

# BRIDGING THE SKILLS GAP

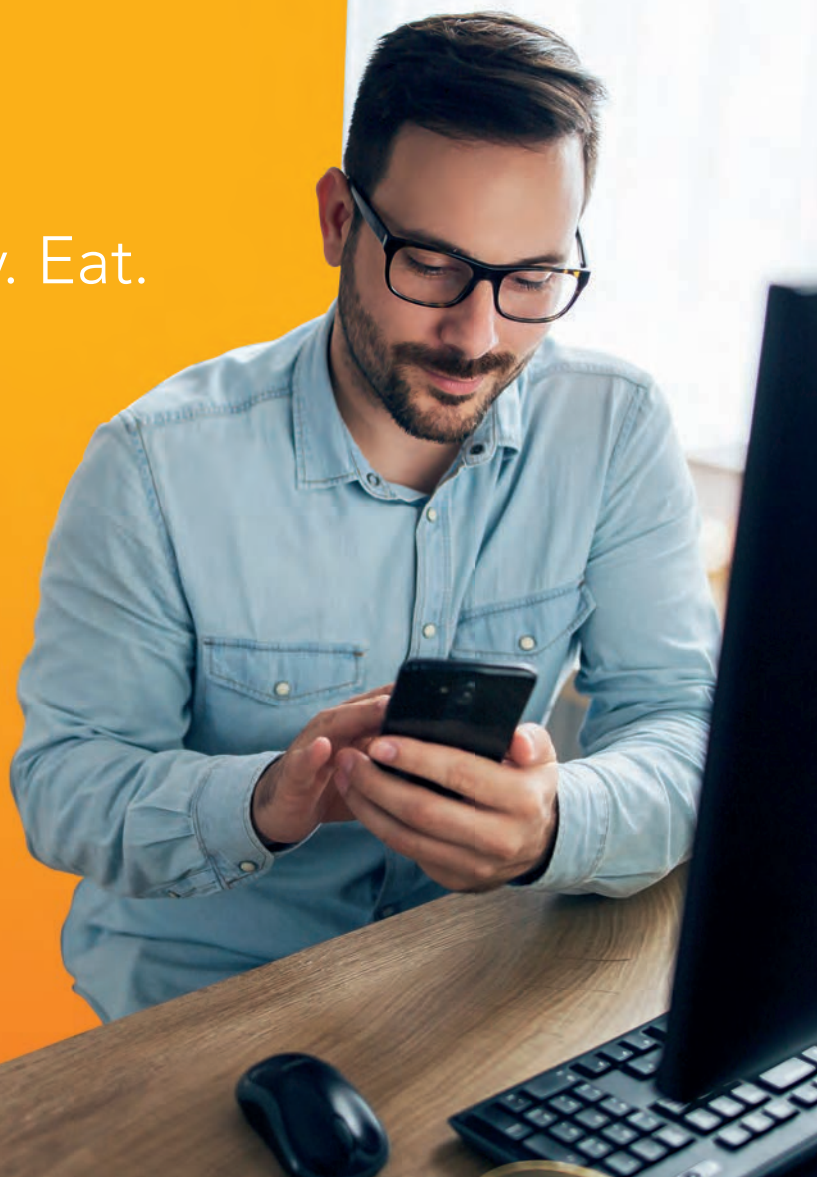
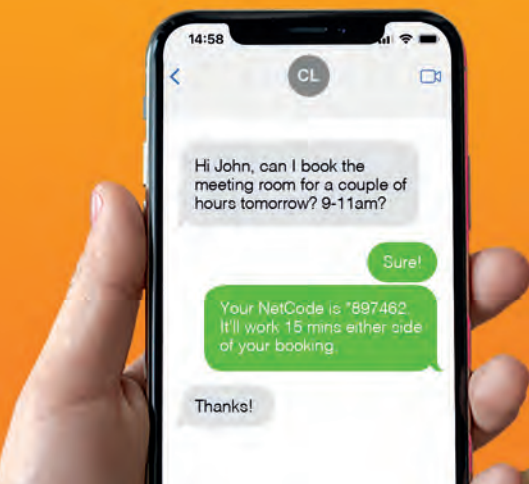
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## MINDSET AND DIGITAL SECURE WINS IN CIAT AWARDS

Designed to recognise excellence in architectural technology globally, this year's CIAT awards winners had a strong theme of digital technology. The Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology, Small to Medium went to Martello Café in Felixstowe. Designed by PLAICE Design Company, the café is to be a focal point for the regeneration of Felixstowe's south seafront. The use of BIM technology assisted the design team to resolve complex construction detailing related

to the striking roof structure and integrated services. Combined with sustainable innovative ventilation and heating design, they achieved the client's brief through a combination of natural and technological methods.

The Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology Large to Mega went to Gale & Snowden Architects for its passivhaus-certified leisure centre St Sidwells Point in Devon. It was praised not just for its energy

efficient high performance and emphasis on technical detailing but as an example of collaborative working to achieve an exemplary project, putting accessibility high on the priority list.

Two student awards were presented at the event: the first for a project which went to Ian Westhead at Solent University for his Between the Bridges Regeneration and the second for a report to Eilis O'Hare at Ulster University for her 'The Potential For Digital Construction Technologies to Advance Fire Evacuation Procedures.'

The winner of the Emerging Talent category was Sam Lambert from P+HS Architects who was praised for his "ambitious and determined professional mindset".

View all winners at <https://architecturaltechnology.com/awards.html>

Main picture: Felixstowe's Martello Café;  
below: Leisure centre, St Sidwell's Point



GRAINGER PHOTOGRAPHY



### RIBA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The Royal Institute for British Architects has appointed Valerie Vaughan-Dick as its new CEO from January 2023.

Vaughan-Dick (pictured), currently the chief operating officer at the Royal College of General Practitioners, will take forward the RIBA's Biennial Action Plan 2022-23. Speaking about her appointment she said: "I am delighted to be joining RIBA at such an exciting time in its development and to being part of the transition to an even more effective business, where sustainability is top of the agenda."

Vaughan-Dick has previously held senior leadership roles at the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Transport and the National

Audit Office. RIBA Board Chair Jack Pringle welcomed the appointment citing Vaughan-Dick's "track record in financial transformation and experience in forming international and professional partnerships".

Vaughan-Dick will take over the role from Adrian Dobson and Pamela Harding, who have been interim CEOs at RIBA since former CEO Alan Vallance left the institution in July to take up a role at the Chartered Insurance Institute.

The institution recently appointed architect Muyiwa Oki as its new president. Oki, who took up the role on 1 September, is RIBA's first black president and its youngest.





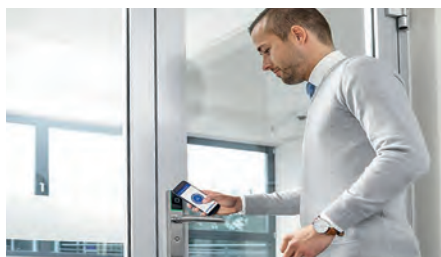
## ■ BIG 5 RETURNS TO DUBAI

The international building and construction show, the Big 5 will take place 5-8 December at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

The Big 5 is Middle East, Africa, and South Asia's largest construction industry event, attracting 2,000 exhibitors and 55,000 global attendees from more than 150 countries.

Returning this year, The Big 5 Global Construction Leaders' Summit will feature key industry stakeholders and disruptors from outside the sector to discuss new ways forward and knowledge-sharing to future-proof the industry.

The Big 5 will focus on eight major product segments, as well as host six specialised events. This includes the an exclusive event for the architecture and design community in the Middle East – Everything Architecture. This will allow architects, designers, specifiers, and property developers to explore innovative and inspiring products, materials, and services. [thebig5.ae](http://thebig5.ae)



## ■ NEW CPD ON ACCESS CONTROL

dormakaba has launched a new RIBA-approved CPD on Demystifying Access Control. The 45-minute session provides an overview of access control fundamentals; key specification considerations; the latest innovations in hardware and software; a guide to standards and regulations; and provides examples of the latest solutions and their applications.

To find out more visit [dormakaba.co.uk/cpd](http://dormakaba.co.uk/cpd)

## ■ LEXICON WHITE PAPER PHASE TWO PUBLISHED

LEXICON, a Construction Innovation Hub project which is working on developing a common language for construction projects to make it easy to compare and categorise information, has released its second phase report.

A key part of the new report sets out how users can create and edit machine-readable Product Data Templates (PDTs) that are accurate, relevant, and up to date with current standards. PDTs are a useful tool for those operating in the architectural ironmongery sector because they help with the creation of Product Data Sheets.

In addition, LEXICON Phase Two offers guidance on bringing the right groups of people together as a Relevant Authority to collaborate and to further boost the accuracy of product information.

GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson is part of the Working Group responsible for the LEXICON project, and assisted with the creation of the latest report.

## ■ DEADLINE FOR UKCA MARKING EXTENSION WILL NOT INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

The UK Government announced on 14 November 2022 that the deadline to use the UKCA mark has been extended until 31 December 2024. However, it did not include construction products as these fall under different regulations.

The government's announcement stated: "There will be different rules for medical devices, construction products, cableways, transportable pressure equipment, unmanned aircraft systems, rail products, and marine equipment. Government departments responsible for these sectors are making sector-specific arrangements...."

Therefore, at the time of going to press, the situation in respect of products from GAI members remains unchanged. Construction products falling within the scope of a harmonised/designated standard which are to be placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) from 1 January 2023 must be UKCA marked. CE marking on relevant products will not be acceptable on its own but will remain permissible in Northern Ireland under the NI Protocol.

The Construction Products Association has raised the issue of this announcement not covering construction products. Peter Caplehorn, CPA chief executive, said: "We are not out of the woods yet. The status quo is not certain, and for construction product manufacturers and the wider construction industry to prepare for any impending policy

changes, the government must expedite its decision on this critical issue for our sector.

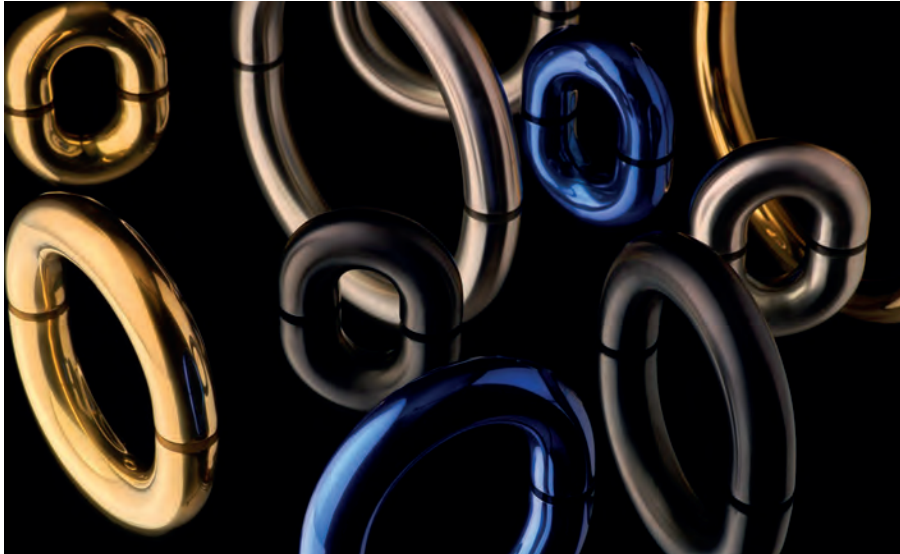
"The year-end is fast approaching, and Parliament will recess on 21 December, leaving very little time for government to enact the necessary legislation to make the policy and its deadline a reality. It also leaves the industry to face the increasingly difficult process through next year to re-test and re-certify new products where few or no UK facilities exist to achieve this."

"With the longer term in mind, we must also ask government ministers to re-consider the usefulness of the CA Mark policy, and whether a more reasonable, practical solution exists to help achieve the right aims but avoid further and unnecessary loss of time, money and resources. This continues to have a significant impact on investment, innovation, and growth of the sector."

Further detail on this topic can be found in the GAI Specifier's Guide to UKCA and CE Marking on [www.gai.org.uk/knowledge](http://www.gai.org.uk/knowledge).

Peter Caplehorn,  
chief executive  
of CPA





## BRIT DESIGN FOR D LINE HANDLES

British designer Tom Dixon has developed a collection of door accessories with plump forms and metallic finishes, for Danish manufacturer D Line.

The FAT collection includes both pull and lever handles, a door knocker, key escutcheons, a thumb turn and a doorstop. The designs are characterised by soft rounded forms that give them an inflated feel. This effect is enhanced by polished metallic finishes that include polished brass and electric blue, as well as satin stainless steel and PVD black.

FAT is shortlisted for Dezeen Awards 2022 in the homeware design category.

The project marks Tom Dixon's first foray into the world of architectural ironmongery. However the 'fat profile' is a recurring theme in the designer's work. Other examples include the Liquid bathroom range for Vitra and the Bump glassware.

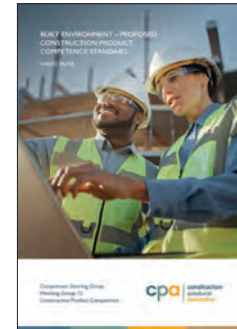
Dixon said his interest in soft shapes developed after having children and is possibly a reaction against seeing them running around the house and bumping into things. "Everyone has banged themselves against a door handle and hurt themselves, so I like the idea that you can do something that is super friendly."

The FAT range is manufactured from robust AISI 316 stainless steel. Despite the soft shapes, the designs are intended to be highly functional and not just a style statement.

"I think FAT could go in any type of high-traffic building, from nursery schools to hospitals to fashionable nightclubs," said Dixon. "By having rounded ends and very grippable handles, they work in a multitude of applications."

The project is also D Line's first collaboration with a designer from outside of Denmark.

## COMPETENCE WHITEPAPER HIGHLIGHTS REGAI MODEL



A new white paper has set out how the entire built environment sector can unite behind a single, agreed standard to determine, demonstrate and recognise construction products competence (CPC).

*Built Environment – Proposed Construction Product Competence Standard* has been published by Competence Steering Group (CSG) Working Group 12, led by the Construction Products Association (CPA) with GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson serving as co-chair. The CSG was tasked with responding to the competence issues raised in Dame Judith Hackitt's Building a Safer Future report and the subsequent requirements set out in the Building Safety Act following the Grenfell Tower fire.

As well as culminating in the publication of this white paper, this work paves the way for the future publication of a new British Standard in this arena. It clearly highlights the necessity for a measurement of competence of those who use or are otherwise working with construction products: both that they are competent to do so, and that they can demonstrate that competence to others.

The architectural ironmongery sector has been held up as a significant example of this through the inclusion of CPC Profiles for Architectural Ironmongery in Appendix 2 of the white paper, highlighting the need for those who specify ironmongery correctly to be a Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI). See p26-27 for full more details.

## 'PURIST' HANDLE WINS RED DOT DESIGN AWARD

A minimalist door handle, named Shiraat, won a Red Dot 2022 design award. Designed to "leave out anything superfluous and unnecessary in order to get to the essence of the form" the result is a slim, no-frills, cylindrical handle in stainless steel (pictured). It was designed by Dutch firm Grand&Johnson



and manufactured by Intersteel. The awards jury praised its design concept and its high standard stainless steel finish.

Another winner in this year's awards was J4011, a compact, intelligent door lock developed for indoor spaces and offices,



designed and manufactured by Archie Hardware Co. The main element is made of a zinc alloy with an electrophoretic coating and the handle is anodised aluminium, which resists fingerprints. The jury called the smart lock "as easy to install and pleasant to move".



## ■ RRO CHANGES CODIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE DOOR INSPECTION

January 2023 will see changes to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) come into force. The changes under Article 24 cement the legal requirements for Responsible Persons to carry out regular inspections and maintenance of fire doors. It applies to multi-occupancy residential buildings in England over 11 metres (more than three storeys).

Article 24 of the RRO now requires, in law, the Responsible Person to provide information to Fire and Rescue Services to assist them to plan for the event of fire and, if needed, to provide an effective operational response. This will now include a requirement for them to:

- undertake quarterly checks of all fire doors (including self-closing devices) in the common parts
- undertake – on a best endeavour basis – annual checks of all flat entrance doors (including self-closing devices) that lead onto a building's common parts.

This will bring the RRO into line with the Fire Safety Act 2021, removing the legal ambiguity over whether flat entrance doors that open into common parts should be routinely considered

as part of the fire risk assessment process. While the changes to the RRO only refer to buildings over 11m, the Responsible Persons for residential buildings below that height still have a duty to install and maintain general fire precautions in including making sure that all fire doors – including flat entrance doors – provide adequate protection. The changes to the RRO do not remove or replace these legal obligations.

The most straightforward way for a Responsible Person to demonstrate that the fire doors are compliant and properly maintained is to have a formal fire door register that records inspection and maintenance records, maintaining the Golden Thread and providing an audit trail for every single door to ensure total compliance throughout its life. These inspections need to be carried out by a third-party accredited specialist companies for assured compliance.

**A Fact Sheet to help guide Responsible Persons through the new regulations can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/rweaatcr>**

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## GAI TALK...



**Simon Forrester,**  
GAI chief executive

These are undoubtedly turbulent times. A challenging global environment, both politically and economically, is translating into uncertain domestic and international markets for many in the architectural ironmongery and wider construction sectors. For a lot of companies, these challenges are compounded by a growing concern about a shortage of the skills and staff they need to capitalise on those opportunities which remain.

Our survey for this month's cover story on architectural ironmongery skills and recruitment found that more than 70% of respondents had experienced a shortage of suitable candidates to fill roles over the past 12 months; a similar number say that, as a result, it is taking longer than usual to fill vacancies.

Encouragingly, respondents recognised that a significant part of the answer lies in our own hands. More than 60% report changing their criteria to 'recruit for potential' and then 'train for skills' and more still are looking to increase expenditure on training and education.

As a sector, architectural ironmongery has a responsibility – as well as an economic imperative – to attract, train and retain the next generation. Guild members have long been in the vanguard of this effort, putting their employees through a GAI education programme.

This year's expanded education programme is our broadest ever. Alongside the familiar Foundation, Certificate and DipGAI courses we now offer specialist Stage 3 qualifications in door systems, electric hardware & access control, and standards and regulations. Enrolment is still open for the current education year, so there has never been a better time to tackle our growing skills shortage head on! Visit [www.gai.org.uk/learning](http://www.gai.org.uk/learning), or email [education@gai.org.uk](mailto:education@gai.org.uk) for more information.

## GAI EMPHASISES COMMUNITY WITH NEW APPOINTMENT

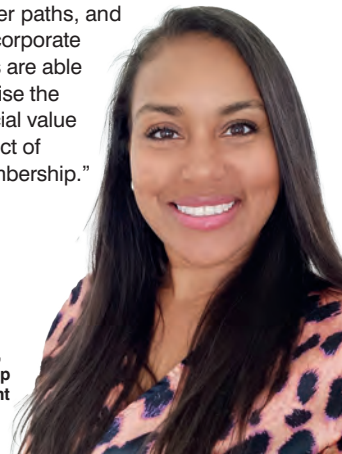
The GAI has appointed Diana Blair as membership engagement manager. The new role has been created to support individual and corporate GAI members, helping them get the most from their membership and building the wider GAI community.

Diana Blair joins GAI from her previous role with the Glass & Glazing Federation. She is a membership engagement specialist with a 20 year track record of work with trade and professional associations. Speaking about her appointment Blair said: "A strong and engaged membership is very much a virtuous circle – it makes sure members receive more and better value from their membership, but in turn it also builds a stronger organisation which is better able to represent and support its members."

"That engagement is something I will be working hard to build in this new role, through face-to-face meetings with members, by building links with and

between the regional GAI Community Hubs, and through the intelligent use of data.

"The goal is to make sure that all our individual members are engaged and supported on their learning and career paths, and that our corporate members are able to maximise the commercial value and impact of their membership."



**Diana Blair,**  
membership  
engagement  
manager

## STILL TIME TO ENROL FOR GAI COURSES AND QUALIFICATIONS



The GAI enrolment deadline has been extended until the end of January, giving learners extra time to sign up for the courses in the 2022/23 year.

The GAI education programme progresses from the introductory Foundation in Hardware course and the Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CIAH) to a newly-expanded range of 'Stage 3' qualifications. The GAI Diploma (DipGAI) is now known as the Diploma in Scheduling.

A new Diploma in Door Systems will educate on both residential and commercial

type doorsets, including modules on acoustics, fire resistance, security, rebound doors, temperature control, and specialist hygiene/clean room/medical applications.

A Diploma in Electric Hardware and Access Control will cover in detail door entry systems, hotel locking systems and smart technology, breaking down into the technical details of each component required and the software.

The third new qualification is a Stage 3 Certificate in Standards and Regulations. This will educate on all aspects of the standards relevant to the architectural ironmongery industry and, unlike the diplomas, will be annually renewable and subject to an ongoing process of continuing professional development.

GAI training and development manager Rachel Tipton explained: "The new diplomas are designed to

meet the needs of a growing number of companies looking to educate their people in these specialist areas, but in a way which is fully integrated with architectural ironmongery.

"The certificate is a new type of qualification which has been launched as a specific response to the post-Grenfell environment. With the Building Safety Act having brought competency and standards to the top of the agenda, every company in the construction sector now needs to have employees with the technical expertise and understanding to know what can and should be specified, why, and the consequences of getting it wrong."

GAI members are eligible for a 50% discount on the cost of all courses. Full details of the new qualifications are included in the GAI Education Prospectus 2022/23, available at [www.gai.org.uk/learning](http://www.gai.org.uk/learning)



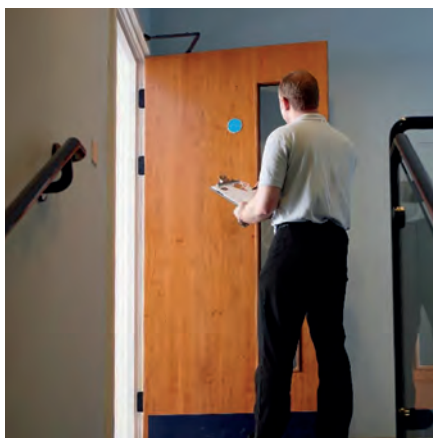
## FIRE DOOR SAFETY WEEK

The GAI supported a rescheduled Fire Door Safety Week in early November with two special webinars. Both sessions featured industry experts including Douglas Masterson of GAI, Ryan Hambrook of Forza Doors, Tony Millen of FireDNA and Elliott Brown of The Fire Door Inspectors Ltd.

The first, entitled *Fire Doors and Critical Pre-handover Activities*, explored the key areas of fire door manufacture, specification, installation, and ironmongery. The second explored the post-handover activities, covering the handover process, maintenance and inspection, and relevant legislation.

Both webinars included a Q&A and panel discussion, and are available for catch-up viewing by GAI members at [www.gai.org.uk/cpd](http://www.gai.org.uk/cpd)

Douglas Masterson, GAI technical manager, commented: "We are delighted to have supported Fire Door Safety Week by hosting the two special webinars. The sessions helped our members understand the details that goes into the pre and post-handover activities, as well as hearing from key industry voices."



## NEW GAI GUIDES TO SUPPORT END-USER SECTORS

The GAI has announced a new series of guides to help end-users get more from their architectural ironmongery.

These guides will address the needs of clients, occupiers, users, developers, facilities managers, and all who are involved with the building following its handover. They will address maintenance recommendations and care of finishes for relevant materials, as well as providing some useful checklists which will assist the end user with critical products such as fire doors, escape doors and automatic doors.

GAI technical manager, Douglas Masterson, explained: "Having successfully published a tranche of new technical and best practice material for the specifying

community earlier this year, we felt there was a similar need to support those using and maintaining ironmongery products with expert advice and guidance."

As well as encouraging end-users to download the guides, the Guild urges specifiers, installers and all those involved in the architectural ironmongery supply chain to make the guides available to end-users as part of their customer service processes.

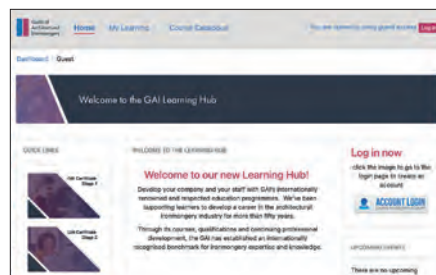
**The new GAI guides, along with supporting materials and resources for architectural ironmongery end-users, will be available free of charge from early 2023 at [www.gai.org.uk/users](http://www.gai.org.uk/users)**

## GAI LEARNING HUB BRINGS CPD ONBOARD

The GAI's new-look Learning Hub will support the Guild's continuing professional development (CPD) programme for the first time from January 2023.

The new Learning Hub opened its digital doors on 1 September and is now in use by learners studying for courses in the current 2022-23 GAI education year.

The Hub has been designed as an easy-to-navigate learning management system, fully responsive for both mobile and desktop use, and suitable for all devices, browsers and operating systems. It integrates with Microsoft Teams to support the delivery of face-to-face classroom training courses, and allows tutors to communicate with groups or individuals through either email or direct messaging.



With the integration of the CPD programme from January, the Hub will also support GAI members with the tracking of CPD points towards GAI registered and certified statuses, including the RegAI standard.

To explore the new GAI Learning Hub, visit <https://learninghub.gai.org.uk/>

## GAI EXTENDS INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE IN STANDARDS

The GAI has boosted its influence in the field of standards by becoming members of a further two international committees.

● The first is CEN/CLC/JTC 11, which is the European committee relating to accessibility in the built environment. This is the committee who formulated the recent EN 17210: 2021 standard

– Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment – Functional requirements. Inclusion on this committee will allow the GAI to have a say on any future revisions to this standard, and reflects the ongoing work the GAI has done over many years on the British Standards BS 8300 1 and 2,

which have huge implication on the design and specification of hardware.

● The second is ISO/TC 162/WG3, which is the ISO committee responsible for creating a new terminology and vocabulary standard for hardware. Our presence will help ensure that terminology used internationally

is reflective of that used in Europe and the UK.

These appointments bring GAI involvement on international committees to a total of 10, which encompass a wide range of topics including building hardware, powered pedestrian doors, accessibility, environmental and BIM.

OPINION...

# SUSTAINABILITY: CAN YOU MEET THE BRIEF?

Following his GAI webinar on the topic **Paul Campbell** discusses responsible sourcing and specification



**// It gives the specifier an insight into the accreditations, documentation, reports and/or information that can be requested when certain requirements are embedded in an architect's brief"**

**T**he construction industry has been at the forefront of driving change in its supply chains to inspire others to become more sustainable.

Every project or development is unique, and there will be different requirements relating to sustainability, aesthetics and design that may impact how you deliver the required service or product solution.

Any specified solution should be one that meets, wherever possible, the priority requirements of each individual development. All manufacturers and importers within the door hardware industry are on individual sustainability journeys, and although they are at various stages, it is refreshing to witness the massive strides that have already been taken.

Any sustainable initiative introduced by door hardware manufacturers or importers positively impacts the supply chain within the construction industry.

## How aware are you?

Carlisle Brass became members of RIBA CPD Providers Network in January. It was recently invited by the GAI to deliver a webinar. It is not a guide to either sourcing, or specification. Instead, the intention is to raise awareness of some outside influences that can inhibit an architect's initial concept, to considerations for those involved in the sourcing or specification or construction products.

The objective of the CPD is to guide attendees around some sustainability considerations relating to economic, social, and environmental issues that are prevalent within construction industry supply chains.

## Learning objectives within the CPD:

- UK Modern Slavery Act 2015, and sustainability through management standards, incorporating ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001.
- Environmental issues, concentrating on raw materials, door hardware product care & maintenance, life cycle of tooling, sustainable timber product schemes, and a few packaging reduction initiatives within the door hardware industry.
- Design considerations for door hardware are separated into suppliers and products, raising awareness to additional controls for each.

The final part of the CPD gives an introduction into the Supply Chain Sustainability School, what it offers members, and how to access the vast library of free resources.

It must be stressed that this CPD only covers a snapshot of some considerations, and very few, if any, door hardware manufacturers and importers will be able to meet all areas covered. However, it gives the specifier an insight into the types of accreditations, documentation, reports, and/or information that can be requested when certain requirements are embedded into an architect's brief.

RIBA has 10 core curriculum areas, and every assessed CPD must support at least one. Responsible Sourcing and Specification covers:

- Design, construction, and technology
- Sustainable architecture ■

**View the GAI webinar at**  
<https://tinyurl.com/ypkrav2j>

**Paul Campbell RegAI is technical manager and sustainability lead at Carlisle Brass.**



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# THE EXTRA MILE

Architectural ironmongery celebrated individual and company excellence in the GAI Community Awards



**T**he GAI presented its Community Awards in a ceremony at London's Oval cricket ground in November.

The GAI Community Awards celebrate the best businesses and individuals in the architectural ironmongery industry, with categories for achiever, company innovation, customer focus, leadership, fellowship.

Hosting a ceremony with more than 300 guests, GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "These awards are held to raise the profile of exceptional commitment, innovation, customer

focus, leadership and achievement throughout our sector.

"As the chair of the judging panel I first want to congratulate everyone who was nominated for one of today's awards. The standard was incredibly high and each category was extremely competitive.

"But of course there must be winners. And all of today's winners were able to demonstrate that extra special something, that understanding of the need to really go the extra mile, which separates the exceptional from the very good." ■

Community Award winners l-r: Gareth Ward, Ros Bayliss, Colin Campbell, Roy Buckingham and John Hyslop, managing director of Borg Locks

**// The winners were able to demonstrate that extra special something which separates the exceptional from the very good"**

**Simon Forrester**

**GAI Community Award winners were announced in the following categories:**

**Achiever** – to seek out and acclaim the brightest and best among those who are still developing their careers in the sector.  
**Winner:** Gareth Ward  
DipGAI MGAI DipFD, CBS Midlands.  
Shortlisted: Raj Jagdev, Phoenix; Daniel Llewellyn, SDS London; Jeroame Thomas, Franchi.

**Company Innovation** – for companies which have demonstrated they are innovating through improved processes that deliver positive change to them, their customers or wider society.  
**Winner:** Borg Locks  
Shortlisted: Dormakaba; Norseal.

**Leadership** – celebrating those who have demonstrated leadership within the architectural ironmongery sector.  
**Winner:** Ros Bayliss, marketing manager, Codelocks

**Customer Focus** – formerly the Paul Lewis Award, this award is for individuals, companies

or teams that have delivered excellence in customer service.  
**Winner:** Roy Buckingham  
DipGAI RegAI, ABLOY UK  
Shortlisted: James Bowden, Codelocks; Norseal

**Fellowship** – awarded to an individual who has shown a longstanding and ongoing commitment to

the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.  
**Winner:** Colin Campbell  
DipGAI MGAI, managing director, Codelocks

Read more about the GAI Community Award winners, and how to enter the 2023 awards, at [www.gai.org.uk/CommunityAwards](http://www.gai.org.uk/CommunityAwards)



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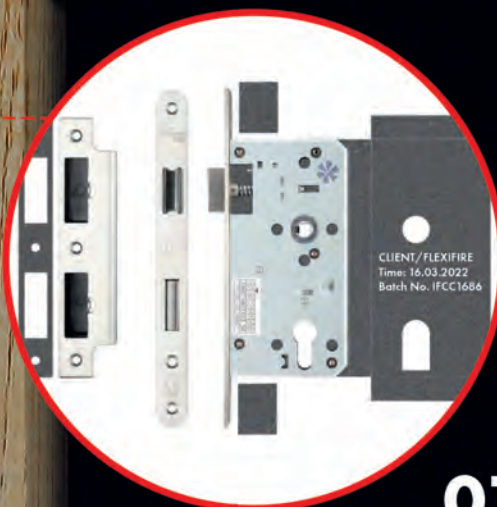


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Hard work pays off:  
Diploma holders celebrate

# INVESTMENT REWARDS

The work, ambition and focus among architectural ironmongery's rising stars were celebrated at the GAI Education Awards

**T**he GAI presented diplomas and awards to industry professionals in a glittering ceremony at London's Oval cricket ground in November.

The 42nd GAI Education Awards celebrated the outstanding educational achievements of students who passed the prestigious GAI Diploma, as well as those who secured prizes as the top students worldwide.

For the first time, the event also saw the presentation of the GAI Community Awards, celebrating the very best businesses and individuals in the architectural ironmongery industry (See page 12).

Joining more than 300 guests from across the architectural ironmongery industry was guest speaker Caspar Craven, a best-selling author and teamwork specialist. The event,



**// We all have a role to play in professionalism. We must strive to educate ourselves, our colleagues, and our clients about the value of delivery by competent professionals"**

**Mario Del-Signore**

hosted by GAI chief executive Simon Forrester, was sponsored by Briton and George Boyd Ltd, with the prestigious Pinnacle Award for the top student sponsored by ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions UK & Ireland.

Welcoming guests, GAI President Mario Del-Signore said: "Education is a central pillar of the Guild's success, and the success of our members too. GAI qualifications are recognised and respected globally, which is why clients ask for GAI Registered Architectural Ironmongers – RegAI's – to ensure they have competent people scheduling their door hardware.

"The many RegAI's in this room are at the top of their game. Many of them attended a ceremony much

like this one in the past, and today they continue to maintain and build their knowledge through our CPD programme. They understand the value of remaining up to date.

"We all have a role to play in professionalism. We must strive to educate ourselves, our colleagues, and our clients about the value of delivery by competent professionals. I am delighted to be here to present certificates to the latest of these professionals."

As diplomas were announced for 51 successful candidates, Ed Smith, Brand Director at joint sponsor George Boyd Ltd, said: "Congratulations to all who have been nominated, for their exceptional commitment, foresight, focus and achievement.

"Seeing these rising stars honoured today really brings a focus on the importance of knowledge across the sector and the role that each and every one of us here can play, whether we are manufacturers or architectural ironmongers."

And Pete Hancox, Commercial Leader – UK & Ireland at joint sponsor Allegion, added: "The GAI's educational programme is an integral part in our ongoing training and development plans and gives >>>

Over 300 guests attended the GAI Education Awards

## TOP PERFORMERS

The following prizes were awarded to the top performing students in the 2022 Certificate in Architectural Hardware Stage 2:



**1ST**  
**Mahaveer Chandrakanthan**  
Allegion India Pvt Ltd

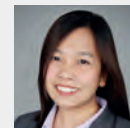


**2ND**  
**David Boyd**  
Gretsch Unitas Ltd

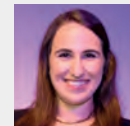


**3RD**  
**Mohamed Aref**  
Ahrm Security Group

The following medals were awarded to the top performing students in the 2022 GAI Diploma:



**GOLD**  
**Ruth Banta**  
Consort Middle East LLC



**SILVER**  
**Elena Dominguez Perez**  
FSB GmbH + Co KG



**BRONZE**  
**Muzaffar Hussain**  
Consort Middle East LLC



**THE 2022 PINNACLE AWARD**  
for the highest aggregate results across the

Certificate in Architectural Hardware and Diploma programme, sponsored by ASSA ABLOY, was awarded to **Ruth Banta**, Consort Middle East LLC



**// It is impressive to see the level of investment made in training and developing people and the investment each of you has made in yourselves"**

**Pete Hancox**

Guests enjoying the event at the Oval

students the tools and knowledge to become true industry experts.

"It's really impressive to see in the room today, the level of investment made by the industry in training and developing people, but what is most impressive is the level of investment that each of you celebrating your achievements today, has made in yourselves.

"While we as employers can facilitate your development, only you make it happen, and each of you has determined your own success and should be very proud of your achievements." ■



## THE FOLLOWING GAI DIPLOMAS WERE ANNOUNCED:

<b>Absalin Antony</b> ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions Middle East	<b>Jaco du Plessis</b> GEZE South Africa Pty Ltd	<b>Simon Martin</b> JTL Architectural Hardware Ltd
<b>Arpit Arora</b> Spira Brass	<b>Firas El Akad</b> Doormax Building Material Trading L.L.C	<b>Dave McDonald</b> Proline Architectural Hardware
<b>Ruth Banta</b> Consort Middle East LLC	<b>Lindsay Forsythe</b> KCC Architectural – Belfast	<b>Gareth Moore</b> KCC Architectural – Belfast
<b>Darryl Barrish</b> ASSA ABLOY South Africa	<b>Jixon George</b> Thazhath Consort Middle East LLC	<b>Harshit Purohit</b> Farmer Bros & JD Beardmore
<b>Veena Bhat</b> dormakaba Gulf Door Controls FZE - Saudi Arabia	<b>Billy Graham</b> SDS (London) Ltd	<b>Renjith Radhakrishnan</b> Universal International FZCO
<b>Julie Bond</b> Locks & Hardware Limited	<b>Muzaffar Hussain</b> Consort Middle East LLC	<b>Tandi-Lee Salvado</b> GEZE South Africa Pty Ltd
<b>Andrew Brundrit</b> Youngs Doors Ltd	<b>Omar Itani</b> Hafele SE & Co KG - Saudi Arabia	<b>Glen Shand</b> Joinery & Construction Supplies Ltd
<b>Arvin Cayabyab</b> Hafele SE & Co KG - Saudi Arabia	<b>Yee Lan Man</b> Jardine Engineering Corporation Ltd	<b>Pui Shan Patsy Tang</b> Allegion (Hong Kong) Limited
<b>Shaun Chitteray</b> Farmer Bros & J D Beardmore	<b>Anas Kahale</b> Metallic Equipment Co.	<b>Vivek Shivananjappa</b> ASSA ABLOY Security Solutions Middle East
<b>Sung Yan Chiu</b> Glory Top Architectural Hardware Ltd	<b>Sushmita Karkee</b> Consort Middle East LLC	<b>Sophie Smith</b> ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions UK & Ireland
<b>Ka Ho Chow</b> LIKO Hardware Company Limited	<b>Drushya Kd</b> Allegion India pvt ltd	<b>Pappinissery Sreejisha</b> ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions Middle East
<b>Srombi Christian</b> Kich Architectural Products Pvt Ltd	<b>Rahul Kumar</b> ASSA ABLOY Enox Hardware India P Ltd	<b>Ian Tisdale</b> Carlisle Brass Ltd
<b>Leonard Christie</b> Consort Middle East LLC	<b>Sushil Kumar</b> Allegion India pvt ltd	<b>Karen Trigg</b> Allegion (UK) Ltd
<b>Harjinder Chumber</b> ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions UK & Ireland	<b>Tai Yiu Lam</b> Higrade Limited	<b>Mei Tseung</b> Higrade Limited
<b>John Clifford</b> Allgood Plc	<b>Chun Teok Lim</b> ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions Malaysia Sdn Bhd	<b>Jim White</b> Forza Doors Ltd
<b>Carol Coathup</b> Hanson & Beards Ltd	<b>Lorraine Magnay</b> ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions UK & Ireland	<b>Aaron Wallbank</b> James Gibbons Format Ltd
<b>Elena Dominguez Perez</b> Franz Schneider Brakel GmbH + Co KG	<b>Tatiana Marincea</b> KCC Door Hardware and Security Solutions Ltd	<b>Louie Woodland</b> Johan Doors Ltd



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# MIND THE SKILLS GAP

The war on talent is affecting the entire built environment industry. **AIJ** explores the ways the architectural ironmongery sector is tackling the challenges. Plus, the results of an AIJ survey on these issues among GAI members





## // Employers should work on their own PR. Ask yourself: why should people work for your company? Reputation is important to attract the best talent”

**T**he war on talent in the built environment has always been tough, with skills shortages well documented and new recruits thin on the ground. Now, with the Building Safety Act highlighting the essential need for competence, attracting and keeping the right people is even more challenging.

The GAI conducted a survey in October to find out how its members are faring in the competition for skilled staff. The results show a considerable concern about skills shortages and over 72% of respondents reporting they had failed to fill vacancies in the last year. As a result many are reconsidering their approach to staff attraction and retention.

Matthew Robinson, managing director at SFR, a specialist in the architectural ironmongery sector says his experience working with clients bears this out. “We’re being approached by several companies eager to fill positions that have been vacant for a while. They’ve been trying to recruit and have found that the right people just aren’t looking. It is more difficult to attract talent at the moment; in the past we would easily get five suitable candidates to put forward for a role, but more recently it’s a challenge to find even three potential candidates. The reason is twofold: passive candidates are happy, content and meeting their targets and bonuses; in an uncertain market people tend to hold on to whatever stability they can in their lives and the thought of changing job is unsettling.”

However, Robinson says there are solutions to this issue. “In

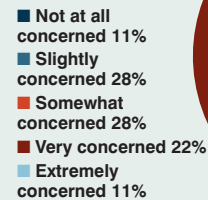
today’s climate, it will take something amazing to encourage candidates to apply. Naturally, the best available candidates will be drawn towards the most reputable companies or industry brands and the best salary packages. With the rising cost of energy and price inflation it’s a worrying time, so the possibility of earning extra cannot be ignored.

“Employees also want the chance to work closer to home and/or hybrid working (less commuting time and flexible working) to gain a better work-life-balance. With these things in mind companies need to revisit the packages they are offering and not just to benchmark the same as a competitor, they need to offer more. People just won’t move for the same salary and conditions; it has to be worth considering.

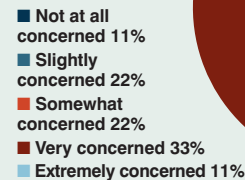
“Employers should also work on their own PR in order to be seen as an attractive employer. Ask yourself: why should people work for your company? What are the real incentives? Do you offer above average salaries and promotion prospects? Do you offer a stable employment and great benefits? Do you always win new contracts? Are you a friendly place to work that celebrates employees’ achievements, treats people well and has positive employee reviews? Reputation is very important for companies to attract the best talent.

Kavita Parmar, a business partner at HR specialists Quest agrees. “A business needs to stand out,” and adds that job ads must be fully transparent about the role, salary and benefits. He goes one stage further to »

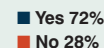
How concerned are you about a skills shortage in your organisation?



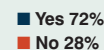
How concerned are you about a skills shortage in the architectural ironmongery sector?



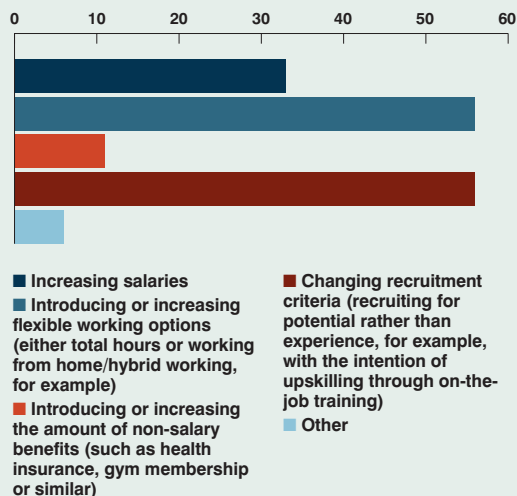
Have you experienced a shortage of suitable candidates to fill roles the last 12 months?



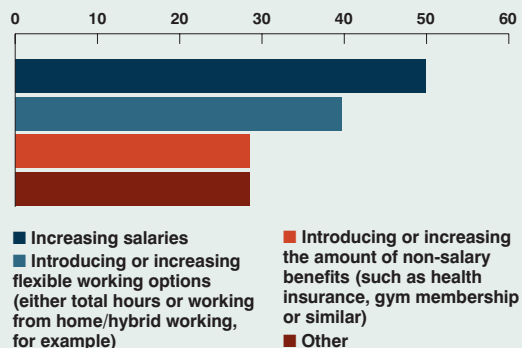
Is it currently taking longer than usual for your company to fill vacancies?



Which of the following, if any, have you tried in response to a shortage of candidates and skills?



Which of the following, if any, have you tried to increase staff retention?



## Three areas short of talent are scheduling and estimating, technical sales and skills relating to electronic locking and access control

suggest that potential candidates are invited to meet the team and gain a feel for the workplace.

Retention of employees is the next challenge. “Employees must be happy within their workplace,” says Parmar, who recommends holding employee engagement surveys. “Employees provide feedback regarding the business, department or even team. The feedback is reviewed and changes are made where applicable. Employers should also consider yearly pay reviews; hold one-to-one meetings to discuss training requirements and understand the employee’s career aspirations. People management is key to any successful business.”

### Where are the skills?

The GAI member survey also revealed the skills shortages the industry is facing. SFR has reported that some posts are more difficult to fill because of this, most notably in three areas: scheduling and estimating, technical sales, and electronic locking and access control.

“With scheduling and estimating, companies are naturally looking for the DipGAI level 3 diploma, and demand typically outstrips the supply of suitable candidates,” says Robinson. “It’s worth succession planning in those situations: offering training for existing staff, development programmes that build in-house skills. This is essential to drive up the level of competency in the industry. Many firms are seeking technical sales staff – someone who can sell and is highly technically competent so they can secure specification projects and influence end users. However, these people are rare: often you can

find technical skills but not the sales expertise or the other way around. There is a shortage of both.

### Invest in training

It can be no coincidence that both the joint sponsors at the recent GAI Education Awards highlighted the role of education and training in addressing the growing skills shortage.

Pete Hancox, managing director of Briton, in his speech at the event said: “The two most valuable assets in any business, are the brand, and most importantly, the people. The GAI’s educational programme is an integral part in our ongoing training and development plans and gives students the tools and knowledge to become true industry experts.

“It’s really impressive to see in the room today, the level of investment made by the industry in training and developing people, but what is most impressive is the level of investment that each of you celebrating your achievements today, has made in yourselves.

“While we as employers can facilitate your development, only you make it happen, and each of you has determined your own success and should be very proud of your achievements.”

Ed Smith, managing director of George Boyd, also stressed the importance of investing in skills and training. “The GAI is currently taking the pulse of the industry when it comes to skills, exploring where the expertise is and where the gaps are – and it’s perfectly timed as there is no denying that this is a critical time for all of us.

“In a world of generalists, how do we ensure that specialist skills are





not only retained but respected and invested in? At a time of recession and sky-rocketing costs, how do we protect those with the most knowledge, who have been around the longest, from being let go and leaving the industry? More than ever this is a time when we all need to recognise the importance of investing in knowledge, within our own businesses and as a wider sector."

#### Building professionalism

There is a vital need not only for companies to invest in training, but also for individuals to commit to developing their professional skills. The GAI has this year introduced the largest ever expansion of its education programme to assist the industry with building skills and professional competence as well as its development in 2023 of the CPD programme towards registered and certified status, including RegAI. "These initiatives emphasise that it's not only training but maintaining and building the industry's skill base that is even more essential for a future where competence at every level and every stage won't be a 'nice to have', it will be a 'must have'," says Rachel Tipton, training and development manager at GAI. "Competence and demonstration of professionalism is something that every company will have to respond to, but also everyone working in the industry." ■

**For more assistance with employee issues the GAI offers significant member benefits with the following specialists.**  
**SFR Recruitment:**  
[sfrrecruitment.co.uk](http://sfrrecruitment.co.uk)  
**Quest Cover:** [questcover.com](http://questcover.com)

**// In a world of generalists how do we ensure that specialist skills are not only retained but respected and invested in?"**

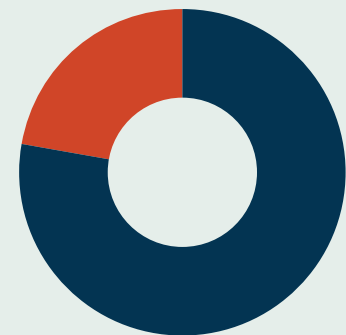
**Has a skills or candidate shortage led you to increase your focus on retaining existing staff?**

■ Yes 50% ■ No 50%



**Have you increased, or are you planning to increase, your investment in training and education in response to a skills shortage?**

■ Yes 78% ■ No 22%



## WORD ON THE STREET

AIJ surveyed GAI members to ask about skills shortages, employee retention and attracting talent and the effect these issues are having on business. The results are shown in the charts on these pages and the comments below.

**// The lack of niche experienced candidates, I think is a reflection of an ageing workforce within our industry and us all not future planning effectively. Certainly the last two years has been distracting to businesses, so I wonder if this creep has slowly caught up with us all."**

**// Generally it is taking much longer to recruit experienced people with product/industry knowledge and people are more reluctant to move with the current economic climate"**

**// As a lock manufacturer we have an ageing workforce. No one (particularly the younger generation) wants to enter an old-fashioned manufacturing facility. There are no viable**

**training courses or apprenticeships available for lock-making. This will only get worse."**

**// With the increasing ability to work from home this has only aided us with that side of the business. Where we struggle is the physical hands-on person with product knowledge that can be left to their own devices from day one."**

**// Keeping hold of people is essential; as is upskilling and training"**

**// Schedulers and contracts co-ordinators. I find the good ones don't want to move and you get the same candidates going round and round."**



  
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# FINDING FLOW

**AIJ** explores the winner of the International Award at the 2022 AI Specification Awards: the Xiqu Centre in Hong Kong

The design of Xiqu Centre is reminiscent of a lantern behind a beaded curtain

**X**iqu Centre is Hong Kong's new home for traditional Chinese opera. With its dramatic curvilinear façade and reinterpretation of the customary Chinese Moon Gate motif, Xiqu Centre creates a landmark entrance as the gateway to the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), the city's new precinct for arts and culture. Conceived as a cultural sanctuary; blending theatre, art, and a dynamic public realm, this seven-storey performance venue is dedicated to promoting the rich heritage of Xiqu – Chinese opera, the primary genre of indigenous Chinese theatre – and to the production, education and research of this unique and traditional art form.

The seven-storey building has a total area of 28,614sq m and houses a 1,075-seat Grand Theatre, a 200-seat Tea House Theatre, eight professional studios and a seminar hall, all specially designed for different types of xiqu-related functions and activities.

Xiqu Centre's façade is described by architect Ronald Lu and Partners as "reminiscent of a lantern shimmering behind a beaded stage curtain" – comprises a modular system of scaled fins CNC-cut from untreated marine-grade aluminum pipe and arrayed in alternating patterns along the building. The façade's woven metal panels are gently pulled back like curtains at all four corners of the building, radiating light to the exterior and enticing a free-flow of visitors in and out of the interior courtyard to »»

**// The facade panels are pulled back like curtains enticing a free-flow of visitors"**



## // The ironmongery specification stood out as it neatly exceeded the stringent performance requirements of the building"

Awards judges

exhibitions, stalls, demonstrations and workshops dedicated to promoting Xiqu's rich heritage.

"Qi" (meaning flow) is expressed throughout the complex with curvilinear paths and forms and arched entrances designed around a, multi-level circular atrium. The innovative design decision to suspend Xiqu Centre's 1,073-seat Grand Theatre at the top of the building 90 feet (27 metres) off the ground, facilitates internal configuration of the atrium and public plaza while strategically isolating the auditorium from vibration and the high ambient noise levels of its surrounding urban infrastructure. This design move was hugely beneficial in enabling construction to safely occur within and below the theatre simultaneously, resulting in a reduced construction timeline.

Flanked by two outdoor sky gardens offering visitors panoramic views of Victoria Harbour, the elevated theatre creates space beneath for a 200-seat Tea House theatre, rehearsal studios, education and administrative spaces, lecture rooms and retail areas overlooking the naturally-ventilated inner courtyard. Xiqu Centre opened in January 2019 and is described as a "world-class performance venue that respectfully embraces the cultural richness of Chinese opera within a magnificent contemporary expression, making it accessible to new audiences and future generations as it continues to thrive and evolve with modern technology."



### Putting it to test

Architect Ronald Lu and Partners set certain expectations for the product performance of the architectural ironmongery. Key Technologies International Ltd – the architectural ironmonger – impressed the awards judges by not only meeting those expectations but going beyond. Judges called the project 'prestigious' saying "the ironmongery specification stood out as it was evident that it neatly exceeded the stringent performance requirements of the building".

In order to meet the architects' expectations on product performance, Key Technologies carefully studied and understood the users' requirements and consultants design criteria. Products with independent third party HOLKAS/UKAS accredited laboratories test certification were



Above right: Tea House Theatre entrance

Above left: Grand Theatre entrance

Left: Grand Theatre foyer

supplied to correspond with the needs. The team was put to the challenge throughout the five years specification development and construction stages, each involving different aspects to address on the functional, operational, security, aesthetics and accessibility for the project.

Three very experienced Registered Architectural Ironmongers and a team comprising GAI certificate and diploma holders were dedicated to overseeing the project specification, ironmongery and master key scheduling, procurement and on-site technical support during installation, testing and commissioning stages of the project.

Key Technologies went further to sponsor additional fire and insulation tests of the two-hour fire rated timber doors to BS EN 1634-1 with the appointed door manufacturer as the majority of ironmongery for fire timber doors were only tested to one hour in their country of origin.

"We provided unparalleled consultative services and prepared a very high standard door hardware specification with a combination of top performance products from renowned manufacturers in the UK and Europe, including dormakaba," the firm said. "This is another KeyTech successful solution, offering mix and match products to fulfill the different needs in a project. As soon as the building was completed, it became a captivating landmark at the entrance to the city's new arts and culture district." ■





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A new white paper proposing five core levels of competence for anyone working with construction products will herald radical change. **AIJ** talks to key figures from the working group behind it

**A** new white paper has been published that sets out how the entire built environment sector can unite behind a single, agreed standard to determine, demonstrate and recognise construction products competence (CPC).

The white paper – *Built environment – Proposed Construction Product Competence Standard – White Paper* has been developed by Competence Steering Group (CSG) Working Group 12, led by the Construction Products Association (CPA). The CSG was tasked with responding to the competence issues raised in Dame Judith Hackitt's report 'Building a Safer Future' and the subsequent requirements set out in the Building Safety Act.

All industries of the built environment sector use construction products, but their misuse can lead to dangerous and potentially fatal outcomes. Ensuring those who use construction products are competent is vital to producing buildings and a built environment that is safe, efficient and performs as required. However, there is currently no universal way to demonstrate that an individual has the correct competence for the tasks they are accountable and responsible for.

The white paper confirms that radical change is needed around the area of construction product competence. Individuals who supply, use, or otherwise work with construction products need to be properly assessed and deemed competent to do so. This would include those from manufacturing,

**“For the first time the regulations are not just saying you should be competent, they are also saying you must refuse to do work if you are not able to do it. The workforce must not work if they can’t demonstrate their competence. This is huge.”**

specifiers, design, contractors, maintainers, and many others from right across the supply chain.

The proposal is for a new standard comprising five core levels of competence, as well as a methodology that defines how these can be mapped consistently by the different industries to their competence frameworks. This would ensure that everyone applies CPC in the same way and would assist regulators and duty holders in identifying what levels of competence are needed.

The levels outline fundamental knowledge bases applicable to all tasks with all construction products. They are designed to give a clear path of progression through the necessary competences required for different levels of responsibility and accountability. It can be used by industries to map against their existing training and qualifications and create any additional training infrastructure that may be needed.

The white paper also proposes that the standard be added to the existing BSI 8670 series, which specifies requirements for competence frameworks for individuals working in the built environment.

The proposals are being published now to allow everyone in the built environment sector to review and consider how to apply them in their industry. It is for the different industries to recognise the necessity of clear, demonstrable CPC. Once this is recognised, it is for each industry and its organisations to take on the principles proposed in the white paper and test them. It is the aim of CPA, the CSG and WG12 that by the time the proposals go





Douglas Masterson,  
GAI technical  
manager



Hanna Clarke CPA  
digital and policy  
manager



Joe Cilia technical  
director FIS

through the formal standards process, industries will have had the time to practically trial them ready for entering feedback via public consultation.

#### Show your competence

Joe Cilia, technical director at FIS, is deputy chair of WG12 and has been part of the working group for four years. "The biggest turning point is realising that competence isn't about jobs; it's about functions. That's key. This report – for the very first time – allows people to understand the functions that people are doing and to not just put those functions in five levels of competence based on skills, knowledge, experience and behaviour (SKEB) but to also look at the products they are actually touching. That's why it took us so long, as it's a complicated matter.

"We now have a metric to allow you to demonstrate competence frameworks for all people in your business whether supplier or contractor. What we need to understand is not whether we are competent but the *limits* of our competence. We need to know when we are asked to do something if we have the skills. Having a competence framework allows people to develop training plans, pathways through their businesses and how to grow the business."

Hanna Clarke, digital and policy manager at the CPA and co-chair of WG12 stresses this importance of knowing your competence limits. "It is vital you understand where you are not competent; for the first time the regulations are not just saying you should be competent they are also

**// What we need to understand is not whether we are competent but the limits of our competence"**

saying you must refuse to do work if you are not able to do it. The workforce must not work if they can't demonstrate their competence. This is huge. And it's for all buildings.

Hanna adds that a post-Grenfell landscape means not working in silos, in isolation. "Given that the built environment is made up of multiple industries – even just within manufacturing – we should take the opportunity to find any commonality that we can. If we are all using construction products it follows we should all recognise competence of products in the same way."

The challenge the built environment faces, says Hanna, is to be able to answer the following questions: How do you demonstrate a competent workforce? How do you make sure you are working in a non-silo manner? How do you make sure people are responsible to do their specific tasks?

"The key part of the CPA standard is understanding your competence in relations to your accountability and responsibilities," she says. "If you are doing this task, what is the comparable levels of competence required: what you can do with products and what you can't do. What you can't do is the most fundamental thing we have built in to the levels. Defending what you can't do is unique."

#### Find your level

Douglas Masterson, technical manager of GAI and co-chair of WG12 alongside Hanna, says we are operating in a heavily regulated space now. "This is a different landscape. It's now about knowing when you've reached your limit and knowing who to go to. If you are level D and you're asked to do something beyond your scope who do you go to? That doesn't mean that if you are not at level A that you are not competent. It might be that you are at the right level of competence for your role. Not everyone needs to be a level A, as those at this level will be performing a significant senior technical role within an organisation. The GAI has put together a CPC profile for an ironmongery scheduler in the white paper which would sit at level B.

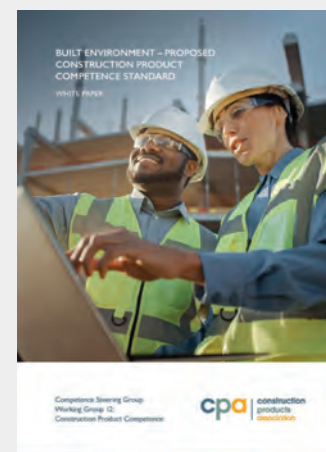
There is very specific criteria we have set for competence so you can map it against your function."

This new landscape means a culture change, says Cilia. "The construction industry does things because it's always done them that way. And making change is hard. People only change when the risk of staying the same is greater than the risk of change. If people stay the same and do nothing about this, then when they are asked by Tier 1 contractors for competence plans and they don't have the competence and can't demonstrate it, that will be the tipping point."

Masterson points to the current GAI 'prove it' campaign which encourages those with DipGAI to continue their continuing professional development and achieve RegAI status.

Failure to demonstrate competence will have huge consequences. "The HSE is regulating and we know what kind of regulator it is, so if people aren't competent it will be all over you like ants," says Clarke. "And its powers now include fines and prison sentences, that can also be issued retrospectively. It's a challenging situation."

So, the million dollar question is: how competent are you and can you prove it? ■



**The White Paper 'Built environment – Proposed Construction Product Competence Standard' is available to download online <https://tinyurl.com/5djkmt3>.**

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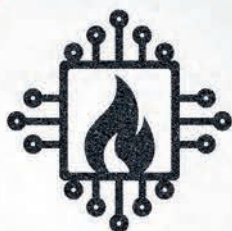
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# RAISING THE STANDARD

Experts guide us through two new standards and a revision essential for CPD

## SECURITY CHECK: PAS 24:2022

PAS 24, the enhanced security standard for doors and windows has undergone its first rewrite since 2016, and there have been quite a few changes following feedback from test laboratories and industry over the past six years.

Although the standard has many small changes, the overall impact and intention was to clarify and provide guidance and consistency of the testing methods and update normative references to proprietary standards. There are no new attacks introduced or attacks on targeted areas that have not been exploited by testing laboratories in previous iterations of the standard, and therefore a product that meets PAS24:2016 would be broadly expected to continue to meet PAS24:2022.

The scope of the standard remains the same, and no new products are included, although a new note in the scope clarifies that electrical components and supply are subject to attack but only as a physical component of the door.

In Clause 4.1.2 the requirements for cylinders have been updated, where previously a cylinder had to meet TS007-1 1\* or 3\*, the new version introduces requirements for mechatronic cylinders to meet DHF standard TS 007-2 and also introduces recognition of Sold Secure Bronze/

Silver/Gold standard as an equivalent route of compliance to TS007.

In Clause 4.2 requirement for only windows containing non-key locking hardware to contain at least one pane of laminated glass to EN356 P1A is retained after some lively debate following the proposal that laminated glass should be introduced to all windows.

Clause 5 for Marking introduces the option for marking to be in the form of a digital (QR) code, but only in addition to a visible mark.

Annex A Clause A.2 test tools a general note is introduced to clarify that tools shall not be used to strike each other or connected in any way. It also clarifies that pushing or pulling the test sample with bodily force (but not striking) is allowed. This wording was agreed with the testing laboratories and represents the current test laboratories methodology and is not intended as a change to the test methods.

An interchangeable bit screwdriver (tool ref. A.2.3.7) is introduced to the toolkit with a range of Torx and hexagon heads as well as cross point, flat blade and Pozidrive. The screwdriver is only to be used to unfasten exposed fixings; this is one of the most significant changes to the standard that was not addressed previously. Laboratories were finding that more and more »»

windows were arriving (often from the Continent) with these kinds of fixings.

The other significant change is a third attack test introduced to Annex A security hardware test. Previously there were two attacks: the first attempting to snap the cylinder using mole grips, and the second attempting to snap the cylinder using a traction screw. The third test is described as a door assembly integrity test, where the engineer will attempt to attack the lock casing by removing doorleaf material.

This new test is a reaction to recent attacks where testing laboratories have been able to defeat locks by removing doorleaf material (particularly on timber doorsets) and attack the lock case directly, resulting in a failure that was unrelated to the cylinder, handle or other security hardware. This was being carried out as part of the existing Annex A test, often meaning there was no time to explore other vulnerabilities such as the resistance of the cylinder to screw attack. By including this attack within its own separate clause this will ensure all opportunities are addressed without cumulative damage occurring, as is the current spirit of other areas of PAS24.

Various other changes were made that were mostly a clarification/ redefinition of current methodology and approach applied by the test laboratories and certification bodies and are unlikely to affect test results or product performance.

**Mark West, principal product assessor, Element Materials Technology.**



**// This new test is a reaction to where test laboratories**

**have been able to defeat locks by removing doorleaf material and attack the lock case directly"**

**Mark West**

## ANYTHING TO DECLARE? BS EN 17610:2022

This is a new standard which CEN committee TC33/WG4/TG1 (of which GAI is a member) has now completed. It provides product category rules for type III (third party verified) environmental declarations for a number of hardware products and complements the core rules for the product category of construction products as defined in the European standard EN 15804:2012+A2:2019.

**Products within the scope of this standard include the following: Building hardware products for opening and closing doors, gates, windows and shutters:**

- Lever handles and knob furniture (EN 1906);
- Single-axis hinges (EN 1935);
- Hardware for windows and door height windows (EN 13126 (all parts));



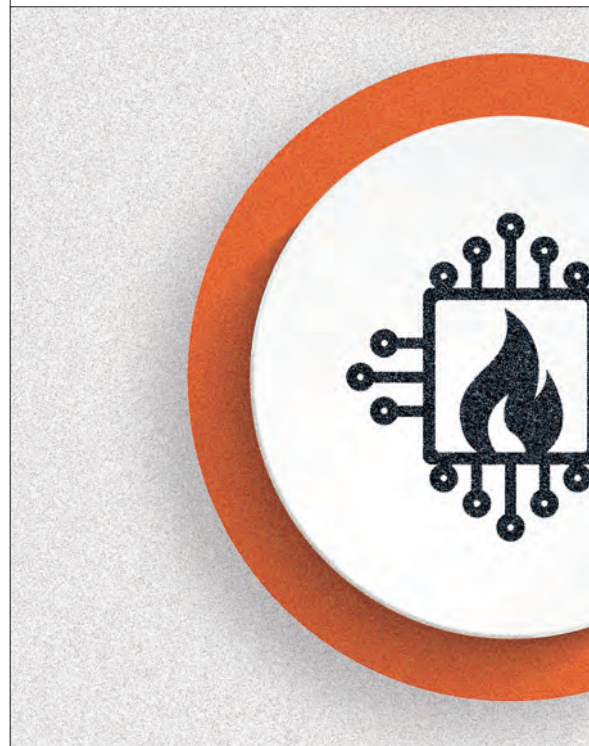
**// The fact is was felt necessary to create a standard gives an indication that this is of huge importance to the ironmongery industry"**

**Douglas Masterson**

- Fittings for shutters (e.g. EN 14648);
- Controlled door closing devices, electrically powered hold-open devices for swing doors and door coordinator devices (EN 1154, EN 1155, EN 1158);
- Hardware for sliding doors, folding doors and roll fronts (EN 1527, EN 15706);
- Glass door gear;

**Building hardware products for locking and unlocking doors, gates, windows and shutters:**

- Mechanically operated locks and locking plates, multipoint locks, latches and locking plates (EN 12209, EN 156851);
- Cylinders for locks (EN 1303);
- Padlocks and padlock fittings (EN 12320);
- Mechanically operated push-button locksets (BS 8607);
- Emergency exit devices operated by a lever handle or push pad, for use on escape routes and panic exit devices operated by a horizontal bar, for use on escape routes (EN 179, EN 1125);



## GOING DIGITAL ON FIRE SAFETY: BS 8644-1:2022

This new British Standard has been published on how to manage fire safety information digitally across the life of a built asset. The standard has been written to work alongside the Building Safety Act 2022 which requires 'dutyholders' such as building owners and facility managers to implement digital systems for record keeping, information monitoring, sharing and compliance for in-scope buildings.

BS 8644-1:2022 is a code of practice, not a standard for the testing of products, therefore it exists to make recommendations and guidance on the management, presentation and exchange of fire safety information using digital information management processes. It covers the lifecycle of built environment assets, including



### Electromechanical building hardware products:

- Mechatronic cylinders (EN 15684);
- Mechatronic padlocks (EN 16864);
- Mechatronic door furniture (EN 16867);
- Electromechanically operated locks and striking plates (EN 14846);
- Electrically controlled exit systems for use on escape routes (EN 13637).

### The core Product Category Rules within this standard:

- define the parameters to be declared and the way in which they are collated and reported;
- describe which stages of a product's life cycle are considered in the EPD and which processes are to be included in the life cycle stages;
- define rules for the development of scenarios;
- include the rules for calculating the Life Cycle Inventory and the Life Cycle Impact Assessment underlying the EPD, including the specification of the data quality to be applied;
- includes the rules for reporting the

predetermined, environmental and health information that is not covered by Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for the product, construction process(es) and construction service(s), as relevant;

- defines the conditions under which construction products can be compared based on the information provided by EPD.

Product Category Rules are required in order to create Environmental Product Declarations which are utilised to transparently report objective, comparable and third-party verified data about products and services' environmental performances from a lifecycle perspective. An EPD is an environmental declaration that is also compliant with the ISO 14025 standard.

Whilst EPDs are not mandatory in UK, they are becoming more popular as an independent declaration of a product or service's life cycle assessment. The fact that it was felt necessary to create a specific standard for product category rules for building hardware gives an indication that this is of huge importance to the ironmongery industry.



Find more detail in *Specifier's Guide Ironmongery and the Environment* at [www.gai.org.uk/knowledge](http://www.gai.org.uk/knowledge).  
Douglas Masterson GAI technical manager.

## // The standard is targeted at anyone that contributes to or influences the design, construction, use, maintenance and end of life of a built asset"

infrastructure, from first briefing to operation and fire and rescue service intervention. It should be noted that the standard is intended to be read in conjunction with the BS EN ISO 19650 series of international standards for managing information over the whole life cycle of a built asset using building information modelling (BIM).

The standard is targeted at any individual or organisation that contributes to or influences the definition of design, construction, use, maintenance and end of life of a built

asset. While it primarily applies to new built assets, its principles can be applied to existing assets. Users will typically be architects, designers, facilities managers, fire and rescue personnel, contractors, local authorities and building control bodies.

### The standard's key objectives are to:

- give recommendations for the management, presentation and exchange of fire safety information using digital information management processes
- provide a safer built environment appropriate for its intended end-users
- reduce the level of business disruption and property loss caused by fire
- enable relevant, accurate and accessible fire safety information to be available to the right people at the right time.

In application, it's intended to enable the achievement of five clear

goals. It should clearly identify fire safety hazards; persons, assets and environments at risk; and measure put in place to mitigate those risks.

It should be noted that fire safety information is inclusive of product which is part of the passive fire protection system of a building, this incorporates fire doors and their corresponding components such as ironmongery and intumescent seals. Digital transfer of this information is therefore all the more important and product data sheets (PDSs) can be an effective method of this transfer. GAI has created over 30 Product Data Templates for its members to download and use to create their own library of PDSs which are available on the the GAI website. [www.gai.org.uk/knowledge](http://www.gai.org.uk/knowledge)

Douglas Masterson  
GAI technical manager

## NEW PRODUCTS >>



### ■ OJMAR LAUNCHES HANDS-FREE SOLUTION

Ojmar, european lock manufacturer has launched OTS® Pulse. It has been specially designed for the leisure and corporate sectors. It is a touch-free, wireless, networked locking solution operating in secure cloud software. Battery life is 10 years.

In a post-Covid world OTS® Pulse is ideal for high-use settings that need to reduce cross contamination. It is plug and play, online self managed and wireless - needing only an internet connection.

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



### ■ UNION OFFERS MAXIMUM PROTECTION WITH KEYMASTER

UNION has announced its new master key cylinder range, keyMASTER, delivering a long-lasting patent life for maximum protection.

Patent protection is a must-have feature for master key systems, stopping unauthorised replacement keys from being legally cut or made by unapproved partners. The new keyMASTER range is patented until 2036.

keyMASTER offers the option of a factory-controlled system. For installations where security is paramount, all keys and replacement cylinders are created by UNION. Alternatively, a locksmith section is available where approved UNION partners can buy components and key blanks for local key cutting and assembly requirements, providing total flexibility for all customers and end users.

Ideally suited for medium to large-scale projects, keyMASTER offers more than 100,000 differs – the highest security grade of BS

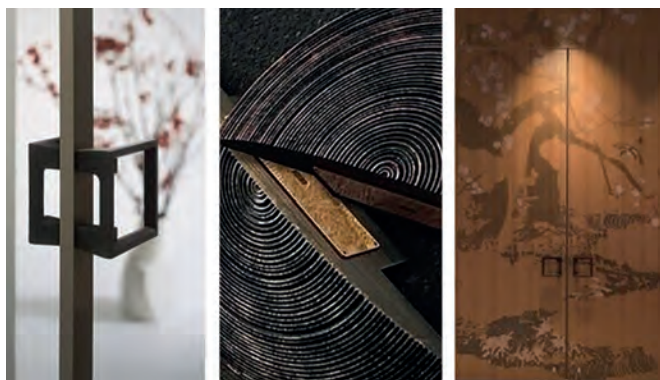
EN 1303:2015. This means the system can be specified without having to worry about capacity issues, no matter the size of the site, or whether future extensions are planned. .

keyMASTER combines master keying capabilities with a wide range of cylinder finishes, including satin nickel, satin chrome, chrome, polished brass, satin brass, and antique bronze. As a result, the range suits most modern door furniture specifications.

keyMASTER satisfies BS EN 1303:2015 for physical attack, overall durability, and key security, cylinders are tested to 500,000 cycles – five times greater than the standard demands.

The product has been rigorously tested to BS EN 1634-1 for fire safety, protecting against fire for 30- and 60-minute timber doors, and 120- and 240-minute steel doors.

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



### ■ STUDIO FRANCHI LAUNCHES 'ARTWARE' HARDWARE

Studio Franchi unveiled its 'Elmes Artware' ironmongery range to the UK interiors market at FOCUS/22 show. This range of products, designed in Japan, "transforms hardware into 'artware'" claims the firm. The

pull handles range uses Japanese manufacturing techniques as well as materials including compressed wood, leather, aluminium and brass.

[www.franchi.co.uk/studio/collections/21/Elmes-Artware](http://www.franchi.co.uk/studio/collections/21/Elmes-Artware)

### ■ FRANK ALLART GETS HOT UNDER THE COLLAR

Frank Allart has developed a full collection of stand-alone seating collars to sit under its Select and Precision Collection Levers and Knobs.

Designed to give a contemporary look, there are five unique designs based on the Select Collection and four textured designs for the Precision Collection. They can also be mixed and matched across the collections. These seating collars can be installed for both mortise and tubular latches/locks and are available in each of Frank Allart's over 30 standard finishes.

Frank Allart has also released a Lift and Slide Collection, 14 new Plate designs to accompany the existing nine Plate designs, Brass Lift off and three Knuckle hinges, and new contemporary lever designs. They all keep with Frank Allart 'customisable standard'

structure. Each will have multiple mix and match options and over 40 finish choices.

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Left: Gropius's home in the US

Right: The doorhandle was seen as the is still produced by a number of ironmongery manufacturers including Izé, who claim it to be the most commercially successful product to emerge from the Bauhaus movement.



# BOW DOWN TO BAUHAUS

Continuing the AIJ series on iconic doors and door hardware we look at an influential door handle by Walter Gropius

**T**his modernist door handle by Bauhaus founder and German architect Walter Gropius was first put into mass production in 1923, by S.A. Loevy in Berlin, after being originally designed for the Fagus factory in Alfeld. The factory was designed by Gropius as a space that maximized sunlight and fresh air for the workers, in order to improve productivity.

The handle was seen as the most influential of all modernist door handles. Made from nickel-plated brass, the industrial-style handle comprises a cylindrical grip and a cranked, squared stem. It is still produced by ironmongery manufacturer Izé, (in various finishes) who claim it to be the most commercially successful product to emerge from the Bauhaus movement.

Walter Gropius is to this day regarded as the paragon of classic Bauhaus design. He studied architecture at the beginning of the 20th century before entering the design bureau of Peter Behrens in 1907, along with Mies van der Rohe and Corbusier.

When Gropius founded the Bauhaus school in 1919, his utopian manifesto proclaimed that minimalism and a fusion of fine arts and craft would "one day rise heavenwards from the million hands of craftsmen as a clear



Walter Gropius, founding father of Bauhaus; the school in Weimar

symbol of a new belief to come." The output was across painting, furniture, architecture, metalwork, pottery and typography, all united by the mass production and 'art into industry' philosophy.

Only 700 students attended the Bauhaus during its short, 14-year lifetime, but the school's design philosophy eventually reached millions. Bauhaus teachers and students

scattered worldwide when the Nazis closed the school in 1933. Gropius fled to the US where he designed his New England home in 1938, after accepting a teaching position at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Bauhaus had a huge impact on modern design. As one designer put it "I for one, cannot conceive of an Apple or a Braun product's design without the influence of Bauhaus design." ■



IMAGE COURTESY OF MOMA



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