

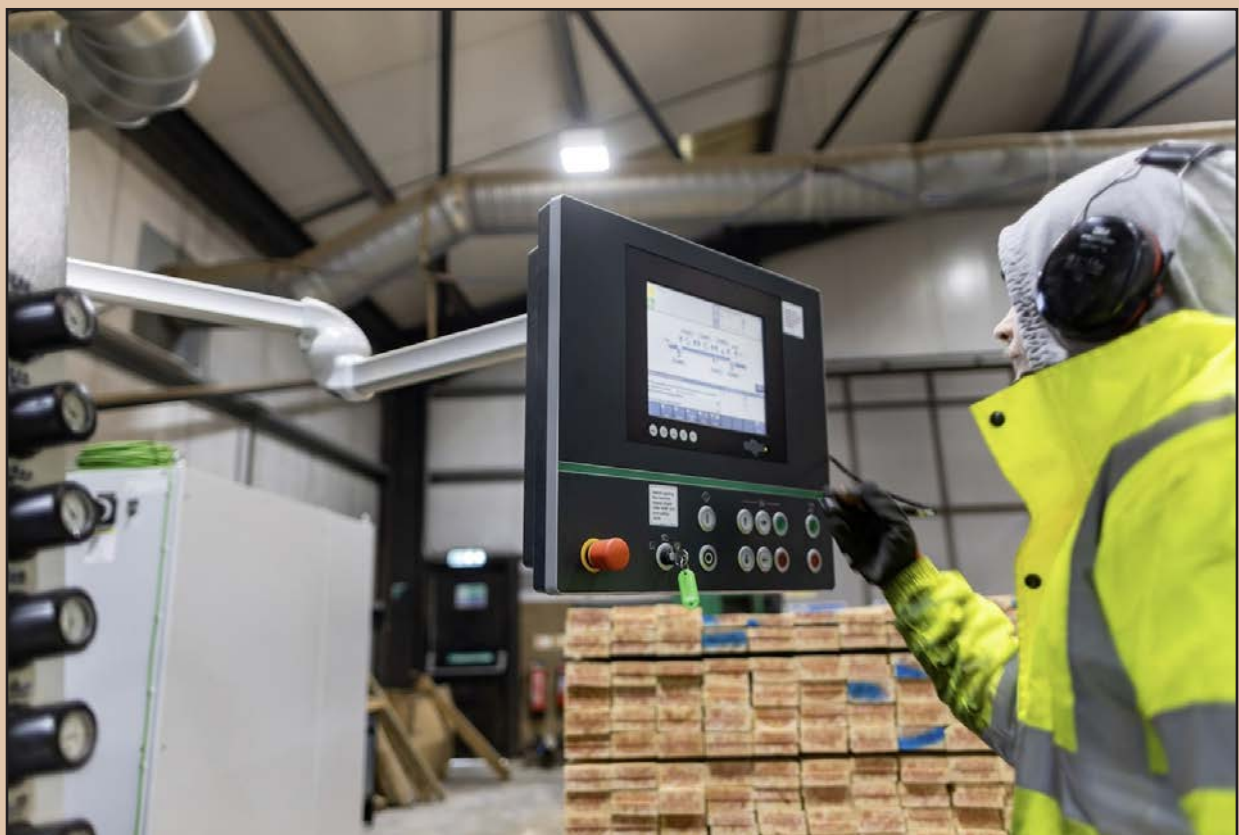
PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 183/184

August/September 2023

Premier Forest Products invests in moulding equipment from Weinig

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Don't be prickly when it comes to hedgehog safety

A LEADING builders merchant has thrown its weight behind the 'Hedgehog Highways' campaign after introducing a new product designed to help boost numbers of the small, native mammals.

Hedgehogs can travel up to 2 km a night in their search for food, shelter and mates but their journeys are often impeded by buildings, walls and fences. Restrictions in their ability to roam is one of the leading causes of recent hedgehog decline.

Selco Builders Warehouse is playing its part in helping to secure the future of the UK's hedgehogs by stocking Supreme Pro Hedgehog Hole Gravel Boards across its 75 stores for the first time, and the product is also available online. The gravel boards act as a barrier between fence panels and damp ground but feature a 13 cm access hole to allow hedgehogs to safely pass through and travel freely in and out of neighbouring gardens and green spaces, which is vital for their long-term survival.



Many neighbourhoods across the UK are creating 'Hedgehog Highways' to allow the animals to travel from garden-to-garden.

Carine Jessamine, Selco Builders Warehouse marketing director, said: "We are delighted to be offering homeowners around the UK the chance to make their outdoor spaces more wildlife friendly by stocking the hedgehog gravel boards. Hedgehogs need large areas of uninterrupted land to thrive and 'Hedgehog Highways' allow them that freedom to roam. Currently at least 19,000 'Hedgehog Highways' have been created across the UK and it would be fantastic to see that number rise significantly.

"We will certainly be encouraging our customers — the professional tradesperson — to install these products when carrying out garden renovations for their clients."

Hedgehogs have experienced a dramatic decline in recent years and are thought to have declined by up to 75% in rural areas since 2000 (State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2022). In 2020 they were listed as vulnerable to extinction on the Red List for Britain's Mammals.

Grace Johnson, Hedgehog Officer for Hedgehog Street (a nationwide campaign by People's Trust of Endangered Species and The British Hedgehog Preservation Society), is delighted to see the new addition to Selco's range. Grace said: "One of the key threats facing British hedgehogs is habitat fragmentation with buildings, walls and fences limiting their nightly movement and isolating populations. Creating Hedgehog Highways and offering hedgehog friendly gravel boards are a fantastic, and easy-to-install solution to this problem, providing the access that hedgehogs so desperately need. We are delighted to see Selco Builders Warehouse acting responsibly and adding these products to their range. We hope more retailers will follow suit and we can extend the number of Hedgehog Highways across the UK."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com
www.hedgehogstreet.org

From Norbord to West Fraser

THE official name change, from Norbord Europe Limited to West Fraser Europe Limited, has been announced (3 July 2023).

The European engineered panel specialist has been known as West Fraser for the past three years; and contact and registered office details remain the same.

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



West Fraser

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West Fraser supports Aviemore Ice Rink with donation

INVERNESS based West Fraser has donated 100 SterlingOSB Zero boards to support Aviemore Ice Rink. This donation will allow the facility to be transformed into an events space for families to enjoy during the summer.

The Aviemore Ice Rink team will use the boards to help cover the ice rink and protect it from the warmer weather.

The boards were also used to support the recent Cairngorms Cycle Festival, which aimed to encourage families in the community to safely enjoy biking on the off-road trails in the area.

Amanda Clinton, manager at Aviemore Ice Rink, said: "Thanks to the kind team at West Fraser, we are now able to create a fantastic space for families to relax and enjoy over the summer break. We're also looking to try and set up an off ice curling lane to attract more people to enjoy ice-themed activities outdoors.

"Our community charity team are hugely excited to be able to continue using the boards for future events and occasions, so we know this donation will go the extra mile to help the local community as well."

Stuart Hendry, General Manager at West Fraser's Inverness mill, said: "We are always happy to support the local community, so we were thrilled to be able to provide our SterlingOSB Zero boards to the team at the Aviemore Ice Rink. By working closely with the team at the site, we were able to provide a perfect solution that can be easily placed and removed from the Ice Rink, to be used as an easy to place and remove surface that could create the perfect event space."

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

Selby Town building for the future with Selco

Selby Town have launched their new football season by agreeing a partnership with one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Selco Builders Warehouse will be supporting the club for the 2023-24 campaign when the first team will play at step six of the non-League pyramid in the Northern Counties East League Division One.

Selco will be providing the club with free materials for planned improvements to the Fairfax Plant Hire Stadium — with others given at a heavily discounted rate — and will receive advertising and promotional opportunities in return.

Selby chairman Steve McGarrity said: "We are extremely grateful to Selco for their support and delighted to have entered into a partnership.

"Selco is a huge brand in the builders merchant sector with a nationwide presence so it's a real boost for the club to have the company's support.

"We have ambitious plans for Selby Town on and off the pitch. We are keen to try and challenge for promotion this season and we are looking to improve all the infrastructure at the stadium. We've already converted the clubhouse into a sports bar called The Final Whistle and we are working through different projects including new changing rooms and new roofing.

"There is a lot to be done but the support of Selco is going to make a real difference to what we can achieve over the coming weeks, months and years."

As well as the first team, Selby Town also have a growing junior section and plans are underway to set up a women's team.

Selco has a branch on Osbalwick Link Road in York and two further branches in Leeds on Elland Road and in Roundhay.

Chris Lowry, manager of Selco Leeds Elland Road, said: "Selby Town are a football club at the heart of their community and we are delighted to be lending our support to their exciting plans.

"Non-League football clubs are an integral part of the mix of any sporting community and Selby Town clearly have ambition to move on to bigger and better things.

"We are excited to be playing a small part in helping the club achieve the success they are aiming for."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Chris Lowry (branch manager of Selco Leeds Elland Road) and Steve McGarrity, Selby Town chairman.

IBMG expands with two acquisitions

INDEPENDENT Builders Merchant Group (IBMG), the largest independent merchant group in the South of England, has acquired Roofing Gear, expanding its specialist roofing division by a further three branches and adding another £6 million turnover to the Group.

Established 19 years ago, Roofing Gear has three strategically located branches in Yeovil, Dorchester and Poole providing a comprehensive range of roofing products, insulation and associated materials.

This latest acquisition provides IBMG's roofing division with further geographic coverage, increased product extension and a strong platform for further growth. Culturally both companies share a common vision, an independent ethos and a commitment to providing exceptional customer service.

The roofing merchant will continue to trade as Roofing Gear. Jeremy Gear will remain in the business and work with Danny Spokes, managing director for IBMG's Roofing Division, to ensure the business' successful integration into the Group.

Jeremy Gear, MD, Roofing Gear said: "This is a great next step for us. IBMG is the perfect custodian for Roofing Gear and this acquisition opens up an exciting new chapter for us all.

"Roofing Gear has come a long way since it was first established in 2004, and now as an IBMG-owned merchant I am confident it will flourish even further. It has an amazing team of 11; a very loyal customer base, and our mission statement from day one — to provide our customers with the most comprehensive service a roofing merchant can offer — hasn't changed.

"I look forward to working with Danny to ensure our successful integration into the Group."

Martin Stables, CEO of IBMG said: "The backbone of IBMG is that we do not alter 'the DNA' of our acquisitions, we simply add our 'IBMG magic' to it — by sharing best practice from our entrepreneurial teams, adding top level professional support, and providing world-class systems and infrastructure to ensure exceptional service and products for customers at every branch.

"As a result, IBMG has become the custodian of choice for merchants looking to the next stage of their development. This is particularly true for merchants like Roofing Gear — a merchant that has built a strong reputation and wants its legacy to continue and prosper."

Roofing Gear was founded in 2004 by Jeremy Gear. The business's first branch was in Yeovil, followed by branches in Dorchester and Poole. In 2020 Jeremy was also appointed chairman of the Builders Merchants Federation's (BMF) Roofing Forum.



Left, Danny Spokes, managing director for IBMG's Roofing Division and right, Jeremy Gear, managing director of Roofing Gear.

● **THE INDEPENDENT Builders Merchant Group (IBMG), the largest owner of independent merchants in the South of England, has acquired Sussex's MS Roofing Supplies (MSR).**

Established in 2003, MSR is a local independent roofing merchant in the South East and provides a comprehensive range of products for both pitched and flat roofs from its five locations in Brighton, Chichester, Crawley, Portslade and Worthing.

MSR's highly complementary branch network and product range provide IBMG's roofing division with further geographic expansion, product extension and a strong platform for further growth. Culturally, both companies share a common vision, independent ethos and commitment to providing the highest standards of customer service.

This partnership secures the right custodian for the business — one with a shared vision and values. Tony Siriano, Managing Director of MS Roofing Supplies will be stepping away from the business to enjoy a well-deserved break.

Tony Siriano, Managing Director of MS Roofing Supplies commented, "It has been a great honour to lead the employees of MS Roofing Supplies through the years, and having made the decision to step away from the business, it seemed logical to find a partner who would ensure MS

Roofing Supplies fulfils its potential. I believe the partnership with IBMG will achieve this. I am confident that this acquisition will provide an excellent home for both our customers and our people who will thrive within a highly respected, independent roofing and builders merchant focused on excellent customer service."

Martin Stables, CEO, IBMG, said: "Making selected acquisitions to enhance our current offering and increase IBMG's geographic reach is part of our strategic plan. The Group will continue to look for more opportunities to complement our existing business and bring our differentiated and comprehensive offering to current and new customers."

Independent Builders Merchant Group (IBMG)

www.independentbm.com



MS Roofing Supplies has been acquired by the Independent Builders Merchant Group (IBMG).

Future tradespeople receive Selco materials support

THE NEXT GENERATION of trade and construction workers across Bournemouth and Poole have been given a helping hand towards their future careers from one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Selco Builders Warehouse has supplied a vast range of building materials to Bournemouth & Poole College, which has more than 1,000 students and apprentices on its construction and building services courses.

Selco, which has a branch on Fleets Corner Business Park on Waterloo Road in Poole, also sponsored the Most Improved Student accolade at the recent Construction Skills Awards held by the college. The award was won by Max Williams, a 17-year-old from Bournemouth who is currently working towards a Level 1 Diploma in Carpentry & Joinery. Max is pictured here with Selco Poole deputy branch manager Jon Harris.

Des Rands, Director of Learning for Construction Skills, Building Services and Built Environment at Bournemouth & Poole College, said: "We have a very comprehensive and popular trade and construction offering and it's vital that we have strong relationships with local building materials suppliers such as Selco. They have been fantastic in their support in providing us with materials which are crucial for our day-to-day work with the students and developing their skills in a variety of different trades. In addition, their support for our awards event was superb and another example of the close relationship we have built and are looking to continue."

Amongst the courses offered at the college are bricklaying, plumbing, plastering, electrical, wood occupation, gas renewal certification, and the HNC in the built environment.

Selco Poole branch manager Nathan Cross said: "Supporting the tradespeople of the future is an important part of our commitment of giving back to the local communi-

ties in which we operate. Bournemouth & Poole College do a fantastic job in providing the foundations for the future careers of hundreds of tradespeople every year who will ultimately go on to work in the local economy. We are delighted to be supporting the college in that mission and look forward to a long and successful relationship."

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Customer loyalty rewarded with a brand-new Mercedes van

FOLLOWING the popularity of the West Fraser Rewards promotion during 2022, this year's programme saw the UK's largest wood panel manufacturer give away not one, but two, Mercedes vans. The lucky winner of the first of the vans has been presented with the keys to his brand-new vehicle. Neil Harding of Neil Harding Loft Ladders

entered the promotion after buying West Fraser boards at the Horsham branch of Jewson. On hand to make the presentation was and Dan Andrews, Key Account Manager at West Fraser.

Neil Harding Loft Ladders has been supplying and fitting loft ladders and insulating and boarding attics for over 20 years in the Surrey, Kent and Sussex areas. "We always use West Fraser's P5 when boarding out lofts and CaberMDF to create hatches. The products are always reliable and easy to work with. I'm really pleased to have won the van. Jamie at Jewson suggested I have a go at entering the competition; it was easy to log on to the website and enter".

The West Fraser Rewards promotion also benefited the participating builders' merchants. James Westbrook, Jewson Sales Manager explained "The promotion was a success for our business unit. We had great customer uptake which allowed us to interact even more with our customers. We have a good relationship with the West Fraser team and receive great support from them, so we were pleased to be able to participate in the promotion".

It wasn't just Jewson's customers that were rewarded by the promotion. As Jamie Woolford, customer service supervisor at Jewson, Horsham, said, "Every time one of our customers won, the branch received a £100 Just Eat voucher which enabled us to get the team together".

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812 921

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



Pictured: Neil Harding and his colleagues with the new Mercedes van.



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Introducing the all-new AXYZ WOODWORKER CNC Router



The all-new **AXYZ WOODWORKER** is a powerful all-in-one woodworking CNC solution, designed for fast and effortless, high-volume cabinetry and furniture production.

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Sailing charity making waves

A CHARITY which offers sailing opportunities for disabled people across Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and north London has begun its 2023 season — with a helping hand from a leading builders merchant.

Colne Valley Special Sailors (CVSS) hosts activities around sailing or katanuung on Bury Lake in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, for people of all ages with various disabilities.

The charity's floating pontoons required new decking to start the 2023 season, and the Hemel Hempstead branch of Selco Builders Warehouse stepped forward to provide the product. The installation work was carried out by Home Counties Loft Ladders, whose Operations Director Jaime Ridley has been volunteering with CVSS for 10 years. More than 500 people a year used CVSS before the Covid pandemic and, while numbers dipped slightly last year, it is hoped there will be a return to a similar figure in 2023.

Mike Marcus, chairman of CVSS, said: "We are hugely grateful to Selco for the donation of decking to enable us to replace our floating pontoons and continue our activity to the same level this year.

"We survive entirely on the help and goodwill of volunteers so donations such as the one Selco has made, along with the work that Jaime and Home Counties Loft Ladders have carried out, makes a world of difference to us. We set up in 2001 to make sailing as accessible to as many people as possible and we have grown from there. Our motto is that if we have people who want to sail, we will come up with a way of making that happen."

Selco's Hemel Hempstead branch is based in May-

lands Avenue and is one of 75 branches the company has across the UK.

Mark Upton, branch manager of Selco Hemel Hempstead, said: "The Colne Valley Special Sailors is a unique charity which does wonderful work across Hertfordshire and beyond. Getting people with additional needs out on the lake in a safe and enjoyable way provides a huge thrill and we were delighted to lend our support by allowing the charity to continue to grow and thrive."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



From left, Jaime Ridley (Home Counties Loft Ladders), Mark Upton (branch manager of Selco Hemel Hempstead) and Mike Marcus (chair of CVSS).

West Fraser supports family fun with Plean's Voice Community Trust

West Fraser, the UK's leading wood panel manufacturer, based in Cowie, Scotland, has shown its support for a local community group in Plean with a £500 donation. The volunteer-led Plean's Voice Com-

munity Trust supports the economic and social regeneration of the former coal mining town of Plean and its surrounding villages and used the funds to organise its first ever family fun day. With activ-

ities such as a bouncy castle, face painter, assault course and visits from the local police and fire brigade, several hundred visitors enjoyed a memorable family day out.

David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser, said: "We are always thrilled to support local groups in our community, so we were more than happy to help Plean's Voice host their first ever summer event. So many members of the community attended the event on the day and it was great to see everyone get together to celebrate both the local area and the fantastic hard work that the charity volunteers put into making the day a massive success."

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812 921

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



David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser, with the volunteers at Plean's Voice Community Trust.

A powerful new circular saw from Makita

MAKITA has added to its range of cordless circular saws with the launch of the HS012G 40VMax XGT Brushless 165mm Circular Saw. The lightweight and powerful tool is the latest addition to the Makita XGT range, which delivers the performance and run-times that professionals require.

The launch of the HS012G Circular Saw adds a new, compact option to the Makita range of saws as the first 165 mm model in the XGT range. The combination of 40VMax XGT power and an energy efficient brushless motor means it achieves a maximum output of 1300 watts — nearly twice that of the equivalent 18 V saw — and a no load speed of 5,200 rpm.

It also features constant speed control to maintain consistent blade speed under load for improved cutting performance.

The HS012G has a bevel range of up to 50°, with positive stops at 22.5° and 45° to make it easy to select these commonly used bevel angles. It achieves a maximum cutting depth of 57 mm at 0° and 41 mm at 45°.

To ensure user safety, the HS012G has an electric break to quickly slow the blade and an anti-restart function to prevent accidental start up. It also includes Makita's Auto-start Wireless System (AWS), which allows the HS012G to be wirelessly connected to a compatible dust extractor via Bluetooth, enabling the dust extractor to automatically run when the tool is activated, making dust management simpler.

The HS012G features twin LED job lights with pre-glow and afterglow functions for better illumination of the work piece. It also has an integrated tool hanger and is supplied with a removable parallel guide for accurate straight line cutting.



In addition, the HS012G can be used with Makita guide rails, making it ideal for jobs where greater precision is required. Using a guide rail eliminates the accidental inaccuracies of freehand cuts using a pre-marked line, especially on larger pieces of material where parallel guides cannot be used.

The HS012G is available as a body only option (HS012GZ), body only in a Makpac case (HS012GZ01) or as a kit with two 2.5 Ah batteries and a XGT battery charger supplied in a Makpac case (HS012GD201).

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK said: "The 165mm circular saws have always been a popular part of our cordless range. The launch of the HS012G provides professionals with a versatile, compact and lightweight 165mm saw but with the performance customers expect from our brushless 40VMax XGT machines.

Makita
www.makita.com

Thriving school secures new classroom support

A THRIVING school in Warrington has built a new classroom with the help of a leading builders merchant.

Bewsey Lodge Primary School, based on Lodge Lane, has converted its conservatory into a classroom which will host small year three groups when the new academic year starts in September.

Selco Builders Warehouse, which has a branch on Milner Street in War-

ington, has provided the materials for the conversion, including building sand, board adhesive, plasterboard and skim bead.

Vicki Leach, a class teacher and PTA Chair of Bewsey Lodge, said: "We've had new pupils start at the school recently taking our total up to 370 and that, coupled with the requirements to provide small breakout areas to meet the needs of some pupils, meant we needed more classroom space.

"That brings with it its own challenges when it comes to funding so the support of Selco has been crucial and our huge thanks goes to them.

"We want to provide the best possible education we can to our pupils and this additional classroom will provide that opportunity."

Paul Birtles, manager of Selco Warrington, said: "Bewsey Lodge Primary School is less than a mile from our branch and we have a number of customers and colleagues who have children who attend there.

"Being able to make a donation which will help the school extend vital education provision will benefit the local community and that is something we are always keen to do at Selco."

Selco

www.selcobw.com



IBMG's MD takes on European charity rally for fifth time



THE Independent Builders Merchant Group, owner of 21 local brands of builders' merchants across the South of England, is supporting an intrepid team for this year's Pavestone Rally.

The charity rally, that sets off in September, aims to raise money for four charities and awards competitors with points for various challenges along the 1,820 km route. Trevor, who is the MD of IBMG's timber division, will drive a 19-year-old London taxi bought from Ebay for £460 to compete in the creatively challenging rally across Europe.

This year's co-driver is Peter Saunders who Trevor met in 1991 when they were accepted onto a building supplies graduate training program and have been firm friends ever since. Peter's son, Jake is also joining the team.

This is Trevor's seventh time to take part — finishing in first place in 2016 and 2019, and second in 2017 and 2018 — the team also won Best Dressed Car and Best Dressed Team.

Trevor said: "Our team is called 'It's Not About The Points' because I have been accused of being prepared to do anything for points in previous rallies! Putting jokes aside, the entire rally is about raising money for four very worthy charities — and we'll pull out all the stops to achieve some serious fund-raising for these excellent causes. Big thanks already go to Arrowsmith & Roberts, the hauliers, that collected the car from the seller for us and has stored it while the starter motor was replaced, tyres fitted, and the missing front passenger seat welding in! Also thank you to the apprentices at Channel Commercials, Ashford for the amazing makeover."

The route runs from Ghent in Belgium, through France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and finishes in Monte Carlo on Sunday 11 September. The Pavestone Rally invites

UK builder's merchants to raise money for charity. The goal is to drive a car, worth less than £500, across Europe in four days, while in full fancy dress. The rally is hoping to raise £175,000 for its chosen charities: Rainy Day Trust, Crash, British Heart Foundation and Variety The Children's Charity.

Independent Builder Merchant Group ● www.independentbm.com

Introducing the *WXYZ WOODWORKER* CNC Router

WXYZ, a leading provider of CNC routing solutions, is excited to unveil the all-new **WXYZ WOODWORKER** CNC Router. Designed to revolutionise the woodworking industry, this powerful all-in-one solution is engineered for fast and effortless high-volume cabinetry and furniture production. With its customised machine configuration and a range of specially developed options, the **WOODWORKER** offers furniture and cabinet makers a clean and efficient manufacturing process.

Key features of the **WXYZ WOODWORKER** CNC Router include:

Versatile Process Areas: The **WOODWORKER** boasts a wide variety of process areas that can accommodate all standard sheet sizes, with a remarkable 10" high gantry clearance. This flexibility makes it easy to use with accessories such as vacuum pods or a rotary axis device, enhancing productivity and precision.

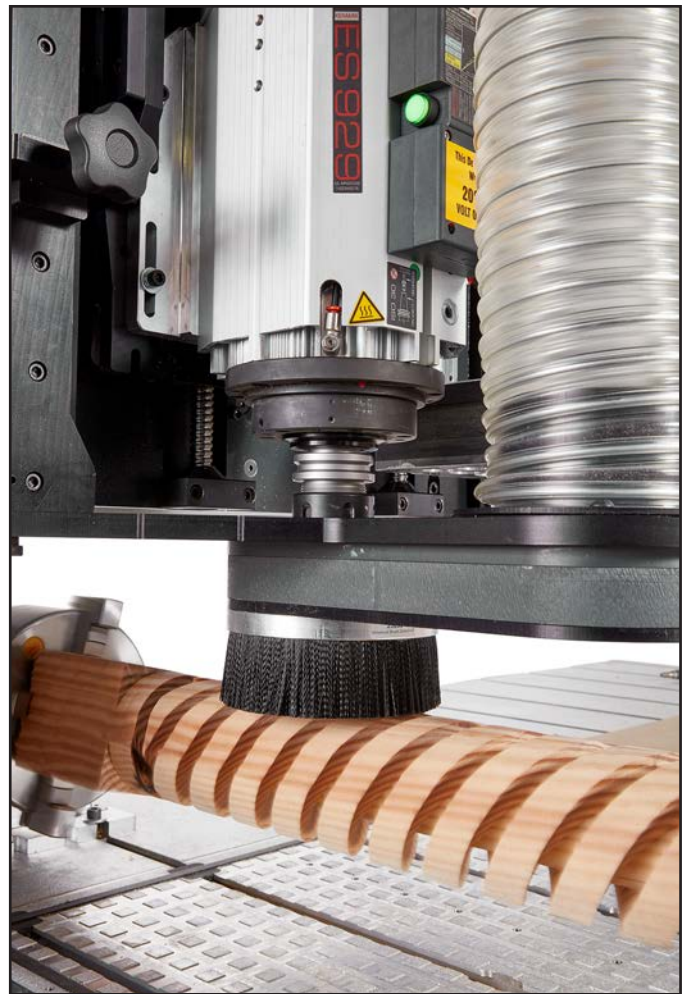
Exceptional Performance: Equipped with powerful direct servo drives and helical racks, the **WOODWORKER** delivers outstanding performance, high-speed cutting, and impeccable finishes across a wide range of wood types. It excels even with phenolic-based products like High Pressure Laminate (HPL).

Multiple Spindle Configurations: The **WOODWORKER** offers a choice of a single 5, 10, or 15 HP HSD spindle, allowing users to tailor their set-up to match specific production requirements. Additionally, a 9-position drill bank can be added to the multi-head configuration for faster and more productive operations.

Efficient Tool Changing: With a selection of 7, 10, 14, or 21 position automatic tool changers, the **WOODWORKER** ensures fast and efficient tool changes, minimising downtime and maximising productivity.

Advanced Dust Collection: The router features a high-volume 4" dust collection system, complemented by an oversized dust boot, high-flow manifold, and hose management system. This comprehensive setup effectively collects both large chips and fine dust, maintaining a clean and safe working environment.

Automated Label Printing: The **WOODWORKER** offers an optional **WXYZ Automated Label Printer (ALP)**, simplifying the identification of parts during the final assembly process.



This integrated solution streamlines operations and enhanced overall efficiency.

Rotary Axis Equipment: For machining complex parts requiring 360° rotation, the **WOODWORKER** offers optional rotary axis equipment. This feature expands the router's capabilities and enables the production of intricate and precise parts.

When it comes to furniture and cabinet making, the **WXYZ WOODWORKER** is believed to be the ultimate CNC solution, **WXYZ** has put extensive effort into developing a machine that seamlessly combines power, versatility, and precision to meet the unique needs of woodworking professionals. **WXYZ** is confident that the **WOODWORKER** will revolutionise the industry by delivering exceptional performance and transforming production processes. Discover the future of CNC woodworking technology with the all-new **WOODWORKER** from **WXYZ**.

WXYZ ● Tel 01952 291600

Email enquiries@axyz.com

www.axyz.com

Woodshop Direct launches in the UK

WOODSHOP Direct, a leading wood supplier in the UK, has announced the launch of its website, woodshopdirect.co.uk. With the implementation of cutting edge technology, the company has positioned itself as what is believed to be the first wood supplier in the UK to offer customers the convenience of having wood cut to their specified dimensions with unparalleled speed and precision. This achievement is made possible by seamlessly linking the website and ordering system with the shop floor, providing an exceptional customer experience.

Warren Bennett, the Managing Director of Woodshop Direct, expressed his optimism about the company's new milestone, stating, "At Woodshop Direct, we're optimistic that by putting the customer first and being able to offer this first-in-class service, it will move Woodshop Direct to the forefront of the industry."

With a steadfast commitment to customer satisfaction, Woodshop Direct aims to redefine the wood supply landscape by combining cutting edge technology with superior service.

The development of the new website took an entire year, during which Woodshop Direct underwent a complete overhaul of their stock management systems, as well as their ordering and dispatch systems.



This comprehensive transformation ensures streamlined operations, reducing processing times and expediting deliveries to customers.

Customers visiting the Woodshop Direct website can now enjoy a seamless ordering experience. With a user-friendly interface, the website allows users to specify their required wood dimensions precisely. Upon submission of an order, the website's advanced integration with the shop floor enables immediate processing, resulting in shorter lead times and faster deliveries.

Visitors to the site can easily shop for timber, sheet materials, tools and accessories, wood finishes and doors. The new website also allows customers to shop by use, such as internal wood, external wood or repairs, as well as by tree species, including Ash, Beech, Redwood Pine and Walnut. The

new Woodshop Direct website also boasts an informative blog, packed with timber knowledge and woodworking tips. Woodshop Direct's commitment to quality is further exemplified by its expansive range of wood products, catering to both DIY enthusiasts and professional woodworkers. Whether customers require hardwoods, softwoods, or specialist timber, Woodshop Direct offers an extensive selection, ensuring that every project can be accomplished with the finest materials.

Woodshop Direct ● www.woodshopdirect.co.uk

Selco golf day tees up £15,000 charity boost

BIRDIES, eagles and fundraising were the order of the day when one of the UK's most prominent builders merchants held its annual charity golf day.

A total of £15,000 was raised by Selco Builders Warehouse when the popular event was staged at the West Midlands Golf Club in Solihull.

The money raised has been donated to Selco's nominated charity Cancer Research UK and means the company has contributed almost £90,000 to the organisation in 2023 alone.



The golf day saw 112 golfers take to the course in dry and sunny conditions, with Selco's colleagues from its 75 branches and Support Centre taking on the merchant's product and service suppliers in a four-ball betterball matchplay format.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "The golf day has become a true highlight of our annual fundraising calendar.

"It's fantastic opportunity for our colleagues and suppliers to meet up in a relaxed environment and there is a lot of fun had, while raising an incredible amount of money for a charity which is close to the hearts of all at Selco.

"The endless R&D work carried out by Cancer Research UK is truly remarkable and being able to play our small part to help fund those pioneering efforts is something we are very proud of."

The latest fundraising comes on the back of Selco donating £200,000 to Cancer Research UK last year. All money raised will help Cancer Research UK's research into the prevention and treatment of cancer through the work of over 4,000 doctors, nurses and scientists.

Georgia McCormack, divisional fundraising manager at Cancer Research UK, said: "We are thrilled that Selco remain a very committed and active partner and continue to raise money which is going to make a huge difference to the work we can do.

"Our progress relies on the incredible dedication and commitment of volunteers and supporters like this, without whom we would not be able to fund our life-saving work. One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime. All of us can support the research that will beat it."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Makita launches limited edition outdoor adventure range

LEADING power tool manufacturer Makita UK, is giving users the power to go anywhere with its new Outdoor Adventure range. Featuring a distinctive olive green colour, the limited edition products are powered by Makita's 18V LXT batteries, providing users with a complete system of cordless equipment to use at work, at home and the outdoors.

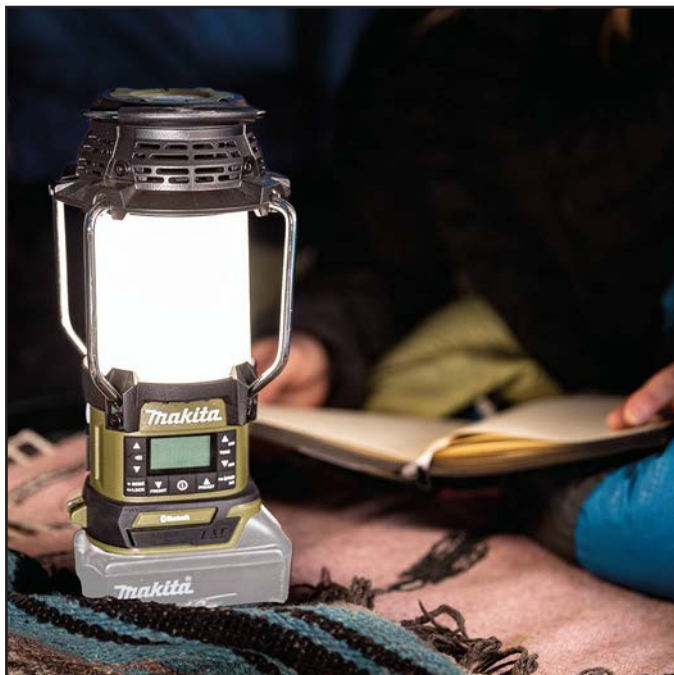
The new Outdoor Adventure products are part of Makita's expanding 18V LXT System, and offer the same features, performance, and versatility that is synonymous with the cordless technology giant's portfolio.

Ideal for leisure activities such as camping, fishing, hiking, or even a simple picnic in the park, the line-up includes cooler/warmer boxes, an inflator and blower, as well as flashlights, fans, audio equipment, a kettle, coffee maker and more. There are even combi drills available in the new olive green livery for those who want something a little different.

Makita UK's Marketing Manager, Kevin Brannigan, expects the limited edition range to be a big hit for a wide range of users as people spend more time outside.

"We have launched several limited and special edition products over the years, and they always sell out fast," said Kevin. "Whether you're already a Makita user or new to the family, the Outdoor Adventure range provides new options of cordless power and performance for leisure activities, with each product utilising our world renowned LXT technology."

Makita's LXT System is the world's largest compatible cordless tool system powered by 18 V slide-style batteries. Makita's purpose-built motors, battery technology, and enhanced communications work together to deliver unmatched power, speed, and run times. The system encompasses over 300 products that are trusted by trade and industry professionals in every sector.



Kevin concluded, "This new olive green range, which has been inspired by the environment and manufactured as a limited production run, will make an iconic statement in your kit bag and provide ultimate flexibility and mobility when enjoying the outdoors or at work."

Makita's Outdoor Adventure products are available as body only, or in kit format with battery and charger, depending on the type of product.

Makita ● www.makitauk.com/outdoor-adventure

Salford homeless project receives Selco support

AN AMBITIOUS project to create a specialist homeless facility to house rough sleepers in Salford has received the backing of one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Property developer James Worthington is building a new property on the site of a former carpet shop in Seedley Road which will include eight self-contained apartments, each capable of housing up to three people.

Selco Builders Warehouse, which has four branches in Manchester including one on North Phoebe Street in Salford, has donated £1,000 worth of materials — including stone and drainage products — to support the build which is due to be completed in March 2024.

James initially purchased the site to build flats to sell on for profit but, after supporting the local community throughout the covid pandemic and inspired by his own troubles of the past, had a dramatic change of plan to build the new facility.

He said: "During the pandemic, we used the building to house the homeless and as a soup kitchen. It inspired me to build something which will create a long-lasting legacy to support those who are homeless in the local community.

"I know exactly how those people are feeling because that was me about 30 years ago. I ran away from

home when I was 14 and slept anywhere I could before my friend's dad let me stay with them and then had another bout of homelessness again in my 20s.

"With the help of a lot of people, I managed to turn my life around but it helps that I know what these people have been going through.

"We want to create a project that helps people out for more than just a few days. We will have life coaches, job opportunities and the service will be run by homeless charities to ensure that we are doing everything we can to help people get their lives back on track.

"I've sold and refinanced many of the properties I had to fund the project but it still needed a lot of support from the local community. Selco have been fantastic and the donation has been crucial to reaching the point we have now in the building works."

Simon Lee, branch manager of Selco Salford, said: "From the moment I met James, I was inspired by the vision he had.

"It's a fantastic project which will make a real difference to homelessness in the local area and we are thrilled and proud to be playing a very small part in helping James deliver this exciting initiative."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Property developer James Worthington with Simon Lee, branch manager of Selco Salford.

IBMG charity golf day raises over £16,700



THE Independent Builders Merchant Group (IBMG) charity golf day of Parker Building Supplies, Chandelers Building Supplies and Fairalls Builders Merchant raised in excess of £16,700.00 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Held at the East Sussex National at the end of June, the golf day welcomed 160 guests throughout the day to include 36 competing golf teams, 23 exhibiting suppliers and 15 auction prizes.

Allun Pittingale, IBMG's Group MD South East, said: "A massive thank you to all our customers, suppliers and sponsors for supporting our charity golf day. Teenage Cancer Trust is a wonderful charity that does so much for teenagers going through incredibly difficult times. Thanks also to our many colleagues who dedicated personal time to organising this great event — it is thrilling to be able to hand over this amazing amount to the charity."

Lynn Hyder of Teenage Cancer Trust said: "We cannot thank you enough. We thoroughly enjoyed the entire golf day and are astounded by the continued hard work and generosity of everyone at Chandelers, Parker and Fairalls Builders Merchants as well as all their suppliers and customers. Cancer can have a devastating effect on young people at a time when their whole lives are ahead of them, so your support will really make a difference."

Knauf was the headline sponsor of the day and was further supported by leading names within the industry to include: ACTIS Insulation; AG Paving and Building Products; Brett Landscaping, Crest Brick Slate & Tile Ltd, Eco-Therm Insulation UK Ltd, Global Stone Paving, Ibstock Brick, Marshalls plc, Polypipe, Plasmor Limited, ACO Group, Hippo Products.

IBMG's Parker Building Supplies, Chandelers Building Supplies and Fairalls account for 31 branches across Kent, Sussex and Surrey of IBMG's 182 branches in the South of England.

Teenage Cancer Trust

<https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/>

Independent Builders Merchant Group

www.independentbm.com

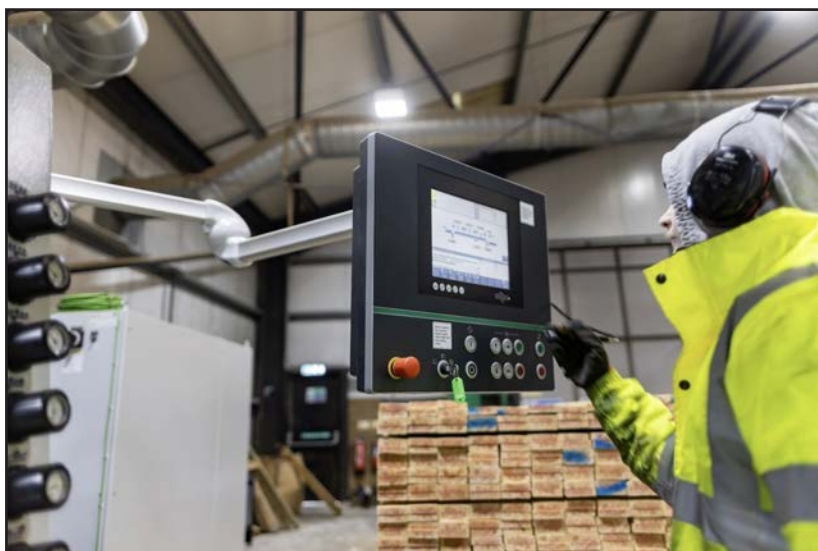
Premier Forest Products makes major investment in moulding equipment from Weinig

LEADING timber supplier Premier Forest Products has made a major investment in machinery to increase production and extend its product range for customers.

Premier Forest Products has invested over £1 million in equipment across the business, including its Duchy Timber and Merlwood Timber branches. The state-of-the-art, market leading machinery, which was installed earlier this year, has already doubled the production capacity at the company's sites in Cornwall and Pembrokeshire.

The new machinery, supplied by global specialists Weinig, includes a Powermat 1500 moulding machine which can cut widths up to 300 mm, and a Powermat 700 moulding machine.

The machines are entirely flexible and can be used to make most timber mouldings including, cladding profiles, skirtings, architraves, door frames, stair components, and door liners in



both hardwood and soft wood. The company has purchased the Rondamat 960 grinder/profiling machine which makes templates for profiles so it can create bespoke profiles for customers. Once the template is made, it can be used repeatedly to make precisely the same profile which is ideal for continuity in large projects, where the same product is to be supplied frequently over time.

Premier Forest has also invested in an Opticontrol measuring stand which is used to accurately measure the tool cutters and a Unicut P3 crosscut saw which has more than doubled Premier's capacity to accurately crosscut timbers to length.

Terry Edgell, co-founder & CEO of Premier Forest Products said, "Recent investment in additional state-of-the-art milling machinery is enabling Premier to increase productivity and improve efficiency at two of our key manufacturing sites.

"Our in-house manufacturing facilities mean that we have complete quality control and the capacity to 'turn up' production to meet volume orders for our customers. Together with our nationwide-wide distribution network, we can quickly turn-around orders and deliver in volume, across the UK.

"We're now in the position that we can work with customers to support anything from bespoke, specialist renovation jobs to full-scale construction projects such as hotels, schools, apartments and housing sites. Our timber is sourced from responsibly managed forests, so we meet the stringent environmental requirements of modern building projects."

Premier Forest Products is engaged in the importation, processing, merchandising and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from multiple sites across the UK.

Premier Forest Products
<https://premierforest.co.uk/service/premier-mouldings/>

RGB Crediton turns 20 years old

RGB Building Supplies' Crediton branch is celebrating 20 years of being located in the town. For two decades, it has been an integral part of the local community, serving customers from various trades and homeowners embarking on their own projects.

Since its opening in 2003, RGB Crediton has become a trusted name in the local building supplies industry. Throughout the last 20 years, the branch has consistently expanded its offering to meet the diverse needs of its customers and boasts a wide range of products, covering everything from general building supplies to landscaping and decorating materials.

More recently, the branch has added a dedicated plumbing and heating specialist on-site, along with a selection of bathrooms. It has also become a specialist in timber frames and supplies construction projects across the South West.

Stuart Smith, Branch Manager at RGB Crediton, expressed his delight at reaching this milestone and becoming an indispensable part of the local community. He said: "We are immensely proud to be celebrating our 20th anniversary in Crediton. We have a fantastic team who have extensive industry knowledge and their dedication to providing expert advice and guidance to tradespeople, contractors, and homeowners has been pivotal in building strong relationships.

"The trust and loyalty of our customers have been driving forces behind our success, and we look forward to continued growth and strengthening our bond with the Crediton trade community."

RGB Building Supplies

<https://www.rgbltd.co.uk/>



Temple extension receives Selco backing

PLANS to extend and refurbish a Sikh temple in Birmingham have received a boost following support from a leading builders merchant.

The Guru Ramdas Gurdwara on Moseley Road is undergoing much-needed repairs and the building made larger to accommodate a bigger capacity in a project expected to take up to two years.

The Stinchley branch of Selco Builders Warehouse is giving its support to the improvements, initially providing the products and materials for

temporary toilets to be constructed to enable the building to stay operational while the work is carried out.

Ranjit Singh, a committee member of the temple, said: "The project is a demanding one but really important for our long-term future.

"In the 40 years I've been going to the temple, there hasn't really been any major refurbishment or renovation work and the building is showing that now and it's looking a little tired. We need to work on our disabled facilities and to grow in size to reflect the increasing number and size of the families who attend.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of Selco who have stepped in with a donation which allows us to continue with the project.

"It's absolutely necessary to carry out the work but it's also costly so the support we are receiving from Selco goes a long way. We currently have a number of our older members who either have to worship downstairs or don't attend at all due to the state of the building and this project is being carried out to make us accessible to all."

It is hoped as many as 200 members a week will be able to attend the temple once the improvements have been carried out.

Dan Henebury, deputy branch manager of Selco Stinchley based on Charlotte Road, said: "We are always keen to support the communities in which we operate in any way we can and this is a perfect opportunity.

"There are exciting plans for the temple and we are delighted in playing a small part in helping them come to fruition."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



From left: Girval Singh, Selco's Simon Rutter, Jaykar Singh (aged eight) and Santosh Kaur.

Häfele UK announces the launch of the new Service+ package



MANUFACTURER and distributor Häfele UK has launched a new suite of services designed to add value to its customers' businesses from concept through to installation and beyond.

Service+ comprises four key elements, each designed to give extra help and expertise across planning, design, customisation and pre and post-sale support, allowing customers to focus on serving their clients, delivering projects and growing their business.

Service+ Knowledge connects customers with Häfele in-house experts who can support with specialist product and industry knowledge. Using their experience, the team helps customers maximise Häfele products and services to meet their needs and identify additional time and profit-enhancing opportunities to develop their business.

The Service+ Knowledge team can also signpost customers to the Häfele Academy for workshops and training, aiding people and personal development.

Service+ Planning provides planning and specification advice during the design stage, to ensure customers are choosing the right products for the right application to enhance their client's design. Technical experts will create personalised recommendations for customers' briefs, along with a ready-to-order parts lists, installation advice and instructions to help streamline the process.

Helping customers go from design to reality and building on the success of Häfele to Order, Service+ Customised offers a wider range of custom manufactured solutions including bespoke timber and assembled drawers, worktops, lighting, handles and cabinet components. The new service also offers online estimating for certain products meaning pricing can be obtained out of hours.

Additionally, customers can use Service+ Customised to order a combination of ready-configured products and components packaged to

their needs and have them delivered straight to site. Ideal for businesses of all sizes, this service has no minimum order quantity.

The final element of Häfele's enhanced offer is Service+ Assist providing ongoing technical support pre and post-sale, including repairs, maintenance and advice, with a 24-hour support line available on some product ranges and on-the-ground support during business hours. Through Service+ Assist, customers can get help with showroom or installation demonstrations to aid business development, or offer after sales support and peace of mind to purchasers.

Sam Melling, Service+ Project Head at Häfele UK said: "Our customers face a unique set of challenges today. Their order books are full, but the skilled expertise required to deliver work and elevate their offer are hard to come by. Meanwhile, digitalisation is speeding up and simplifying some processes, but significant investment of both money and time are needed to make key technologies part of many businesses. Through Service+, we want to offer the extra pair of hands so many of our customers desperately need and give ways to increase their productivity and efficiency further. As well as creating a suite of new services which are our investment into our customers' success, Service+ is also a promise to continually develop our support, with fresh ideas that are always in line with our customers' needs. To us, being part of our customers' teams means one thing — making their lives easier. That can be achieved with the specialised expertise, platforms and procedures we have on offer, and we are looking forward to seeing how the industry utilises Service+ to their advantage."

Alongside Service+ Häfele provides same day shipping on orders placed before 4pm, product lifetime guarantees, access to 65,000 product items via hafele.co.uk and a team of over 100 specialist advisors all designed to support customer needs.

Häfele UK ● www.hafele.co.uk

Band of Builders quest to get Luke home is on course

WORK to adapt the family home of a Suffolk 20-year-old who suffered a catastrophic brain aneurysm has been backed by a leading builders merchant.

Band of Builders, a building charity which completes practical projects to help members of the UK construction industry and their families suffering from life-changing or limiting circumstances, is currently carrying out work to enable Luke Goold-Hannatt to move back to his Woodbridge home.

Trainee bricklayer Luke was just 17 and in the second year of a bricklaying course at Otley College when he suffered an aneurysm known as an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) in January 2020. Since then, Luke has spent all his time in hospitals and rehabilitation centres before moving to the Sue Ryder Neurological Care Centre The Chantry around 18 months ago.

His parents, Karen Goold and Luke Hannatt, were desperately trying to raise funds to adapt their

house so Luke could return home before the end of the year, and that has now been made possible in advance thanks to the Band of Builders' support.

Selco Builders Warehouse, which has 75 branches across the UK, has offered its backing to the campaign by providing materials, including cavity trays, to help with the refurbishment.

Tony Steel, Operations Director for Band of Builders, said: "We are on a mission to get Luke home and back where he belongs with his family. This is exactly the type of project that Band of Builders exists for and we are hugely grateful to our partners such as Selco for the support they provide in enabling us to deliver such important work."

With his family initially told the chances of Luke surviving were limited, he was sedated and transferred to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge after the aneurysm where he underwent life-saving surgery to release the pressure to his brain. Luke has since been left with profound disabilities



Luke Goold-Hannatt before the aneurysm.

which require constant care. He is now able to move one leg and one of his arms and communicates by blinking and raising his eyebrows, as well as using an alphabet chart to spell out words.

Lee Powling, branch manager of Selco Chelmsford which provided the products, said: "As soon as we heard about Luke's story, we had no hesitation getting involved to support the fantastic efforts of Band of Builders. We are keeping everything crossed that this will be a real turning point for Luke and his family after they have all suffered horrendously over the last three-and-a-half-years."

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

International Timber 'brews' the ideal solution for Costa Coffee development

INTERNATIONAL Timber and Jewson have teamed up with local developer, Ascia Construction, to provide sustainable and quality cedar timber for the development of one of Costa Coffee's latest drive-thru facilities.

Located at the Adanac Health and Innovation Campus in Southampton, the Costa Coffee drive-thru will provide at least 15 new jobs and soon begin to serve those working and visiting the hospital site. The new coffee shop will also cater to University Hospital Southampton staff using the campus' park and ride facilities at the beginning and end of their shifts.

The building has been designed to include indoor seating for customer use, outdoor tables and a drive-thru window for customers on-the-go.

The initial design incorporated red and white render, cedar cladding and grey, powder coated metal roof and window-panes, as well as turf borders, ornamental planting and newly planted trees surrounding the site's boundary.

When John Packer, Timber Development Manager at Jewson, was first asked to secure the cedar cladding for this project, it was discussed whether UK Cedar or Western Red Cedar would be the best fit. The cladding designs included lots of individual pieces of cedar, all the same size but cut at different angles, to create a unique timber design that has become synonymous with Costa's coffee shops over time.

Due to the complexity of the design and to ensure the visual aesthetic of the cladding, both John and the team at Ascia Construction decided Western Red Cedar would provide the ideal solution; helping to minimise knots and to prioritise quality, durability and sustainability.

John comments: "This project was one of the first major enquiries we'd worked on for Ascia Construction and we wanted to ensure that the quality of the materials, together with the customer service provided met the company's expectations. International Timber proved to be the perfect choice of supplier, offering a cost-competitive quote, alongside a high-quality, durable product."

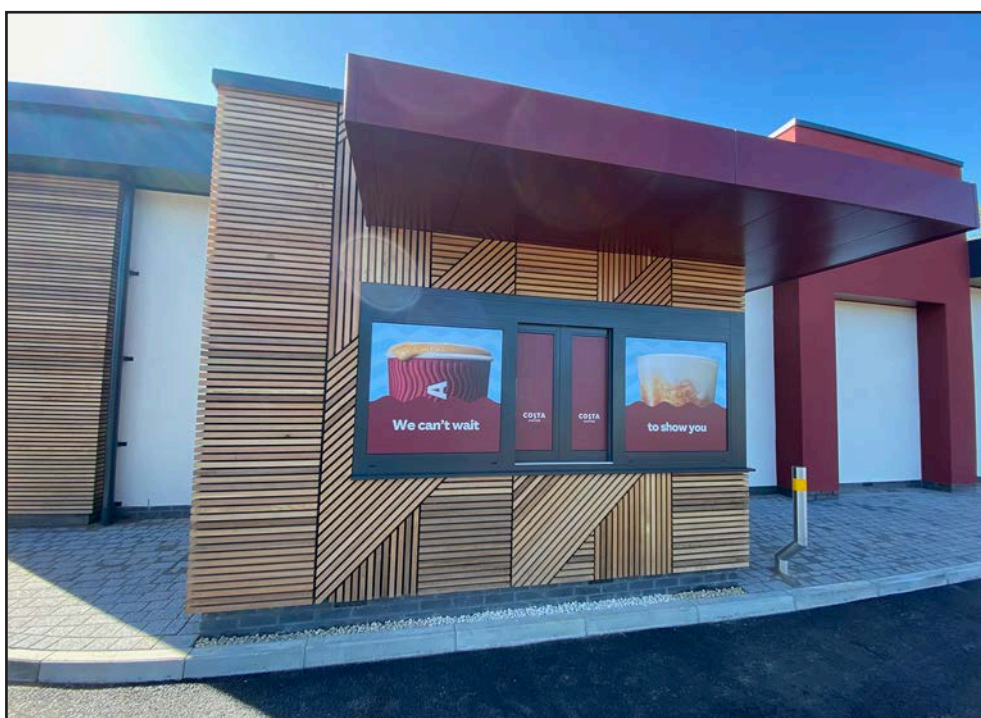
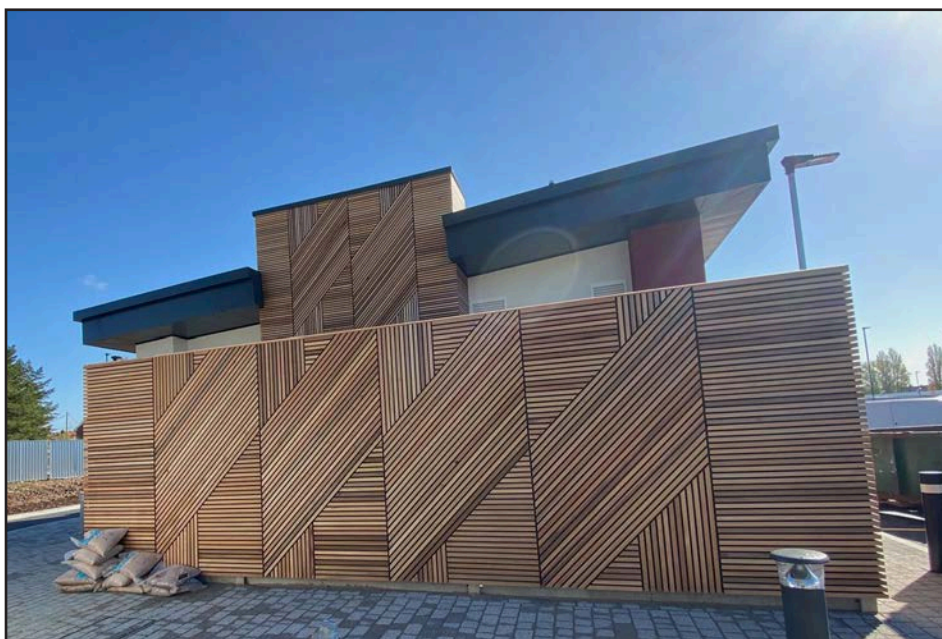
International Timber's Western Red Cedar is often a favourite for both internal and external cladding due to its natural resistance to decay and insect attack, as well as being an excellent material for thermal insulation — keeping the building cool in summer and preventing heat from escaping in winter.

Both John and the International Timber team worked closely to deliver 32 finish x 32 finish PSE cedar, providing samples which had been machined to specification and brought onto site to ensure the customer was satisfied right from the beginning. John then made two more visits throughout construction; once when the cedar was first delivered and again when it was fitted — each time with those on site at Ascia commenting on the quality of the timber.

With (PEFC) certification, the team at Ascia Construction could rest assured that the cedar used would be in line with Costa's sustainability objectives.

John continued: "Each time I went on site, the guys from Ascia Construction would comment on the fantastic quality of the cedar — even going as far to say it's the best cedar they had ever worked with, which of course was music to my ears. The project was finished in April this year and it really is a superior build with quality materials and craftsmanship."

International Timber
www.internationaltimber.com



Sikkens Wood Coatings shows its true colours with introduction of exciting new stains and topcoats

SIKKENS Wood Coatings shows that Colour is in its DNA with the recently introduced portfolio of interior coatings. As part of an eye-catching brand refresh, AkzoNobel has introduced a full range of stains and new topcoats to give customers even more design and creative flexibility.

The waterborne range of stains includes Wipe on Patinas, which provide an easy-to-apply option and countless design possibilities for pre-coated wood, while its Aqua Creative range offers pigmented stains with good hiding power and options for both opaque and transparent finishes.

The solventborne options include Universal Stains, offering a palette of very bright, colourful hues, to Antique Effect Patina and Vintage Patina Glaze for an entirely different look.

In addition, new topcoat products being introduced to the Sikkens Wood Coatings line-up include Aqualit Color T4401, a 1K opaque high-quality waterborne coating with great performance. Ideal for furniture, cabinets, and interior joinery, Aqualit Color T4401 is suitable for all types of wood and is available in a wide range of colour options, thanks to the Sikkens Wood Coatings waterborne tinting system.

Similarly, Aqualit Color T450-10 is a waterborne 1K or 2K topcoat offering consistent reduced gloss with good filling and hiding power, and great mechanical and chemical resistance. The lightfast properties of this new coating give it excellent resistance to fading.

Another key product in the expanded interior portfolio is the new Quantum T264-03 - the ultimate matt clear PU acrylic topcoat.



Anti-fingerprint and resistance to scratches enable this solventborne 2K ultimate matt clear topcoat to provide a beautiful and lasting appearance every time.

"Our partners and end-users can now find a wide range of inspirational colour options with our new stains and topcoats for interior applications," says Henri Bijsterbosch, Global Colour Marketing Manager, Industrial Coatings, AkzoNobel. "We offer countless hues according to NCS, RAL and Sikkens Wood Coatings 5051 collections, and provide associated colour fan decks and colour tools with real colour chips to help customers with their colour and design decisions," he adds.

As part of AkzoNobel, a global leader in colour, Sikkens Wood Coatings is firmly committed to helping customers, not only with colour selection, but with colour quality and delivery. Its leading-edge colour technology tools, including a spectrophotometer colour measurement device, enable colour matching with ease and confidence. In addition, the Sikkens Wood Coatings colour software, available to distributors with selected fit-for-purpose tinting machine options, puts any imaginable colour at the fingertips of customers.

"Our creative thinking goes beyond the can," says Mr Bijsterbosch. "Our practical, end-to-end approach to colour adds real value to customers, giving them access to a wide range of versatile, high-performing coatings to suit every application and enable them to express their own creativity".

AkzoNobel
www.akzonobel.com
www.sikkens-wood-coatings.com



Multi-university student team wins timber design challenge with 'excellent' retrofit project

A MIXED DISCIPLINE student team featuring built environment students from across the UK took top spot in the Timber Development UK University Design Challenge 2023 (#TDChallenge23), as they competed to reimagine and retrofit a real-life building using timber.

TDChallenge is the pre-eminent competition for students to learn how to design and build with timber, a sustainable, low-carbon building material, while providing skills they can take into their careers by simulating real challenges the students will face.

Fiercely competitive, from the 150+ who first registered, 34 students from 22 universities were selected from across the UK for the competition's finals at NMITE's Centre for Advanced Timber Technology to face a judging panel comprised of professional, academic and industry experts.

The mixed-discipline student teams came together and worked online for five months to produce their entries. They were given the task of reimagining Widemarsh Cricket Pavilion in Hereford, a timber-framed pavilion currently only used for storage.

The local community wanted a multifunctional space that is welcoming, warm, easy to maintain, produces more energy than it consumes and costs little to run. Teams had to retrofit and extend the building, and the triangle of ground bordered by roads and paths.

The winners - who named their team 'Hemphasise' - proposed to transform Widemarsh Pavilion into a flexible learning facility and community hub which would offer opportunities for skills development, enhanced social mobility, and community cohesion.

The winning design adopted a whole-building approach to meet the EnerPhit retrofit standard.

"We aim for a better than net-zero carbon footprint," the team explains, "by integrating low embodied carbon materials with efficient energy systems such as PV, storage and optimized controls."

Their proposed building fabric provides a medium-weight construction with thermal mass to store heat. Many of the materials are hygroscopic (breathable) and thus able to support the management of moisture. The design uses prefabricated panels, with a mix of hemplime and wood fibre insulation within a timber frame, primarily constructed off-

site. This allows local residents to take part in the assembly of some wall panels.

Shweta Salvankar, Cardiff University, reflecting on their success, said they "enjoyed the teamwork and creativity... each member brought in their strengths and we performed amazing because of it", a sentiment echoed by all the students.

More than the win, Daniel Green, London Metropolitan University thought that the knowledge of timber was invaluable, with the challenge helping him to learn "on the flexibility of timber products — structural, insulation, and finishes".

Dafyn Richards, Plymouth University, said they were leaving the challenge with "a much broader knowledge of timber and its possible applications and that if detailed correctly then fire and water aren't concerns that should see it dismissed as a potential building material."

It wasn't just about timber that students learnt however, with Irene Dumitrascu-Podogrocki of Newcastle University highlighting "learning the languages of other disciplines," while Martin Juricek of Heriot-Watt University, said it was "a rare opportunity to learn about retrofit".

Martin said the challenge meant he had to "extend my understanding of existing timber buildings and real life applications," as they faced realistic constraints which meant the team had to be really creative with their solution.

Low carbon architect, Passivhaus designer and Green Register co-director Julia Bennett summed-up the judges' thoughts on the winning team. "An excellent presentation, a good use of form factor analysis at concept, with consideration of circular construction challenges and opportunities," she notes. "This would be a buildable scheme with a good balance of existing and extended elements."

Tabitha Binding, Head of Education and Engagement at TDUK, said: "To have any hope of addressing the climate crisis, our future professionals need to know how to build and retrofit using the lowest carbon structural material – timber. The TDChallenge is unique, offering students the opportunity to get beyond their course work and apply their learnings in a pragmatic way by working together as professionals do, and on a real world project. Timber is often not taught sufficiently at

UK universities, so this challenge has become an important way for the industry to 'plug the gaps,' and ensure that incoming professionals have the skills they need to thrive and build — or retrofit — the sustainable, low-carbon buildings we need today. Specifying the right products and detailing for longevity and reuse is essential."

Beverly Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer of NMITE, reflecting on the challenge, said: "It is a delight to see so many students and graduates from the length and breadth the UK coming together to develop and apply their skills and passions to the challenge of making the built environment more sustainable.

"It has been a pleasure to host the TDUK University Design Challenge 23's final day at NMITE in Hereford, and to see the creative and rigorous thought processes behind the proposed designs."

The challenge is brought together by Timber Development UK in a collaborative partnership with AECB, BE-ST, NMITE, Edinburgh Napier University and Passivhaus Trust, with software from Trimble, the Passive House Institute and AECB PHribbon.

Timber Development UK
www.timberdevelopment.uk



Left to right: Tabitha Binding, Head of Education, Timber Development UK. Dafyn Richards, Plymouth University. Deepak Sadhwani, Cardiff University. Daniel Green, London Metropolitan University. Beverly Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer NMITE. Absent: Shweta Salvankar, Cardiff University. Irene Dumitrascu-Podogrocki, Newcastle University. Martin Juricek, Heriot-Watt University.

Accolades for West Fraser's relationship with merchant sector

WEST FRASER has been recognised for the excellent relationship with the builders' merchant community it serves.



Pictured is West Fraser's Sanjit Dosanjh handing over the key a brand new van to the winner of the West Fraser Rewards promotion outside the Newark branch of Turnbull builders' merchants.

The Builders' Merchant Federation has joined forces with Builders' Merchants' News to compile a list of the Top 100 Supplier Influencers in the merchant sector, based on involvement, presence and commitment to the industry. Making the list is not one, but two members of the West Fraser team, confirming the company's position of a supplier merchants want to do business with.

West Fraser's nominees Sanjit Dosanjh, National Sales Manager, and Simon Woods, European Sales, Marketing & Logistics Director have been prominent voices in the merchant sector. West Fraser is a long-term supporter of merchant awards and Simon Woods represents the wood-based panel industry on the Builders Merchant Building Index (BMBI) panel of industry experts.

Speaking about the nominations, Sanjit said "It is a great feeling to receive recognition for the relationships and influence we have with the merchant industry. We are proud of our strong relationships, built over many years on a solid foundation of good communication with our customer base and being able to support our customers has been a priority. The merchant industry is a great place to be in and I encourage anyone that is thinking of making the move into the industry to do it."

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

Surface Design Awards 2024 now open for entries

BACK and better than ever for the 12th year, the Surface Design Awards are now open for entries. Organised by Surface Design Show, the Awards highlight the work of industry's leading architects and designers, judged by professionals in the same design sectors. The Surface Design Awards aim to celebrate and promote excellence in material innovation from across the UK and around the globe.

The Awards receive global recognition, attracting 130 entries from 12 different countries, displaying the most impressive use of materials in, and on, architectural and interior projects from around the world.

The 2024 Awards are to be judged by an expert panel, co-chaired by Charlotte McCarthy, Head of Interiors at Heatherwick Studio and Nimi Attanayake, Director & co-founder of NimTim Architects. The judging panel is made up of architects and interior designers, all of whom have



made a name for themselves in the industry. Some of the panellists alongside Charlotte and Nimi include Carly Sweeney, the Director of Universal Design Studio, Chris Laing, an Architectural Designer, Activist, Consultant, Founder of Signstrokes and Deaf Architecture Front and Gurmeet Sian, Architect and Founder of Office Sian.

Working together, the judges will determine the 2024 Award winners in eight categories: Commercial Building, Housing, Landscape + Public Realm, Light + Surface, Public Building, Temporary Structure, Architectural Photography and new for 2024, Product of the Year Award.

Last year, 43 projects from 10 different counties were selected as finalists for the 2023 Awards, varying from an office in Haryana Sate in India, to a temporary installation in a pedestrian park in Jiaxing in China as well as projects in the UK.

The judges were impressed by the high quality of entries and made an unprecedented decision to crown two entries as the Supreme Winners. Monc by Nina & Co with Smile Plastic, London, UK and Glade of Light by BCA Landscape, Manchester, UK were both enthroned as the Surface Design Awards Supreme Winner 2023.

To welcome and encourage entries from both small and large practises or projects from around the world, the Surface Design Awards are free to enter. All shortlisted and winning entries will benefit from recognition on multiple platforms – through judging panel exposure, social media, the Surface Design Show website as well as the physical show itself taking place in February, where a huge community of thousands of architects and designers will gather.

The closing date for Surface Design Award entries is Friday 29th September 2023. Judging will take place mid-November 2023 and finalists will be notified by late-November. The eventual winners will be announced on the final day of the Surface Design Show at London's Business Design Centre on Thursday 8th February 2024.

Surface Design Awards ● www surfacedesignshow.com



technologycenter

GRAND OPENING

28-30 SEPTEMBER 2023
SCM HEADQUARTERS Rimini, Italy

DISCOVER THE NEW DIGITAL HOME OF WOODWORKING INNOVATION

Come and join us in Rimini from **28 to 30 September** to discover the **new SCM Technology Center**, the **Digital Home of Woodworking Innovation**. We will welcome you in a **4000 square metres space**, designed to offer the widest range of technologies and services dedicated to **integrated, connected, flexible, more sustainable and optimised processes** for all machining requirements.

Don't miss the Grand Opening to explore with the SCM team the latest of a solid Group, which continues to grow and innovate to be **your trusted technological partner**.

DISCOVER MORE



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www.scmwood.com

**scm**
woodworking technology

is more

SCM opens the new digital home for woodworking innovation

SCM is confirmed as a solid group which continues to grow and innovate, investing in its industrial sites in Italy to increase its production capacity and further enhance its relationship with its clientèle. One clear example is the new Technology Center created as part of an expansion and modernisation programme at the Headquarters in Rimini, which will be opened from 28 to 30 September 2023 with a Grand Opening aimed at companies and stakeholders from the entire wood-working industry at global level.

It is a space of 4,000 m² which, for all intents and purposes, is the new digital home for woodworking innovation: every detail has been planned to offer the client the widest range of technologies and services possible and provide integrated, connected, flexible, more sustainable and optimised processes at each stage of secondary wood processing.

The event will be an opportunity to discover the latest solutions developed by the Group which combine the strong technological skill for the production of solutions for furniture, doors and windows, timber construction and artisan joinery with the development of software and services, to accompany the client at each stage of their production process. Some of the main new entries include those applied to machining centres, which will be the subject of a specific training event: Cargo, innovative automatic system for loading and unloading doors and panels, and the new CAD-CAM Maestro lab programming software.

Cargo will be presented integrated with the Morbidelli M200 pods & rails machining centre: it is a fully automated cell that requires no operator supervision, and it is unique in the market for its ability to continuously load and unload pieces in masked time while the machine performs drilling and routing operations. This exclusive solution allows for maximum efficiency by avoiding manual work phases and their associated costs and unproductive time, in addition to an unprecedented ease of use: both the machining centre and Cargo are directly managed with Maestro active HMI interface.

However, if it is true that the technology remains the heart of SCM's experience, the software and services are increasingly the guarantor element of a continuous and shared relationship with the client.

Maestro lab is the new state-of-the-art CAD/CAM programming software for both the office and machine use. Intuitive and dynamic, it allows you to easily transform an idea into a finished product, thanks to



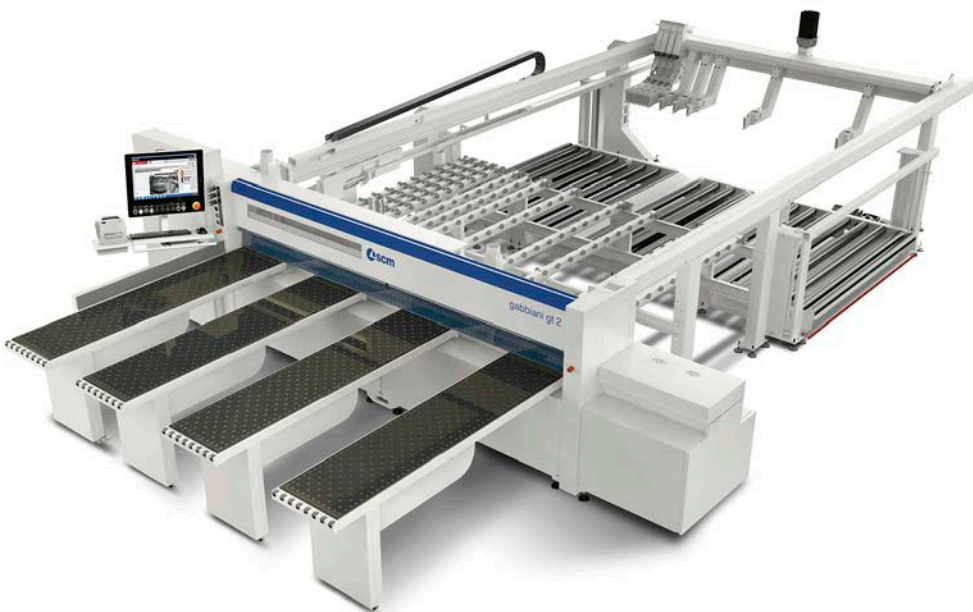
intelligent and technologically advanced programming functions and more than 150 already integrated apps. So, from the office to the factory in a flash via an enjoyable and fast user experience.

The contextualised and continuous exchange of information from the machine to the cloud thanks to the IoT Maestro Connect platform means SCM can provide clients with rapid access to answers and specific advice which will support the operators and maintenance workers with their challenges and needs for autonomy when using, carrying out maintenance and programming the machine and software. On the subject of this, a specific area has been created inside the Technology Centre which will demonstrate how the data is transformed into bespoke assistance and advisory services of a proactive and predictive nature with a view to guaranteeing the client operational continuity thanks to the most evolved digital technologies and constant attention by the SCM Service team.

SCM continues to invest in the excellence of its customer service and, for the event, will open the doors to its new automatic storage for spare parts, Autostore, an innovation which has allowed SCM to increase five-fold the pick-up speed of the codes and increase the number of orders handled within 24 hr by 26%. All this with an energy consumption of less than 0.1 kWh per robot, confirming the Group's focus on sustainability.

Sustainability which also means ergonomics and ease of use, made available to the operators of all the SCM machines by the renewed eye-M control panel, which makes the operator's work easier and offers a modular programming and a higher calculation power.

Furniture industry: The new SCM Technology Centre will see flexible cells integrated with the unmanned AMR shuttles: for beam saw, Gabbiani GT2 with robot for loading and unloading; for edgebanding, Stefani Cell E with gantry panel return system; for drilling and dowelling, Morbidelli CX220 which can be used either with just the robot or partially manned. Also highlighted is a beam saw and nesting cell for





batch 1 with Flexstore HP automatic storage and robot to unload the finished pieces, small pieces and waste, a Gabbiani P80 panel saw and a Morbidelli X200 nesting machining centre integrated into the same storage.

Worth highlighting for edgebanding is the new Olympic 500plus which can achieve even higher productivity, to machine edges in solid wood up to 12 mm and glue plastic edging using hot-air technology for a line of invisible glue.

For assembly, worth pointing out is Action E with a new loading and unloading system which greatly helps the work of the operator and the Action P loading and unloading electromechanical clamp with a new HMI which allows work programs, production data and general database to be imported and exported.

Surface treatment: The latest in the DMC Eurosystem will be present for sanding and calibration for machining work on unfinished and painted panels. These include the new 15" eye-S control panel to handle all the functions directly from the touch screen; the new HMI Maestro active sand for ideal handling of the tool storage; the new planetary unit for an accurate finish on any surface.

Also on display are the new DMC SD 90 functions, a highly customisable solution, available in 12 versions, to guarantee the best results on solid, lacquered and painted wood.

It will be possible to request a specific demo at the Surface Lab at Villa Verucchio (Rimini) on the new DMC system with laser unit, for exclusive productions and three-dimensional scorings on parquet, wooden elements, mdf panels to be veneered, fibre cement panels and solid surfaces of any length.

In a link up with Superfici's Technology Centre, there will also be demos of the latest new entries for painting and finishing like the compact xl sprayer for high capacity productions and a more efficient paint recovery system; the innovative UV LED polymerisation system for performances on a par with conventional UV polymerisation, while keeping the advantages of LED; Excimatt, the Superfici excimer technology for the finishing on different finished products and materials, capable

of providing extra-opaque effects that are surprisingly smooth with no more compromising on the surface resistance; the Cartesian and articulated robots for painting windows and doors and panels, designed to guarantee production speed and continuity together with a very high level of precision and machining quality.

Windows and doors and solid wood: During the Grand Opening, you will have a chance to discover, in a world preview at the expanded production site in Rimini, the new System 9 integrated range for the production of windows and doors with an absolute new entry: the Celaschi Action bilateral tenoner. The SCM range stands out for the high speed at which it changes configuration and the extreme flexibility in handling the piece lengths. This makes it possible to produce up to 200 complete windows per shift, even with medium-small batches. The new Celaschi Action, in particular, allows for two elements of differing lengths to be machined simultaneously, making the most of the principle of machining with the transfer of the motors when the pieces are stopped. Some of the advantages include the presence of 4 electro-spindles, each one subjugated by an 8-position tool change.

Windorflex, the new automatic cell for complete windows and doors which optimises productivity by keeping a high flexibility and machining quality will also be on show at the plant in Rimini.

The automatic Superset NT throughfeed moulder will be on show at the Technology Center for the first time complete with SCM's Maestro connect IoT platform, for an intelligent and connect production of profiles for windows, doors, staircases, matchboards and furniture parts.

The new entries also include Connexus FJ: tenoner-mortiser that meets all the machining demands for different kinds of solid wood or coated MDF, including complex joints such as miter doors, face frames and French joints on cabinet doors and shutters.

Timber construction: Plenty of space will also be dedicated to the latest in timber construction, presented digitally. These include Oikos XL Plus, a new CNC machining centre for machining modular panels and structural columns of a maximum section 1,250 x 610 mm, used to build multi-storey buildings. The presence of a separate blade unit as well as the 6-axis operating unit, allows for the creation of through cuts even on maximum thicknesses.

Also on show: the Oikos XS, a machining centre that guarantees maximum performance speed, precision and reduces bulk when machining lamellar beams or solid wood with a maximum section of 450 x 240 mm; DMC System XL, highly modular automatic sander-calibrating machine, capable of machining panels in CLT up to 3,700 mm in width and 500 mm thick.

Joinery machines: SCM's machines best suited to artisan work on show. Stand-alone as well as integrated solutions like those for beam saw, edgebanding and drilling of the Smart&Human Factory integrated cell dedicated to flexible and bespoke production from raw materials to finished furniture and enhanced by the integration with MES software.

Other new entries will include: "blade off", SCM's innovative safety system applied to circular saws which, thanks to the smart sensors, prevent accidental contact between the human body and the blade; Startech CN K, compact 3-axis machining centre for routing of any kind, decorations, engravings, production of routing of signs and 3D model prototyping.

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HOLZ-HANDWERK sharpens focus and sets course for another successful edition



EVEN during its break year, work continues apace for the European Trade Fair for Machine Technology, Equipment and Supplies for the Wood Crafts: In conjunction with FENSTERBAU FRONTALE, HOLZ-HANDWERK will be ready to roll again from 19 to 22 March 2024 with an improved hall arrangement and a clear focus on the trades and the future-oriented themes associated with them. For many exhibitors, this is a long-standing event not to be missed, an appointment they are more than happy to keep and one they look forward to with anticipation. Bookings for the exhibition halls are already strong for 2024. Potential exhibitors can still register for their stand spaces.

HOLZ-HANDWERK is where the woodworking and wood processing trades come together in their most intensive form: With plenty of time for personal discussions with customers, providing individual explanations of machines and tools, and testing them out in person. This familiar, relaxed and results-focused atmosphere is what makes HOLZ-HANDWERK so popular with tradespeople from throughout Europe. For the 2024 edition, this clear focus on the practical interests of tradespeople has been further sharpened. "There is no question that we see ourselves as the central starting point for all professional carpentry needs," says Stefan Dittrich, Director HOLZ-HANDWERK at Nürnberg-Messe. "HOLZ-HANDWERK represents the combination of the machinery and supplier areas. New technologies and innovative materials can be tested right on the spot and talked over with colleagues. All in all, we convey an atmosphere and a feel-good factor like no other trade fair. For us, 'Discover, Experience, Do' is much more than just a slogan. It pervades all the exhibition halls and the entire supporting programme."

Strong industry associations support HOLZ-HANDWERK

Thanks to strong partners such as the VDMA Woodworking Machinery Association as co-organizer and Fachverband Schreinerhandwerk (FSH)

Bavaria as honorary sponsor, HOLZ-HANDWERK has a particular focus on the needs of cabinet-makers, joiners, carpenters, wood flooring layers and other representatives of the trade. "As a technology supplier, we find the joinery and carpentry trade plays an important role and provides a point of stability, even in the challenging market environment we are currently facing," says Dr Bernhard Dirr, Managing Director VDMA. "Subjects such as automation and digitalization currently define many investment discussions, especially given the exacerbated shortage of skilled workers. HOLZ-HANDWERK 2024 will show which exhibitors have done their homework and offer the best solutions for the trade."

Still time to become an exhibitor

Potential exhibitors still have time to reserve a stand at HOLZ-HANDWERK 2024. Bookings for the exhibition halls are already strong! The provisional list of exhibitors, which is regularly updated, is already online on the HOLZ-HANDWERK website. For all information regarding registration: www.holz-handwerk.de/exhibit

Hall layout optimized for 2024

At the request of many exhibitors, the hall arrangement is being adapted and refined for 2024. Hall 8 is now fully available for HOLZ-HANDWERK. Alongside the existing machine halls 9, 10.0 and 11.0, this is where the products and services segment for woodworking and wood processing machinery will be found in future. The common point of intersection and focus with FENSTERBAU FRONTALE in the area of windows, doors and façades will move to Hall 7 in order to ensure the best possible flow of visitors and visibility for the theme. Hardware will have a new home in the western part of Hall 12. And to round out the relocations, software providers will be located in Hall 10.1 from now on. "This new hall structure will take HOLZ-HANDWERK to a new level of quality and thus lay the foundations for further successful editions," observes Dittrich.

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

Leitz launches in-person seminars and training packages

LEITZ UK is bolstering the skills of UK businesses with the launch of its new seminars and on-site training packages.

The completely bespoke in-person seminars have been designed to train staff in custom tooling solutions and process optimisation to help owners drive higher levels of profitability. The courses cover everything from technical information about tooling as well as advice on implementation, handling practices, and performance limits. Leitz also offers training in improving tool life and error detection, with a range of on-line seminars to be launched later in the year from their new studio in Germany. The on-site training includes consultation on optimal tooling selection and optimisation, including how you can use a service package to lower overall tooling costs. Leitz is a specialist in tackling dust and noise, which is a growing issue for joinery firms, with some facing large fines.

Simon Liddell, Managing Director at Leitz UK commented: "Previously, our manufacturers could only access our training programmes through a live broadcast from our partners in Germany. Increasing customer demand for specialist training has made our resources available to our customers who couldn't attend the live seminars."

The new platform will be available for all Leitz customers. Simon added: "Our courses on Tool Handling and Tool Application allow workers to develop their skills and knowledge in a practical session that prioritises real-world knowledge and helps to develop your workforce's skills and expertise in many scenarios."

Alongside their online training platform, Leitz UK has recently

launched an e-shop and a new suite of Tool Information Management packages, which are already supporting businesses in managing their facilities and boosting productivity.

Leitz UK ● <https://www.leitz.org/en-gb/services/training>



FURNITURE FITTINGS

IronmongeryDirect enhances its exclusive ranges



IRONMONGERYDirect has added an array of new products to its exclusive ranges including, the Old Forge, Hampstead and Touchpoint brands. The new additions comprise door and cabinet hardware in a wide variety of styles as well as shelving and storage systems, giving customers even more choice.

The leading trade supplier has introduced 30 new items to its exclusive Old Forge range of traditionally styled ironmongery. This includes lock, lever and bathroom door handles, escutcheons, door stops, bolts and pull handles – available in polished iron and smooth black finishes. The comprehensive Old Forge portfolio allows a consistent look to be achieved in all areas of traditional and period properties.

IronmongeryDirect has also launched Hampstead Zodiac, a collection of 11 different cabinet pull handles and knob designs, each inspired by the signs of the zodiac. The Taurus, Gemini, Leo and Libra products provide smooth minimalist lines, while modern yet classic styles are offered by the Aries, Virgo, Scorpio, Sagittarius and Pisces handles. For customers looking for a traditional yet eye-catching and luxurious finishing touch, there are the Capricorn and Aquarius Lines T-Bar Cabinet Pull Handles. The Hampstead Zodiac range is available in various sizes and a variety of finishes including satin brass,

matt black, satin nickel and polished nickel. Plus all products in the Hampstead range come with a 25 year guarantee for added peace of mind.

Also added to its portfolio of over 18,000 products, are new products in the Touchpoint, Altro (illustrated) and Klug ranges. Highlights include Touchpoint Victorian cabinet knobs in polished brass, Altro shelving and wardrobe storage solutions and Klug single and double bi-folding door kits.

Commenting on the launch of the new products, Roland Etheridge, Category Manager at IronmongeryDirect said: "Our exclusive ranges offer customers a wide selection of high-quality solutions to suit all budgets, whatever the need and desired style. These new additions further enhance what we can offer and mean these ranges, which are consistently highly-rated by customers, deliver even more choice to suit a wide range of projects."

IronmongeryDirect is the UK's largest online supplier of ironmongery with over 18,000 products in stock for those looking to renovate or embark on a new project, including everything from front door furniture and door & cabinet handles, to storage solutions, bathroom accessories and outdoor hardware. Customers can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including next day delivery and click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

IronmongeryDirect ● www.ironmongerydirect.co.uk/our-brands

Häfele builds on innovation in centenary year

IN LINE with its ongoing commitment to innovation, manufacturer and distributor Häfele has announced the launch of a wealth of new products and services designed to make life easier for its customers in the year it celebrates its 100th birthday.

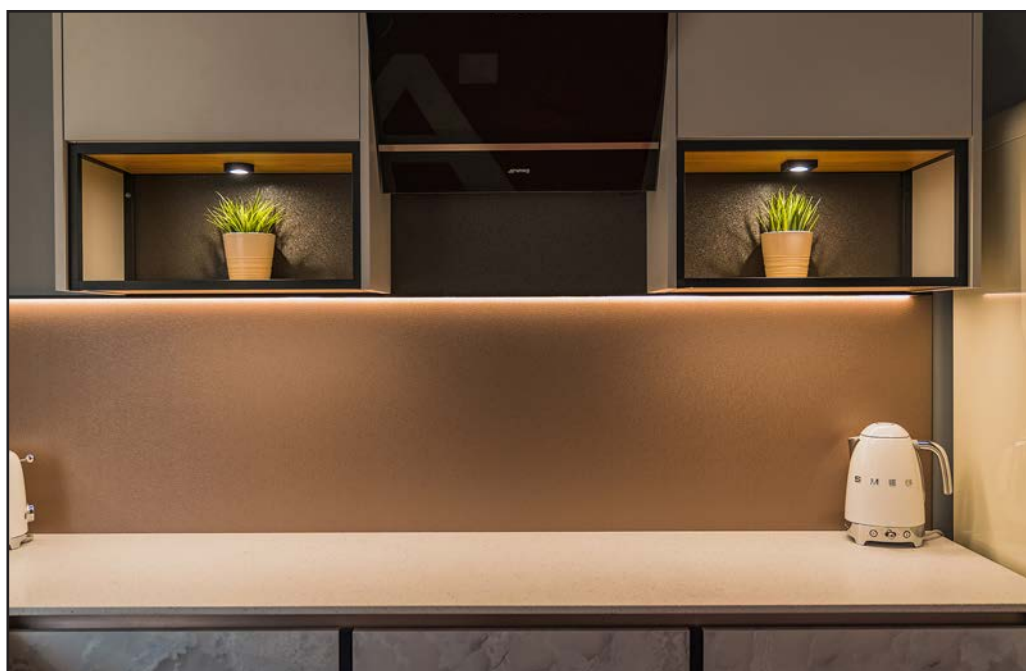
Flex Lighting System

The Flex Lighting System from Häfele promises to put an end to the complex and time consuming process that can come with installing kitchen and furniture lighting designs.

Flex Light is a silicon-based ribbon which can be bent to almost any angle and radius. The innovative system, believed to be unique to Häfele, is designed as a single light solution that's suitable for multiple applications.

It pairs up with a brand new selection of profiles for plinths, handleless cabinets, worktops, and splashbacks. Users simply need to select the Flex Light profile required for the application, and push-fit the Flex Light ribbon to achieve the desired effect. The profiles have been designed in a variety of lengths to suit applications of different sizes, with two lighting colours — cool white and warm white — available to choose from.

The Flex Lighting System can be controlled in many ways, including remotely by an app on the user's phone via Häfele's Loox Lighting drivers. Offering additional simplicity and versatility, the Flex Lighting System has multiple uses around the home and can be combined with another new Häfele innovation, Modu³.



Modu³

Modu³ is an entirely customisable and modular shelving system that can be both standalone and complementary to Flex Lighting.

Combining chipboard or MDF panels — available in five different finishes — with aluminium profiles, various shelving designs can be created using any of the three standard sizes available — 600 mm, 900 mm and 1,200 mm.

Committed to making life as simple as possible for the industry, Häfele has created a range of different assembly packages to choose from. There is a 'ready to be assembled' pack which includes a finishing trim to cover rebate, and a second 'ready to be assembled' pack which also includes a complementary shelf. A 'part assembled pack' is crafted

to a bespoke design submitted by the customer, before being flatpacked via Häfele to Order — Häfele's free cutting and packing service designed to improve efficiency and cut down on waste. The fourth option sees Modu³ delivered built and ready to fit, while any of the above can also be combined with an integrated Flex Lighting System to offer customers a lit-up, customised shelving solution.

Bespoke worktops

Alongside product-led developments, Häfele is launching its new Bespoke Worktop Service to help customers achieve precise, entirely customisable designs while also saving time during the installation process.

Users simply select their choice of worktop from Häfele's Maia, Minerva and or Carysil ranges, and the products will be manufactured to specification by highly experienced professionals, using advanced cutting tools and technologies to ensure precision and accuracy, eliminating gaps or unevenness when fitted. The Bespoke Worktop Service offers complete customisation including different shapes, sizes and finishes, to create pieces that blend perfectly with the desired design. Once cut

and packaged, the bespoke worktops are delivered direct to site within 14 days.

The service has been developed to save customers valuable time in the installation process, meaning they can complete projects more efficiently. And because of the high quality materials and tools used, customers can be sure of a perfect and durable finish.

Tom Fletcher, Product, Innovation & Development Manager at Häfele UK, said: "Innovation has been at the heart of our business for 100 years, and we're still thinking of new and inventive ideas to help transform outdated ways of working. We've always worked closely with our customers to understand their pain points, and we use those insights to harness the expertise and experience of our team to come up with a new way of doing things."

"These latest product and service launches reflect that. Each has been created because we've been told by customers that what's already available in the market doesn't make their life any easier. Designs for the home don't always need to be complex, and we know this latest collection of innovations will see our customers finding greater joy in their jobs as we've enabled them to work differently — more efficiently, with more ease, and with more accuracy and quality."

Häfele ● hafele.co.uk



Custom pitch black Pembroke kitchen, home bar and utility

DAVAL Furniture, award-winning British designer and manufacturer of custom fitted furniture is delighted to unveil a bespoke ground floor transformation for a beautiful family home in Linthwaite, West Yorkshire.

Commissioned to completely reshape the core living space downstairs, Daval designed and installed its Pembroke Furniture Collection to create a Shaker-style solid ash kitchen in custom Pitch Black finish by Farrow & Ball and its best-selling Porcelain finish. A dedicated home bar also in Pembroke Porcelain connects the kitchen living space, and a discreet utility in its Salcombe furniture range to offer a smooth easy-clean slab style door in one of the hardest working rooms in the home.

Simon Bodsworth, Managing Director at Daval, says, "This was an exciting project to be involved with as we used two different collections to create one distinct ground floor design; our Shaker-style Pembroke furniture in the kitchen and home bar, and contemporary Salcombe furniture in the utility room. The clients had been considering renovations for 12 months and decided to upgrade the ground floor by taking down the existing kitchen wall to create more space. They wanted a modern luxurious look, which felt timeless and ever so slightly glamorous without being over the top, so we loved delivering a new take on modern country style."

The Shaker-style Pembroke furniture by Daval blends traditional style with contemporary glam to create a sophisticated kitchen living space that delivers on form and function. The units are painted in the company's timeless Porcelain finish and paired with a bespoke colour choice of Pitch Black by Farrow & Ball. Quartz surfaces in Calacatto Gold Enzo add a visual richness in the kitchen space and plush quilted bar-style seating at both ends of the island unit help to create a 5* look and feel where the family can dine in comfort.

As the kitchen island was the number one design wish, an integrated Bora hob with built-in cooktop extraction ensures that any unwanted cooking aromas are eliminated at source. The homeowners were upgrading from a traditional range cooker and as keen home chefs, wanted a dedicated run of cabinetry to house two Neff ovens with Hide & Slide doors, an integrated microwave and a warming drawer. The classic Pembroke furniture by Daval provides the perfect contrast of old and new when set against the black glass appliances, and the Pitch Black finish proves the perfect foil for the satin brass knurled bar handles and knobs.

The perimeter units have flush joints for a minimal finish with the Porcelain painted finish enhancing natural daylight from the window above the kitchen sink. Here the clients upgraded their wet zone with a 3 in 1 Quooker tap to deliver instant boiling, chilled and sparkling water. They also specified an extra dishwasher so they could accommodate extra dishes when entertaining family and friends. With an eye-level cupboard for storing essentials, the working area is close to the island while maintaining plenty of clearance so that everyone — including the family dog — can have room to manoeuvre. James Bodsworth, Design Director at Daval says, "Creating family-friendly spaces is increasingly important to today's luxurious home centred lifestyles and every detail counts. This is why extra touches like the island pilasters and corning throughout add to the 'forever home' feel in keeping with the property."

The utility room is separate from the main kitchen using Crittall-style glass doors to connect the space yet still maintain an element of privacy and noise reduction from the laundry appliances. The utility furniture features Salcombe by Daval, which is a contemporary slab door for easy maintenance, and the worktops are in durable Eternal Marquina quartz to complement the classic porcelain finish and ensure a strong durable surface that is resistant to stains, heat and scratches.

Creating an inviting light-filled space, the kitchen living area are brought together by the dedicated home bar in Pembroke Porcelain. Designed to easily host large groups of friends and family when entertaining at home or enjoying a relaxed glass of wine while cooking, the bar is complete with black Marquina marble countertops and mirrored splashback, hanging wine glass holder, fully illuminated shelving, and extra cupboards and drawers for maximum drinks storage. Open all hours, a fridge freezer is integrated within the cabinets in easy reach of the kitchen, along with a full height built-in wine rack to ensure there's always room for another bottle!

The Pembroke & Salcombe Furniture Collections by Daval Furniture are built from sustainably sourced materials and are precision engineered in the UK.

Daval Furniture ● 01484 848500
enquiries@daval-furniture.co.uk
www.daval-furniture.co.uk



Coastal Californian-style home in Sussex

AWARD-winning luxury interior design studio, Tailored Living Interiors, showcases its creativity and design expertise within a large Californian-style beach house in the beautiful coastal village of West Wittering, Sussex. This three-bedroom property, which offers direct access to the immaculate sandy beach of West Wittering, has breath-taking views of the Solent and Chichester Harbour.

Benefiting from Tailored Living's comprehensive interior design service, the homeowners commissioned the company to provide a complete design and project co-ordination of their luxury home. Gloria Sanchez, founder & managing director at Tailored Living Interiors explains, "The property is nestled in the picturesque village of West Wittering and having collaborated with this client 6 years ago on their London home, we were their default choice when selecting an interior designer for this new project."

When considering the brief and how the project went Gloria explained, "Our client brief was to create a relaxed and cohesive beach vibe with an effortless, laid-back luxury feel. Thankfully, the timeline for the execution of this project was perfect because the client had previous experience with how we operate, which meant they understood the importance of the planning process. Duly, we were given nine months prior to the date they wanted to start building works on this project which allowed ample time to ensure the clients' requirements, preferences and budgetary constraints were reviewed as many times as required prior to works commencing."

Discussing any issues or problems that may have arisen during the project Gloria comments, "Despite some initial concerns about managing the interior design project from a geographical distance, the overall process turned out to be smoother than expected. The trust and rapport established early on between the interior designer and contractors significantly contributed to the project's smooth execution. Open lines of communication, mutual understanding, and frequent collaboration fostered a sense of teamwork, despite the physical distance. The



constant exchange of ideas, suggestions, and feedback, along with the prompt resolution of any challenges that arose, played a critical role in keeping the project running smoothly.

This coastal Californian-style home features the following design elements by Tailored Living:

ENTRYWAY: Upon arrival, you are greeted by a light and airy Californian-style lobby area with Nordic-inspired tones and texture by taking a 'less is more' approach. Neutral painted walls lay a foundation throughout the home for the clients chosen accent colour, matt black. A modern black bench seat sits beneath a picture window with made to order African mudcloth geometric print cushions, and jute storage baskets to keep everyday essentials like a picnic blanket (or broly) neat and tidy.

DINING AREA: This open-plan dining room offers an alfresco dining experience for up to eight friends and family, providing instant access to the beach and open plan kitchen, which features complementary off-white Shaker-style cabinets, grey/black worktops, and tactile rope and metal hardware. The large table seats four on wish-bone style chairs each side for a clear view of the gardens; as well as keep a free passage around the table when serving guests. To finish, two rattan pendant lights are suspended overhead to provide gentle illumination when dining, as well

as draw on the organic materials so true of Californian-style beach house interiors.

LIVING ROOM: In the main living area, a fabric roll arm Lawson sofa creates the perfect space to relax and unwind, with a turned wood accent table and black metal and rattan wall light that's ideal when reading or highlighting the framed sea coral prints. Comfort was a key ingredient in the living room, as the cool air from the ocean is inevitable. Push upholstery combined with a neutral colour palette and raw materials all come together to create a warm, inviting space for the homeowners to enjoy day or night.

MEZZANINE: Echoing the same clean and pure aesthetic, an intimate mezzanine level provides easy access to the main sleeping quarters, as well as make great use of the sloping ceiling with the addition of extra seating beneath the eaves. Simple yet distinct artwork adorns the walls and yet again embraces the coastal theme with driftwood fish wall art and three frames that form a black and white digital print of a humpback whale. The small oak bench seat is classically timeless and is designed and the bleached strata oak wood flooring is the ultimate finishing touch, helping to create a truly organic feel from a white and wood interior.

BEDROOMS: Offering spectacular ocean views from the first floor, each bedroom features a

statement wall-hung dressing table, which is suspended from the ceiling to make it look as though it's floating. The master bedroom features a freestanding four-poster bed, with two guest bedrooms featuring a full-size double in one and a generous single bed in the other.

Furniture includes a series of retro rocker style chairs, bedside units and chest of drawers.

WC: Defined by the iconic Beach Huts Nautical wallpaper in Driftwood by Sanderson, this bijoux cloakroom offers the perfect marriage of old and new. The muted vintage backdrop of the British seaside is carried through to the 2-drawer vanity unit in satin grey with white ceramic sink and for contrast, matt black fixtures and fittings finish the look.

The homeowner comments, "The trust and rapport established early on between the interior designer and contractors significantly contributed to the project's smooth execution. Open lines of communication, mutual understanding, and frequent collaboration fostered a sense of teamwork, despite the physical distance. The constant exchange of ideas, suggestions, and feedback, along with the prompt resolution of any challenges that arose, played a critical role in keeping the project running smoothly."

Tailored Living Interiors
Tel 07973 118936
tailored-living.co.uk

Neptunus builds demountable Daikin Centre for BBC Earth Experience

A GROUND-BREAKING new immersive attraction in the centre of London recently opened its doors for the first time. The BBC Earth Experience offers visitors the chance to experience the extraordinary diversity of our seven unique continents on the most epic scale, featuring bespoke narration from Sir David Attenborough. Producer Moon Eye Productions and main contractor ES Global Solutions, contracted Neptunus to build the temporary structure to stage this unique experience.

BBC Earth Experience showcases footage, including extended scenes to fully immerse the visitor, and music from the BBC Studios Natural History Unit television series *Seven Worlds, One Planet*, projected on multi-angle screens using the very latest digital screen technology. This new London attraction which spans 1,608 m² offers a truly transformative experience that will allow audiences of every age to feel like they've stepped into the natural world, losing themselves in boundless wonder as they travel to far flung places.

The experience takes place in The Daikin Centre. The Daikin Centre had to be a sustainable and demountable building. Neptunus provided the perfect solution with the Evolution-structure.

The Evolution is a temporary building that can be built rapidly with insulated and soundproofed roof and wall panels. This makes it ideal for long-term events or studios.

Neptunus finished the structure in December. It has been fitted with multiple multi-angle screens suspended from the roof of the structure and the latest digital screen technology to fully immerse the



visitors to experience the extraordinary diversity of seven unique contents.

Ben Keast, Managing Director of Neptunus structures: 'We are proud to provide our temporary structures for the BBC Earth Experience. Our Evolution structure has proven to be the ideal space solution for these kinds of projects. We have built the Evolution multiple times in London for various different applications including the LTA cinch Championships and Masterpiece Art Fair, but this is the first time that we have built it with a height of 15 meters in the middle of the city. The size, scale and effectiveness of the building is perfect for this application and the results are fantastic.'

Neptunus ● www.neptunus.co.uk

Mayfair Bronze split level kitchen living by Daval Furniture

AWARD-WINNING British designer and manufacturer of custom fitted furniture, Daval, makes a statement with this Mayfair Bronze split level kitchen-living space, designed and made-to-order for a newly renovated family home in West Yorkshire.

Contemporary by design, the main living area is designed as one large room, which is then split over two levels to create an independent kitchen and living space that remains open and benefits from excellent airflow and added light.

Simon Bodsworth, Managing Director at Daval Furniture says, "The brief for this project was to create a sleek kitchen that complements the large open-plan living space and clients' love of modern art and abstract design pieces. Again re-emphasising the trend for personalisation in the home, we knew the raw contemporary nature of Mayfair Bronze furniture would create the perfect foundation for elevated levels of interior design and finishing."

Mayfair Bronze is characterised by its sophisticated mineral effect finish, adding a textured effect and a layer of luxury to the super-sized kitchen island unit and back run of cabinets. As the homeowner wanted plenty of storage space without lots of wall cupboards, the design cleverly combines extra-tall storage and top units, which are made to measure to fit seamlessly under the awkwardly placed sloping roof.

James Bodsworth, Design Director at Daval Furniture explains, "We incorporated an oversized island unit into the main kitchen design, discreetly housing two dishwashers which can be used on rotation as and when required. To not sacrifice valuable storage space, we designed the unit with four extra deep drawers on the opposite side to create new areas to store essential kitchen and cook ware. The island is topped with the client's own choice of work surface; however, we chose to fully illuminate the space under the countertop with bead lighting to create a floating effect. For the ultimate cook station, we also specified designer plug sockets by Bora into the island to create extra power outlets with industrial style fixtures and fittings to perfectly match the raw nature of our Mayfair Bronze furniture."



To extend the main worktops, the island unit accommodates space for a modestly sized wet zone complete with a Matrix R15 one and a half bowl stainless steel sink by Abode, along with a Chrome Fusion Round boiling water tap by Quooker. The cook zone benefits from a Bora concealed extractor with flush-mounted cooktop, and either side sit two fully integrated ovens by Fisher & Paykel in modern black glass. To finish, integrated lighting illuminates the cooking area, all supported by a thoughtful arrangement of generous fitted base units, drawers, and top units for even more storage capacity.

Delivering on both style and substance, this modern kitchen provides a series of high-organisation storage solutions including the latest must-have item on everyone's wish list, the day pantry! Contributing to daily family life, this full height day pantry features a sequence of shelves including one large middle shelf, which they use to house small appliances like their microwave and food processor. Perfect to work as a food management system too, the top shelves are perfect for storing cupboard essentials like bread, coffee, eggs, spreads and jams for one-stop cooking and snacking. Beneath sit two Legrabox pull-out drawers with high load bearing capacity, making them perfect for storing heavier items like bottles or tins.

With the dining table just the other side of the island unit, it's easy to serve dishes using plates from the dedicated crockery and glassware cupboard located on back right or serve tray bakes and roasts straight from the oven! A contemporary sideboard finished in Varenna Cuban Oak and Talpa creates a contrast of colour between the kitchen and dining area, echoing the two-tone island unit by featuring the same finishes just in reverse! Introducing extra storage space for fine porcelain and table linens, this freestanding sideboard is a lifestyle-friendly addition to any room that needs to cater to multiple everyday needs and large family gatherings.

Built from sustainably sourced materials and precision engineered in Britain, the Mayfair Furniture Collection by Daval is made-to-order and made-to-measure.

Daval Furniture ● Tel 01484 848 500

enquiries@daval-furniture.co.uk ● www.daval-furniture.co.uk

CaberFloor P5 ticks the eco boxes

THE CONSERVATION of our natural environment has become ever more important to developers, consultants and contractors, whose clients want to see more sustainable products being used in homes and business premises. As a result, West Fraser's particleboard products — including CaberFloor P5 — are specified in preference to more traditional flooring for eco-conscious projects.

90% of the wood used in West Fraser's particleboard is recycled while, being a fully engineered product, CaberFloor helps to minimise waste through accurate usage and pinpoint specification. Meanwhile, specifying CaberFloor saves time on site as fewer intermediate supports or noggins are required during installation.

As well as laying floors across conventional timber joists, CaberFloor is ideal for use on engineered timber and metal web joists, as well as fixing across wooden battens laid over concrete or other substrates. The product can also be fixed directly across existing wood floors, though care needs to be taken regarding the level and soundness of the retained boarding. As well as ground and upper storey applications, CaberFloor is often used in loft conversions, garden rooms and other modular type buildings.

West Fraser recommends securing the panels to joists, battens or across existing timber floors by fixing them at 200-300 mm centres along the edges and 300 mm elsewhere along the supports. Fixings should be at least 9mm from the edge of the panel, while nails should be 10 gauge. In practice, this equates to three fixings on short ends and two fixings at intermediate joist positions. Where tongue and groove (T&G) boards are chosen, it is common to employ hidden nails or screws fixed through



the profiled edge. When gluing boards with CaberFix Joint&Joist, only five fixings per board are required, one at each joist position — so again saving labour costs. This adhesive should be applied to the edges to virtually guarantee the risk of squeaks and creaks truly become a problem of the past. In fact, it is five times stronger than nails while, alternatively, West Fraser's one-bottle solution, CaberFix D4, can be used for all panel fixing and sealing jobs.

The boards are available in standard thicknesses of 18 or 22 mm, in both square-edged or T&G options — the latter being profiled on all four edges to offer greater stability and flexibility of use. All CaberFloor panels measure 2400 x 600 mm, their precision-engineered edges ensuring accurate and speedy installation, as well as tight-fitting joints to eliminate unsightly

ridges. It should, though, be remembered to leave a 2mm gap per metre run, at the perimeter, to allow for expansion/contraction. This will not affect their high load-carrying capacity.

It is not recommended to use CaberFloor outside, although it is moisture resistant and can stand limited exposure to rain and moisture during the build process and will retain a high percentage of its original strength.

CaberFloor P5 carries BBA Agreement certification while FSC approval underlines its environmental credentials and, being a RIBA-approved BIM Object, it can be specified for use on projects involving the latest CAD programmes and computer aided machining. The boards are also suitable for use with underfloor heating (UFH) systems and beneath all types of carpet, vinyl and tiles.

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

Avoid costly callbacks with International Timber

INTERNATIONAL Timber, a leading importer and distributor of bespoke, sustainable timber and panel products, recommends using flooring grade plywood to help prevent callbacks in commercial and domestic flooring projects.

Contract flooring specialists know that incorrectly specified plywood underlayment can result in swelling, peeling and lifting, even when other installation practices are correctly adhered to. Imagine installing a floor in a high-end commercial or residential setting, only to be called back to replace the underlayment as well as the floor itself when the plywood used doesn't meet the grade.

Flooring grade plywood consists of thicker face veneers to meet the recommendations from the Contract Flooring Association (CFA). Interna-

tional Timber's flooring grade plywood, for example, consists of thicker 1.2mm face veneers, compared to the 0.12mm on some commercially available plywood.

In addition, BS 8203:2017 'code of practice for installation of resilient floor coverings' recommends that flooring grade plywood should have a glue bond of Class 3 Exterior. This also relates to test methods specific to plywood, in particular EN 314-2 'Plywood – Bonding quality — Part 2: Requirements (June 1993)', which requires the glue to be able to stand up to a certain degree of moisture.

These certifications ensure that plywood is performing to the industry agreed standard of subfloor bases. International Timber's Eucalyptus Grandis range includes no core gaps, no overlap, and 3-ply construction to ensure that flatness and dimensional stability is never an issue upon installation.

Craig Hewlett, Commercial Lead for Panel Products at International Timber comments: "Resilient contract flooring projects require the correct grade plywood fitted underneath. If the plywood sheets installed are not fit for purpose, meaning a lower-class glue or thinner face veneer, this can result in costly callbacks for flooring contractors, with lost time and money. We would always recommend that flooring specialists use flooring grade plywood for commercial and domestic projects for peace of mind. Here at International Timber, we keep a wide range of plywood in stock that meets the highest of standards depending on your requirements and specification. Our range will always guarantee sustainable and legal sourced products, providing you with both confidence and quality when purchasing."

International Timber's flooring grade plywood is available nationally, in loose and full packs, with free UK delivery over £500.

International Timber ● info@internationaltimber.com
www.internationaltimber.com



South coast carpentry company counts on SterlingOSB Zero performance

A **TIME-SERVED** carpenter with a broad building background has come to rely on the performance and all-round quality of SterlingOSB Zero, a popular panel board which is manufactured in the UK by West Fraser. He finds a variety of uses for the environmentally-friendly product in his work. Peter Baldwin Carpentry is based on the Kent-Sussex border and operates within a 50-mile range of his home, with one of his most recent projects fully demonstrating the versatility of the high-performance boards; he used a full pack to build a two-room summerhouse on behalf of a client near Bexhill-on-Sea.

Peter Baldwin explained: "I've been in the construction industry for over 30 years and, though I worked for one company for many years, I went from general building to training up as a carpenter; then, when I got made redundant, I decided to set up my own business, mainly doing domestic work. I undertake extensions and refurb work, while the summerhouse we're just completing now is not untypical of the garden rooms and other outbuildings that clients want. It measures 10.5 x 4 metres and is built mainly of SterlingOSB Zero on a four by two-inch timber frame; I used 40 sheets supplied by Parker Building Supplies."

Explaining why so much OSB went into the project, Peter added: "Not just the wall sheathing but the floor and the roof all use OSB; with the latter being a warm roof where there is a second layer of 18 mm SterlingOSB Zero laid over 100 mm of Celotex insulation and screwed through to the frame using 225 mm fixings. And it will be finished off with GRP profiles by a specialist sub-contractor. I normally buy the West Fraser board which is a much better price than plywood and does an equally good job. Importantly, the boards are very accurate so, if you build something square, the joints are all tight which cuts down on fitting work."

With Peter's involvement coming to an end, the client is intending to erect an internal partition and line all the walls in more of the SterlingOSB Zero as he completes the fit out.

Available in thicknesses of 18 and 22 mm, the 2400 mm length boards come in widths of 590 and 1200 mm, while being manufactured using UK grown timber and with Zero added formaldehyde, SterlingOSB Zero has outstanding environmental credentials. Both the 18- and 22-mm thick panels are strong enough to meet most load-bearing applications, are BBA Approved and recognized by NHBC Technical standards for housing applications. SterlingOSB Zero T&G also bears the coveted UKTFA Q-mark, a quality certification which provides a benchmark for manufacturers, and offers confidence to designers and end-users across the UK.

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



Modern materials house classic vehicles

'AUTOBARN' is an unusual build comprising an elegant five-bay garage and accompanying workshop sitting within the grounds of a Grade-II listed 18th-century home in Somerset.

Designed by Bindloss Dawes Architects, the brief was to create a garage with an adjoining workshop to house the client's classic car collection. The finished result is an aesthetically beautiful building with its deceptively simple wooden barn-themed styling using agricultural materials such as concrete and recycled wood under a zinc roof.

With surfaces comprising steel, timber and polished concrete floor, the architects incorporated Troldekt acoustic panels to clad both the walls and ceilings between the steel frames for sound absorption and to combat the issue of reverberating noise. The added advantage of having services hidden behind the white panelling means the final result is a stunning simplistic and minimalist design allowing the classic cars to be the focus of attention and transforming the space into more of a gallery than a traditional garage.

Troldekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different surfaces and colours and combine sound absorption with a tactile surface. With an expected life cycle of at least 50 years and resistance to humidity and impact, they are available in various sizes and four grades, from extreme fine to coarse. The panels can be left untreated or painted in almost any RAL colour. Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively.

Founded on the Cradle-to-Cradle design concept and having attained Gold certification, Troldekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, DGNB or LEED points. Samples, case studies and technical guidance are available from the company.

Troldekt ● www.troldekt.com






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Wood panels for creative applications

FACTORY primed in either a neutral white or grey, SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is a new development from timber panel specialist West Fraser: offering the market a versatile OSB3 board ideally suited to fitting out shops, hotels and leisure facilities while also being suitable for external use.

SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus, being exceptionally smooth due to the added putty finish, is supplied ready for use in a very wide range of applications, saving time and cost of ordering multiple board products for a fit-out contract. For example, the versatile board can be used for everything from shelving to counter-tops; display areas to cloakroom dividers; lockers, seating and information boards and more. Then aside from its pristine appearance, the smoothness means expensive garments or fine materials will not get snagged when being displayed or removed to show a customer.

Although SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus can accept a variety of paint finishes, the high quality surface is also ideal for taking graphics including a retail outlet's signage, as well as the logo for a gymnasium or play centre; plus advertising and other promotional material.

Alternatively, SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus can simply be stained for the popular industrial look currently favoured by architects and inte-

rior designers; while being knot and void free due to the precise production process, means there are no places for water to get in, making the panels highly durable.

Measuring 1220 mm wide by 2440 mm long and, at 18 mm thick, the boards are supplied in packs of 50 to cover a total area of approximately 150 m². To further improve performance, West Fraser has treated the edges of the board with a water repellent sealant, while the putty used in the manufacturing process is UV resistant too.

David Connacher, Marketing Manager for West Fraser, commented on the boards' versatility and physical benefits saying: "PrimedPlus offers a ready-made solution to many challenges faced by specifiers and fit-out specialists and it is the first UK-manufactured OSB with zero-

added formaldehyde. It therefore reduces health risks as breathing in such fumes can cause eye, nose and throat irritation."

For the increasingly sustainability-conscious specifier, SterlingOSB PrimedPlus is CE marked and complies with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and BBA Agreement requirements. In addition, it is manufactured in the UK using guaranteed renewable energy to deliver an ultra-low carbon footprint.

West Fraser
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CaberMDF, a reliable all rounder

AS THE UK's foremost wood panel product supplier, West Fraser manufactures several grades of CaberMDF to meet the wide variety of demands across the construction and related industries, with these ranging from creating architraves for door surrounds to highly detailed decorative profiles and heavier duty uses.

The timber specialist's CaberMDF Trade is suitable for general purposes where simple profiles are required, as is its Trade MR; while the moisture resisting properties will suit humid conditions in bathrooms and other wet areas.

The Pro is ideal for the volume manufacture of various mouldings such as door panels, skirtings and architraves, while the Pro MR can be used in atmospheres where moisture is prevalent such as in kitchens

and bathrooms. Then West Fraser's CaberMDF Industrial is the most versatile type overall as it can meet most technical requirements, including facilitating deep routed profiles for membrane-pressed PVC doors, as well as designs which require advanced routed profiles as well as receiving high quality painted finishes.

To summarise the West Fraser options: CaberMDF is available in five main grades: Trade, Pro, Trade Moisture Resistant, Pro Moisture Resistant and Industrial. Colour is meanwhile used as a means of identification between the MR and non-MR grades and does not correlate to the boards' other performance parameters. Trade, Pro and Industrial grades are the traditional 'sandy' colour, whereas Pro Moisture Resistant and Trade Moisture Resistant are distinguished by a green hue.

When decorating MDF, oil-based paint is best as the material is less absorbent and customers like the quality of finish which can be achieved on the very smooth surfaces that machining leaves. Then in terms of fixing, most types of screws can be used, although the best results are obtained with parallel thread screws.

All wood-related products — including MDF — create dust when sawing, drilling and machining, so appropriate PPE, including masks, and good ventilation are vital. Another health and safety consideration for the sector is the effects of formaldehyde content: where, reassuringly, CaberMDF complies with all the requirements of the latest E1 definition for the chemical when tested according to EN120.

West Fraser ● **Tel 0 1786 812921**
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Historic THF tower at Berlin Tempelhof Airport opens stunning new 360° viewing terrace

A KEY stage in the redevelopment of Berlin's historic Tempelhof Airport has recently completed, with the opening of a 600 m² rooftop walkway and 360° viewing platform on the 26 m high airport tower, constructed with Kebony wood decking.

Opened to the public on Thursday 20th July, the new installation THF Tower marks a significant step in the regeneration of the former aviation centre which closed its hanger doors in 2008. The wood-panelled rooftop terrace creates a new exhibition and event space, offering visitors not only stunning views across the skyline of the German capital, but an expansive viewing platform to experience the regular programme of cultural events hosted at the airport, including trade fairs, concerts such as annual Tempelhof Sounds festival, and sports events including the 2023 Berlin Formula E-Prix.

The combination of the building's famous historical character



Photo: Kristian Alveo

and modern construction requirements presented architects :mlzd

and designers Karle & Rubmer with a unique challenge. When choosing the materials for the roof terrace, accessed via a suspended steel staircase that guides visitors up from the central terminal, both the technical and aesthetic characteristics of the building product were paramount to create a quality, long-lasting facility to support regular use.

Kebony Clear decking was selected to give the space a durable and visually sophisticated finish. Developed in Norway, Kebony wood provides a sustainable alternative to tropical hardwoods, helping to ease the global dependence on traditional construction materials, thereby reducing the continued environmental damage caused by deforestation. Through the production of enhanced dually modified™ timber, sourced from sustainable softwoods such as pine, Kebony offers architects a wood product with the same built characteristics of protected wood species such as Ipe and Cumaru, without the same cost to the carbon footprint.

Kebony's patented modification process enhances the dimensional stability of the wood cell walls, and, over time, its surface develops a silver-grey patina that adds depth and character. This unique

combination of features renders Kebony an ideal solution for projects like the THF Tower terrace, that are constantly exposed to the elements, but still require the highest standards in design aesthetics, durability, and sustainability.

The successful implementation of the THF Tower project is a demonstration of the innovative ways in which historical, high carbon emitting industrial sites, such as decommissioned airports, can be repurposed into new long-term social and sustainable contexts.

Pat Tanner, Architect for :mlzd, comments: "The decision to use Kebony wood in the design of Tempelhof Tower was an obvious choice to create a space that is both functional and beautiful."

Nina Landbø, International Sales Manager for Kebony, adds: "We are proud to see Kebony selected as part of the next chapter for the iconic Berlin Tempelhof. Transforming a former carbon emissions site into a stunning recreational facility is a fantastic concept. We congratulate all the partners involved in the delivery of this project and wish that visitors take leisure not only in the views, but the conscious, sustainably-inspired design of their surroundings."

Kebony
www.kebony.com

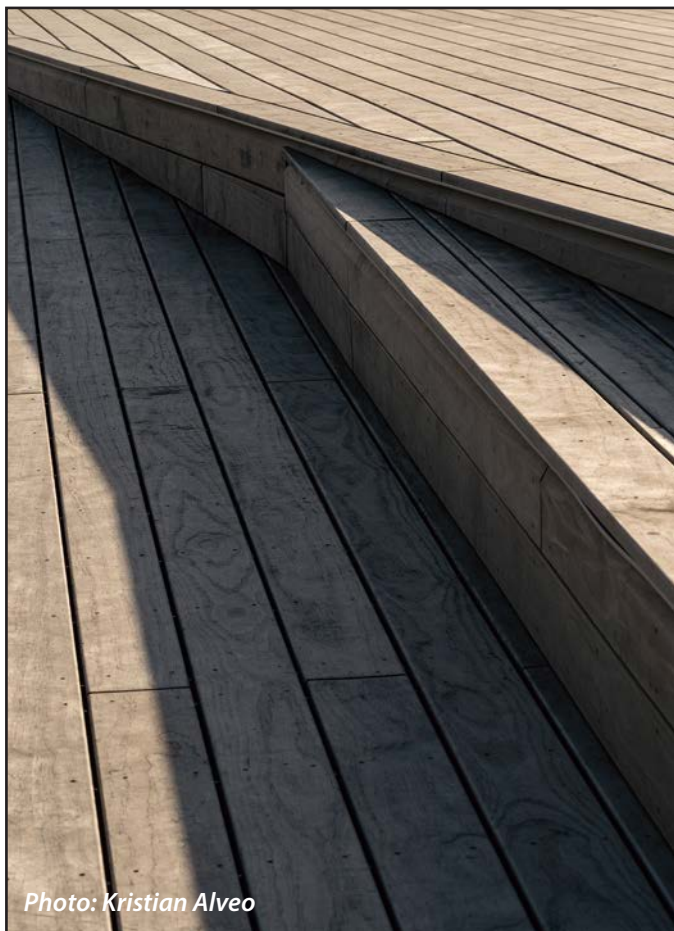


Photo: Kristian Alveo

Understanding SterlingOSB Zero

ALL West Fraser's Oriented Strand Board (OSB) products are manufactured using selected fibres of timber that are laid in cross directional layers and mechanically pressed to form a structurally-engineered panel, designed for construction and other industrial applications. OSB is viewed by many as the natural successor to plywood because it is more eco-friendly, is home produced and far more affordable, while it contains none of the voids or knots which have historically weakened plywood.

As the boards are essentially formed from individual strands of softwood, some may question their strength and durability, especially if exposed to inclement weather, but this is a misunderstanding of OSB's characteristics.

West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero OSB3, for example, is BBA-certified, as well as approved for load bearing in humid conditions — being manufactured to EN300 and EN 13986. However, if being used outdoors for extended periods, it can be painted or varnished, plus it can also be treated to protect against fungal and insect attack.

Technological advances mean there is no need to sand OSB boards anymore, as West Fraser is now able to produce them to industry leading tolerances. The latest boards offer an exceptionally smooth surface, making it an ideal substrate which is easy to work with. If a floating floor is specified, the installer should ensure that battens for the substructure are appropriately

spaced at 400 mm centres beneath 15 mm boards and up to 600mm for the 18 mm version. SterlingOSB Zero boards come in both square edged and tongue and groove (T&G) format, which can be used for roofing and timber frame construction, as well as flooring — making the whole SterlingOSB Zero range infinitely flexible in use.

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



OSB Zero PrimedPlus ideal for site hoarding and security

STERLINGOSB Zero PrimedPlus, from timber panel specialist West Fraser, is a versatile OSB3 board, primed in the factory in either a neutral white or grey, and ready to be immediately erected around construction projects or buildings in need of protection. Its 'prime' advantage over competitors being that it requires no painting or coating prior to use.

Ideally suited for perimeter hoardings, the fact that PrimedPlus can be deployed so quickly is down to its exceptionally smooth surface which results from the added putty finish. The smooth surface allows rain to run off rather than pooling which would inevitably lead to the rapid deterioration of most products. Additionally, being knot and void free

thanks to West Fraser's exacting manufacturing process means there are no places for water to get in, further making the panels durable and therefore ideal for long term security purposes. Before the product even gets to site, the fact that it needs no other preparation has already saved time and costs.

Used as a hoarding, SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus' ultra-smooth surface will accept high-quality graphics – advertising the new development behind it, for example, or directing potential buyers to a show-house, or for simply displaying the project team's particulars.

While primed ready for use, or with any further finish desired, West Fraser has also treated the edges for extra protection, making SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus even more resilient to the weather — the putty used in the manufacturing process is UV resistant too. Measuring 1220 mm wide by 2440 mm long and, at 18mm thick, the boards are supplied in packs of 50 to cover a total area of approximately 150 m².

David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser, commented on a crucial factor to the wider range's formulation: "PrimedPlus is part of our OSB range — which is the first UK manufactured OSB with zero-added formaldehyde, therefore reducing health risks, as breathing in the fumes can cause eye, nose and throat irritation. West Fraser takes all its ESG commitments very seriously".

With a low carbon footprint owing to its manufacture in the UK using only renewable energy and sustainably sourced timber, SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is CE marked and complies with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and BBA Agreement requirements – so helps meet the requirements of the increasingly eco-conscious architect, builder or other specifier.

**West Fraser ● 01786 812921
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Q&A with the Decorative Panels Group Design Director — Julian Tatham

*Julian Tatham
Group Design
Director*

THE Decorative Panels Group is proud to be Europe's leading supplier of decorative faced sheet materials, panel components and flat pack furniture. Julian, who heads the group design team has always been focused on designing and selecting products that can adapt to the varied needs of today's consumers. Keeping an eye on trends ensure that products, from surface coverings to furniture ranges, meet the quality and style demanded by their customers for the retail market. Generating fresh and exciting product design, specifying what processes are required, suggesting easier solutions for furniture assembly, or recommending different substrates or surface finishes — these are all part of the design department service offering.

What makes The Decorative Panels Group unique as a business?

Vertical integrations across all three of our businesses enables us to supply the most flexible and cost effective solutions to our customers. Our integrated approach allows us to manage design, production, and logistics at every point of the process. This along with our diverse stock of surface materials from economical options to high end, exclusive surfaces mean we are able to supply the many different market areas from manufacturers to retailers.

What surface trends are you seeing in Kitchens, Bedrooms & Bathrooms?

Matt Metallics within kitchens have been gaining ground and now feature among the top-selling décors. It has always been difficult to achieve consistency within the colour for metallics but one of our recent collection launches, Fineflex metallic surfaces do just that. We are also seeing even more surface textures coming through including woodgrains and more sculptural designs, perfect for bedroom furniture. Continuing the trend for matt unicolours we are introducing even more warm tonal palettes rather than the cool greys which have dominated for years.

What are your retail customers asking/ looking for?

With growing awareness and an increased drive to supply sustainable options for their own customers, we are seeing preferences for more environmentally friendly product solutions. As a fully certified FSC and PEFC business, raw materials such as board substrates and foil laminates are only sourced from responsible suppliers ensuring they are environmentally conscious as possible. Our furniture business has recently achieved certification to the environmental standard ISO 14001. Showing that we are committed to continually improving our environmental footprint is an essential for us as a business and of course for future generations. This is a process that started in June 2022, and is the first step in our 3 stage Group Certification.

What are the latest advancements in surface technology and what are the benefits to your customers?

Paper foil technology has come a long way particularly digital technology used in the creation of the artwork and the engraving of the printing cylinders, this combined with developments in lacquering technology have contributed to both the visual appeal of designs and the tactile quality of the surface. The surface resistance of paper foils has also increased with the majority of designs from our dp-decor range now being able to meet the FIRA 6250 and BS6222 severe use categories for kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms- suitable for all applications except worktops.

We are currently investigating options into digital printing for paper foils. This would give us more design scope and the possibility of unique surface patterns for customers with the added benefit of market testing new designs without committing to significant volumes of stock.



What introductions to the range of surface finishes can customers expect to see now and over the coming months?

As already mentioned, we have recently introduced a collection of Fineflex Metallic designs to our dp-specialist range. The PET surface is made with a percentage of recycled PET and the iridescent shimmer is visible throughout the pigment creating a luxurious finish to both the eye and the touch.

To meet the demand for matt unicolours our Serica Collection is constantly evolving with brand-new colours being introduced all the time. These are following the trend for warmer shades bringing a new energy to the collection.

Within our dp-limitless range of specialised and high-performance surfaces we have partnered with Rehau to offer their RAUVISIO Crystal and Noble Matt collections. Surfaces like these add a special touch of luxury to any interior. Look out for new colour introductions soon. All of these products and more are on display in our Group Marketing Suite.

Decorative Panels ● Tel 01484 658341

info@decorativepanels.co.uk ● www.decorativepanels.co.uk

Treharne Homes making full use of SterlingOSB Zero's benefits



A WELSH timber frame specialist has been utilising SterlingOSB Zero, or the forerunners beforehand, for over 20 years to deliver bespoke building solutions including high performance homes for councils and other affordable housing providers.

Treharne Homes is based near Llanelli in Carmarthenshire and serves clients in multiple sectors, offering an award-winning, custom design, manufacture and erection service. The company prides itself on the quality and accuracy of its fabrication processes — even producing its metal web joists at its plant. The team employs West Fraser's 22 mm SterlingOSB Zero T&G panels for its wall and roof constructions as well as CaberDek panels for its floors.

Founder and Managing Director, Delfrig Treharne comments:

"We use West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero to help take the racking loads in the timber frames and also as a sarking across a lot of our roofs where we offer both site assembly and modular roof construction. The product is also used for internal loadbearing walls and cassettes. We basically always try and tend (respond) to whatever the needs are of our clients.

"In a typical year, we will normally do around a dozen private projects including luxury homes with up to six bedrooms, leisure buildings and other structures. Then we also carry out some quite large social housing projects for the likes of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Swansea delivering dwellings of up to three or four bedrooms and including three-storey townhouses. In fact, we are just about to commence work on two different sites for

Swansea Council where the SterlingOSB Zero will be an important part of the build."

One of the key considerations for social housing landlords is trying to ensure their properties have a low environmental impact and are affordable for their tenants to heat which, in turn, requires accuracy of manufacture to achieve high standards of airtightness.

Delfrig Treharne continued: "We have used other OSB boards in the past, but the quality just doesn't match up, whereas with SterlingOSB Zero every sheet is the same. During the pandemic, for instance, when building materials were in short supply, we bought a couple of packs from another manufacturer and it was nowhere near the same quality — up to six millimetres out of square which is a real problem. And West Fraser's sales consultant always

finds me a good price through my local merchants."

Available in thicknesses of 18 and 22 mm, the 2,400 mm length boards come in widths of 590 and 1200 mm, while being manufactured using UK grown timber and with Zero added formaldehyde, SterlingOSB Zero has outstanding environmental credentials. Both the 18- and 22-mm thick panels are strong enough to meet most load-bearing applications, are BBA Approved and recognised by NHBC Technical standards for housing applications.

SterlingOSB Zero T&G also bears the coveted UKTFA Q-mark, a quality certification which provides a benchmark for manufacturers, and offers confidence to designers and end-users across the UK.

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

Highlands housebuilder on the benefits of SterlingOSB Zero



AFTER four decades in the industry and 30 years of running his own joinery business in the North of Scotland, Kevin Rodgers has seen the panel board product market evolve both in application and performance; and has developed a particular liking for the OSB which is manufactured close to him.

While his business, Kevin Rodgers Joiners Ltd, is centred on Inverness, he works across much of the Highlands and the West Coast of Scotland, mainly building houses for private clients and small developers. He and his team are currently fitting out a four-bedroom detached property whose timber frame construction is making good use of the SterlingOSB Zero's strength, versatility and all-round user-friendliness.

The 200 square-metre two-storey house has been designed by the Inverness-based consultancy, Colin Armstrong Architects, and was conceived from the outset as a panelised timber structure. However, rather than utilising a factory fabricated kit, Kevin's firm has fabricated all the components on site to a high degree of accuracy, carrying out the erection and coordinating closely with other trade contractors.

Kevin Rodgers comments: "This is a high specification property where two of the four bedrooms are en-suite while energy performance is being maximised with very good levels of insulation and underfloor heating to optimise output. We've worked with Colin Armstrong Architects on a number of jobs in the past and the project partner, David Cameron, specified the SterlingOSB Zero. The 'stick-built' wall panels are 2700 mm high and have SterlingOSB Zero as the sheathing across the entire envelope while taking the racking loads for some of the internal walls. I can remember Sterlingboard from the very early days and, as it has been developed, it has virtually taken over from plywood for most applications. It is very easy to cut and fit while the accuracy is very good, and conditioning has got over the problems you sometimes suffered from moisture getting into the wood if you couldn't get it sheathed over and watertight quickly enough.

"We've used both the 11 mm and 18 mm boards here, with the latter ones being T&G which we've laid as the flat roof decking for a couple of balcony features. We buy most of ours from Caley Timber in Dalcross but get it elsewhere depending on where we're working."

SterlingOSB Zero is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses up to 22 mm as well as a T&G version ideal for flooring and decking applications.

The high-performance panel product, free of added formaldehyde, has also earned BBA approval and meets the requirements of NHBC Technical.

West Fraser
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Acoustics help eating in comfort



BY THEIR very nature of being large, open spaces with many hard surfaces, ambient noise levels in bars and restaurants tends to be high. This inevitably leads to customers talking louder to be heard and so begins a perpetual cycle of increased noise levels as everyone starts to have increasingly louder conversations. This, coupled with noise from music, kitchen machinery and HVAC services, can easily ruin the experience.

To help combat the problems of reverberating sound, designers frequently specify acoustic ceilings to help to strike a balance between a lively and welcoming environment and an experience where the space is uncomfortably loud. This is important because customers' comfort

and a willingness to spend time and money is decreased in a noisy environment.

A good example of this is the Chamberlain Hotel in London where sustainable and ethical designers Sibley Grove have used Trolldtekt acoustic panels to counterpoint the reverberating noise reflecting from the stripped-back architecture with its exposed structural columns, ductwork and concrete surfaces.

Trolldtekt acoustic panels are a perfect solution for this type of venue either as part of a suspended ceiling or individual 'acoustic clouds'.

They are available in a variety of different surfaces and colours and combine sound absorption with a tactile surface. With an expected life

cycle of at least 50 years and resistance to humidity and impact, they are available in various sizes and four grades, from extreme fine to coarse. The panels can be left untreated or painted in almost any RAL colour.

Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively.

Founded on the Cradle-to-Cradle design concept and having attained Gold certification, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, DGNB or LEED points.

Trolldtekt
www.trolldtekt.com
<https://www.trolldtekt.com/references/hotel-restaurant>



Okopod offers sustainable garden rooms using SterlingOSB Zero

A FAST-growing new timber building company based in Cambridge is supplying clients across the country with sustainably-built garden rooms which employ West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero as a primary material for fabricating the main structure and interior partitions.

Okopod was established four years ago by James Home to manufacture stylish, high quality timber pods which can be used as home offices, additional semi-outdoor spaces or simply as a bolthole to sit and enjoy nature.

With two or three installation teams constantly on the road, Okopod now boasts satisfied customers from the South Coast and East Anglia up to Liverpool and Chester; with the order book continuing to grow. And as their Instagram posts show, the finished product would grace any garden or outdoor space, while the efficiency of the fabrication process also means there won't be months of waiting to enjoy the benefits.

Tim Ireland, CEO, explains, "The company was only set up in 2019 but we are seeing demand growing rapidly and are delivering over 100 garden rooms or annexes a year now; very much focusing on build quality and our environmental impact. We are delighted with the 18mm SterlingOSB Zero as a material and feel it

adds value to our product from the perspective of its sustainability. We are both comfortable and confident in working with SterlingOSB Zero and have never had any issue with the tolerance or performance. As well as the external wall panels, the SterlingOSB Zero is used to build the floors and the roof assembly which features 100mm of insulation with an OSB soffit and top surface to take the waterproof membrane. To keep growing the business, we are also looking at offering other structures such as car ports while, logically, the next step in terms of production would be to adopt CNC technology. And that is another area where the quality and dimensional accuracy of SterlingOSB could be a real benefit."

SterlingOSB Zero is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses up to 22mm as well as a T&G version ideal for flooring and decking applications. The high performance panel product, free of added formaldehyde, has also earned BBA approval and meets the requirements of NHBC Technical.

As is always the case, West Fraser's experienced technical team is available to aid with product specification, while downloadable data sheets are available from the West Fraser website.

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



Lord's Cricket Ground selects sustainable fencing solution for renovation project

AS THE UK's summer of cricket fever continues, Lord's Cricket Ground, the most famous cricket venue globally, has made investments in sustainable fencing options. The aim is to ensure an environmentally-conscious as well as action-packed season.

With its rich history dating back to 1787, architectural significance, and unmatched glamour, Lord's Cricket Ground has always strived to maintain its world-class facilities while preserving its unique charm. Over the years, the ground has undergone various developments to enhance sightlines, increase capacity, and improve accessibility, all while maintaining architectural excellence.

With a rich history of carefully planned developments, Lord's recently embarked on a renovation project focused on enhancing sustainability and replacing deteriorated fencing.

Given the ground's prestigious status, every development at Lord's is executed with meticulous planning and attention to detail. Previous improvements have aimed at enhancing sightlines, reducing restricted view seats, increasing capacity, and improving accessibility.



Above, before the renovation: and below, afterwards.



Recognising the importance of environmental stewardship, Lord's Cricket Ground has been proactive in improving its eco-credentials. From 2014 to 2017, a series of measures were implemented to enhance energy usage and make the grounds more environmentally friendly. These included the installation of ground source heat pumps, solar panels, and 'living' green walls. The construction of the ground's roof incorporated advanced timber technology, prioritising the use of sustainable and replaceable materials.

With sustainability as a top priority for all developments, it was essential to select a fencing company that shared the same ethos and offered products that met green requirements. The existing fencing in front of the Thomas Lord Suite had suffered from rot and fallen into disrepair, with panels either collapsed or leaning.

The Thomas Lord Suite is a key feature of Lord's Cricket Ground, often used for prestigious events. Its design emphasises natural light, making it crucial to balance privacy without compromising on the amount of natural light entering the suite. To address these requirements, 13.5 m of Jacksons' Venetian Hit and Miss fence panels were specified as the replacement for the old fencing. These modern slatted fence panels offer elegance, privacy, and the ability to allow light through. They are widely regarded as a "luxury fence panel" and are popular among garden designers for their contemporary style and space-enhancing properties.

Given Lord's wide and open space, wind resistance was a significant consideration for the new fencing. Hit and miss fencing proved to be the ideal solution as it allows wind to filter through the gaps, reducing strain on the panels and posts. Installed by Garden Fencing London, one of Jacksons Fencing's Approved Installers, the panels were securely attached to the timber slotted posts to enhance stability and deter unauthorised access.

In line with Lord's preference for renewable materials, Jacksons Fencing responsibly source and treat all timber used in the fencing with its unique Jakcure® preservation process. This process ensures that the timber is kiln dried and pressure treated, offering exceptional durability and longevity. As a result, all timber products come with a 25-year guarantee against rot and insect attack, reducing the lifetime cost and minimising the environmental impact of used fencing going to landfill.

Nick Bishenden, Senior Manager, Jacksons Fencing comments, "We were privileged to be part of the recent redevelopment at Lord's Cricket Ground. Being one of the most iconic sporting venues in the UK and globally recognised, it was an incredible opportunity for us. We've taken great pride in delivering a fencing solution that will not only withstand the elements and help elevate its surroundings aesthetically, but also one that aligns with Lord's Cricket Ground's unwavering commitment to sustainability. Moreover, this project was completed in time for 2023's summer of cricket fever."

Lord's Cricket Ground's dedication to sustainability and architectural excellence is exemplified through their recent fencing renovation project. By choosing a fencing solution that aligns with their green ethos and utilises renewable materials, Lord's continues to uphold its status as a world-class sporting venue, while embracing environmentally friendly practices.

Jacksons Fencing
www.jacksons-security.co.uk

AkzoNobel Wood Finishes sustainability campaign

AKZONOBEL, a leading global industrial wood coatings manufacturer, has launched a new campaign to help its EMEA customers strengthen their environmental performance and become more sustainable through their choice of wood finishes partner.

Covering the AkzoNobel Wood Coatings and Sikkens Wood Coatings brands, the campaign makes it easier for OEM customers to integrate conscious, sustainability aware decisions into their businesses. From better materials to long-lasting coating solutions, and smart adjustments along the value chain, AkzoNobel aims to use its expertise and track record of innovation to help customers make the most of opportunities to reduce waste, save energy and reduce their carbon footprints.

“Sustainability is a key topic, but it can be hard to know where to start. Our message is about how we can support our customers to make their business more sustainable. The campaign goes beyond just coatings, and it’s about driving change holistically and with accountability — from production to the products and services we offer,” says Alan Hall, Regional Commercial Director, Wood Finishes and Adhesives EMEA.

The campaign, which kicked off on 28 June, is centred around the message that ‘It all adds up’, meaning that when it comes to sustainability, every action counts, with actions and initiatives grouped under three key pillars:



- Taking the lead highlights AkzoNobel’s own efforts to reduce its carbon footprint across its value chain by 50% by 2030 and set the example to drive positive change.

- Exploring new options focuses on the business’s ongoing investments in making its solutions more sustainable, by extending the life of products, reducing waste and maintenance needs and saving energy throughout the value chain. Its Wood Extralife warranty, for example, guarantees protection for up to 12 years for opaque systems and 7 years for translucent systems.

- Sharing responsibility, meanwhile, showcases AkzoNobel’s value-led approach to helping customers identify opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint and make their businesses more sustainable. For example, using LEDs instead of traditional lamps when curing wood coatings can reduce energy consumption by up to 50%.

“When it comes to sustainability, we all have a part to play. As small as individual actions may seem, together they can lead to significant change. That’s why we are always exploring new ways to improve products, applications, and processes, throughout the value chain. We want to work with our partners to make the wood coatings industry more sustainable for business, people and the planet,” said Sarah Skinner, Market Segment Director, Wood Finishes and Adhesives.

AkzoNobel ● Tel 01425 472330
akzonobel-industrial-woodcoatings.com

WOOD WASTE & DUST CONTROL

Timber business invests in wood waste heater to save money on energy bills

A TIMBER PRODUCTS manufacturer in the Southwest of England has purchased a wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology to save money on heating and waste disposal.

Face Edge Ltd manufactures bespoke timber products for retail and office refits. Its manufacturing operation is split across a number of individual units at its head office in Bideford, North Devon. With the increasing energy bills, Director at Face Edge, Des Brown decided to look into other options to heat the workshop. He explains: “After some research, we realised that investing in a wood waste heater made good business sense, as our manufacturing process results in lots of wood offcuts. Feeding these offcuts into a wood waste heater would not only save money on waste disposal and prevent more waste going to landfill, but would also create free heating for the factory in the process, reducing our energy bills and benefiting our bottom line.”

The team at Face Edge ordered a WT10 wood waste heater, which was installed by Wood Waste Technology’s experienced engineers.

Des explains: “In today’s economic environment, businesses need to operate as efficiently as possible. Investing in the wood waste heater will help us to control our costs and save money, whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature in the workshop.”

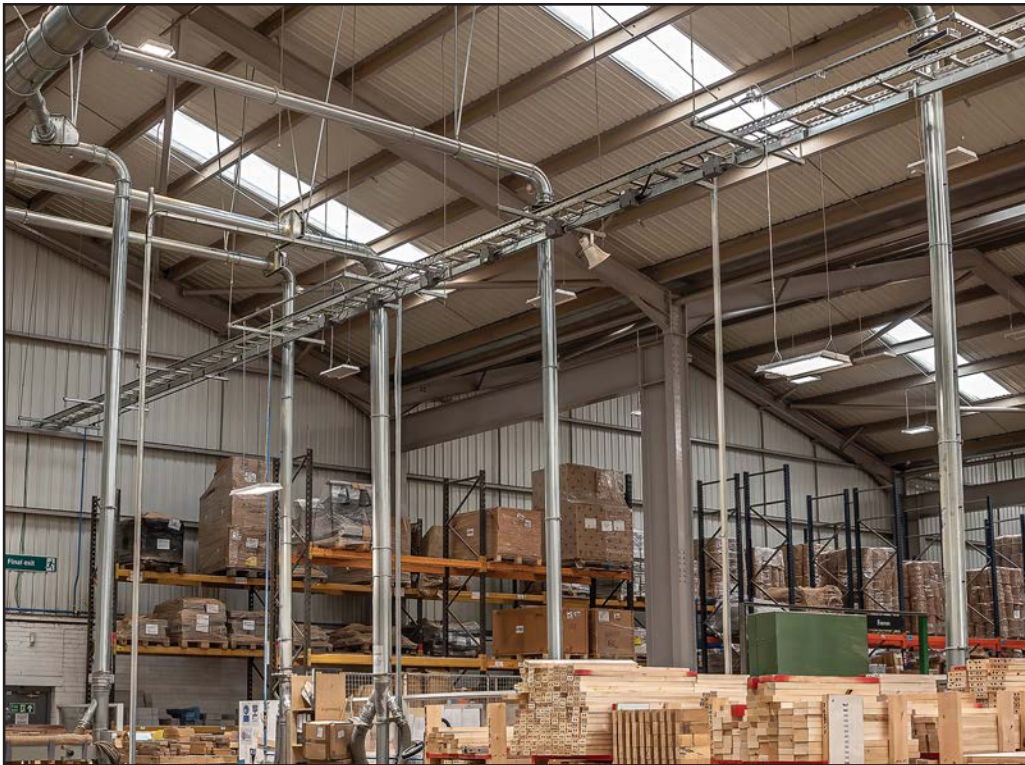
As the wood waste heater is perfectly located to serve all the individual units, including the offices and machine shop, goods-in-and-out areas, canteen, stores, assembly, materials storage and spray shop, the heat generated will benefit not just the people working in the business, but also help to offset the damp atmosphere in the cold winter months that can negatively affect any stored wood and spray-painted items.

Kurt Cockroft says: “Whatever the primary reason for purchase, whether it’s to generate heat, reduce waste disposal, or both — a wood waste heater is a cost effective and productive solution for companies that generate waste wood, and the investment can pay back in less than 12 months.”

Wood Waste Technology ● 01785 250400
www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk ● www.grossuk.co.uk



Ecogate lowers costs for High Seat



Ecogate's motorised dampers integrated into the Nordfab QF ductwork system automatically open and close as individual machines come on or offline.

HIGH SEAT Ltd (HSL) is an award-winning manufacturer of ergonomically-designed feel good furniture with a heritage stretching back over half a century. The family-owned business now employs over 500 people, with stores throughout the UK, and today operates from a modern manufacturing plant on a 10,000 m² site in Batley, West Yorkshire — just a short distance from where the company began trading back in 1968.

"HSL's business and reputation has been built on the quality of the handcrafted chairs, sofas and beds that we continue to manufacture

here in West Yorkshire", says Rob Spurr, who has responsibility for the company's woodworking machinery and CNC equipment. "It's fair to say that our high-speed CNC machines now handle a great deal of the cutting and profiling work which used to be carried out using more traditional machinery, but there are still numerous operations necessary for the production of our traditional furniture that are regularly undertaken using machinery we have maintained here for many years."

Although still in regular use, these 'vintage' machines are generally operating intermittently during the working day, and in relatively short bursts of activity depending on production requirements.

"Exactly look after LEV testing for HSL," Rob explains, "as well as all the ongoing service and maintenance of our extraction system, and their engineers have often commented on how beneficial an Ecogate installation could be for our factory."

Sales engineer Tom Firth commented: "To exert some control over extraction usage, ductwork connections to each of the traditional machines had previously been fitted with individual, manually-operated dampers but, with the best will in the world, manual operation could never match the efficiency of Ecogate's computer-controlled, on-demand extraction system."

The system also collects waste dust from the company's four CNC machines, and the surging cost of electricity required to power the three 30kW extraction



Installation and programming of the highly-intelligent greenBOX Nxt controller.



Final checks on a 560 mm diameter automatic Ecogate damper fitted to a 'vintage' Rye Rotary Shaper.

fans ultimately accelerated the decision to go ahead with the capital investment.

To maintain clean air in the factory, the main extraction fans were previously required to operate on full power, throughout the working day — even when machines were stopped for loading and offloading, or during operators' break times. But now, with Ecogate installed, the system operates using only the minimum power required to exactly match the demand for extraction at any given time. Effectively, whenever an individual machine is stopped, and not creating dust, the relevant fan will be slowed automatically and electricity consumption reduced.

The system also recognises when there is no production taking place on one or more of the three extraction lines; the appropriate fan is then either slowed or shut down completely. To ensure employees' safety, minimal airflow is managed across the entire ductwork system to reduce the risk of fire or explosion.

Ecogate is the only system in the world that continuously monitors pressure, air velocity, and air volume in the main duct and at each individual gate, and the Ecogate greenBOX controller uses this data to regulate the system and ensure correct transport velocities are always maintained throughout the ductwork system. The Ecogate installation at HSL was the first in the UK to feature the latest "greenBOX Nxt" controller. As well as controlling the extraction system, a large colour touchscreen displays real-time performance data; showing how much energy the fan motor is consuming and providing an insight to machine utilisation and

energy savings being achieved across the factory. The highly-intelligent user-friendly Ecogate greenBOX Nxt has the capacity to efficiently control the operation of an extraction system with multiple main fans and up to 72 individual workstations. The Nxt can also be programmed to stop and start an extraction system automatically at both ends of the working day; system performance is checked at start-up, and confirmed by text or email, and at the end of the day the greenBOX Nxt will message again to confirm successful system shutdown.

Ben Waters, Group Operations Director at HSL, commented: "Although our furniture has been handcrafted in Yorkshire for 55 years, using traditional skills and time-proven machinery, we still embrace change and innovation at HSL, and we are delighted to be the first manufacturer in the UK to benefit from Ecogate's latest advances in energy-saving technology."

Extractly have predicted that the Ecogate installation at HSL will achieve cost savings of over 45% and is expected to pay for itself through savings realised over the next 12 to 24 months — and after that, it will effectively be using half price electricity!

Extractly Ltd is the Master UK Distributor and Installer of the Ecogate® energy-saving system, and an Authorised Dealer and Installer of Nordfab Quick-Fit® ductwork, providing extraction system design & installation, maintenance and a nationwide LEV testing service for customers in the woodworking industry.



"Polite Request" notice is no longer needed at HSL — the old manual gates are now left permanently open as Ecogate dampers do the job automatically.

Extractly Limited
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Website: www.extractly.co.uk

Altendorf: camera-based safety system

DUE TO their design, sliding table saws are among the machine types with a high risk of injury. As a consequence, various manufacturers have taken on the development of safety assistance systems. But is there a system that not only mitigates injuries but also prevents them with a high degree of reliability? Fraunhofer IPA provides answers.

Up to 120 reportable accidents involving sliding table saws occur in Germany every month. The associated costs for lost work time and medical treatment are immense. An effective safety assistance system would bring important benefits to craft businesses as well as benefits to society as a whole. The Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA in Stuttgart, Germany, has taken a close look at two current safety assistance systems - including the Altendorf Group's HAND GUARD system, which was recently certified by the BGHM, the German Employers' Liability Insurance Association for Wood and Metal.

The Fraunhofer IPA study is based on results for capacitive and camera-based safety assistance systems. Both principles use suitable sensors to first detect a hazardous situation and then remove the saw blade from the dan-

ger zone in the shortest possible time, thus preventing injury to the hand. Typical working speeds from practice were used in the investigations (0.2 m/s = slow working speed, up to 2.0 m/s = typical slipping speed).

Since most accidents with serious injuries occur during rapid hand movements in everyday work, special attention was paid to this. Among other things, capacitive systems react to the presence of human tissue. If a hazardous situation has been detected, the system triggers the safety function. However, due to its short sensor range and the associated triggering threshold located only a few millimeters in front of the saw blade, it only offers protection against serious injuries at slow working speeds. The camera-based system used in HAND GUARD, on the other hand, monitors a wide area around the saw blade. As soon as the camera system detects hands entering this space, the saw blade is lowered. This prevents fingers and hands from coming into contact with the source of injury in the first place. Even at approach speeds of 2 m/s, the system triggers in time and prevents injuries even in this case.

"Fraunhofer IPA has carried out measurements on different safety systems for sliding table saws: the two systems currently available on the market, capacitive and camera-based sensor technologies, were investigated. As a result, both the capacitive and the camera-based system reliably detected the test pieces under the selected test conditions and led to the lowering of the saw blades. However, only the camera-based system was able to avoid damage to the test specimens in all tests," said Dr. Birenbaum, Group Manager Manufacturing Systems, Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA.

Hearing this, Peter Schwenk, CEO of the Altendorf Group, a pioneer in the field of sliding table saws, is particularly pleased: "We are the world's only supplier of sliding table saws to offer an AI- and camera-based safety assistance system on series machines. With the successful certification by the German Employers' Liability Insurance Association for Wood and Metal, we are setting the future standard for safety in sliding table saws." **Altendorf** ● www.altendorfgroup.com/en/fraunhofer-institute-study



BSW Timber scoops international health and safety RoSPA accolade

BSW Timber has received international recognition for its commitment to health and safety after scooping a gold award at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Health and Safety Awards.

The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards is the largest occupational health and safety awards programme in the UK and the accolade acknowledges the hard work going on behind the scenes at BSW Timber to ensure employee safety.

A new auditing system was developed and built by the firm's ESH team with a view to putting more focus on legislative requirements and Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP) compliance across BSW Timber's sawmills. The audits were able to identify procedural weaknesses which resulted in group procedures and technical references being updated or rewritten and making roles and responsibilities clearer.

Additionally, improved communication, co-ordination and co-operation between the mill teams has resulted in a more focussed scrutiny of ESH KPIs for the betterment of the entire BSW Timber team.

Wayne Jones, BSW Group's ESH Manager, said: "We are delighted to have achieved this award on behalf of the company. It is testimony to the hard work and ambitions of the senior management, ESH and sawmilling teams to improve our performance in reducing risk to employees and liability to the company. We look forward to continuing to build on our initial success and generate even better standards to demonstrate our position as market leaders in our industry.

"Our commitment to ensuring efficient operations is centred around the safety of our workforce. This is underpinned by our drive to reduce risk and liability, which in turn reduces accidents, employ-

ee absence and staff turnover. We believe the RoSPA award provides an improved reputation among suppliers and partners, as well as increasing productivity and profitability, but most importantly, employees are safer, healthier and better motivated."

The RoSPA Awards scheme is the longest running of its kind in the UK, and receives entries from organisations across the globe, making it one of the most sought-after achievement awards for the health and safety industry.

BSW Timber ● www.bsw.co.uk

