



# Specialist CITB-IOC carpentry event welcomes Leeds construction craft students

**LEEDS College of Building is the latest 'CITB-IOC Timber Industry College Hub' to organise a bespoke trade event with the Institute of Carpentry (IOC).**

The showcase day promoted the wealth of global career opportunities and experiences available to carpentry and joinery students as new IOC members. As well as exploring IOC benefits, students also gained meaningful industry connections as they start out in their profession.

After a welcome from Leeds College of Building CEO & Principal Nikki Davis and an introduction by President of The Institute of Carpenters Geoff Rhodes, students enjoyed fascinating talks by varied experts from across the sector.

Kickstarting the day, Ricky Sandoval from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) talked to attendees about their organisation's support for students who are looking for apprenticeship employment and career opportunities nationally and regionally. Roly Ward from MEDITE SMARTPLY then explained the growing use of emerging technologies in MDF and OSB products in the construction and timber industry.

Emma Woodward from Historic England delivered an illuminating presentation about restoration projects, followed by a talk by Nick Boulton from the Timber Development UK (TDUK) & Trussed Rafter Association (TRA). Chris Jones from Lynn & Jones spoke about experiences and careers in



shopfitting, and the day concluded with a presentation by Lucy Kamall from the American Hardwood Export Council, who introduced learners to a bank of useful resources.

Six Leeds College of Building learners have also been selected to participate in the IOC Mentoring Champions Project — a scheme enabling highly experienced IOC members to share expertise and career inspirations with the next generation of carpenters and joiners early in their careers. The programme supports learners to secure long-term em-

ployment in the construction sector.

Adam Sharpe, Leeds College of Building Curriculum Manager for Construction Crafts — Timber, said: "We were thrilled to host this event for timber specialists of the future. I am involved in the IOC mentoring scheme and excited to be part of a much-needed initiative to help inspire and motivate future carpenters and joiners. Above all, I'm excited to see how projects like this will help fill vital skills gaps and boost the construction industry and wider economy."

The IOC is an established partner of Leeds College of Building with over 20 years of collaboration to date. The Institute ensures each generation of carpenters and joiners upholds the highest traditions of the historic craft, including wood trades such as furniture and cabinet makers, structural post and beam carpenters, wheelwrights, computer-aided design carpentry design, woodcarvers and turners and boat builders.

Geoff Rhodes, President of The Institute of

Carpenters, said: "I was delighted to be at Leeds College of Building to deliver the CITB-IOC Mentoring Champions Scheme, a selective programme across ten colleges in the UK, ranging from South Wales to Inverness. This scheme aims to link qualified people in the IOC with young people coming into the trade to inspire them about the career pathways that lie ahead. The aim today was to bring the industry into the college to share knowledge and experiences whilst adding value to what the college is doing."

Nikki Davis, CEO & Principal of Leeds College of Building, added: "We're so pleased to support the IOC's work and further grow our partnership. The IOC mentoring scheme will help learners develop confidence and knowledge about current issues and developments in the industry, as well as help boost performance and increase retention rates in apprenticeships. The construction industry is crying out for a highly skilled workforce, and critical work such as this is helping to bridge that gap."

**Leeds College of Building**  
<https://www.lcb.ac.uk/open-events/virtual/carpentry-and-joinery/>



# More GAI exam success for IronmongeryDirect

SIX IronmongeryDirect employees have successfully passed their Stage 1 Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CIAH) from the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI), with a further employee having gained Stage 2.

After completing the year-long, online course, IronmongeryDirect is delighted to congratulate Amy Aldwinckle-Day, courier administrator; Megan Ross, customer services team leader; Lily Lothian, sales team supervisor; Hollie Cummins, key account executive; Kimberly Mccluskie, category assistant; Lee O'Shea, supply chain planning assistant, and Phoebe Judd, category assistant, who passed her Stage 2.

The globally recognised GAI Certificate in Architectural Hardware has been developed to provide a solid foundation of ironmongery knowledge, enabling informed decisions when working with a range of products from hinges and seals to door closing devices — all of which are sold by IronmongeryDirect. Additionally, the certificate covers specification best practices and industry standards.

Kelsey West, HR manager at IronmongeryDirect said, "We are incredibly proud of Amy, Megan, Lily, Hollie, Kimberly, Lee and Phoebe. They have worked hard and shown real dedication to enhance their industry expertise and professional development. Their fantastic achievement strengthens our team so that when customers contact us, we have more GAI staff across different departments with genuine specialist knowledge who can support them when it comes to selecting the right products for the job."

Customer service excellence is a cornerstone at IronmongeryDirect; the specialist retailer's team of friendly and helpful staff is available six days a week, Monday to Friday from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm and Saturdays from 09.00 am to 1.00 pm. Trade quotes can be provided by emailing: quotes@ironmongerydirect.com, with Live Chat and WhatsApp messaging also available to ensure getting what you need is quick, easy and hassle-free.

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**IronmongeryDirect** ● [www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk](http://www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk)



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# Selco helps create 'The Nook' at primary school

**A WINDSOR primary school has created a special sensory garden ahead of the new academic year — with the help of a leading Slough builders merchant.**

Cranbourne Primary School, based on Lovel Road in Winkfield, has created 'The Nook' to support children at the school in exploring the outdoors in a safe environment. The Slough branch of Selco Builders Warehouse, based on Farnham Road, has assisted with the project, donating sleepers, fixings, bark and weed control fabrics.

Sarah Stone, volunteer fundraising manager at the school which has around 200 pupils, said: "We are extremely proud of the new sensory garden and it's going to make a huge difference for all children.

"After Covid and with a heightened anxiety amongst many children — particularly those with additional needs — there is an increased requirement for areas such as these. We had an indoor sensory area at the school but wanted to replicate it outdoors. We have a history with outdoor spaces having created Monty's Garden which is where children grow their own plants, vegetables and fruits. We've had recognition for that at the Royal Windsor Show from Alan Titchmarsh and even members of the Royal Family which has been fantastic. We then looked to create the sensory garden and, in the few days it was used before the end of term, it's proving a real hit.

"It's been a big community effort to create the garden and Selco were particularly instrumental in helping to develop the area for the wildlife pond. The team at Selco Slough are extremely helpful, willing and open to ideas when it comes to supporting community projects and their communication and support has been first class."

Selco Slough has supported other local community projects recently, including the GMG Gurdwara on Bath Road

in Slough and Cippenham Royal British Legion Poppy Garden project. Tim Howard, branch manager of Selco Slough, said: "We have been thrilled to support the project at Cranbourne Primary School which attracts pupils from across the local area.

"To be able to make a donation which helps support the outdoor learning and development of primary school children is something everyone at the Selco Slough branch is extremely proud of. We hope it makes a real difference for many years to come."

**Selco ● [www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)**



*Selco colleagues CJ Rajapakse (left) and Rajvinder Dhesi (right) with Sarah Stone, volunteer fundraising manager at Cranbourne Primary School.*

# Selco assists trip down memory lane

**A RECENTLY-founded Southampton charity which supports people living with dementia, poor mental health or in social isolation across Hampshire and Dorset has claimed success in a national community competition.**

The Memory Box Foundation, which was established in 2021 and supports more than 6,000 people a year, has been named as a monthly prize winner in the Community Heroes scheme organised by leading builders merchant Selco Builders Warehouse.

The charity is one of just 12 monthly winners from almost 2,000 entries and has scooped £500 worth of building materials from Selco. It will also be involved in a public vote later in the year for the chance to provide a £5,000 cash boost to the charity.

The Memory Box Foundation's main project is a reminiscence loan box service where themed items, documents and photographs from years gone by are taken into care homes across the region with the aim of engaging residents suffering with dementia and isolation in multi-sensory activity.

The charity will use its building materials prize from Selco to extend its Inside Out Sensory Garden project which sees young people aged from 11 to 25 working with care homes to build items such as hedgehog homes, bird boxes and flower beds.

Kayte West, co-founder of the Memory Box Foundation, said: "The people we work with get so much positivity from the resources we have, whether it be objects, documents, photographs

or anything else we receive from the general public or through the strong relationship we have with Hampshire Museums. Our resources have the ability to improve people's wellbeing and there is lots of laughter, spontaneous singing and people getting together to enjoy themselves.

"We are thrilled to have won the £500 donation from Selco which will go towards our garden project. It creates a really strong bond between young people and

the older generation and that link is so important.

"Youngsters can be quite scared of speaking to older people and the word dementia also creates fear so we teach them how to communicate and about dementia awareness and it gives them a much more relaxed attitude.

"The Selco Community Heroes initiative is fantastic and we are proud to be one of the winners along with a number of other brilliant charities and community groups across the UK."

Simon Humpage, Head of Multi-Channel Marketing at Selco, said: "We are delighted to be able to support Memory Box Foundation which has created an innovative and inspiring route to help support those people battling dementia.

"Community Heroes is our flagship campaign when it comes to supporting the local communities in which we operate and it's a privilege to be able to help community groups such as the Memory Box Foundation continue their outstanding work."

**Selco**  
**[www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)**



*Kayte West and Michael Hodson of Memory Box Foundation.*

# BSW Group joins forces with Forests With Impact

**BSW GROUP is proud to be a National Partner of Forests With Impact, a social enterprise focusing on sustainability and community development. This programme establishes commercial tree nurseries in prisons, delivering valuable skills in horticulture, nursery management and environmental conservation, in turn supporting how we approach ecological restoration.**

The primary goal of Forests With Impact, a community interest company, is to grow seedlings that will assist the UK in achieving its tree planting, nature recovery and biodiversity targets, while the surplus income made from the tree nurseries will be reinvested into targeted training and community resources for the prison and the local community.

This programme not only tackles local employment and skills development challenges, but also serves as a powerful force for environmental change, marking the start of an extraordinary journey toward ecological restoration, community empowerment and social wellbeing.

Forests With Impact aligns with BSW's own operations, and the two businesses have already been working closely together, with Maelor Forest Nurseries, a member of BSW Group, providing expert insight to help HMP Haverigg establish its first polytunnel.

Andrew Henry, nursery director at Maelor, has supported the launch of the initiative with invaluable advice, along with Gavin McLaughlin, head of ESG at BSW Group, and James Brennan, head of marketing at BSW Group.

Gavin McLaughlin expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, saying: "We're delighted to be a National Partner for Forests With Impact and believe their objectives are very closely aligned with our own. Growing and planting trees promotes ecosystem restoration, helps combat climate change, and improves air quality, all while equipping prisoners with employable skills. Helping to provide valuable skills is an essential step in improving our communities and helping those in difficult situations turn their lives around. We're incredibly excited about the programme and believe that by working together, we can help to change people's lives for the better, while also raising awareness of the opportunities within our sector."

Sarah MacGregor, programme lead for Forests With Impact, said: "Forests With Impact is a unique and innovative social enterprise, which is only



made possible by our partners. Through collaboration across industries, we are creating meaningful change, which gives hope, pride and purpose to prisoners, whilst helping create forests across the UK.

"The expert support and advice from BSW has been incredible and crucial to our set-up and launch. We are forever grateful for the amazing legacy they are helping us to create and the impact we are making together."

With 250,000 saplings already planted, and a larger polytunnel being installed soon, the project is gearing up for a wide scale launch later this year.

Gavin added: "So much progress has been made in a short space of time, but we are already excited about the future of the programme. Forests With Impact have some very ambitious plans — and we're delighted to be part of it."

**BSW Group ● [www.thebswgroup.co.uk](http://www.thebswgroup.co.uk)**

# Celebrations for Parker Building Supplies' 40th Anniversary

**A SUSSEX and Kent builder's merchants has launched a novel in-branch initiative to celebrate 40 years in business and raise funds for charity.**

Established in 1984, Parker Building Supplies unveiled its bespoke radio channel for customers and staff as part of its 40-year anniversary celebrations. Parker's in-branch radio aims to highlight key initiatives such as its ongoing charitable endeavours as well as covering local customer stories plus events and news of interest to customers.

The celebrations kicked off Thursday 5th September with a customer and supplier event at the Moy Avenue branch in Eastbourne offering food, music from the Fix Street team, special offers and lots of freebies, plus donations to Teenage Cancer Trust encouraged.

Branch Manager, Matt Jenner (pictured cutting the ribbon) said: "Parker Building Supplies has been established since 1984, and now four decades on we know our customers really well.

"Our new in-branch radio channel helps celebrate this milestone while providing a novel way of entertaining and communicating news with all our staff, customers and suppliers.

"We were delighted to welcome customers to our celebrations and raise even more funds for Teenage Cancer Trust too."

Tom Parker established the builders merchants in 1984. Since 2018 Parker Building Supplies is owned by the Independent Builders Merchant Group (IBMG) and is one of the largest independent builder's merchants in the South East with more than 450 colleagues working across 20+ locations.



**Parker Building Supplies**  
[www.parkerbs.com](http://www.parkerbs.com)

# Builders merchant's high street showroom

**CHANDLERS Building Supplies has launched a new concept with a high street timber and landscaping showroom in the heart of Windlesham town. Uniquely located on the high street at Updown Hill it's the first showroom of its type in the area.**

Stuart MacDonald of Chandlers Building Supplies, said: "Since opening we've attracted a lot of attention from tradespeople and their customers.

We've also seen an influx of the general public who are keen to see products close up, get knowledgeable advice on their projects, and prefer a retail showroom environment than a big builders' merchants setting — so in many respects we are filling a gap in the market."

Employing two product advisers, the showroom is wholly dedicated to timber and landscaping products and is completely separate from Chandlers' builders merchant branch located three miles away on Lucas Green Road, Woking. The 40 sq. meters of retail space, showcasing vast ranges of cladding, decking, screening battens, porcelain paving, wooden flooring, doors and sleepers as well as decorative aggregates and more, opened its doors at the beginning of October.

The showroom is open to the trade and public, with the retail team helping to raise funds for charity via donations to advertise on its popular 'Tradesperson Noticeboard'. Chandlers Building Supplies along with Parker Building Supplies and Fairalls Builder Merchants have been raising funds for Teenage Cancer Trust for many years. Collectively they have raised over £300,000 to date for the charity.

**Chandlers Building Supplies**  
<https://chandlersbs.co.uk>



*Alice Constable at Chandlers' Timber and Landscaping Showroom, Updown Hill, Windlesham.*

# Makita launches new 40VMax brushless multi-tool



**MAKITA has added a new high-performance cordless multi-tool to its powerful 40VMax XGT platform. The TM001G XGT Multi-Tool is compact and lightweight making it convenient and flexible to use whilst still delivering on all aspects of performance.**

The TM001G is compatible with STARLOCK MAX accessories, a tight-lock interface system with tool-less blade change for fast installation and removal.

Users can set the blade at any angle for easy access and the quick release feature allows the user to switch between accessories in a matter of seconds to ensure workflow is not disrupted.

Weighing just 2.1 kg, and with a height of 332 mm, the TM001G XGT is lightweight and easy to manoeuvre whilst still ensuring impressive results. The multi-tool's brushless motor delivers higher cutting and



sanding efficiency. Combined with the power of Makita's XGT battery platform, the TM001G offers powerful, versatile performance.

Designed with Anti-Vibration Technology (AVT) to ensure low vibration performance, users can comfortably use the multi-tool for long periods of time. The TM001G is also designed with an LED light and after-glow function to illuminate the area, a soft-start feature, a constant and variable speed control and an anti-restart function to prevent accidental start-ups.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager from Makita commented: "We are thrilled to introduce the TM001G into Makita's powerful XGT range, the tool has been engineered to fulfil the wide range of professional users' needs to provide maximum power, speed, and run-time without being restricted by a cord."

**Makita** ● [www.makitauk.com](http://www.makitauk.com)

# Empowering new architects

**HOWEVER TALENTED, enthusiastic and determined new architects are, they still need to be empowered to realise their full potential and fulfil their dreams. Despite a long training, architecture is a profession where ongoing learning is essential, but this continuing professional development (CPD) may not always meet expectations. This is sad and worrying because architecture has a direct and often profound impact on our lives.**

We all inhabit buildings and, on average, spend eighty to ninety per cent of our time indoors. Even when out and about, much of our life is



spent in some form of built environment, often created by architects. Good architecture has never been more important: professional competence is being scrutinised as never before and we are seeing the introduction of new legislation in the areas of building safety and sustainability.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is changing its CPD system to help meet these challenges and the Architects Registration Board (ARB) has gained powers to check architects' competence. Methods of CPD learning are as diverse as the topics covered but the teaching needs to be interesting to be successful. When it comes from manufacturers, it

must not simply be a case of them trying to tick all the boxes with their product. It is also vital that it is not boring, repetitive and unnecessarily time-consuming.

There is a real danger that new architects who are already under stress at work can find the burden of learning harmful to mental health, especially if it is shoehorned into lunch-times and other free periods.

Resourcing and empowering new architects is not just about teaching; it also involves encouragement, mentorship, a supportive work environment and generating fresh opportunities for creativity and innovation. Above all, it is about investing in the next generation of architects and equipping them with the skills and knowledge to produce the best and most sustainable architecture.

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# Filtermist strengthens dust & fume division

**FILTERMIST is delighted to announce a significant boost to its dust and fume division with the return of two highly experienced former Dust-check employees, Dave Clarkson and John Osman. Both Dave and John bring a wealth of specialist knowledge in dust and fume extraction, bolstering Filtermist's commitment to protecting workers from the harmful effects of airborne dust exposure.**

Dave Clarkson, now technical sales support lead, originally worked at Dust-check from 2013 to 2015, while John Osman, now serving as technical applications engineer, was part of Dustcheck from 2015 to 2019. Both played vital roles in the company prior to its acquisition by Filtermist in 2017. With years of hands-on industry experience, they are both well-respected among colleagues and customers alike.

Jo Morris, Filtermist's commercial director, welcomed Dave and John's return, commenting: "Filtermist has grown its presence in the dust control sector significantly since entering the market with the acquisition of MultiFan Systems in 2016, followed by Dustcheck in 2017, Dust Control Solutions in 2018, and the DCS Group in 2019."



She continued: "Over the past few years, our dust division has grown to almost match the revenue generated by our oil mist extraction business — which has been a UK market leader for over 50 years. Dave and John's return is testament to their confidence in our business and its future."

Dave Clarkson began his career in dust extraction in 1980, while John Osman, after completing an HNC in Production Engineering in 1982, has held various technical sales and project roles. Their combined expertise will greatly enhance Filtermist's ability to provide tailored dust control and air filtration solutions for a wide range of industries.

"We are thrilled to offer our customers the exceptional knowledge and technical skills that Dave and John bring to the table. Their return is a huge asset to our dust division, and we look forward to continuing our growth in this important sector. With them back on the team, we can continue our mission to make workplaces healthier, happier and more productive," added Jo Morris.

**Filtermist**

[www.filtermist.co.uk](http://www.filtermist.co.uk)

# Wilsonart appoints four new stockist partners to offer extensive Bushboard kitchen surfaces range



**ENGINEERED surfaces specialist, Wilsonart UK, are thrilled to announce the appointment of four new stockist partners across England and Wales.**

As of 1st October 2024, worktop distributors Llandaff Laminates Ltd, Plasman Laminate Products Ltd, Decormax, and Mitchells Worktops are able to offer the full range of decors across Wilsonart's prestigious Bushboard brands; Options, Omega and Alloy Splashbacks.

This announcement is the latest step in Wilsonart's strategic developments, to ensure both its Polyrey and Bushboard brands are readily available to its valued

customer base across the country.

Specialists in kitchen worktops, Cardiff-based Llandaff Laminates Ltd prides itself on its knowledge, experience and emphasis on customer service; a set of leading standards that mirror Wilsonart's core values.

Operating out of Manchester, Plasman Laminate Products has sought to develop a diverse range of products and services to further establish itself as a leading independent specialist distributor of kitchen surfaces.

Decormax has enjoyed continuous growth since its 2001 founding and now operates two sites in Wakefield and Leicester,

to provide panelling solutions throughout the North, Midlands, Northamptonshire and the South East.

While the expert team at Mitchells Worktops, who operate out of the company's Southampton-based warehouse facility, has provided a wide range of surface solutions to customers for over 70 years.

In stocking multiple collections from Bushboard's vast range, each partner will be able to offer customers an unrivalled excellence in kitchen surfaces that combine beautiful finishes with exceptional performance.

Tim Emery, sales director at Wilsonart UK, said: "We are pleased

to offer continuity of supply through these newly appointed distribution partners. We will be able to ensure a greater number of customers in the kitchen sector have full access to Bushboard's high-quality worktops and splashbacks. At Wilsonart UK, we are dedicated to maintaining and advancing a reliable distribution network, to seamlessly supply our core brands and products to a diverse range of industry sectors across the UK.

"With this in mind, we look forward to further broadening our first-class supply-network."

**Wilsonart Engineered Surfaces**  
[www.wilsonart.co.uk](http://www.wilsonart.co.uk)

# Tech advances in pallets & packaging

**PALLET and packaging companies heard that they should expect significant change in their businesses within a decade, during a presentation on the imminent impact of artificial intelligence (AI).**

In the concluding speech to the annual congress of the European Federation of Wooden Pallet & Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB) — Artificial Intelligence — opportunities for the wooden pallet and packaging industry — business development and innovation expert and author Thierry Moubax of Compass AI said approximately 90 per cent of jobs would not exist as we know them 10 years from now.

Mr Moubax said an estimated 20-25 per cent improvement in productivity through AI technologies has been forecast for business. Examples of benefits include freely available analytics and productivity tools; the development of 'knowledge bots' that allow all information about a business to be accessed usefully and continually from a single interface; 24-hour customer assistance; powerful marketing tools; the ability to listen to and summarise client meetings into action plans; streamlining the business acquisition, pitching and follow up process; supporting the recruitment of high-quality employees; and many more.

Mr Moubax left delegates with the challenge to explore how technology can improve their own businesses and how to develop and implement bespoke AI-enabled tools.

The 71st FEFPEB congress was organised by Belgian wood trade association Fedustria. It took place between September 25 and 27, 2024 in Ostend, Belgium, opening with a reception at the Thermae Palace hotel and a welcome address from the city's mayor.

The full day's business session during the event also saw a presentation by Koen de Leus, Chief Economist — Research at BNP Paribas Fortis, who spoke about the new world economy, and the most significant changes that would impact businesses in the short- to medium-term.

This included insights into the advent of 'slowbalisation', which would see lower growth in the world economy; and deglobalisation. Other significant forces include extended periods of higher



interest rates, climate change, and an ageing population.

There were also updates for delegates on the impact of the forthcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) (implementation of which has since been postponed for 12 months) by FEFPEB's Secretary General Fons Ceelaert; and Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulations (PPWR) on the wooden pallet and packaging sector by Olalla Trenor Michelena and Nikhil Varghese of Denton Global Advisors, and Luc Van de Vondel of Valipac. Mr Ceelaert also presented the latest FEFPEB industry statistics on the size, composition, and value of the European pallet and packaging market for 2023, which have been compiled with the help of the organisation's members.

Paul Brannen, Director of Public Affairs at CEI Bois, spoke about 'The EU landscape changing — impact on the wood sector', in the wake of the recent elections to the European Parliament. This includes the introduction of a new sub-target for net zero of 90 per cent by 2040, and initiatives favouring the wood industry, such as the aim of renovating 1.9 million buildings and building lower carbon buildings.

FEFPEB unveiled its revised 'Packaging from Nature' campaign during the congress, which included a revamped logo, websites, and information resources. The initiative was first launched in 2011 to promote the environmental, economic, and other benefits of using wooden pallets and packaging, rather than alternatives on the market.

The campaign resources are freely available to FEFPEB's membership to use across Europe.



There were also presentations by Professor Stefaan Walgrave from Antwerp University, who introduced the conference to the complex world of Belgian politics; and Aurélie Maes, CEO of Maes Mattress Ticking, who spoke about succession in a family business, drawing on her own experiences to give advice to delegates about managing this process in their own companies.

The congress, which attracted 230 participants from across Europe and further afield, included visits to local businesses: manufacturers PGS Rodanar Pallets, Nails of Flanders, second-hand pallet facility PGS REC Belgium, lightweight and industrial packaging at Mariasteen, and block manufacturer G-Bloc. There were networking sessions throughout, with a social programme that fea-

tured a walking dinner at Ostend's Fort Napoleon, and a concluding gala dinner at De Halve Maan brewery in Bruges.

FEFPEB Secretary General Fons Ceelaert said: "The FEFPEB Congress is the essential place for European and international colleagues from the wooden pallet and packaging industry to meet, network, and discuss latest developments in our sector. Thanks to the hard work of our partner Fedustria, this year's event in Ostend and Bruges was a great success, giving our membership updates on the regulations and wider economic and technological changes that will impact their businesses in the months and years ahead, with time to consider our shared industry response to these, too."

**FEFPEB**  
<https://congress.fefpeb.eu/>

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# TDUK releases more than 170 technical case studies for free

**TO CELEBRATE** three years since their official launch, Timber Development UK (TDUK) has made all 174 of its technical case studies FREE for all to download.

This includes the very best uses of timber in construction from the past decade, including dozens of Wood Awards winners — such as the RIBA Stirling Prize winning Magdalene College Library and Goldsmith Street projects.

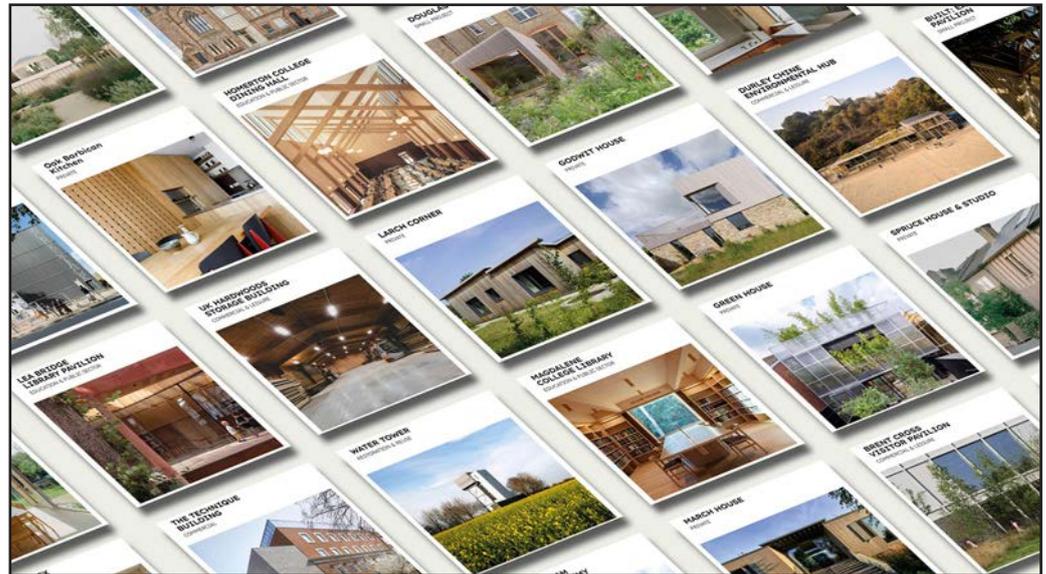
From beautiful schools through to stunning homes, swimming pools, hospitals, retrofits, grid-shells, interiors, and community buildings — TDUK’s case study library is an incredibly rich source of timber knowledge.

Together they form an essential learning resource for students and professionals alike, and the basis of TDUK’s monthly webinar series ‘designTimber’ delivered by the architects, engineers and design teams behind each project.

“When we came together three years ago, we did so to connect the supply chain, lead best practice and accelerate a low carbon future,” said TDUK chief executive David Hopkins.

“We are very proud of our work over the last three years, which has included dozens of new case studies where you can find both technical details and explanations, and key performance data on carbon.

“Sharing knowledge is crucial, as timber is an essential tool



to overcoming the climate and housing crisis in the UK, and we want every architect, engineer and contractor in the UK to know how best to use it.

“At its heart, Timber Development UK is a community — a place for people passionate about using wood to make a difference to connect, network, share and learn. No matter which part of the supply chain you work in.

“This is why we say if you work with wood, you already belong. Because anyone who touches timber, whether you work in the forest, a joinery workshop, behind a desk, on a building site, or you are just starting your journey — we are here to support you.



“For all of our members, and the tens of thousands of professionals across the UK who have over the past few years downloaded our resources, attended our events, given us a follow or sent us a message of support — members,

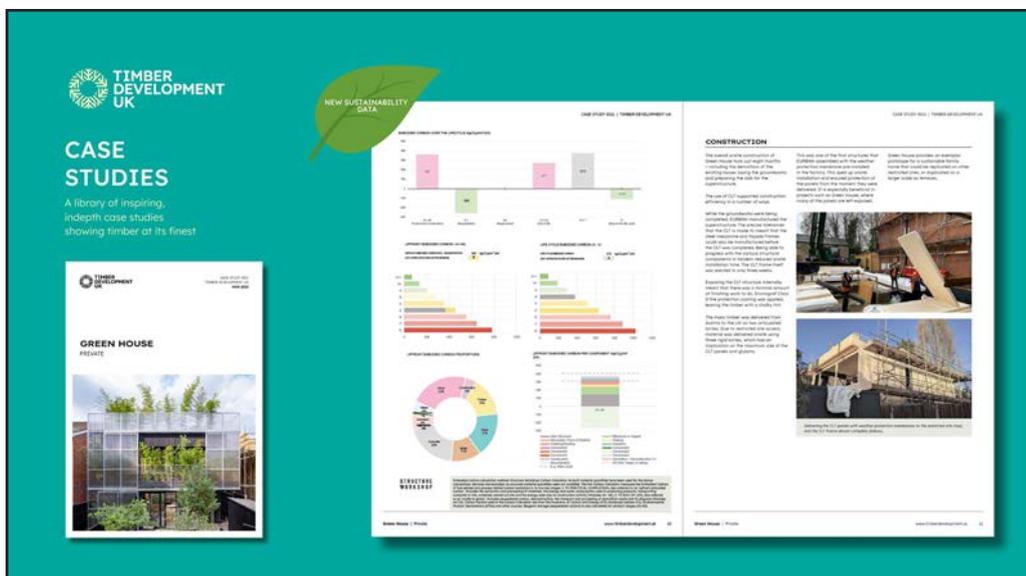
non-members and students — we are incredibly thankful.

“If you do enjoy our work and would like to support it to continue to grow, please do get in touch. We would love to have you in our community, and of course, tell you about the many benefits that are exclusive to members.

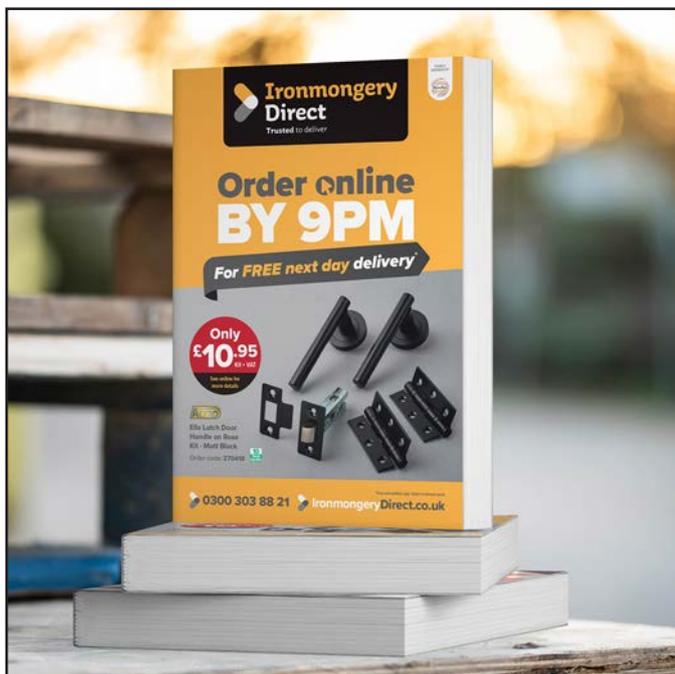
“Meanwhile, we are going to be continuing to add more case studies — and we have some really exciting new publications coming to our library before the end of the year — so please do explore all we have to offer, and keep in touch.”

To download case studies, along with hundreds of other resources available on the TDUK website, simply create a free account — which takes less than 30 seconds. This will connect you into the TDUK network, and allow you to receive updates — featuring the very best of timber in construction in the UK.

**Timber Development UK**  
<https://timberdevelopment.uk>



# IronmongeryDirect's latest catalogue



**LEADING** specialist supplier, IronmongeryDirect has released its latest catalogue featuring 500 new additions to its extensive range. Perfect for tradespeople browsing whilst on the go, the 2024 Autumn edition is available for free delivery or to view online on the retailer's website. The most recent catalogue details the retailer's key product lines as well as a selection of its new and exciting additions, which include products from renowned brands such as Alexander & Wilks, Heat Mat, and Heat My Home.

A key highlight of the new line up from IronmongeryDirect includes a selection of high-quality door handles from Alexander & Wilks which join a burgeoning range of door hardware from the specialist retailer.

Representing the epitome of British architectural door hardware and ironmongery design, the collection offers customers a variety of attractive finishes in three styles, including the Spitfire Reeded Door Handles on rose, featuring a tactile reeded barrel design for easy grip whilst retaining a striking appearance. Alternatively, the Knurled Door Handle on rose is designed with a modern-cut knurled pattern for simplicity and elegance.

The online supplier has also expanded its range of heating and ventilation solutions. New additions include underfloor heating products from Heat Mat with a range of easy to install electric underfloor heat mats that can be directly fitted beneath tile and stone, or with levelling compound for use with carpet, LVT and laminate floors.

The Heat My Home App Controlled Thermostat also joins the HVAC line-up, to offer a stylish and efficient method of controlling both floor and room temperatures and can be paired with a smart device companion app for additional convenience.

The retailer has also expanded its range with a further 2,300 products available online, including a wide choice of tools and tool accessories from industry leading brands OX Tools, ProDec and TIMCO.

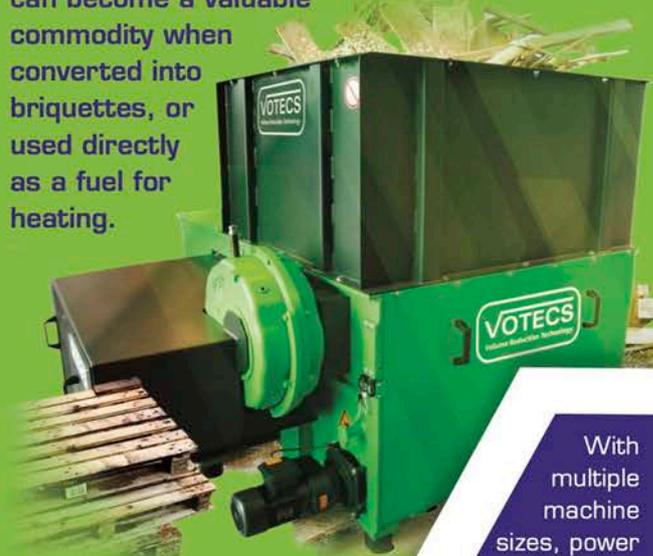
Kelly Wing, Senior Category & Direct Sourcing Manager at IronmongeryDirect said: "We are excited to launch our latest catalogue and are proud of the extensive range of new products we are now able to offer our customers. Each product we sell is carefully chosen to ensure we offer the best, most high-quality products as well as a wide variety to suit the need of all projects and budgets."

**IronmongeryDirect**

[www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk/free-catalogue](http://www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk/free-catalogue)

## WASTE WOOD IS WOOD WASTED

Disposal of timber offcuts, shavings, chips and sawdust can be costly, yet these inevitable by-products of the woodworking industry can become a valuable commodity when converted into briquettes, or used directly as a fuel for heating.



- Economical and profitable
- Robust, reliable design
- High energy efficiency
- Advanced technology
- Reduced fire risk

With multiple machine sizes, power specifications and accessory options, the wide range of VOTECS briquetting presses and shredders has the capacity to deliver efficient solutions...

whatever your waste reduction needs.



EXTRACTLY has teamed up with VOTECS – specialists in volume reduction technology and precision-engineered shredding and briquetting equipment for the woodworking industry.

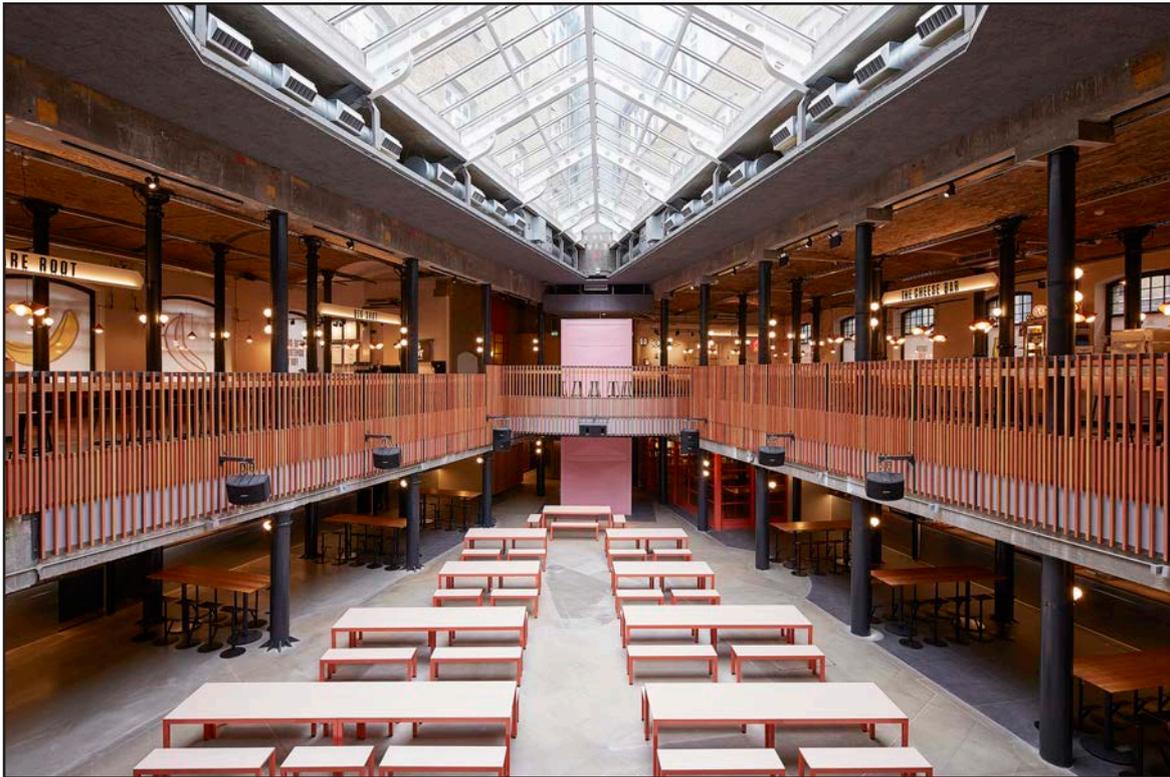
**Extractly**  
co.uk

[extractly.co.uk](http://extractly.co.uk)

**VOTECS**  
Volume Reduction Technology

01924 520462

# Dialling down noise at Seven Dials Market



**SEVEN DIALS** Market in Covent Garden is a market and dining space occupying the 19th Century Thomas Neal's Warehouse. Designed by architects Stiff+Trevillion for client Kerb, the scheme comprises 23,680 square metres of food, drink and entertainment space.

Centred around a large open atrium under a large skylight, the two-floor market features a rich and diverse collection of

20 independent food and drink businesses offering cuisine from around the world.

Part of the Stiff+Trevillion's design was to draw on the building's history as a former banana storage warehouse and the resultant space is contemporary in style yet rooted in its heritage.

The design of the building retains many original features carefully restored and refurbished including cast iron beams and

brickwork arches on a flagstone floor.

As with all large, open spaces covered with hard surfaces, controlling acoustics was essential in providing a comfortable space for staff and visitors. As a result, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels in a black finish were specified for use around the central skylight to help acoustical performance.

This is an excellent example of how acoustic panels can be incor-

porated into a project allowing architects to design modern, large spaces with hard surfaces but mitigating the problems stemming from long reverberation time and reflected sound.

Trolldtekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different structures and colours, combining superior sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Trolldtekt range has a minimum expected life cycle of 50 years coupled with excellent resistance to humidity and tested to meet ball impact standards.

The range is available in various sizes and structures, from extreme fine to fine. They can be supplied as natural wood or finished in almost any RAL or NCS colour.

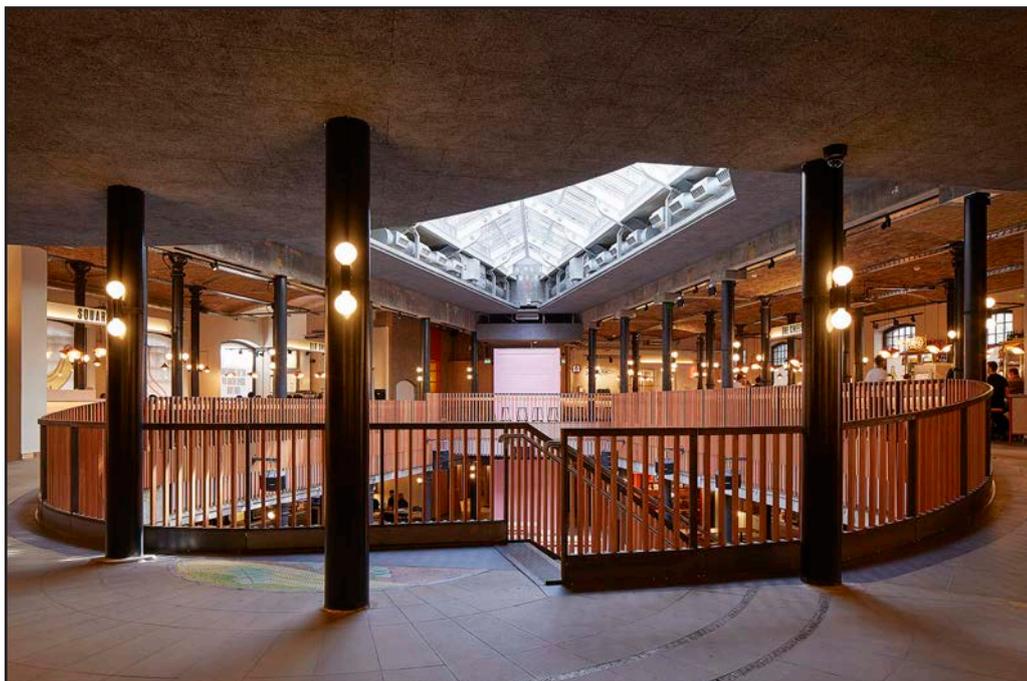
Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively. Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points.

Samples, case studies and technical guidance are available from the company's website (below).

*Photos: Andy Stagg*

**Trolldtekt**

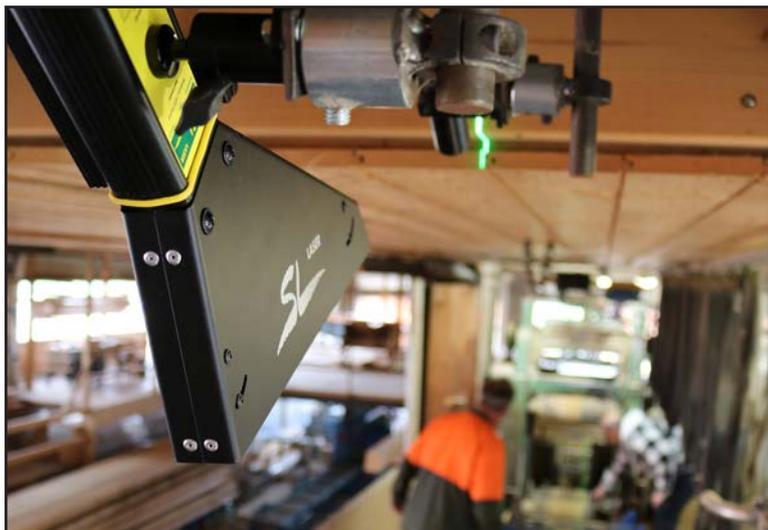
[www.trolldtekt.co.uk](http://www.trolldtekt.co.uk)



# Laser technology for circular saws

With its laser projection systems, SL Laser GmbH of Traunreut, Germany, meets the needs of its customers for greater speed, higher precision, and optimized costs and production processes. The versatile laser systems are used worldwide in the construction industry and in the production of prefabricated parts. Their ease of use, fast set-up times and robustness have made them indispensable tools for many companies.

In woodworking and other applications, the material must be aligned and straight. To simplify this process, a line laser from SL is a visual aid for the operator to get the material cut in the right way. This helps to save material and cost in production. This is the same process as for trimming



logs and boards. In this case SL Laser has some different models as you can imagine the dimensions are bigger or longer in this case.

The use of these alignment lasers are successful for different industries. Maybe you need to do an alignment in the textile industry, e.g. when you need a starting position, like a fence. Another use of alignment is if people have to stay within the green or red line boundary as a safety tool. For the cross lasers, SL Laser has different performances and can create different dimensions for the cross. Some of the operators use the cross lasers to show the edges and to have a starting point. Another application is to use the cross laser above the machine head of a CNC router to drive the head to certain positions. There the cross lasers show the operators where to put the vacuum cups. This saves a lot of vacuum cups from being destroyed by the machine and saves the machine or the drill part.

In addition, SL Laser's alignment lasers can be customized to meet specific needs. The laser modules use a highly visible red or green laser beam controlled by proven electronics. All positioning lasers are available in different power classes that affect the distance and size of the display. The compact and rugged housing of the lasers is electrically isolated. The units have a constant output power that is maintained over a wide range of operating temperatures.

As with all laser systems from SL Laser, the positioning lasers are optimised for use in industrial applications — this means companies can rely on a robust design and tested suitability for everyday use. The positioning lasers are resistant to many external influences and have a long service life. The precision of the positioning lasers meets the demands the company places on all its products.

**SL Laser GmbH**

[www.sl-laser.com/en/](http://www.sl-laser.com/en/)

## AWARDS

# Best Managed Company Award for Combilift

**FOR THE 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive time in the awards' 16-year history, Combilift has been again recognized as a Best Managed Company, requalifying as Platinum winner for the 6<sup>th</sup> time. Their management prowess was rewarded at Deloitte's prestigious awards ceremony in Dublin on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.**

The Deloitte Best Managed Company award acknowledges the achievements of management teams, and not just individuals. The accolade recognises overall business performance based on the criteria of Strategy, Capability and Innovation, Culture and Commitment as well as Governance and Financial Performance. Judges examine every company based on these four equally weighted pillars to select a winner.

The Best Managed Companies Programme originated in Canada in 1993, with Ireland's programme being the second longest-running programme, introduced in 2008. In addition to Ireland and Canada, the programme is currently run in a total of 48 countries across four continents.

Founded in 1998 by Martin McVicar and Robert Moffett, Combilift has grown from a small team of 10 to a total staff of over 850 people, selling to 85 countries worldwide. When receiving the award, Martin McVicar said; "It's a great honour for us as a company to be acknowledged once again by a global brand such as Deloitte's Best Managed Companies. The credibility of this global award enhances our brand to scale internationally."

**Combilift**

[www.combilift.com](http://www.combilift.com)



*Left to right: Kevin Hughes, James Sheerin, Karen O'Connell (Deloitte), Martin McVicar, Emma Marron, Christopher Lovett.*

# Trailblazing concepts at the ICONIC AWARDS 2024

The GERMAN Design Council presented the winners of the **ICONIC AWARDS 2024: Innovative Architecture** on 8 October 2024 at BMW Welt Munich.

The internationally established award highlights important developments in the architecture industry and attracts leading architecture firms, young designers and manufacturers. This year, 55 outstanding projects received the highest recognition as 'Best of Best'. The award winners, including renowned architecture firms such as Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos, Hadi Teherani and Pedevilla Architects, impressively demonstrate the areas of tension in which the architecture industry is currently operating.

The focus of many projects is on balance: between preservation and development in existing buildings. In the case of wood, which keeps growing in importance, it is the balance between the increasing experimental use of timber construction methods and the creative use of traditional materials.

## New perspectives for wood as a building material

Technical innovations, increased focus on sustainability: timber construction is undergoing both a renaissance and a transformation. While timber has often been used as a mono-material in the past, it is now increasingly being utilised in hybrid constructions



with concrete to take advantage of both material properties. The Hotel Bergeblick project by Beham Architekten (pictured below) is a prime example of how this renewable building material can be cleverly used in both new build and refurbishment projects.

Nestled in the picturesque foothills of the Bavarian Alps, the architects have created a visionary hotel. The delicate wooden skeleton of the building is inspired by the neighbouring urban forest and symbolically echoes its structure. This construction of vertical and horizontal wooden struts creates the hotel's characteristic open structure. Sebastian Beham and his team deliberately chose a hybrid construction method: The

concrete ceilings provide sound insulation and fire protection on the inside. Prefabricated timber frame elements and precast concrete slabs were used in the guest wings, significantly reducing the construction time.

The choice of wood was a key factor: Beham opted for spruce. A cheap, local material, but not known for its durability. To change this, it was made water resistant using various techniques, including protecting the joints in the wood matrix, which are particularly susceptible to moisture, with a PU sealant. In this way, Beham Architekten were able to dispense with energy-intensive metal cladding.

## Historic on the outside, expressive on the inside: architecture between preservation and renewal

The interplay between preservation and progress characterises construction today. Especially when building within existing structures. Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos shows how these parameters can be combined through sensitive interventions with the "Blockhaus" in Dresden.

The archive building, built in 1732, does not reveal its remarkable transformation from the outside. The Blockhaus on the banks of the River Elbe retains its Baroque splendour, while the interior surprises with clear, geometric forms: while the finely detailed façade has been retained, the Spanish-German architects have created an almost radical minimalism inside.

The centrepiece is a spectacular cube that seems to float above the exhibition space. The architecturally unique space offers flexible possibilities for research, exhibition and discussion, and will be home to the avant-garde collection.

"Is there a better way to celebrate the avant-garde than to take the shell of a building and create something entirely new inside? Neglecting the heritage of a historic building is often the wrong choice. But in this case, it makes a lot of sense," said the jury, which awarded the project the 'Best of Best' accolade.

**German Design Council**  
www.gdc.de



# Combilift wins two major accolades at UKMHA Archie Awards

**COMBILIFT gains further global recognition as it secures awards in two categories at the recent UK Materials Handling Association Awards in Birmingham on Saturday 14th September.**

Up against some of the biggest names in material handling, they walked away with the coveted 'Ergonomic Innovation of the Year' and the 'Manufacturer Product Innovation of the Year'.

The Combi-CB70E was celebrated for its groundbreaking ergonomic design.

The 7-ton electric-powered, multidirectional counterbalance forklift is the shortest 7-ton capacity truck on the market, making it highly efficient with long loads in tight spaces. The truck's surprisingly spacious cab, with floor-to-ceiling panoramic glass, provides operators with excellent visibility and enhanced safety.

One of its standout features is the Auto Swivel Seat, which automatically swivels 15 degrees to the left or right, depending on the direction of travel. This feature significantly reduces driver strain, particularly when reversing.

The CB70E also incorporates a gas strut suspension system, typically found in larger industrial machinery. This advanced suspension and large super-elastic tyres ensure a smooth ride, even across

rough or uneven terrain or during extended shifts. Combilift's independent electric traction system — a previous Red Dot award winner — provides 100% traction control for all front and rear drive wheels. This system eliminates the need for a differential lock on slippery surfaces, reduces load swing, and enhances safety and precision when transporting long, heavy loads particularly when navigating sideways, regardless of ground conditions.

Combilift's second award, the 'Manufacturer Product Innovation of the Year', went to the Combi LC Blade, a cutting-edge machine designed specifically to address the growing challenges of transporting offshore wind turbine blades from the manufacturing plant to storage or transportation facilities. These blades, which can reach up to 115 metres in length and weigh up to 70 tonnes, have long posed logistical challenges due to their size, fragility and complexity.

Combilift's Heavy Equipment Design Team, known for developing pioneering solutions like the Combi-SC Straddle Carrier and Combi-MG Mobile Gantry worked hand in hand with Siemens Gamesa, a leading supplier of offshore wind turbines. The LC Blade ensures unparalleled stability and



safety during transport. Now implemented in manufacturing sites across the world, Combilift has transformed the logistics of handling wind turbine blades and set a new industry standard.

Combilift CEO and co-founder, Martin McVicar, said: "We are more than delighted to have won not just one, but two prestigious accolades at this year's Archies 2024, making this our 12th Archies to date. Competing against such high-calibre competitors highlights what a fantastic team we have, which are willing to push the boundaries of the material handling industry."

These awards solidify Combi-

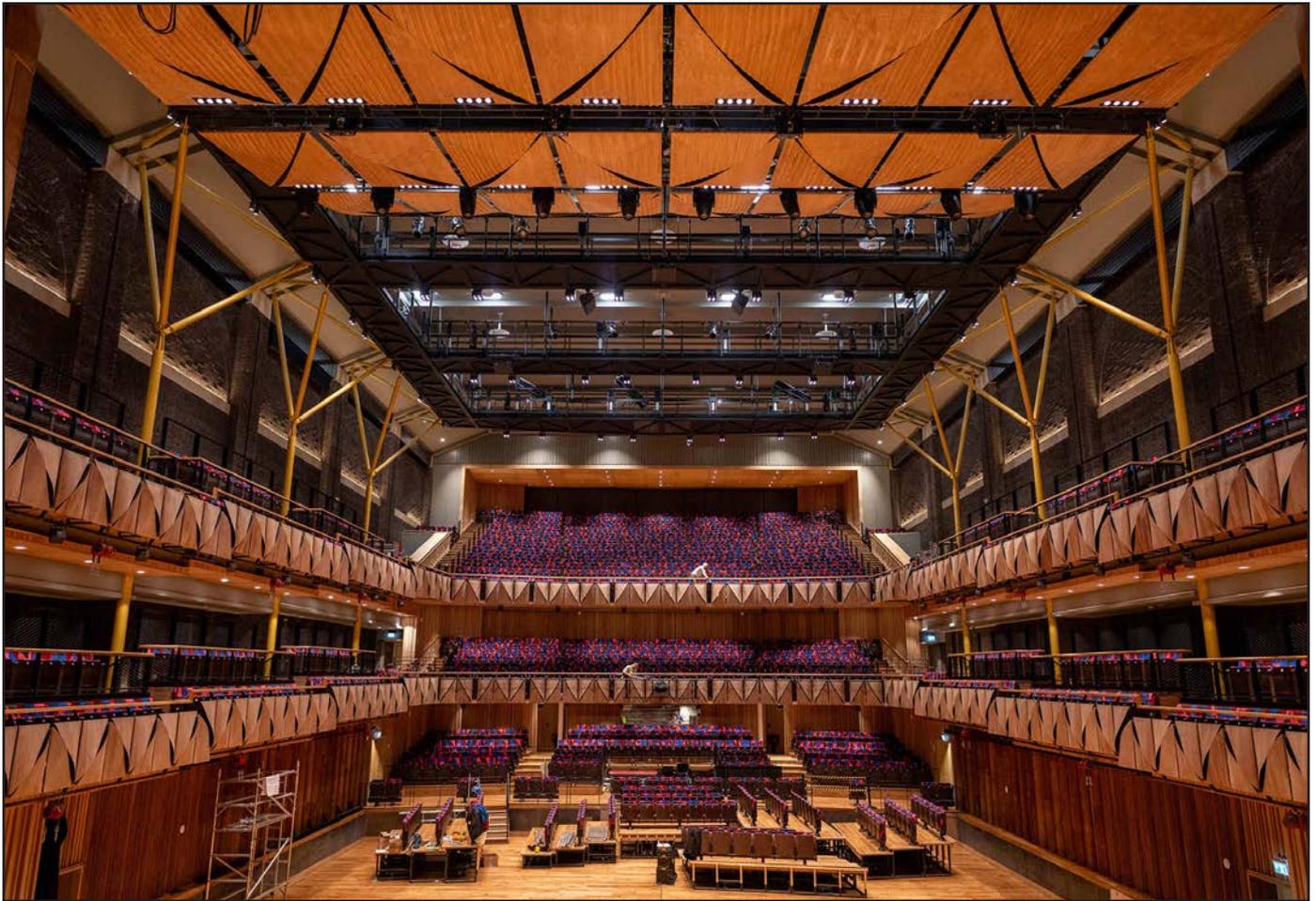
lift's winning momentum after taking home 'Design Team of the Year' for the LC Blade and the 'Industry Leader Award' — recognizing Mr McVicar's transformative leadership at the UK EMA Awards in London, bringing a total of four awards for the Irish manufacture within two weeks!

As Archimedes once said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." Combilift embodies this spirit of innovation, continuously pushing the boundaries of material handling solutions.

**Combilift**  
[www.combilift.com](http://www.combilift.com)



# Mon Timber finalists in the Wood Awards

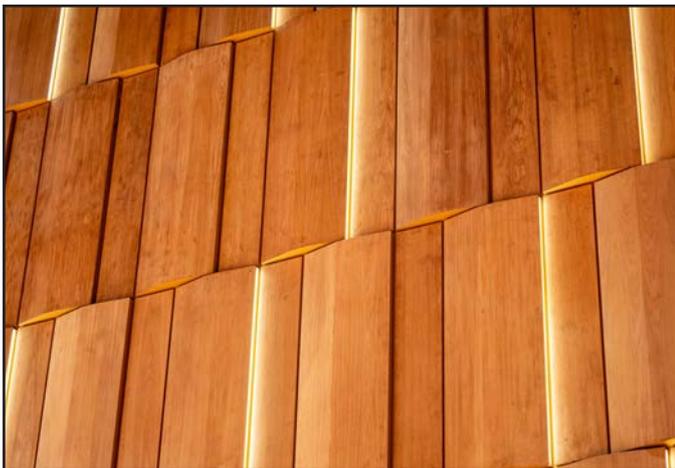
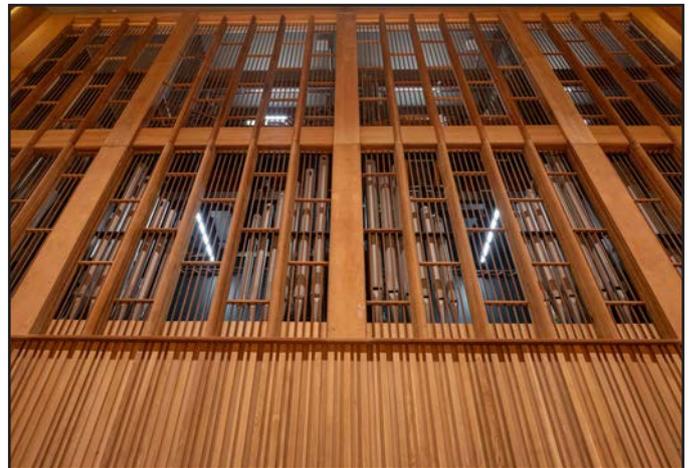


**MON TIMBER is celebrating after being shortlisted in the buildings category of the prestigious Wood Awards for its work on the restoration of the iconic Bristol Beacon.**

Mon Timber, a branch of Premier Forest Products, worked alongside contractors Ian Williams Carpentry (IWC) and Willmott Dixon to renew the historic Grade 2 listed site earlier this year. They completed bespoke projects to regenerate the interior of the building with beautiful wood-veneer features, with acoustic prowess to match.

The Wood Awards is the UK's premier competition for excellence in architecture and product design in wood. Established in 1971, the Wood Awards recognises, encourages and promotes outstanding wood design, craftsmanship and installation.

From more than two hundred entries, eighteen buildings and fifteen furniture projects were selected by the judging panel of leading



architects, engineers, designers, artists, critics and sustainability experts. Winners will be announced at the Carpenter's Hall in London on 20th November.

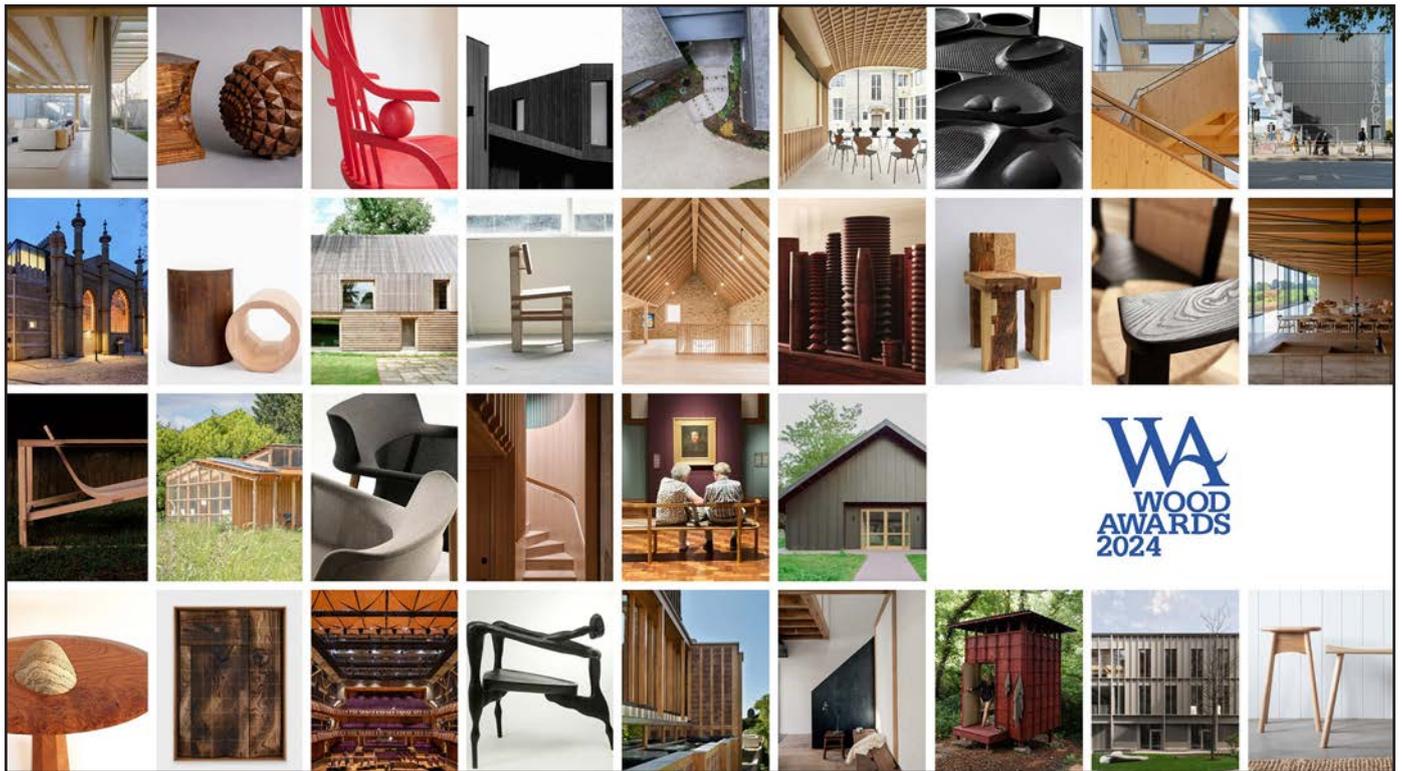
Terry Edgell, co-founder & CEO of Premier Forest Products said: "We're so pleased to have been shortlisted for the prestigious Wood Awards this year, for the fantastic work completed on the Bristol Beacon. The impressive architecture will be on display for years to come, and the hard work that went into the project needs to be rewarded."

"A big congratulations to our team at Mon Timber, and good luck for the awards ceremony."

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>

# Wood Awards shortlist announced



**FROM A WOODLAND primary school, a low-carbon community centre and a modular home in the wilderness of Scotland, through to a communal table for pounding fufu, this year's Wood Awards shortlist reflects the versatility of timber.**

First established in 1971, the Wood Awards are the UK's foremost competition celebrating outstanding architecture, structures, furniture items and objects made using wood.

From more than two hundred entries, eighteen buildings and fifteen furniture projects were selected by the judging panel of leading architects, engineers, designers, artists, critics and sustainability experts.

Ranging from a multi-storey light industrial workspace to a tiny hand-built woodland sauna, and from high-tech low-waste lounge chairs to intimately crafted sculptures, this expansive and inspiring shortlist represents the best in British timber design, craftsmanship and installation.

The awards are split into two main categories: **Buildings** and **Furniture & Objects**. Buildings is further split into: Commercial & Leisure, Education & Public Sector, Interior, Private Sector, Restoration & Reuse and Small Project. Within Furniture & Objects there

are four subcategories: Bespoke, Production, Student Designer and, from this year, Sculptured Objects.

Opening an exciting new door for the Wood Awards, the introduction of the Sculptured Objects category will provide a platform for makers to push the boundaries of traditional woodworking and explore new forms of expression.

Each of the shortlisted projects will now be viewed and assessed in-person by the expert panel of independent judges. Winners and highly commended projects will be selected from all ten categories. These projects will then be considered for the Gold Award — the UK's best timber building — and the Structural Award, as well as for Sustainability and Research & Innovation Awards, given at the judges' discretion.

Jim Greaves, head of the Buildings judging panel, says: "The quality and breadth of this year's Wood Awards entries has made the selection process an exciting and difficult challenge for our judges.

"From a longlist of 80 entries, we have selected 18 projects across a wide range of typologies which demonstrate the creativity and talent of contemporary timber design and construction in the UK.

"Each year it is interesting to see the innovative ways the industry is responding to the crucial challenges of our time, not least the climate crisis.

"Entwining environmentally conscious design principles with good design, these projects reveal the special role that wood can play in creating a more sustainable built environment.

"All shortlisted schemes [were] exhibited at the ... Wood Awards exhibition at the Material Matters fair being held as a part of the London Design Festival."

The Buildings panel is chaired by Jim Greaves, Principal at Hopkins Architects; he is joined by returning judges Kirsten Haggart (Waugh Thistleton), Andrew Lawrence (ARUP), Jonas Lencer (dRMM), David Morley (David Morley Architects), Ruth Slavid (Architecture journalist), Neil Smith (Max Fordham), Andrew Trotman (Timberwright) and Nathan Wheatley (Engenuiti).

Sebastian Cox, head of the Furniture & Object judging panel, says: "The Wood Awards is an incredibly high calibre award that provides a valuable opportunity to showcase UK designers, craftspeople and makers working in interesting ways with wood.

"We are delighted to be exhibiting the shortlisted furniture

items and objects at Material Matters, as part of the London Design Festival, and sharing them with a wide design audience.

"Each item will now be reviewed by our new panel of respected industry judges — each bringing expertise from different spheres of the world of wood, from furniture retail and sustainability consultancy to design, making and curation. With the introduction of the Sculptured Object category to the 2024 shortlist, we are excited to be able to offer artisans and sculptors a platform to exhibit their unique wood-based creations."

The full shortlist was on display at a free exhibition at Gallery@Oxo as part of Material Matters from Wednesday 18-Saturday 21 September.

The winners of the Wood Awards will be announced on the 20 November, at an evening ceremony held at Carpenter's Hall, London.

As a not-for-profit competition, the Wood Awards can only happen with collaborative industry sponsorship. A huge thank you for continued support from Carpenters Company, American Hardwood Export Council and Timber Development UK.

**Wood Awards**  
[www.woodawards.com](http://www.woodawards.com)

# Combilift Triple Crowned at the Exporter of the Year Awards for 2024

**COMBILIFT, the Irish manufacturing giant, celebrated a landmark achievement at the prestigious Irish Exporter of the Year Awards 2024, becoming the first Irish firm in history to win the coveted Exporter of the Year title three times!**

The IEA (Irish Exporters Association) event hosted at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre, saw Combilift not only secure the title of Manufacturing Exporter of the Year, sponsored by Ace Express Freight, but also claimed the ultimate honour of being named Overall Irish Exporter of the Year 2024, sponsored by KPMG. This extraordinary accomplishment further solidifies Combilift's reputation as a leader in both the manufacturing and export arena.

Combilift's victory at this year's Irish Exporter of the Year Awards is the latest in a long line of accolades. The company previously won the Irish Exporter of the Year award in 2008 and again in 2015, making this their third time receiving the prestigious title. These successes reflect Combilift's ongoing commitment to innovation, growth, and quality in a highly competitive global market. These awards acknowledge Combilift's significant contribution to the international marketplace, its innovative approach to engineering, and its relentless focus on fostering a culture of creativity and forward-thinking within the industry.

Combilift is a leading global provider of innovative material handling solutions, offering a portfolio of award-winning, custom-engineered multi-directional forklifts, heavy handling equipment and warehouse management systems. Established in 1998, the company now distributes to over 85 countries, through a global network of dealers dedicated to meeting customer needs. This international reach and strategic growth were key factors in securing Combilift's top honours at the event.

Speaking at the Export Industry Awards, Simon McKeever, Chief Executive of the Irish Exporters Association, remarked: "I am thrilled to honour Combilift with the 2024 Exporter of the Year award. Their success in global markets is a testament to the hard work and dedication of their entire team. Combilift's focus on innovation is at the core of its global success. Since its inception, the company has fostered a strong ethos of innovation, engineering solutions that push the boundaries of what's possible in material handling. Their customised forklifts and warehouse solutions enable

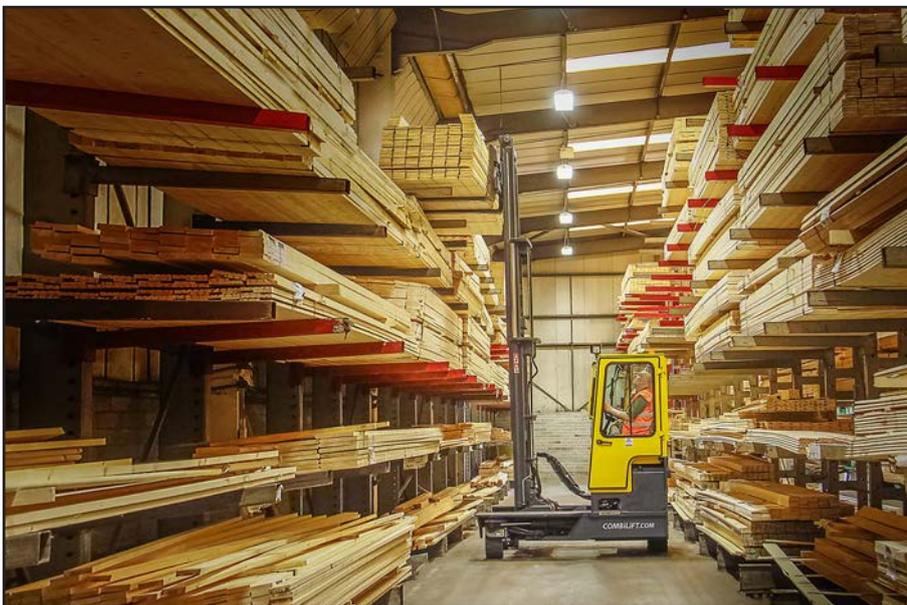
businesses to maximise space, reduce costs, and enhance safety, which has been a key driver of their international growth."

Combilift's CEO, Martin McVicar, shared his pride in the achievement, saying: "We are absolutely delighted with this recognition. To win two major awards, including Overall Winner, is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and innovative mindset of the entire Combilift team. Winning the Exporter of the Year in our market is the equivalent of winning a Gold medal at the Olympics — we are all competing at the highest level, and this award reflects that. I would also like to thank our customers and dealers around the world, your continued support and partnership has been key to our continued success. Our commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions globally is stronger than ever, and it's fantastic to have that recognised on such a prestigious platform."

**Combilift**  
[www.combilift.com](http://www.combilift.com)



*Left to right: Anne Lambe, Stephen Thornton, Antonio Patacho, Arturas Romenkovas, Peter Campbell, Andy Wylie, Grainne McMahon, Martin McVicar — CEO, Combilift, Colin Dunne — President, Irish Exporters Association, Simon McKeever — CE Irish Exporters Association, Rus-sel Smyth KPMG, Gavin Treanor, Nicola Sherry, Anthony Rooney.*



# James Latham for the win!

**JAMES Latham, one of the UK's leading independent distributors of timber, panels and decors emerged triumphant at the recent Timber Trade Journal Awards, scooping-up four accolades including the prestigious grand prix, Timber Trader of the Year.**

This hotly anticipated award, informally known as the 'Oscars' of the timber trade, is voted on by the industry itself. Crucially, it recognises an organisation that has demonstrated exceptional service, creativity and ingenuity over the preceding 12 months, enhancing the sector as it does so.

James Latham was singled out for its all-round service proposition, environmental credibility, innovative outlook, marketing excellence and commitment to training.

The distributor also walked away with three more gongs. The first, Hardwood Trader of the Year, highlighted James Latham's incredible range, the knowledge of its depot teams and its strong supply chain. Voted for by customers, this was a great demonstration of the respect and high regard afforded to the distributors by the people that really matter, its clients.

In the Judged category, it also took the Marketing Excellence Award for its recent 'Think You Know Great Service?' campaign, a short sharp activation combining customer research and direct mar-



**Nick Latham, Chairman, James Latham received TTJ Timber Trader of the Year Award.**

keting to help attract new, and revive dormant, customers. Posting impressive results, including a 26% increase in new accounts by close of the campaign's three month run, the judges described it as a 'Kick-Ass' and 'Outstanding'; a great example of how to achieve high engagement and conversion-rate on a modest budget.

Finally, Mateusz Miczek, Operations Supervisor at James Latham Leeds picked up the Career Development Over-25 award. One of the company's fastest-rising

stars, this win reflects an ongoing investment in people and their development as timber professionals, contributing to the James Latham team's long-standing reputation as experts steeped in the timber industry.

Commenting on the achievement, chairman, Nick Latham says, "An amazing result, and one which touches on every part of the business, from the people who drive the lorries and operate the depots to the valuable work done in the back-office,

from finance and compliance to HR and on to our passionate and knowledgeable salespeople. It's a real recognition of the ongoing investment we make into our processes, plant and most importantly our people.

"However, we're a business of continual self-improvement and we won't let this go to our heads, there's still room to grow to be even better and, importantly, do the best we can by our customers."

**James Latham**  
[www.lathamtimber.co.uk](http://www.lathamtimber.co.uk)



**Newly-refurbished Gateshead Depot.**

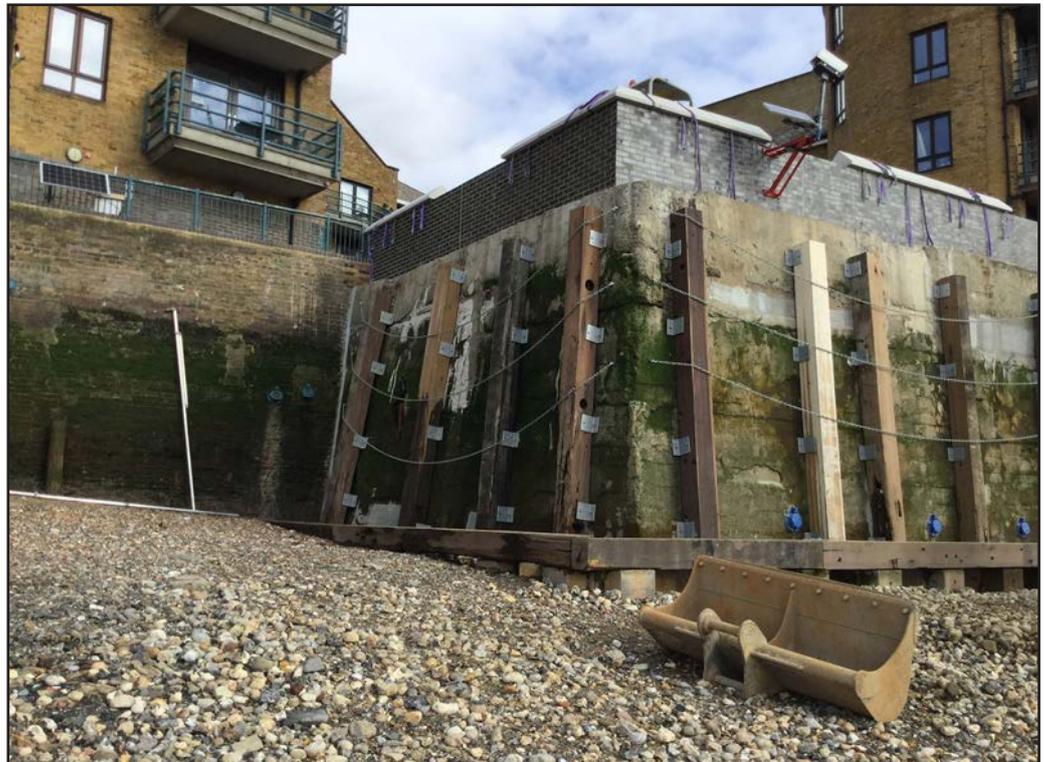
# Accoya fenders provided by International Timber win at the London Construction Awards 2024

A KEY market event, the London Construction Awards celebrates achievements from across the UK's construction industry and features a wide range of categories showcasing innovative design.

This year's awards took place at the Novotel, West London, where Accsys and sustainability consultants 540 WORLD took home the 'Excellence in Sustainability — Product' award for their Accoya fender project, supporting the safety of docking boats.

Recognised as an exceptional project within the UK built environment sector, the fenders are an essential part of flood management assets in the Thames Estuary, providing biodiversity niches in tidal waters, and promoting healthy and diverse habitats.

Four years after installation, the Accoya fenders, produced and supplied by International Timber and Jacobs Engineering, have performed as expected, with no visible deterioration in the fender material or its ability to fulfil its function.



Accoya is a sustainable timber that is made from fast-growing

softwood that is Cradle to Cradle Certified®. Its enhanced properties offer significant environmental benefits, and its long-life durability combined with non-toxicity is something that was incredibly important to the success of this project.

Alongside this, Accoya's stability ensures minimal swelling, shrinkage or warping when immersed in water — a crucial factor for this application.

Kerry Wardle, Head of Marketing at International Timber, comments: "We are delighted that the Accoya fenders project has won this coveted award at the Lon-

don Construction Awards 2024. It was a team effort, and we are all thrilled to have been involved in such a prestigious project.

"The Thames presented a challenging environment with its mix of brackish saltwater and active marine organisms, which can rapidly degrade most wood types. Despite the challenges faced, Accoya® has stood the test of time, demonstrating its exceptional durability and outstanding sustainability credentials."

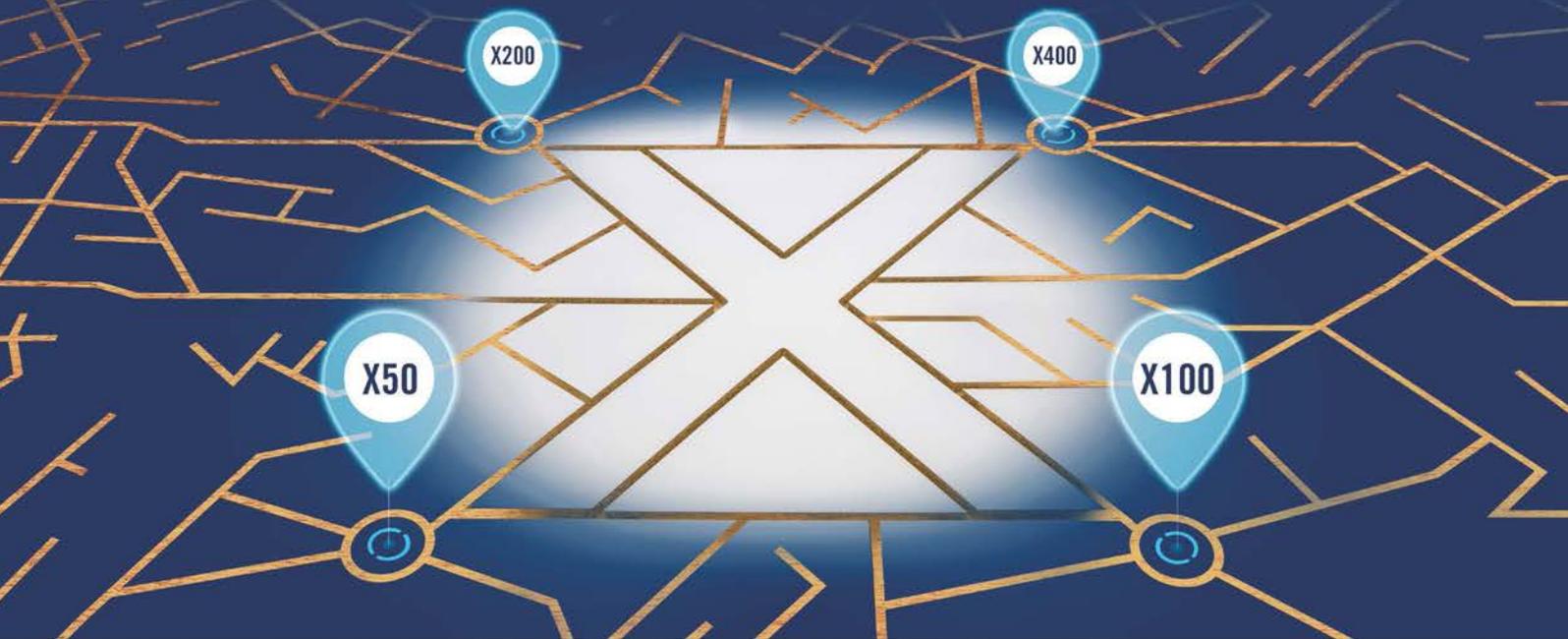
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THE NEW NEXTING FRONTIER

# FIND YOUR X

SCM NESTING MACHINES



SCM unveils the new frontiers of nesting technology with the introduction of two machines to the X range: the morbidelli x50 and morbidelli x100. These models represent a **new generation** of nesting CNC machining centres, designed to deliver superior performance, efficiency, and quality.

The morbidelli x50 ensures consistent **safety** and dynamism with its unique **S.A.F.E.** feature (Safe, Advanced, Fixed Equipment). Additionally, its **Spoilboard Management System** keeps customers informed with up-to-date status reports on their spoilboard.

The morbidelli x100 is a flexible solution tailored to varying production needs, regardless of material flow requirements. Its innovative Vacuum Management System allows for precise vacuum concentration in the necessary areas.

**Discover the “double eXpansion” and boost your performance today.**



morbidelli x50



morbidelli x100

DISCOVER MORE



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woodworking technology

*is more*

# New nesting frontiers with SCM

SCM presents two new CNC machining centres to enhance and integrate its range for nesting processing "morbidelli x50" and "morbidelli x100"

**THE NEW nesting frontiers start in Rimini. It is here, at SCM's Headquarters, that two new CNC machining centres were presented on the 13 and 14 September for the sector: "morbidelli x50" and "morbidelli x100".**

The two solutions further enhance and integrate the "morbidelli x" range already chosen by leading market clients thanks to its capacity to apply high speed and maximum flexibility to nesting machining to meet a market demand that is increasingly focused on "batch one".

SCM has once again shown, with these new CNC machining centres, its ability to transfer high performance even onto "entry level" solutions, guaranteeing a number of advantages which differentiate its nesting range at highly competitive prices. Every detail has been scrupulously designed with a view to making all the necessary features accessible from an efficiency, machining quality and predictive maintenance point of view.

From a software point of view, it not only has the new Maestro Lab intuitive and dynamic CAD/CAM design system, for programming both from the office and machine, but "morbidelli x50" and "morbidelli x100" also have a state-of-the-art SCM Smart cut algorithm.

Elimination of both unproductive times and waste and a reduction in energy consumption and material scraps are the main advantages of this optimiser which proves ideal for the nesting cut of even the smallest pieces. SCM Smart cut applies sequences and cutting technologies which, without affecting either the speed or arrangement of the pieces

in the program, improve the finishing quality and reduce cycle times.

Highlighted for both machining centres, we also find the SMS — Spoilboard Management System software, an advanced solution which, thanks to an exact calculation carried out on the machine, makes it easier for the operator to manage the spoil panel signalling pro-actively when it needs to be rectified or replaced.

Important innovations can also be found in the mechanical characteristics.

One example is the worktable with High Grip Vacuum technology on the "morbidelli x50": practical and sturdy, it is believed to be the only one of its kind to guarantee the best grip on the piece thanks to an exclusive SCM patented deflector which distributes the vacuum across the whole surface, thus maximising the grip even in the case of panels that are smaller than the machine's overall area.

Another significant advantage of "morbidelli x50" is its flexibility thanks to the XS Device, a device that makes it easier for the operator to refer and machine all the pieces directly on the spoil panel, even the smallest ones.

Also taking priority of place is the SAFE — Safe Advanced Fixed Equipment protection system, believed to be one of a kind on the market for ensuring maximum operator safety at all times. This occurs thanks to a perimeter photocell system which provides free access to all four sides to machine right across the board.

The advantages of "morbidelli x50" are rounded off with the top performances of the drilling units, with 8000 rpm RO.AX technology, and boring units capable of machining in nesting up to 40 metres per minute.

The innovation at the heart of SCM's new machining centres for nesting is further amplified with the "morbidelli x100".

Some of the advantages being highlighted include its excellent configuration versatility: the model is available in different versions, from stand-alone machine to integrated cell with automatic "flexstore" magazine, right up to the "push" and "mat" versions respectively fitted with automatic pusher and motorised unloading belt to simplify and speed up the exit of the pieces in complete safety and, in this latter case, even without manual interventions.

SCM is, therefore, capable of offering the most suitable solution to the client irrespective of their investment abilities.

Another distinctive feature





is the maximum grip on the piece guaranteed by Smart vacuum, the system which concentrates the vacuum only in the parts still to be machined, thus avoiding dispersion in the areas already nested. An innovation that has been added to an already high-performing worktable with PHE — Phenolic High Efficiency technology especially designed for use with the spoil panel.

## Not just nesting: the other new entries for “accord” CNC machining centres dedicated to the furniture industry

The event held on 13-14 September in Rimini was also an opportunity to present the latest new entries in the range of “accord” CNC machining centres.

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

The strong points of this range which has conquered leading clients at international level, remain unvaried such as the dual motorised “gantry” structure, the 5-axis operator unit with excellent performance, the innovative suction systems to guarantee maximum cleaning of the machine and the surrounding environment, the high-capacity tool maga-

zines with Maestro power TMS intelligent management system and the CAD/CAM Maestro Lab software for designing and programming.

The latest new entries from SCM regarding:

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

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

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

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

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

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

As Bruno Di Napoli, business unit manager for SCM’s machining and drilling centres explains: “Once again leading all the developments in these new solutions is the will of the company to place the client and their experience in using the machine at the centre of everything.

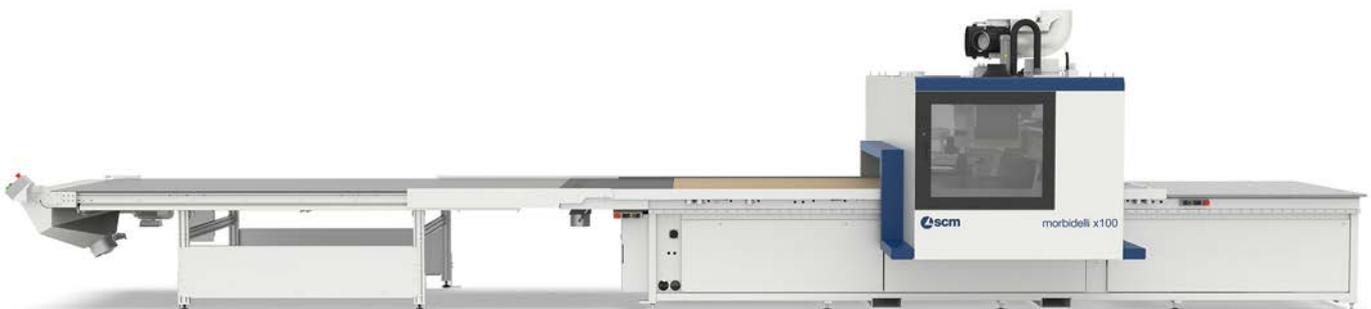
“Whether we are dealing with aspects of software programming, digital connectivity or ergonomics and ease of use, we aim to ensure the operator always works under maximum safety conditions without compromising in any way on practicality and production efficiency”.

**SCM Group**

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# Extractly Ltd attains ISO certification

**FOLLOWING** the announcement this time last year that Extractly Limited had achieved 'SafeContractor' status, the company has now attained further recognition of the quality of its business processes that comes with the achievement of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 Certification.

ISO certifications undoubtedly add credibility to a business's reputation and are widely regarded as an endorsement of a company's commitment to high standards, as Extractly's general manager, Kieran Redmond, explained: "Following discussions with Citation ISO Certification Ltd, formerly QMS, we made the decision to go ahead and put our practices and processes to the test. The initial motivation for wanting to achieve ISO Certification was led by our desire to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace by maximising customer satisfaction, and we were confident that ensuring our work was always carried out to the highest quality standards, with meticulous attention to regulatory compliance, could go a long way towards achieving this goal."



*Dust and fume extraction engineers, Extractly Limited, are also the sole UK distributor for the energy-saving Ecogate® "extraction-on-demand" system.*

Operations director, Graham Day, who has supported Kieran throughout the process, added: "Kieran had invested a lot of time

and effort into securing SafeContractor accreditation for Extractly and, although we hadn't necessarily been documenting everything to the levels required for ISO 9001, it was clear that we had already been fulfilling the majority of the obligations and responsibilities demanded by Citation."

In conclusion, Kieran Redmond commented: "As well as enhancing the service we can offer to our customers, the process of ISO 9001 certification has helped to foster a culture of continuous improvement throughout the business, and we are all particularly proud to have achieved ISO 14001 which demonstrates how committed we are to minimising the environmental impact of our business with, for example, a comprehensive programme of waste recycling, implementing low energy lighting and, as widely as possible, adopting the use of hybrid and electric vehicles."

**Extractly Limited**  
**Tel: 01924 520462**  
**Email: info@extractly.co.uk**  
**www.extractly.co.uk**



*Extractly Limited have now added ISO 9001 & ISO 14001 Certification to their previous accreditation as an Approved SafeContractor; highlighting the safety, stability and ethical standards the business strives to maintain.*

# SAVE ENERGY REDUCE COSTS

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

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

With ECOGATE, the extraction system responds in real-time to variations in machine use. When a production machine is switched on, the greenBOX Controller opens a motorised damper to provide extraction for that particular machine.

With ECOGATE technology installed, an extraction fan will consume the minimum power required to provide optimum extraction – reducing electricity bills by 68% on average.

**ECOGATE**<sup>®</sup>  


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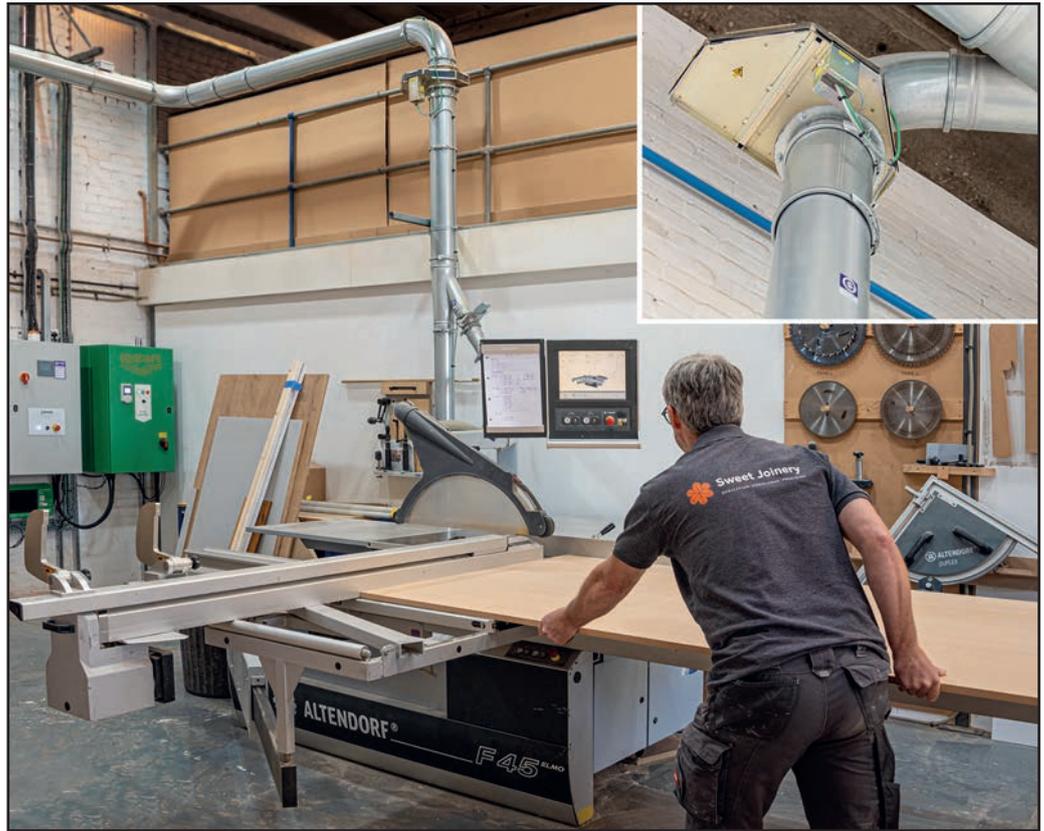
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# Extractly applauded for sweet extraction

**DUST and fume extraction specialists, Extractly Ltd, have recently completed the installation and commissioning of a comprehensive new dust extraction system to maintain a safe, clean workspace for North Somerset-based Sweet Joinery Ltd — one of the most successful and respected joinery firms in South West England.**

Although Sweet Joinery Ltd was incorporated as recently as 2017, the business has family roots going back over five decades. Company founder, Dan Sweet, started his career in the early 2000s as an apprentice carpenter for his grandfather's company, H. Sweet & Sons, and later went on to manage the firm's specialist joinery shop. In 2019, Sweet Joinery's rapid expansion was bolstered with the acquisition of Woodhill Joinery; another local family concern, also established back in the 1970s.

In addition to a collection of traditional woodworking tools that are typically employed in the



*Above: Ecogate® motorised dampers open and close automatically as machines come on or off-line.*

crafting of bespoke kitchen cabinetry and window frames, the company's workshop, located just a few miles southwest of Bristol, houses a comprehensive range of high-performance production machinery, including a Biesse Rover machining centre, Hebrock edgebander and Altendorf F45 panel saw, along with SCM spindle moulder and planer thicknesser, and a Sedgwick tenoner. This comprehensive set-up, teamed with a dedicated and experienced workforce, has enabled Sweet Joinery to build an enviable reputation for high quality bespoke joinery for their clients in the retail, education and transport sectors.

As Dan Sweet explained: "To eliminate our wood waste disposal costs, and to get 'free' heating for the workshop in the process, we wanted to install a modern, efficient, waste wood burner. However, to effectively filter and collect all the wood waste material our machines were producing, which was necessary to make the installation viable, it was obvious that our existing extraction would require something of an upgrade. After discussing our requirements with other colleagues in the industry, it was recommended that we should contact Extractly for advice."

The advice was provided by UK sales manager for Extractly and Ecogate, Ian Rayner: "This was a challenging but really interesting project to be involved with", says Ian. "Key to the success of the installation was going to be a new and more efficient filter unit, including a more powerful main fan, but space and access at the site was particularly restricted. The wood burner was being installed internally, at the rear of the workshop, along with a high-powered Reinbold shredder, and there was just enough space here to site the 30kW ATEX fan unit we'd specified to provide the necessary maximum airflow volume of 17,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. This would provide effective extraction from all the current machinery, plus a margin of extra capacity for future additions, but siting the filter was going to require a more complex operation; as space in front of the factory needed to be kept clear for delivery vehicles and personnel access, and

*Left: Mounted above the storage silo, the 17,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr capacity filter unit delivers collected waste, pressure-free, via a rotary valve.*



a narrow passageway to the rear of the premises had already been earmarked for a vast, externally located silo which would store the collected waste before feeding it to the new burner."

The solution Extractly's design engineers provided was for the new filter unit to be mounted on top of the silo. The unit selected for the task was an LBR-S HJ2 reverse air baghouse weighing in at around 2 tonnes. The unit is fitted with XT15 'Superbag' filter media, and two 1.1kW regeneration fans provide filter cleaning. The modular, galvanised steel housing, with a 2.4 m x 2.4 m square footprint and around 6 m tall, was craned in over the roof of the factory and fixed into place above the silo. "The positioning of the filter unit is actually ideal", Ian Rayner remarked. "Collected waste is discharged from below the hopper, then delivered directly into the silo, pressure free, via an ATEX rotary valve."

The installation not only provides Sweet Joinery with a renewable heating source and cuts the cost of woodwaste disposal, but it's also a great way for the busi-



*Above: Company founder Dan Sweet (right) with CNC programmer and operator, John Merchant, reviewing and discussing machine usage and power savings data collected by the Ecogate® system.*

ness to reduce its carbon footprint. And, to ensure the company derives maximum cost savings and reduces its carbon footprint even further, Ian Rayner also put forward a proposal to include Ecogate® energy-saving technology to control the dust extraction system. "In common with all workshops involved in the production of bespoke joinery, the machines at Sweet Joinery are never all in use at the same time, so demand for extraction is continually changing throughout the working day."

With an 'On-Demand' Ecogate® system controlling the extraction system, a sensor fitted to each machine monitors machine usage and sends a signal to the Ecogate® greenBOX controller whenever an individual machine comes on or off line. In turn, the greenBOX controller, via the Ecogate® PowerMASTER™ Variable Speed Drive unit, immediately adjusts the fan speed to exactly match the change in demand; reducing power consumption, and obviously saving on electricity costs. However, the level of savings a company like Sweet Joinery can achieve is quite significant, as Ian went on to explain: "By taking advantage of the Laws of Physics, Ecogate® technology can typically reduce electricity usage by at least 50% when the fan speed is reduced by as little as 20%. This sort of saving is easily achieved when machine usage is varying throughout the day and, when it's break-time and all machines shut down, the fan also shuts down — automatically."

In conclusion, Dan Sweet commented: "We were really pleased with the installation team from Extractly; they worked efficiently around us, and I found them to be professional and very flexible when delays on other equipment installations inevitably impacted their installation work schedules."

**Extractly Limited ● Tel: 01924 520462**  
**Email: [info@extractly.co.uk](mailto:info@extractly.co.uk) ● [www.extractly.co.uk](http://www.extractly.co.uk)**

*Left: Extractly installed an ATEX isolation valve in-line with the 30 kW main fan. In the unlikely event of an explosion, this safety device prevents the effects of pressure wave and flames travelling upstream in the ductwork.*



# Why Filtermist filtration is the perfect fit for FANUC



**FANUC Europe has named Filtermist Limited as its official filtration supplier for the Robodrill range of vertical machining centres.**

The Filtermist team met with FANUC Europe's sales and technical network in July and Filtermist oil mist collectors and accessories are now live on FANUC's internal ordering system.

This collaborative partnership is the conclusion of an 18-month project led by EMEA Business & OEM Development Manager, Alison Green.

Alison explains how this agreement came about, "FANUC Europe has been tasked with sourcing clear partnerships for all peripherals and accessories — part of this project included filtration of oil mist for all Robodrill models.

"A label on every FANUC Robodrill advises customers to 'prepare a mist or dust collector for each machine to prevent machine

troubles when the top cover is installed', and as an industry leading machine tool manufacturer, protecting machine operators from exposure to airborne mist particles is very important for FANUC. The selection process to become a supplier has been detailed and carefully structured to guarantee the best possible solution for FANUC and its customers.

"We initially met with FANUC in Spring 2023 — in that meeting we discussed the values of each company, and it quickly became apparent that we share many commonalities.

"We sent a trial unit to FANUC Europe's Luxembourg HQ and the project went from there.

"Our UK team has worked very closely with FANUC Europe to ensure we are providing the best possible solution for FANUC customers.

"For the D14 and D21 Robodrills, we have standardised on

the Filtermist FX4002 oil mist filter with a high efficiency afterfilter.

"The Filtermist units are RAL7035 (grey) but can be supplied in FANUC yellow if the customer prefers. The units can be direct mounted, or they can be supplied with an extendible floor stand, ducting and clips for off-machine mounting.

"We have created a bespoke mounting interface for both direct and off machine mounts — this means no cutting on site is required and disruption is minimised. This approach also offers a time saving of around 30 minutes per installation.

"The project team has also created an electrical interface specific to FANUC for the Filtermist unit to be fitted — this goes directly into the machine and gives a signal to the CNC that is visible on the programming screen.

"A similar interface has also been designed for the Filtermist

F Monitor 2 — a monitoring device which can be supplied as an optional extra with all Filtermist units. F Monitor 2 monitors measure airflow and time, enabling operators to easily see if the oil mist filter needs servicing or if there is an issue which may affect performance. The new interface allows the F Monitor 2 to be wired directly into the Robodrill — this gives a signal to the machine, enabling connectivity to central systems to monitor performance of the filter; many customers require this, especially in countries where Industry 4.0 is incentivised."

Filtermist and its global distribution network already work with FANUC subsidiaries throughout Europe and further afield — this latest announcement is testimony to the confidence the company has in Filtermist, its products and customer service.

**Filtermist**  
[www.filtermist.com](http://www.filtermist.com)

# Significant uplift in pallet reuse drives supply chain sustainability gains

**PRELIMINARY** results of the latest wooden pallet and packaging market report have confirmed the ongoing trend for reuse amongst manufacturers, retailers, and other businesses.

The findings of the 2023 edition of the annual survey, which is jointly commissioned by the Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) and Forest Research, showed repair and reuse of wooden pallets during the year was up 10.6 per cent on the previous 12 months, accounting for an estimated total of 54.1 million pallets over the period.

The report showed an estimated total of 41.7 m pallets were manufactured last year, a decrease of 7.9 per cent on last year's 45.3 m.

TIMCON President John Dye said: "These results show an important trend towards reuse, highlighting the growing importance businesses are placing on maximising the lifespan of products and all-round sustainability. It's also a reminder that the repairability, reusability, and recyclability of wooden pallets makes them one of the cornerstones for developing truly circular supply chains.

"In parallel, the report also confirms the decrease we expected in pallet manufacturing during 2023. These figures support TIMCON's contribution to the PackFlow report and ongoing dialogue with Defra regarding the implementation of a government reuse incentive scheme for wooden packaging materials."

Report author, Guy Watt of John Clegg Consulting presented the results of the market survey to a TIMCON meeting at The George InterContinental hotel in Edinburgh, which was attended by TIMCON members and affiliate members, and speakers from across the domestic and overseas forest-based industries and related sectors.

The meeting opened with a video address by MSP Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands. She stressed her support for the industry, "because it is part of the sustainable powerhouse



*Left to right: Marcus Kirschner, HPE; Stuart Goodall, CONFOR; TIMCON President John Dye; FEFPEB Secretary General Fons Ceelaert; Paul Tait, NAPD; and TIMCON Secretary General Stuart Hex.*

that is Scottish forestry", adding that wooden pallets and packaging is a "great example of a sustainable, reusable product."

Her address was followed by Stuart Goodall, chief executive of CONFOR UK, who spoke about the current opportunities and challenges in UK forestry, including a forecast shortfall of timber by the 2040s. This, against projected growth in demand of 78 per cent to 2050, could create "a timber security issue", he said.

FEFPEB's secretary general Fons Ceelaert presented developments in the European pallet and packaging sectors, including an update on European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR). He said the timber industry is lobbying to delay the implementation of the new rules, and, in the interim, stressed the importance of having data, advising that pallet and packaging businesses should get as much information from their wood suppliers as possible.

Mike Glennon, joint managing director of Glennon Bros, spoke about the status of the Irish timber market; Simon Tucker, director of Taylor Maxwell, updated the meeting on timber exports; while

Rob Driessen, managing director of Dutch pallet and packaging timber purchasing specialist Conne3, presented some welcome reasons for optimism about the European timber market.

The meeting also heard presentations from Ray Black of RB Consult UK, who detailed how ESG and Net Zero will help fuel growth in businesses; and Willy Bijen, who gave a presentation on CO2 — The Green Deal.

President John Dye said: "Over many years, TIMCON has fostered strong working relationships with other wood-based sectors. As our Edinburgh AGM and networking events showed, collaboration between the pallet and packaging industry, other industries, and associated businesses, is at an all time high.

"This really is vital to help forest-based industries come together to discuss common ground and speak with a shared voice to policymakers. As we work towards net zero targets together, our links help highlight our unique position as some of most sustainable sectors, and as such those which must sit at the heart of the new green economy."

The TIMCON meeting took place on September 10-11 and featured the organisation's AGM, a dinner and drinks on board the Royal Yacht Britannia, and a full business and networking session.

TIMCON is the acknowledged representative body of the UK and Republic of Ireland wooden pallet and packaging industry, encompassing manufacturers, the four major pallet pooling companies and most sawmills who supply the industry from UK and Ireland and suppliers to the industry such as kiln and composite block manufacturers.

TIMCON members manufacture 70 per cent of the UK's 43 million new pallets every year; they use around one million cubic metres of wood, representing between 25 and 30% of the UK's sawmilling production.

The wooden packaging and pallet industry is a significant employer, which is crucial to the UK sawmill industry and forestry sector as a market for timber produced from small logs and falling boards from larger logs.

**TIMCON**  
[www.timcon.org](http://www.timcon.org)

# Considering the future reuse of pallets

**THE NATIONAL Association of Pallet Distributors (NAPD) has called on pallet manufacturers and users to work together to ensure new pallets are always specified with their reuse in mind.**

The organisation, which represents the UK pallet repair and reconditioning industry, says the availability of lower specification pallets has declined as they are reused more often. It wants users and manufacturers to push for higher specs that will support increasing reuse — which will decrease costs and increase the overall sustainability for supply chain businesses.

NAPD chairman Paul Tait said: “Lower spec pallets, including class B and C, are currently going short as more of them are used multiple times and reaching the end of life and failing. There is a clear need to increase reusability by boosting the lifespan of pallets, which we can do by manufacturing with the goal of reconditioning a repair from the start.

“Wooden pallets are a naturally sustainable product, and the more supply chains can reuse them, the better the environmental benefits — and the lower the costs.”

Saleh Hijazi, press officer for NAPD, said forthcoming sustainability legislation, including the Sustainability Disclosure Standards (SDS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the UK, and CSRD in Europe, meant reuse is becoming an obligation for business.

“Reuse is already rising significantly,” he said, “and in the coming months, we are calling for specifiers to do more to ensure they maximise reuse opportunities for pallets and

they can meet the growing demand of customers and other supply chain stakeholders. It will save them money, too.”

NAPD is the UK association for companies that repair pallets for reuse to a high standard. Its members work by a code of conduct and provide additional supply chain services to customers.

**National Association of Pallet Distributors**  
[www.napd.co.uk](http://www.napd.co.uk)



# Passivhaus proves low carbon building is possible

**CONCEIVED more than three decades ago in Germany, the Passivhaus standard has shown what is possible when creating healthy, comfortable and low-energy buildings. There are now thousands of certified Passivhaus projects worldwide, ranging from homes and schools to commercial and health-care buildings — many are award-winning exemplars. Those that occupy them are often evangelistic; they have seen their energy costs plummet, and their well-being improve with instances of allergies and asthma reduced.**

Passivhaus buildings result from meticulous attention to detail and rigorous design and construction, according to principles developed by the Passivhaus Institute, and are certified through an exacting quality assurance process. This means that the performance gap, often experienced in standard building design and construction, is eliminated and very little energy is used for heating and cooling. Passivhaus does not stop at new build. EnerPHit is a slightly relaxed standard for retrofit projects, where meeting the full Passivhaus standard is not feasible.

With the clear advantages that Passivhaus offers, it seems strange that the standard has not been more widely embraced. Indeed, why has government not mandated Passivhaus as the way to meet net-zero and help tackle the climate emergency? After all, buildings contribute to around 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions\*<sup>1</sup>.

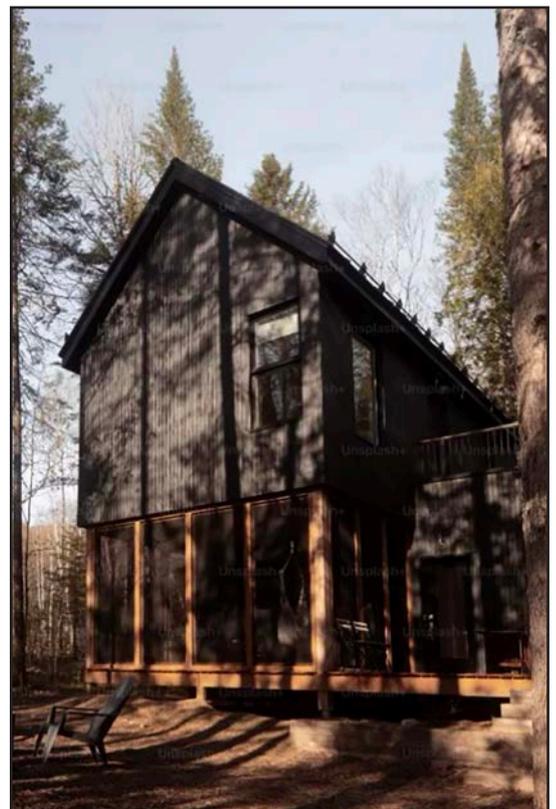
Cost is sometimes cited as a reason for not building to the Passivhaus standard. It was true once, but costs have significantly reduced over the years. As of 2018, best practice costs were only around 8% higher than comparable non-Passivhaus projects in the UK. When other factors are considered, these costs could come down to around 4% or less\*<sup>2</sup>. This is a fairly minor uplift considering the significant advantages and, if adopted at scale, costs could fall lower.

Even when employing standard construction, there are many lessons to learn from Passivhaus. As a proven solution, it offers ways to raise overall build standards, make designs more efficient, achieve improved airtightness and reduce thermal bridging across both new and existing building stock.

\*<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidcarlin/2022/04/05/40-of-emissions-come-from-real-estate-heres-how-the-sector-can-decarbonize/?sh=82826f063b76>

\*<sup>2</sup> [https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/guidance\\_detail.php?gld=41](https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/guidance_detail.php?gld=41)

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# Whatever your LEV demands Extractly will tick all the boxes

When it comes to dust and fume extraction,  
Extractly delivers the complete package...

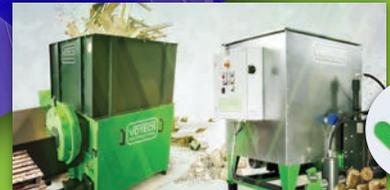
From the wide choice of filter types and technologies available, we source the most appropriate and cost-efficient system to meet your requirements and, from initial consultation and design, all the way through to installation and commissioning, we will be with you at every stage of the process.

The wealth of practical experience within the company, together with an extensive range of proven products, allows Extractly to offer extraction systems which are individually tailored to customers' specific needs.

Whether you need a small mobile extractor, or a high-capacity modular filter unit, an energy-efficient shredder or briquette press, or perhaps a modern spray booth or enclosure... from simply adapting ductwork to suit a new machine installation, to commissioning a complete waste-to-energy system, Extractly's experienced engineers deliver the optimum solution.



Dust & Fume Filtration



Shredding & Briquetting



Energy-Saving Technology



Control Panel Engineering



Service, Maintenance & LEV Testing



Spray Booths, Enclosures  
and Curing Ovens



Extractly is the Master UK Distributor and Installer of the Ecogate® energy-saving system, and an Authorised Dealer and Installer of Nordfab Quick-Fit® ductwork



LEV... **extractly** as it should be



Extractly Limited  
has achieved  
SafeContractor  
Accreditation



Extractly Ltd  
info@extractly.co.uk  
01924 520462

# Award-winning Sort Trae Passivhaus project in South Yorkshire

**MKM, a UK independent builder's merchant, is leading the charge in sustainable construction practices through its involvement in the award winning Sort Trae Passivhaus project in South Yorkshire.**

Passivhaus buildings, such as Sort Trae, deliver up to 90% energy savings compared to traditional homes, making them an appealing option for those looking to cut down on energy costs while maintaining high environmental standards (Passivhaus Trust).

In collaboration with Terry Huggett Developments, MKM Sheffield North sourced the specialist architect specified materials required to meet the rigorous Passivhaus standards — a benchmark in eco-luxury living and energy efficiency that is seeing growing adoption across the UK.

With over 1,500 certified Passivhaus buildings in the UK and at least as many in development, the demand for low-energy, high performance homes is accelerating as homeowners and developers seek solutions to reduce their carbon footprint (Passivhaus Trust).

## Sourcing specialist materials for a sustainable future

MKM Sheffield North played a pivotal role in sourcing carefully selected materials for Sort Trae, including Steico Insulation, Pro-Clima Membranes, Tescon Tapes & Sprimer, Soudal SWS Expanding Foam, Contega Tapes, SmartPly OSB 18 mm, and the LG Heat Rectory System. These materials are essential in ensuring op-



timal insulation, airtightness, and energy efficiency, all crucial components of Passivhaus design.

Mathew Freer, MKM Sheffield North Branch Director, noted: "We pride ourselves on being able to source any material required, no matter how specialist. Our involvement in the Sort Trae Passivhaus demonstrates MKM's capacity to support the construction of ultra-low energy homes that align with the UK's growing demand for sustainability — and this is just one of many sustainable buildings we're working with customers on."

Passivhaus is not just gaining traction in private developments; social housing providers are also recognising its benefits. Over 750 Passivhaus social housing units have been completed across the UK, with more in the pipeline, demonstrating the scalability of these standards (Passivhaus Trust).

Terry Huggett, owner of Terry Huggett Developments, reflected on his focus on Passivhaus projects over the past decade.

"Building a Passivhaus costs about 15-20% more than a traditional build, but the long-term savings and health benefits make it worthwhile." Partnering with Sheffield University architects has been key to their success.

Passivhaus construction has unique challenges, including airtight construction, superior windows, and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery.

To date, Terry Huggett Developments has completed six Passivhaus projects in South Yorkshire with MKM's support. Their work has significantly contributed to the region's transformation into a modern, eco-friendly landscape. Mr Huggett advises those considering a Passivhaus to understand its five principles: no thermal bridging, superior windows, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, quality insulation, and airtight construction. "Think long term," he says, "and enjoy the process — it's a joy to live in a Passivhaus and see your heating bills nearly disappear."

MKM's contributions to Sort Trae are part of its broader national focus on sustainability — initiatives that have earned MKM the prestigious Ecovadis Bronze status, underscoring the company's dedication to sustainable operations.

CEO Kate Tinsley highlighted the company's ongoing efforts: "The construction sector is responsible for 40% of the UK's carbon emissions and sustainability is a core focus for us at MKM. As we continue to expand, we're making significant strides in reducing our carbon footprint by transitioning to electric forklifts and cars, running several of our HGVs on Compressed Natural Gas, and expanding the use of solar PV across our branches. Our commitment to sourcing REGO-certified electricity and offering a wider range of environmentally responsible products aligns with the growing importance of sustainability to our customers."

## The growing demand for Passivhaus and sustainable construction

The Sort Trae Passivhaus project is a prime example of how MKM is enabling sustainable building on a national scale. As more developers seek to meet the increasing demand for Passivhaus construction, MKM is well-positioned across its 130 branches to provide the specialist materials required to deliver high-quality, energy-efficient homes.

Photo credit: Dug Wilder

**MKM**  
<https://mkm.com>



# Solar and transport fleet changes sees Selco sustainability journey accelerate



**SELCO Builders Warehouse has continued its sustainability journey by expanding its solar panel coverage and increasing its number of electric vehicles and alternative fuel options within its transport fleet.**

The leading builders merchant now has high-performance solar panels installed in six branches, producing a carbon saving of more than 85,000 kg — the equiv-

alent of planting more than 5,100 trees.

The solar panels — which were fitted by Amelio Solar Panels with SolarEdge providing the web portal for real-time monitoring — have been installed in Barking, Romford, Sturchley, Sutton, Swansea and York branches.

Craig Bowler, Head of Development at Selco, said: “The installation of solar panels at a number

of branches has resulted in significant reductions in our carbon footprint. During business opening hours, we are seeing the solar panels generate close to 100% of the energy required for the branch.

“We are delighted with the impact we are seeing on the overall energy consumption where solar panels have been installed and we look forward to seeing further

progress replicated across other branches over time.”

In addition, Selco’s transport fleet is moving increasingly to alternative fuel vehicles, including electric forklift trucks and drop-side vans.

Selco now has 29 HGV vehicles operating on either Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO). In addition, dozens of electric forklift trucks have been added to the fleet, taking the total number in Selco to 222.

Richard Evans, Head of Transport Operations at Selco, said: “The direction of travel over the last five years when it comes to our transport fleet has been towards alternative fuels and electrification.

“We have a clear long-term strategy to reduce our carbon footprint in the communities in which we operate and the progress we are making within the transport fleet is sizeable and will be continued.”

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

**Selco**  
[www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)



# From 'waste wood' to 'mass timber': CascadeUp pilot premieres at London Design Festival

**A GROUNDBREAKING research project made its global debut at London Design Festival from 18 to 21 September at the OXO Tower Courtyard and Platform.**

CascadeUp is the first building scale demonstration of a glulam and cross-laminated timber (CLT) structure which has been created entirely out of waste timber from demolition.

The 3.5-metre high, 2.5-metre wide and 2-metre deep modular structure was designed by University College London's Circular Economy Lab and UK CLT to provide a stage to share planet saving ideas.

"We can't solve the climate crisis without transforming our built environment," says Dr Colin Rose, an architect, Senior Research Fellow at UCL and Founding Partner of UK CLT, who has led on the project. "CascadeUp fully embraces circularity — taking wood which would be chipped and downcycled or sent to the incinerator and instead remanufacturing it to make a sustainable alternative to high-carbon structural products such as concrete, steel and brick. Taken at scale, this is an approach that can boost local economies and drive new employment in reclamation and manufacturing sectors close to urban areas."

The CascadeUp pilot is the result of years of research to rethink how we can transform our built environment, and rapidly shift to a circular economy.

With the built environment responsible for 30-42% of carbon emis-



*A compelling centrepiece from which to discuss a circular future. Photo credit: Digby Oldridge, UCL.*

sions, over 60% of the UK's waste, and ~50% of all extracted materials, this could have a major impact.

Fully modular and reusable, and designed with disassembly in mind, the structure can be easily upgraded and repurposed, ensuring that no materials are discarded.

The project is believed to be the first of its kind to test this approach to the manufacture of wood-based panels and beams from reused, solid timber and assemble it at building-scale — which can provide a way to extend wood's ability to store carbon over the long-term

Visitors to the pilot had the opportunity to view the structure and learn more about its design and construction, material properties and scalability, and environmental benefits.

CascadeUp formed one exciting component of a South Bank design district which featured both Material Matters and the Wood Awards.

Collectively, all three tell a powerful story of a more sustainable, low-carbon future, and showcase the teams working now to make this possible.

The project has been carried out in partnership with Portakabin, and with the support of a range of other supporting collaborators — including Timber Development UK.

**Timber Development UK**  
timberdevelopment.uk



*The project team were on site to provide daily talks. Photo credit: James Tye, UCL.*

# Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors plants its 750<sup>th</sup> tree to mark FSC Forest Week 2024



**NINE ZERO Timber Windows and Doors has facilitated the planting of 750 trees in 2024, to coincide with this year's FSC™ Forest Week (running from 21 to 27 September) and its theme: 'The small steps that create big change.'**

As a long-standing FSC license holder (FSC C007915) and advocate for timber's standout sustainability credentials, Nine Zero

is passionate about raising awareness around the vital role that sustainable forestry and timber products play in combating climate change and biodiversity loss.

In 2024 alone, Nine Zero has actioned the planting of 750 trees worldwide through the More Trees initiative, a platform that powers businesses and individuals to plant trees at the click of a button. The trees, which have

been planted in Kent, Rwanda and Senegal, are forecasted to capture 1161.5 tonnes of future CO<sub>2</sub>.

This milestone not only embodies the spirit of FSC Forest Week, but also reinforces the responsibility Nine Zero embraces to advise, educate and demonstrate how timber is the springboard to reaching stringent Building Regulations — as well as the

company's global Net Zero Strategy goals.

Steve Winscott, director of Nine Zero, is passionate about the timber industry's role in driving change: "The timber glazing industry is uniquely positioned to lead the way in sustainability, and FSC Forest Week reminds us that even the smallest steps can have a profound impact on our environment.

"Nine Zero has long been committed to being part of the solution, whether that's through our responsible sourcing of FSC certified materials, recycling timber waste, providing renewable energy to local homes, tree-planting initiatives, or simply keeping the conversation going.

"As consumers become increasingly aware of the role they can play in combating climate change, Nine Zero continues to provide them with sustainable choices that make a tangible difference. We need to make sure the message is clear, that by choosing FSC-certified timber windows and doors, consumers are contributing to a larger movement, ensuring the future of forests — and the communities that depend on them."

**Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors**

[www.nine-zero.co.uk](http://www.nine-zero.co.uk)



# West Fraser working towards EUDR compliance

**AS A MANUFACTURER with a long history of embracing high standards of its raw material due diligence programme and sustainability goals in general, West Fraser is introducing additional strategies to comply with the requirements of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) which was published in June 2023 and is set to come into force at the end of 2024.**

With the world's forests being lost at the equivalent rate of 800 football pitches an hour, it is considered to be the second biggest contributor to Climate Change and results in corresponding damage to biodiversity. The EUDR has therefore been established to not only ensure wood comes from legal sources, but to eradicate deforestation and degradation of our global forests. Ultimately, the regulation will help to decouple economic growth from resource consumption, a key target of the EU's Green Deal.

To date, West Fraser has been working to collate data and undertakings from its supply chain partners, the forest geolocation, species and legal aspects are all considered as part of the risk assessment process, with the wider road map for its journey to full compliance being the subject of regular review. Meeting the requirements of EUDR is an

extension of the company's already well-established due diligence systems and disciplines in line with its forestry policy commitments.

West Fraser's Group Compliance Manager, Julie Turner, who is leading the EUDR project commented: "We recognise and actively promote the importance of responsible sourcing across our supply chains and can assure our customers that we are engaged with the EUDR requirements to better our planet and reduce our environmental impact".

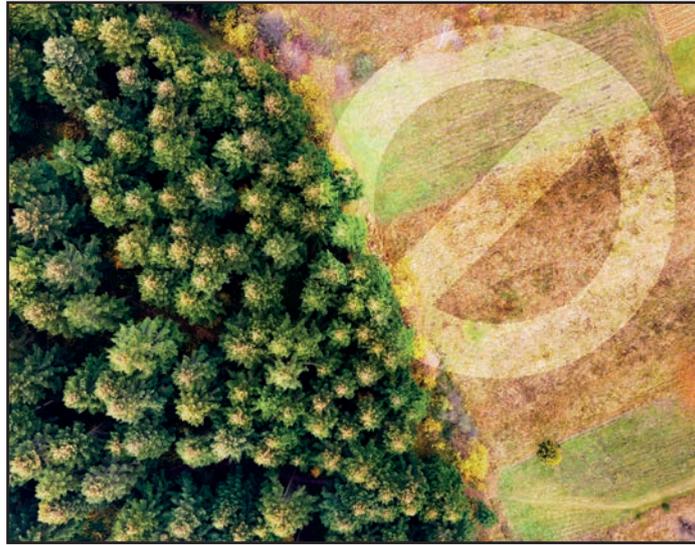
The West Fraser range of engineered timber panels products are made from forests grown and harvested specifically for manufacturing purposes, all serving to cut unnecessary consumption of resources.

The manufacturer is also committed to further waste reduction in its own processes and utilising renewable energy only from certified sources.

Enshrining the EUDR as part of its ESG disciplines will be another waymarker on West Fraser's journey to Net Zero.

For further information on West Fraser's sourcing and due diligence processes, please use the contact details below.

**West Fraser**  
**Tel 01786 812 921**  
**responsible.sourcing.eu@westfraser.com**  
**Uk.westfraser.com**



*The EU Deforestation Regulation bans deforestation and degradation trading into or within the EU.*

## SANDING & FINISHING

# Launch of Interpon D Futura Collection

**DESIGNERS and architects in the built environment in New Zealand can now benefit from the spectacular colour and performance of the Interpon D Futura Collection 2024-2025 of powder coatings from AkzoNobel, helping them imagine and realise a new vision in colour and enable their creations to reconnect with nature.**

With a growing demand for exceptional finishes among the region's architects and designers, the Interpon D Futura Collection comprises three brand new, on-trend colour palettes — Merging Worlds, Healing Nature and Soft Abstraction — to help transform the built environment, matching aesthetic quality with proven sustainability performance.

The new collection is the result of rigorous testing and scientific research by AkzoNobel's own in-house trend and colour specialists across multiple industries, and particularly those involved in the building and construction sector.

It is also the result of more than two decades of development, during which the collections have inspired innovative designs all over the world.

Launched with the promise to 'Futura your world', the new range delivers a superdurable performance with a warranty up to 25 years, enabling architectural creations to stand the test of time.

As a powder coating, the collection is solvent-free and emits no volatile organic compounds which makes it a more sustaina-

ble choice than liquid alternatives. Any overspray can also be recovered and reused to minimize waste.

Interpon D was the first range of architectural powder coatings to achieve an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) providing an independently verified assessment of a coatings' environmental impact across its whole lifespan, supporting an architect's sustainability ambitions and contributing directly to the evolution of 'green buildings'.

Şirvan Canitez, Commercial Director South Asia, AkzoNobel Powder Coatings says the Interpon D Futura Collection has been created with the future in mind: "Our new collection provides architects with world class colours that enable them to bring their imagination to life. It also provides a sustainable choice in powder coatings that both protects buildings and lowers the environmental footprint compared to other coating solutions.

"The range demonstrates Interpon's commitment to delivering the highest quality colours, textures and finishes to enable architects to Futura their world and ours.

"That's why we are constantly innovating, while collaborating with our Global Aesthetic Center to use deep insight and scientific research to predict future trends and ensure they're always one step ahead."

**AkzoNobel**  
**www.akzonobel.com**



# Makita launches a range of new 40VMax XGT orbit sanders

**MAKITA** has added six new orbit sanders to its XGT 40VMax range. Due to an innovative cable connection to the battery, the new cordless sanders offer superior ease of use and manoeuvrability as well as delivering the excellent levels of performance and runtimes that professionals demand.

The powerful additions to the range provide an ideal alternative to pneumatic sanders without the increased maintenance or the time-consuming management of the compressor. The efficient brushless motor utilised by the new range of sanders reduces wasted energy to help deliver maximum power and extended runtimes from each battery charge.

The six XGT sanders all deliver between 6,000 and 10,000 orbits per minute with the variable speed control operated from a conveniently placed dial on the side of the tool.

The BO001CG and BO002CG are 5 mm random orbit sanders with 125 mm and 150 mm sanding disc diameters respectively, while the 125 mm BO003CG and 150 mm BO004CG have 3 mm random sanding orbits. The BO005CG and BO006CG have 80 x 130 mm square and 100 x 150 mm triangular sanding pads respectively, with a 3 mm sanding orbit.

One of the key advantages of these sanders is the battery is not mounted directly on the tool. Instead, the power is supplied from the battery via a connector and cable. The 1.6 metre cable supplied as standard with the sanders allows the battery to be easily clipped to the user's belt or placed in a convenient location nearby.

There is also the option of a five-metre cable to provide even greater flexibility. This type of connection to the battery reduces the weight load on the user's hand and keeps the overall height of the tool low to make it easier and more comfortable to operate, especially for longer periods of time.

Alternatively, for significantly extended run-times the new XGT sanders can be powered by the Makita PDC1200 or PDC1500 portable power packs. These backpack-mounted power sources feature 33 Ah and 43 Ah batteries respectively and can be used with a wide range of Makita's twin 18V (36V) LXT and 40VMax XGT tools when fitted with the appropriate adaptor.

The new sanders have two options for dust control — an on-tool dust bag or a simple and easy connection to a dust extractor, which is essential when working on-site. The sanders have the Makita Auto-Start Wireless System (AWS) technology built in. This connects the tool to compatible dust extractors via Bluetooth to run the dust extractor automatically when the tool is in use, making dust management simpler.

To improve the efficiency of work further, Makita's new net-type abrasive paper and pad saver accessory can be used with the sanders. Compared with conventional abrasive papers, the net sanding paper reduces the chance of clogging with dust and provides greater efficiency when sanding painted surfaces. The pad saver attaches between the sanding pad and abrasive paper via a hook and loop fastener to reduce the frequency of pad replacement over the life of the sander.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita said: "The new 40VMax XGT sanders offer a simpler to use alternative to pneumatic sanders that still provides the performance required for many of the toughest sanding tasks. The innovative battery connection makes these sanders more manoeuvrable and comfortable to operate, while the AWS technology helps ensure a safer working environment."

**Makita UK** ● [www.makitauk.com](http://www.makitauk.com)



# Perfect harmony with OSB and concrete

**IT MAY seem an unusual partnership — aren't the really fab ones a weeny bit unusual after all? — but SterlingOSB Zero and concrete are a match made in heaven. Yes, sometimes the industries bicker, but let's see how they can live together in complete harmony.**

Here's how they work together.

SterlingOSB Zero panels from West Fraser can be installed over concrete slab floors in both commercial and residential settings to make really sound environmentally friendly, cost-effective structures. Sleepers can be applied to the concrete slab over rigid foam insulation and the OSB panels can then be installed directly onto the surface. There are a variety of different methods and factors to be considered with this type of installation. The efficacy is reliant on the proper utilisation of an appropriate 6 mil (0.150 mm) polyethylene vapour barrier. These are used

to prevent any moisture, within the concrete slab, from transferring to the flooring installation above.

## Wood flooring panels on concrete

For the installation to be successful, the concrete slab must be level and without flaws. A topping layer of gypsum concrete or lightweight concrete can be poured over the concrete slab to ensure that the floor is even. When using this method, it is important to allow sufficient time for curing before the flooring is installed. The flooring system can be glued directly to the concrete slab, providing that adequate pressure is applied during curing. Where vapour barriers are installed over concrete slabs, mechanical fasteners must be used to attach the flooring system to the concrete slab.

With new construction, install a 6-mil polyethylene vapour barrier under the concrete. If it is unknown whether a barrier exists under the concrete, allow the concrete to completely dry (this may take from six to 18 months) and be sure to then use a vapour barrier with the new floor.

## Wood flooring panels over sleepers

Placing SterlingOSB Zero flooring panels over 2x4 sleepers is a superior method in terms of cost-effectivity. With this method, the vapour barrier can be placed over pressure-treated sleepers or underneath untreated sleepers. Here, the sleepers must be attached to the concrete slab with the use of mechanical fasteners and/or a construction standard compliant adhesive. Insulation can be incorporated in between the sleepers. By installing sleepers so that they are level, flaws in the concrete slab can be overcome to provide a straight, even surface for the flooring system.

If using this method, it is essential to ensure that there is adequate spacing in between individual panels as well as in between panels and walls. This ensures that wood panel expansion in varying moisture conditions is accommodated for. Adequate panel spacing is of great importance as it can reduce or even eliminate panel issues and uneven flooring.

## Wood flooring panels over rigid foam insulation

Applying OSB flooring over rigid foam insulation (must be at least 1 inch thick) helps to keep flooring even as well as providing excellent insulation. If using a single layer of panels, it is possible to prevent differential deflection and potentially crushing the foam by backing the square edges of panels with splice plates. An alternative to using splice plates is to install a double layer of square-edge panels with joints and seams offset or using T&G sub-floor panels to distribute the loads. Overdriving mechanical fasteners will crush the foam insulation and potentially damage the concrete below and so this should be avoided. Where foam is compressed under fasteners, over time nail popping may occur which results in squeaky floors. Pressure-treated timber must be used where it will be in direct contact with concrete.

## Wood structural panels over above-grade concrete floors

Concrete slabs can take six to 18 months to properly cure. When installing wood structural panels onto concrete that is still 'green', use the methods discussed above.

Installing wood flooring panels over sleepers is the recommended installation method. It provides multiple benefits and is also an economical choice; and always provide adequate panel spacing, always use an appropriate vapour barrier and use pressure-treated wood below any vapour retarder.

**West Fraser**

**01786 812 921 ● [uk.westfraser.com](http://uk.westfraser.com)**



# MEDITE SMARTPLY introduces sustainable OSB panels for optimal sound reduction in flooring systems



**MEDITE SMARTPLY, a market-leading manufacturer of sustainable wood-based panels, has successfully completed extensive testing with a UKAS accredited laboratory on flooring solutions featuring SMARTPLY MAX DB and SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB.**

The OSB panels used in timber flooring systems for internal residential floors have achieved the airborne sound insulation performance of 40 dB as required by the Building Regulations in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Compared to the traditionally used chipboard solution, these flooring systems offer a host of benefits.

Opting for SMARTPLY MAX DB enables a thinner, stronger and 30% lighter alternative. Opting for SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB provides an airtight, durable, and slip-resistant solution, ticking all the boxes for operational goals.

Roly Ward, head of business development at MEDITE SMARTPLY, commented: "Peace and qui-

et are essential for a comfortable and healthy home environment. We are excited to bring to the market new applications for our products that have been tested in flooring systems and offer sound reduction while providing the construction industry with a lighter, safer, airtight, and sustainable alternative to traditionally used materials."

MEDITE SMARTPLY has tested its new 18 mm SMARTPLY MAX DB in flooring systems. The panel helps achieve 40 dB, which is required for internal residential floors under the Building Regulations in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The panel also offers weight savings, allowing for easier handling on the construction site, as well as simpler transportation and reduced costs.

SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB is an airtight, tongue-and-groove panel with a high-performance coating. Using it as an airtight layer for flooring or decking can contribute to sustainable building practices

and reduce energy consumption for heating. This solution complies with building regulations and is certified as airtight. What's more, SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB's unique coating enhances durability during the construction phase and ensures slip resistance in all site conditions.

SMARTPLY OSB panels are highly durable because of their manufacturing process. The cross-orientation of the wood strands is key; this alignment allows for greater surface coverage for the adhesive, resulting in the panel's superior strength.

SMARTPLY OSB is a sustainable material that can add value throughout the supply chain. Sourced from sustainably managed and accredited Irish forests, SMARTPLY wood-based panels not only store carbon during the growth of trees but also continue to lock it in throughout the manufacturing process and the entire lifespan of the product and the buildings in which they are used. SMARTPLY's OSB panels are fully

certified, UKCA and CE marked, legally sourced, and sustainable. Because OSB is made of wood strands, the whole tree is used, and nothing is wasted. The entire SMARTPLY OSB range has been manufactured using no added formaldehyde, contributing towards healthier environments for dwellers in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

"SMARTPLY OSB has one of the lowest embodied carbon of any mainstream building material. This makes it ideal for building energy efficient homes — offering a warmer home and a reduction in energy consumption — keeping us on track towards a net-zero future," added Roly Ward.

SMARTPLY MAX DB and SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB are engineered OSB wood-based panels that meet regulatory requirements and exceed expectations, making them a smarter choice for specifiers, housebuilders, contractors, and homeowners.

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

# DIYers turn to CaberMDF to improve rather than move



**THE UK ARM of international timber product specialist, West Fraser has identified some interesting trends of late in sales of its CaberMDF range which appear to reflect some very British activity across its wider customer base.**

The manufacturer's UK marketing manager, David Connacher, comments: "The high number of smaller orders for our CaberMDF being reported through our merchant stockists is, perhaps linked to DIY improvements, and in turn reflects the fact it is expensive to move house: due to the stamp duty and legal costs. Many homeowners are instead therefore deciding to improve or extend their existing properties; and they're collectively buying a lot more MDF for a variety of tasks."

The West Fraser range of high performance board products covers every aspect of the typical building project: from erecting a hoarding around a site using

PrimedPlus, through to sheathing timber frame extensions or garden rooms with SterlingOSB Zero, and tackling flooring or flat roofing work using CaberFloor and CaberDek. However, for the final fitting-out, the CaberMDF range really comes into its own to help DIY enthusiasts raise their game and achieve a professional quality finish.

There are five grades of CaberMDF, these being Trade (Light), Pro (Standard), Trade Moisture Resistant, Pro Moisture Resistant and Industrial.

While the characteristics vary, the whole CaberMDF selection offers the benefit for the job in hand of being easy to cut, drill, shape and rout cleanly, without splintering or chipping; the latter being a common problem with plain boards or plywood. Plus, CaberMDF is suitable for use with woodworking machinery as well as hand tools, thus providing complete flexibility for the DIY

customer with a limited tool bag.

David Connacher continues: "Our stockists do a great job providing point of sale information and their general experience to customers who might be buying Caber MDF for the first time, while also, our technical advisory team is easily accessible via our website or on the phone. They are increasingly assisting in explaining which board is best for the job, offering advice on installation; or providing info on project specific challenges."

For the amateur builder, then, the highly engineered boards will help achieve more accurate results, with the quality and consistency of CaberMDF's selected fibres and internal bond strength facilitating a higher standard of workmanship.

And when it comes to assembling or installing fitted furniture such as wardrobes or kitchen units, screws and other types of fixing will hold more firmly, with

no fear of working loose and causing irritating squeaking or seeing unsightly joints open up.

When it comes to completing the project, CaberMDF's smooth surface is ideal for painting and accepting alternative surface finishes — so from initial build to the final flourish of paint brush, the whole scheme will look more professional, even if done by a budding builder — thus reducing the risk of a DIY project becoming a BIY (bodge it yourself) disaster.

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

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

**West Fraser**  
**Tel 01786 812 921**  
**Uk.westfraser.com**

# Innovative Okopod installation makes use of sustainable Kebony wood to deliver bespoke outdoor extension

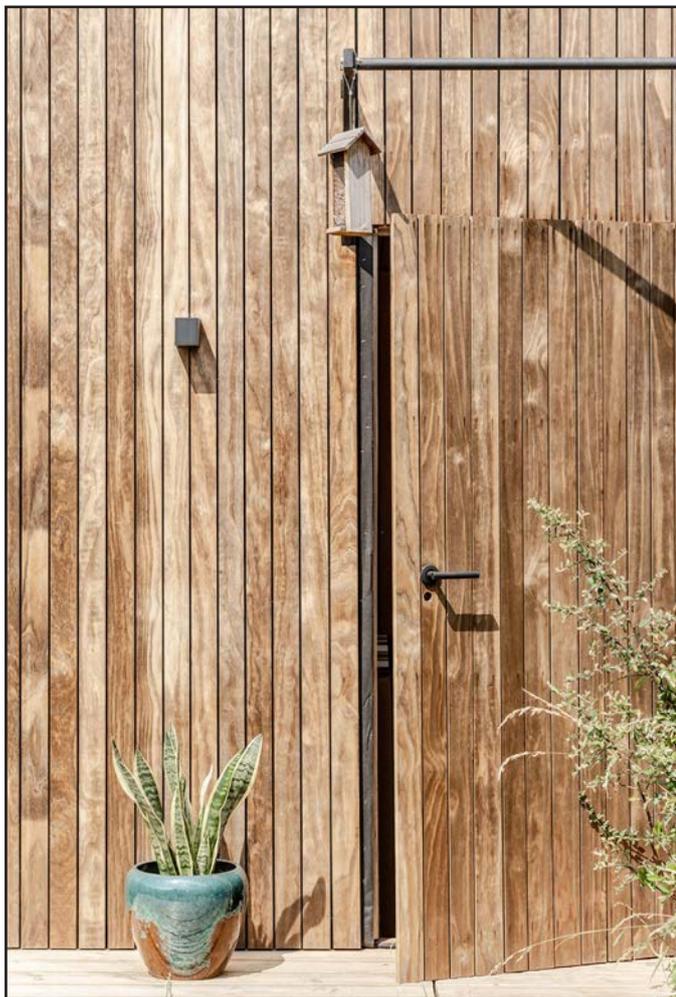
**IN THE PRESENT** era of remote and hybrid working, where the confines of four walls may challenge the separation of professional and recreational life, solutions in home office design continue to evolve, helping to differentiate kitchen from meeting room.

The construction of bespoke, modular garden rooms that are built-to-last have become more feasible with Okopod, making construction quicker, easier and ecologically viable with the use of sustainably sourced building materials such as Kebony wood.

Designer Mattias Brietholz moved into his house in Croydon, London, in November 2022. Reflecting on their life balance in recent years, Mattias comments: "Both my partner and I found the line between working at the office and working at home fairly blurry, so the idea of having a space separate from our house where we can focus solely on projects has been a dream for a long time."



Turning concept into reality,



the couple considered a range of different companies until they came across Okopod.

"Okopod stood out as the most active creator on social media with strong and classic designs."

Okopod, founded in 2019, designs, manufactures and installs timber framed garden rooms, extensions, garages and new builds across the UK. Its unique approach to the way it manufactures in its facility in Cambridge minimises customer disruption.

Okopod values the environment in everything it does, providing consumers with a range of eco-friendly timber products to complete their bespoke units, ensuring both durability and sustainability. For the exterior of his unit, Mattias selected Kebony cladding for its environmental friendliness and longevity, admitting, "before this project I didn't know much about Kebony; upon reading more it wasn't just a stunning material but sustainable and durable, also being Scandinavian, the fact that the wood is from the region also resonated with me".

Developed in Norway, Kebony is the leading global producer of dually modified™ wood transforming sustainable softwoods into enhanced wood boasting comparable, and in some cases superior, qualities to tropical hardwoods that are both sustainable and durable.

The bio-based dual modifi-

cation™ process permanently transforms the wood cell walls by forming locked-in polymers, increasing the dimensional stability, resistance, and hardness of the wood, and guaranteeing both a long life and a high level of safety. Alongside its minimal environmental impact and rich brown aesthetic, the Kebony facade requires no maintenance, making it the ideal long-term choice of material for Mattias' Okopod.

James Home, Founder of Okopod commented: "Okopod has always had sustainability and the environment at the heart of everything we do. We love the approach adopted to produce Kebony and are always delighted when our customers select it for their cladding."

Nina Landbo, International Sales Manager for Kebony, adds: "At Kebony, we are thrilled to discover new, inspiring ways our sustainable wood products are used to re-imagine lifestyles and connect people to nature. Okopod and Kebony cladding offers a perfect option for homeowners looking not only to improve the quality of their work from home experience, but enhance their personal wellbeing through a commitment to eco-conscious architecture."

**Okopod**  
[www.okopod.com](http://www.okopod.com)  
**Kebony**  
[www.kebony.com](http://www.kebony.com)

# Building with West Fraser on Muddeford redevelopment



**POPULAR with sailors and surfers, Muddeford lies on a spit of land between Christchurch Harbour and the open sea, where residential properties rival Sandbanks in nearby Poole in terms of luxury and prestige.**

One of West Fraser's customers, in a redevelopment project, is employing the company's high performance panel products where a building is being transformed into a three-storey, five-bedroom dwelling with a rooftop sun deck.

The team carrying out the work for a private owner includes Steve Mayes who has gained a lot of experience of the West Fraser product range working for local

developers, Glass Harbour Group and Ashhaus Construction: building bespoke, high specification homes.

As Steve explained: "On a lot of our projects, the architect's drawings will specify the use of a certain thickness of chipboard or another panel product, but we tend to buy West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero for its quality and reliability."

"The property I'm working on at the moment in Muddeford dates from the 1960s and is undergoing a full renovation as well as additions, so that it will have five bedrooms all en-suite, including the master which measures ten metres by seven.

"There are some new block-work walls as well as a couple which are retained, while we are building studwork partitions on the upper floors. The roof, however, is far from conventional with two gables separated by a seven metre long 'table-top,' which has great sea views and is going to have a hot tub. This is being built off cranked steels infilled with 7 x 3 timbers and 7 x 2 rafters carrying a plywood deck. This is covered by a vapour barrier and 150 mm of rigid foam insulation and then 18 mm SterlingOSB Zero, which will be waterproofed with an Alwitra flexible single ply membrane.

"Considering the poor weather we've had this year; progress has been good and we are on course to complete in early 2025. Indoors, meanwhile, we are installing CaberDek across timber joists on the first and second floor with noggins fitted where any stud partitions are to be built. We also routinely make use of CaberFix glue as well as 50 mm ring shank nails to make sure there are no squeaks; the adhesive is applied to the tongue and groove joints as well.

"We particularly like the ruggedness of the West Fraser boards which means you don't get any damage to the edges when you are pulling them up over the scaffolding, like you do with some makes, slowing things up. And once you get the first row fixed down, the consistent size avoids the misalignment that creeps in with other decking, which can take a lot of work to correct."

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

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

**West Fraser**  
**01786 812 921**  
**Uk.westfraser.com**



# dp-slim crystal

## Timeless glass designs with the unrivalled strength of crystal

Designed for **vertical indoor use**, **dp-slim Crystal** is perfect for **splashback** and **wet wall** applications. With its **easy to clean, hygienic surface**, **dp-slim Crystal** is a suitable replacement for traditional bathroom and kitchen wall tiles. **dp-slim Crystal** is the ideal glass, tile or traditional stone and marble substitute for all hospitality and retail environments.

Available to **order in quantities from as little as just one laminated acrylic sheet** with dimensions: **2800mm x 1300mm x 4mm.**

Visit our website, [www.decorativepanels.co.uk](http://www.decorativepanels.co.uk) to explore the full **dp-slim collection** within our **dp-limitless portfolio.**



No commitment to purchasing in bulk



High scratch resistance



50% lighter than real glass



10x less brittle than real glass



Easily processed



4mm acrylic surfaces

# Possibilities are endless with dp-slim from Decorative Panels



**ARE YOU in search of a statement piece that combines elegance, durability, and timeless design? Look no further than the latest innovation from Decorative Panels Lamination: dp-slim — a revolutionary 4 mm thick acrylic surface collection that combines the elegance of REHAU Rauvisio Crystal glass with the unparalleled strength of crystal.**

dp-slim Crystal collection includes over 16 designs from REHAU Rauvisio Pure, Strong and Deep portfolio.

Decorative Panels Lamination recently added REHAU Crystal Mirror to its dp-slim Crystal collection. The newest addition to the dp-slim collection adds a touch of sophistication and modern look that complements any décor style. Its unique combination of elegance, durability, and

functionality makes it the perfect solution for designers, architects, and contractors looking to create stunning, one-of-a-kind spaces.

Whether you're working on a high-end residential project, a commercial development, or a hospitality design, dp-slim Mirror is sure to inspire and impress.

Imagine making a design statement with dp-slim Mirror, that allows you to unleash your creativity and bring your vision to life. Whether you're looking to create a luxurious ambiance in a high-end hotel or a modern, sleek look in a trendy restaurant, or add depth and visual interest to your dining area, dp-slim Mirror is a perfect solution.

This beautiful decorative surface has the look and feel of a real mirror and has the advantages of weighing 50% less than stand-



ard glass mirror and boasts a real glass reflection whilst being 10 times less susceptible to fracture. So why settle for ordinary when you can have extraordinary?

Here are some of the benefits using dp-slim Crystal product: scratch resistant UV coating, hard-coat finish for increased chemical and abrasion resistance, ex-

tremely hard wearing, flexibility to drill holes without shattering, flexible production — can be processed with common wood working tools, dirt resistant coat-

ing meaning it is easy to clean. Additionally, dp-slim Crystal also offers enhanced thermal resistance, making it an ideal choice for applications exposed to high temperatures. Its lightweight yet durable composition reduces the risk of breakage, ensuring a longer lifespan and minimizing the need for frequent replacements. Furthermore, the product's advanced manufacturing process allows for precise colour consistency, resulting in a uniform appearance that maintains its vibrancy over time. With dp-slim, you can enjoy a low maintenance, high-performance solution that meets the demands of various industries, from construction and architecture to interior design and beyond.

The new dp-slim Crystal collection from Decorative Panels Lamination is the ultimate game-changer in the world of interior design, according to the company. Designed for vertical indoor use, dp-slim is perfect for frontal and backsplash applications. With its easy to clean, hygienic surface, dp-slim is a suitable replacement for traditional bathroom and kitchen wall tiles. dp-slim Crystal is an ideal glass or tile substitute for all hospitality and retail environments.

Available to order in quantities from as little as just one laminated acrylic sheet with dimensions: 2800 mm x 1300 mm x 4 mm.

**Decorative Panels**  
[www.decorativepanels.co.uk](http://www.decorativepanels.co.uk)



# Wilsonart unifies bathroom proposition under Wetwall brand

**WILSONART UK, a global engineered surfaces specialist, has combined two of the leading names in the bathrooms category as it looks to invest in a unified brand committed to setting new standards in design, durability and functionality.**

The tactical brand consolidation sees Wilsonart bring the strengths of its established Mermaid range of bathroom wall panels under the globally recognised Wetwall brand.

By leveraging the rich heritage and innovative spirit of both brands, Wilsonart will introduce a comprehensive range of Wetwall products structured in a 'good, better, best' tiered proposition to cater for the distinct needs and preferences of its extensive network of distributors.

Founded in 1991, Wetwall has remained committed to meticulous on-site design, manufacturing and testing of bathroom wall panels over three decades of continued growth and expansion from its headquarters in Perth, Scotland.

With four collections of bathroom wall panels comprising over 100 stunning decors, the new Wetwall offering enables distributors a design and finish to appeal to any customer's taste and budget, from modern marbles and textured stones to designer decors and trend-led colours. Every product across the four collections guarantees ease of installation and maintenance thanks to being completely

grout-free. All Wetwall panels create a 100% waterproof system backed by an industry-leading lifetime guarantee, when fitted in line with the relevant installation guidance and using Wilsonart Complete Adhesive and Sealant plus trims where required.

Wetwall's innovative new Alloy Collection of square-edged bathroom wall panels offers maximum durability together with a fire rated certification (BS476 parts 6 & 7 and EN 13501-1), in the form of 26 styles spanning solid colours, patterns, marbles, woods, and stones, in a choice of matt, shell, or gloss finishes. The brand's considered approach to design means distributors can also extend their offering to a range of coordinating splashbacks, vanity worktops and shelving. Its new Alloy splashbacks are cleverly sized to fit the most popular sink sizes without any need for cutting, while every worktop is supplied with antibacterial surface protection as standard to slow the growth of up to 99% of bacteria.

Wetwall's Elite collection, previously listed under the Mermaid brand, expands on the capabilities of Alloy by further simplifying installation with its fast-fit tongue and groove joints, 100% waterproof core and sleek postformed edges. The patented combination results in a luxuriously modern finish which is completely trim-free, making it effortless to maintain.

For those distributors looking to offer a simple and cost-effective way for their customers to transform a bathroom space, Wetwall's Mermaid collection is both hardwearing and stylish, with a wide array of marble, wood and stone decors to choose from.

Wetwall's new Tile Collection meanwhile, completes the expansive product proposition by offering the balance of modernity and tradition that the tiled bathroom look brings, but with no need for grouting. And, the company's new Wilsonart Complete Adhesive and Sealant delivers a high-

strength and professional quality bond and finish every time; the use of which is vital to validate the lifetime warranty that each of the four collections boast. With the sealant available in 13 specially formulated colours as well as a clear variant, installers can trust it to provide a perfect match and unrivalled performance.

Bekki Griffiths, senior marketing communications manager at Wilsonart, said: "Our ambition is to grow the Wetwall brand to be the household name for bathroom panels and we recognise the vital role our network of distributors will play in helping us to achieve this status. With the strength of backing from Wilsonart and a truly unique product proposition, we're confident we can establish this position quickly.

"When compared to tiles, Wetwall panels are quicker, easier and cost less to install, taking around half a day to fit, in comparison to what is often a two-day tiling job. This makes the appeal of the range particularly compelling for those distributors looking to make bathroom installation work as seamless as possible for their customers."

**Wilsonart UK ● [www.wetwall.co.uk](http://www.wetwall.co.uk)**

