

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

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High-performance decorative foils from Decorative Panels

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Timber Development UK launches Wood Campus: a new online school for timber products

TIMBER DEVELOPMENT UK (TDUK) has recently launched Wood Campus, a brand new online school designed to provide flexible, accessible training for timber traders across the UK.

Developed in partnership with Swedish Wood, the platform offers more than 60 courses and hundreds of hours of potential learning, supporting everyone from timber traders to contractors and designers.

"Customers and specifiers want to know that the materials they buy are responsibly sourced, high quality, and fully compliant with regulations. To make this happen, we need to ensure all members of the timber supply chain are equipped to succeed," said David Hopkins, chief executive of TDUK.

"Wood Campus gives our members the tools they need to deepen their knowledge of timber, strengthen customer relationships, and ensure the long-term credibility of their businesses — with knowledgeable staff able to underpin 'Timber you can Trust'."

Stephen King, UK project manager Swedish Wood, also welcomed the arrival of this new learning asset for industry.

"Swedish Wood are very pleased to see this evolution of Wood Campus in collaboration with TDUK; we share the aims for this educational tool and expect it will be seen as an important resource for all users," he says.

Wood Campus will act as a hub for skills development, providing



both structured learning and opportunities for the timber supply chain to build a community of practice where knowledge and expertise can be shared.

Learners can complete individual courses at their own pace or work towards industry recognised certification through a newly developed flagship programme for the timber sector, 'The Essentials of Timber Supply'.

This is the first programme made available in TDUK's Timber Essentials Series, which will cover the entire supply chain, all the way from forest to customer to specifier.

Already both Level One and Level Two are available for suppliers, containing modules which span a wide range of timber products, grouped by end use — whether they are construction,

interior, or exterior — to support better sales.

Learners on the course will engage with dozens of timber products, from solid wood products such as CLS, through to engineered timbers, MDF, decorative panels, decking, fencing and cladding.

With more than 60 courses and

hundreds of hours of potential learning, Wood Campus will create the foundation for a stronger, more skilled timber industry.

More modules are coming online over the next six months, with Wood Campus adding to TDUK's diverse education offerings, including webinars and in-person training, designed to drive best practice across all elements of the timber supply chain.

Together, these initiatives form part of TDUK's broader commitment to supporting skills development across the supply chain, and promoting timber as the material of choice for a sustainable construction industry.

Access to all courses on Wood Campus is currently being offered free for all members of TDUK, with one login allowing members to enter a seamless learning environment between Wood Campus and TDUK's knowledge library.

Wood Campus
woodcampus.co.uk

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Win Combilift's Landmark 100,000th Multidirectional Forklift and support UNICEF

IRISH-BASED manufacturer Combilift, a global leader in multi-directional and customised handling solutions, has reached yet another remarkable milestone with the production of its 100,000th Combilift!



To celebrate this historic achievement, the company is offering the chance to win this exclusive forklift through a special competition, with all proceeds donated to UNICEF Ireland's Children's Emergency Fund.

The 100,000th Combilift was debuted at IMHX, giving attendees the premier opportunity to see this exclusive model up close.

With your support, Combilift aims to raise in excess of €100,000 to help UNICEF deliver urgent aid to children impacted by conflict and natural disasters — providing life-saving support wherever and whenever it's needed most. Thanks to this fund, UNICEF maintains its status as one of the fastest responders working in over 190 countries to deliver critical support — such as clean water, medicine, therapeutic food and temporary schools.

Every ticket sold not only brings you closer to owning a piece of Combilift history but also makes a real difference in the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.

Don't miss your chance to own a piece of Combilift history while contributing to a worthy cause.

UNICEF does not endorse any company, brand, product or service.

Combilift competition website

www.combilift.com/win-a-truck

Makita launches 9.0 Ah and 12.0 Ah batteries

MAKITA UK has recently launched two new batteries for its LXT cordless tools, the world's largest compatible cordless tool system powered by 18 V slide-style batteries. The new BL1890 18 V 9.0 Ah battery and BL18120 18 V 12.0 Ah battery offer more cells and an increased electrical capacity. As a result, compatible cordless tools from the LXT range will benefit from extended run times, enabling users to work for longer on a single charge.

Building on the continued success of the LXT platform, Makita's new batteries represent a considerable increase in capacity compared to those currently on offer. Prior to this launch, the largest capacity battery offered by Makita for its 18 V LXT tools was 6.0 Ah. With the introduction of these 9.0 Ah and 12.0 Ah alternatives, Makita users will be able increase productivity and reduce the need to swap out batteries.

In addition to their increased capacity, the two new batteries come with improved impact resistance.

By adopting a shock-absorbing structure equivalent to that of the 40Vmax XGT batteries, the new 18 V LXT batteries offer reduced risk of damage from unexpected drops.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK, commented "We are very excited to be able to bolster our LXT range and support our loyal customers by providing these new increased capacity batteries. Constantly improving battery technology and capacity is at the heart of our business and that innovation is enabling more people than ever to switch to cordless tools. With the launch of the BL1890 and BL18120 we believe cordless power tools are now the logical solution for an ever-greater range of professionals, regardless of their needs or the tools they use."

Due to their increased size, both the BL1890 and BL18120 may not be compatible with a select number of LXT cordless tools. Customers are therefore advised to check compatibility before purchasing.

Makita UK ● www.makita.co.uk



Smooth operator: Makita launches impressive XGT orbit sander

MAKITA has expanded its range of high-powered sanders with its new powerful 40VMax XGT BO007CG orbit sander. Designed for comfort and easy manoeuvrability, it allows trade professionals to achieve high-quality results and optimum accuracy.

With a 93 x 185 mm pad, sanding flat surfaces, edges, and corners can be done with ease and precision. This is thanks to the tool being lightweight with optimal weight balance, which helps users to achieve even sanding with no additional force needed. Combined with the ergonomic design of the handle, the BO007CG sander is comfortable to use for prolonged periods of time.

The sander features hook and loop pads for quick and easy changing between grit levels, meaning minimal interruption to workflow and providing additional flexibility. The product's pad saver protects the backing pad of the sander, which can be easily replaced when necessary. What's more, the battery is connected via a wire and can be looped onto a belt or pocket when working at height or working around larger materials.

The new orbit sander is also equipped with Makita's innova-



tive Auto-Start Wireless System (AWS) technology, connecting the sander with compatible dust extractors via Bluetooth to run the dust extractor automatically when the tool is in use. There is also the option of an on-tool dust bag for less demanding tasks or those which require more free-

dom of movement; however, Makita always recommend using sanders with a professional dust extractor.

The sander has a 2 mm orbit and 6,000-12,000 rpm variable speed control conveniently located towards the back, allowing the user to select the required speed for each task, as well as constant speed. Additionally, the sander is designed for smooth start-ups and an anti-restart function to ensure user safety. Finally, it has been designed with a brushless motor, which means less friction, translating into more power, per-

formance, and runtime as well as offering the additional advantage that replacement brushes are not needed.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK, commented: "This new XGT orbit sander is a fantastic addition to our growing 40VMax XGT range. This battery powered sander is extremely powerful and has been engineered for excellent control, comfort, and precision, helping professionals to achieve a flawless finish with every use."

Makita UK
www.makita.co.uk



Working together with West Fraser's three products in the CaberFix range

BY COMBINING the three products in West Fraser's CaberFix floor fixing range, projects are guaranteed to be the very best in terms of application and longevity, while delivering a simple and safe on-site experience.

Each floor fixing product is fully BBA-approved, guaranteeing 60 days of exposure to weather and on-site construction when used with CaberDek; the CaberFix range has been specifically developed for use with West Fraser's flooring products.

CaberFix D4 is a solvent-free, one-component polyurethane adhesive for use with West Fraser's CaberDek and CaberShieldEco. It is considered ideal for bonding flooring boards to both joists and tongue and groove joints, and for sealing the board edges. CaberFix Joint&Joist is a PU adhesive and sealant, and CaberFix tape, a polyethylene-coated cloth tape for sealing CaberDek perimeters to walls.

Information on training and relevant regulations can be found here: <https://uk.westfraser.com/safe-handling-training-for-pu-adhesives/>
West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● uk.westfraser.com



Combilift re-qualifies for Deloitte Best Managed Companies Award

COMBILIFT, once again, has been recognised as one of Ireland's Best Managed Companies by Deloitte, marking the company's 13th consecutive year receiving this prestigious accolade.

This recognition is not only a reflection of Combilift's consistent year-on-year growth, but also highlights its ongoing commitment to innovation, operational excellence, and strategic

vision. The rigorous requalification process assesses companies across four key pillars: strategy, culture & commitment, capabilities & innovation, and governance & financials. Requalifying means

continuously proving their ability to lead in each of these areas in a dynamic global market.

"The renowned Deloitte international brand Best Managed Companies programme sets a high benchmark, and requalifying for the 13th time reinforces our position as a serious global business," said Martin McVicar. "While we're known for manufacturing innovative world-class material handling solutions, this recognition also speaks to how we run our business — from our lean operations and customer-focused R&D to our world-class production facility in Monaghan."

This accolade strengthens Combilift's brand not just as an industry leader in materials handling equipment, but as a model for sustainable growth and management on the global stage.



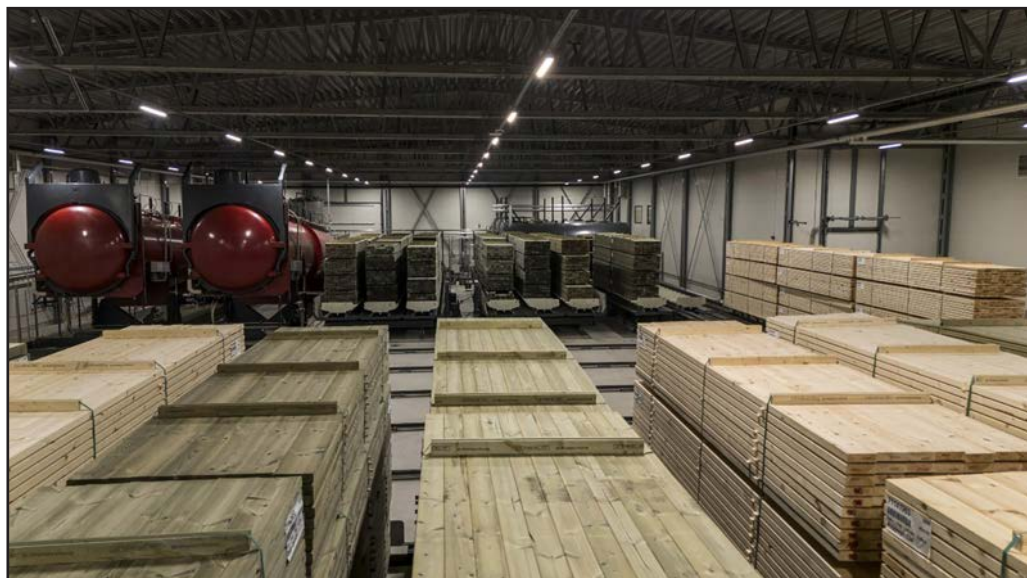
Combilift
www.combilift.com

New members endorse Wood Protection Association strategy on quality treated wood

WOOD treating plant manufacturer WTT (Wood Treatment Technology) and treated wood producer CJT Timber Sourcing Ltd are the latest businesses to join the Wood Protection Association (WPA).

Both businesses put quality at the centre of their operations, and it is the WPA's drive to promote quality assured, fit for purpose treatments that was behind their decision to join.

"The WTT team believe firmly that the only way to futureproof demand for treated wood is to ensure compliance with national standards and to collaborate with organisations committed to achieving this," says WTT managing director, Jakob Jakobsen, who adds that membership of WPA



One of WTT (Wood Treatment Technology)'s most recent installations at Valbo Trä in Sweden, a fully automated plant with an annual capacity of 240,000 m³, fully integrated with the customers ERP system and only operated by an operator and a forklift driver.



CJT Timber Sourcing's machine round 90 mm incised 15 year warranty posts and 87 x 38 x 3.6 rail.

also provides a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and ensuring best practice.

He adds "WTT's core mission is to support the correct treatment of wood, which we do by continuously monitoring developments from chemical suppliers and ensuring that the design and operation of our equipment is always compatible with the latest formulations, processes and the requirements of third-party quality assurance schemes such as the WPA Benchmark."

CJT Timber Sourcing has operations in Wales and Scotland and managing director Ben Parton says joining the WPA is part of the company's strategy to reaffirm its commitment as a premium quality supplier of preservative pre-treated wood: "By becoming a WPA member we align CJT Timber Sourcing with high performance, long-lasting wood treatment in compliance with WPA and British Standards specifications. We believe the only way to give our customers confidence in the quality of our treatment claims for the

range of products we produce, is to have them independently assessed and certificated using a WPA-approved preservative under the WPA Benchmark quality scheme."

Ben adds that membership of WPA has additional commercial benefits by giving CJT access to the latest research, bespoke guidance, and technical expertise saying: "We are really proud to be a part of the WPA community which we feel will allow us to showcase across a wider audience why it's important to buy correctly treated wood products made from homegrown softwoods, especially for agricultural fencing."

Welcoming WTT and CJT into membership, WPA Chairman Steve Young said: "It's really encouraging when new members join the WPA and give a ringing endorsement of our strategy of collectively championing treatment quality and improving buyer knowledge on behalf of all our members."

Wood Protection Association
www.thewpa.org.uk

AK Rubber & Industrial Supplies Ltd increases efficiency and capacity with AXYZ CNC routers

LOCATED conveniently near the M11 between London and Cambridge, AK Rubber & Industrial Supplies Ltd has built a reputation over the years as a trusted manufacturer and supplier of high quality, non-metallic products. The extensive product line includes rubber sheeting, strip, matting, extrusions, mouldings, gaskets and washers. With a commitment to bespoke manufacturing and quick turn-arounds, AK Rubber supports a diverse client base across industries such as construction, structural steel and bespoke manufacturing.

As a company that thrives on delivering precision, flexibility, and speed, AK Rubber has continually looked for innovative ways to scale production while maintaining high standards of quality. The adoption of AXYZ CNC routers has been pivotal in achieving these goals.

AK Rubber began considering CNC router technology when its business in manufacturing thermal breaks started to rapidly expand. These essential components are widely used in the construction and structural steel sectors to prevent thermal bridging and AK Rubber's growing list of clients required a scalable, repeatable production process.

"The decision to work with AXYZ was motivated by a clear need to support the growth of our business partners. We knew we needed to scale up, and fast. Given the positive experiences others in our network had with AXYZ machines, it was a logical choice," said operations manager, Jack Fellowes-Prynnne.

The company chose to invest in three Infinite series routers from AXYZ, a line known for its versatility, robustness and ability to handle a wide range of materials — from rubber and plastic to composites and foams. The Infinite router is a highly configurable CNC machine that is suitable for one-off, small batch production as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including woodworking, plastic fabrication, engineered plastic machining and so much more. For a wide range of routing operations, one can choose from high-speed spindles ranging from 5 HP to 15 HP. For knife cutting, choose from a tangential knife, which can be used for creasing and folding applications or an oscillating knife which can be used to process soft goods material.

Although AK Rubber had years of experience with manual cutting processes and bespoke fabrication, adopting CNC router technology represented a significant shift in operations. As first-time users of automated routing systems, the learning curve could have been steep — but thanks to AXYZ's customer support and training, the transition was smooth.

"AXYZ provided on-site training for both the machine and the drawing software that was key to helping our staff quickly build confidence in using the equipment effectively," said Jack Fellowes-Prynnne.

This hands-on approach gave AK Rubber the ability to bring complex, custom cutting jobs in-house, improving speed and repeatability without compromising quality. Today, AK Rubber operates three Infinite routers across its facility. The impact on production has been immediate and significant. "We've seen a substantial increase in capacity," the team explains. "The machines allow us to take on more work while reducing lead times across the board. It's improved our efficiency and allowed us to serve clients faster and with even more precision."

AXYZ routers now handle the bulk of cutting and shaping for thermal breaks, gaskets, washers and custom rubber components. Whether it's a one-off prototype or a large production run, the machines offer the flexibility AK Rubber needs to keep up with demand.

Beyond sheer productivity, the

integration of AXYZ routers has brought deeper operational improvements: Thanks to the automation and repeatability of CNC routing, jobs that once took hours now take minutes — without the need for manual rework. The increased output has directly contributed to AK Rubber's bottom line. "With higher production volumes, we've seen a rise in our workload, which in turn has boosted profitability."

The adoption of CNC technology has changed the nature of work on the shop floor. "We've expanded our team to support machine operation and production, there have also been some role adjustments to reflect the new technology — overall, it's been a positive development for our workforce," said Jack Fellowes-Prynnne.

Any piece of machinery is only as good as the maintenance behind it — and AK Rubber takes this seriously. The company's AXYZ routers undergo monthly deep cleaning and lubrication to ensure continued performance and longevity. By implementing a structured maintenance schedule, the company maximises uptime and minimises the risk of costly interruptions. "These machines are a major part of our production strategy, so keeping them in top shape is a priority."

The adoption of AXYZ technology has given AK Rubber the confidence to look ahead with optimism. They are planning to invest in additional machinery in the future. "Our aim is to further enhance our capabilities and stay ahead of customer demand" explained Jack Fellowes-Prynnne.

This proactive approach is typical of AK Rubber's philosophy: embracing new tools that help them deliver better, faster and more competitively in a dynamic marketplace.

For AK Rubber, AXYZ has been more than a vendor — they've been a true partner in growth. From the initial consultation to training, installation and post-sale support, AXYZ has played a central role in ensuring a successful technological transition. The Infinite series routers continue to prove themselves daily on the factory floor, helping AK Rubber maintain its reputation for quality, reliability and responsiveness.

AK Rubber & Industrial Supplies Ltd is a company known for bespoke solutions, short lead times and outstanding customer service. By investing in AXYZ CNC routers, it has been able to maintain all these strengths — while scaling to meet rising demand.

Whether it's crafting complex thermal breaks for the construction industry or manufacturing custom gaskets and washers for industrial clients, the team now has the tools, training and technology to meet every challenge head-on.

With a focus on continual improvement, AK Rubber is already looking to the future — and the AXYZ routers will be right there with them.

AK Rubber & Industrial Supplies Ltd

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AXYZ

Tel: 01952 291600 ● www.axyz.com



Makita expands its vacuum cleaner range with a new 40Vmax stick vacuum

MAKITA has added a new stick vacuum cleaner to its range of high-performance XGT 40Vmax products designed to meet the needs of cleaning professionals. The CL004G offers improved cleaning performance, superior manoeuvrability and a simple, user-friendly design.

The cordless CL004G is designed to make cleaning fast and efficient with a motorised rotary brush that enhances the effectiveness of the vacuum. The brush itself is composed of three types of bristles for optimised debris removal. The new lightweight and easy to handle stick vacuum has a 250 ml cyclone type dust box, achieves an air flow of up to 1.0 m³ per minute and a maximum sealed suction of 20 kPa. As well as increasing the volume of dust collected, the cyclone attachment also contains dust within the cylinder reducing the risk of debris from contaminating the motor. It features four power modes and a memory function that allows the user to resume vacuuming on the same mode after it is switched off and back on again. Despite the power it offers, the new cleaner is also quiet, with a noise level of 66 dB(A) on the highest power mode and just 58 dB(A) on the lowest.

The CL004G delivers up to 60 minutes of cleaning on a single BL4025 2.5 Ah battery, with runtimes extended with the use of larger capacity batteries. The vacuum cleaner also features a floor detection mechanism so brushes only run while in contact with the floor, preventing wasted energy.

The performance and runtimes are also in part due to the brushless motor in the CL004G. Using contact free electromagnetism to drive the vacuum, the brushless motor eliminates friction to reduce the energy lost as heat and deliver improved performance, as well as minimise maintenance requirements. The CL004G also includes features to make the user's work as simple as possible. Both the pipe and the nozzle attachment are secured

with a simple locking mechanism making it sturdy but also easy to remove when required. The rotary brush can also be removed from the nozzle without the need for tools, allowing simple maintenance. Furthermore, the CL004G includes a hook that allows it to be easily propped up for convenience during use.

Commenting on the launch of the new product, Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita said: "The CL004G is a valuable addition to our range of 40Vmax XGT cordless vacuum cleaners as it provides an excellence balance of performance, manoeuvrability and ease of use, making it ideal for a wide range of applications."

Makita UK
www.makitauk.com



Birch Construction Surrey and SMARTPLY bring high performance to high-end home

BIRCH CONSTRUCTION SURREY is no stranger to the ever evolving aspects of developing high-quality homes. The company works with homebuilders, as well as on renovation and landscaping projects across the South-East of England — an area that has seen a steady increase in luxury homes in recent years. It was one such luxury home construction project that led Birch Construction Surrey to first cross paths with SMARTPLY.

Birch Construction Surrey was approached to work on a five bedroom luxury home in Warlingham, Surrey, spanning approximately 7,000 square feet. Ordinarily, the company opts for chipboard for flooring systems. However, for this project, the team sought an alternative that would not only deliver superior performance but also meet the acoustic performance requirements of Building Regulations Part E and align with their environmental values.

The team selected SMARTPLY MAX DB panels for the flooring system. SMARTPLY MAX DB is a high-performance OSB/3 panel designed specifically for enhanced acoustic performance in internal flooring applications. It has been tested by a UKAS accredited laboratory to achieve an airborne sound insulation rating of 40dB, meeting the internal floor requirements of the Building Regulations Part E in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"SMARTPLY ticked all the boxes for what we were looking for as an alternative to chipboard," explained James Birch, Director at Birch Construction Surrey. "The strength, durability and moisture resistant properties of the board were the perfect fit for the project, and we were able to have our joints at 600 mm centres."



"One of the things that drew us to SMARTPLY was that there is full test data to demonstrate that SMARTPLY MAX DB meets the acoustic rating when in a flooring build-up," continued Birch. "With that, we can be sound of mind knowing the flooring system we have installed meets building regulations, and have comfort knowing the owner of the house will have a home that has the correct acoustic levels."

One of the key benefits that

OSB/3 offers compared to chipboard is that it is inherently more lightweight. As Birch Construction Surrey found, SMARTPLY MAX DB was lighter than the 22 mm chipboard they had used in previous projects, making it much easier to handle and manoeuvre around the site. Alongside this, the SMARTPLY team was also on hand to support with technical queries throughout the entire project installation.

"SMARTPLY MAX DB is great. It's durable, easy to fit, a lot easier to install because it's lightweight and therefore easier to handle, and the tongue-and-groove are very well machined, so the edges interlock better than chipboard," added Mr Birch.

Once fitted, SMARTPLY MAX DB offers lasting performance and several advantages over alternative panels, according to the company:

Superior sound reduction: The panels are ideal for internal residential flooring systems, helping to create quieter, more comfortable living environments.

Durable and moisture resistant: SMARTPLY MAX DB is a moisture resistant OSB/3 panel suitable for use in Service Class 2 conditions.

Sustainable and low carbon: SMARTPLY MAX DB is made from responsibly sourced timber with no added formaldehyde, contributing to a healthier indoor environment and a lower carbon footprint.

While the luxury home in Warlingham is the first project where Birch Construction Surrey selected SMARTPLY for flooring systems, it marks the beginning of a closer partnership between the two brands. "We're always looking for innovative products that make our builds stronger, easier, and more sustainable," Mr Birch concluded. "SMARTPLY MAX DB has proven itself, and we look forward to incorporating it into more of our projects."

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



Expand your power tool kit and claim a free Makita battery

MAKITA has launched an exciting new redemption promotion on selected power tools. Between 1st October and 31st December 2025, customers can claim a free XGT® 2.5 Ah battery (BL4025) when purchasing a DK0176G205 XGT® Twin Kit, and a free LXT® 5.0 Ah battery (BL1850B) when buying a DLX-2549TJ LXT® Twin Kit. Both kits come packed inside a convenient and practical 821551-8 Makpac Type 3 Carry Case.

The new DK0176G205 40V Max XGT® Twin Kit includes the TD003G Impact Driver and HP001G Combi Drill, as well as two BL4025 2.5Ah 40V Max XGT® Batteries and a DC40RA Fast Charger. With a brushless motor, the impact driver offers low power consumption and ensures improved dust and water resistance for use in challenging construction site conditions. The combi drill is also ideal for continuous heavy-duty applications with variable speed control and active feedback sensing technology, designed to protect its user.

Alternatively, the DLX2549TJ 18V LXT® Brushless Twin Kit comes equipped with a DHP492 Combi Drill and DTD173 Impact Driver. With a maximum torque of 141 Nm and a compact and robust design, the combi drill is suitable for demanding drilling and fastening applications, while the impact driver has four impact modes with up to 180 Nm fastening torque for precise control.

The kit is also supplied with two 5.0 Ah BL1850B batteries and a DC18RC fast charger.

Finally, the two batteries included in the redemption are high performance options. The BL4025 is part of Makita's XGT® 40V Max battery system and when paired with a rapid charger, the battery can be fully charged in just 28 minutes. The BL1850B is also considered ideal for demanding tools and tasks, and has a higher



capacity compared to other batteries, making it better suited for extended work periods where uninterrupted run time is critical.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK said: "For the first time, end users have the chance to claim a free Makita battery with a relevant power tool purchase. The high-quality batteries themselves are ideal options for tools with a high-power consumption. We are really proud of this promotion as it allows end

users to expand their kit even further and benefit from excellent value for money."

To be eligible for the promotion, end users must purchase one of the relevant kits from an authorised dealer and register proof of purchase on Makita's online form within 28 days. On successful application, customers will receive their free battery after 30 days.

Makita UK

www.makitauk.com/redemptions

Makita nails it again with new 18V LXT brushless finishing nailers



MAKITA HAS EXPANDED its powerful cordless tool selection with the launch of two new 18V LXT Brushless Finishing Nailers: the DBN610 and DBN601. These high-performance tools have been engineered for precision, power, and ease of use, delivering impressive, consistent results across a wide range of finishing applications including both hard and soft woods.

The DBN601 is a straight 16-gauge nailer, whilst the DBN610 features an angled design, which makes it especially well-suited for work in tight spaces and on intricate trim. Both tools feature Makita's innovative

pneumatic spring drive system, to deliver smooth, powerful, and consistent nailing and significantly reduce recoil for greater user comfort. They are also fitted with brushless motors that make the tools highly efficient due to the minimised friction, which enhances firing speed and maintains performance during continuous use.

Designed with professionals in mind, both nailers include a tool-less jam clearing mechanism that allows for quick and simple removal of stuck brad nails, helping to maintain workflow and reduce downtime. A built-in viewing window makes it easy to check the remaining nail quantity without interrupting the task at hand.

For added safety and durability, the nailers also incorporate an anti dry fire mechanism to prevent damage to the tool and work surface when nails run low.

Accuracy is further enhanced by the slim nose design, which improves line of sight and minimises obstruction. The integrated work light ensures visibility in dim or confined spaces. Each nailer is supplied with three no-mark tips — which can be stored on the tool at all times for easy access — and offer added protection to surfaces during finishing tasks.

The DBN601 weighs just 2.6 kg without the battery and is compatible with 16-gauge nails ranging from 19 mm to 64 mm, making it a versatile choice for daily finishing work. The DBN610, which weighs 2.7 kg, accepts 16-gauge nails from 32 mm to 64 mm and is ideal for angled applications. Both models allow users to switch between sequential and bump-fire modes, providing flexibility for various tasks and working styles.

"These new finish nailers represent Makita's commitment to delivering cordless solutions that don't compromise on power or precision," said Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita. "Powered purely by the 18V LXT battery, no gas cartridges are required. With both angled and straight options, professionals can tackle any finishing job with confidence, knowing they have reliable performance, ease of use, and clean results every time."

Makita UK

www.makitauk.com



MKM's 30th anniversary October 2025

THIS OCTOBER marked 30 years since MKM Building Supplies (MKM) opened the doors of a modest 5,000 sq ft rented unit on Clough Road in Hull.

Founded in 1995 by David Kilburn, then 50 and recently made redundant, and his long-time friend Peter Murray — the 'M' in MKM (Murray Kilburn Merchants), MKM has grown from a start-up of six colleagues and a fire-bell in the warehouse which was rung each time an order came through, to 135 branches plus specialist business Oceanair and turnover of £1.1 billion.

Along the way it has weathered recessions, changed the traditional rules of merchanting with its branch director ownership model, raised over £5 million for local causes, achieved BREEAM-certified branches such as Cheltenham and pioneered 100% recycled, fully-recyclable bulk bags — all while staying true to a simple founding principle of "doing the right thing."

David recalls the early months: "When you're trying to sell a vision that doesn't exist yet, passion is your only real currency. We had no yard, no fleet, no credit accounts and plenty of competitors saying we wouldn't last three months. We celebrated every order by ringing an old fire bell in the warehouse — that sense of camaraderie and belief was what got us through."

The turning point came in 1996 when David invited his former colleague Geoff to take a 25% stake in the new Driffield branch.

Similar partnerships followed in Scarborough and Grimsby — an approach David describes as "my most fortuitous decision."

"Word spread fast — like The Bush Telegraph," he says, "Good people wanted the opportunity to run their own branch, and when you give them real responsibility, they live for it."

That branch director model — giving local leaders autonomy to set their own prices, choose their own stock and have a financial stake in their branch — remains the heartbeat of MKM today.

Andy Beet, now Beverley branch director and one of the original six, was just 26 years old when he joined the business: "It felt like a risk at the time, but the energy was infectious, and those



little wins felt enormous. Thirty years on the spirit is still there — I've even been best man at a customer's wedding. It's about more than transactions; it's about trust — and trust lasts."

MKM's culture of ownership, respect and recognition is visible at its annual awards night when, as David puts it, "Every branch director in the room stands to applaud the winner of Branch of the Year. Yes, there's real competitiveness, but just as much mutual respect."

Since 2020, MKM has been led by CEO Kate Tinsley, who joined when the business had 73 branches and close to £470 million turnover.

Under her leadership the network has almost doubled to 135 branches plus Oceanair, turnover has passed £1.1 billion, and the company is aiming for 250 branches within the next decade — around ten openings a year — with turnover to match.

Kate says: "We're a collection of local businesses. What excites me isn't the headline number of branches but being number one in every local market we serve. Our branch directors make decisions in real time, close to their customers, and that's what keeps MKM special. Growth matters — but never at the expense of our culture."

"Our focus is clear and consistent: people, leading customer service, strong product and stock availability, digital innovation and

doing the right thing. Those five pillars underpin every decision we make. As we grow, they keep us anchored to what has always made MKM different."

In 2023 and 2024, David and Kate were each recognised in the King's Honours list — a CBE for David and an OBE for Kate.

David says: "It's not the sort of thing you ever expect. It belongs to the whole MKM story — to everyone who's built this business."

Kate added: "The proudest part for me was sharing it with my Dad, who served in the Grenadier Guards. For him there was a deep sense of honour and tradition. More than anything, it feels like recognition for the culture we've built and the achievements of the people who make MKM what it is."

MKM's three-decade journey has been marked by resilience in challenging times — from riding out the 2008 financial crisis by keeping staff and vehicles in place so that the company was ready for the upturn, to investing in digital transformation and sustainable branches.

The company's Cheltenham branch, built to BREEAM Excellent standards, achieves net-zero operational carbon through solar PV, electric heating and smart energy management.

Meanwhile, the Oceanair specialist business strengthens MKM's capability in low-carbon HVAC, providing technical design

support and accredited training.

Customer expectations have evolved dramatically in the past three decades.

Trade professionals now look for retail-style showrooms, seamless digital experiences, real-time delivery tracking and more sustainable choices.

MKM is responding with what it calls the 'branch of the future' — sites that combine the efficiency trade customers need with the customer experience today's buyers increasingly expect.

Kate says: "Modern merchants must do more than simply stock products. Our branches of the future blend strong local service and expertise with digital tools, sustainability and a welcoming environment. It's about making it easier for our customers to do business with us, whether that's in-branch, on-site or online."

As MKM enters its fourth decade, its heart — and its Central Support team — remain rooted in Hull. In 2021 its commitment to the city was celebrated when the home of Hull City AFC became the MKM Stadium.

David reflects, "We always said everyone is welcome here. We want people to be happy coming to work in the morning. And that culture is my proudest achievement — my lifetime's work — passionate people doing the right thing."

MKM Building Supplies
<https://mkm.com>

International Safety Awards open for applications for 2026



BRITISH SAFETY Council's International Safety Awards 2026 are now open for applications.

The International Safety Awards are a world-renowned accolade recognising organisations' commitment to excellent standards of health, safety and wellbeing management. This is the 68th year the awards have taken place.

Launching the 2026 International Safety Awards, chief executive of British Safety Council, Mike Robinson said: "British Safety Council's International Safety Awards have long been seen by leaders and practitioners as a pinnacle of achievement and recognition in protecting and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of workers.

"It is our vision at British Safety Council that no-one should be injured or made ill through their work — anywhere in the world. I would encourage all organisations and leaders around the world who are proud of their track record to put themselves forward for an award."

789 organisations won an International Safety Award in 2025, spanning all sectors with significant representation from the construction, manufacturing, oil, gas, mining, power and utility sectors. Winners were drawn from 45 countries worldwide.

Businesses applying can be recognised as 'best in class' across four categories:

Sector Awards recognise overall 'best in class' submissions to the International Safety Awards, by industry sector category;

Best in Country Awards recognise the highest scoring and best overall application from individual countries (where there are sufficient applications from the given country);

Best in Company Award for organisations with 50 or more participating sites and recognises the site(s) with the most outstanding applications;

Chief Adjudicator's Award recognises the most outstanding applications from this year's entrants. Previous winners have been exemplars in their respective areas and evidenced this through their application responses.

Eleven of the awards are completely free-to-enter whether or not applicants have applied for an International Safety Award. These are:

Environmental Award: recognises an organisation that has used climate change risk assessment and vulnerability modelling to identify and plan for future adaptation strategies to a changing climate.

Rising Female Star Award in collaboration with SOWSHE-A: recognises women that are breaking through and shaping future leadership in

the health, safety, wellbeing or the environmental management world.

David Parr medal: recognises a public venue that developed a stand-out 2025 initiative with a significant impact on health, safety or wellbeing at the venue. It is named after British Safety Council's late technical director, David Parr, who first became involved in the industry due to his own personal experiences at the Hillsborough disaster in 1989.

Lifetime Achievement award: voted for by the Trustees of British Safety Council, is for people who have made an outstanding contribution to workplace health, safety and wellbeing throughout their career.

Seize the Opportunity Award: recognises organisations that have gone the extra mile to seize health, safety or wellbeing opportunities resulting from a crisis.

CEO Award: recognises the leadership and strategic vision of CEOs who have made a vital contribution to the health, safety and wellbeing of their business and wider society during 2025.

Health and Safety Transformation Award — sponsored by Croner-i: for organisations that have significantly changed or transformed any aspect of health, safety or wellbeing to a significant extent through the use of information.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Ambassador of the Year Award: recognises an employee who, in the opinion of the organisation or person nominating them, has played a significant role in ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of colleagues and others.

Team of the Year Award: recognises outstanding achievements resulting in a significant improvement to health, safety or wellbeing, from a collaboration of stakeholders, which may include members of the organisation, suppliers, subcontractors and/or the wider community.

The James Tye Award: recognises an organisation or a team of individuals who have developed and run a campaign in 2025 which has made a significant impact on health, safety or wellbeing in the workplace. It is named after British Safety Council's campaigning founder, James Tye.

Wellbeing Initiative Award: recognises and rewards organisations demonstrating a proactive and effective approach to improving employee wellbeing.

The closing date for applications is 2 February 2026 and the results will be announced on 17 March 2026.

International Safety Awards 2026

www.britsafe.org/p/international-safety-awards-application/international-safety-award-application

Wood Awards 2025 shortlist revealed



THE WOOD AWARDS is delighted to announce the buildings, furniture items and objects shortlisted for this year's Wood Awards, which includes a bright red 170 m water-crossing and a majestic 20-seat oak banqueting table.

The 30 shortlisted projects, which are in the running for awards in six different building categories and four furniture and object categories, are located across the United Kingdom, from the Cornish coast to the Lake District National Park.

Among the 20 shortlisted buildings is a barrel-vaulted extension to Westminster's coroner's court and a redevelopment of a historic water mill on the River Test in Hampshire. The shortlist also features a new CLT-framed social housing terrace by Hackney Council and a vibrant performing arts hub in Camden showcasing both reused and engineered timber.

The 10 shortlisted furniture and object projects include a freestanding demountable Douglas fir kitchen and a collection of sculptural vessels, handcrafted from local hardwoods. A playful steam-bent ash rocking chair and an innovative jetty structure made from forest thinnings are also shortlisted.

From over 200 entries, the shortlisted projects have been carefully selected by two expert

juries. The Wood Awards buildings jury is led by architect Jim Greaves, and includes fellow architects Kirsten Haggart, Jonas Lencer, Sasha Bhavan and David Morley, structural engineers Andrew Lawrence, Nathan Wheatley and Andrew Trotman, architectural journalist Ruth Slavid and sustainability expert Neil Smith.

The furniture and objects jury is led by designer and maker Sebastian Cox RDI and includes design consultant Caroline Till, curators Hugo Macdonald and Johanna Agerman Ross, woodworker Sophie Sellu and Ercol chairman Henry Tadros.

Each shortlisted project will be reviewed in person by the judges, making the Wood Awards a uniquely rigorous competition. The winner of each project category will be announced live at an evening ceremony on Wednesday 19 November at Carpenters' Hall in London. All category winners will then compete for the prestigious Gold Award.

As a not-for-profit competition, the Wood Awards is made possible by the generous support of its sponsors and partners: Carpenters' Company, American Hardwood Export Council and Timber Development UK.

More information on all the projects can be found on the Wood Awards website.

Sebastian Cox, head of the Fur-

niture & Object judging panel, says: "The breadth and quality of submissions to this year's awards highlight the enduring beauty, versatility, and expressive potential of wood."

"It's clear that designers and makers across the UK are not only embracing wood for its sustainability but also inventively exploring its unique characteristics to tell new stories through form, texture, and function."

Jim Greaves, head of the Buildings judging panel, says: "Chosen from over 80 entries, these 20 shortlisted projects have undergone a rigorous selection process. The judges review all the entries and assess them for their creative use of wood together with the technical skill involved and the approach to environmental issues.

"The shortlisted schemes have managed to be the 'best-in-class' this year. Annually, I'm impressed by how project teams deal with ever increasing technical and regulatory constraints and still manage to deliver beautiful and well thought through projects."

David Hopkins, CEO of Timber Development UK (lead organisers of the Wood Awards), says: "This year's Wood Awards shortlist demonstrates that timber is unmatched when it comes to creating beautiful, versatile, and sustainable buildings and objects."

"From bold commercial projects to sensitive transformations of existing buildings, and inventive temporary structures, each shortlisted entry highlights the power of wood to connect people with nature and elevate the places we live and work in.

“Every building and furniture piece tells its own story, but all share a deep respect for timber’s unique properties — embracing this material to create a low-carbon future and a better-built environment.

"The benefits of choosing to create with timber is echoed in the response of those who live in or alongside these projects — who consistently tell us how timber enriches their spaces and experiences.

"This is a key reason TDUK are incredibly proud to run the Wood Awards, for the fourth year this year. No other competition in the UK matches its rigour as a showcase of excellence in timber design and construction.

"Congratulations to everyone shortlisted. We look forward to welcoming you to explore the exhibition at Material Matters later this month [September] — and to celebrating the winners at our awards ceremony in November."

Wood Awards
www.woodawards.com

Roofscape Design Awards return for 2026

THE TRUSSED Rafter Association (TRA) has announced the return of the Roofscape Design Awards 2026, celebrating the very best in trussed rafter design across the UK construction industry.

Launching earlier than in previous years, the awards recognise excellence, innovation, and technical skill in the use of trussed rafters, showcasing the designers, engineers, and teams who bring complex roof structures to life.

From major housing developments and creative refurbishments to technically demanding commercial builds, the awards shine a light on the projects and professionals shaping the future of timber engineering.

The 2026 Roofscape Design Awards will recognise outstanding achievement across six categories, reflecting the diverse skills and creativity of the trussed rafter industry.

The three project-based awards honour excellence in residential, commercial, and refurbishment design, celebrating everything from new-build housing developments to innovative conversions and complex non-residential projects.

Alongside these, three individual categories will spotlight the people driving progress within the industry: the Innovation Champion of the Year, recognising leadership in sustainability, technology, or operational improvement; the Safety Champion of the Year, celebrating exceptional commitment to safe working practices; and the Career Development Champion of the Year, acknowledging dedication to learning, growth, and professional excellence.

Nick Boulton, Chief Executive of the TRA, shared his delight: "We've brought the awards forward this year to give our winners more time in the spotlight and to showcase their achievements across the industry.

"The judges always enjoy seeing the range of creative and technically impressive projects our members deliver. If

you've been involved in a great project, this is your chance to celebrate that success. I'd encourage all TRA members to take part and to encourage your colleagues to submit entries as well."

Entries may be based on trussed rafters, metal web beams or combinations of the two and should include a clear project or nominee description, supporting visuals, plus a compelling narrative that highlights technical achievement, design quality, or professional growth.

The award categories are sponsored, with individual prizes presented to each winner. Submissions are invited across multiple categories, and members are encouraged to enter any exceptional work completed in 2025.

The TRA looks forward to celebrating its members' achievements and showcasing the strength, creativity, and skill that define the trussed rafter industry.

Trussed Rafter Association

www.tra.org.uk/news-events/roofscape-design-awards/



Expo extends reach to cover kitchens and bathrooms

THE FURNITURE Component Expo (FCE) will expand its reach in 2026 by incorporating suppliers of fixtures, fittings and components for the kitchens and bathrooms sector.

Organised by the British Furniture Association (BFA), the FCE provides opportunities for component and service suppliers to develop new markets with leading furniture manufacturers, meeting decision makers, buyers, designers and production teams.

Launched in 2024, the third FCE, which takes place in March, will feature even more exhibitors of panels, hinges and fittings suitable for use in the production and installation of kitchens and bathrooms.

Phil Spademan, managing director of the BFA, said: "As we head to the third FCE, the show goes from strength to strength and the event's profile increasingly makes it of interest to those in the kitchen and bathroom sectors, look-

ing to reach new audiences. Offering a one-stop-shop opportunity, FCE enables manufacturers to review, network and purchase products from leading suppliers, all under one roof.

"The event's ability to attract decision-makers from across different sectors ensures that conversations have the potential to

open doors. By broadening the scope to include the kitchen and bathroom sectors, FCE will offer even more opportunities to network and make important new connections.

"The event is made possible through the support of sponsors BeA Group and Carpenter Limited, and we are grateful that they

recognise the value this event brings to the sector as the first show of its kind in the UK."

The BFA's Furniture Component Expo 26 takes place at Telford International Centre on March 11th and 12th, 2026.

Furniture Component Expo
<https://fcexpo.co.uk/>

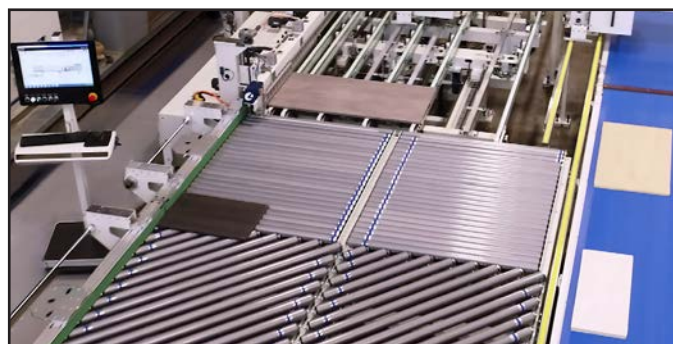


SCM unveils its new exclusive solutions for "Batch One" edgebanding

AFTER THE success of the 2024 editions, which showcased some flexible industrial edgebanding solutions chosen by leading global customers, SCM is back with a new event entirely focused on "batch one" production and the future of the industry.

On November 27 and 28, at

SCM's Thiene (VI) premises, the "Batch One Days" will take place: an exclusive event dedicated to the latest scenarios in "batch one" edgebanding of panels and doors. A unique opportunity to preview next-generation solutions developed for top players in the woodworking sector, all sharing the same goal: maximizing



quality, reliability, efficiency, and customization, even in the most demanding production contexts.

"The solutions we will present, together with those unveiled last year, demonstrate how SCM is further strengthening its focus on 'batch one' production," explains Marco Pacini, SCM business manager for edgebanding. "Thanks to the advanced technology of our

solutions, targeted R&D investments, and the expertise of our team, SCM confirms itself as the go-to business partner for companies that make high flexibility and production efficiency their main strengths."

The new edgebanding cells guarantee top productivity thanks to robots and automatic buffering and panel handling systems. The Maestro active watch supervisor, together with the new WinMes MES software, ensures real time control of the entire production process.

The extremely high technological level guarantees unmatched machining precision and quality on all types of panels, including the most delicate and complex materials, according to the company.

In particular, the dedicated door production cell has been enriched with new finishing units for profile changes, scoring units for cutting, trimming units for corner processing, and new sectors for radius profiles. These innovations provide maximum operational flexibility, ensuring the highest efficiency and quality standards both when working with different profile sizes and when machining straight or shaped doors.

Visit SCM's Thiene premises on November 27-28 to discover firsthand the future of "Batch One" edgebanding.

BATCH ONE DAYS FURNITURE & DOORS EDGEBANDING SOLUTIONS



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Altendorf Group participates in AI initiative

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE is no longer a future scenario, but a reality. It is already shaping the work of skilled trades today. The Altendorf Group, a technology leader in the field of format circular saws and digitally networked manufacturing solutions, is participating as a practical partner in the new exhibition "Getting to grips with AI. Shaping the future." at the University of Applied Sciences for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (FHM) in Bielefeld. The exhibition is part of the KIDiHA (Artificial Intelligence and Digital Offensive for Skilled Trades in North Rhine-Westphalia) research project and was officially opened by NRW Minister of Science Ina Brandes.

The exhibition was also on display at the Düsseldorf State Parliament. Under the title "Zukunft.Handwerk.NRW" (Future.Craftsmanship.NRW), various craft businesses from North Rhine-Westphalia presented their AI applications there from October 1 to 23, 2025 — from voice-based assistance systems to intelligent sales solutions. The grand opening by State Parliament President André Kuper underscores the political relevance of the topic. The modular exhibition is designed as a traveling exhibition and shows how AI innovation and tradition are combined in the skilled trades.

The exhibition uses concrete examples to show how AI can



Opening of the exhibition "Getting to grips with AI. Shaping the future." by NRW Minister of Science Ina Brandes. Source: FHM Bielefeld

make operational processes in the skilled trades more efficient, safer, and more sustainable — from precise data analysis to intelligent machine control. As an industry partner, the Altendorf Group is demonstrating how digital assistance systems create real added value with its AI-supported safety solution HAND GUARD: "Our technology identifies potential risks at an early stage and helps to protect people, machines, and materials — that's AI in action in the skilled trades," says Ansgar von Garrel, head of marketing at the Altendorf Group.

A concrete example of successful implementation is provided by the Mühling joinery from Billerbeck, Germany, which is involved in the project as a practice partner together with the Altendorf Group. HAND GUARD is in daily use there — and ensures a significant increase in safety and trust within the team. Employees particularly appreciate the early detection of critical hand movements and the automatic protective response, which causes the system to lower the saw blade in a fraction of a second. The feeling of safety has increased noticeably

as a result, the company emphasizes — a good example of how AI creates concrete improvements in everyday working life.

By participating in the exhibition, Altendorf is pursuing a key objective: to make sustainable technologies accessible in a practical and barrier-free manner. "Intuitive, robust, and economically viable solutions are particularly in demand in the skilled trades. That's why it's important to us to show AI not as an abstract technology, but as a concrete tool for everyday life and training," von Garrel continues.

The exhibition is aimed explicitly at craft businesses, trainees, and anyone interested in discovering the benefits of AI for themselves. In addition to digital showcases and practical examples, the exhibition also offers interactive learning stations and access to a comprehensive online platform.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection, and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and receives scientific support from FHM Bielefeld. The aim is to support the digital transformation in skilled trades through practical research, further training, and technology partnerships.

Altendorf

www.altendorfgroup.com/en/cases/ki-in-craftsmanship-joinery-muehling/

Exhibition

www.ki-di-ha.de/zukunftgestalten



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Extraction upgrade maximises Ecogate[®] savings

BRISTOL-BASED Robbins Timber is an independently-owned specialist timber merchant with a history stretching back over 140 years. Today, Robbins distributes timber products and sheet materials, as well as engineered and modified products. Besides holding a vast range of timber profiles in stock, the company also provides a fully bespoke and flexible machining service; fulfilling orders for one length or sheet, right through to full loads of timber products. Robbins distributes both nationally and internationally to a wide customer base ranging from DIY enthusiasts, to major contractors and merchants and, in addition, the business also specialises in the supply of timber and ply products to the marine industry.

The factory's extraction system had been upgraded and optimised several years ago with the retrofit installation of an Ecogate[®] energy-saving system. "At the time, although we decided against replacing the filter unit, installing the Ecogate[®] system was certainly a game changer", says director Ben Bagnall. "As well as enjoying the promised savings on our electricity bills, the noise levels emanating from the



Above: The new 34,000 m³/hr capacity Aagaard filter unit vents clean air to atmosphere, via the silencer, and (inset photo) 15 kW fan transports dust to waste containers via the 2-way diverter.

Left: The Explosion Isolation Valve prevents the effects of a pressure wave and flames traveling through the ductwork and into the factory.

Right: Newly installed Extractly control panel alongside previously installed Ecogate greenBOX-12 controller and PowerMaster variable speed drive unit.



huge fan were also significantly reduced; making the shop floor a much more agreeable space to work in."

Fast forward to 2025 and, with the old filter unit having now reached the end of its useful life, Ben made contact again with Ian Rayner — sales manager for Extractly Ltd and Ecogate in the UK. Having been involved with the earlier Ecogate® installation, Ian was no stranger to the system: "The filter unit and main fan were still in a serviceable condition when we originally fitted the Ecogate® system," says Ian Rayner, "although the main fan had become something of a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut' once extraction was

being controlled and optimised with Ecogate® extraction-on-demand technology."

As a replacement, Extractly has installed a new Aagaard ATEX chain filter, with the capacity to clean up to 34,000 cubic metres of dust laden air per hour. Previously, dust and wood waste was drawn from the factory, by a powerful 75 kW fan, then blown through the filter unit. "Placing the main fan on the 'dirty side' of the filter unit generates significant noise as waste passes through it," says Ian Rayner, "and the waste can potentially reduce the life expectancy of a fan." The new system has a 55 kW fan unit which, when compared with the old one, delivers

increased extraction volume and pressure, as well as saving up to 20 kW per hour when it's running at full speed.

Extractly has installed the new fan on the 'clean side' of the filter unit; drawing waste material directly from the factory into the filter unit. Now handling just clean air, fan life is extended, maintenance requirements are reduced, and the additional inclusion of a discharge silencer further reduces noise levels. Filtered waste collects in the base of the Aagaard 3+1 filter unit, and a drag chain continually gathers it to the rotary valve where it's discharged, pressure-free, to a 15 kW transport fan and automatic diverter

that controls delivery of waste to either one of Robbins' two waste containers.

Internally, Extractly installed a new control panel and re-wired the original Ecogate® Green-Box-12 system to control the new extraction system. All the Ecogate® motorised dampers and system wiring, and most of the internal ducting, with some judicious tidying up in places, was left unchanged. One important new addition, however, was the installation of an Explosion Isolation Valve in the main duct. In the event of an explosion in the filter unit, the valve prevents the effects of a pressure wave and flames traveling through the ductwork and into the factory. "Extractly never compromises on safety," Ian explains, "and to comply with ATEX regulations we always advise the inclusion of these valves."

"From quotation through to commissioning, we were very impressed with the professional way in which Extractly's team went about the job," Ben Bagnall concludes, "and we are now enjoying an even quieter factory and finally realising the maximum energy savings from our Ecogate® installation."

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



Left: Waste material collected in the base of the filter unit is discharged pressure-free via the rotary valve.

Scott Pallets strengthens logistics offer

SCOTT PALLETS is continuing to drive innovation in the supply chain through a series of strategic logistics initiatives, implemented in conjunction with parent company BSW Group.

By working closely with haulage providers and internal partners, such as sister businesses BSW Timber and Tilhill Forestry, the company is reducing empty miles, improving asset utilisation, and cutting carbon emissions.

A key development this year has been the reloading of vehicles, with those that have completed pallet deliveries for Scott Pallets now often being backloaded with BSW Timber sawn products.

By strategically coordinating these return journeys, Scott Pallets is reducing empty miles, cutting unnecessary fuel use, and lowering its carbon footprint, helping to improve operational efficiency across both the pallet and timber supply chains.

As of August 2025, around 300 deliveries have already been backloaded, with most of these trips involving the Scott Pallets fleet at its Barry site. These vehicles have been used to deliver pallets to customers as normal, before collecting material from BSW Timber's Newbridge-on-Wye sawmill for the return leg. These backhauls are a prime example of sustainability delivering commercial value.

Through this close collaboration with BSW, Scott Pallets has also strengthened relationships with key haulage partners, including H&R Gray and Johnsons Haulage, who have also supported the initiative. This strategic partnership has enabled Scott Pallets to reconfigure loads for improved presentation at customer sites and redeploy trailers across the network.

In a further step towards sustainable operations, Scott

Pallets at Ellesmere Port has also introduced a walking floor vehicle to streamline the management of on-site wood waste.

This means that as well as carrying out standard pallet deliveries, the vehicle will also collect scrap wood for biomass use. In another key partnership, Scott Pallets is now working with fellow BSW Group member Tilhill Forestry to supply this biomass material to Shotton Mill in Deeside.

These initiatives highlight the value of internal collaboration, forward planning and fleet optimisation in delivering environmental gains. With a strong focus on reducing waste and cutting carbon, the company continues to lead by example in the timber and pallet industry.

Scott Pallets ● www.scottpallets.co.uk



West Fraser carbon negative landmark

WEST FRASER has published a new factsheet, proudly announcing the achievement that its UK operations are now officially counted as carbon negative, showing the industry that this is the way forward as a responsible producer of timber panel products.

The four-page publication begins by declaring: "Since our founding 70 years ago, West Fraser has recognised its responsibility to the environment and society, while delivering solid financial performance. Guided by our values and leveraging strategic partnerships, we aim to integrate sustainability across all aspects of our business."

In fact, the document goes on to stress that all of its UK products have been certified as being net carbon negative — meaning that they lock up more CO₂e than is emitted in making them. For the environmentally conscious specifier or builder using West Fraser's boards, they can be assured that the company's approach to sustainability is "rooted in science, guided by global standards and inspired by a vision of a future where forests, products and innovation work together to address climate change."

This assertion is backed up by the fact that West Fraser sequesters 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂e in its European operations each year, while its OSB products have earned an A+ rating in the BRE Green Guide — the highest possible rating.

Other aspects of its progress in-

clude how three-quarters of the group's use of renewable energy globally is based on biomass while 4.5% comes from other renewables such as solar. And across Europe, 100% of the grid-purchased electricity utilised is from guaranteed renewable generation: including wind, hydro-power and solar.

In terms of actual forestry management, 72.4 million seedlings are planted in Canada, plus over 2 million in the US. Impressively, the timber expert has achieved a 22% reduction in SCOPE 1 and 2 emissions — along with a 13% reduction in SCOPE 3. Interestingly, less than 1% of

its managed forest areas are harvested annually, which allows for longer-term and therefore more sustainable harvesting cycles. Other important facts can be found in the link provided in the factsheet: 2024 Sustainability Report.

The document ends with the statement: "Build with purpose — All our UK-made engineered wood panels are proudly net carbon negative and can offset building emissions" — with a link for the reader to find out more on its website.

The factsheet is strikingly presented with full colour photography, while offering a powerful argument to convince the most ardent of environmentalists that West Fraser goes above and beyond in achieving a carbon negative, yet positive future.

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



MKM achieves Silver EcoVadis medal, marking significant sustainability progress



MKM Building Supplies (MKM), a UK independent builder's merchant, has achieved a Silver Medal in its third sustainability assessment by EcoVadis — with a score of 70/100, placing MKM in the top 15% of assessed companies worldwide.

EcoVadis provides the global standard for resilient, sustainable supply chains. MKM's results highlight the progress it's making on its journey to embed sustainability — or, as the company simply puts it, "Doing the Right Thing." MKM's score has increased by 28 points since its first EcoVadis assessment, reflecting tangible improvements across environmental impact, labour and human rights, ethics, and sustainable procurement.

Rachel Constable, head of ESG at MKM, said: "We're proud of the progress we've made, and achieving a Silver EcoVadis Medal is a great milestone for us. It shows that our commitment to doing the right thing — whether that's working with suppliers to uphold strong ethical standards, supporting local communities and charities, or helping customers build greener — is making an impact. We know we're not done yet, and this recognition just gives us more drive to keep improving."

Building a better business, branch by branch

MKM's ESG approach is rooted in people and community as much as it is in environmental performance. All MKM branches are actively involved in their local communities, supporting grassroots initiatives and charities through sponsorship, fundraising, and volunteering. This approach reflects MKM's unique business model, where each branch operates independently under local Branch Directors with the full support of Central Support teams — allowing them to choose truly local causes and initiatives.

This set up also means that progress isn't achieved through top-down box-ticking — it's driven by real action from local MKM teams, within their local communities and a culture that everyone's on board with.

"Because our branches operate independently, success is dependent on each branch getting behind any given initiative," added Rachel. "It means achieving a Silver Medal is even more rewarding. It reflects the culture of our teams — everyone wants to do the right thing; actively getting involved to make progress that matters locally and across the business."

Investing in better practices and wider partnerships

MKM is investing in greener operations and building better. Its newly opened branch in Cheltenham — the first built to BREEAM Excellent standards — sets a new benchmark for future sites with an all-electric energy system and on-site renewable generation. MKM is also moving towards a lower-carbon logistics fleet, deploying electric forklifts and investing in alternative fuel HGVs.

The company's 'Go Home Safe' initiative reinforces its commitment to health and safety across all branches, ensuring employees, customers, and visitors return home safely at the end of each day.

Beyond its own branches, MKM is also working with wider industry initiatives and associations to accelerate sustainability progress.

The company is a Gold member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School and an active participant in the Builders Merchants Federation's Sustainability Working Group.

In addition, MKM is a Construction Leadership Council CO2nstruct Zero Business Champion — demonstrating a strong commitment to helping the construction sector reach net zero.

MKM believes sustainability is a shared responsibility. It works closely with suppliers to uphold its Code of Conduct and to ensure the right products are available to customers — from renewable heating solutions through its specialist Oceanair division, to low-carbon insulation and materials supporting bio-diversity.

"Everyone's welcome at MKM," added Rachel. "We're proud that this inclusive culture is part of what's driven our progress and our improved EcoVadis score."

MKM sees this EcoVadis recognition as another step towards its wider ESG goals.

Customer demand for sustainable solutions is rising, and regulations are evolving — so MKM is determined to keep supporting customers and communities every step of the way.

"Achieving Silver is a great result, but what matters most is the direction we're heading," said Rachel. "We're committed to keeping that momentum, challenging ourselves to do better, and working together with customers, suppliers, and communities to build a more sustainable future."

MKM
<https://mkm.com>

How West Fraser's carbon negative wood panels support sustainable construction



AS WITH any conscientious organisation, West Fraser's approach to sustainability is rooted in science; and guided by global standards which result in forests, products and innovation working together to address climate change. Here, David Connacher, West Fraser's UK marketing manager explains the story.

"Given the evolving nature of carbon accounting in the forestry industry, West Fraser, as a leader in sustainability worldwide, is taking a diligent, prudent approach to understanding and reporting on emissions and carbon sequestration. Onwards, the company is advancing efforts to accurately and credibly characterise the carbon story in collaboration with industry leaders and community partners," says David.

"The organisation has made progress in the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), validating 2030 commitments, including planning for and addressing essential elements that will help work towards establishing a net-zero pathway.

"In 2024, the team continued working on a land-use carbon emission assessment and a governance framework for a comprehensive transition plan covering all emission scopes. West Fraser's carbon story begins in the forests where biogenic carbon is naturally sequestered as trees grow. Through harvesting and manufacturing, carbon is transferred into wood products that are used in low-carbon construction and other applications. Reforestation then restores the forest cover and perpetuates the carbon sequestration cycle. The harvested wood products are widely distributed, serving as carbon reservoirs. Even at end of life, a significant portion of biogenic carbon persists, either stored in recycled materials or landfills. Some carbon is, of course, released back into the atmosphere," he concludes.

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

Three day collection service from Pallet LOOP

COMPANIES using The Pallet LOOP across the UK mainland will now get their pallets picked up faster, as the business introduces a free three-day collection service option.

With immediate effect, all collections booked via The Pallet LOOP's nationwide recovery network will be completed within three working days — reflecting The Pallet LOOP's dedication to customer service, supply chain efficiency, and environmental responsibility.

Through this groundbreaking scheme, businesses earn £2 to £4 for every LOOP pallet that is returned, ensuring they are continually reused, while also reducing construction waste.

Part of timber and forestry business BSW Group, The Pallet LOOP previously offered two collection possibilities; a three-day service (with a £100 fee); and a free ten-day option.

LOOP's free three-day service now becomes the default, replacing the current ten-day offer. Simplifying the collection service

will support the UK construction industry in several ways:

- **Reduced storage requirements:** Shortening the LOOP collections window to three days will help pallet recipients free up valuable yard, site and warehouse space.
- **Enhanced sustainability:** With a faster collections service, more LOOP pallets re-enter the supply chain more quickly, rather than ending up damaged or in skips.
- **Greater customer satisfaction:** The speed of collections has been a consistent topic in customer feedback received by The Pallet LOOP, particularly from site managers in large cities, where there is limited space to store pallets.

Andy Williamson, managing director of The Pallet LOOP, said: "Offering a prompt collection service is another critical step to closing the loop on pallet waste and delivering on our circular economy model.

"No one wants to see LOOP pallets laying around, taking up valuable space.

"By guaranteeing collection within three business days, we're

making life easier for customers and ensuring pallets get back into circulation where they belong, as quickly as possible.

"It's an operational shift that shows us stepping up a gear, which is ultimately a win for the circular economy, building materials supply chain and the environment."

With The Pallet LOOP's three-

day service, the collection of 50 or more pallets (green and white) is free, but collections of under 50 pallets will incur a £100 charge, while each standard white pallet returned will also cost £2 (data correct at the time of publication).

The Pallet LOOP
collections@thepalletloop.com
www.thepalletloop.com



James Latham champions sustainable timber solutions for garden pod innovation

A NEW collaboration between Garden Office Pod 4U (GOP4U), a bespoke garden pod designer, and Latham Timber Manufacturing (LTM), James Latham's dedicated moulding and cladding manufacturing division, has resulted in the creation of an eco-friendly garden office, featuring a bespoke Chesapeake colourway.

It all started when Peter Howson, a London-based product designer and longstanding James Latham customer, sought a durable, functional, and visually appealing timber to clad a new pod design. However, as discussions progressed, it became clear Peter needed more than just the raw materials. In fact, he required a standardised, plug-and-play system that was easy to install, low maintenance, and scalable according to demand.

Recognising this, James Latham went above and beyond, suggesting a complete system package developed and delivered by its specialist cladding arm, LTM, keeping the supply chain small.

Not only is it a partnership that showcases Accoya timber at its best, but it also highlights the amazing results that can be achieved through close collaboration and pooled expertise.

Let's take a closer look at this remarkable project.

Manufactured for stability and longevity

Although several different solid and engineered timber options had been considered, Mr Howson ultimately chose Accoya for its impressive resilience and structural stability.

As Mr Howson explains, "I approached the specifications with three things in mind. First, the UK's cool and damp climate meant these pods had to be able to withstand the elements, particularly high levels of rainfall, without the risk of rotting or warping. Next, reflecting my approach to design, I wanted a product with strong sustainability credentials. Finally, there was a practical requirement. Installations might take place up to 200 miles away, and I don't have a large repair team to ad-



dress issues on call. So, I needed a material that would require minimal maintenance."

He continues, "I was always mindful that my customers are making a considerable investment, and it's essential they have peace of mind knowing their garden pod will stand the test of time, looking as good as the day it was installed. I knew almost immediately that Accoya was the perfect choice, as it delivers on every level, from durability to sustainability. It retains its shape over time and requires little upkeep. Oh, and it looks amazing, too."

A streamlined cladding system, designed for scale

As the project progressed, it became clear Peter also needed a fully integrated cladding system, which is where LTM came in, on James Latham's recommendation. Its expert team worked hand-in-glove with GOP4U, refining the final specification to manufacture a tailored solution that met exact requirements.

The result? A bespoke, pre-finished, elegantly designed modular cladding using LTAC04 and 15 x 145 RR profiles, one that complements and enhances its surroundings.

It also comes factory finished in a wide selection of finishes to

match almost any garden design, including Chesapeake — a custom colour option from the Sansin range, created specifically for this project. This tailored approach allowed GOP4U to work closely with LTM to perfectly match the client's aesthetic, demonstrating how custom finishes can elevate the overall design.

Other available options include Autumn Gold and Pearl Grey. Each pod is finished with a brushed or sanded technique, delivering a sophisticated, natural look that blends seamlessly into outdoor settings. Additional finishes, including Sansin SDF and Woodforce Clear, provide another layer of weather protection, ensuring longevity even in the harshest conditions.

From a practical perspective, delivering pre-finished Accoya components directly to the manufacturer for modular assembly, installation became faster and maintenance easier without compromising quality.

Adding value throughout the construction journey

LTM's involvement didn't end at the factory gates, demonstrating its commitment to establishing ongoing relationships and providing an unrivalled customer experience. It played a key role

in the first installation, providing hands-on technical guidance and supply-chain coordination.

Reflecting on the journey, Peter says, "This collaboration was about solving the problems of delivery style, strength, and sustainability. Working with James Latham and LTM has taken my designs to the next level, creating something that will deliver extra, long-term value to clients. Their expertise, support, and high-quality materials have been instrumental in bringing this project to life."

Michael O'Brien from LTM says, "Accoya is an exceptional material, especially when treated with our factory finish, and its use on this project really makes a compelling case for timber cladding. Knowing that the materials we supplied will help these structures to stand the test of time, while also meeting sustainability goals, is something we're very proud of."

Garden Office Pod 4U
www.gardenofficepod4u.com

Latham Timber Manufacturing
<https://tm.lathamtimber.co.uk>

James Latham
www.lathamtimber.co.uk

MKM and James Jones launch campaign to champion British-grown C16 timber

MKM Building Supplies (MKM), a UK independent builder's merchant, has joined forces with long-standing supplier James Jones & Sons to launch a UK-wide campaign championing the use of British-grown C16 timber.

Each year MKM supplies more than 150,000 tonnes of timber to tradespeople, developers, and the general public across the UK — that's the equivalent weight of more than 12,000 double-decker buses.

The "Great British Timber" push puts the spotlight on C16's strength, value, and sustainability, busting myths and giving branch teams and customers the know-how to make informed choices.

Combining in-branch education, staff training, digital content and promotional activity across MKM's 135-strong branch network, a roadshow will also tour 20 key MKM locations this autumn, giving customers the chance to learn more about C16 and take part in interactive activities.

James Jones will be hosting drop-in training sessions for branch teams, offering the chance to sharpen skills and stay up to date with the latest information. Covering areas like conversion and span tables, storage



best practice, and customer guidance, the sessions are all about strengthening the knowledge teams already have and ensuring confidence when talking about C16.

Gareth Nicholls, head of timber category for MKM, said: "At MKM, we're all about doing what's right, for our customers and for the trade. This focus is about cutting through the noise and giving people clear, practical info on C16, so they can pick the right timber for the job."

"We're determined to do our

bit to back British-grown timber, not just by talking about it, but by giving our branch teams the tools to have those conversations with customers. James Jones is a partner we've worked with for almost 30 years — we're proud to shine a light on the benefits of British timber."

Emma Loftus, James Jones & Sons, added: "Too often, C24 is specified by default — but C16 is suitable for most everyday projects. By choosing C16, tradespeople and homeowners can support British forestry, protect

jobs, and cut down on timber miles. Our fully sustainable approach also means customers know they're choosing the best option that makes the most of every tree."

"This is a brilliant campaign with MKM — a merchant determined to do their bit for British timber. We can't wait to get out on the road, have conversations that keep branches informed or even change perceptions about C16. Ensuring MKM remains the most knowledgeable partner for its customers."

All C16 timber supplied by James Jones is grown in the UK, with a manufacturing process that ensures every single part of the tree is used — whether for construction timber, engineered timber products, OSB, or even animal bedding. The British forestry industry contributes £3bn to the economy and supports more than 34,000 jobs.

The campaign also ties into wider industry efforts to promote British-grown timber, with James Jones working alongside other leading UK suppliers and trade bodies. Together the industry is raising awareness among architects and specifiers and highlighting the benefits of choosing British timber.

MKM Building Supplies
<https://mkm.com>
James Jones & Sons
www.jamesjones.co.uk



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.

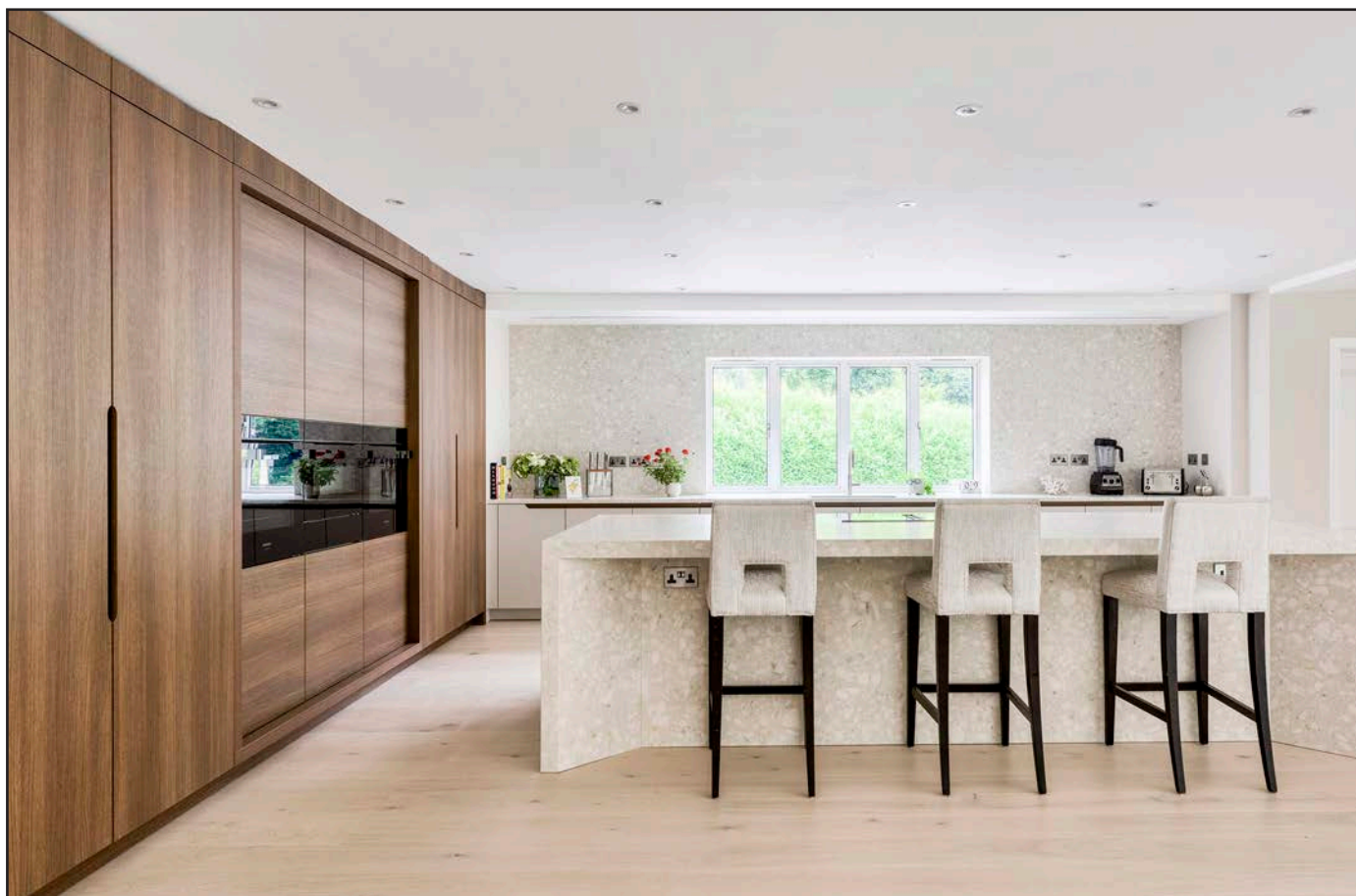
With ECOGATE technology installed, an extraction fan will consume the minimum power required to provide optimum extraction – reducing electricity bills by 68% on average.



sales@ecogate.co.uk 01924 926038

www.ecogate.co.uk

Rotpunkt kitchen-living-bathroom project by Such Designs



ROTPUNKT, award winning designer and leading manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture, brings its signature brand aesthetics to a contemporary home in High Wycombe, as leading design specialist, Such Designs, creates and installs a wood-oriented open plan kitchen, living space, master bathroom and ensuite.

Located in the once famous 'furniture capital of England', Such Designs was commissioned to design a unique open-plan kitchen, living room, and suite of bathrooms for a large family home that not only promote a high standard of living but also the mix of modern architecture met with the rolling chalk hills and beech woodlands of Buckinghamshire.

The homeowners' brief was to create a well-designed, multifunctional kitchen living space, which is able to grow with the entire family while maintaining a strong style identity.

This prompted Such Designs to employ a confident use of materials throughout the project and create a visual connection between the kitchen, dining area, living space and bathrooms.

Rotpunkt Zerox Furniture provides striking form and function with a considered mix of full height Xtend 2,340 mm kitchen cabinets in the company's FSC® Certified Loft Brown Oak finish, which is defined by ultra modern wood effect door fronts with oak brown undertones. The gold standard of eco-friendly kitchen design, all elements in Loft Oak offer a greener alternative for the homeowners without compromising on style.

Utilising the entire breadth of the wall, Rotpunkt Loft Brown Oak Xtend 2,340 mm cabinets make way for a dedicated breakfast cupboard that provides space to house small appliances, along with ample food storage, and built-in refrigeration so the entire

family can make quick work of home cooking. Siemens built-in appliances complete the run of the extra-tall cabinets and unite the adjoining sink area, which is designed with a large run of base units in Rotpunkt Snow XT with matching Loft Brown Oak handle profiles and fully integrated LED smart lighting across all furniture.

Terrazzo-style porcelain forms a custom island unit that brings an artisan blend of different natural stones across the worktops and 45° vertical supports to differentiate the main workspace, and provide contrast against the warmth of the Loft Brown Oak fitted storage.

From kitchen to living room, Such Designs made full use of the bare wall with a bespoke home media centre in statement black finish, which accommodates the homeowners' large 52" TV, built-in speaker system, and storage needs by featuring a Rotpunkt Memory RI wall panel with ver-

tical grooves and series of Zerox Snow XT floating base units. The vertical grooves inspired Such Designs to also use Memory RI in the master bathroom and ensuite but this time, in the lighter shade of New Forest Oak to offset the copper basin taps and shower enclosure.

All Rotpunkt furniture is designed and made under the company's award-winning Together to Zero climate strategy in order to reduce carbon emissions at every stage of manufacture and create 100% climate-friendly kitchens that do not compromise on style or quality.

Such Designs
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www.suchdesigns.co.uk

Rotpunkt
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www.rotpunkt.co.uk

Nature Inspired Paper Foils



dp-decor is the **original** and trusted paper foil range from Decorative Panels Lamination - developed as a cost-effective yet visually stunning alternative to real wood veneers.

The collection features an extensive selection of **woodgrain**, **unicolour**, and **fantasy designs**, developed in partnership with leading global print houses.

www.decorativepanels.co.uk



Not just MDF; West Fraser's MDF

INVENTED in 1966, West Fraser's CaberMDF range is still adorning homes and buildings all over the UK. It could be skirting boards, stair rails, kitchen cabinets, and funky storage.

There are five distinct grades of CaberMDF, each oozing quality and versatility; Trade (Light), Pro (Standard), Trade Moisture Resistant, Pro Moisture Resistant and Industrial.

As with all CaberMDF, the task at hand is easy when choosing a product that saws, drills, shapes and routs cleanly and easily, without splintering or chipping, unlike plywood or plain boards.

The range is suitable for use with heavy woodworking machinery as well as hand tools. The high-quality fibres also mean that screws will hold more firmly, while the range conforms to European E1 emission standard, while also complying with BS EN 622: Parts 1 and 5 and carries the coveted CE mark.

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812921

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



Image courtesy
of Unsplash

Trotec premium laser materials

"WE DON'T just claim laser compatibility — we prove it," says Esin Wimmer, product manager for Laser Materials at Trotec Laser. "From diode to CO₂ lasers, our materials are engineered to deliver safe, repeatable results with every job."

In a growing market where more businesses and creative professionals are turning to diode laser systems, reliable materials have never been more important. Trotec Laser offers a complete range of diode-laser-tested materials that guarantee performance, precision, and durability, setting a benchmark for quality in the industry.

Unlike generic plastics or materials with risky cores such as ABS, Trotec's sheets are engineered specifically for laser applications. Featuring

a thin top layer on a modified acrylic core, they deliver engravings with high contrast and clean edge definition. This precision helps avoid common failures like poor contrast, warping, or edge melting, ensuring reliable, professional outcomes.

Every Trotec material is backed by verified diode laser performance testing, with published compatibility lists and dedicated sample kits to support users. Many products are also UV-stable and ISO 4892 tested, maintaining colour and clarity for three years without significant color change — making them ideal for signage, industrial tags, and other long-term applications.

Every Trotec sheet is carefully manufactured to deliver exceptional surface quality and consistent colour, free from bubbles, defects, or irregularities. This superior production standard minimizes waste and reduces the need for post-processing, allowing businesses to work more efficiently. With consistent quality across sheets and batches, Trotec materials provide the reliability and repeatability essential for scaling production.

To further support efficiency, Trotec offers a cut-to-size service and a wide range of educational resources through its webshop. These expert tips and resources make it simple for diode laser users to select the right materials and master the techniques needed to achieve professional results with confidence.

As the diode laser market expands, more users are looking for plug-and-play, pre-tested solutions that guarantee reliability and safety. Trotec's range of laser plastic sheets for engraving, including TroLase and TroGlass for diode lasers, is designed to meet these expectations — delivering superior quality, proven performance, and peace of mind.

Trotec Laser GmbH • www.troteclaser.com



New cubicle and washroom panel range from Polyrey

POLYREY, a leading European supplier of technical and decorative surfaces, has relaunched its cubicle and washroom range for 2025, giving architects and specifiers even greater creative freedom across office, education, healthcare and retail projects.

The investment in the enhanced range follows the emergence of quality washroom spaces as a key priority in commercial design, as employers look to enhance workplace environments and entice staff back to their offices.

The company, which is a brand of Wilsonart — a global specialist in engineered decorative surfaces — has developed the new collection to bring together high performance materials, expanded colour options, and the latest innovative surface technology.

At the core of the new range is Reysipur® Compact Grade, a dense, waterproof laminate suitable for all applications in humid, high-traffic environments. These designs coordinate seamlessly with the brand's HPL®, a hard-wearing high pressure laminate solution for heavy duty washroom applications, and Panoprey®, a cost-effective melamine faced board option for dry areas.

The addition of 18 new decors for 2025 means the range boasts



55 decors overall, including warm woods, bold colours, and playful designs from Polyrey's Signature Library of on-trend decors. This vast selection of options means architects can specify with confidence across an array of design focused sectors including commercial, hospitality, education, healthcare and retail.

A standout feature of the

new launch is the integration of TOUCH, Wilsonart's ultra-matte, anti-fingerprint finish, which is now available in large format sheets; ensuring an impeccable finish for even the most demanding design projects.

Polyrey's newest digital print technology further enhances the range by bringing imagination to life with a vibrant collection of playful prints, thoughtfully designed to inspire and engage. Perfectly suited for child-focused environments, these designs meet the creative and functional needs of architects and specifiers alike — combining visual charm with practical performance.

Whether for schools, hospitals, or public spaces, this innovative range offers a fresh, durable solution that supports joyful, child friendly design.

All panels in the range feature built-in antibacterial protection certified to JIS Z 2801 (equivalent to ISO 22196), with silver ion technology embedded during manufacturing to actively reduce contaminant presence and ensure a more hygienic environment.

Reysipur® Compact Grade panels are also certified as hypo-allergenic by the European Centre for Allergy Research Foundation,

helping facilitate healthier indoor environments.

Bolstered by Polyrey's support network and specification expertise, the new range offers architects visually appealing solutions that meet the highest performance standards.

George Emms, commercial leader — UK & Ireland at Polyrey said: "Washrooms have become a key priority in commercial design. They're no longer just functional spaces, but a reflection of a building's overall quality and a key part of the occupant and visitor experience.

"We've invested in this launch to give architects the design freedom they need to create washrooms that are not only durable and hygienic, but also visually striking and aligned with a wider interior scheme.

"Thanks to the backing of our market-leading support network and technical expertise, we're confident that this updated range will help specifiers deliver washroom spaces and cubicles that meet the highest standards of design, hygiene and longevity."

Polyrey
www.polyrey.com



Goodbye to squeaky floors with West Fraser's CaberFloor

WEST FRASER'S CaberFloor range is used extensively by leading housebuilders and specifiers nationwide as it delivers high-quality flooring finishes, while preventing issues such as noise or imbalance, to save costs down the line.

CaberFloor P5 is the UK's most specified moisture-resistant P5 flooring. The super strong particle-board is perfect for domestic and most other floors, eliminating the need for intermediate noggins. The boards are moisture-resistant, stable, durable, easy to install, and feature a tongue and groove or square-edge profile, ensuring an excellent surface for subsequent floor laying.

Some projects demand more advanced solutions — especially if the weather is a consideration if the roof will not be on. Caber-Shield Eco excels in such scenarios, allowing construction to proceed in all weather conditions. Caber-Shield Eco has a tough, permanent, solvent-free, UV waterproof coating



to the surface layer and is BBA approved for 60 days exposure; and provides a non-slip, safe platform that can endure high site traffic.

Another option is CaberDek, which is BBA approved for 60 days exposure when paired with CaberFix. This P5 grade flooring offers protection against weather and construction debris, leaving behind a clean, finished floor after removal. Its film is impact, puncture and tear-resistant, making it suitable for high traffic areas.

For samples of West Fraser construction panels or to explore the range further, visit the sample page on the website (below). A designated housebuilder page offers a range of tools, including an interactive guide to all West Fraser products and a checklist to ensure you have everything you need for your build. Also helpful is the chart (link also below).

West Fraser ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/samples/>
<https://uk.westfraser.com/resources/help-advice/installation-instructions/>

Trotec Laser launches TroWood Colour

TROTEC LASER has introduced TroWood Colour, a premium, pre-coloured MDF designed specifically for creative professionals and laser businesses seeking aesthetic, tactile alternatives to plastic and acrylics. Engineered for both CO₂ and diode lasers, TroWood Colour delivers flawless engraving, smooth cutting, and unprecedented ease of use — making it ideal for product personalisation, signage, and décor applications.

TroWood Colour stands apart in the market by combining a perfectly flat, high-quality MDF core with an opaque, vivid lacquer coating on both sides. This new combination ensures precision cutting, clean engraving, and consistent colour intensity. The material's lacquer is formu-

lated to resist chipping, producing smooth, professional edges and crisp detail.

Available in six vibrant, on-trend colours, TroWood Colour offers designers greater creative flexibility than traditional lacquered MDF, which is often limited to white and prone to damage. In contrast to colour-through plywood, TroWood Colour's surface delivers unmatched flatness, stability, and bold, uniform colour.

While diode lasers often face challenges cutting through most acrylic colours, TroWood Colour is designed with a wood-based core that allows it to be cut easily and efficiently with a diode laser.

It has been rigorously tested to produce high-contrast, clean engraving results on both CO₂ and diode systems. This opens new creative ties for users who previously avoided coloured acrylics due to poor laser compatibility. Its pre-applied lacquer finish eliminates the need for painting, drying, or masking, streamlining workflows and saving valuable production time. The smooth, durable coating also prevents engraving residue from embedding into the surface, so dust wipes away in seconds. Combined with a premium MDF core that resists chipping and ensures clean, precise edges, TroWood Colour offers both exceptional performance and a flawless finish straight from the laser.

As demand rises for warm, natural-looking materials that are ready to use straight from the supplier, TroWood Colour offers the perfect blend of tactile wood appeal and the efficiency of a pre-finished surface. Trotec is proud to be the first to introduce opaque lacquered MDF in vibrant colors, meticulously tested and proven for outstanding performance on both CO₂ and diode laser systems. With uncompromising quality standards, a flawless surface, and a premium look and feel, TroWood Colour sets a new benchmark for laserable materials, according to the company.

Trotec Laser GmbH ● www.troteclaser.com



Next generation tool storage from Makita is a game-changer

THE NEW Makita MAKTRAK™ system provides a tough, secure and flexible modular storage method for a wide range of Makita tools and equipment. Built to meet the needs of trade professionals on site — each storage box can be opened without the need to unstack the system, allowing tools to be protected, transported and organised with ease.

The unique Rolling Tool Chest forms the base of the MAKTRAK™ system. Its horizontal layout can accommodate even long tools and combined with the dual-hinged removable lid, it ensures full and easy access from both sides — perfect for tight spaces or when accessing the chest from the back of the van. The large latches are easy to open, even while wearing safety gloves.

Trade professionals will appreciate the freedom of the track-mount, modular system, as it allows other MAKTRAK™ boxes to be attached to each other for secure stacking and transportation.

There are seven different components to choose from comprising of four toolboxes — the Large Toolbox, Extra-large Extension Toolbox, both of which include the dual hinged lid feature, a Medium Toolbox, as well

as the Rolling Tool Chest, and three organiser boxes: the Deep Medium Organiser, Low Profile Organiser and Deep Compact Organiser. The flexibility of the MAKTRAK™ system means that it can be tailored to each user's specific requirements and can accommodate everything from the largest tools to the smallest parts, fittings, and fasteners.

In addition, loading and unloading the MAKTRAK™ storage system from the back of a van is made easy by the Rolling Tool Chest's retractable handle, non-slip Gecko Grips, and rear support handle, which provides extra assistance during the initial lift.

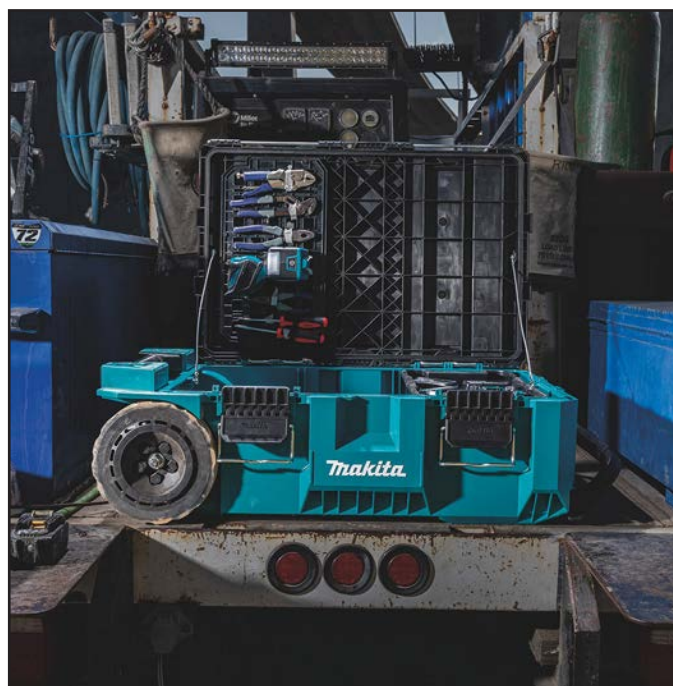
With a huge 82-litre capacity and 113 kg load rating, the Rolling Tool Chest also features rugged nine inch all-terrain wheels that help take the strain out of moving across rough, and uneven ground. For added security, each of the boxes and organisers comes complete with reinforced metal padlock eyelets and a hidden security tracker slot giving the user a choice of security options. The lids are also gasket sealed, so that tools stay protected from dust, dirt and water ingress.

"The Makita MAKTRAK™ storage system has been thoughtfully designed to align with the realities of how trade professionals

work, and with the highest level of attention to detail," explained Lyndsey Bailey, accessories product manager from Makita.

"The beauty of the MAKTRAK™ system is that it addresses the main challenges when it comes to tools: transporting them to and from site, loading and unloading at the start and the end of the day, storing them, keeping them secure and easily finding what you need. We are proud of the flexibility that the MAKTRAK™ system offers, allowing users to adapt the system to their needs from job to job."

Makita MAKTRAK™
www.makita.co.uk/maktrak



High-performance decorative foils for volume manufacturing

The dp-decor range

from Decorative Panels Lamination

dp-decor, from Decorative Panels Lamination, is the original and trusted paper foil collection from the dp-group. It is a proven choice for volume furniture manufacturers seeking attractive, high-performing, and cost-effective laminated surfaces.

Supplied expertly laminated to a wide range of wood-based substrates, dp-decor offers manufacturers a reliable, ready-to-use solution that ensures consistency in quality, appearance, and performance. To achieve fully matching components such as doors, pelmets, and mouldings, the same paper foils can also be supplied unlaminated — ideal for profile wrapping or additional finishing requirements.

Designed for Modern Manufacturing Needs

dp-decor is a carefully curated range of woodgrain, uni-colour and fantasy designs developed in partnership with leading global print houses. The collection reflects today's interior trends, from classic textures to bold colour statements, while maintaining the technical qualities demanded by large-scale production.

Among the most design forward options are nature inspired, flowing woodgrains in soft neutral tones, including the ever-popular Scandi Oak and the latest addition, Vichy Oak, which is coming this autumn.

With its subtle straight grain variations and smooth, texture-free surface, Vichy Oak brings a fresh, modern aesthetic that suits everything from contemporary cabinetry





to minimalist interiors. Elegant, understated, and highly versatile, it sells itself.

Walnut tones are beginning to re-emerge as a popular choice, with their rich warmth and natural sophistication finding favour in more expressive interior styles. This evolving trend is something the design team continues to track closely, drawing inspiration for future developments across the dp-decor range. With new ideas always in the pipeline, watch this space.

Meanwhile, stone-effect foils are also seeing renewed interest, especially in warm sandstone tones. Thanks to advances in digital printing, patterns can now extend up to 5 metres without repeat, making these designs ideal for longer-format applications such as worktops and large-scale panels.

Built to Perform

With excellent surface durability and resistance, dp-decor is manufactured to meet FIRA 6250 and BS 6222 standards. It is suitable for use across kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, and contract furniture (on all but worktops). It delivers the resilience required for fast-moving production lines and high-traffic environments without compromising on visual appeal.



Optional Antimicrobial Protection

As hygiene remains a key consideration in many interior spaces, dp-decor is also available with Biomaster antimicrobial technology as an optional feature. Based on silver-ion science, Biomaster provides 24/7 protection against bacterial growth for the lifetime of the product. While uptake has been selective, this offering remains an important option, particularly for healthcare, education, and commercial environments.

Proven. Practical. Production Ready.

Manufactured at Decorative Panels Lamination's advanced UK facility in Elland, dp-decor supports high-volume production with outstanding lead times, consistent quality, and scalable capacity. Backed by decades of lamination expertise and industry insight, it continues to be the dependable choice for customers across furniture and fit-out markets.

Order samples via the company's website or visit the Marketing Suite in Elland, West Yorkshire to explore the dp-decor range in person.

Decorative Panels
www.decorativepanels.co.uk



AkzoNobel's Colours of the Year 2026



AKZONOBEL'S Colours of the Year 2026 are set to bring the Rhythm of Blues™ to the wood finishes market, with a trio of upbeat and versatile colors that are calming, connecting and creative.

The Colours of the Year 2026 Rhythm of Blues family comprises three eye-catching indigo shades: a light blue Mellow Flow™, a dark blue Slow Swing™ and the vibrant Free Groove™ — three different rhythms that offer endless scope for furniture, cabinets, building products and flooring.

The collection has been spe-

cially created to inspire furniture designers and joinery manufacturers. The choice of colours makes it easy to choose shades and combinations for a timeless look that is also on trend.

"With everything that's happening in the world, we see that people are reacting in various ways," explains Heleen van Gent, creative director of AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Center. "They're either slowing down and recharging their batteries, wanting to feel in tune with others and celebrate kinship: or they're choosing to be bold, have fun and feel carefree."

Rhythm of Blues is the result of extensive research into the colour, design, cultural, economic and social trends that shape our society. The colours, textures and special effects that take centre stage in the collection have been designed to help designers and manufacturers find on trend wood coatings to differentiate their projects, while making it easier for customers to choose colours and combinations that match their design preferences.

"Our Rhythm of Blues family provides inspiration to create stylish colour and finish com-

binations that reflect customer style preferences. They come with three palettes of harmonious colours. These enable us to personalise our environments to fit the times we live in, while bringing calm, comfort and vibrancy to projects and products," says Henri Bijsterbosch, colour product marketing manager for AkzoNobel's Industrial Coatings business.

AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Center has been translating trends into desirable colours for more than 30 years. Its annual ColourFutures trend forecast meeting brings together in-house experts, international architects, designers and journalists to share insights into how our reactions to the world around us impact our colour choices.

Specially crafted finishes are required for different end uses, as wood coatings are often applied to highlight the natural beauty of the wooden substrate. "We help customers combine the trend colours with natural wood finishes, be it on smooth or distressed surfaces, from matt to high gloss and from translucent to solid colours with variation of possible finish effects," says Mr Bijsterbosch. AkzoNobel's highly trained technical service team works closely with the Global Colour and Design and technical team to ensure finishes are robust and can be industrialised for customers around the world.

AkzoNobel
www.akzonobel.com/en/about-us/initiatives/color-of-the-year-2026



From demolition to showcase project: The renovation of the Sleeping Beauty House

HISTORIC BUILDINGS tell stories from centuries past and are an important part of our cultural heritage. Renovating them poses a unique challenge: how can modern living standards be achieved while preserving their historic fabric? The Sleeping Beauty House in Weinsberg, Germany, is an outstanding example of how tradition and modernity can be harmoniously brought together. With the integration of the aquatherm black surface heating system, a listed solution was found that perfectly meets the requirements for future-proof building technology.

The Sleeping Beauty House, located at Kirchstaffel 1 in Weinsberg, is a five-hundred-year-old half-timbered building with an eventful history. It was built in 1528 and has undergone numerous changes and uses over the centuries, including serving as a rectory, town clerk's office, and artists' residence. Its name goes back to an old Weinsberg legend, according to which a girl who was compared to Sleeping Beauty lived in the house. The historic building fabric is characterised by ornate half-timbered details and Baroque elements, which make the building an architectural jewel. Particularly noteworthy is the vaulted cellar of the house, which served as a shelter during the Second World War.

Over the decades, the Sleeping Beauty House increasingly fell into disrepair until it was eventually threatened with demolition. A demolition date had even already been set. However, the building's condition was to be documented beforehand — as requested by the State Office for the Preservation of Monuments. The Weinreich architectural firm in Neckarsulm was commissioned with this documentation and — as luck would have it — employee Thilo Juhnke-Wild was assigned to the project as manager. He immediately fell in love with the old building and acquired it together with his wife. In close coordination with the monument authorities, he developed a comprehensive renovation concept that both



preserves the historic character and enables contemporary residential use.

Heating of the property and use of aquatherm black

In the course of the renovation, the focus was on modernising the heating system to increase living comfort and optimise energy consumption. The choice fell on a pellet heating system and — to distribute the heat to the individual rooms — on aquatherm black. The system from aquatherm was integrated into ceilings, walls, and floors as a surface heating system. It was plastered with clay plaster in ceilings and walls, and installed in the floor as underfloor heating in glass-reinforced cement screed.

"During the renovation of the Sleeping Beauty House, it was important to us to find a heating solution that works efficiently, but at the same time protects the historic building fabric. With aquatherm black, we have achieved exactly that," says client Thilo Juhnke-Wild. The use of aquatherm black offers numerous advantages, especially in the renovation of historic buildings. The invisible integration of the heat-

ing coils ensures that the aesthetic design of the interiors remains unimpaired. Installation was also minimally invasive, meaning as little as possible interfered with the historic substance of the building.

By manufacturing the heating elements in various sizes at aquatherm's headquarters in Attendorn, South Westphalia, it was possible to adapt the system precisely to the specific requirements of the Sleeping Beauty House.

Advantages of aquatherm black

aquatherm black is a versatile surface heating system that can be flexibly integrated into ceilings, walls, and floors, and can also be used for cooling. Its compact register design allows for easy installation in various building constructions, including drywall, plastered ceilings and walls, or suspended coffered ceilings. The surface temperature of the system can be set just a few degrees above or below the desired room temperature, enabling uniform heating or gentle cooling without draughts or the disturbance of dust.

Another advantage of aqua-

therm black is its compatibility with energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, such as pellet heating systems. This enables more resource-efficient operation than the use of gas or oil heating systems. In addition, the system offers a high degree of design freedom, as it remains invisible after installation and therefore does not entail any restrictions on interior design.

Result

The renovation of the Sleeping Beauty House shows how modern heating technologies such as aquatherm black can contribute to the preservation and modernisation of historic buildings. By combining protection of the building fabric and improved living comfort, aquatherm black represents a forward-looking solution for the renovation of existing buildings. "Thanks to aquatherm black, we were able to invisibly integrate a modern surface heating system into the ceiling, wall, and floor without changing the historic appearance of the building," explains Thilo Juhnke-Wild.

Aquatherm
www.aquatherm.de

Häfele launches new Lighting Configurator

HÄFELE UK has launched a new Lighting Configurator, to help customers save vital time with their room and furniture lighting designs.

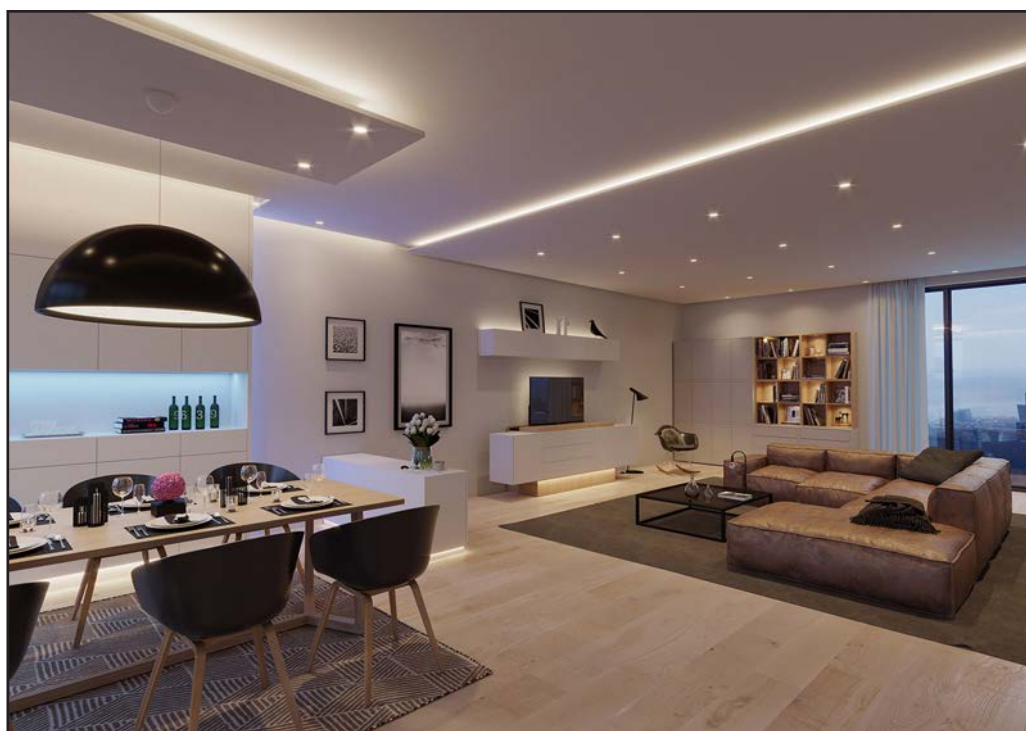
The configurator enables users to create bespoke lighting layouts for a variety of spaces, and the furniture within them, including kitchens, bedrooms, media walls and more.

After tailoring their strip and spot requirements in line with their project, users will receive a live quote for the materials and can order all the necessary products delivered assembled and tested, in as little as three days.

With products cut to exact requirements via Häfele's Service+ Customised facility, the configurator helps reduce waste and means users only pay for what they need.

Accessible via MyHäfele around the clock, and with the option to save a quote for a later date, the configurator also enables users to progress their project designs in line with their own schedule.

More lighting products are set



to be added to Häfele's Lighting Configurator in coming weeks to enable users to produce more comprehensive designs.

For those looking for support with more complex lighting queries, Häfele's Lighting Design Service remains on offer, with

the company's specialist lighting team producing a fully costed lighting specification and parts list on behalf of customers.

Becky Forrest, business integration manager for Häfele UK, said: "We're committed to staying one step ahead for our customers, by keeping their needs at the centre of everything we do, and always making the complicated simple. The Lighting Configurator is a perfect example of that."

"Customers can create beautiful lighting designs in line with their project requirements at a time that suits them, with complementary services — like cutting products to size — a standard part of the process to save them valuable time."

"This new tool, combined with our Lighting Design Service and other Service+ Customised and Planning facilities — like Bespoke Wooden Drawers, Customised Worktops and Bespoke Mirka Sanding Belts — means we're uniquely placed to support our customers with complete project solutions."

Häfele's Loox lighting products are all guaranteed by the Häfele Lifetime Guarantee for a period of seven years, providing assurances of quality.

Häfele's Lighting Configurator is available at MyHäfele.

Häfele UK
www.hafele.co.uk/en/

