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SOCIAL INEQUITY

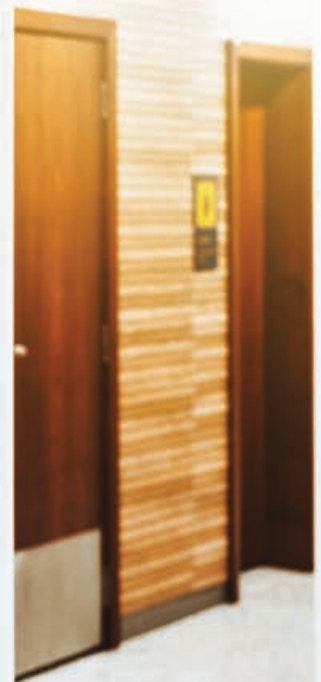
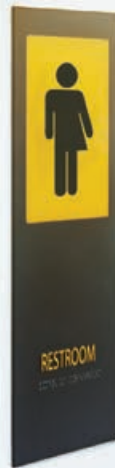
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What the Building Safety
Bill means for you

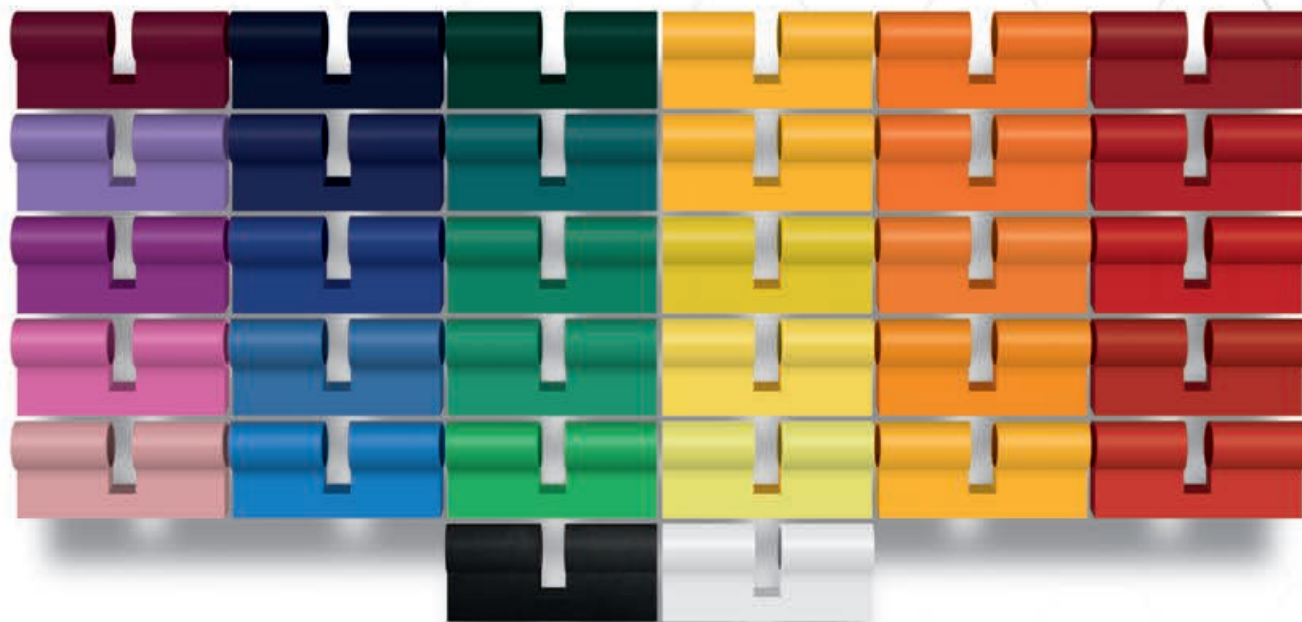
Interview with
Strand Hardware

Product lifecycle

UK vs USA standards



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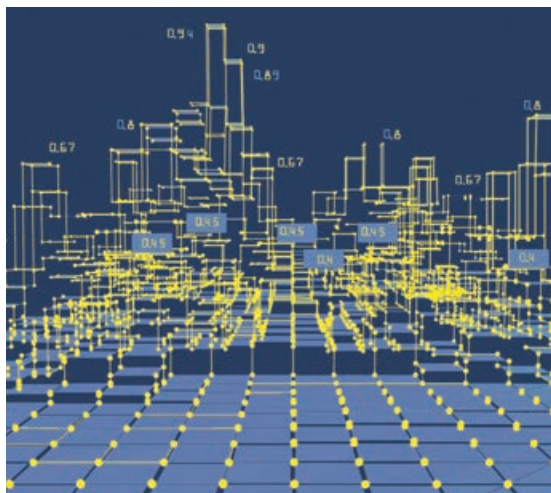
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aiz is published by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.
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Telephone +44 (0)20 7033 2480. Website: www.gai.org.uk

Although this magazine is the official publication of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, claims and opinions expressed by contributors and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the official views of the GAI. Copyright the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers 2007 ISSN 0959-986x



The UN's annual COP26 climate conference will address carbon emissions from buildings for the first time at a day dedicated to the built environment on 11 November.

The Cities, Regions & Built Environment Day will take place during the second week of the conference, which is being held in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

Other days at the conference will discuss topics including nature, energy, finance and gender. Full details of the built environment day are still to be confirmed but will involve "advancing action in the places we live, from communities, through to cities and regions".

The dedication of a full day to the topic of emissions from buildings and cities comes amid growing concern that the sector, which is responsible for around 40 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, has been neglected in the push to tackle climate change.

Roland Hunziker, director of sustainable buildings and cities at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) which is organising the day said: "How can we give more visibility to the sleeping giant, the built environment, which is a massive source of carbon emissions? It's the energy we use to heat and cool our buildings but it's also obviously in the materials. If we want to reduce emissions along the full lifecycle of buildings, then we have to engage those who develop projects."

COP26 brings together nations that signed the 2015 Paris Agreement, which commits signatories to becoming net-zero by 2050.

Other activities relating to the COP26 include the Built Environment Summit at RIBA in London, which will discuss zero-carbon buildings and generate policy demands that will be presented to the conference.

ukcop26.org

FIRE DOOR SAFETY WEEK BLAZES A TRAIL

Fire Door Safety week 2021 ran from 20–26 September. As every year, the campaign – the brainchild of the British Woodworking Federation – seeks to increase understanding of the critical role that fire doors play in protecting life and property. It highlighted key industry

issues and provided a wealth of fire door information and guidance, free of charge from the Fire Door Safety Week Toolkit – free resources to help promote Fire Door Safety Week as well as general fire door safety guidance, including the Five Step Fire Door Check. firedoorsafetyweek.co.uk



Fire Door Safety week 2021 will run from 20th – 26th September.

We'll be raising awareness of the critical role that fire doors play in saving lives and protecting property.



COMPETENCE TESTS FOR ARCHITECTS INCLUDED IN BUILDING SAFETY BILL

The Architects Registration Board (ARB) is to be handed new powers to police the competence of architects. The change is one of hundreds being brought forward in the Building Safety Bill, which was published in draft form in July in the wake of the Hackitt Report.

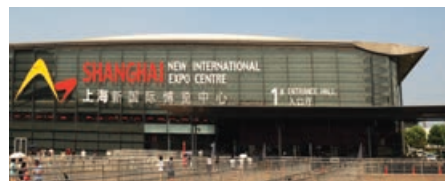
The Bill sets out the Government's proposed legislation aimed at improving structural and fire safety through greater planning scrutiny, increasing regulation of professional competence and the introduction of new statutory roles during the design and construction of 'higher-risk' buildings.

The draft Bill contains a section which would amend the Architects Act 1997 to allow the ARB to remove people from its register if they have not 'undertaken such recent training' as to satisfy it. Under the proposed law change, architects would be allowed to apply for an extension in which to finish their training before the ARB is able to remove them from the register.

The ARB will be able to determine 'which practical experience or training should be assessed and how the assessment should take place'. The proposal brings the architect profession in line with best practice as most other regulated professions require their registrants to demonstrate competence throughout their career and most professional membership bodies have mandatory CPD requirements.

The ARB has already launched a review of the regulation of architects and plans to consult on how to monitor architects' competence – as well as on changes to the syllabus – later this year.

arb.org.uk



BOOK NOW FOR BAU CHINA

BAU China will take place 2-5 November in Shanghai. The global event is now in its 18th year and has become one of the largest exhibitions of door, window and curtain

wall system solutions in the world. It will create interest zones that include Fire Proof Doors and Window solutions and a high-end Customisation Zone to showcase doors and windows products that integrate performance, function, design aesthetics, and systematic services to meet the needs of interior design. Side events include roadshows, talks and demonstrations. This year it will be held concurrently with China Architectural Design Expo. Register at <https://fenestration.bauchina.com/en/>



BSI ENTERS NEW CEN MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

The BSI is transferring to a new category of membership with the CEN and CENELEC the business catalysts in Europe, removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers.

The BSI will undergo an assessment against the new category of membership this autumn. This will build on the regular membership assessment process that has been running within CEN and CENELEC for several years. The BSI will then transfer to the new category of full membership from 1 January 2022. The changes come after the CEN and CENELEC reviewed the impact of the UK exit from the EU.

The General Assemblies agreed to create three categories of full membership in each of the two associations: one for states that are members of the European Economic Area; one for states that are members of EFTA, but not EEA, or are accession countries; and one for states, such as the UK, that have an agreement with the EU and can demonstrate either convergent or compatible market regulation in relevant areas.

This decision safeguards the principle of international standards providing market access across the UK and 33 European countries; reinforces the role of the European regional standardisation system as part of the international standards system; and strengthens the international cooperation underpinning the goals of the CEN and CENELEC Strategy 2030.

The new membership categories provides confidence for UK stakeholders participating in the shaping of European standards. It also provides stability for business and industry to trade in a settled system compatible with the UK's global trading ambitions and a strong foundation for the projection of UK policy and business interests globally.

The BSI will continue to adopt and update European standards (ENs) into the UK national collection.



END OF CE MARKING MOVES BACK ONE YEAR TO 2022

The end of the recognition of CE marking in GB will be pushed back from the current guidance date of 1 January 2022 to a new date of 1 January 2023.

The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is the new UK product marking that is used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). It covers most goods which previously required the CE marking, known as 'new approach' goods.

The UKCA marking came into effect on 1 January 2021. However, to allow businesses time to adjust to the new requirements CE marked goods, that meet EU requirements, may continue to be placed on the GB market for another year.

"This is welcome news as many within our sector and within the construction industry felt insufficiently prepared for the switchover due to the narrow timescales given," said Douglas Masterson GAI technical manager.

This issue does not impact Northern Ireland where CE marking will continue to be accepted under the Northern Ireland Protocol, in addition to the new UKNI marking.

For further details on this topic, see www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukca-marking and also the GAI's Specifier's Guide to UKCA Marking, CE Marking and the CPR available on the GAI website. GAI members with questions should contact Douglas Masterson on technical@gai.org.uk.

MATERIALS SHORTAGES NOT DAMPENING WORK OPTIMISM, SAYS SURVEY

Construction and design stages are being affected by the shortage of materials in the UK, according to the latest RIBA Future Trends survey. The report states that 63 per cent of architectural practices had experienced on-site delays due to building materials shortages.

A quarter of practices have seen site work put on hold due to a lack of materials. Nearly a fifth of practices, 18 per cent, also reported that the materials shortage was creating delay in the design process as practices have to spend additional time selecting products that will be delivered within project timescales.

The materials shortage is reportedly due to the impact of Brexit, as well as an increased demand for materials, as construction starts to ramp up again with the easing of coronavirus lockdowns.

The industry is also still feeling the impact of the Suez blockage, RIBA said.

However, the survey noted optimism in relation to future work, with 38 per cent of practices expecting to have more work in the next months.

Just over half, 58 per cent, expect workloads to stay the same, while the percentage expecting a decrease fell to seven per cent.



LEXICON HEADS TOWARDS LAUNCH

Results from an industry consultation about standardising product data were expected as AIJ went to press. The views from all stakeholders involved with construction products were sought on a critical project being developed by the Construction Innovation Hub (the Hub) and the Construction Products Association (CPA).

The LEXiCON project is set to revolutionise data management in the construction industry to deliver increased productivity,

sustainability and safety. It will standardise construction product data-sharing on projects, allowing construction professionals to better use product information to optimise designs and improve digital records.

Keith Waller, Hub programme director said the LEXiCON project will develop best practice for the creation and management of product data, which will ensure construction professionals better use product information to optimise designs and improve digital records. The consultation on the

processes LEXiCON advocates will ensure we develop consensus with the construction industry and wider stakeholders."

The GAI was involved in the LEXiCON Working Group who prepared the document for consultation.

The consultation results will be published imminently and LEXiCON proof of concept demonstrator and early adopters programme will be launched in November.

AIJ will report on further developments.

■ GEZE BAGS NHS DEAL

GEZE UK has secured a five year contract in conjunction with NHS UK Property Services.

The collaboration between NHS UK Property Services and GEZE UK is believed to be one of the largest contracts of its kind. GEZE UK will provide a service to more than 1,000 sites and 5,000 assets.

The majority of sites provide regional healthcare and fall into one of the following categories:

- Health centres and GP surgeries
- Hospitals and hospital-related properties
- Offices

GEZE Service has recently launched a recruitment drive to provide the necessary support for this contract and is recruiting for key account managers, account administrators and service technicians for automatic and industrial doors.

The total NHS Property Services portfolio consists of more than 3,000 sites – worth over £3bn.



■ BOOK NOW FOR MLA EXPO

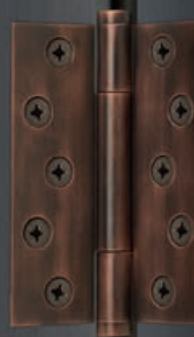
The Master Locksmiths Association's Expo 21 takes place on 22-24 October. The MLA Expo has grown into the largest lock and security product exhibition in Western Europe. Held at the Telford International Centre it will exhibit the latest security products from the main manufacturers and suppliers.

Register for free online at www.locksmiths.co.uk/mla-expo/



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FIVE STAR HOTEL CHECKS IN WITH MOBILE ACCESS

The upmarket ONAMA Hotel in Greece has installed ASSA ABLOY mobile access digital room key solutions.

As a newly-opened five-star hotel located in the heart of Thessaloniki, the property needed to meet guests' expectations of service as well as enhanced levels of safety. Guests use their personal devices to check-in without having to wait at the front desk and use a secure mobile app as a digital key to their room, gaining touch-free keyless access by waving the device in proximity to the door's Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) reader.

"Providing guests with enhanced convenience and gaining their trust with regard to their safety is a top priority for any hospitality business, but it is especially vital for us to maintain a reputation as a technologically-advanced hotel," said Michael Chrysoschoidis, CEO at ONOMA Hotel.

Featuring ASSA ABLOY's Seos technology, Mobile Access uses secure communication channels to deliver encrypted digital key and room number information to guest devices. The data is then securely stored in a digital strongbox located within the guest-facing mobile app until the user presents their device to the appropriate lock. A secure communication channel is again used to transmit digital key data to the BLE reader in order to grant guest room entry.

ONOMA hotel also uses ASSA ABLOY's VingCard Essence door locks and VingCard Allure interactive door lock panels.



NEW BILL ENABLES PROFESSIONALS QUALIFICATIONS TO BE RECOGNISED OUTSIDE OF THE UK

New laws to allow skilled professionals from around the world to have their qualifications recognised in the UK was introduced to Parliament in the summer.

By being able to recognise qualifications from professionals around the world, the Professional Qualifications Bill will help to ensure the UK can address where the demand for skills is not currently being met.

The new legislation addresses the fact that prior to Brexit much of the UK's current framework for recognising professional qualifications derived from EU law.

Regulators will have the autonomy to assess qualifications, and to pursue arrangements with counterparts in other countries in the interests of their professions. An example would be if a regulator like the Architects Registration Board agreed a mutual recognition agreement with international partners. This would support UK businesses and professionals to win and provide architecture services in new markets such as the Middle East or Asia by helping UK architects have their qualifications recognised overseas.

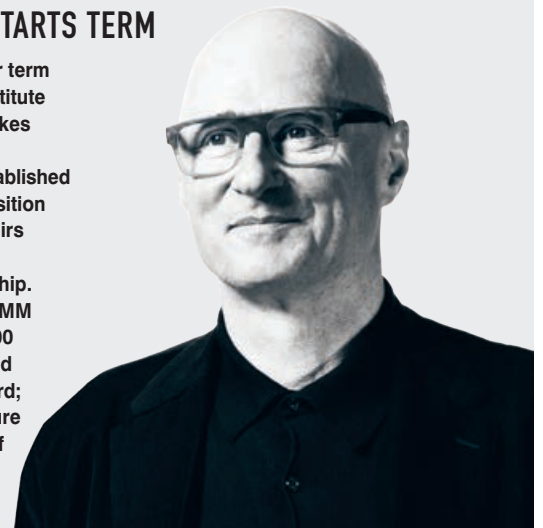
The new laws will help meet the demands of professions in the UK by identifying professions that will benefit from access to global talent. Identifying where there is demand for skills from overseas will be for the government to decide and legislate for.

NEW RIBA PRESIDENT STARTS TERM

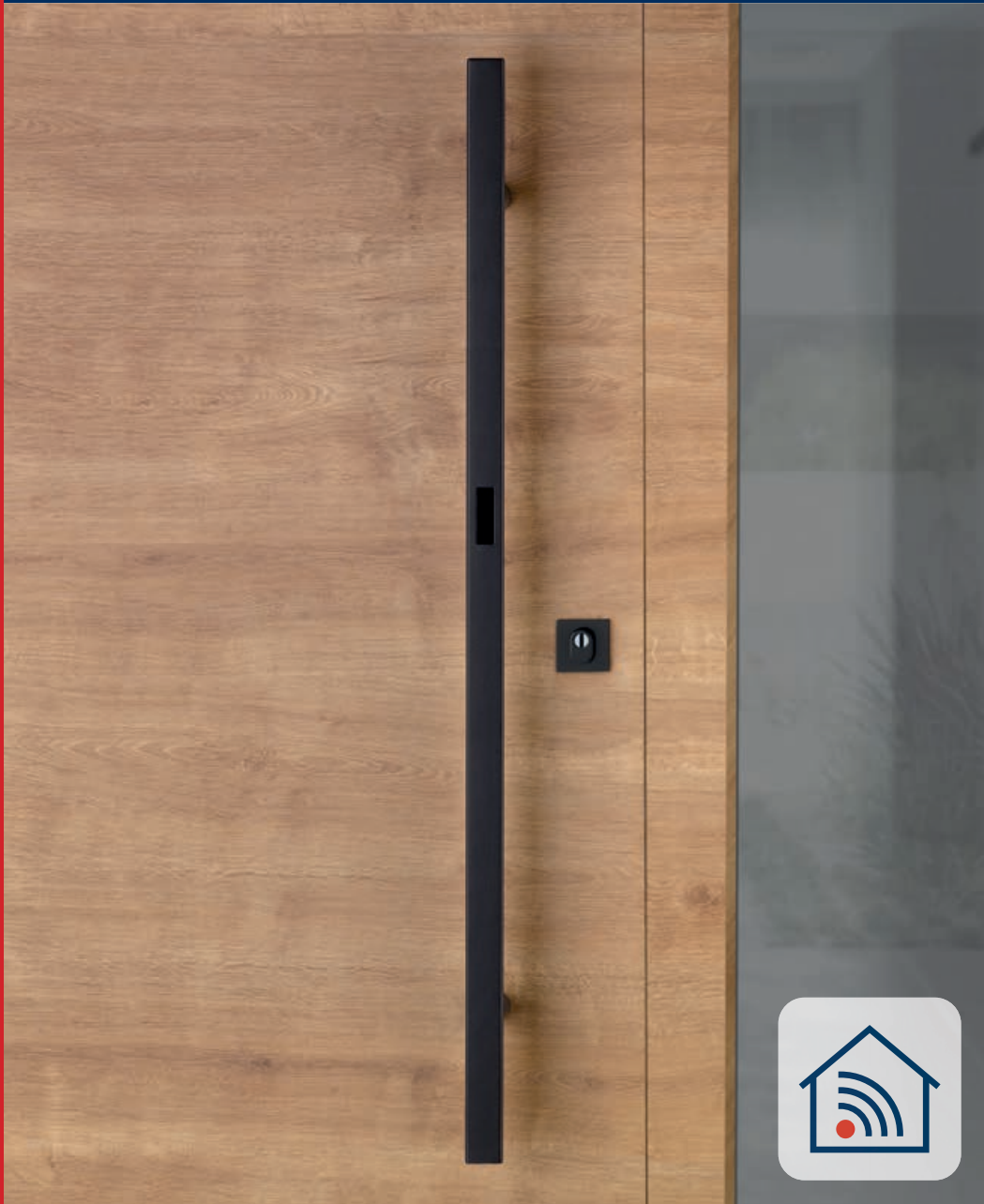
Simon Allford has begun his two-year term as the new President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Simon takes over from Alan Jones.

The role of RIBA President was established in 1835 and is the highest elected position in UK architecture. The President chairs RIBA Council, which acts as the representative body for the membership.

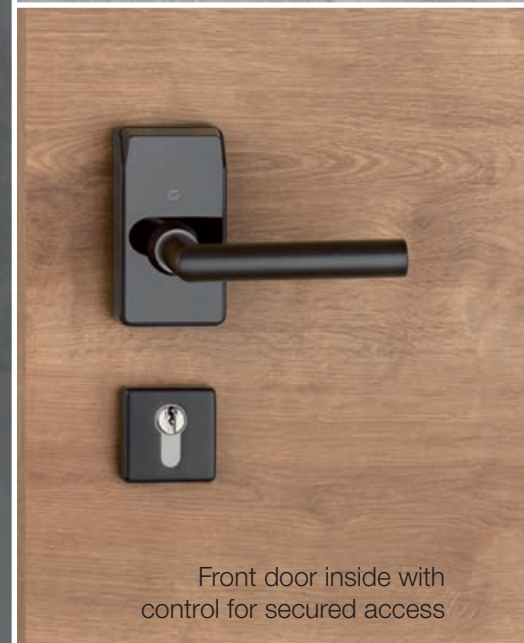
Simon is a founding director of AHMM (where he leads a design studio of 200 architects), a frequent writer, critic and advisor; a visiting professor at Harvard; a previous chairman of the Architecture Foundation; and currently a trustee of the London School of Architecture and the Chickenshed Theatres Trust.



PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM MESQUITTA



Front door outside with spotlight



Front door inside with control for secured access

eHandle HandsFree for doors – contactless and convenient

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Product attributes



GAI TALK...



Simon Forrester,
GAI chief executive

Well over two years on from the Black Lives Matter protests in the UK and the #MeToo movement's high profile media coverage, the issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, fairness and respect in society continue to call out for our attention.

That means addressing these issues in every area of our lives – including the way we run our businesses, treat our staff and customers, and choose our suppliers. The architectural ironmongery industry in the UK and internationally has just as much a part to play as any other element of society.

Inclusion and representation matters to us all, and diversity of thinking and lived experience helping to inform our businesses is a hugely enriching experience which also leads to a happier and more engaged workforce. It also makes hard-nosed commercial sense. At a time of crippling skills shortages across all parts of the construction ecosystem, maintaining a stereotypical 'male, pale and stale' profile is now one of the quickest routes to extinction. We need to attract more diverse talent into our industry.

But for those of us coming relatively new to this awareness, it may feel hard to know where to start, and for those organisations already forging ahead, there is important learning to be shared. This is where I think the Guild could help.

We are keen to understand the diversity profile in our industry and to start a conversation with members. We would welcome your views on where your business is on this journey and where you would welcome more assistance.

In the meantime, there are also various sources of information that you might find helpful to review. Check out the National Centre for Diversity and the Equality and Diversity Forum. And we will return to this topic through GAI meetings in the near future.



Helen Tapper,
FIS president

GAI AND INTERIORS BODY TO COLLABORATE

The GAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FIS, which represents the finishes and interiors sector. The two bodies will be working together to showcase the skills of members to the wider industry and build on the wealth of technical knowledge the organisations already share.

Simon Forrester, CEO of the GAI, said the MoU formalises a working relationship the two organisations have enjoyed for many years. "Our aim is to build a stronger long-term relationship between our organisations by exploring opportunities to work together

in areas including education, advocacy, innovation and best practice."

The two organisations will work together to improve the wider construction industry's understanding of the safety issues relating to fire doors, ironmongery, access control and flexible walls. They will develop technical standards and resources to support the professional development of members and stakeholders in the interiors supply chain.

The organisations have already held a joint presentation on fire safety as part of Fire Door Safety Week in September.

■ PDTS LAUNCHED FOR DOOR AND WINDOW MANUFACTURERS

The UK's first product data templates (PDTs) for doorsets and window hardware will be launched this autumn.

The GAI has worked with the British Woodworking Federation (BWF) and the Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF) to help door and window manufacturers to create product data sheets in a simple and structured manner.

PDTs allow manufacturers to complete product data sheets so that detailed information about their products will be accessible to architects, contractors and facilities managers at all stages of a building's life cycle.

BIM level 2 has been a requirement on any centrally-procured public sector projects since 2016 and Douglas Masterson, technical manager at the GAI, and chair of

BIM Fenestration Relevant Authority, said the demand for readily available product data is only increasing. "Any manufacturers that want to have their products specified for use in these buildings must be BIM-ready. These will also prove useful for anyone in the construction sector looking for structured data as part of their 'golden thread' of information."

These templates are in addition to the GAI's existing 35 PDTs specifically for architectural ironmongery including closing, hanging, exit and locking devices as well as door furniture, seals, signage, door systems and ancillary hardware.

The Guild and its members have been at the forefront of supporting the integration of building products in BIM for a number of years.



ENROLMENT OPEN FOR THE GAI EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The GAI has launched its new prospectus for the upcoming academic year. The new prospectus provides potential students with an overview of the Guild's education programme which has been developed over 50 years and is the only internationally recognised architectural ironmongery qualification to British and European standards.

Rachel Tipton, GAI education manager, said: "Door hardware professionals and those involved in the specification of construction products, locksmiths and trade counter staff are being encouraged to demonstrate their competency through proven qualifications. We are continually developing our courses to ensure that they are up to date with the ever-evolving architectural ironmongery product offerings and legislation."



"The GAI education programme is suitable for architectural ironmongers, trade counter staff, wholesalers and manufacturers; anyone who encounters door hardware on a regular basis and wants to ensure they are always giving the best possible advice to their customers."

The core of the education portfolio is separated into two qualifications. The Certificate in Architectural Hardware consists of two stages with 24 education modules covering everything an architectural ironmonger is required to know, supported with eight block assessments to test the students' understanding.

Once learners have attained their certificate, they can continue their studies to achieve the GAI Diploma. This stage focuses entirely on the skills and learning needed for scheduling the architectural ironmongery, electric hardware and key control for a project, and is of particular importance to those architectural ironmongers working on projects being built to UK and European standards across the globe. Once they have completed the diploma, they become a DipGAI, an industry recognised symbol of professionalism.

Enrolments are open from 1 September until 17 December 2021. Download the prospectus from the GAI website: www.gai.org.uk



SAVE THE DATE!

The GAI will be hosting its annual Education Awards in 2022. The date and venue are yet to be announced so please check the GAI and AIJ websites for updates.

Left: Education award winners 2019



NEW SPECIFIERS GUIDE AND CPD ON IRONMONGERY AND FIRE SAFETY

Architects and specifiers can now access two new resources to improve their understanding of the legislation that applies to fire door hardware at different stages of a building's life cycle.

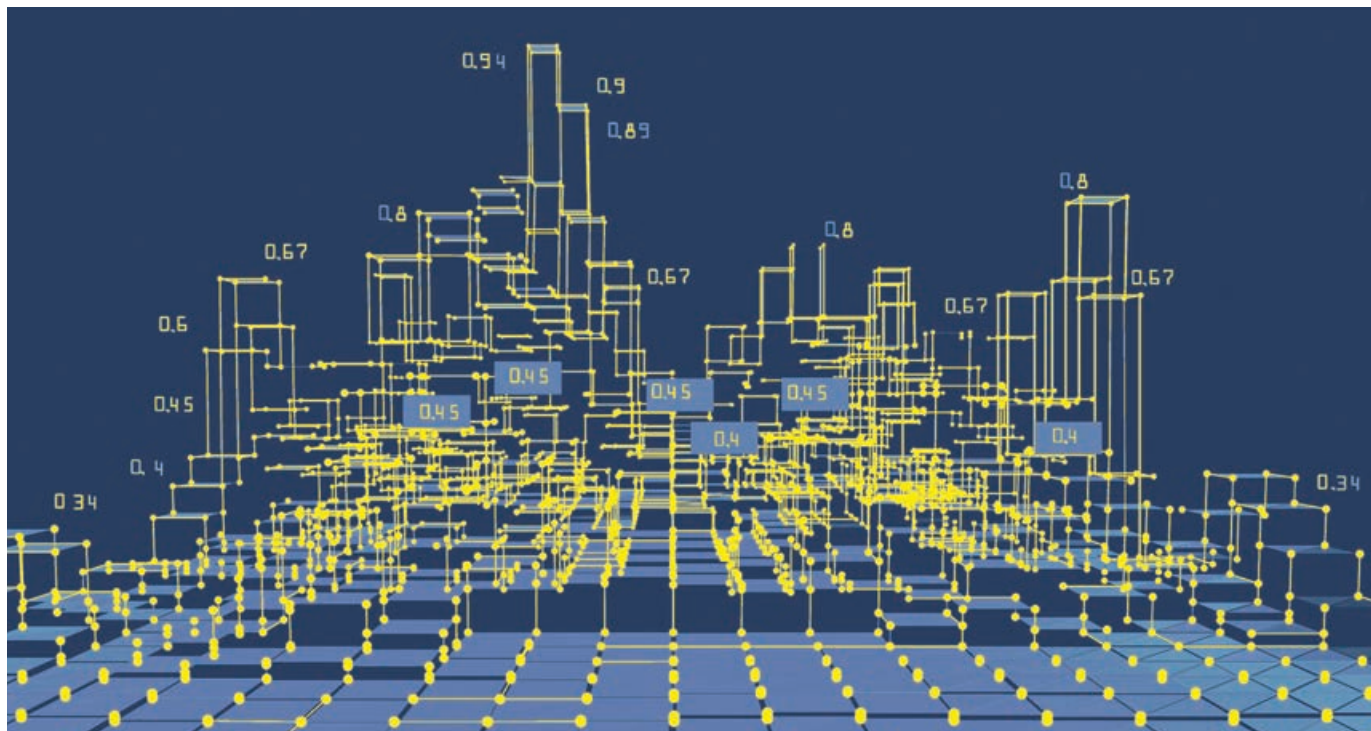
The Specifier's Guide to Fire Safety, Risk Management and Responsibilities was published by the GAI during this year's Fire Door Safety Week. The corresponding RIBA-approved CPD is now available for Guild members to deliver to architects, who will receive double learning points for attending.

Both the CPD and Specifier's Guide look at the wider fire safety legislation and guidance that directly impacts the specification of architectural ironmongery including Approved Documents, British and international standards, the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), fire testing and third-party certification.

It also covers legislation and guidance that is relevant post-handover, in particular: the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, which applies to England and Wales; the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations; Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order; and health and safety regulations.

The Specifier's Guide can be downloaded from the GAI website: www.gai.org.uk/GAISpecGuides





OPINION...

THE TIMES ARE A CHANGING

The Building Safety Bill will usher in fundamental reform for the built environment sector. **Douglas Masterson** explains what it means for the AI industry

In July 2021, the UK Government announced the publication of the Building Safety Bill. This is aimed at setting out a clear pathway for the future on how residential buildings should be constructed and maintained. It is seen as a key step in an extensive overhaul to building safety legislation, giving residents more power to hold builders and developers to account and toughening sanctions against those who threaten their safety.

The Golden Thread will become more vital to building data

The Building Safety Bill is the direct result of recommendations made in the Grenfell inquiry and the Hackitt Review.

It should be noted that whilst the Bill focuses on in scope high-rise residential buildings, in reality this is the biggest change in regulation of the construction sector in some considerable time and will have ramifications for any buildings of any kind going forward. The necessary change in culture envisaged to achieve the proposed requirements on building safety will be the driving force behind this wider spread of focus. Although the bill is limited to England, it is felt that the other devolved nations in the UK will adopt their own versions to tighten up on building safety requirements UK-wide.

The following are some elements of the Bill which are relevant to our sector:

Competence

The Bill makes provision for regulations regarding the competence of those involved in work that needs to comply with building regulations. The BSI is in the process of creating new standards which will hugely impact three key

roles including Principal Designer (PAS 8671), Principal Contractor (PAS 8672) and Building Safety Manager (PAS 8673). The GAI is directly involved in the creation and review of each of these standards through Working Group 12. WG12 is tasked with increasing competence across the construction product sector. The UK government is also publishing further guidance documents on competence and there will be additional measures in place to govern the competence of architects and other building industry professionals.

Construction product safety

New powers will be prescribed within the Bill for the national regulation of the safety of all products used in construction. The regulator will sit within the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) and will be able to remove products from the market and prosecute those who fail to comply, as long as they are UK-based. This will have a marked impact across the entire construction product industry, including the ironmongery and door sector.

Golden Thread of information

The golden thread of information for new high-rise buildings will be developed throughout the design and construction phases. This will be a live digital document with accurate and up-to-date information of the building data and is to be handed over to the building owner on completion and developed during occupation by the relevant dutyholders and accountable persons. Building Information Management (BIM) can be seen as a way of assisting in this process, and the GAI have created 35 BIM Product Data Templates (PDTs) for members which will assist manufacturers to create their own Product Data Sheets, and therefore assist with the provision of structured data for this process.

A new building safety regime

A Building Safety Regulator (BSR) will be created with powers to oversee and enforce a new, more rigorous building safety system. It will be run by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and will have new responsibilities that affect all local authority building control. Updated sanctions will mean serious consequences for the contravention of building regulations. There will be new powers for the BSR to issue Compliance Notices and Stop Notices.

Timeline

The Building Safety Bill was published on 5th July 2021, Royal assent is not expected for 12 months but the timeline is uncertain. The Government says that the Building Safety Regulator will be operating in scale by mid-to-late 2022 and it is already operating in shadow form. The obligations on the accountable person are expected to come into force within 12-18 months of the bill receiving royal assent.

The GAI is delighted to see the Building Safety Bill as these reforms will tackle bad practice head on, building on Dame Judith Hackitt's review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety post-Grenfell, which highlighted a need for significant cultural and regulatory change across the entire UK construction sector. ■



// The Bill is the biggest change in regulation of the construction sector in some considerable time and will have ramifications for any buildings of any kind going forward"

MEET A MEMBER...

**Elliott Brown, managing director,
The Fire Door Inspectors**



Tell us about The Fire Door Inspectors

The Fire Door Inspectors Ltd (FDI) helps to protect a wide range of the UK's properties, from high end residential developments to exclusive office space within the commercial/public building sector, by ensuring fire door sets are compliant within their role of a building's passive fire protection.

// I believe the industry is crying out for a forward-thinking software that can log the golden thread information to a system that is easy to access"

How did you get in to the business?

I started out on the production line for one of the UK's leading fire door manufacturers. It opened my eyes to testing and third party certification and how much work goes into ensuring the different components are strenuously tested to ensure the finished

product(s) that are delivered to site are of the highest quality and compliance possible. This really helped once I branched out into installation, specification and design when leading the door package at the new Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

What do you love about the job?

We offer a life saving service! A big chunk of our portfolio is educational premises, so knowing that the next generation is being kept safe in its learning environment is a big part of why I am so enthusiastic about what I do.

What are the challenges?

Incompetent installation teams are by far and away the biggest downfall in the industry. It comes from a lack of experience, education and care about the need for each and every component to be working in conjunction with each other to achieve the desired fire rating for that specific door set. I believe the industry is crying out for a forward-thinking software that can log the golden thread information to a system that is easy to access for us as inspectors but also our clients.

How do you spend your spare time?

I am blessed with a beautiful young family in my life, so enjoying the time off with them is top of my list of priorities outside of work. My spare time is also taken up with an under 7s football team and training for the London Marathon this October.

**Would you like to appear in this slot? Email
nicky@atompublishing.co.uk**

We are currently working on a campaign to highlight the urgent need for industry regulation and a harder line on locksmiths who rip-off consumers. The spiralling number of rogue tradespeople operating across the country is putting the safety of members of the public at risk.

Our industry, outside of the MLA's approved company scheme, remains completely unregulated. This lack of regulation means anyone can advertise, trade, buy locksmith tools and call themselves a locksmith, with little or no training, and without providing proof of competence. It means householders calling out a locksmith – who they have often found via an online advertisement – are placing their security with someone who might not only be incompetent, but who may not have had to pass any criminal record checks.

We recently published research, based on feedback from more than 100 of our members across England, which shows a soaring number of cases where householders have fallen victim to a bogus locksmith. Over the past year, two thirds of our largest members have been called to a job due to a rogue locksmith. We receive calls every day from members of the public who have been hoodwinked by unscrupulous locksmiths. This has placed them at considerable risk and also left them often hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds out of pocket. The issue has received widespread interest in the national media, including most recently being the lead story on BBC One's Rip Off Britain.

We believe this situation needs to be addressed urgently. The MLA is calling on government departments to discuss how the matter might be addressed to ensure all locksmiths are vetted, inspected and competent in order to trade.

The MLA's existing Approved Company Licensing Scheme means that locksmiths found on www.locksmiths.co.uk are vetted (we are included in the exceptions order for the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974), regularly inspected and have passed



OPINION...

STOP THE SWINDLERS

Dr Steffan George, managing director of the Master Locksmiths Association and Sold Secure calls for competence checks to rid the industry of rogue traders

an exam to prove their competence. However, because the wider industry is unregulated, many are not vetted and to this end we are keen to discuss this issue and our licensing scheme to see how it could help protect the general public. Our call is supported by Neighbourhood Watch Network, the Association of British Insurers and Secured by Design.

The problem is compounded by the propensity of call centres and subcontracting outfits claiming to be

// I'm sure I don't need to tell you, as specialists in your own area, that using a highly-trained expert is always the best option"

local locksmiths who aren't locksmiths at all. They are simply marketing platforms charging handsomely for their services, giving the locksmith they end up using, who in some cases could be anyone, a small percentage of the charge and leaving the end user with an inflated bill to pay.

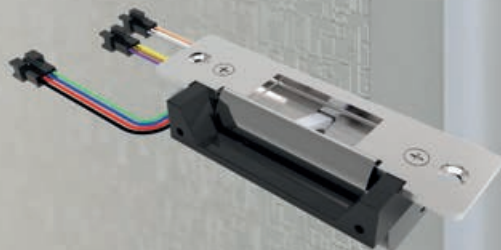
It's crucial to use specialists rather than generalists. Master locksmiths are specialists. Some general facility management type companies will take on locksmith work, but they lack the specialist knowledge that vetted, inspected and qualified locksmiths have. Jobs tend to get done more slowly and at greater expense. I'm sure I don't need to tell you, as specialists in your own area, that using a highly-trained expert rather than a generalist is always the best option.

In the same way that the MLA believes the approval and accreditation of locksmith companies is important, the MLA also believes in the approval and certification of security products. In fact, it put its money where its mouth is back 1999 when it purchased Sold Secure, a company formed by Essex and Northumbria police to provide independent verification of the security of products. The MLA has spent a lot of time and effort in building Sold Secure into one of the leading test and certification agencies for security products in the UK. It was the first to generate a standard to specifically address the issue of lock snapping (SS312 Diamond) and has over 20 different standards aimed at specific market segments. If you're selling security hardware then it's worth checking if it's Sold Secure approved. **More information is available at www.soldsecure.com.** ■

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Public toilets have thrown up social equity issues, but architects and architectural ironmongers could hold the solution. AJJ reports.



Popping to the loo has become an issue. Public toilets have become a focal point of attention for the myriad issues surrounding gender identity and trans individuals' access to sex-segregated facilities.

In the US the right of transgender people to use toilets of their choice has been highly controversial. In 2015 Stalled! was launched in a bid to tackle the issue of transgender access to public restrooms and the need to create safe, sustainable and inclusive public restrooms for everyone regardless of age, gender, race, religion and disability. It shifted the terms of the debate by treating it as a challenge that can be addressed through design alternatives that do not accept sex-segregated bathrooms as a given. It stated its mission as: the creation of

viable economical restroom prototypes for retrofit and new construction projects that can be adopted and deployed across the United States.

Beyond concerns for the transgender community, Stalled! also tackled problems faced by breastfeeding mothers, those needing to administer medication or perform religious rites, and people with physical or mental disabilities. The creators believe that the needs of all of these groups can be catered for through considered design decisions.

It issued a set of guidelines for designing inclusive bathrooms for public buildings (in the USA). The open-source, design-research project provides information and prototypes for creating safe and inclusive toilets that can be used by all.

Gender neutral toilet signage is one solution widely being adopted

Rewiring our thinking

One of the founders of Stalled!, Joel Sanders, an architect, took the issue further and in 2018 he started MIXdesign, a consulting firm aiming to re-imagine architecture by considering people of all genders, races, and abilities. MIXdesign will apply inclusive design principles to help clients (such as universities, museums, and corporations) through educational workshops, project advising, and in some cases, architectural services.

"The default user of architecture, which is transmitted in building codes, architectural guidelines, and even in architectural education, is basically a youthful, healthy, able-bodied, cisgender, white citizen," Joel Sanders said in an interview at the time. "When you say 'gender and architecture',

people often scratch their heads, but I think architecture is helping us define and perform our identities,” he added.

Depending on the audience, responses to inclusive design can be, well, mixed. One issue Sanders notes is money — people are concerned that designing for diversity will come at a cost. Using the gender-neutral bathroom example, Sanders argues that getting rid of binary restrooms can be space-saving and competitively priced, or even less expensive.

There’s also the psychological discomfort to worry about. “Designing for inclusion asks us to call into question our ideas of what is normal and abnormal, appropriately male and female. These are things that are culturally ingrained and can make people feel uncomfortable,” says Sanders. As for the future of inclusive design, Sanders compares the movement to where sustainable design was 15 years ago. “What people thought was a stretch and something that would be burdensome and expensive is something that we have now increasingly realised is important and are conscious of,” he says.

“When designers begin a project, they inevitably begin to think, ‘Who are my users, what kind of bodies am I dealing with, and how do I design for difference?’” says Sanders. “I think that just needs to become wired into the thought process.”

Also in 2018 a Royal College of Art graduate in the UK developed a digital tool that calculated the underlying gender bias in English architecture, to help create more gender-neutral environments.

Hannah Rozenberg’s graduation project, ‘Building Without Bias: An Architectural Language for the Post-Binary’, centres on an online calculator that allows you find out whether a building is biased or not, and helps you to add or subtract elements to improve the balance.

The designer started the project after discovering the link machines make between architectural space and gender. Imagining a future where buildings are created using algorithms, Rozenberg

wanted to find a way to highlight the gender biases embedded in architectural terms learned by technology, to make it easier to produce “post-gender architecture”.

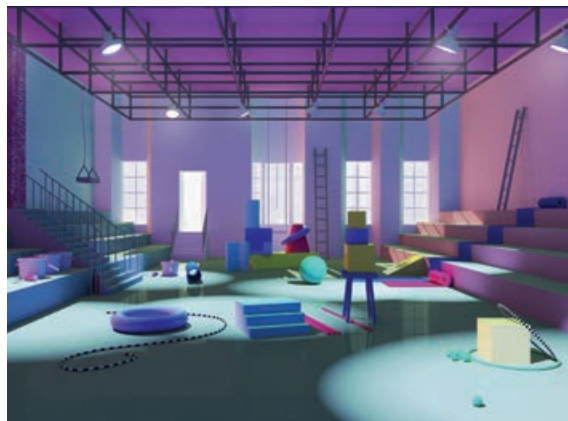
“As automated technology finds its way into our bodies, buildings and cities, it is essential that it be designed in a way that is free from insidious biases,” she said.

A word entered into Rozenberg’s website Building Without Bias returns a ‘gender unit’, or GU. The higher the GU value, the more feminine the term is perceived by machines.

Rozenberg found architect, steel, cement and screw among the most male terms, while tearoom, kitchen and nursery were among the most female. As part of her project, Rozenberg has used it as the starting point for five gender-neutral structures: a cinema, a theatre, a library, a sheltered bench and a newspaper office.



Above: Joel Sanders architect and a founder of Stalled!
Below: Rozenberg’s zero GU spaces



“When you say ‘gender’ and ‘architecture’ people scratch their heads, but I think architecture is helping us define and perform our identities”

Joel Sanders

Rozenberg developed a set of formulae to determine the overall gender of architectural spaces based on the values of their components. The spaces she proposes all have a reading of zero GU – neither male nor female.

Separation anxiety

Fast forward to this year and the UK government has been under fire for its consultation on desegregated toilets – entitled ‘Toilet Provision for Men and Women: Call for Evidence’. It has been criticised as a direct attack on trans rights by the United Voices of the World – Section of Architectural Workers union. “The Government’s current consultation on toilets places the provision of ‘gender-neutral’ desegregated facilities and the safety of trans and gender non-conforming people who rely on them, under threat,” the union argued in a critique in *Dezeen*. The consultation, which ended in February, says that its aim is to “ensure that everyone is fairly served”, and claims that desegregated facilities place women at a “significant disadvantage” and make them “feel less comfortable”. It further seeks to reconsider “the ratio of female toilet spaces needed, versus the number for men” and pushes for the use of “gender-specific language” in washroom signage to avoid so-called “public confusion”.

The union argues this begs the question as to who its authors do and do not consider ‘women’.

The union has called on architects to use their voices and stand in vocal opposition to the Government’s segregated toilet proposals.

“Desegregated toilets are known to offer numerous benefits – they introduce parity into waiting times for all genders,»»

// The goal of gender-inclusive signage is to make the facility as welcoming as possible by avoiding gender stereotypes, acknowledging transgender people and not reinforcing a gender binary."

Margaret Middleton

make toilet trips easier for carers or those accompanying dependents, are cheaper, and use space more efficiently. They have proven particularly successful in schools where they can help to reduce bullying.

"In 2017 UK LGBTQ+ rights charity Stonewall found that 48 per cent of trans people don't feel comfortable using public toilets due to fear of discrimination or harassment. A huge benefit of desegregated toilets is that they can greatly reduce the risks of verbal harassment, intimidation and physical assault transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people often face in 'single-sex' facilities."

A concerned coalition of architectural academics based at the Bartlett School of Architecture and Goldsmiths Centre for Research Architecture,

also criticised the consultation: "The Government's consultation is based on false premises of binary gender and biological essentialism, which do not reflect the actual diversity of bodies and experiences. It disregards the needs of certain users, including trans, intersex and gender non-conforming people, who are especially vulnerable to harassment and violence in public facilities. It raises the question: why should toilets continue to be divided by gender at all, given that users' needs are known to be shaped by many factors (age, health, ability, gender, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation)?"

Changing signage is one of the simplest and least expensive ways to make facilities more gender-inclusive (see box right). GAI members would do well to be aware of this burgeoning issue and equip themselves with knowledge and supplier details such as specialist fabricators like Davis Architectural Services Ltd and Weldit.

But to go further, the challenge to architects is: what other ways can spaces become more gender-inclusive? ■

Below: A restroom sign that was adopted in parts of the USA and Canada

READ THE SIGNS



Margaret Middleton

One key design solution to the issues surrounds signage. In the US and Canada a gender neutral toilet sign stating 'We Don't Care' was adopted in various public buildings. Here in the UK earlier this year Margaret Middleton, an exhibition designer and museum consultant and a queer took to Twitter to promote the idea of inclusive signage. Margaret writes and speaks about making museums more queer-inclusive and gender equitable spaces. She describes herself as "working at the intersection of design and social justice". She is often asked to consult on signage and icons.

"The goal of gender-inclusive signage is to make the facility as welcoming as possible by avoiding gender stereotypes, acknowledging transgender people including nonbinary people, and wherever possible, not reinforcing a gender binary," she told AJJ. Here she offers her top recommendations for simple signage swaps to make signage more gender-inclusive.

The best gender-inclusive signage puts focus on the facility or utility, not the user:

● **All-gender toilet:** While specially built all-gender toilet facilities are becoming more popular, any single stall toilet can be labeled an all-gender toilet. For non-sex-specific toilets, I suggest using an icon of a toilet instead of the more common icon depicting both a man and a woman. I recommend that the accompanying text be 'All Gender Toilet' instead of 'Gender Neutral Toilet' or 'Unisex Toilet' because the 'All' is an actively welcoming

word that acknowledges there are more than two genders.

● **Baby care:** Instead of an icon of a woman bending over a table with a baby on it, I recommend an icon of a baby wearing a diaper. This puts emphasis on the baby instead of the carer, avoiding the implication that only women would be interested in using a baby care station. Baby care stations should be welcoming and available to people of all genders and abilities.

● **Nursing:** To combat stigma and reassure their nursing guests, many facilities will use signage to actively welcome breastfeeding on their premises. This is a very positive practice and it can be made even more inclusive by using an icon that does not gender the nursing adult and using the term 'nursing' instead of 'breastfeeding'. Some transgender men and some nonbinary parents choose to feed their babies with their bodies but do not identify with the term 'breastfeeding'. Not everyone will relate to the term 'nursing' either.

● **Elevator:** Put emphasis on the function of the elevator, not its riders by using an icon with up and down arrows instead of an icon depicting a man and woman inside a box. Not only is this more literal, it is less confusing. I am sure I am not the only one who has mistaken this icon for a toilet icon on a map!

● **Menstrual supplies:** In the toilet, the dispensers and disposals meant for menstrual supplies often have vague icons on them, usually a little box with a Venus (female) symbol on it. A simple icon of a menstrual pad and a tampon is more straightforward and does not gender the products. Similarly, labeling them 'pads and tampons' is more inclusive than the popular euphemism 'feminine hygiene'. Dispensers and disposals should be available in all restrooms including men's toilets because some transgender men menstruate.



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FINDING A NICHE

Strand Hardware celebrates its 30th birthday this November. Managing director Catherine Franks talks to **Nicky Roger** about the 'best kept secret' in the industry



When Strand Hardware celebrated its 25th birthday it threw a big party for its key customers, but as it turns to a more mature 30 it will honour the occasion by sending out a memento to its customer base of architectural ironmongers and select distributors. The firm offers window and door hardware, emergency exit and panic hardware, window control systems, Glass Central and D-fine – panic exit

devices constructed entirely out of 316 stainless steel.

Established in 1991 by Jonathan Franks, the Walsall firm is now run by his daughter Catherine, who took over at the helm in 2006. The company is the sole UK distributor for leading European manufacturers such as Athmer (finger protectors) and Antipanic (panic hardware). Its offer includes being able to add value to those products by customising

Above: Catherine Franks

Right: Catherine with her father Jonathan Franks the founder of the business



them with different colours, sizes and finishes. The firm also offers technical guidance and advice, which it's able to do as it puts its staff through GAI education programmes.

"We are adding more products as time goes on," says Catherine. "But our USP is offering niche products and guidance on them. "The key to our success is customer service – we take care of our customers and we protect our reputation for good service.

"We invest in staff training – even though we're not doing scheduling as we feel it's important staff know the market and the products so they can offer advice when customers call with queries." Strand boasts a loyal long-serving staff.

As well as putting staff through the GAI education programme Strand also supported the GAI Members' Day in May this year and Catherine will once again sit on the judging panel for the GAI/RIBA Specification Awards taking place next year.

A year of change

Changes this year include appointing a PR firm to reach out to potential new customers via trade press and social media and to raise the profile among end users because, as Catherine says, "we were one of the industry's best kept secrets".

2021 has also seen Catherine embark on a new business venture as one of three founders of Strand Technologies. Set up with Paul Ryan and Simon Bowden, it's a new company moving into a rapidly-growing market offering technology-based solutions for safety, security and control. The trio all run and manage businesses within the door hardware and automatic doors section and

// I was thinking about the business in detail, exploring different areas and technologies”

Catherine Franks

have previously partnered on other projects. Simon previously worked for GEZE, while Paul was founder of RTR. At Strand Technologies Simon takes the role of commercial director, Paul will oversee strategic support and business development, while Catherine assumes the role of MD.

The idea came as a result of lockdown when many businesses were facing crises or having to ‘pivot’ to survive. “I was thinking about the business in detail, about having a plan for ‘what if it goes wrong’ and exploring different areas and technologies,” Catherine says. “But Covid also created a need for automatic door systems and foot traffic counting facilities.”

Strand Technologies offers its iContact range which includes a Virtual Engineer and Virtual Usher products. The Virtual Engineer is a control and diagnostic product for entrance systems while the Virtual Usher provides occupancy and flow management with accompanying products such ‘traffic light’ entrance signals.

Data collection is one of the key applications Virtual Usher can offer; it’s possible for retailers for example or commercial settings to see the custom or foot fall through the door on say, a Tuesday between 11am



Main image:
Duoflex Openers
with link bar

Left to right:
Anti-panic touch
bar latch; push pad;
panic bolt

and 12pm, which informs so much of decision-making in a business – from power saving to staffing levels.

And with facilities management becoming ever more important as product lifecycle rises up the agenda the Virtual Engineer is a boon. It monitors automatic doors for maintenance so if there’s an issue it will automatically alert the company that services it and then they can remotely reset it; the customer may not even be aware there was an issue. Or if it requires an engineer to go to site it can pinpoint where in the building that door is and what ironmongery is being used so the engineer can come equipped with the spares needed. In a site like a shopping centre this can save masses of time and money as in the past an engineer could spend hours trying to find the affected door.

So Covid proved to have a silver lining. Has Brexit affected Strand? “It hasn’t been as bad as we anticipated,” says Catherine. “We have suppliers in Italy and Germany so we did have some logistics problems with products stuck at ports, and obviously we have to adapt to the UKCA, but things have settled down and we have not yet been affected by the materials shortage.”

The future looks bright for the established Strand Hardware and the new arrival, Strand Technologies. “It’s been exciting to get involved with something new,” says Catherine, adding, “when we talk to potential customers they can see wide applications and the huge amount of potential the products have. ■

strandhardware.co.uk
strandtech.co.uk



STYLE AND FUNCTION

Hilton adventure parc hotel in Snowdonia stipulated aesthetic and performance criteria for its doors

Set on the edge of an inland surfing lagoon, the new Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Snowdonia expects to welcome thousands of guests every year. Guest safety and security is of paramount importance to ensure a high-quality experience. The 106-bedroom hotel sought door furniture that would meet rigorous fire protection and accessibility standards, and also match the door specification used throughout the chain's hotels in the UK.

Above: Hilton's Snowdonia hotel
Right: HOPPE supplied the door schedule and technical support for the ironmongery

// It's only a small part of the build but architectural ironmongery plays a huge role in the final design"

Donna Davison, RegAI MGA, HOPPE

Having worked with main contractor HH Smith & Sons on previous projects, HB Architects was appointed to assist with completing the detail design award under the Design and Build contract.

HB Architects was engaged on the project for its wealth of experience in the hotel sector. David Coles, an architect at the practice said the brief was to "ensure technical design complied with the approved planning and contractor proposals, as well as assist with coordination of the various subcontractor packages. It's been an interesting project; the whole team managed to get the project done during the Covid pandemic, which was a challenge for all especially during the first lockdown."

HH Smith also appointed MKM Building Supplies who then worked with Pendle Doors to supply the internal doors. No ironmongery schedule had been agreed, so Pendle Doors turned to HOPPE (UK) to provide the door hardware.

"We were delighted to be asked to be part of this prestigious project supplying all the doors for the Hilton Garden Inn Snowdonia," said Ian Hartley, director at Pendle Doors. "We had a door schedule, but not one for ironmongery so I contacted HOPPE (UK) as I knew I could trust them to draw up a schedule and give us specialist technical support. Ensuring we are supplying compliant door hardware is critical, especially for fire doors, so it's always good to have an expert on board."

As a Registered Architectural Ironmonger, Donna Davison, business development manager for HOPPE (UK), knew exactly what was needed for the hotel. Pendle Doors introduced Donna to HB Architects and HH Smith

to obtain the specification and establish which products were needed.

"Projects like this are very interesting. Even though it is only a small part of the build, architectural ironmongery plays a huge role in the final design," explains Donna. "First and foremost, all hardware must meet accessibility and fire safety requirements but we must balance the practicality of the hardware with achieving the clients vision for the overall look and feel of the building."

Pendle Doors manufactured all internal veneered, paint-grade and laminate faced doorsets for the project; NFR, FD30, FD60 and FD90, including high acoustic rated bedroom entrance doors.

For aesthetic reasons, the HOPPE (UK) hardware needed to match the access control hardware that had already been chosen for the bedroom doors. HOPPE (UK) supplied the remaining fire door hardware for the bedroom entrance doors including AR8182 hinges, AR1500 door closers, both in stainless steel, and intumescent seals. To help the doors withstand the usage typically associated with this type of building, HOPPE (UK) also specified push and kick plates to protect the doors.

For the other doors throughout the building, Donna recommended HOPPE (UK)'s grade 316 stainless steel Marseille door handle set on a circular rose to coordinate with the bedroom door handles. This was agreed by HB Architects and HOPPE (UK) delivered the hardware straight to site for fitting in May 2020.

In May 2021, after several years of planning and a 14-month build, the hotel opened its doors to guests. ■



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GAI Diploma

This GAI Diploma builds on the product knowledge already gained in the Certificate in Architectural Hardware and seeks to bring application through developing scheduling skills. The course imparts how to write accurate hardware specifications and have confidence in discussing ironmongery requirements with clients.

CPD Programme

The CPD programme is the single most important way that those who have attained the GAI Diploma can develop their abilities and set themselves apart as architectural ironmongery professionals and become a Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI).

Fire Door Inspection Scheme (FDIS)

FDIS provides education which is essential for anyone working with fire doors and escape doors. Transforming knowledge and understanding about the critical role of fire doors and how they can save lives and protect property.

Find out more at gai.org.uk/education

To anyone working in the architectural ironmongery industry, Graham Shirville needs no introduction. Joint managing director of Allgood for more than 20 years, a firm started by his father, his AI career began as a 13-year old wine waiter at the GAI committee meetings which were then held at his family home.

Graham has been an active GAI committee member for decades, instrumental in the education programme as well as setting technical standards. Most recently he represented the GAI on the CPA's Marketing Integrity Group (MIG) working party developing the Code for Construction Product Information.

"The GAI was created to educate and train. It was a radical idea at the time," says Graham. "We wanted to raise expertise so that customers, architects and specifiers had proper advice. The business model is largely still the same."

The GAI held week-long residential training courses for each year of the three-year DipGAI programme, which Graham remembers fondly. "They were a great craic, with deep technical discussions going on long into the night."

The GAI was also producing training videos to allow for a wider reach. This was leading edge technology at the time. "We wanted to train all staff, to get everyone qualified and start their training early," says Graham. "The curriculum has changed of course but our raison d'être is the same."

Standard bearer

Graham and the GAI became a force to be reckoned with in the 1960s when there were very few standards for AI products. "The only quality test was for hinges which required a minimum weight per dozen pairs. The single EU market led CEN to start work on harmonised standards. None of the European countries wanted hardware so we headed that committee."

Graham believes that, without the GAI influence, the standards would have been written to the lowest common denominator. "We wanted,

HIGH ACHIEVER

To continue the celebration of the GAI's 60th anniversary **Nicky Roger** talks to industry stalwart **Graham Shirville**



// We should be better at selling certified products; there is a huge opportunity. But I believe our industry is more professional than almost all other[s]... there is no other trade body that does as much to train its members as the GAI"

Graham Shirville

and still want, higher standards for safety and performance and lifecycle. Ironmongery is one of the few moving parts in a building so durability and performance are important factors, so we spend a long time developing standards to enable that."

Seeking closure

However Graham would love to see the standard for CE and UKCA marked door closers raised still further. He says it has never been updated and is based on performances achieved more than 50 years ago. The Grenfell Tower tragedy exposed its weakness. "The difference between the opening force of and closing force means the efficiency can be as low as 50% or 60% yet such devices can still pass the standard. In normal use it means the doors can be hard to open. At Grenfell they replaced all the flat doors. They were supplied as CE-marked fire doorsets but residents were not strong enough to open them so, it is reported that, in some cases, the landlord 'fixed it' by removing the door closers so they were no longer self-closing.

"I am livid that we haven't been able to get the minimum efficiency number changed for 20 years. It has already been mentioned at the Inquiry and we have no answers. We can make better, safer products but there is presently no legal requirement to do it and, as they can be more expensive, they are seldom specified"

But Graham knows that architectural ironmongers and manufacturers have the required integrity. "We have to get everyone aware of their responsibility. The original specification has to be done by competent people who understand all the requirements – fire safety, security, longevity, acoustics, aesthetics. The skill is to combine that with an agreed budget and to consider performance over a building's lifetime.

"We should be better – especially post Grenfell – at selling certified products; there is a huge opportunity. But I believe our industry is more professional than almost all other construction material suppliers – there is no other trade body that does as much to train its members as the GAI. ■



LASTING POWER

With COP26 taking place this November all eyes are on sustainability in the built environment. For ironmongers this means being increasingly asked about product lifecycle. **Karen Trigg** reports

In recent times, the quest for environmental sustainability has become more widespread. A 2019 survey found that 47% of internet users worldwide had stopped consuming products and services that opposed their personal values – protecting the environment topped the list as a reason for switching that product or service. With the expectations on corporate responsibility also growing, it's clear that meeting environmental obligations - whether as an individual or organisation - is growing in importance.

For ironmongery, this is no different. Building environments account for around 40% of the UK's carbon footprint, and the products used within are contributing to this total. With this in mind, it's critical for those in ironmongery to understand their impact on the planet and consider changes that meet environmental conventions and key sustainability principles.

Environmental impact

The construction industry, in general, produces a staggering amount of waste. According to the 2018 edition of

Ironmongery is part of construction's carbon footprint

UK statistics on Waste, in 2014, the UK generated a total of 202.8 million tons of waste, with construction, demolition and excavation responsible for 59% of that, totalling 119.6 million tonnes.

What's more, the construction industry also accounts for 55% of material consumption in the UK. Conceivably, ironmongery is a vital part of the fabric of a building. With architectural ironmongery constructed of iron, steel, aluminium and timber, this subset of the construction industry would also have an impact on the environment and contribute to these statistics.

To combat this, as cited in the 'GAI Specifiers Guide to Ironmongery and the Impact of the Environment', decision makers can look to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' in a bid to improve their sustainability efforts. Much of this is being done by eliminating product

// By extending the life cycle of ironmongery and minimising the need for repeat manufacturing, shipments and packaging, manufacturers can further reduce carbon footprint”

and packaging waste, repurposing excess or discarded materials and creating innovative products and solutions that are better placed to meet environmental regulations.

Hardware's carbon footprint

From using green energy to passive heating and cooling, there are numerous focus points to consider when looking to meet carbon neutrality or, better still, become carbon negative in a building environment. Though, to improve things further, decision makers must focus on extending the product life cycle of architectural ironmongery, suggests Sue Corrick, product marketing manager at Allegion UK.

“By extending the life cycle of ironmongery and minimising the need for repeat manufacturing, shipments and packaging, manufacturers can further reduce carbon footprint and protect our future environments.

“At a basic level, there are numerous stages that describe a product's life cycle, all of which can have an impact on the environment, whether at the material extraction, manufacturing or construction stage. However, the life cycle of a construction product may also go through maintenance, refurbishment and demolition stages – of which, longevity and recycling elements must be considered to ensure the hardware outlasts the building structure itself.

“Take product packaging for example. With the impending Plastic Packaging Tax and practices such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) coming into effect in 2022 and 2023 respectively, the onus is now on manufacturers to review and seek plastic and polystyrene alternatives before implementing plans that make use of renewable resources and 100

percent recyclable materials. We've been making those steps at Allegion UK, right down to label classifications (such as FSC certifications) but with various stages of the product life cycle to consider, our collective efforts can't end there.

“Innovation aside, manufacturers must also adhere to the correct standards, as has always been the case. With construction at the heart of waste in the UK, there has been an increased demand for information on the environmental impact that construction products have, and with that we've seen a rise in institutes and initiatives that can now help manufacturers provide that necessary product transparency.

“ISO 14001 for example, is the most recognised international standard for environmental management systems and is designed to improve resource management and overall environmental performance through the product life cycle. By following this standard – of which is compatible with other recognised standards – manufacturers can better their environmental standing and take the first step in providing visible and detailed evidence for consumers that now seek this as part of their purchasing decision.



Left: hardware product lifecycles are under scrutiny

Below: demolition accounts for well over half of UK's waste and includes door hardware and ironmongery



THE FUTURE

Product integrity is a hot topic. At the GAI's Members Day a panel of four of the industry's thought leaders was asked about the future of architectural ironmongery. What will the next 10 years hold for the architectural ironmongery industry? What are the challenges it is facing and how equipped is it to tackle them? Where do the opportunities lie and how can it attract the next generation? The issues raised included digitalisation, skill sets, sustainability, product integrity, competence and the return of the architect's power.

To access a report on the discussion visit www.aijmagazine.co.uk

“Decision makers can also choose to enrol in further programmes that focus on sustainability. One of which is the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), a complete mapping of a product's environmental footprint and a standardised way to communicate the environmental impact of a product. An EPD reports on the environmental data of your product – everything from material acquisition to waste generation – and in accordance with the international standard ISO 14025, now sets the benchmarks that products should meet. For an EPD to be awarded, a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) must also be undertaken on a product and this must meet Product Category Rules (PCR) to be issued an EPD, and therefore be declared as acceptable in building rating schemes such as BREEAM.

“We're honoured to be part of the EPD programme at Allegion UK, and although it's not currently mandatory for manufacturers in the UK, we urge others to consider the importance of EPDs in ironmongery.

The significance of sustainability is growing quickly, and by stepping up, decision makers can continue raising standards across all areas of the product life cycle, from manufacturing to recycling, and thus create better building environments for the future.” ■

Karen Trigg is business development manager south east at Allegion UK.



// The spec of the fire door and classroom doorsets required different levels of acoustic ratings”

Comfortable sound levels are one of the primary conditions necessary for an effective learning environment. If there are background noises or a high decibel rating inside a classroom, students could struggle to hear adequately, or may find discomfort from straining to hear. It's also easier to become distracted. As such, acoustic design is an important aspect of regulations for school buildings: “Each room or other space in a school building shall be designed and constructed in such a way that it has the acoustic conditions and the insulation against disturbance by noise appropriate to its intended use.” These requirements within the Approved Documents apply specifically to teaching and learning spaces where the permissible upper limit for indoor ambient noise levels in a classroom, teaching area or small group room is 35dBA for a new build and 40dBA for a refurbishment. However, consideration may also be applied to adjoining areas that may impact on learning environments like corridors or meeting areas.

NOR810 is a single-actuated, bottom edge drop seal for acoustic and fire-rated timber doorsets. It has been tested to one million cycles to all appropriate standards: compliant with BS 476-22, smoke tested in accordance with BS 476-31.1 and acoustically tested in accordance with BS EN ISO 10140-2. It is available in 13 lengths as standard from 320-1535mm. Should a non-standard size be required, Norseal can cut accurately to any length to order using Europe's first custom-made drop seal cutting machine.

Ponteland has been shortlisted in four categories at the Construction Excellence North East (CENE) awards: Integration and Collaboration, Innovation, Value, and Building Project of the Year categories. The awards take place in October. ■

KEEPING THE NOISE DOWN

Acoustic performance and fire rating were at the top of the agenda for the doors at a new education and leisure hub in Northumberland

Doorset manufacturer Bridgman IBC supplied more than 600 doorsets for one of Northumberland County Council's largest ever capital programmes.

The new £43m facility education and leisure facility in Ponteland comprises a 52-place nursery, 420-pupil primary and 1,600-pupil secondary school all on the same site alongside a state-of-the-art leisure centre, a café, sports bar and a library to serve not only the pupils but the whole local community. The development was designed by architects FaulknerBrowns and built by Kier Construction. FaulknerBrowns won Retail and Leisure Architect of the Year

Ponteland is a £43m school and leisure facility

at the Building Design Architect of the Year Awards 2020.

The specification of the fire door and classroom doorsets required different levels of acoustic ratings across the piece. Norseal supplied Bridgman with NOR810 acoustic drop seals to meet the building's 30, 35 and 41dB acoustic requirements with the two companies working closely together to meet the demanding manufacturing schedule. “Our manufacturing schedule for this project was challenging and we put pressure on Norseal to match it – they reacted positively every time and the whole project went smoothly as a result,” says Bridgman's Stewart Hind.



Applying advanced technology to our core products.

Introducing the KL1000 G3; designed through evolution of our best-selling KitLock, the KL1000, and boasting all the popular features of the KL1000 Classic+ including 20 User Codes and 24hr countdown timer¹.

KitLock by Codelocks is a convenient alternative to traditional locks and keys suitable for a wide range of cabinet and locker applications. The KL1000 G3's key override and front battery change capabilities provide ease of use and peace of mind. The updated chrome effect back panel and handle finishes reflect their surroundings giving the lock a slimmer, more subtle aesthetic.



Key
override



Front battery
change



Chrome effect
finishes

Available with the Clean by Codelocks antibacterial finish.

Silver Chrome



Scan the QR code and
experience the KL1000 G3, or visit
codelocks.co.uk/kl1000g3





SAME BUT DIFFERENT

Douglas Masterson compares BS/EN and standards in the USA

The Irish writer George Bernard Shaw said: “England and America are two countries separated by a common language.”

We certainly know that both the UK and the USA have a huge amount in common, but it is not just our language that we share. In both countries our industries provide high quality specification and supply of critical life safety products in ironmongery/hardware and we both have sets

of standards that we faithfully use, promote and help create, so this article will detail what the key standards are, and the process of how they are created.

Standards Developing Organisations

A Standards Developing Organisation (SDO) can be defined as an organisation whose primary function is developing, coordinating, promulgating, revising, amending,

reissuing, interpreting, or otherwise producing technical standards to address the needs of a group of affected adopters. In UK we are well acquainted with organisations such as CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation/ European Committee for Standardisation) and BSI (British Standards Institution). In the USA some of the equivalent SDOs include ANSI (American National Standards Institute), BHMA (Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association), UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and NFPA (National Fire Prevention Association).

In the same way that the BSI has a long history, having been established in 1901 with over 40,000 standards, many of these SDOs can claim similar longevity. UL produced its first standard in 1903 for Tin Clad Fire Doors and ANSI was founded in 1918 and now have a catalogue of over 9,500 standards. BHMA started in 1925 and is the only SDO accredited by ANSI to develop and maintain over 40 hardware performance standards. NFPA can trace its origins back to 1896 and is a global self-funded non-profit organisation, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards with more than 300 consensus codes and standards in its portfolio.

Product standards and building safety codes

Similar to EN and BS standards, many ANSI/BHMA standards define different product grades for a particular hardware item. ANSI/BHMA product grades as 1, 2, or 3 – grade 1 is the highest – and these are defined by progressive levels of performance benchmarks in each applicable standard. These standards establish requirements for cycle tests, strength tests, operational tests, material evaluation tests, finish tests, and dimensional criteria for the products in the standard.

While the performance requirements of most products' standards are fairly stringent and not easily passed by products of lesser quality design or workmanship, they are also viewed by many in the US market as “minimum standards” and are therefore not always

seen as being very meaningful. For example, when every Grade 1 Mortise Lock available on the market is certified to the BHMA/ANSI standard, it can be viewed as a minimum standard since there is no differentiator. Therefore, manufacturers will often test their products beyond the stated performance requirements of the applicable standard for marketing purposes and advertise that as such, i.e. "our door closer is cycle tested to 10 million cycles, five times greater than the ANSI Grade 1 standard".

In the UK and Europe, we are all extremely familiar with our own sets of British (BS) and European (EN) Standards and the same is equally true in the USA, although these are prefaced depending on the author of the standard such as A for ANSI and UL for Underwriters Laboratory.

Below is a table which details global standards for various items of hardware, but it is important to reiterate that the requirements within each standard are not necessarily the same and in fact may conflict in some ways. UL also has standards for certain products, as noted in the chart, and these standards focus on the fire and safety (egress) integrity of products.

As is done in the UK and Europe, manufacturers submit their products for independent testing to these performance standards, which can be supervised by testing laboratories who certify them to the corresponding BHMA/ANSI standard if they properly pass the tests. This testing and certification process is completely optional for manufacturers to have their products installed and used, but is typically necessary in order to sell them in the market as they stand as an



// Hardware specification in the US would be very different from its counterpart in the UK"

This article is based on a presentation given during the GAI Members Day in May by Laura Frye of DHI (the GAI's equivalent Trade association in USA) and Douglas Masterson of the GAI. This can still be viewed on GAI YouTube channel.

Device	ANSI/BHMA Standard	Grade 1 Test cycles	Grade 2 Test cycles	Grade 3 Test cycles
Butt hinges	A156.1	2,500,000	1,500,000	350,000
Board locks	A156.2	1,000,000	500,000	250,000
Mortise locks	A156.13	1,000,000	800,000	800,000
Door controls (with back check)	A156.4	1,500,000	750,000	500,000
Exit devices	A156.3	500,000	250,000	100,000

independent testament to the products' performance capabilities. Building codes do not require BHMA/ANSI certified products, although codes such as UL10C is referenced in NFPA 101 and 80 which in turn are referenced in International Building Codes.

● NFPA 101 is a hugely influential US Life Safety Code which can be used in conjunction with a building code or alone in jurisdictions that do not have a building code in place. It is used by numerous federal government agencies and provides minimum requirements for safety from fire and smoke emergencies and to allow prompt escape for occupants from the building in to a safe area within the building. It is most widely used source for strategies to protect people based on building construction, protection, and occupancy features that minimize the effects of fire and related hazards. Closest equivalents to NFPA 101 in UK is BS 9999 and BS 9991 which are codes of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of both commercial and residential buildings. Other influential NFPA standards include:

● NFPA 80 which regulates the installation and maintenance of assemblies and devices used to protect openings in walls, floors, and ceilings against the spread of fire and smoke within, into, or out of buildings.
 ● NFPA 105 prescribes minimum requirements for smoke door assemblies for use in providing safety to life and protection of property from smoke.
 ● NFPA 252 outlines methods of fire testing door assemblies that testing laboratories and manufacturers can use to determine the degree of fire protection provided by such assemblies and assess their suitability when fire resistance of a specific duration is required.

These standards all are massively co-dependent as NFPA 101 requires compliance with NFPA 80 and NFPA 105, and NFPA 252 is referenced in both NFPA 80 and NFPA 105.

Fire testing standards

In UK and Europe, we are highly familiar with standards for testing of fire doors such as BS 476 22 and EN 1634 1 & 2. The USA has its own set of

standards in this area too and US fire rated doors are tested in accordance with the following standards:

● **UL 10C, Positive Fire Pressure Tests of Door Assemblies.** This code is a method of testing fire doors that more accurately simulates the conditions of a real fire. It establishes the neutral pressure level at a maximum of 40 inches above the sill after five minutes.
 ● **UL 10B, Fire Tests of Door Assemblies** (neutral or negative pressure)
 ● **NFPA 252, Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies.** The hugely influential International Building Code, which is adopted throughout 50 US states, requires swinging doors to be tested to UL10C or NFPA 252 with positive pressure testing. In addition to the fire testing a hose stream portion of the UL 10C and NFPA 252 tests the structural durability of the assembly.

Differences in product specification

A typical hardware specification in US would be very different from its counterpart in the UK or Europe. Building Codes and standards have a marked influence on what can and cannot be specified in each region. Here are some of the differences which can be seen:

● Corridor fire doors in US tend to use more fire exit hardware (exit devices) than in the UK due to their latching capabilities. In the UK these are more traditionally specified on final escape doors.
 ● Push plate/pull handle combinations or back-to-back pull handles, frequently specified in the UK, would not be specified on fire rated doors in the US as fire rated doors must be positively latched.
 ● Automatic flush bolts are more popular in US than in the UK although on double doors which are fire doors for habitable rooms, manual bolts are still used on rooms that are not normally occupied or where they are allowed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
 We may be divided by a common language, but both regions are united in the promotion of high-quality hardware and ironmongery specifications. ■

NEW PRODUCTS >>



PADLOCKS GET ACCESS CONTROL TREATMENT

Security specialist Mul-T-Lock has added its NE high security padlocks and the Hasplock DIAMOND to its eCLIQ® offering.

Mul-T-Lock's eCLIQ® access control system allows businesses to manage access permissions remotely,

from anywhere in the world. This includes the ability to schedule individual access permissions for each key, as well as to provide time-limited access.

The NE range of padlocks provides resistance against

physical attacks and maximum resistance against weather and other environmental conditions and impacts, such as corrosion. The NE range is CEN Rated from 3 up to 6, and certified by the Master Locksmith Association. The padlocks also meet EN 12320 standards.

Mul-T-Lock's Hasplock DIAMOND is a robust and burglar-resistant locking solution that allows for the padlock and hasp to be incorporated into one stainless steel unit, with a locking bolt that cannot be removed. These new additions to the eCLIQ®.

The new control systems also significantly reduce whole life costing, as it removes the need to replace physical locks; and keys can be validated daily, weekly, or monthly to keep them secure.

www.mul-t-lock.co.uk

GRILLE INSTALLATION MADE CLEAR WITH LORIENT MANUAL



Lorient has launched a new installation manual for its collection of intumescent air transfer grilles. In everyday use, the intumescent grilles allow air to

circulate freely throughout a building; but in a fire, the intumescent expands to form a solid block that stops the fire from spreading.

The correct installation of these passive fire protection products is critical which led to the launch of the manual.

www.lorientuk.com

SLIDING DOORS TO SHOW DIGITAL DISPLAYS

ASSA ABLOY Entrance Systems has announced a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with consumer electronics company LG Electronics Inc. for the development of a high-quality automatic sliding door equipped with LG's Transparent OLED digital technology.

The new ASSA ABLOY automated glass sliding doors have digital signage incorporated into the glazed door and will be able to project high definition images and videos.

It will combine LG's Transparent OLED signage (model 55EW5G) and Supersign Solution for integrated content management.

The company claims by being far more transparent than similar LCD displays, the door will blend

in seamlessly and naturally with its surroundings by reproducing accurate colours with exceptional brightness and high contrast. The product will also offer durability and improved safety due to the robust design featuring tempered glass.

"It will not only provide convenient, touchless, and automated access," says Mikael Carleson, president pedestrian door solutions, "it will also present new opportunities for high-end retailers, commercial buildings, and enterprises to display advertisement, communication, and greetings to customers, visitors, or employees entering a building or area."

www.assaabloyentrance.co.uk



SIMONWERK RELEASES NEW COLLECTION



Hinge manufacturer SIMONSWERK UK has launched a new robe hook collection. The solid brass designs are available in a wide range of finishes including PVD which has achieved 1,000 hrs corrosion resistance tests to BS EN 1670, has a high temperature resilience, impact strength and abrasion resistance.

www.simonswerk.co.uk

GEZE HELPS WITH HEALTHCARE

GEZE has launched 'Helping Healthcare to Heal' – an initiative created to recognise that putting patients at the centre of building design in hospital, clinic and doctors' surgery settings can help in the process of healing and recovery. Equipment and materials specified and installed within the building can actively contribute to and promote well-being.

In creating the initiative, GEZE looked at addressing areas that encourage recovery and provide patient comfort:

- Prevent environmental stresses such as noise from slamming doors or lack of privacy without creating barriers.
- Enable patients and residents to be as close to nature as possible through outdoor views, sufficient sunlight and fresh air.

- Give patients and residents a feeling of control by being offered opportunities to access outside spaces and move around safely and contact free, not feeling imprisoned but protected in the building.

There is more information available on the GEZE UK website or alternatively GEZE has produced a comprehensive brochure for the healthcare industry that looks at providing solutions for the hygiene, safety and well-being of not only patients but employees as well. It reviews each area of a healthcare building in detail: comfort, safety, hygiene, design, sustainability, accessibility and fire safety. It can be downloaded from the website.

www.geze.com

GAI TECHNICAL

GAI members can avail of a wealth of technical information which is all available on the GAI website.



1. Technical Briefings

Regular briefings on relevant industry topics. Everything from BIM to BS and EN standards to UKCA Marking are covered.

2. GAI Guides to Standards

A library of over 20 guides to the most relevant British and European standards which impact the ironmongery industry.

3. Quarterly Technical Review

This publication which is updated each quarter provides the proposed timetable for changes, amendments or revisions to BS and EN standards, as well as keeping members informed on any new relevant publications or consultations.

4. GAI Specifier's Guides

A complete set of eight guides relating to ironmongery and access control product for the Construction industry. These are aimed at assisting all who are involved in the specification process from the architect, architectural technician, interior designer, M&E consultant right through to the specifying architectural ironmonger. Topics covered include ironmongery in a post-pandemic world, the internet of things, accessibility, access control and ironmongery for fire and escape doors.

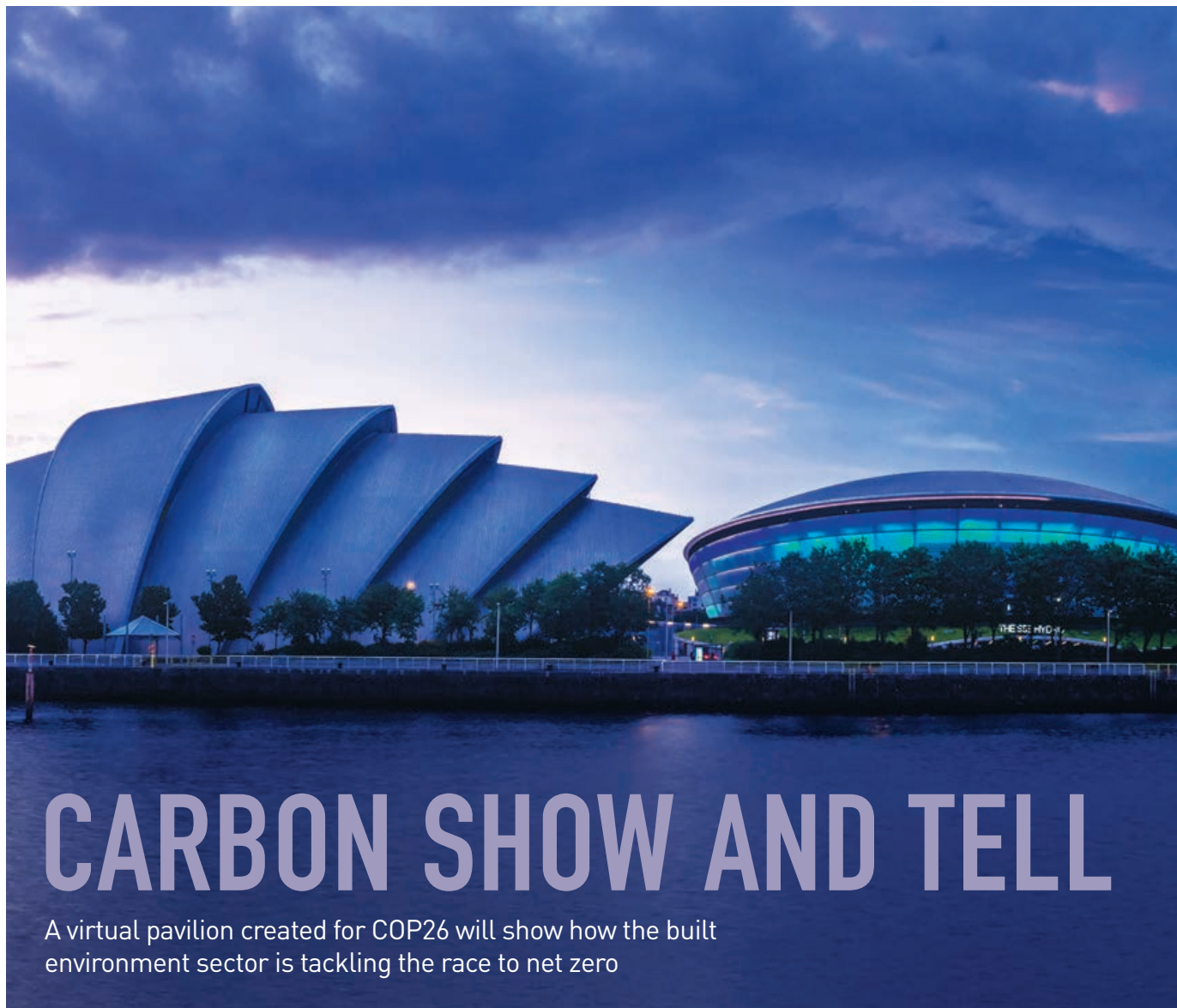
5. BIM Product Data Templates (PDTs)

A series of 34 templates which are available for GAI members to populate with product information to create Product Data Sheets – this will assist with having your product ranges “BIM ready”.

6. RIBA Approved CPDs

The GAI now have ten CPD presentations which have been approved by RIBA and these are all available to GAI member companies for their architects and specifiers. These cover a broad spectrum of topics from accessibility right through to internet of things. As these have been approved by RIBA they are all worth double points to RIBA members.

For further details contact GAI Technical Manager Douglas Masterson on technical@gai.org.uk



Over 100 organisations have come together to create a virtual pavilion to draw attention to the built environment's contribution to carbon emissions at the COP26 climate conference in November.

The UK Built Environment Virtual Pavilion will contain an exhibition of exemplary low-carbon projects "within a bespoke virtual reality space" and host speeches and panel discussions.

Coordinated by the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC), the pavilion aims "to give the sector a

voice at COP26 and generate a reach and legacy that can stretch beyond COP itself".

The pavilion will help tell a story of sustainability in the built environment and enable those entering the virtual reality space to see just how important the industry is in the race to net zero. The projects in the exhibition and the installation were chosen via an open call and judging process.

COP, or Conference of the Parties, is an annual conference that brings together signatories of the 1994

COP26 is being held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The pavilion is one of many activities being planned to highlight the built environment's role in causing climate change – the sector causes around 40 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions – but how it can also be part of the solution. ■

To book a virtual tour of the pavilion visit www.ukgbc.org/courses/virtual-tour-cop26-virtual-pavilion/



AI SPECIFICATION AWARDS 2022

Celebrating the best in architectural ironmongery specification

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the AI Specification Awards 2022 returns bigger and better than ever. Following the postponement of last year's awards, the judging panel will be assessing projects completed and products launched over the last three years.

Entries are judged on the effectiveness of the architectural ironmongery specification and how it enhances the security, accessibility and safety of the building, whilst also adding to its aesthetics, functionality and longevity.

To enter, projects or products must be:

- Either completed or released on to the market between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2021.
- Submitted to the GAI for judging by Friday 19 November 2021.

The AI Specification Awards consist of the following awards:

- **Commercial and Hospitality**
(Sponsored by ASSA Abloy)
- **Public Health and Education**
(Sponsored by Forza Doors)
- **Residential**
(Sponsored by Frank Allart)
- **International**
(Sponsored by dormakaba)
- **Product Design and Innovation - Mechanical**
(Sponsored by Simonswerk)
- **Product Design and Innovation - Electronic**
(Sponsored by ADSA)
- **Jubilee Award**
(Sponsored by Eurobond Doors)
- **Winner of Winners Award**
(Sponsored by GEZE)

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE - FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2021

www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Guild of
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Your trusted partner for compliant door hardware & safe specification

Fire doors require compliant hardware and ironmongery to meet the British & European fire safety standards. Changing an approved specification has potential risks for building and resident safety.

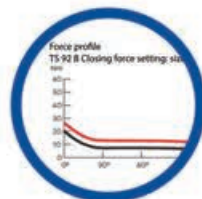
At dormakaba, we focus on the importance of specifying the correct door closers for safe application. We ensure that our high quality products are fully certified to help you meet the requirements of BS 8300 and the 2010 Equality Act in addition to the fire regulations.

We support #FDSW2021



dormakaba 

Fire Door Closer Checklist for Safe Specification



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