves now sit about 40 metres from the A82 near Ballachulish and have become a landmark on the road with traffic slowing to admire the Waves looking out over the sea loch."

Kevin Anderton, senior external sales at International Timber, said: "It was great to do business with Armadilla's who we have worked with for many years. The Wave is a great innovation from them, and we hope to provide Accoya for it for years to come. Accoya is a brilliantly flexible and versatile material which is great for the project."

International Timber
<https://internationaltimber.com/product/accoya/>

Try before you buy — with West Fraser!

WHEN PLANNING your job, whether a large-scale construction project or a small extension, it's important to source the perfect panel products.

West Fraser, formerly known as Norbord, manufactures some of the most recognisable and requested building panels in the UK. Always committed to supporting customers, the company now provides A5-size samples, individually wrapped in a cover containing product information. Customers can select from SterlingOSB Zero OSB3, SterlingOSB Zero T&G, CaberFloor P5, CaberDek, CaberShieldPlus or the full range of CaberWood MDF by visiting the West Fraser website.

The West Fraser website has designated pages for architects and housebuilders offering downloadable checklists, fact sheets, DOPs, safety datasheets and an interactive product guide to ensure that customers have everything they need to choose the right panels for their application. A selection of case studies showcasing West Fraser products and instruction videos provide inspiration and know-how!

So whether it's a solution for roofing, flooring, walling, timber frames, hoarding or shopfitting needed, the West Fraser website has the information and the wood-based panels for a perfect job.

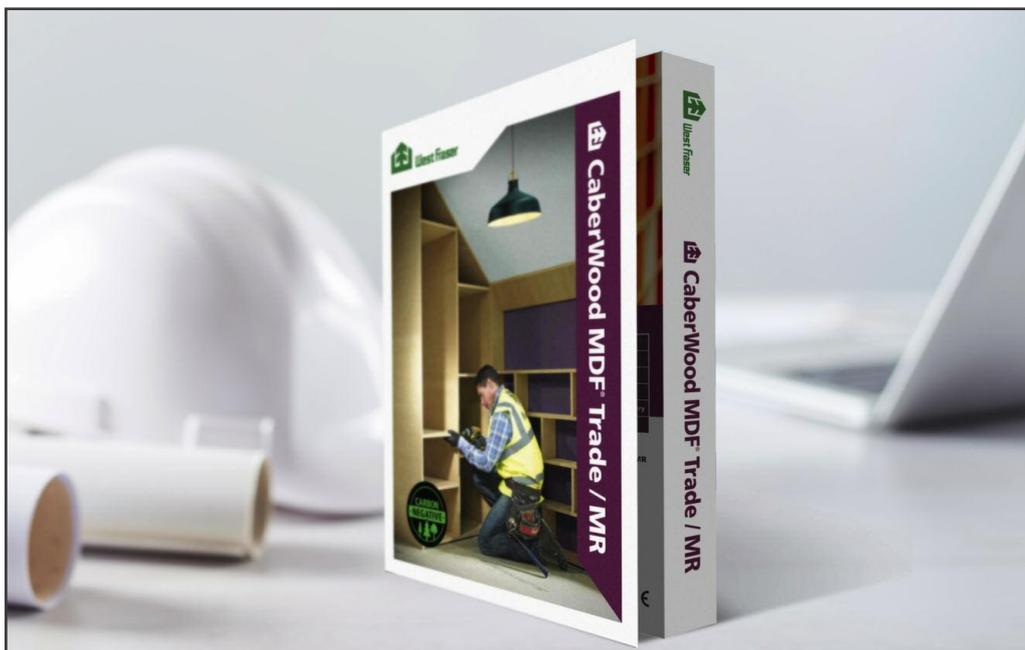
All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation.

Responsibly sourced, the panels are produced from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

West Fraser

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



It's easy to select the perfect panel for projects with West Fraser's range of free samples.

2022 bedroom trends from furniture specialist, BA

BA, ONE OF the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke and made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialist components reveals the latest furniture trends, which are set to influence the UK bedroom and wardrobe market in 2022-23.

Nuala Brady, group marketing manager at BA, says: "Given how lifestyles have changes in the last

two years, flexible design solutions have really come into their own, becoming a great way to add value in the bedroom and cater to the virtues of hybrid living as more people work from home. As dedicated office space is now a real consideration, 2022 bedroom trends are placing an emphasis on multilateral design schemes that are tailored to both the space and individual.



"If we consider the past two years alone, then the bedroom has become 'all things to all people' and key areas of focus will prioritise well-considered door design and furniture suites, which capitalise on every inch of available storage space."

BA offers the following advice:

Doors: Enhanced by a range of accessories and interior options, BA is finding that sliding doors remain the front-runners in the lifestyle bedroom thanks to their space saving qualities. Where a hinged pocket-style door requires

enough space to swing open, sliding doors operate sideways and this makes them an ideal solution in the compact bedroom, guest room and more recently, home office. Bi-fold doors are just as practical, regarded in the bedroom as a low maintenance solution that provides easy access to the full width of a cupboard with half the floor space: especially when compared to a hinged door arrangement.

Style: The love for contemporary and traditional bedrooms continues in equal measure, how-





ever BA is seeing new appetite for the blended space, which is taking elements from both interior styles to create one complete look. For instance, the slab door usually associated with contemporary bedroom schemes is now being paired with classic wood finishes and decorative hardware and this is helping to bridge the gap between old and new. More recently, BA is noting a desire for opposing furniture styles in the same scheme where different doors like slab and in-frame are now coming together to create a bedroom that is designed for all.

Colours & Finishes:

The neutral colour palette remains a timeless choice in the bedroom with core classics such as white, light grey and blonde woods being paired with subtle pastel shades like blush pink and denim blue. Different surface treatments are also making a feature of the wardrobe door, adding new levels of design and dura-

bility in the bedroom with ultra gloss and matt finishes becoming the most popular in more contemporary décors for adding personality and visual depth.

Layout: With many wardrobes occupying the majority of space in the bedroom, BA is finding that combination furniture designs

that accommodate ‘his and her’ storage is on the rise, and this is welcoming innovative interior solutions to help keep customers organised behind the door. Full-height wardrobes are therefore dominating the bedroom market, with the addition of both single and double hanging space

helping to cater to all types of clothing, from shirts and jackets through to evening dresses and winter coats that require the full height of a wardrobe.

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Woven Image introduces Pico, a new facet to its Embossed Series

WOVEN IMAGE once again proves itself at the forefront of cutting-edge design with its Embossed Series, a collection of acoustic wall panels. The panels embrace the trend towards more tactile surfaces and three-dimensional textures, underscored with sustainable practices. The collection consists of Zen, Ion, Gem and now Pico, all designed to reduce reverberated noise to deliver acoustic comfort, these wall panels are considered ideal for floor-to-ceiling applications, and pattern match from panel to panel.

Woven Image's products take acoustic panels to new levels of originality and creativity. While many acoustic panels might look utilitarian, Woven Images designs don't sacrifice aesthetics at the expense of functionality, which is why this collection has won numerous accolades including the Dezeen awards where it was recognised in the Workplace Design of The Year category and the FX Award in the 'Surfaces' category.

New for 2022 is **Pico**. Echoing Zen, it is influenced by the strong architectural trend for vertical line work. Its smaller scale design is



considered a perfect addition to the multi award-winning embossed acoustic panel collection that brings a sense of calm and wellbeing to commercial interior spaces. Pico is available in 20 beautiful colourways, including on-trend shades of sage, olive,

vanilla and orchid. Manufactured using solar energy and made with recycled PET from plastic bottles, Pico also delivers the environmental credentials which have become synonymous with Woven Image.

Introduced in 2021, **Gem** is reminiscent of expanded mesh with

offset diamond-like shapes creating a lattice impression across its surface. Like the other panels, reducing reverberated noise in shared spaces is key. Sustainability is at the forefront of the design, with the manufacturing process at least 60% recycled content and utilising green energy.

Ion is a multifaceted textured acoustic panel that nods to the craft of origami, the striking asymmetrical crystalline design is inspired by the geometric shapes created by the folds in paper. Despite the intricacy of design, the embossed acoustic wall panels pattern match, and is precision trimmed for an almost seamless wall application.

Taking influence from the lines and grooves of a Japanese Zen Garden, the 3D **Zen** surface finish interweaves design innovation with commercial performance. Like the other finishes, the sustainability aspect is one to watch.

Woven Image

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Designer & lifestyle blogger completes renovation of chalet-style cabin on Minnesota lake

HIDDEN AWAY in one of Minnesota's many lakeside forests, the Minne Stuga House is surrounded by local pine and cedar trees with secluded waterfront access. Clad in sustainably sourced Kebony wood, the cabin's sharp lines, tight peaks, and sweeping roof are a dramatic addition to the forest landscape, with the wooden features and earthy tones providing a natural appearance.

Originally built in the 1970s, the A-frame cabin was renovated by Minneapolis-based designer and lifestyle blogger Melissa Coleman — The Faux Martha — alongside her husband Kevin, a child psychologist. Renovation of the cabin was undertaken by Grand Marais-based Taiga Design+Build, who helped maintain the cabin's timeless feel, retaining 90 per cent of the original structure.

Where the original cedar siding was rotting, Taiga replaced it with Kebony, a global leader in the production of sustainable wood. The Norwegian company uses a patented technique to turn sustainably sourced softwoods into environmentally friendly Kebony wood, with hardwood-like qualities such as high durability and dimensional stability. Kebony takes on a rich brown colour that has helped preserve the original aesthetic, keeping the cabin in close harmony with the surrounding landscape. Kebony also requires very little upkeep, futureproofing the retreat for the next generation.

Within the house, the interior is lined with the original, fifty-year-old western red cedar panelling, bringing the character of the forest into the home, which it marries with a radiant, welcoming warmth. Roof & Board was tapped for interior furniture, and the original roof was replaced by Taiga, adding structural insulated panels for heat and energy efficiency. Awaken Skylights were integrated to provide extra natural light, completing the cabin's 21st century transformation. With its rustic Kebony-clad exterior and



homely interior, the cabin is a cosy sanctuary during Minnesota's cold winters, where it averages 12 inches of snowfall in January.

The Minne Stuga House now opens out on to a gorgeous decking area, which was built with Kebony wood and furnished with Loll Designs. From the decking it is a short path through the trees to the shore of Devil Track Lake, where guests can fish, kayak or have a quick dip. As spring turns to summer, the cabin bathes in natural light and the lakeshores become the perfect warm retreat.

When asked why Kebony was selected for the project, Taiga Design+Build principal Anton Moody explained: "I turned the Colemans on to Kebony, which performs better over time than cedar. It's ageing and weathering nicely."

Images: Kristian Alveo

Kebony

www.kebonywood.com

Daval custom-made Mayfair & Finsbury kitchen, bar & laundry

AWARD-winning British designer and manufacturer of custom fitted furniture, Daval, sensitively fuse the very best in traditional style with contemporary living at The Quarry House, a unique renovation in rural West Yorkshire.

The combination of the ultra-luxe Mayfair furniture in supermatt Charcoal finish alongside Finsbury, in opposing Silver and Frost White gives a truly architectural finish to the ground floor while ensuring the newly fitted kitchen, bar and laundry room, is in-keeping with the rest of the property. James Bodsworth, design director at Daval, says: "It was an absolute delight to work with our clients on The Quarry House, a stunning detached house which has been lovingly restored and extended, complete with bespoke Daval furniture. The property is nestled in expansive grounds by the side of a working quarry and enjoys panoramic views of the Yorkshire countryside. Built using iconic Yorkshire stone from the quarry itself, the house blends heritage style and modern country."

The design brief was for a bright, modern yet timeless kitchen that was spacious and functional. The clients wanted it to flow effortlessly into the sitting area, which is slightly elevated to enjoy the beautiful views.



A large, functional granite-topped island was at the top of the wish list for entertaining family and friends informally and the Daval design team also needed to incorporate a mint green Aga as a main feature, alongside a conventional oven, induction hob and an integrated larder cupboard for ample storage.

James continues, "On our first site visit, we noticed that there was a long and narrow corridor connecting the kitchen to the sunroom and suggested that incorporating a bespoke home bar with an integrated wine cooler and bottle storage would bring the space to life, giving it a specific purpose."

"We finished the back wall of the bar with an antique brass effect mirror that runs the length of the cabinetry and makes the space look and feel much larger than it actually is, which is a great design trick to trick the eye and add a luxe element."

Simon Bodsworth, managing director at Daval adds, "We are always keen to bring our signature quality and service to residential projects so that we can create made-to-measure, made-to-order furniture which suits everyday life. This is particularly helpful for character properties and conversions as there is no such thing as a standard size or shape and it is so important to complement the existing architectural structure."

With this year's trend for refined country living and extra texture in the kitchen, the combination of Finsbury and Mayfair furniture by Daval brings a fresh, modern dynamic to the Quarry House.

Storage is a key consideration in a blended living space and personalised solutions are big news this year, with a strong emphasis on high-function larders which keep your essentials in an easy-to-access location.

The open-plan feel of The Quarry House is enhanced with handleless runs of units for clean lines in high-traffic areas and brass industrial-style handles on the island unit, the bar cupboards and the laundry zone bring an individual edge.

As wellness and hygiene are growing trends in the busy kitchen living space, the Finsbury overhead units in Silver are an ideal choice as they feature the company's award-winning anti-bacterial finish, boosting cleanliness and adding visual depth to the grey and white scheme.



Daval Furniture
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