

Specifiers Journal

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SUMMER 2023



THE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

Demand for brick cladding has surged in recent years as a sustainable way to create a traditional brick façade.

Read more on pages 22 & 23 ...

SUSTAINABILITY THE KEY DRIVER IN BRICK CLADDING'S BIG FUTURE
IN BRICK CLADDING'S BIG FUTURE
Huge investment and sustainable practices will see the brick cladding market head only one way, says Matt Harris, Business Development Director at respected Aquarian Cladding Systems.

FROM BRICKS TO SLIPS
BUILDING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

AQUARIAN CLADDING SYSTEMS



Reflex-Rol MAXI Systems

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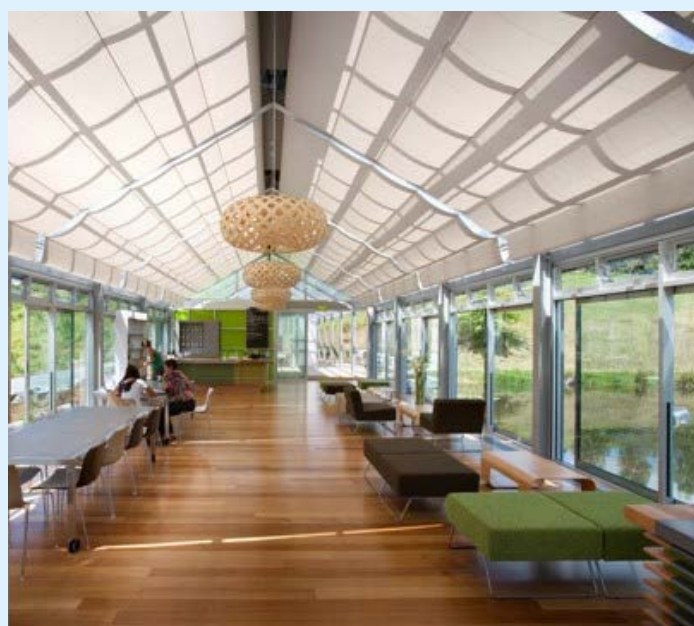
The Reflex-Rol MAXI solar shading system is ideally suited for buildings with overheating and glare issues such as: office environments, large glazed areas, hospitals, schools, private and public buildings. The clients we serve are architectural, interior design, construction planning, building management, health & safety professionals and residential. The principle which underpins our service policy is best professional practice. Best practice in solar control technology means supplying product and technical support of the highest standard and levels of professional competence.

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range of fabric textures and colours available. Horizontal, vertical, inclined, shaped, Reflex-Rol has a solution for any window. Available in a wide range of headbox sizes with a variety of side guides and bottom bars also available. Hardware available as standard in white or aluminium, or why not have it powder coated to a RAL colour of your choice? All blinds include an invisible opening headbox for rear ventilation on the window side. The headbox serves as a stop to limit the upper position of the blinds as well as protection when the blinds are not in use.

Mermet coated fibreglass fabrics are suitable for solar shading, sound control and the provision of tensile structures such as canopies, stretched ceilings and wall panels. Ideal for both internal and external use, Mermet fabrics are ideal for digital printing; meaning pictures, corporate logos and such can be printed onto the fabric before it made into the final product this could be a blind, stretched ceiling or anything else your imagination suggests. Mermet fabrics also meet BS476, Part 6, Class O fire rating making them particularly suitable for use in schools, hospitals or other public areas and buildings.

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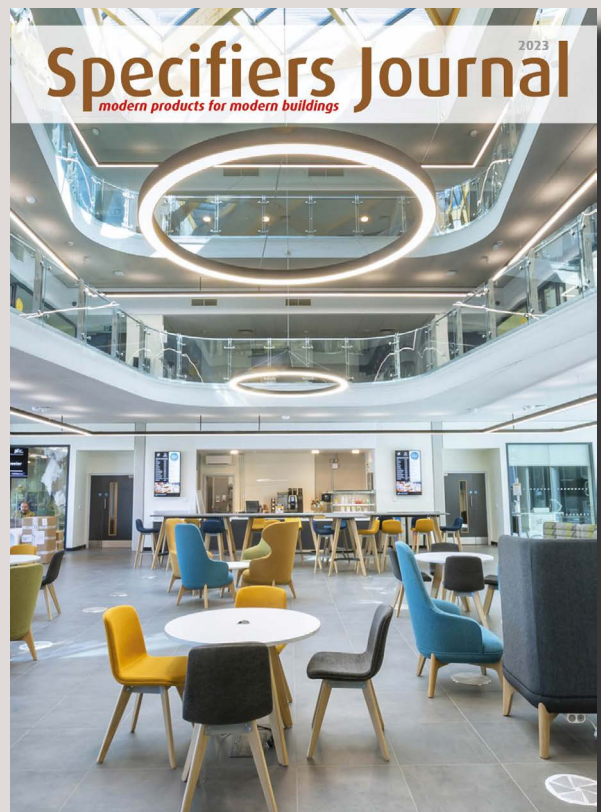
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coming soon...

Architecture & Building 2023

Showcasing a year in architecture, this publication shows a variety of building projects, both large and small, from all corners of the UK. All of the featured projects have detailed reports about the build and are supported by advertisers who were associated in some way with its completion.

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Architectural Ironmongery: Unlocking Consistent Finishes

Behind a combination of concepts, briefs and materials, architectural hardware can often tie design projects together, and it's all in the finish, explains Daniel May of Consort Architectural Hardware.

When it comes to door hardware, the details matter. Between levers, pull handles, locks and hinges, correctly specified hardware can elevate any space - enhancing aesthetics, accessibility and functionality.

Typical design projects can house tens – if not hundreds – of doors and their supplementary furniture, each playing a fundamental functional role while also having a significant impact on the overall feel and flow of the building. As such, design professionals are encouraged to put careful consideration into door furniture selection, ensuring they deliver reliable, eloquent solutions that meet user requirements.

While final design decisions may depend on project, preference and budget, it always pays to get your material scheme right the first-time round. From colour matching to durability, there are a number of key components to consider when choosing door hardware finishes, and so, with that in mind, what should design teams be on the lookout for?

The finishing touch

Aesthetically speaking, more often than not, a high-quality, consistent finish is more essential to a building's interior atmosphere than the design characteristics of the door furniture itself. Whether opting for a classic or contemporary feel, the right material scheme can completely invigorate a space while unifying a project's overarching design theme.

Today, there is an expanding catalogue of popular hardware finishes, each differing for a range of aesthetic and practical reasons. In recent years for example,



there has been an influx of dark-toned, contemporary surfaces, with matt black finishes in high demand. And while the popularity of matt black and even granite material schemes has risen recently, they may not always be suitable for certain settings and may soon be displaced by another leading style.



This revolving door of interior design trends and an ever-growing market of available finishes means the specification process is conceivably more complex than ever before. While juggling the latest styles, modern design teams must also be mindful of the disparity in quality between different suppliers, material grades and price points. At surface level, different manufacturers may offer the same styles and material schemes, but upon delivery, each may vary in colour shades, characteristics and overall consistency. Consequently, this can leave projects suffering from discord in their design, with end-users later requiring replacements or full redesigns to match their original plans.

Colour matching carries even more weight when meeting the needs of visually impaired users, for example. Under the Equality Act 2010, it's stated all new and refurbished public buildings must offer equal access to all users, ensuring safe entry and passage through a building regardless of disability, age or gender. Where only 5% of people that are blind can't see anything at all, most have limited colour vision and perception of light and shade, and for this, an adequate level of visual contrast between building surfaces and their surrounding areas is mandatory.

With this, design professionals must be conscious of Light Reflectance Values (LRV). LRV is understood as the universal scale used in architecture and interior design and is a way of measuring the amount of visible and usable light that is reflected from a surface when illuminated by a light source. In essence, it is important to assess the contrast between the door facings and ironmongery throughout specification, with standards recommending an LRV contrast of at least 30 points in order to comply with BS 8300-2:2018.



Consistent by design

The purpose of a consistent finish runs deeper than aesthetics alone. Together with its design benefits, a high-quality, durable material scheme can add value to a project by offering high wear and abrasion resistance, improving the overall usability of door furniture throughout a building's lifecycle.

Here, the specification of material schemes is often determined by project type and the location of the door itself. Stainless steel finishes for example, while offering clean aesthetics, are designed to add value in kitchen and bathroom spaces by offering naturally high resistance to moisture corrosion. On the other hand, stainless steel can often succumb to the harsh exposure of sunlight and as such, its use should generally be avoided in outside environments.



Similarly, a high-grade physical vapor deposition (PVD) coating is also naturally corrosion resistant, but in addition, it offers users an extremely scratch resistant surface – making it suitable for high traffic environments such as hospitals and schools. With this in mind, design professionals must seek the most applicable material scheme throughout their project, opting for higher

grades of materials where necessary. And where a single manufacturer may offer a continuous range of finishes of the same quality, the use of multiple suppliers can truly have the adverse effect.

Comparably, low-cost substitutes are unlikely to match the reliability that premium finishes can offer. Much like users expect the mechanisms of door hardware to last throughout a building's lifecycle, it is essential for material schemes stand the test of time too. Where 'natural living' finishes (such as unlacquered bronze and brass) are purposefully designed to react to the external

environment and develop over time with the building, low-quality finishes may begin to fade unintentionally. Protective coatings (such as PVD or lacquered finishes) are designed to retain their quality regardless of the environment in which they're installed. Even in high traffic areas, durable designs are more likely to retain their operational benefits over time, while also enduring decorative trends and leaving interiors intact for years to come.

Inherently, decision makers are urged to chase quality above trends and low-cost substitutes. Where door hardware finishes are concerned, durability and cohesion are key in offering longer-lasting benefits and design professionals must look to work closely with trusted manufacturers and supply chains to ensure their choices match expectations. Because, while styles change and trends come and go, the basis for a high quality, consistent finish lies within the manufacturing process. After all, the details are always in the design.



Consistent Hardware Finishes at Consort Architectural Hardware

For over 30 years, Consort has delivered highly engineered, quality ironmongery with a selection of specialist finishes. Consort stocks a varied selection of door furniture fittings and consistently designed finishes, with each available to find, select and specify via NBS product listings. Find out more: source.thenbs.com/manufacture/consort-architectural-hardware/sqEZJ1oeYGfNrJEmHVjPG/products

Sources

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

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<https://www.thenbs.com/PublicationIndex/documents/details?Pub=BSI&DocID=320547>

For more information, visit: www.consort-hw.com

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A guaranteed method reducing energy bills

Water conservation is the key to reducing energy bills. Heating water accounts for nearly 1/5th of energy use in UK homes.

Reducing hot water demand is an effective way to help occupants conserve energy and reduce bills. Some uses are fixed, e.g. the washing machine or dishwasher, here education about full loads and eco settings can have an impact. However, many are not.

Showers account for a quarter of UK domestic water usage. To reduce this hot water usage there are three options:

- Cold showers, not ideal on a cold winter morning
- Shorter showers, using egg timers or a 'favourite song' to cut shower time
- Flow reduction, less water is used while the shower is running.

The first two options require active engagement by all members of the household. The last is a fit and forget method of permanently reducing water use.

'Eco' or water saving shower heads are designed to restrict the water flow to a single outlet. They are highly effective but retrofits like these come at a price, especially larger properties with multiple bathrooms. They also do nothing for running taps, whether they're in the bathroom or kitchen.

A second 1/5th of water usage is the taps in the house, e.g. rinsing the coffee cup, or washing hands. Again, flow restrictors can be fitted to each of these outlets.

For households on an increasingly tight budget, or developers trying to minimise costs, multiple fittings for each tap or shower might not be an investment they are able to make.

Household flow restriction for just £20 per property.

The alternative is whole site flow reduction. Fitting a device such as Groundbreaker's NRv2 LoFlo, at the meter regulates the level of flow entering customer premises – regardless of network pressure. As the flow of water into the premises is limited, then the amount used in 'time controlled' activities is also limited – but without providing a degradation of service. More importantly not requiring any intervention or behavioural change on the part of the customer, so leading to 'natural' reduction in consumption.

Our water companies are regulated to provide a minimum level of water supply, but in many areas, due to network structure and gravity fed systems, supply is much greater. Households in high pressure areas could be receiving up to three times the required minimum levels. So, run a hose for five minutes at the bottom of the hill, and your lawn will be greener than the gardener that does the same at the top. 'Time controlled' uses could be reduced if all households received the same acceptable, 'standardised' supply.

Independent research carried out by WRc, showed a theoretical reduction of 2-4% of typical water usage when devices such as LoFlo are installed. However, recent field trials by a major UK water company have showing savings of 5%.

As part of UK Net Zero Carbon targets water companies have been targeted to reduce the water householders are using, Per Capita Consumption (PCC). PCC reduction

targets average just under 6% in the UK, so utilising property flow restriction could achieve just 1% off the average PPC reduction targets! However, water companies are also tied to customer performance commitment levels (C-Mex), and some seem to be concerned that a reduction in the supply levels to properties will prompt customer complaints, offsetting the financial rewards of achieving PCC targets.

Field trials of devices such as LoFlo, have shown that most customers are not aware of supply levels in their property, within certain limits. Especially when moving into a new property, customers accept the levels as 'being what it is' and fears of an increase in customer complaints impacting C-Mex values are overrated. In recent trials in England, where occupants did notice the change in supply, it was the positive impact of reduced flow that was cited, e.g. reduced splashing at the kitchen sink.

Not a single occupant wanted the LoFlo to be removed after the trial period.

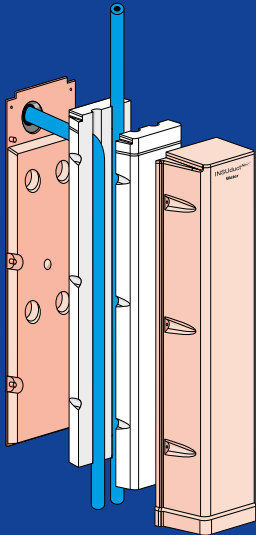
The NRv2 LoFlo can be easily and simply retrofitted to any meter installation, or meter exchange when upgrading or remediating underground meter chambers. Thus, allowing water demand management, with little or no impact on consumers, at the minimal cost of approximately £20 per household.

As the LoFlo is fitted at the water meter, it is the water companies fitting. Therefore, developers must be proactive in challenging water companies to provide a standardised supply to help UK housing stock to achieve water consumption targets.

For further information
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A weathered look without the wait: SiOO:X Wood Protection

All timber species will weather in time to a silver-grey colour, however, this process can take a number of years. Depending on a variety of factors, some areas will turn silver faster than others, with sheltered areas taking longer to weather. This differential weathering can be eliminated with the application of SiOO:X. This silicone based coating system gives the wood a consistent weathered appearance as it cures, which happens uniformly around a building, avoiding the potential issues of differential weathering rates on north/south facades. It also mitigates the potential for patchy effects, which overhangs and eaves, for example, can have on uncoated timber.



Russwood SILA Select® cladding factory coated in SiOO:X Light Grey, Gerry Robb Architectural Design



Russwood Scotlarch® cladding coated in SiOO:X Original, Randell Design Group

SiOO:X is a Swedish surface coating impregnation system which uses advanced silicate technology to provide a consistently weathered appearance to timber cladding at an accelerated rate. It is applied in two parts; Wood Protector, followed by Surface Protector.

Made from natural and non-toxic ingredients, SiOO:X repels moisture, forming a natural protective barrier to timber cladding. SiOO:X is available in 3 colours; Original, Mid Grey and Light Grey to suit a variety of aesthetics.

The full curing time of SiOO:X Original is around 2-3 years, however, results are noticeable after around 6-8 weeks. The most dramatic colour shift happens during the first six months, after which time the timber will already have developed a uniform silvered aesthetic. The end result is a façade with a consistently weathered, light grey driftwood appearance.

Whilst the curing effect of SiOO:X Original takes several months to develop, and 2-3 years to reach its final tone, SiOO:X Mid Grey and Light Grey versions give an immediate colour to the timber. The pigment additives in both versions work in harmony with the

SiOO:X system to deliver a long-lasting and uniform appearance. SiOO:X Mid Grey brings a soft, muted tone to the timber cladding; while SiOO:X Light Grey brings a pale, bright driftwood effect.

SiOO:X Mid Grey and Light Grey have been developed specifically for use with fine-sawn or Microtex® surfaces and, due to the mixing and application requirements of the pigmented products, are available as factory-applied coatings only.

In addition to the aesthetic benefits brought by SiOO:X, the coating system also forms a natural protective barrier to the cladding. The impregnation wood modification system works in the surface layers of the wood and cures to form a flexible silica network within the timber surface. The silica network fuses to the wood cells, reinforcing and toughening the timber surface while forming an effective barrier to invasive insects and decay fungi.

To enquire about SiOO:X for your next project, contact our sales team on **01540 673648** or visit **www.russwood.co.uk** to find out more.



Russwood SILA Select® cladding factory coated in SiOO:X Mid Grey, Fiddes Architects

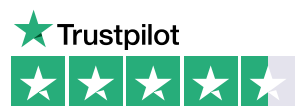


Russwood Scotlarch® cladding coated with SiOO:X Original, Rural Design Architects

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Aluminium – the perfect gate choice

Aluminium is one of the most eco-friendly metals available – it's sustainable and infinitely recyclable. It's also the perfect material for gates due to its strength and durability, as well as being light weight compared to other gate materials.

Aluminium gates are an increasingly popular choice when choosing a new gate, but with so many options available, how do you choose?

Like any type of gate, aluminium gate prices vary considerably depending on the options you choose.

Aluminium, as a raw material, is generally more expensive than steel but because aluminium has outstanding strength and durability, a gate made in aluminium will last far longer and it won't need any maintenance.

There are many types of aluminium gates available from bolted, bonded and screwed to fully welded gates, and in different profile thicknesses. A bolted gate will cost less than a fully welded gate because of the manufacturing process. A thicker profile means more aluminium therefore a higher price.

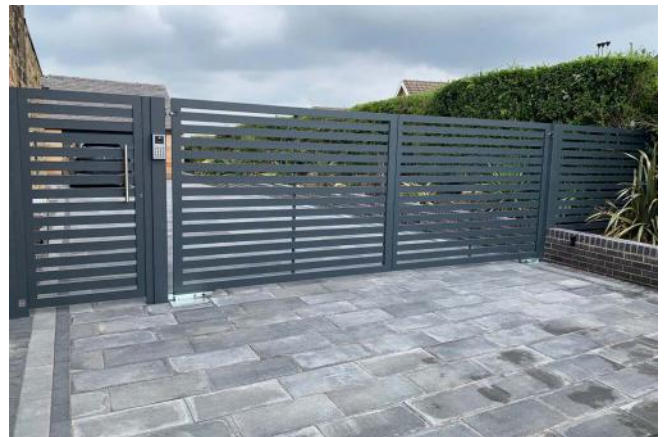
Alugate's Managing Director, Stewart Phillips, explains

'If you want an aluminium gate that will last a lifetime, a fully welded gate with a 3mm profile is the perfect choice offering superior strength and durability.'

At Alugate our welded aluminium gates use 3mm aluminium profiles so they're extremely strong, which means we can manufacture larger gates; up to a 10m opening on swing gates and 8m on a sliding gate.



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▶▶ Qualicoat powder coating

▶▶ choose any RAL colour, micro-texture, gloss, matt, super matt, three-dimensional or wood grain finish

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House with One Column, Faversham

Jonathan Burlow

'House with One Column' is situated in the conservation centre of Faversham, Kent. The project is composed of visually expressing the monolithic, new concrete structure supporting the existing property above. At the same time, certain transparency is given to the rear of the property to create uncertainty between what is interior and exterior space.

Our brief was to renovate and extend the existing kitchen on the ground floor to create a better connection to the garden. In the conceptualization stage of the extension, we experimented with the references of the local town Guildhall, being this bold structural gesture supporting the more private/permanent functional space above, while allowing an open, inviting connection to the void beneath. 'House with One Column' looks to engage with these same ideologies, by introducing a bold structural intervention signifying the support of the space above, yet at the same time defining the ground floor space beneath with a self-evident motif. The simple definitions of internal and external spaces become less obvious and fuse to allow the ground floor of the house to continue into the garden, and the garden to lead into the house – experimenting with the idea of blending the introverted court and extroverted garden, as part of a long tradition of domestic design.

'House with One Column' intended for a specific use, gave us the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the future direction of domestic design. The project explores a clear conceptual ideology, that structure = space = ornament. In doing so, the project aims to create a convincing balance between interior and exterior space.

Development Information

Architect: Jonathan Burlow
<https://jonathanburlow.co.uk>

Area: 156 m² **Year:** 2022

Photographs:

Lorenzo Zandri, Ståle Eriksen



UK House Lobby, London

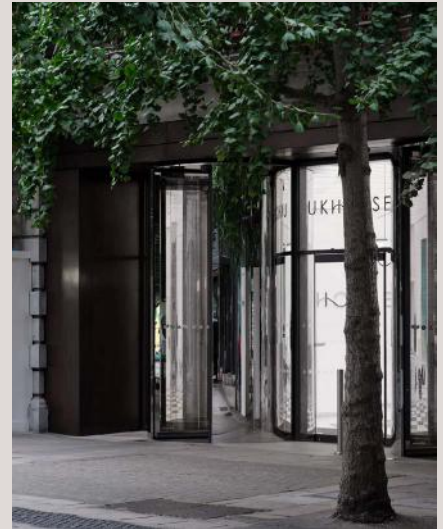
Christ & Gantenbein

UK House, a mixed-use building located at a prestigious West End address on Oxford Street, stands out as a landmark in the city centre. Built in 1906, the grade II listed building was adapted in the 1970s and became an office block. Two of its original facades remain, revealing a playful composition of baroque forms and Edwardian elements. By contrast, the other facades exhibit a modern style.

The Edwardian scale and grandeur of the historic facades set the building apart and speak of an age of British history when the highest global ambitions were manifest in the city's physical fabric. Christ & Gantenbein worked with this past to generate its vision of corporate architecture in the 21st century: bold, futuristic, open, communicative, yet steeped in history.

A Generous Sequence of Spaces. The lobby's entry features large windows clad in bronzed metal which blend in with existing retail facades on Oxford Street. Revolving doors in chromed stainless-steel establish a relationship with the mirrored columns inside. Installed on the right wall of the lobby, an artwork by Wolfgang Tillmans corresponds to the exterior and interior alike.

The space of arrival consists of a front desk and ancillary space for meetings and exchange, with an adjacent coffee point. The lobby walls formally reference the Baroque curves of the UK House facade, and its "apse"-like endings prevent abrupt confrontations. Polished chrome elements, such as circular columns or elevator doors, continue throughout. In an apparent historical reference, a combination of white and black stone forms chequered marble flooring. The suspended metal grill ceiling includes linear light that follows the area's primary spatial directives. Bespoke ceramic tiles cover the walls, richly textured, but subtle and neutral in colour, devising a robust backdrop to the dramatic forms of the new lobby.



Connected via new staircases and elevators, the unique blend of hyper-modern and historical elements continues below ground. Epoxy floors with a black and white pattern demark the cycle route and lead to the bike store. A changing lobby, the central space for tenants arriving on two wheels, is defined with circular accents. Adjacent facilities with showers and lockers provide functional, yet luxurious facilities.

An informal array of objects designed by Christ & Gantenbein is strategically placed throughout these areas. British Renaissance and Baroque architecture once again influenced their forms, shapes, and colours.

Corporate Architecture for the 21st Century. Christ & Gantenbein's lobby design for UK House in London responds to the increasing need for communicative and accessible corporate architecture. Addressing both tenants and a broader public, this highly visible and dynamic new space welcomes a multitude of users into a ground-breaking place of arrival, a first of its kind in London.

Working on their second project in London after the Swiss Church, the architects freely appropriated classical forms and symbols, designing a lobby that defines UK House's central hub and fulfilling a function crucial to urban life: allowing communication and interaction to unfold.



Development Information

Architect: Christ & Gantenbein
<https://christgantenbein.com>

Client: Flametree Properties Limited

Area: 1270 m²

Year: 2022

Design Team:

Emanuel Christ, Christoph Gantenbein;
Tabea Lachenmann, Loes Martens,
Alessandro Cairo, Edward Nicholson

Planning: tp bennett, Blue Sky Building,
Clarke Nicholls Marcel,
Steenen Varming / Boom, Licht Vision,
OFR, Hann Tucker, Cundall



Dockley Apartments, London

Studio Woodroffe Papa

Anglo-Dutch architecture practice, Studio Woodroffe Papa, and Bordeaux-based Poggi Architecture have completed a mixed-use scheme on Dockley Road in the London Borough of Southwark for developer Matching Green. With a distinct visual presence, the 111-unit residential scheme provides a European take on housing design for the capital and the rest of the UK.

Occupying a former industrial site, surrounded by housing estates and a railway viaduct, the scheme incorporates private, shared ownership and social housing tenures. A mixture of shops, restaurants, and cafes, along with artisan food producers and wholesalers are located at ground level and in the adjacent railway arch, which makes up part of the wider regeneration of the railway arches along Southwark's 'Low Line'.

In contrast to the boxy tower blocks typically found in mid-rise, high-density UK housing developments, Dockley Apartments has a strong visual presence that combines





undulating geometries of balconies with a stepped building form. The development ranges from four to nine stories, with varying heights responding to the site's surrounding context. Dark brick at ground level is combined with a steel rain-screen façade at the upper levels and gives a nod to the area's industrial heritage.

Comprised of a combination of 1, 2, and 3-bed units, all residents benefit from large, shaded balconies and naturally ventilated dual-aspect apartments. Drawing on European collective housing where significant design attention is given to communal space, the new development provides generous outdoor amenity space that delivers social impact and a sense of well-being for its residents. The residential units are arranged around a shared courtyard that includes dedicated children's play spaces. Residents access their homes from wide galleries that circulate and overlook the communal courtyard and extend onto roof terraces on the first, fourth, and fifth levels which have planting and benches.

With a national conversation on delivering high-quality housing becoming increasingly necessary, Dockley Apartments offers a timely intervention for the capital, acting as an exemplar for how to achieve collective living in urban housing schemes that emphasize community-building, well-being, and social value.



Development Information

Architect: Studio Woodroffe Papa
www.woodroffepapa.com

Client: Matching Green

Area: 10678 m²

Year: 2022

Project Architect:
Tristan Kelly, Frank Provoost

Architect:
Alina McConnochie, Charlie Palmer

Manufacturers:
Arcelor Mittal, Russell Timber,
Vibro Menard, van de Moortel

Lead Architects: Studio Woodroffe Papa
with Poggi Architecture

Structural Engineer:
Elliot Wood/ Terrell Group

M&E Consultant: Max Fordham/ RISE

QS: Equals Consulting

Landscape Consultant: TO Studio

Planning Consultant:
Temple Group/ Walker Management

Daylight Consultant: GIA

BREEAM Assessors: SCS

Ecology: Greenlink

Sustainability: AES

Transport Consultants: Steer

Main Contractor: Legendre UK

Director / Team Leader:
Jonathan Woodroffe

Director: Dominic Papa

Acoustic Consultant: Hann Tucker

Fire Consultant: JGA

Principal Designer: Vey Consulting

Archeology: AOC Archaeology Group

Approved Building Inspector:
Butler & Young

Photographs: Tim Crocker

Dark Matter Home Studio, Tring

Hyperspace

Hyper_ Studio has transformed an old suburban garage into a studio space that works in harmony with nature. Located in Hertfordshire, UK, this is no ordinary garden office and instead offers a tranquil and spacious environment to work in a focused yet flexible way alongside refined architectural forms.

The brief for the 35m² studio included the need for a design that complemented virtual working; with textured backgrounds and a variety of places to sit and work. The studio has a simple rectangular plan, with one corner cut away to form the entrance, and an extra wide pivoting door to create the feeling of a threshold; crossing over into a place to work. There are window stoops to work from or contemplate, and natural light pours in to create a connection with nature.





Aptly named 'Dark Matter', the studio's façade has a moody, tapestry-like quality with 850 scales made of charred timber, a Japanese process called Shou Sugi Ban which provides each square with a variety of subtle charred patterns, differing depending on the intensity of the heat used to treat the wood. The gaps between the chamfered scales are designed to foster biodiversity in the garden, acting as a giant "bug hotel" for insects to hibernate in.

The light and warm interior contrast with the black façade, with white oiled timber rafters and pale poplar plywood panels lining the walls. To create the feeling of bringing nature within, two 'light chimneys' hang from the roof with a perforated pattern that mimics the dappled sunlight that softly streams through a tree's canopy.



Creating a sustainable design was important to both the client and architect, with the brief to create a home studio with a minimal carbon footprint and supreme heat retention qualities. An impressive 95% of the initial structure is reused in the final design, including steel lintels, block work, and roof timbers, limiting the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

To reduce embodied carbon, the majority of materials were procured from within a 10-mile radius. Steel and concrete use was kept to a minimum, with only one steel flitch plate and less than 1m sq of concrete. Carefully dismantling the original timber roof structure allowed the reuse of 100% of the material, both in the new garden studio and another Hyper_ project, staying true to the circular economy principles the studio was founded on.



Development Information

Architect: Hyperspace
<https://www.hyper-space.uk>

Client: Private

Area: 35 m²

Year: 2022

Manufacturers: CNC Projects London, Exterior Solutions, Garnica Plywood

Structural Engineer: Constant Structural Design

Contractor: Richard Routley

Landscaper: Thomas Ellis

Joinery: Paul Crudge Furniture Design

Photographs: Simon Kennedy



SUSTAINABILITY THE KEY DRIVER IN BRICK CLADDING'S BIG FUTURE

Huge investment and sustainable practices will see the brick cladding market head only one way, says Julian Venus, Business Development Director at respected Aquarian Cladding Systems.

Julian Venus



A traditional brick façade has long been a popular choice for adding aesthetic appeal and durability to buildings and the demand for brick cladding has surged in recent years as a result.

Indeed, with several high-profile building projects opting for brick cladding over the last five years, the sector has made huge strides.

When I'm asked how I see the market for brick cladding in the future, I always say that a good barometer to the future growth of the sector, indeed any sector, is the level of investment and development that is being put into it.

And with some of the biggest brick manufacturers in the brick cladding industry showing their hand when it comes to brick slips and a shift towards sustainable innovation, the future certainly looks bright.

From Michelmersh announcing HyBrick™, the world's first 100% hydrogen-fired clay bricks to Wienerberger investing in a new, CO2-neutral production line for brick slips with an electric kiln at its brick slip factory in Kortemark, Belgium as part of its sustainability program, the drive towards sustainable façade solutions is gathering pace.

Recognising the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions in the construction sector, innovative brick manufacturers are looking at ways to decarbonise the manufacturing process as much as possible with traditional bricks as well as investing in new factories for brick slip production.

With architects, contractors and specifiers under pressure to reduce both build time and cost, brick cladding offers a cost-effective solution for achieving the look of authentic brickwork without the weight, speed and cost associated with full bricks.

The manufacturing process of traditional bricks involves high energy consumption and significant greenhouse gas emissions, primarily due to the firing process. Brick slips consist of thin sections of clay and when manufactured as such, reduce the raw material and energy usage by comparison to conventional bricks.

Some of the biggest brick manufacturers are investing in brick slip production and automated cutting and shaping technology to enhance the precision and efficiency of brick slip production.

UK clay brick manufacturer lbstock has made a £50m investment to create the UK's first automated brick slips factory at Nostell in West Yorkshire, with a planned capacity of producing annual volumes of up to 60 million slips, while Forterra has invested £12 million in the manufacture of clay brick slips at its Accrington factory to capitalise on the growing market demand for brick slips, with a production capacity of up to 48 million brick slips per year.

As a Modern Method of Construction (MMC), brick slips enable a faster construction process, allowing for the creation of wind and water-tight buildings, with an authentic brick façade, earlier in the build program, while also offering the same long-term durability associated with standard bricks. However simply making brick slips is only part of the process, the key to success is aligning the slips with the correct cladding system, based upon the project requirements.

But it's the emphasis on sustainability and decarbonisation that is currently driving the brick cladding market as the demand for eco-friendly and aesthetically appealing construction solutions continues to rise.

With the likes of lbstock, the biggest brick manufacturer in UK, investing £50m in building a slip factory, rather than a brick factory, it's easy to see where the brick slip market is going – and with an annual volume of approximately 120 million slips in the UK and rising, it shows no signs of slowing down.

Aquarian Cladding Systems is one of the UK's leading suppliers of brick cladding systems and a key distributor of Gebrik, MechSlip and NaturAL-X with all three products on NBS Source. 0808 223 9080, info@aquariancladding.co.uk.



FROM BRICKS TO SLIPS

BUILDING BEYOND BOUNDARIES



Reduce the cost and build time of brickwork on your project without compromising the design or aesthetic?

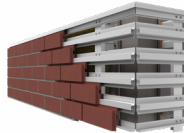
Brick slips provide the perfect blend of tradition and innovation, offering an authentic brick appearance as well as the long-term durability associated with conventional bricks. When slips are incorporated into brick cladding systems, depending on the system, there can be many benefits:

- **Faster and cheaper** construction process by simplifying the installation process
- **Exceptional durability** and weather resistance for a long-lasting façade
- **Endless creative design** capabilities that turn ordinary spaces into masterpieces
- **A greener future** thanks to a reduction in energy usage in the manufacturing process



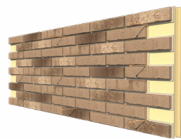
MechSlip

An A1-rated solution with durable and lightweight brick 'slips' which are mechanically fixed to any substrate, via an engineered aluminium support rail system, and available in a wide range of brick finishes.



NaturAL-X

An A1-rated mechanically-fixed brick slip cladding system which can achieve a through-coloured brick façade and is available in a limited range of colours and textures.



Gebrik

A B-rated panelised, insulating brick slip cladding system, which is fixed directly to either masonry, timber or steel frame substrates for buildings under 11m.



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Drawing on nearly 50 years of experience in the timber and wood finishing industry, Treatex was formed in 2003 to supply high quality and Natural oil-based finishes throughout the UK and overseas.

During the last 19 years we have followed a clear strategy – to develop a range of high quality products that are easy to use and deliver the results our customers expect.

This is achieved by working with highly skilled chemists that are able to turn our ideas into reality. This ensures that not only are Treatex products amongst some of the best but also meet today's exacting standards in relation to environmental legislation.

Treatex produces four clearly defined product ranges, all of which are environmentally sensitive, contain no biocides, preservatives or carcinogens and are some of the most durable products on the market today. Our company motto is "we keep things simple", so an individual product can have multiple uses. Of course, no company survives by standing still and we at Treatex are no different. We continually look at ways to improve the versatility and performance of our products as well as listen to our customers' needs, developing bespoke products when required.

Our biggest selling range is the Treatex Hardwax Oil Ultra and Treatex Colour Tone Ultra range. Treatex Colour Tones range from Natural (which keeps light looking timbers unfinished), through to Dark Oak and Ebony. Whilst most of our colours are traditional in nature, we also provide contemporary hues such as Spruce, Pebble Grey and Slate. These fast-drying stains are easy to use and are designed to not leave overlap marks during and after application.



The Treatex Hardwax Oil ultra range is based on three different waxes and can be applied using a brush or a roller. What sets Treatex Hardwax Oil apart from others is the volume of wax, which gives a fantastic surface and fast curing, making the surface resistant to liquid within 24 hours. Treatex Hard wax oil ultra is fully certified for use with food, children's toys and slip resistance and can be applied by buffing, brushing, rolling or on a finishing line.

Our dedicated maintenance products are all based on the same oils and waxes as Treatex Hardwax Oil and include Treatex Floor Care and Wax Polish.

The 21 colours in the Treatex Classic Colour Collection are designed to work for all types of projects. They can be used externally and internally and will not flake, peel or blister. Sea Mist, Stygian and Admiralty grey are especially Popular. Classic Colours are easy to apply: simply brush two coats on. A primer or base coat is not required.

For a stained appearance on external timbers, Treatex Exterior Oils offer excellent UV resistance and durability. To help maintain colour themes on projects, many of the shades in the Treatex Colour Tone range have been replicated in the Exterior Oil range. Bay, Sheer (a near clear UV protective finish) and Smokey Black are particular favourites.

Some timbers can present their own unique challenges that can cause problems when it comes to applying a finish. For these timbers, we have engineered specialist products to suit, such as; Cedar Oil, Larch oil, Bangkirai Oil, Douglas Fir Protection, Teak Protection and External Oak. Providing our application instructions are followed, neither the exterior oils or specialist finishes will flake peel or blister.

Of course, it takes more than good products to make a company. All of the Treatex staff are highly experienced with using our products and have an in-depth knowledge that they are happy to share with customers. To back everything up, the Treatex website is responsive and easy to navigate. On it, not only will you find helpful information but also copies of our various certificates (fire and slip resistance tests) and videos showing how to use Treatex products. We also have an online shop where our products and sample can be purchased for delivery straight to your home.

For more information, visit www.treatex.co.uk






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samples available
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Leading Window Manufacturer and installer Kingfisher Windows has gained PAS2030 certification

Leading UK-based manufacturer Kingfisher Windows has been awarded a government-endorsed registration and certification, to help improve the energy-efficiency of homes across the UK.

The Leeds-based manufacturer, which is one of the leading installers of windows, doors and conservatories in the North of England has been awarded PAS2030 and Trustmark registration through scheme provider Simply Certification.

PAS2030 is the recognised certification standard for the retrofit of energy-efficient installations and Trustmark is the only government-endorsed quality scheme that offers consumers the highest levels of protection when having work carried out on their home.

Both schemes require robust assessments across the installation process, with ongoing surveillance to ensure that standards are being maintained.

The certification demonstrates that an organisation's procedures, standards and competencies are robust and installations are compliant with government guidelines.

Installations must also be considered within a 'whole house' approach, meaning they are installed taking into consideration any other energy efficiency measures- in order to improve the overall rating of the entire property.

Kingfisher can now operate under several funding schemes that have been put in place so that homes can be being upgraded to energy efficiency rating of C or above in the run up to the 2050 net zero deadline.

Deborah Beeley from Kingfisher Sales and Marketing Manager said: *"This certification is fantastic. Not only does it mean that any new team member will be trained and taught in line with our rigorous training programme, but it ensures that we are doing our bit to help create healthier homes in the run up to 2050. It's great for the end user, it's fantastic for our people and for the future of our business."*

Alex Gates, Simply Certification's MD said: *"Gaining PAS 2030 certification alongside TrustMark registration showcases that Kingfisher not only install to a high quality, but also to standard that ensures that several energy efficiency measures have been considered together and are installed as part of a wider 'retrofit design'. This helps drive down energy use, creates a healthier home and reduces the costs associated with fuel charges."*



Kingfisher

Windows



We can help you every step of the way

We're on hand from the moment you contact us and will answer any queries you may have regarding your installation. Once the work is complete our team of experienced engineers will ensure that your installation remains in exceptional condition at all times. It's no wonder that even after more than 30-years, personal recommendations are still our biggest source of new business.

Here at Kingfisher Windows in Bradford, we offer more than just double glazing. We offer a way of completely transforming your home in style and performance. Our uPVC windows, uPVC doors and conservatories are of the highest standard and precision engineered for performance and beauty.



Why Choose Us?

Every installation offers quality and style in equal measure. We work with industry leading manufacturers, creating innovative and cost effective double glazing for properties in Bradford, Leeds, Halifax, Doncaster, Barnsley, Castleford and across Yorkshire.

Our extensive nationwide experience allows us to quickly and efficiently accommodate a wide range of commercial projects. We are also proud of our trade service that excels in all areas.

We won't let you down so you won't have to let your customers down. Our service is built on professionalism, reliability and respect.





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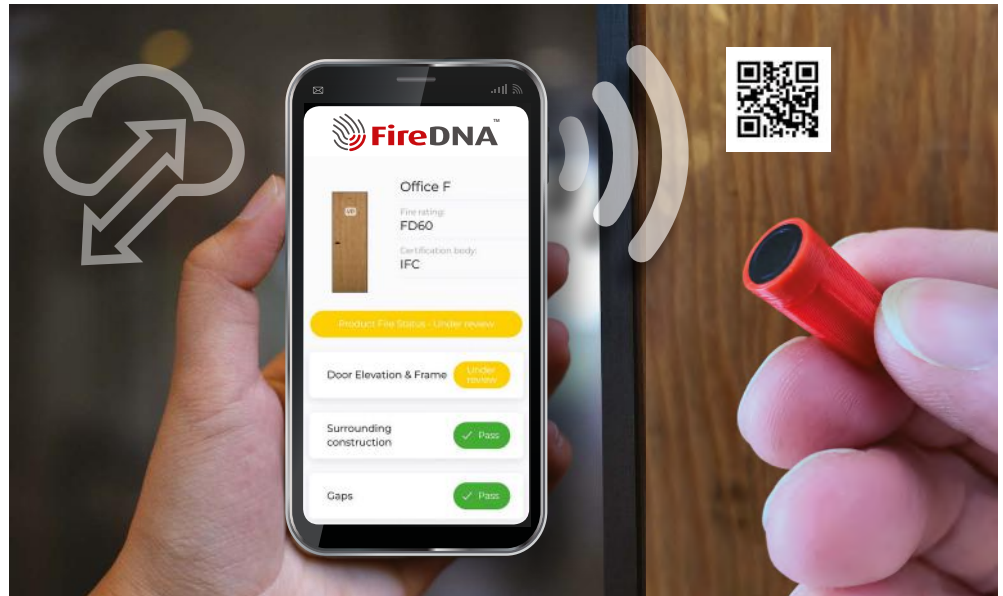
uk ■ Website: thermoguard.co.uk

With the new Fire Safety Regulations having been in force for several months now, Architects, Specifiers, Manufacturers, Contractors, Fire Inspectors and Building Owners, see the real benefit in using FireDNA



FireDNA™
Monitoring Passive Fire Products

FireDNA delivers, clear, accurate, accessible, unambiguous, up-to-date digital information.



Post Grenfell, we saw an opportunity to introduce a new and innovative way of Monitoring Passive Fire Products in the built environment using the latest digital technologies.

FireDNA is 'award winning' cloud-based Software and a Mobile App that has been developed for everyone involved in Passive Fire Product Specification, Manufacture, Installation, Inspection, Management and Maintenance. As well as for those that live and work within environments where Passive Fire Products are installed and are now required, under new legislation, to be digitally logged and monitored.

FireDNA delivers that digital 'Golden Thread' for all Passive Fire Products in the built environment from Fire Doors, Panels and Partitioning (including all intumescent seals, glazing and ironmongery), through to Fire Cables, Dampers and Ductwork.

FireDNA software catalogues Manufacturers product data, digitally shares it with Contractors and Installers, who in turn add their installation data, passing that onto Building Owners, Facilities Management Teams and Tenant Management Organisations. That data can then be used by Building Control, Maintenance Teams, Fire Inspectors and viewed by Tenants and Residents alike, with a simple swipe of a mobile device.

FireDNA digitally links everyone in the chain of responsibility and creates a 'Golden Thread' of information across the full product lifecycle from cradle to grave.

There are many benefits in using FireDNA which has been designed and developed to allow:

Architects & Specifiers: To specify 'digitally enabled' passive fire products using NBS Chorus. By searching NBS Source for 'Data Communication Products' with two new clauses; 'Data Tags' and 'Digitally Enabled Data Tags' Architects and Specifiers can add the FireDNA Monitoring System to the specified product, which initiates the 'Golden Thread' of information. This can then be passed along the chain of responsibility. This helps to ensure that Architects and Specifiers passive fire product specifications are enforced from inception to installation and sign-off.

Manufacturers: To centrally deliver their certificates, production data, specification PDFs, installation guidance and 3rd party certification to Main and Sub-Contractors.

Contractors & Installers: Add installation statements, compliance / competency evidence and installation photos, which once inspected and approved, can be digitally signed-off, and handed over to their customers.

Fire Inspectors: Conduct Audits and Inspections quickly and efficiently, which automatically output to detailed MS Word Doc Reports and Excel Spreadsheets. Again with photographs and detailed descriptions of passes, failures, or required remedial works.

Building Owners, Management Teams, FM's and TMO's: Manage the compliance data and ongoing maintenance and remedial records, updates, and through their Dashboard can also assign onsite inspection or maintenance teams.

Maintenance Teams: Access work schedules and update the 'live status' data once remedial works are completed.

FireDNA helps to protect the public across all sectors: Residential, Commercial, Education, Healthcare, Retail and Government, giving peace-of-mind to Tenants and Residents that the passive fire products in their buildings are compliant and safe.

In addition FireDNA:

- Facilitates the Golden Thread of information
- Helps to enforce compliance 'Regulation 38', and supports the new British Standard for 'Digital Management of Fire Safety Information' under BS 8644-1 2022
- Supports quarterly inspections of communal doors in residential buildings over 11m as legislated by Regulation 10
- Improves collaboration and communication between trades
- Creates time and cost savings (up to 70% on Fire Door Inspection & Reporting)
- Enables accurate auditing and reporting
- Builds an accessible 'digital' O&M Manual
- Delivers critical data at the time of need on-site with or without WiFi or network connection
- Helps to reduce risk and liability, data easily shared with Insurers and other stakeholders

To find out more about how FireDNA can assist you, or for more information about our products and services, or to book a demo visit: www.fire-dna.com or call our team on 01403 597590.



Monitoring Passive Fire Products

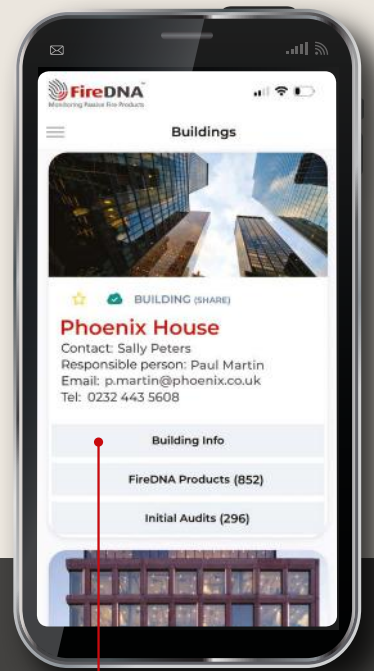
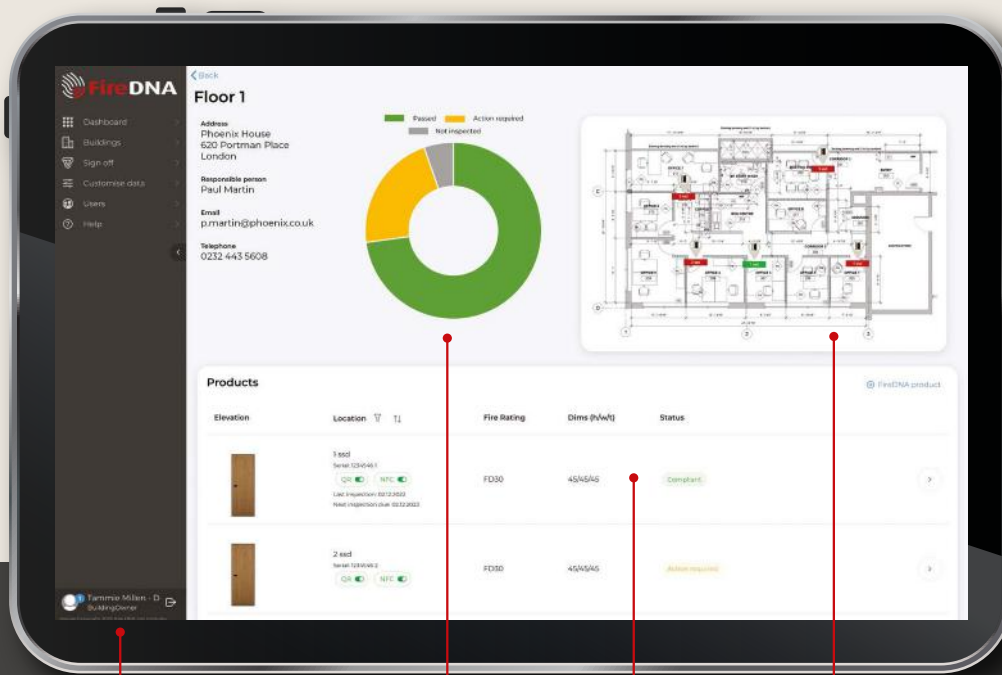


The market leading solution for specifying and digitally managing Fire Door Compliance inline with Regulation 10.



Why not try it out for yourself. Scan the QR Code on the Fire Door Label opposite.

Alternatively contact one of our team to book a full software demo to see how FireDNA can work for you.



FIRE-DNA DASHBOARD

Showing navigation menu, user profile login status and message notifications

COMPLIANCE STATUS

The system generates a colour coded 'at-a-glance' compliance status overview graphic which also outputs to the Building Status Report

PRODUCT AREA

Indicating the elevation type, door location, QR / Tag activation, fire rating, door dimensions and overall 'live' status

FLOORPLAN UPLOAD

Floorplans can be uploaded in jpeg, png or PDF format, onto which products can be 'dragged and dropped' identifying exact locations and current status

BUILDING INFO SUMMARY

The system automatically summarises how many products have been logged as 'completed' along with the number of initial product audits that have been undertaken

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Seal It With Confidence

ONE COAT ROOF SEAL SYSTEM - 100% WATERPROOF HYBRID BARRIER FOR ROOFS!

With unseasonal downpours currently being experienced on a weekly basis, this is a season where integrity issues associated with roofing installations, repairs and maintenance are proving a challenge to say the least.

Over the past 12 months, the roofing and construction industry has had to adapt, and traditional ways of working have continued to be challenged across the roofing sector due to raw material shortages, labour cuts and working conditions.

The specification of any roofing installation, whether new or refurb, must address the repairs required, compatibility of new waterproofing system with existing substrate and load capabilities. Producing a system that best fits the brief in terms of buildability and performance as well as visually looking appealing can be complex. As roofing products technology improve there is the opportunity to not necessarily replace like-for-like but instead upgrade to improve the installation, and this does not have to come at an extortionate cost.

The cold applied liquid membrane market has been steadily growing over the years. Although not new technology, the benefits to both user and customer have seen an increased demand for this type of product. Benefits and advantages of specifying and installing lightweight, flexible systems for commercial and domestic markets provide a straightforward solution, a product that can be managed by installers without risk; as opposed to having to use traditional lead based, torch-on or hot melt products that come with substantial health and safety issues.

Weather changes also affect waterproofing systems: when it is hot some membranes can set too quickly through water evaporation, leading to holes and voids. Likewise, when it is cold, (below 5°C), curing times can be significantly affected, and not cure at all, leaving it soft on the inside and thereby not adhering to the substrate. And in freezing conditions ice crystals

can destroy the structure – all leading to roofing failures. This makes it difficult for contractors to install waterproofing systems in extreme weather conditions and until recently, it was generally the norm that roofing systems couldn't be laid for at least 24 hours after rain, or where high levels of humidity or freezing conditions were experienced.

The new generation hybrid liquid membranes however have been developed to combat these problems. Not only can they be applied at below freezing

when well-maintained and treated with appropriate care.

There are many things to consider when choosing the right product but with Bond It's Seal It One Coat Roof Membrane waterproofing situations are made easy and comes with added benefits!

Seal It Liquid Membrane is a one coat roof sealer, applied by spray, brush or roller, offering an alternative to traditional GRP, PU, silicone and bitumen roof coatings. Highly reflective, solvent-free, and non-flammable, it

is designed to be used on its own as a one coat membrane or can, in more demanding situations, be used in conjunction with a primer, accelerator, reinforcement mat and edging sealer. Altogether the system delivers a high performance, watertight, permanently flexible, durable barrier coating for all existing roof substrates, and requires no special training to apply.



There are many things to consider when choosing the right product but with Bond It's Seal It One Coat Roof Membrane waterproofing situations are made easy and comes with added benefits!



With primerless adhesion to many substrates including metal, wood, brick, polyester, glass, lead, bitumen (when used with a primer), tile, plastics, polycarbonate, and concrete. It is cold applied and ideal for repairing flat roofs, pitch roofs (less than 10°), leaking flashing, guttering and roof lights and cracked roofing panels, corrugated or plate roofing materials, zinc, steel, fibre-cement and façade panels creating an impermeable seal to repel water damage and provide resistance to degradation from natural weathering like rain,

snow and sunlight.

temperatures (when used with a catalyst or accelerator) they can also be installed on to wet surfaces or whilst it is raining. They also boast rapid curing times, a huge benefit when refurbing occupied premises where time on-site can be limited. This also helps reduce labour costs.

Not only do these systems deliver a visual enhancement of the roof they offer all the expected performance characteristics required for waterproofing flat roofs: ease of application, improved temperature resistance and stability as well as substantial health benefits and long-term durability and extended lifespan,

Based on advanced hybrid technology, developed in the UK by Bond It's chemists, this product remains permanently flexible once cured and will not harden or soften even under extremes of weather, temperature, UV radiation and external chemical attack. Excellent resistance to ageing, ultra-violet and discolouration. Under test conditions, Seal It Liquid Membrane was shown to have superb cool roof thermal properties, and is now a CRRC rated product and is more efficient than solar reflective paint, all helping to reduce energy costs. Available in grey and black, 5L and 20L tins.

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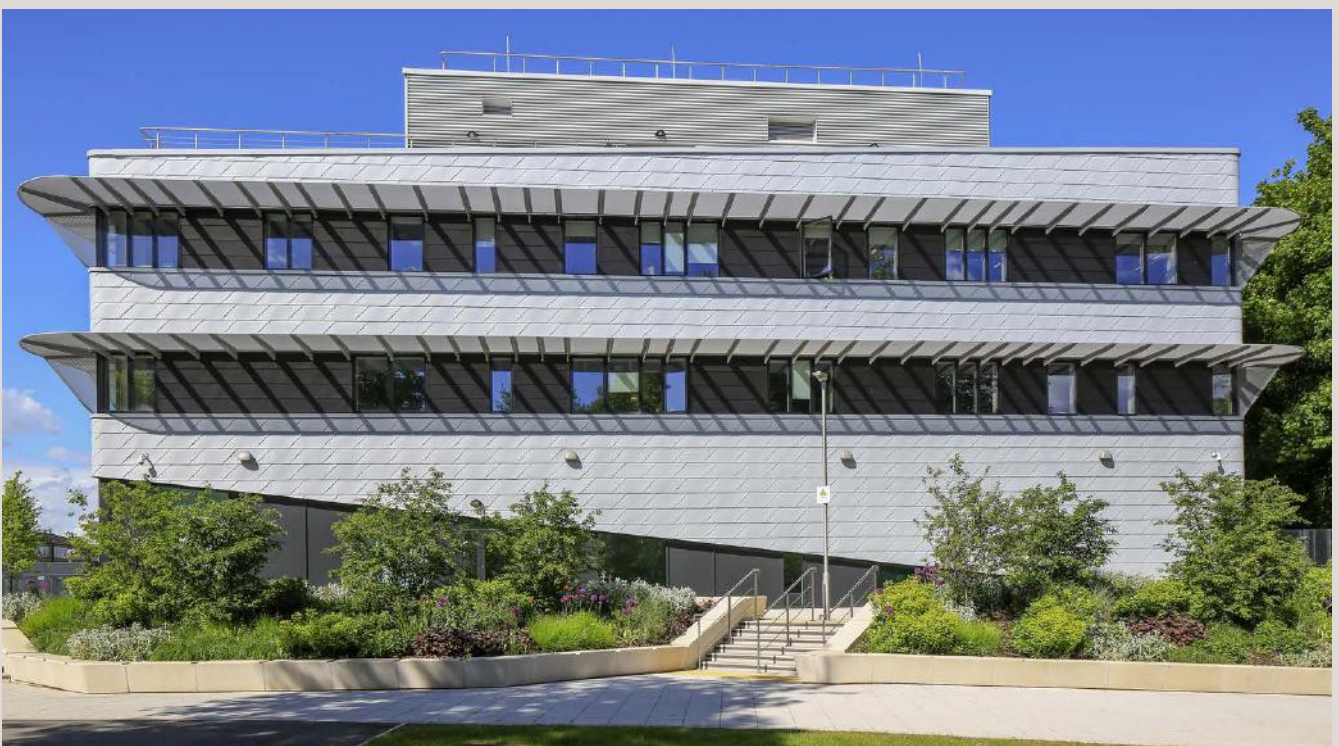
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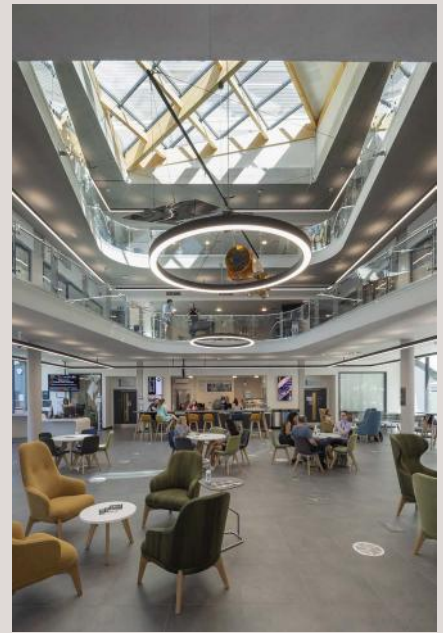
Sole distributor of Geo-Fix® in the UK and Ireland.

Space Park Leicester Centre

Shepherd Epstein Hunter

Space Park Leicester is designed as a robust, sustainable, and practical facility which can manage change and adaptation over a long life to suit changes in the requirements of the users, but is also intended to be a beautiful, attractive place that equally welcomes research specialists and schoolchildren, and manages to convey 'something about space' through its use of functional forms and long-lasting, recyclable materials.





The building is arranged as four and five-story pavilions that provide teaching, laboratory, office, and collaboration space around a central atrium, encouraging interaction between disciplines and outreach with the local community and schools; and a two-story technical wing (capable of upward extension) which provides specialist laboratories, workshops, and clean rooms, delivering the METEOR (Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology, and Earth Observation Research) program. The buildings hug the curving eastern boundary like a serpent on the plan, sitting close to parkland and mature tree canopies, and furthest from the adjacent low-rise housing to the west which is of a different scale.





The project is an example of design excellence and imaginative and regenerative use of publicly owned brownfield land which promotes economic growth in association with neighboring development. It creates Space Park Leicester as an independent research institute, synergetic with the nearby National Space Centre, and aligned with the UK's National Space Strategy's four objectives: unlocking growth in the UK space sector; collaborating internationally with partners and allies; growing the UK as a science and technology superpower and developing resilient space capabilities and services.

Space Park Leicester has transformed a long-disused contaminated brownfield site in a flood-risk zone at the end of a cul-de-sac into a generator of social, economic, and environmental improvement. The site, formerly used for a landfill, was capped and raised to 400mm above the 1:1000-year flood level and 700mm above the 1:100-year (+50% climate change allowance) flood level. The site was overgrown after disuse twenty years ago and adopted by badgers and so the rectangular perimeter on which initial designs were based was reduced by 25% during early design stages to allow their retention.



Professor Martin Barstow from the University of Leicester has said: 'We have an amazing building. It has really delivered everything we wanted in terms of the quality of the environment and the variety of meeting/interaction spaces and laboratory facilities. The beautiful atrium creates a focal point for the occupants of the building and a welcoming landing space for visitors. The facility allows us to host industry partners side-by-side with academic researchers and creates a new model for collaboration. We believe we have created something unique in the world and a number of international visitors have confirmed this in their enthusiastic and positive comments.'



Development Information

Architect: Shephard Epstein Hunter
www.seh.co.uk

Client: Space Park Leicester Centre

Area: 10700 m²

Year: 2022

Manufacturers: Kingspan Insulated Panels, Air Tightness Solutions, Airedale Group, Architectural Profiles, Avonside, Bespoke Building and Joinery Projects, Boon Edam, C2C, Dolphin, EOS, Evans Concrete, Framedek, Howdens, IKO Polymeric, Komfort, MB Glass, MPB Concrete, MR Industrial, Manson Timber Engineering, Monowa, +6

Project Management:
Bidwells, Pulse Consult, Concept PM

Landscape: Ares Landscape Architects

Acoustic Engineering: Sweco

Design, Direction, Development and Delivery:
Steven Pidwill, Patricia Martin del Guayo

Design And Specification Support:
Ruth Nelson, Alvaro Santos, Sarah Kidd

Construction Stage Detailed Support:
Ana Carp, Seetal Mistry, Tzeh Bin Cheong, Celia Hsin

Cost Consultancy: Gleeds

Phase One M&E Design: Tetra Tech

Phase Two M&E Design: CPW

Construction Stage Mechanical Services Detailed Design:
Anderson Green

Cladding External Wall:
Norman & Underwood

Breeam Facilitator: Stroma

Constructions: Bowmer + Kirkland

Structural And Civil Engineers:
Tetra Tech

Building Control: Socotech

Fire Engineering: Sweco

Photographs: Paul Kozlowski, Ben Clarkson | Bowmer+Kirkland, Martine Hamilton Knight

ARC Painswick, Gloucestershire

Parti

Parti have sensitively transformed a series of Grade II Listed medieval gabled houses in Gloucestershire to become ARC Painswick – the latest in a series of refurbishments of historic properties by the practice for architecturally-focused hospitality business ARC.

ARC was launched in 2021 as a new tourism concept, sensitively refurbishing and adapting historic properties to enable large groups – whether families or groups of friends or colleagues – to plan affordable, luxury escapes in the UK. The ARC concept reimagines the English country house, designing it to be accessible and with a strong focus on low-carbon holidaymaking. Since its launch during the pandemic, ARC has grown exponentially, with Parti leading the refurbishment of an 18th century manor house in Cornwall (ARC

Padstow) and a rural Victorian former mill building in the Peak District National Park.

Parti and ARC are entrepreneurs, designers, and co-founders of both businesses. This unique partnership as both architect and client means that budget and delivery are just as crucial as the architectural design and longevity of the building.

The core design strategy was to dramatically reorder the building to create large gathering spaces and reinstate two courtyards, allowing at least two frontages of every space to receive sunlight. The house had been a rundown BnB - a rabbit warren of rooms which obscured the historic fabric, with little glazing and natural light – but ARC Painswick feels flexible, open, and celebratory of the beautiful medieval building.





A low-waste mindset was at the heart of the restoration. Any fabric in good condition, even non-historic, was preserved and integrated into Parti's design language. Old was not just exchanged for new, but patch repairs were used throughout. Wall textures were left bare and varied, and doorcases remain all different and misaligned – as features, not faults. Wherever possible, existing furniture was refurbished, and other pieces were purchased second-hand and restored. A 6m-long showpiece dining tabletop was made from discarded wood planks, and its legs and chairs were designed to match its unique appearance. This prevented further release of stored carbon. Where nothing could be saved, a carbon-considerate light-touch ensured that steels were deliberately avoided throughout.



To complete the transition from oil and gas, an electric stove has been specified for the kitchen, while an air-source heat pump replaces gas heating for the outdoor swimming pool. Inside the main house, the new heating boiler system is now zoneable, eliminating energy expenditure where it is not needed.

A new kitchen extension fronts one side of the central courtyard. Its glazed doors frame newly exposed stone façades that shelter an intimate space for outdoor gatherings. Internally, the extension acts as a missing link that converts a linear enfilade plan





to multidirectional circulation. New stone paving, true to the medieval fabric, is continuous on the ground floor throughout the different buildings. This simplifies access for guests, making ARC Painswick feel social and transparent, while a sense of calm is felt throughout the house. For privacy, previously sealed stairways have been reopened as private circulation leading to large suites above where each bedroom has its own fully refurbished, or newly apportioned, ensuite or private bathroom. The rooms also feature High-spec built-in cabinetry, timber-lined nooks, room-specific sills, and wooden seating.

Everywhere, the irregularities that come with five centuries' use are highlighted, not hidden. They provide a cohesive character for a project that juxtaposes and merges old and new. Soft limestone walls and delicate original ceiling beams and rafters are elegantly contrasted by simple white plaster. Museum spotlights place appreciative attention on the constant presence of heritage.

Parti have also had fun with the architectural language of heritage. The roof of the new extension is curved, as if aged and bowing inward, weighing on the profile of the beams. Exterior features are repurposed as interior elements and on one end, a small stone opening provides light for a private stairwell to the suites. New materials and finishes are derived





from the historic fabric: a palette of pale oak and speckled limestone has been specified for structural members, fixtures, and furniture. Parti designed bespoke ‘triple’ oak seating, storage, and headboards inspired by the interlocking planed curves of medieval banqueting chairs. The pieces’ finger-jointed panels produce a contemporary, sleek appearance that complements the historic surrounds.

ARC Painswick renews life for a most significant frontage in the town – even mentioned in Pevsner’s Guide. The street-facing bay windows are filled with a changing show of vibrant artwork for everyone to enjoy, curated by a young collective, the Artist Contemporary. To invite the community in to explore, a free drinks and BBQ night was organised and many more events will follow as ARC and Parti seek ways to renew built heritage for everyone to enjoy.

This bold new form of hospitality has resulted in the creation of a new typology. The change in programme from a BnB to ARC Painswick has led to more efficient running of the premises, which is only activated immediately before and during guests’ stays. A co-designed digital platform for brand-integrated experiences called ARC Lobby. The Lobby is possible due to ARC’s relationships with community restaurants, cafes, cellars, and grocers, offering existing businesses a collaborative alternative revenue stream. The Lobby streamlines large-scale transactions, allowing 26 (or more) guests to simultaneously chat, plan, and order what they need, when they need it – easy for them, and worthwhile for the supplier.

Eleanor Hill, founding director at Parti said, “To preserve and protect this beautiful and historic building for many decades to come is a deeply

important task for us. We all share a desire to celebrate these historic sites, repurposing materials, creating spaces, and encouraging togetherness among groups that may otherwise struggle to find high quality yet affordable rural holiday accommodation.”

Development Information

Architect: Parti

<https://parti.global>

Client: Architecture Retreats Ltd

Year: 2022

Manufacturers:

Miele, King Construction, VMZINC

Main Contractor:

King Builders Gloucester

Services Engineer:

Withycombe Design Services

Planning Consultant:

Brodie Planning Associates

Other Consultants: Simple WorksS

Photographs: Parti



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Example of current prices dependent upon size, sleeve length and quantity.

??? = Sleeve Length

Sleeve Length mm	100	110	160	180	220	220+
MIRFSD-110/54/???	£ 7.75	£ 8.00	£ 8.50	£ 8.75	£ 9.50	POA
MIRFSD-204/60/???	£ 8.46	£ 8.65	£ 9.15	£ 9.85	£ 11.45	POA
MIRFSD-220/90/???			£ 10.85	£ 12.70	£ 14.75	POA

A tube of **Firesure[®]** 4 hour rated intumescent mastic is supplied free of charge with every 10 number **Firesure[®]** 204x60 metal rectangular fire sleeves or equivalent for sealing gaps around and making good edges

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The **Firesure[®] UFS** is a ECO Friendly Low profile Universal Multifunction, Multipurpose Fire Seal.

The **Firesure[®] UFS** helps to achieve all of the above by its unique design and method of installation.

Because the **Firesure[®] UFS** sleeve wrap is designed to work with unlined and uninsulated (hollow) stud partitioning by traversing the void from one wall face to the opposite wall face, there is no longer any need to form or make metal sleeves meaning further energy savings are made by not having to mechanically fix a metal sleeve or collar, or to even mine or manufacture the steel.

The **Firesure[®] UFS** sleeve wrap is supplied and packaged flat, thereby reducing packaging materials and storage space required as opposed to preformed products. As an example, see product packaging below which shows how much less storage space is required on site.



Metal or pre-formed product packaged to the left.

The same amount of **Firesure[®] UFS** packaged to the right as in 15 boxes to the left.

Save on transport loading space.

Save on storage space on site.



Designed for plastic pipework, 1.5mm wall rectangular, round or square plastic ducting. Tested numerously to BS EN 1363-1:2012 and BS EN 1366-3:2009. Tested with Uncapped/Uncapped (U/U) configurations required for ventilation ducts.



The **Firesure[®] Patented UFS** is tested in differing lengths from 100mm to 220mm, larger lengths can be manufactured.

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The Firesure® metal intumescent duct sleeve is designed for and suitable for use with thin wall (1.5mm) rectangular plastic ducting in 30, 60, 90 and 120 minute stud partitioning and masonry walls.

A tube of Firesure® 4 hour fire rated intumescent mastic is supplied with every 10 number Firesure® metal intumescent rectangular fire sleeves or equivalent for sealing gaps around and making good edges.

Tested stacked three high in 30 & 60 minute stud partitioning through Firesure® slab/batt.

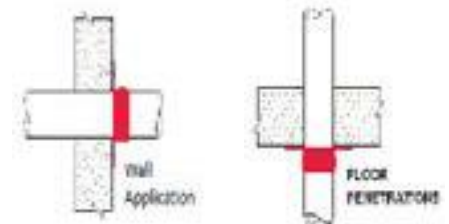


Intumescent Pipe Collar (IPC range)

A steel collar internally lined with Intumescent material that fits around plastic pipe work. The collar is hinged for ease of fit and secured with a clip fastener. Attachment to the wall or underside of the floor slab is by 6mm anchors fixing through the integral steel lugs.

Fix to plasterboard ceilings/walls using hollow wall metal anchors. Such as Fixfirm M5 Ref A661-235

Up to 240 minutes rating in various sizes from 38mm up to 175mm. Also for use on thin wall ducting up to 103mm. For larger sizes up to 400mm use our IPCPR range of collars.

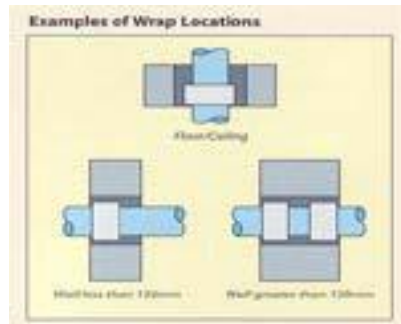


Intumescent Pipe Wraps (IPW range)

Up to 2 hours 30 minutes rating in various sizes from 38mm up to 160mm.

For 240 minute rating and up to 400mm use our IPWPR range of wraps.

For stud partitioning use our UFS range Universal Fire Sleeve/Wrap



Intumescent Block Grilles



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FireSure® Gasket installed ready for fire test. Note the box is not installed completely within the plasterboard and the gaps around the edge before testing.



FireSure® Gasket after fire test. Note the gasket has completely filled the box and the layers of plasterboard including covering the gaps around the edge of the box.



FireSure® Putty Pads available as single PP1S and doubles PP2D.



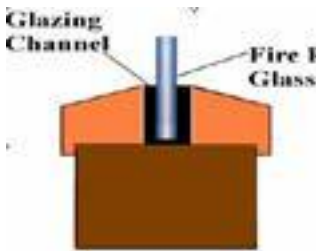
FireSure® Inserts available as single and doubles and for 35mm and 47mm deep boxes.



FireSure® Intumescent fire and acoustic covers before and after fire test. Fixed in place using attached clamping brackets. No tools required.



FireSure® Luminaire Fire Containment Covers. Available from 40mm to 150mm tall for standard or Slimline LED fittings. Fixing is by 4 fixing clips for the 650 x 625mm and 6 clips for the 1250 x 625mm.



Glazing Channel and **Fire Rated Glass**

FireSure® Intumescent Glazing Channel for fire rated glass between 5 & 7mm.

The channel fits around the edge of the glass and in a fire expands and assists in cooling the perimeter for 1/2 hour.

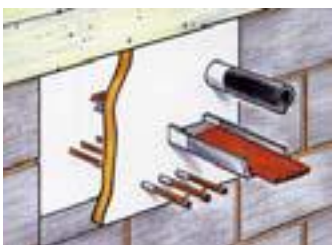
FireSure® Contract range of downlighter fire hoods.

Easily fitted from below or above, Fixed in place using attached self supporting clamping fixing brackets.

No tools required.



Both Intumescent and Contract Downlight covers available in numerous sizes from 150x150x105 to 300x300x150 as standard.



FireSure® Intumescent Slab/Batt.

It is 1200 x 600mm and is fire rated up to 4 hours for use in Flexible Walls, Timber Wall, Rigid Walls and Rigid Floors.

FireSure® Intumescent Pillows.

Intumescent Pillows suit a variety of applications, such as cable trays, trunking, multi-pipe penetrations, general openings etc.

Supplied in a variety of sizes



One of our numerous fire tests, all variants penetrations being tested uncapped/uncapped (u/u).

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From concept to completion in structural glass

The beauty of glass is the deceptive simplicity of the result, so often at variance to the level of complexity required to achieve it - achieving that apparent simplicity requires specialist knowledge and a high level of expertise.

Bespoke structural glass specialists Ion Glass will take your ideas from concept to completion, providing a comprehensive service that is especially appreciated by clients with complex or demanding briefs.

balustrades, frameless shower enclosures and more: Ion Glass is the ideal option when a single project has multiple different requirements.

From idea to reality

'Many of our clients know what they want to achieve but don't have the specialist glass knowledge required to take their ideas beyond the 'rough sketch' stage,' said Ion MD Peter Hazeldean.

'Fortunately, our teams have a wide breadth of in-depth knowledge and experience. Each project we undertake is unique, so we are set up to design and commission the necessary fixtures and fittings, as well as ensuring the glass itself meets all the necessary parameters. Our creative design approach is solution based – we like a challenge!'

Based in Sussex but servicing the whole of the UK and even specific overseas projects, Ion's beautiful bespoke structural glass works equally well for both internal and external installations. Most of their work is either fully frameless or with minimal visible fittings for stunningly impressive

results. Their scope includes linkways, porches and doors, staircases, screens,



Automatic fire-rated doors installed at Hastings Library.



Curved frameless balustrades create an impressive entrance for a luxury home in Nigeria.



Perfectly fitting arched infills in fully reflective toughened glass.



Channel set helical panels on a concrete staircase.

Recent projects have involved helical panels in glass for an elliptical staircase, triple laminated glass beams to effectively create 'mortise and tenon' joints in glass, automatic fire-rated glass doors and over-sized arched panels in reflective glass.

The team at Ion discuss every project in detail, visiting the site as required so they can fully understand the design parameters and how best to achieve the results.

Ion uses sophisticated computerised measuring equipment to ensure the absolute accuracy of the finished fit of both the glass and the metalwork. Their technical teams will establish the best possible outcome, managing everything from the size and thickness of the glass panels; the most appropriate brackets, hinges and handles right through to organising cranes and lifting gear and the final touches of silicone.

Structural glass screens in heritage environments

Ion also offer specialist expertise in heritage and ecclesiastical installations, with particular experience working in sensitive environments.

Using glass as a structural material in heritage buildings provides the optimum solution to meet current requirements and regulations, ensuring the original architecture remains paramount, without physical or visual impact to the existing structure. Ion take pleasure in ensuring the glass fits perfectly around out of true walls and floors, hand carved stone and ancient corbels

Peter Hazeldean concluded, 'Taking a project from concept to completion makes full use of Ion's expertise. Even for architects who have already produced detailed designs, our in-depth knowledge ensures the finished project is functional, meets all structural requirements and is fully compliant.'



Linking a new extension to the original building with a double-glazed glass corridor. Inset: Managing the crane installation for a challenging linkway.

If you have a structural glass project you'd like to discuss, visit www.ionglass.co.uk, call Ion Glass on 0345 658 9988, or email them via info@ionglass.co.uk. Their technicians will be pleased to provide their help and advice.

ENVIROGRAF - A LEADING FORCE IN PASSIVE FIRE PRODUCTS

Established in 1979 by MD Derek Ward, the Envirograf® brand quickly evolved to become a leading force in passive fire products. Having developed fire retardant and fire stopping products for numerous scenarios, the company's reputation as an innovator and developer is widely recognised with many products unique to Envirograf®. For example, they are the only company to make intumescent pipe collars in sizes that extend all the way up to a huge 900mm.

From Intumescent paints that provide over 60 minutes protection on timber, steel and plasterboard, fire stopping products to intumescent seals and electrical fire protection, the vast range of products enjoys widespread international demand. Envirograf® coatings have been used in virtually all temples in China and, since the horrific bush fires in Australia, they have achieved the necessary Bush Fire Test required to help protect properties from such events and are now used throughout the country.

Mr Ward says that, when it comes to passive fire protection, every risk must be considered to ensure that loss of life and property are kept to a minimum. While many people are aware of the importance of fire barriers in preventing or delaying the spread of fire, they do not always consider the implications when breaching the fire barrier, for example, to allow electrical wires or other services to pass through a wall, floor or ceiling. That is why a range of Envirograf® intumescent products has been designed, to safeguard the integrity of fire barriers by swelling to seal such gaps should the worst happen and fire break out.

Sister company, EnviroEcoWall Panels has been established to manufacture one of Mr Ward's latest innovations, a pre-engineered, insulated, load bearing panel system designed to form a fireproof building envelope - a modern method of construction that is perfect for new build houses, bungalows and industrial projects.

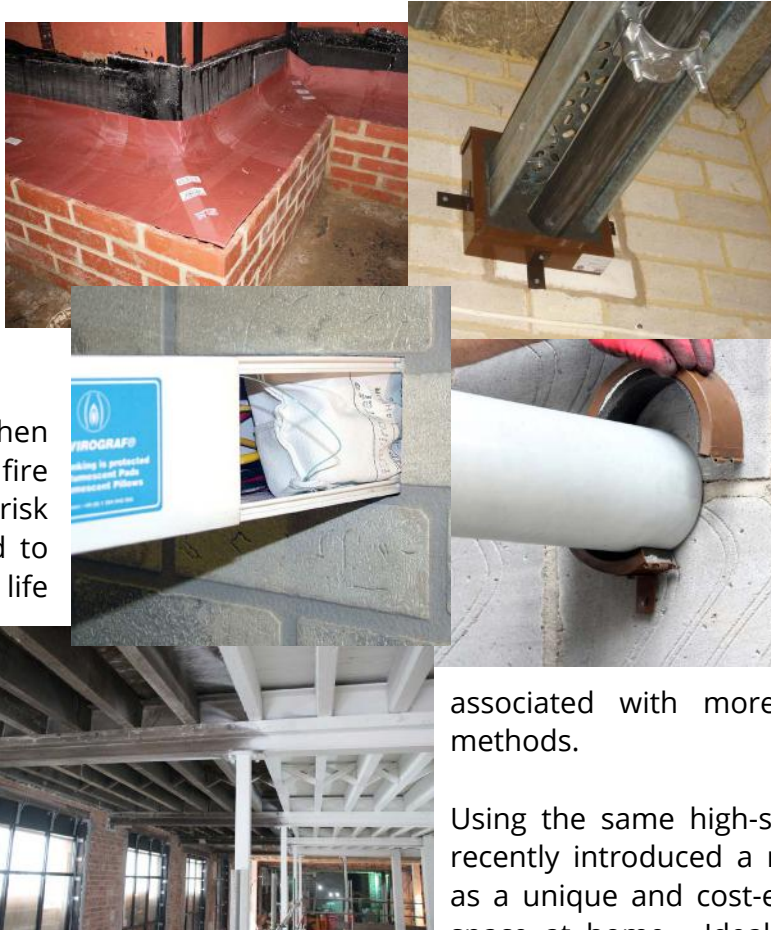
As the need for eco-friendly, cost-effective building methods becomes ever greater, this unique system combines structure and insulation into one prefabricated, thermally efficient component. Not only are EnviroEcoWall Panels protected from fire by Envirograf's intumescent coatings, the buildings are also designed to cope with flooding as they are constructed on a unique metal sub-frame that can carry the structure from 150mm to any height off the ground and, should circumstances dictate at a later date, can be raised to a new level in 300mm intervals.

The system further suits today's conditions as the strict quality control during the off-site fabrication process ensures dimensional accuracy, helps to reduce build time and minimises waste on site. Additionally, the system does not require the significant amount of water consumption

associated with more traditional construction methods.

Using the same high-spec system, the company recently introduced a range of smaller buildings as a unique and cost-effective way to gain extra space at home. Ideal for year-round use, they provide a designated environment for a light and airy garden office, art studio, home gym, hobby room or a relaxing garden retreat. In addition to standard models, the company offers a bespoke design service.

For more details you can call 01304 842555 or email sales@envirograf.com





Envirograf

We manufacture the largest range of passive fire products including:

<p>Up to 240 minutes fire protection for all types of cladding systems</p> 	<p>FIREPROOF COATINGS</p> 	<p>For cables, pipes, services, lights, ECUs, trunking & sockets</p> 
<p>FIRE BARRIERS</p>	<p>for wood, metal, wallpaper, plaster, concrete, fabrics & artificial foliage</p>	<p>ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING</p>
<p>FIRE DOORS</p> 	<p>Fireproof ventilation protection for both internal and external purposes</p> 	<p>SMOKE & ACOUSTIC SEALS</p> 
<p>Kits, seals and accessories to upgrade existing doors to fire rated doors</p>	<p>VENTILATION</p>	<p>Protection against fire, smoke, noise, pollution, weather & draught systems</p>

NEW



EnviroEcoWall

Fireproof Panel Building System

INSULATED PANEL CONSTRUCTION SYSTEM WITH BUILT-IN PROTECTION FROM FIRE & FLOOD

- A low waste, low water-consumption method of construction
- Completely fire resistant
- Thermally tested by BBA, no heating system required
- Protected from flood damage by unique metal sub-frame
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The Role of CorkSol in Specification

The Problem Facing UK Homes

Britain's existing housing stock is the oldest in Europe, which means that many properties don't have any insulation - in fact, only about 50% have cavity or solid wall insulation.

Without adequate insulation, homes are not able to retain heat. The World Health Organisation 2018 guidelines recommend a minimum temperature of 18 °C is a "safe and well-balanced indoor temperature to protect the health of general populations during cold seasons". On top of the health issues associated with cold temperatures, energy bills rise as thermostats are turned up higher and are left on for longer. And with the majority of heating systems being reliant upon fossil fuels, not only do energy bills increase but the impact on the planet is also significant.



Not only are cold houses uncomfortable for the occupier, but they can also be dangerous to their health through the growth of Black Spot Mould. It is not a new phenomenon, but it has not yet been dealt with, causing

allergic reactions, respiratory problems and even a weakened immune system. The risk is higher for babies, children, elderly people, and those who have existing problems with their skin, respiration, immune system, or are suffering from Long Covid.

Within the social housing market, the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018 places the responsibility with the provider to ensure their properties are safe, healthy, and free from things that could cause serious harm. This law helps tenants and landlords by making sure that their rental property isn't causing them to live in dangerous or unhealthy conditions.

The Role of Retrofitting

To ensure our existing buildings are providing suitable habitation and safe working conditions for the years to come, it is essential to retrofit with effective and long-lasting insulation that will help to improve the energy efficiency of the property and reduce potential health risks.

SprayCork, from CorkSol UK, is a sustainable and eco-friendly sprayed cork coating which reduces heat loss through walls and helps eliminate mould and condensation. The advantages of applying SprayCork is that it can be applied internally or externally and helps to retain heat by trapping the warm air in the room which makes heating the house much more affordable. And because SprayCork is a completely breathable material, it is resistant to moisture and therefore eliminates damp and mould.

The unique honeycomb structure of cork comprises countless pockets of air within the material

itself. This gives it a long list of natural qualities, including durability, flexibility, sound insulation and thermal insulation.

The Environmental Impact

Whilst SprayCork will make homes healthier and more comfortable, it also provides additional benefits to protect the environment by reducing CO2 and minimising waste. As the cork is harvested, the cork oak tree absorbs more CO2 from the atmosphere - and continues to do so throughout the regeneration of the cork, which takes about nine years. And as the trees are harvested rather than felled, they continue to do this throughout their lifespan of 250 - 300 years.



SprayCork can be applied directly over existing surface materials, meaning there is no need to add new plasterboard or remove old render. This is another way that SprayCork benefits the environment because it reduces the amount of waste going to landfill, and helps your project be more sustainable.

About CorkSol

SprayCork, from CorkSol UK, is an innovative, sustainable, and eco-friendly sprayed cork coating for walls and ceilings that can eliminate penetrating damp and condensation forming on surfaces. It is an extremely thin coating, applied at a minimum of 4mm.

It is an ideal solution for new build and retrofit, providing a range of benefits that improve the appearance, comfort, and health of all types of buildings across the UK. As a natural and sustainable coating, it can be used on heritage properties, helping to maintain many of the original architectural features.

When applied internally, it can be finished with a 2mm skim, increasing the energy efficiency of the property, providing tenants a healthy and safe space to live, and peace of mind to the landlord.



SprayCork. The Ultimate Building Coating.

Harnessing the power of natural cork, SprayCork wall & roof coatings are an innovative and eco-friendly solution for new build and retrofit buildings.

Cork is one of the world's most **sustainable natural resources** with a **negative carbon footprint**. No trees are felled during its harvest - in fact the bark grows back each time, absorbing much more carbon dioxide than usual, making it a powerful ally against climate change. All elements of the cork is used, from wine stoppers, to building coatings and biomass - making it a zero waste industry.

It is a strong thermal insulator reducing the dependence on heating systems, which also helps **eliminate condensation and black spot mould**. It helps to improve acoustic comfort, whilst offering natural resistance to fire and high temperatures. Added to this, as it is hypoallergenic it helps to improve air quality against airbourne particles.

Applications:

- > Mould reduction in social housing
- > Refurbishment of heritage buildings
- > Sustainable retrofit for internal and external surfaces

Better for you. Better for the planet.



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66° North Flagship Store

Gonzalez Haase Architects

The holistic concept of the project revolves around the ethos and ideals of Iceland. We wanted to capture the essence of Iceland without being stereotypical. The weather in Iceland is a very real and prominent feature in the land and we classified this as static (the island) and forever changing (the weather). These dynamic changes are what we wanted to capture in the project. The static island of Iceland stands still in comparison to the constantly evolving and adapting weather but this influences the perception of the island.

We are interested in this nuance. We look at the bi-chrome from black to white as movements of the weather. The immaterial, movement, changing, blurry and informal. As we started to analyze the colours of the weather and its effects on the island, we found there is always a darker and lighter grey, the bi-chrome. These non-static elements are always different. Therefore the grey is connected to the principal of



the store and the newly added colour as an evolution. Each colour is an aspect of the islands. Each colour can be a new store, with a new material.

We used natural sustainable materials to create a specific look and feel. The grey curved walls are locally sourced natural pigmented clay from Cornwall. The rammed earth



islands are cast with different-sized aggregates and various types of lava rocks to compose the layered effect. Specially crafted and sculpted by an artist/sculptor from Berlin. The earth itself is pigmented aggregate and sand. The rammed earth islands themselves are earth and magma-looking objects that look like they have been carved from the earth.





The curved walls are monumental and straightforward. Walls can be higher and lower depending on their position as this frames the view. The clay's rustic texture adds a layer of tactility to the space and brings out the feel of the clothing. These curved walls create different perspectives and atmospheres. They sit in front of the existing white walls to create a dramatic foreground of rolling soft curves. The wall at the entrance is almost 18 meters long and slightly curved. This long curve makes a new perspective and plays with the light in different shades. Already as you enter

your perception is transported into this experiential tactile world.

The idea of screens and mirrors is to insert them in between two walls. In between the walls they act as a connection, division, and separation. The custom-made bespoke ceiling mesh glows like the misty white sky that casts lights and mysticism on the rest of the space below. With the mesh at the ceiling, we achieve a bright, glowing light that supports the multiple varieties of the weather and scenes in Icelandic nature. The technical equipment is hidden on

top of it. The flow of the space using these curved walls guides and moves the customers through the space in a playful discovery. Here the space unfolds to the customer as they move further within the space.

Development Information

Architect: Gonzalez Haase Architects
<https://gonzalezhaase.com>

Client: 66° North Flagship Store

Area: 700 m²

Year: 2023

Photographs: Ostkreuz Photography

Esplanade House, Newquay

Of Architecture

On the serrated coastline of Fistral Bay, a new residence sits on top of a tiered terrace garden on the cliffs of Esplanade Road. As the clients' home and workspace, the three-story building is a project in being inventive with a minimal palette.

The house has a single-pitch zinc roof, untainted and bright-rolled. Paying homage to the former roofline, the facade is demarcated by a staggering horizontal 'plimsoll' line. It separates the roughcast render at lower levels from the smooth render above.

Monolithic and modest in material, the textured lime rendered with silver metals intends to be a refinement of British seaside architecture.

The sloping terrain informs the floorplan of the site. The sculptural plywood stairs leading from the ground floor bring natural light and connection to the main living space upstairs. Long steel beams with an exposed soffit allow for unobstructed views around the 4m-high living space, and from the horizon of the sea to the lawn of the south-facing back garden.





The screening room and library with a roof light offer an intimate setting to read and relax on the top floor.

The brief was to use everyday fixtures and objects to create something special - instilling the quality of the utilitarian and industrial aesthetic into a domestic setting. Internally, the house celebrates local materials by featuring bare concrete blocks, revealing the beauty in the stonemasonry of the region. With exposed galvanized conduits, ductwork, and industrial light fittings, the architecture is truthful to the unembellished infrastructure that powers it.



Development Information

Architect: Of Architecture
<https://studio-of.co.uk/>

Client: Private

Area: 360 m²

Year: 2022

Photographs: Lorenzo Zandri

Manufacturers: RHEINZINK, Bespoke Stainless Steel, Fassa Bortolo, IdealCombi, Sum of All Parts

Quantity Surveyor:
 Tim Hall Quantity Survey

Structural Engineers:
 Martin Perry Associates

Roofing Contractor:
 Westward Roofing Services (WRS)

Flooring Contractor: Sprayrend

Electrical Services:
 Matthew Livingstone Electrics

Staffordshire Woodlands Nursery

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

FCBStudios completes naturally net zero woodland Nursery for Staffordshire University.

The new on-campus nursery for Staffordshire University puts play, development, wellbeing and nature at the heart of early years education, in a net zero carbon building.

The nursery provides 100fte places, including an observational suite with leading digital technology to facilitate applied learning for trainee teachers, social workers and University students. The associated forest school is an independent space for 24 children of primary school age to engage in outdoor learning activities that develop skills and knowledge not possible in the traditional classroom.

A deceptively simple single storey building, the nursery is made of two wings which enclose a play garden, address the neighbouring nature reserve, and give privacy and protection from the neighbouring road and student accommodation.

Each classroom opens directly into the garden and the classrooms for the different age groups are linked by a covered colonnade.

Designed as a natural learning environment, the timber structure connects to the adjacent trees and woodland. The garden encourages curiosity, adventure and child-led learning, through planting, textures and natural materials and inside, low windows, recessed seating and external benches encourage the children to explore and connect with the outside.

Simon Branson, Partner, FCBStudios said "The nursery has a seamless connection with its woodland setting, supporting an adaptable and holistic learning environment that can encourage education through nature, play and adventure. Using a highly insulated pre-fabricated timber structure for the construction, plentiful north and west light from the rooflights and natural ventilation, it not only has a low impact on the

environment but a connection to it, allowing its users to benefit to the utmost."

The nursery achieves net zero carbon, both in construction and in-use.

Iain Shaw, Partner at Max Fordham said "The nursery was to be the first Net Zero Carbon building that the University of Staffordshire had built so, as a design team, we had to develop a pragmatic design that would work in practice, as well as in principle."

The building fabric targets were based on Passivhaus standards, however the operation of the building meant that the doors to the play area would be open most of the year which led to a natural ventilation strategy. The big, open doors in summer allow plenty of airflow, and the colonnade shades the interior spaces.

We worked closely with the nursery team to choose materials that would enhance the natural feel of the spaces: birch faced plywood, natural rubber





flooring and wood wool ceiling bats fixed between the timber frame. Fixed timber furniture divides the spaces, but also houses the slatted grille of the earth tube air supply duct to bring fresh tempered air into each space. The exposed timber, natural finishes and plentiful daylight throughout help set a calm atmosphere within the learning spaces.

We consciously looked to reduce the use of cement in the building, replacing screed floors with a build-up using timber and plywood. The building size was also carefully developed to suit available timber and cassette sizes etc. to help reduce wastage.

Sally McGill, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Lead for Sustainability at Staffordshire University said, "We are committed to building a sustainable University and reducing our environmental impact. As our first

carbon neutral building on campus, our new Woodlands Day Nursery and Forest School will be an asset to our estate, and builds upon other campus initiatives.

Dialogue with FCBStudios throughout the design and construction of the Nursery challenged us to consider all aspects of carbon conscious design as well as the pedagogical aspects. What we have achieved here is an innovative and forward thinking building that provides a sustainable place for early years learning with a connection to the immediate landscape and nature reserve."

As the first carbon neutral building on the Staffordshire University Campus, the nursery is a facility that supports the community and the next generation, through learning, teaching and embedding the university's ambitions for a more sustainable future.

Development Information

Architect: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
<https://fcbstudios.com>

Client: Staffordshire University

Project Manager/Cost Consultant:
Mace

Structural Engineer: CIVIC Engineers

Building Services Engineer:
Max Fordham

Landscape Design: Re-form Landscape

Transport Consultant: CIVIC Engineers

Contractor: Henry Brothers, Midlands

Environmental Performance / Sustainability Data – as available

Percentage of floor area with daylight factor >2%: 37.3 %

Percentage of floor area with daylight factor >5%: 0 %

On-site energy generation: 89%

Airtightness at 50pa: 2.74 m³/h.m²

Heating and hot water load: 29.7 kwh/m²/yr

Annual CO₂ emissions: 3.8 KgCO₂eq/m²

Glass Lodge, Hastings

Michael Kendrick Architects

Looking Glass Lodge by Michael Kendrick Architects is a unique woodland retreat and holiday let, set discreetly within a natural clearing in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Shaped by a low-impact, material-driven design approach, the lodge is hidden away from view, blending seamlessly into the protected woodland.

As lifelong residents of the local area, the client's vision for this holiday let is to enhance the ecological biodiversity of the area, protect wildlife and enable guests to understand and appreciate the fauna, flora, and unique history and nature of the area. The lodge also seeks to support the local economy, by providing a platform for local businesses, such as food and beverage makers, and artists to showcase their products and work.

The subtle yet refined design is modest in scale and makes use of the sloping site, where the lodge appears elevated amongst the trees as the ground levels fall away below. Large picture windows on both the front and rear façade offer the lodge a sense



of distinct transparency, enabling visitors to benefit from stunning natural views from all areas of the lodge, and fully immerse themselves in the setting.

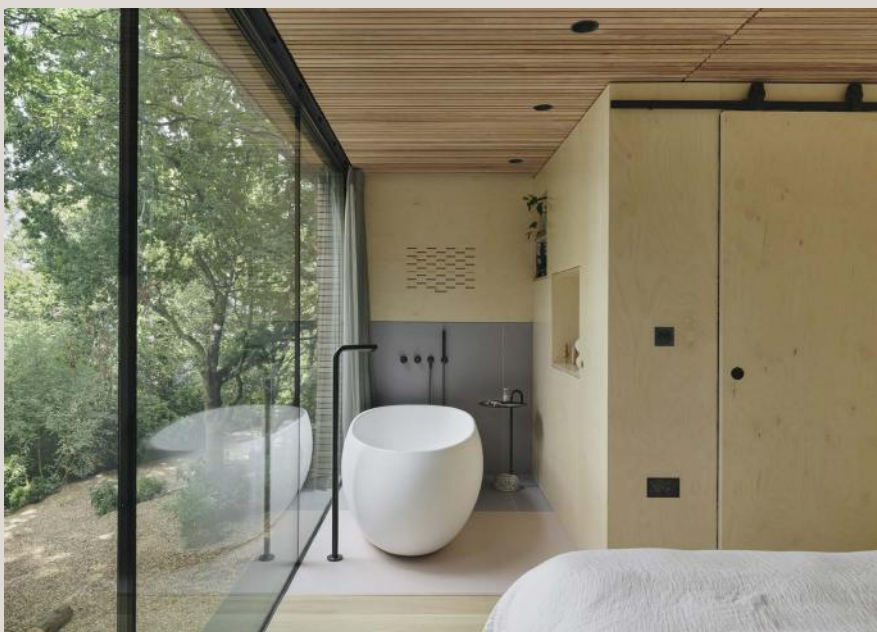
Throughout the year, the lodge is flooded with natural light, while self-

tinting electrochromic glass grants privacy and limits overheating and the spill of artificial light as dusk falls. Critically, using this glass also ensures that the lodge does not disrupt the site's bat activity, helping to secure the long-term habitat of this protected species.



Within, a simple yet welcoming layout includes an open-plan living space with a log-burning stove. This uses timber sourced from fallen trees on-site to heat the lodge in winter - significantly lowering the lodge's running costs and creating a comfortable, Scandi-inspired retreat. The bespoke, carefully-configured kitchen sits at the lodge's heart, while birch-plywood joinery gently subdivides the layout, to create a more private bedroom. The en-suite sees a free-standing bath make the most of the views out across the trees.





Built by local craftsmen based in Hastings, the lodge features the same species of timber – western red cedar – on the external cladding and internal lining. Left unfinished, the exterior will weather naturally to a silver-grey color that is reminiscent of the local landscape, which will contrast the cozy, warmer tones of the interior.

The site's existing ecology, habitat, and treeline were key considerations throughout the project, from manufacture to completion. The lodge's hybrid steel/timber-framed structure bears down on screw-pile foundations for a low-impact approach that avoids damage to existing tree roots, ensures no trees needed to be felled, and retains unobstructed access for wildlife. The project also prioritized off-site construction, in order to circumvent logistical limitations to the site, and safely achieve a minimally disruptive construction process.

The build provided an opportunity for the site's biodiversity to be enhanced above its current baseline, including removing invasive plants currently on site and adding bat and bird boxes to encourage the natural regeneration of native flora.



Development Information

Architect: Michael Kendrick Architects
<https://michaelkendrick.co.uk>

Client: Looking Glass Lodge

Area: 49 m²

Year: 2022

Manufacturers: Vectorworks, Ferm Living, Alexander Seifried & Richard Lampert, Firemaker, Forbes and Lomax, HAY, Hans J. Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn, Havwoods, Joan Gasper, Johnson Bespoke, Lusso Stone, Mandarin Stone, Sage Glass, Secto, Silva Timber, Xavier Manosa and Mashallah

Interior Designer: Looking Glass Lodge

Landscaper: Rutty Sark Gardens

Ecological Consultant:
 The Ecology Consultancy

Main Contractor: Client self-build

Structural Engineer: Momentum
 (Project Engineer - Pamela Ewang)

Approved Inspector:
 East Sussex Building Control Partnership

Photographs: Tom Bird



Corner Fold House, Peckham

Whittaker Parsons

The Corner Fold House is a compact, urban infill carefully crafted by Whittaker Parsons for a downsizing couple in south London. Sandwiched between a live substation and a short Victorian terrace, the Corner Fold House makes the most of the 3.9m wide plot. Built on a tight budget within a logistically challenging context, Whittaker Parsons has economically designed this compact house with moments of spatial and material generosity, utilising every inch of space.

Forming a bookend to the short terrace, the architects have skillfully manipulated the form of the house; its parapet is faceted, folding elegantly around the corner, creating a robust and quietly confident addition to the streetscape. The choice of red brick and in-situ concrete bands is a nod to the surrounding Victorian terraces.

Internally the spaces unfold, offering a bright and calm sanctuary with far-reaching views across the property's green roof and the neighbouring leafy gardens to Crystal Palace. The accommodation is split over three floors comprising: a living room and bathroom at entrance level, an impressive top floor master bedroom



boasting expansive views south, and a kitchen-diner, washroom-utility room, and subterranean study/guest bedroom located on the lower ground floor. All spaces have been meticulously detailed, making the most of readily available materials.

A beautifully crafted oak staircase is located at the front of the building serving the south-facing habitable rooms. The stair and balustrades have been detailed to create a sense of movement and energy, naturally lit

by large north-facing windows. The curved plaster wall and its mirrored recesses bounce light into the spaces. The hit & miss brickwork on the front elevation lets light into the stairwell but crucially provides screening from passers-by on the street.

The lower ground floor, housing the kitchen and dining space, is formed of two volumes. The first volume holds the kitchen, with a polished concrete floor, bamboo-lined joinery, and a worktop. The second larger





volume accommodates a seating area below-exposed timber ceiling joists and adjacent floor-to-ceiling sliding doors leading into the incredibly private sunken courtyard garden.

Traditional construction methods were used to keep the construction costs low and ensure a good quality of the build. The garden, green roof, and internal spaces are easy to maintain, an electric car charging point is installed, and thermal elements are designed to ensure the occupant's comfort and minimise the property's running costs.

Development Information

Architect: Whittaker Parsons
<https://whittakerparsons.com/>

Client: Private

Area: 123 m²

Year: 2022

Manufacturers: E H Smith, MOSO, Sightline Aluminium Systems

Main Contractor: BCS - Building Contractor & Services Ltd

Part I Assistant: Willam Chew

Structural & Civil Engineers: Price & Myers

Sap Consultant: Vision Energy

Photographs: French + Tye

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