



Architectural
Ironmongery
Journal

SPRING 2023



INSIDE

- What I specified...
- Residential inspiration
- Approved Document B



WILL A ROBOT TAKE YOUR JOB?

Just how advanced has artificial intelligence
become in architecture and ironmongery?



INTRODUCING
THREE ONE SIX

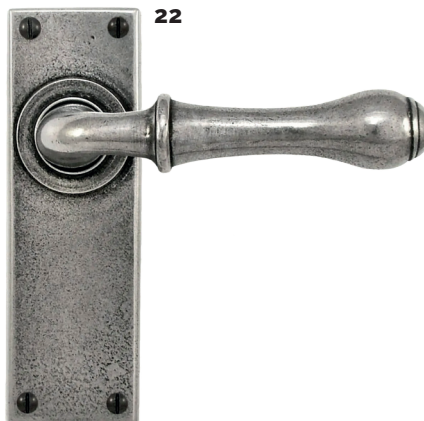


Matt Black
Gunmetal
Lever Handles
Pull Handles
Matching Accessories

FRELAN
HARDWARE



Scan Me!



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Updates
Projects
Standards
Events

ICYMI

Interiors products Oscars open for entry

The Society of British and International Interior Design (SBID)'s Product Design Awards are open for entries.

The SBID awards attract entries from across the world. They recognise design excellence in interior design, fit-out and product. They are judged by industry experts for technical content and aesthetic creativity before being put to a public vote. There are 17 categories for interior design, 12 for product design and fit out has five.

The FinBolt Triple Doorset was the interiors fittings winner in 2021 and the Digbeth range by Armac Martin copped the KBB product winner last year.

Enter at sbidawards.com

RIGHT: Armac Martin won a 2022 SBID award



ABOVE: Serpentine Pavilion 2023 designed by Lina Ghotmeh - architecture design render, exterior view © 2022 Lina Ghotmeh

Serpentine Gallery summer opening

This year's Serpentine Gallery will be unveiled in June and open until October. The 2023 design is by Lebanese-born, Paris-based architect Lina Ghotmeh and comprises a timber pavilion sheltering a low circular table designed, Ghotmeh says, to "focus visitors' attention on sustenance and sustainable living and our relationship to nature and the Earth".

This prestigious commission, which began in 2000 with Dame Zaha Hadid, has presented the first completed UK structures by some of the biggest names and emerging talents in international architecture. The Pavilion, based in London's Hyde Park, has evolved over the years as a participatory public and artistic platform for the Serpentine's innovative, experimental, interdisciplinary, community and family programmes.



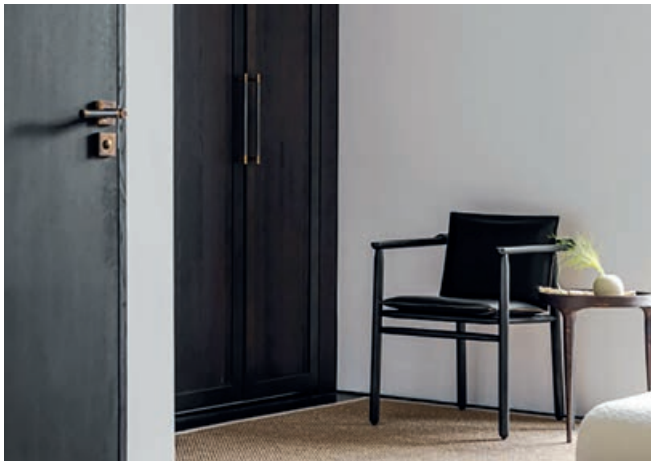
UK handles find modern home in Sweden

Project K is a modern villa, situated with amazing views over the archipelago of Stockholm, Sweden. Designed by Fox & Vince, a multidisciplinary design studio based in Stockholm, it is a residential project with an aim to create a sensory spatial experience that complements the modern, minimalistic architecture of the building. The client, a female entrepreneur, briefed the pair to not only create a space that reflected her personality and way of living, but also to include as many female designed pieces as possible.

The architects said of their design: "By adding tactile finishes, focusing on bespoke details, we tried to enhance the depth and beauty of natural materials, which brought out the warmth and a true feeling of home in these spaces, which the client was longing for.

Some of these details included door handles from UK-based manufacturer Turnstile Designs. They were used for the main entrance and wardrobes. "We believe we finally found a good blend between design icons and the up-and-coming," the design duo said.

"Turnstyle handles were one of the crafted items used to add the layer of craftsmanship and soul that this project was very much in need of, in order to bring out the depth and complement the simple lines and volumes of this building."



Turnstyle hardware in a Swedish architect-designed home

FIT ADDS NEW FEATURES

The 10th FIT Show will take place on 23-25 May at NEC Birmingham. Organisers of the UK event for the windows, doors, glass, hardware and components industry say over 85% of space has now been allocated, with 20% made up of brands new to the event.

As part of its anniversary event, the FIT Show will offer a number of new features including the 'Hosted Buyer Programme' and a CPD programme. Content will tackle industry challenges and the latest regulations and legislative changes. There will also be a new demonstration area on the show floor.

After the show this May, there will be no FIT Show until 2025 with the event reverting to its 'every other year' pattern to complement Fensterbau.

FITShow.co.uk



BJORN_CEDER

Portico memorial to pandemic losses

The Remember Me memorial portico at St Paul's Cathedral is a physical memorial to all those that died as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is home to an online book of remembrance.

Designed by Caroe Architecture with Connolly Wellingham, the portico is an elliptical structure featuring several GEZE doors. As visitors enter the cathedral they pass through a pair of swing doors powered by GEZE Powerturn automatic swing door operators. These doors were chosen as they can open large or heavy doors and can be used both manually and automatically. Above the doors, etched in to the structure in gold are the words 'Remembering all who died as a result of the coronavirus pandemic'.

From the portico the main entrance into the cathedral is through GEZE's TSA 325 NT, a manual revolving door with four leaves. The revolving door was chosen as it minimises air flow into the cathedral as only one quadrant is open at a time. To ensure access for all a GEZE Slimdrive SCR curved automatic sliding doors were installed opposite the revolving door. Etched in the glass in the doors are phrases such as 'we will always remember' and 'never forget'.

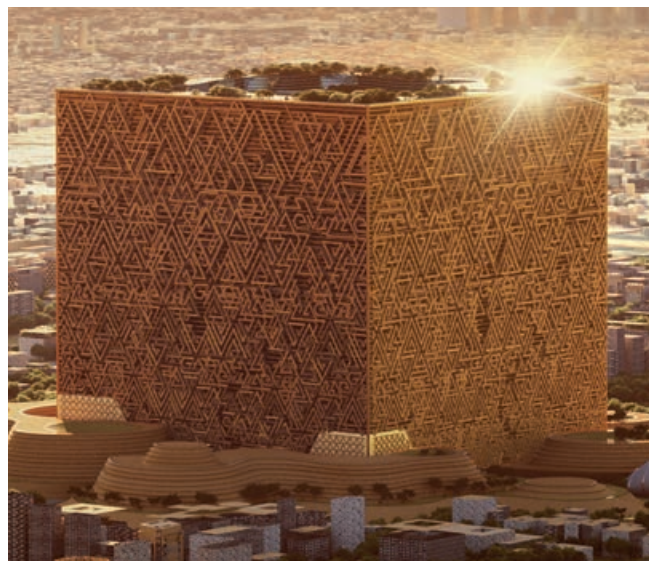
<https://tinyurl.com/2pg8rn6b>



A perfect pair across the Atlantic

Architectural Ironmongers Harbrine and manufacturers Instinct Hardware had to come up with a creative solution when asked to perfectly match an entrance door pull handle from a prestigious law firm's New York Office, for its new London HQ.

The original guardsman design featured tubular woven leather and had to be replicated for the UK version. The two companies worked together to develop the final bespoke, mirror-finished solid guardsman handle. Alongside the bespoke handle were a number of complementary pieces. Read the full case study at AIJmagazine.co.uk



Saudi vision to include cube skyscraper

The Saudi Arabian government has announced plans to build a 400-metre-high cube-shaped skyscraper named Mukaab as part of its Murabba downtown plan in Riyadh. The new area dubbed "the new face of Riyadh", will be built around the Mukaab structure, which will be "one of the largest built structures in the world".

The structure will be 400x400 making it the tallest building in the city. It will contain two million square metres of shops, cultural and tourist attractions and have an almost full-height atrium space that will contain a spiralling tower.

The Mukaab skyscraper is one of several mega projects currently being developed in Saudi Arabia as part of the Saudi Vision 2030 plan. The best-known, and most controversial, is Neom which includes the 170-kilometre-long The Line megacity.

FAR LEFT: Bespoke handle for law firm

LEFT: The Mukaab structure planned for Riyadh



BAU DOWN

BAU, the international trade fair for architecture, materials and systems, takes place on 17-22 April. The event which regularly attracts over 250,000 visitors has for this year the main topics: climate change; affordable living; resources and recycling; digital transformation; and modular construction. <https://bau-muenchen.com/en/>



Clerkenwell hot spot for design week

The UK design festival Clerkenwell Design Week returns to London between 23-25 May and this year includes the addition of Design London. The 12th edition will again take place in the heart of Clerkenwell – historically a melting pot of craftsmen and makers, and now home to more creative businesses and architects per square mile than anywhere

else in the world. The 2023 festival will see 600 events taking place across the EC1 neighbourhood and has two new additions to its exhibition venues taking the total number to 12. Elements is the exhibition home to architectural hardware and finishes.

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Fit for purpose

Modular construction offers benefits but **David Gray** RegAI warns that specifiers must know the role of products in that mix



ABOVE: MMC is a rising trend in construction

Recognised as an emerging model in modern methods of construction (MMC), modular construction is an industry on the rise, albeit one that's still in its infancy. In broad terms, the concept is often described as the process of constructing a building in a controlled, off-site setting, before being transported and assembled at its intended destination. At its core, modular construction shares many similarities to any construction project, where under controlled conditions, teams use the same materials and design to the same codes and standards as conventional developments. Yet, for many, modular construction provides answers to some of the industry's most pressing issues; housing shortage, sustainability, costs.

Specifying products for MMC

As the method continues to advance, those involved in the procurement of modular components and materials must give considered thought to the supply, transportation and design process of projects to truly unlock its potential benefits.

With a constant flow of components, from structural modules right through to hardware products, decision makers must continue to factor how building materials may interact with each other upon completion of projects. Where reliability and functionality are concerned, the specification of construction products is crucial and decision makers have a responsibility to ensure all materials and products are fit for purpose throughout the entirety of modular construction developments.

The supply chain is often simplified for modular construction projects, and with various regulations to follow and an assortment of construction products to keep track of, the onus is on a smaller team of decision makers to make conscious choices that meet all of a project's regulatory requirements. With this in mind, modern manufacturers and professional bodies are working to support professionals throughout the decision-making process.

As part of the Building Safety Bill's regulatory framework, the Golden Thread of Information has been developed to provide more complete and detailed product information in the form of product datasheets and installation guides. The Golden Thread

"Decision makers have a responsibility to ensure all materials and products are fit for purpose"

DAVID GRAY

encourages greater collaboration and education and can provide invaluable information on product performance and testing throughout the completion of modular projects. Enhanced traceability will lead to more informed and consistent product choices, and it is imperative that decision makers remain informed if they aim to deliver complete and efficient buildings.

If the acceptance of modular construction continues to ascend, we may shortly see a shift of landscape within the construction industry. The environmental and cost saving benefits are evident. But to effectively tap into the progressive benefits modular construction has to offer, the importance of specification must be widely understood. After all, safety, functionality and reliability will always remain unremitting themes in construction, regardless of method. ♦

David Gray is director of operations at Consort Hardware.
consortme.com

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What I specified for...

The National Gallery Accommodation Hub

Roy Buckingham
DipGAI RegAI,
regional
specification
development
manager at
Abloy UK



I was recently involved in the creation of a new office space at the National Gallery, known as The Accommodation Hub, designed by Purcell Architects. The new facility accommodates 250 staff over eight floors, with flexible working requirements. Set within a Grade I listed building, the design brief included fusing the new with the old, while creating an accessible environment.

Access control

In terms of access control, it was important to manage the movement of people while maintaining compliance with the fire strategy and ensuring the means of escape was not compromised. What's more, the access control hardware had to blend with the

architect's vision, and match finishes utilised on non-controlled doors. Locking had to suit a variety of different door types too, with FD30 & FD60 fire rated timber doors, glazed doors and automated doors.

I specified a bespoke solution to meet the requirements, which included the EL560, EL561, and EL520 Abloy electric locks, with forends refinished to an antique brass finish and installed with Polar 6 Exit Handles compliant to BS EN179, also with an antique brass finish to align with the aesthetics of the environment. In addition, EFF 351M80 Motorised Strike Locks were installed and interfaced with the fire alarm system to fail unlocked for escape egress on circulation routes.

Collaboration and expertise

The project delivery required close partnering with William Channon Architectural Ironmongers, who provided the full door ironmongery specification to include the Abloy solutions I had specified. Reg AI status is vital when specifying solutions

"The access control hardware had to blend with the architect's vision and match finishes on non-controlled doors"

ROY BUCKINGHAM



LEFT: EL561 was among products specified

BOTTOM: The Accommodation Hub designed by Purcell Architects



DIANE AUCLAND/FOTOHAUS AND PURCELL

such as these to ensure competence can be proven and demonstrate knowledge of changing requirements in our industry. I keep up to date with new regulations and standards and I am always aware of current best practice.

In this case, my expertise was required to specify and ensure our electric lock solutions did not compromise the fire safety of the building by ensuring correct and compliant electric locking was utilised.

Purcell Architects were also shortlisted for the 2022 Architectural Journal magazine Retrofit awards in the Listed Building Category for this project. ♦

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CPD: the career and marketing win-win

CPD makes career and commercial sense for everyone involved. How? Read on

Demonstrating professionalism is now crucial for anyone in the built environment. Mandatory CPD is part of life for many professional body members, but plenty of professionals undertake voluntary CPD because they value proactively building their skills and knowledge.

CPD is vital for keeping thinking fresh, skills relevant and motivation high. It allows people to upskill their training, to adapt to changes, stay abreast of industry trends and keep employable. That much we all know.

However, CPD is also hugely beneficial for organisations and employers. Having an

open attitude to learning and development is key for attracting and engaging talent and should form part of any great talent management strategy.

And when CPD takes the form of a presentation, talk or webinar the rewards to the organisation or person delivering the content are also considerable. Delivering a CPD provides an interesting and informative platform for new and existing customers that will deliver really valuable content to a target audience. It's a great way to build up relationships and create awareness of your brand and your products;

“With the right kind of content, your CPD presentation soft-sells your prospects without ever having to ‘hard close’ anybody”

WYATT JOZWOWSKI

it's also an opportunity to let potential customers see and experience products hands on (see panel).

Teach and sell

Wyatt Jozwowski, co-founder of Demio, a webinar provider says of CPD. “It’s truly unlike anything else; if done right, you can keep your audience engaged for hours on end. Not only that, but your audience can also ask questions and get real-time feedback on the training.

“With the right kind of content, your CPD presentation soft-sells your prospects without ever having to ‘hard close’ anybody,” Jozwowski adds. “The best CPDs teach AND sell at the same time.”

Delivering something in person and being able to answer audience questions positions you as the expert in your field – not just on the day but in the future too. When they have a query around your area of expertise, who will they turn to?

New GAI model

In recognition of the increasing importance of demonstrating professionalism, the GAI has introduced a new model for the CPD of Registered Architectural Ironmongers (RegAIs) and others working in the architectural ironmongery sector.

The changes have been designed to ensure the annual CPD requirements for

architectural ironmongery professionals remain in line with those for other professionals in the construction and comparable industries (see p28 for more details).

Simon Forrester GAI chief executive says: “As the construction industry continues, in the wake of the UK’s new Building Safety Act, to address the critical issue of professional competence, it is vital that we continue to set an equally high

benchmark for the ongoing learning and assessment of RegAI and other registered and certified specialists in our field.

“Importantly for standards throughout our sector, we are also opening our CPD programme to non-accredited members for the first time, in order that they can build and maintain vital skills and knowledge regardless of their intention to become fully registered professionals.” ♦

gai.org/cpd

PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING

When Jeremy Barltop RegAI from G Johns & Son attended a GAI South East Hub CPD on locker locks last year, delivered by Codelocks, little did both parties know the big win it would result in for them both. “It’s not something we traditionally get involved with,” says Barltop. “However the Codelocks presentation was really engaging and they had a number of samples we could see and feel – which is a huge benefit.

“Six months down the line I was at a site meeting for an office block project we were working on and I noticed they were building a large gym and changing room area. I mentioned we could supply locks for all the lockers. After discussing their requirements we

settled on the Codelocks KL100G3, we sent a sample to site for approval and a few weeks later it resulted in an order for 250 of them. Had it not been for the Codelocks CPD, I would have never even asked the question to the client... the CPD system works!”

A similar result came when Sam Thatcher, SDS London sales and marketing manager attended a CPD event also delivered by Codelocks. In 2022, having created separate websites for trade and retail customers, SDS London’s Trade Centre faced the challenge of dealing with online trade orders at the same time as maintaining its in-store customer service.

Half of SDS’s customers wanted to simply collect their online orders. The other half were looking for expert knowledge and advice to help with product selection. But a single trade counter meant these customers were mixed in the same queue, which inevitably led to longer wait times and diminished customer satisfaction. SDS London needed a solution and that turned out to be Codelocks click and collect locker system. Thatcher reached out to Codelocks on the back of her attending one of their CPD presentations.

“Had it not been for the Codelocks CPD, I would have never even asked the question to the client...the CPD system works!”

JEREMY BARLTROP

Will a robot take my job?

Artificial intelligence is poised to transform the way buildings are designed and built. Should we be worried? **AIJ** reports



RIGHT: a private housing scheme for Lambeth generated by Midjourney

FAR RIGHT: Ideas for Montenegro's ongoing Budva Promenade competition also generated by Midjourney



"Architects may become a thing of the past."

This was the stark warning issued by chatbot ChatGPT in February when it was asked about the threat that artificial intelligence (AI) poses to the profession.

ChatGPT has generated huge attention since being launched at the end of 2022. Reports have quickly spread across the internet of its capabilities, such as writing highly specialised essays, poems or code almost instantly. Its shocking statement about architects also included the observation that architects who ignore the potential of AI "risk sleepwalking into oblivion".

It made the alarming comments in a text conversation with AI architecture expert Neil Leach, a professor at Florida International University. Leach asked ChatGPT for an "attention grabbing" answer to how AI could negatively impact the architecture profession in the future. It replied: "AI is quickly advancing to a point where it can generate the design of a building completely autonomously. This could spell the end of the profession as we know it, raising questions of what the future holds for architects in a world of AI-generated buildings."

AI has become a major talking point among architects and designers in the past two years, accelerated by the advent of text-to-image generation software like OpenAI's Dall-E 2 and Midjourney.

Many users have created images of imaginary buildings using these tools. The images created by these bots have become an internet sensation and led to discussions about how they could impact the future of design and architecture.

In an AJ article about the threat AI poses to architects, Merlin Fulcher wrote: "Work that previously took hours of skilled labour at considerable cost to the architect profession can now be mimicked instantly, offering clients, architects and architecture students a new tool that could upset established business models. While the technology is still in its infancy and AI-generated renders are clearly a long way off from being able to replace ones drawn by humans, the ability to quickly create ideas in response to a real-life brief could bring rapid changes and unexpected outcomes. There are big questions about the impact this could have on the architectural industry."

No emotional intelligence

However, architects have hit back saying that while AI will change the way they work it currently has limitations. Architect and entrepreneur Alexandra Groszek told AJ: "With basic parameters, AI can produce some interesting outputs on a small scale. But when it comes to a larger building design, AI alone is not able to handle

"AI is quickly advancing to a point where it can generate the design of a building completely autonomously"

CHATGPT

the complexity yet.' As long as AI has no emotional intelligence, I think humans cannot be replaced in design for those that believe it has value beyond function."

Pablo Zamorano from Heatherwick Studio says the key is to use the tech to your advantage. "Machines can take on tasks, like planning a car park, that enable designers to spend more time exploring ideas that make a real social impact. What will definitely change is the way we interact with these design tools. These workflows get more natural, so the interaction between machines and designers will be normalised instead of being separated."

Håvard Haukeland from Autodesk says "AI and automation will play a greater role in the design process by, for example, predicting outcomes and automating ►



ABOVE: Image generated on Midjourney by designer Manas Bhatia

“AI and automation will play a greater role in the design process by predicting outcomes and automating tedious tasks such as sourcing data”

HAVARD HAUKELAND

tedious tasks such as number-crunching or sourcing data, while freeing up more time for architects to focus on design work.

“New digital processes will potentially enable architects to rethink their business models such as testing new fee structures and diversifying their services. As a result, more firms will invest in innovation officers and digital strategists to ensure a cohesive approach to architecture, business, and technology.”

Factory settings

So what of actual products? American designer Dan Harden of industrial design company Whipsaw said that AI is “gradually” entering industrial design but is “still primitive”.

“Unlike digital design, where AI is integrated within a common software platform, product hardware design is different,” he told Dezeen. “The three-dimensional aspects of a product and its relationship to its user and its environment present exponential challenges for AI, mostly because it cannot perceive the dynamic user interaction nuances within the physical world in which a product resides.”

But robots in manufacturing is nothing new. This is the age of smart production lines and factory automation, where in other industries robots are applied to perform extremely dangerous tasks, improve flexible manufacturing, reduce manpower cost and save development time. The automotive industry has been using industrial robots for more than half a century, since General Motors first adopted the UNIMATE in the early 1960s.

Robot labour

AI is being used in construction in a host of ways from construction robots, BIM, wearable tech, data analytics to tool tracking tech, IOT, drones and 3D printing.

Mace's director of innovation, Matt Gough said in an article on BIM+ : “We expect the

use of this technology to be rapidly scaled up and include the automated fabrication of modular homes and building components off-site, robotic welding and material handling on building sites and robotic 3D printing of houses and customised structures.

“As well as production, automation will guide us toward a future where machine replaces manual labour in areas where safety, quality or environmental impact demands it. Mace projects in Ireland and Heathrow are trialling the use of robots for quality, safety and progress inspections.”

Some door hardware manufacturers are already using robotic production lines. Metal LS, a Bulgarian manufacturer of door locking systems, door and window handles and building hardware, has put in place an automated assembly of door locks.

The robotic systems that the company already used for other applications were too large, so the new solutions needed to be as compact and precise as possible. Door and security locks are precision parts with standard dimensions and components stipulated in DIN standards.

Fast work

In addition, the robots needed to achieve high productivity, assembling between 10 and 14 locks per minute. The company also needed a high level of flexibility from the solution and the possibility of retooling so that they could reuse the same system to produce different types of lock in the future.

Metal LS chose a robot system from Delta. Delta supplied programmable logic controllers, a human-machine interface, servo systems and robotic arms with machine vision. A custom workstation for assembly of the mechanical door lock components was created formed of a rotation table, on which seven six-axis articulated robots were installed.

The robots are capable of precise, quick movements and feature a hollow wrist that ►

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allows them to be combined with the correct tool for each production step. The system visualises all processes and enables the user to select various receipts for different locks via a touch screen. The assembly line is monitored and communicates with the rotating platform.

Robot scheduler?

Various door scheduling software packages already exist of course. ASSA ABLOY's Openings Studio is one example. It integrates directly with BIM software Autodesk Revit, to transfer project data to improve the process of creating and visualising 3D doors, frames, and hardware objects.

Currently software still needs human input but Autodesk has been experimenting with how machine learning can improve BIM applications. At the end of 2022 it announced a collaboration with Epic Games to offer Twinmotion – real-time rendering and storytelling that it will be available soon.

Where will it lead? The word on the street is that if you're not learning how to use AI

technology to your advantage you may get left behind. But in an industry that needs creative, technical and problem-solving knowledge the machines aren't clever enough. At least not yet. ♦


An online quiz based on this feature is now available on the GAI Learning Hub. Completion of this quiz will be worth one CPD point. <https://tinyurl.com/ycxttnx8>


"Here's the 'pinch of salt' moment though: ChatGPT answers the question but it won't 'school' you"


PROFESSOR JACQUI GLASS

JUST HOW GOOD IS CHATGPT?


Construction Management magazine recently put ChatGPT to the test. Industry experts posed questions to the conversational tech and assessed its answers. Questions ranged from general information requests to specific technical queries. The outcomes largely impressed the panel but not without some reservations.


 Charles Tincknell, efficiencies and systems lead, Willmott Dixon Interiors said: "The answers are OK but ChatGPT is also learning so the outputs will improve. However, it is free and incredibly easy to use and this means the power of AI is now really available to all."

 Sam Stacey, CEO Stacx International, and senior adviser, Construction Leadership Council said: "Where the real value will come in is project-specific queries such as 'When will panels XYZ arrive on site?' Use of this sort of AI will require more than just text – for example, augmented reality."

 Emma Hooper, head of R&D at Bond Bryan Digital, and Government and Industry Interoperability Group (GIIG) workstream member was less impressed. "Chatbots cannot think laterally, and it can only be as good as the information it has access to. If we

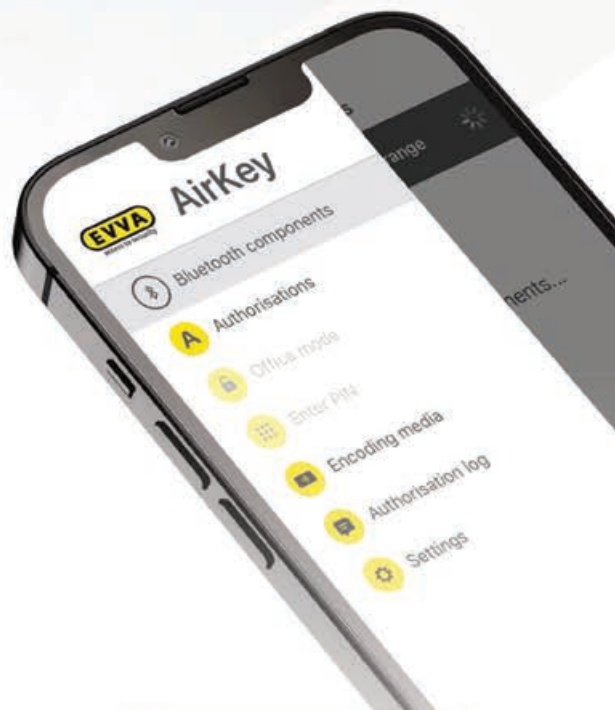
start believing what we read from chatbots without questioning it then we're going to find ourselves in a dark place."

 Neil Thompson, director, digital integration & delivery, Atkins. "I wanted to see if we can get a meaningful answer that captures the essence of data and its difference to information. It's given a soundbite, but not something I think will hold water in technical communities."

 Professor Jacqui Glass, vice dean research for The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, University College London said: "The speed, succinctness, broad-brush coherence were genuinely remarkable. Here's the 'pinch of salt' moment though: ChatGPT answers the question, but it won't 'school' you. ChatGPT is not quite capable of taking my job, yet tech like this is causing huge ripples in education right now."

BELOW: robot arms from Delta being used in door lock manufacturing





AirKey

Access Control without the wires

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7 ways to build recession resilience

How can you turn the economic challenge into an opportunity?



Times are tough and mitigating damage to the bottom lines is on everyone's mind. But there are other ways to survive – and even thrive – in a downturn. Brexit, inflation, rising interest rates, post-Covid recovery, the war in Ukraine, and crumbling market confidence in UK fiscal policy all continue to weigh down on the UK economy.

For the design and construction industry this is resulting in multiple

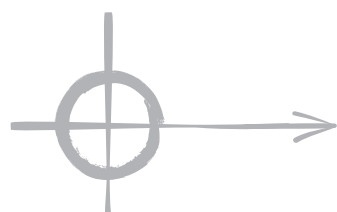
headwinds: supply chain issues, planning delays, steep inflation in costs, talent shortages and skills gaps. Architects reported in RIBA's Future Trends Survey at the end of last year being more pessimistic about future workloads than at any time since the financial crisis of 2009 – outside lockdown. So with a likely contraction in workloads this year comes a need to ensure you can shore up your career and business against recession.

“Riding out the storm is about building resilience and that is not only about the need to recover from setbacks and to change, but also how to thrive in altered circumstances”

1.

Mindset

Amid the uncertainty, are also opportunities. Doom is not inevitable. Riding out the storm is about building resilience and that is not only about the need to recover from setbacks and to change, but also how to thrive in altered circumstances. How can you use this time to assess areas to grow into and improve – as a business and as an individual.



2.

Identify new markets

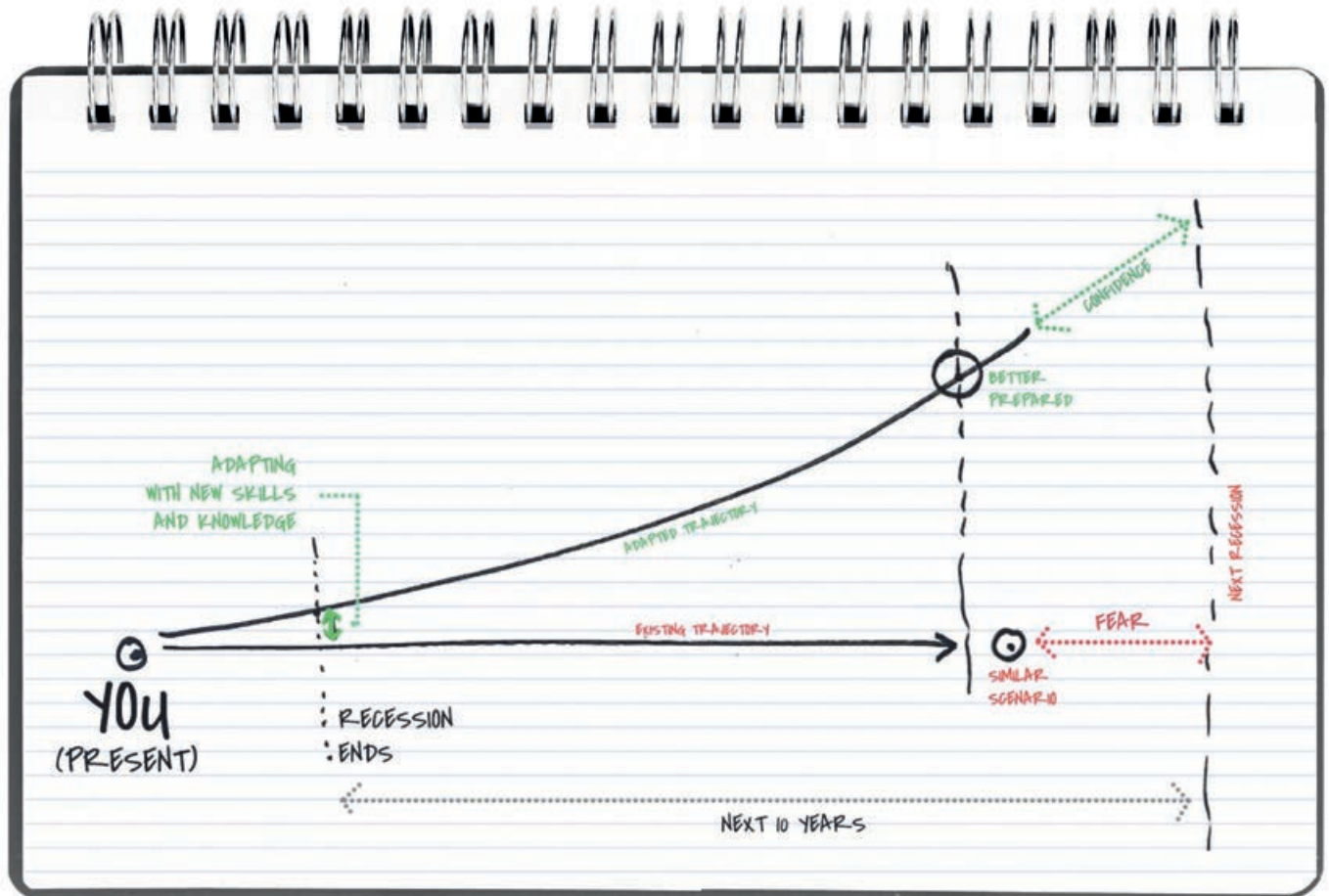
Diversifying your offer guards against downturns but it's more than a financial tactic. As innovative professions, architects and specifiers provide important design services for a changing society. A society, for instance, that is going to be increasingly less dependent on fossil fuels. The built environment is on the road to net zero and is looking for solutions, to invest in sustainable, low carbon buildings, both new and existing. What can you do to be part of that solution? What expertise, skills and innovative technologies can you offer to meet the future needs of the built environment and to build social and environmental sustainability? This demand will only increase so finding a niche or diversifying your offer is also playing the long game.

3.

Prove your worth

In a post-Grenfell world demonstrating professional competence is now vital. But proving your competence is not only an industry demand but also career insurance – make yourself as valuable as possible. Be indispensable at work. Be someone who can be relied upon, approachable, and is taking additional measures to ensure the ship sails. Maybe this can be a chance to prove your worth and be useful in levelling up to that next job or salary hike.

Do an audit of your skills. How can you upskill? What training can you take to build your knowledge? Where are you getting the most CPD value? What is your plan for building competence? Could your next step be to study for a DipGAI or better yet, RegAI?



If you're experienced in your sector could you promote yourself and, by default, your company as an expert: delivering comment to press, hitting the events circuit as a speaker or delivering CPDs (see 12). This kind of PR brings in business as well as boosting careers.

4.

Take advantage of uncertainty

Struggling suppliers will be eager for orders and especially for long-term contracts that will guarantee the survival of their businesses. If you have enough confidence in the sustainability of your own business to commit, you may be able to lock in low prices that will look even better during the next boom.

5.

Play to your strengths

What sets your company apart from your competition? Is it the quality of work, your ability to deliver projects on time and within budget, or your expertise in a niche market? Are there certain types of projects or service areas that are more profitable for your company than others? Identify what you offer better than anyone else and communicate that to your clients.

6.

Find new ways to serve your most loyal customers

With tough times ahead, it's reasonable to think about new revenue from new customers but one of the very best things a business can do to build resilience and

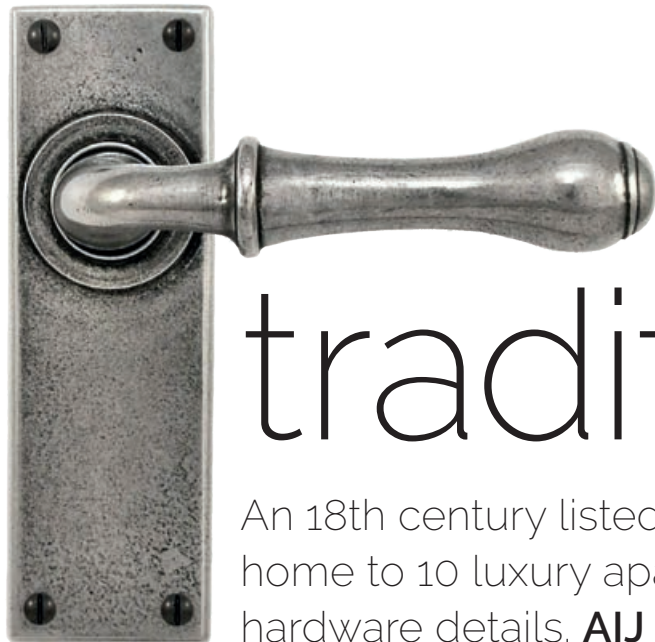
continue growing is to heighten its focus on its relationship with its existing customers and community.

How can you bring more to your offer for them? Is your technical knowledge second-to-none? Are you – or is there in your team – a RegAI? Promote that professionalism to clients. Clients want problems solved so what can you do to deliver solutions?

7.

Sector crunch

Some sectors will be recession proof, so consider shifting your focus to those areas. Healthcare and education projects for example where early involvement will pay off and specialist knowledge is needed around standards and regulations, safety, performance and access control.



Modern tradition

An 18th century listed building was restored to become home to 10 luxury apartments complete with heritage hardware details. **AIJ** reports

Totteridge Park is home to 10 high-end luxury properties standing in 5.5 acres of landscaped gardens. It is the result of two years of restoration work to restore the Grade II building into elegant, light, spacious accommodation, featuring a wealth of original features and character.

The project was led by architect, Will Moses of CSM Architects and project

manager, Hilary Scott. The main contractors, Sullivan Brothers was appointed to deliver the contract over an 18 month build programme including sourcing specialist craftsmen to deliver the attention to detail. That detail includes beautifully restored decorative plaster work to solid pewter ironmongery and the magnificent period fireplaces.

The manor house at Totteridge Park dates back to the 1700s when it was built as a hunting lodge by prominent Whig politician the 1st Viscount William Bateman. Following Viscount Bateman's residency was a string of decorated and distinguished tenants including a Lord Chief Justice in the 1750s and confectionery magnate, Sir Albert Barratt, in the early 20th century.

However, more recently the apartments had fallen into disrepair prompting the need for redevelopment, while two new build cottages were also added to the site that replaced a wing of the original house which was damaged by fire. Ensuring the entire project fitted the aesthetic of the original house was paramount, requiring meticulous attention to detail by combining period features with top-of-the-line ironmongery that met modern standards and specifications.

Scott, who has a wealth of experience in high-end residential projects – including arts and crafts homes in London's Hampstead



TOP: Door hardware in antique pewter was specified throughout the apartments

LEFT: Totteridge Park

Garden Suburb – said when it came to selecting the hardware she “wanted to be in touch with the history of the building and an arts and craft feel in an appropriate finish”. She chose antique pewter which she says “not only leant a cottagey feel to the attic rooms but also worked on the grander rooms like the billiard room on the ground floor. I wanted something that looked authentic.”

The hardware was specified by G Johns & Son, an Essex-based fifth generation family-run business. “Jeremy came to site and specified door by door, including recessed handles in pocket doors. I’ve been using them for many years and their technical knowledge is superb,” says Scott.

Jeremy Bartrop, Registered Architectural Ironmonger and director at G Johns, said of the project: “It’s both an enormous privilege and responsibility to be asked to contribute to developments with such historical and local significance. The challenge of adaptively reusing heritage buildings appropriately is one that fascinates architectural ironmongers like me.

“We were asked to write an ironmongery schedule for 10 refurbished apartments with the initial enquiry relating to the entrance



ABOVE: The restoration included going into the attic

BELOW: Antique pewter handles were used throughout



BELOW: A kitchen in one of the 10 apartments



“The Pewter products are totally faithful to the history and aesthetic of the site. As a material it strongly evokes opulence and heritage”

JEREMY BARTROP

doors. After a site visit with the main contractor and the architect we decided to specify concealed cam action overhead door closers, mortice night latches and BS8621 rated euro deadlocks all of which were CE marked and Certifire approved,” explains Bartrop. “For the internal doors to keep with the traditional look of the property we specified pewter finish ironmongery throughout; including door knobs, sliding door handles, window fittings and cupboard knobs.

“Naturally, I’m delighted the developers at Totteridge Park chose to use our range of pewter products in their extensive redevelopment project as it’s a range that is totally faithful to the history and aesthetic of the wider site. As a material it strongly evokes opulence and heritage and our range is a fine example of how unique manufacturing techniques add further detail to the natural charm of metals. The breadth and quality of our pewter range meant we could fully furnish the entire site with everything required including door handles, fasteners, letter plates, escutcheons and more.

“To think that G Johns has played its part in the restoration and preservation of one of our country’s finest historical buildings is a source of enormous pride for me personally.” ♦

The GAI has produced an end-user guide for residential properties. See p29.

Dear GAI...

GAI has made us aware of the government consultations on removal of national classes for fire doors from Approved Document B (fire safety). How would this affect the architectural ironmongery industry? Technical agony aunt, **Douglas Masterson** answers the question



This potential removal of national classes

from Approved Document B and equivalents would have serious repercussions across the ironmongery and fire door industry. To give some background, ADB currently states that the performance of all fire doorsets should be based on one of the following:

- BS 476-22 (with fire doors being classified as the likes of an FD30)
- Classified in accordance with EN 13501-2 and tested to the relevant European method such as EN 1634 1. An example of a relevant classification for fire doors would be E30.

Under the new proposal the only classification permitted would be the second option with BS 476 22 no longer being accepted. (although Ireland would accept this on existing buildings)

In respect of the architectural ironmonger this could have the following impacts:

Product would have to have test evidence to EN 1634-1 AND be included within the door manufacturers extended field of application (EXAP) scope under the European standards EN 15269 2 or EN 15269 3. EXAP standards are the only EN standards allowed to go beyond the fire test standard to extend the number of third party approved applications. EXAPs are a rigid conservative system

with no room for assessments as permitted under BS 476 22. These EXAP rules are also much narrower than the current status quo of BS 476 22 test evidence or assessment and are specific to an individual door type/specification eg door type with specific core.

Each door type/core will require its own set of EXAP rules as these are not transferable, therefore, if you are specifying a product that does not have correct test evidence to EN 1634-1 or it falls outside the EXAP scope for specific doorset, then your product will not be permitted, and an alternative will need to be sought unless there is a desire to have the product tested. This will make it much more difficult to specify at the early stages when the door manufacturer has not been selected as yet. It could put more onus on the door manufacturer to specify hardware as they will have greater awareness of what is included either within their test evidence or within their EXAPs. It is also likely to change the relationship between door manufacturer and architectural ironmonger.

In respect of the door hardware manufacturer it could mean:

The role of the current assessments used for door hardware would change under the new system. Under the current rules it is not

“This will make it much more difficult to specify at the early stages when the door manufacturer has not been selected”

DOUGLAS MASTERSON

generally required to test hardware from both directions but under EN 1634 1 DIAP rules, this would no longer be the case and restraining hardware such as hinges and locks etc would need to be tested from both directions. This would increase testing costs for hardware manufacturers and suppliers.

Further administration would also be required as each time a change in product scope is requested, the hardware manufacturer must apply to the doorset manufacturer in order to have the product included on their EXAP report.

This could affect the timber fire door manufacturer as follows:

It is the current situation that the standard for internal fire doorsets EN 14351 2 is not

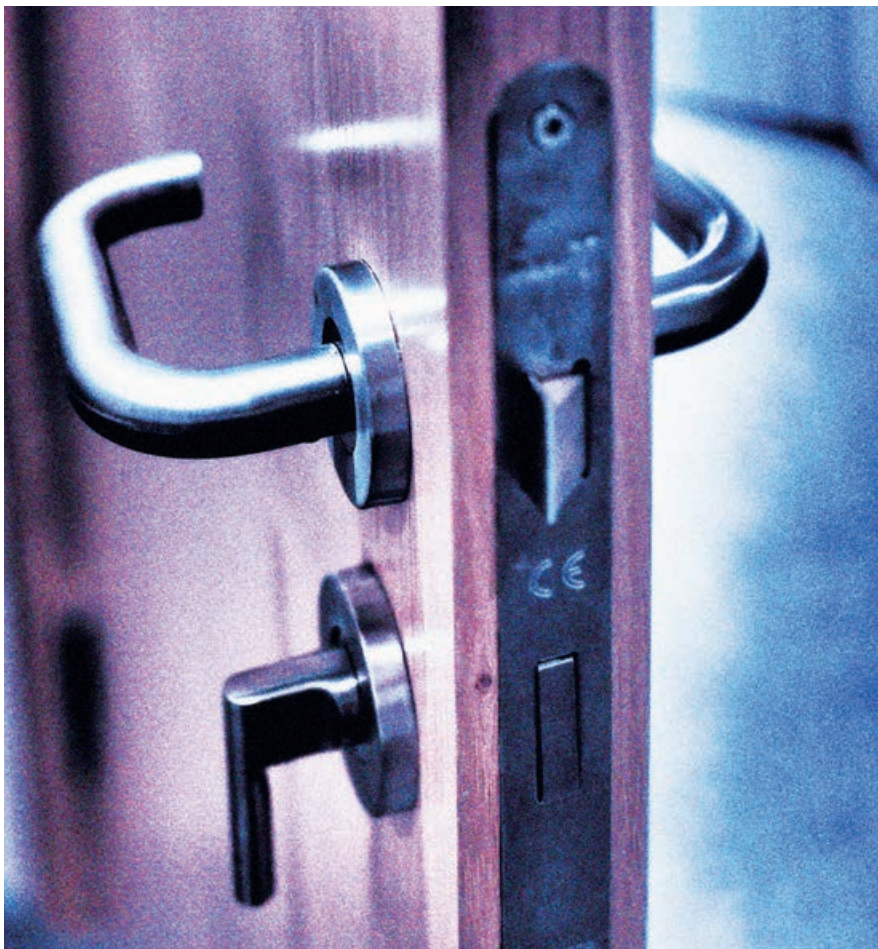
harmonised therefore there is no mandatory requirement to test to EN 1634-1 in UK. There is a therefore a huge amount of existing fire test evidence to BS 476 22 which would effectively be of no further use as this would no longer be acceptable under the new EN classification proposal. This would mean a huge increase in testing costs as door manufacturers would need to test their doors to EN 1634-1 in order to receive the classification required under EN13501-2 eg E30,E60. Extra testing would also be required for industry to have same level of scope enhancement as currently exists under BS 476 22.

This could also drive the industry further towards standardised restricted door sets and less towards door assemblies where more variation is permitted. It should also be noted that timber doors which currently pass under BS 476 22 may not pass the EN 1634 1 test which is a more onerous test. This could mean further costs being borne in order to re-engineer specifications in order to pass the EN 1634-1 test.

The proposed changes could have further impacts across the industry including potential revision on key British Standards which feature BS 476 22 heavily including BS 9991, BS 9999 and BS 8214. It would

"This could also drive the industry further towards standardised restricted door sets and less towards door assemblies where more variation is permitted"

DOUGLAS MASTERSON

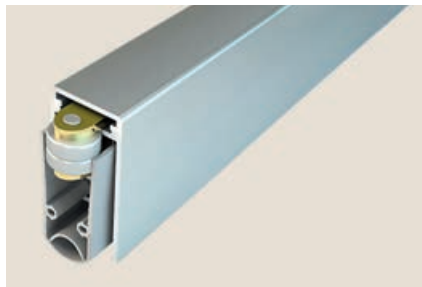


also affect existing third party certification schemes for both hardware and doors which have existing assessments under BS 476 22. Under the consultation these would no longer be accepted therefore new scheme rules would need to be written under EN 1634-1. ♦

GAI has responded to the Government Consultation: see www.gai.org.uk/advocacy. Further detail can also be found in the GAI Technical Briefing 38 'Guidance on Approved Document B Consultation' on gai.org.uk/knowledge.

An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI Learning Hub. Completion of the quiz is worth one CPD point. <https://tinyurl.com/2bfh9326>





1.

Norseal Schall-Ex® L-15/30 WS PIVOT Automatic Drop Seal.

The Schall-EX seal is a self-levelling, unobtrusive drop seal fitted to the bottom edge of the door. When tested with Norseal perimeter seals it achieved a range that offers sound reduction performance of up to 42dB_{Rw}. Its internal mechanism drops the seal when the doors close to prevent the transfer of unwanted sound, draughts, heat and light. Perfect for spaces with single or double swing doors on a pivot hinge.

norseal.co.uk



2.

Lorient LP range.

Lorient LP1004DS, LP1504DS, LP2004DS + LP2504DS range of seals offers acoustic, smoke and fire protection, with the added benefit of thermal containment. Its unique design means that whichever way round the product is installed, the seal can always be fitted in the correct place, maintaining the integrity of the seal at the ironmongery points. A range of sizes to cover 30, 60, 90 + 120 minute applications, the DS seal also includes integral antimicrobial protection.

Lorientuk.com



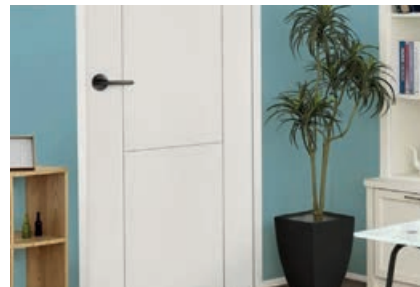
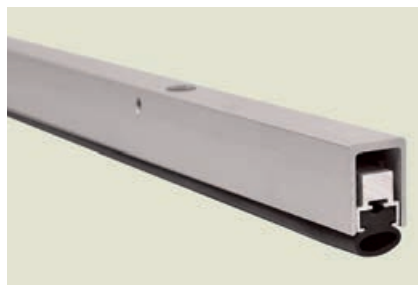
Sound can and will escape from the tiniest gaps: a door with a gap of just 1% will let 50% sound through it. So if you're specifying on a residential project, here are some options

3.

Zeroplus Seals

A variety of seals including anodised aluminium frame seals adjusted via a screw which helps close the gap between the door and frame, particularly if the gap is uneven. Also available Compress-O-Matic Frame Seals - concealed and visible fixing sound seals, help reduce the level of noise from the room by way of a double lipped gasket.

zeroplus.co.uk



4.

Acuphon's FD30 Timber Acoustic Doors

Acuphon acoustic and fire rated door sets come with a certified noise reduction ranging from 31dB to 62dB and certified fire ratings of 30 minutes, FD30 all the way to 240 minutes, FD240.

acuphon.co.uk



5.

ASSA ABLOY Acoustic Wooden Doors.

Available in standard sizes single or double-leaf version the noise insulation properties R_w up to Max. 41dB and with fire resistance up to max. 90 minutes. Flush, with vision panel or louvre the doors are made of solid wood, particle board or mineral core. Door frames can be solid wood or steel.

assaabloy.com

SERIOUS ABOUT STARTING YOUR JOURNEY IN ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY?

PROVE IT

The GAI Foundation in Hardware is an essential introductory qualification for anyone beginning their career in, or working alongside, the architectural ironmongery sector.

Teaching the basics of architectural ironmongery and access control, this flexible online course is ideal as an induction course for those just starting out in the architectural ironmongery sector. It is also tailor-made for those who aren't involved in the detail of hardware in their day-to-day job but want to gain a basic understanding of the industry.

The course covers all the basics of hardware, fire and escape doors, and access control in an affordable and convenient learning package:

- Online learning based around 12 modules
- Learn at your own pace, with a full six months to complete the course
- Self-assessment tests and examination
- A printed certificate and access to higher-level GAI qualifications on successful completion.

START YOUR JOURNEY IN
ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY AT
WWW.GAI.ORG.UK/FOUNDATION

FIND OUT MORE

The Foundation in Hardware is part of the GAI's education programme, globally-recognised as the mark of professionalism and expertise in architectural ironmongery and related sectors. Explore the full programme at www.gai.org.uk/learning



Guild of
Architectural
Ironmongers

GAI TALK

Simon Forrester,
GAI chief executive



There has never been more scrutiny on the skills and professional competences of those working in the construction sector.

In the UK this issue is central to the new Building Safety Act, but in different ways it is being addressed in territories around the world. And this in turn is shining a light more brightly than ever on the continuing professional development – CPD – that builds and refreshes knowledge, improves skills, and keeps those working in the industry up-to-date with the latest developments, standards and regulations.

The Guild's CPD model is well established and widely recognised as the route to securing and then maintaining RegAI status. But true professional development can – and should – be so much more than that. Yes, CPD is a programme of activities which one must complete to achieve, confirm and certify ones registered professional status. But CPD is also a mindset, and a commitment to doing better and being better. Turning up for seminars and webinars, reading reports, and going to industry events – these are necessary, but they are no longer sufficient. Equally important is constant reflection, not just on those learning activities but also on your day-to-day implementation of those skills.

The changes to our CPD model are designed to reflect this philosophy. We've raised the bar because we believe this is essential to promoting safety and further building trust in the RegAI standard. But we've also opened our programme to non-accredited members, because we believe that everyone working in this industry should do at least some CPD, even if it's just for their own benefit at present. Now, more than ever, it's time to embrace these changes and get your own CPD habit.

GAI Community...

GAI launches improved CPD for sector

The GAI has introduced a new model for the continuing professional development (CPD) of Registered Architectural Ironmongers (RegAIs) and others working in the architectural ironmongery sector. The changes have been designed to ensure the annual CPD requirements for architectural ironmongery professionals remain in line with those for other professionals in the construction and comparable industries.

GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "GAI courses and qualifications are recognised around the world as setting the highest possible benchmark for knowledge and understanding in the architectural ironmongery sector.

"As the construction industry continues, in the wake of the UK's new Building Safety Act,

to address the critical issue of professional competence, it is vital that we continue to set an equally high benchmark for the ongoing learning and assessment of RegAI and other registered and certified specialists in our field.

"Importantly for standards throughout our sector, we are also opening our CPD programme to non-accredited members for the first time, in order that they can build and maintain vital skills and knowledge regardless of their intention to become fully registered professionals."

The changes increase not only the amount of CPD activity required every year, but also the quality and amount of assessment involved. Three core topics, of which at least one will be based on an update to standards and regulations, will include compulsory coursework. The requirement for 20 CPD points a year can then be completed via a wide range of optional CPD activities ranging from Community Hub presentations, webinars and online quizzes through to creating training material or presenting to industry audiences.

gai.org.uk/cpd



GAI introduces new code of conduct

The GAI has agreed a revised Code of Professional Conduct to promote good conduct and best practice in the sector. The new code, which is binding on all individual and company members, takes effect from the start of new membership year in April.

Guild chief executive Simon Forrester said: "The Code aims not only to uphold standards through regulation, but also to empower practitioners to reflect critically and to continually strive to improve.

"Of course, it doesn't replace, remove or change legal obligations and restrictions in any way: GAI members must continue at all times to comply with all relevant legal obligations.

"But within that context, we expect members to be guided as much by the spirit as by the precise and express terms of this Code." gai.org.uk/constitution

AI guides for residential and commercial sector users

New guides have been published to help property users and managers get the most from their architectural ironmongery.

The new end-user guides from the GAI are designed to address the needs of clients, occupiers, users, developers, facilities managers, and all who are involved with the building following its handover. They cover maintenance recommendations and care of finishes for relevant materials, as well as providing useful checklists on critical products such as fire doors, escape doors and automatic doors.

The first two guides provide information for the commercial and the residential sectors. They are available to download from gai.org.uk/users. Further guides will be published this summer.



WEBINAR MILESTONES

The GAI has celebrated two significant milestones in its CPD programme, not only holding its 100th webinar but also welcoming the 5,000th webinar participant.

The CPD webinar programme was launched less than three years ago, as a response to the introduction of pandemic restrictions on travel and face-to-face events. Since then, it has evolved to become an important part of the Guild's hybrid CPD delivery model (see opposite page), with online learning and face-to-face GAI Community Hub events both playing an important role. GAI webinars are available for members to view at gai.org.uk/webinars

Consultation on UK fire door testing standards



The GAI has responded to the UK Government's consultation on proposed amendments to Building Regulations – Approved Document B in England would have a significant impact on the fire testing of fire doors. Part of the proposals seek the removal of the national classification system for construction products (BS 476 series) and for all relevant construction products to be tested to the British Standard version of the European Standard.

The rationale from the Department for Levelling Up,

Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the proposed change is that potential flaws in the use of the national classification standards for reaction to fire and fire resistance in Approved Document B were identified during the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Also, the BS 476 series standards have been reviewed and updated significantly less frequently and recently than their European equivalents.

Fire doors – the testing of which falls within BS 476 22 – have been identified as one of a subset of products which will be greatly impacted by these changes, for which a 12-month transition period has been proposed.

Outlining some of the impacts and concerns raised by the GAI in its submission, GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson said: "These proposals would have major implications. For example, they could force the timber fire door market towards a similar model to that of the steel door market whereby fire doorsets under EN 1634 would be the norm rather than door assemblies under BS 476 22. The proposals also raise questions around the potential limiting of choice of ironmongery, the retesting costs and the capacity of the industry to meet the demand for fire doors under these testing criteria."

The Government consultation period closed on 17 March. The GAI is closely monitoring the outcome. A GAI webinar and Technical Briefing document are available for members to view/download on the Guild website. gai.org.uk/advocacy



ABOVE: Winners of the 2022 GAI Community Awards

Celebrate excellence with the GAI

Nominations are open for the 2023 GAI Community Awards. The awards are designed to celebrate individuals who have demonstrated leadership, innovation or service to the industry, or companies that go the extra mile. The 2023 categories are: Fellowship Award (FGAI); Company Innovation Award; Customer Focus Award; Leadership Award; and Achiever Award.

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."

"I would encourage all members to look at what individual and company nominations they can make, in order that the work of the very best in our sector is recognised by their peers, and appropriately celebrated and publicised."

CodeLocks managing director Colin Campbell was the winner of the 2022 Fellowship Award. Highlighting the significance of these awards in the sector, he said: "This is my 25th year in the hardware industry and over that time I have always been a supporter of the wider GAI

community. That community has proven invaluable to me in terms of networking and my own professional development."

"The Fellowship award now sits proudly next to my GAI Diploma, testaments of what dedication and a little hard work can bring you."

"Having your efforts recognised by your peers is deeply humbling and I have been touched to receive so many congratulatory messages from industry colleagues, both past and present."

John Hyslop, managing director of Company Innovation Awards winner Borg Locks, said: "Winning the award was recognition for all the hard work our team puts into everything that they do, and it was especially welcome as Borg Locks celebrated 25 years in the industry in 2022."

"We would recommend any business involved in the industry, be that an ironmonger, wholesaler or manufacturer, to become a member of the GAI and consider entering the awards in 2023."

Full details and an entry form are available at gai.org.uk/communityawards

New access control guidance on escape doors

The GAI and the Door & Hardware Federation (DHF) have published a new document providing clarification on what should, and shouldn't, be included in access control systems and electronic locking on escape doors.

This new technical briefing provides guidance around standards to be aware of, such as BS EN 1125, BS EN 179 and BS EN 13637. It also details how electrically controlled locking products, such as electromagnetic locks, electric releases, electrical panic hardware and electric locks can be used on escape doors as part of a compliant system. In addition, it discusses how relevant building regulations will impact the specification of access control products and makes specific reference to the Republic of Ireland's Private Security Authority's Licensing Requirements for Electronic Security - Access Control (PSA 67:2021).

GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson explained: "The GAI is regularly asked for advice on this matter, since there is no 'one approach fits all' solution to specifying hardware that adequately balances safety and security. This document will provide welcome guidance on the specification of access control products for escape doors."



GAI members can download Access Control on Escape Doors at gai.org.uk/technicalbriefings



Celebrating excellence in Dubai

The GAI presented qualifications to students at a ceremony in Dubai. GAI President Mario Del-Signore and chief executive Simon Forrester presented the GAI Diploma to 16 students from across the GCC region.

Forrester said: "It has been a huge privilege to present certificates and awards to these students who have worked so hard and under the difficult circumstances of the last three years. The region is a centre of excellence for architectural ironmongery underlined by the fact that two of our top three 2022 students are based here. I am delighted to finally be able to visit and meet members here in person."

ABOVE: Students in GCC celebrate qualifying

SAVE THE DATE – GAI EVENTS

The GAI has announced dates for two of its flagship annual events.

The GAI Education Awards 2023 will take place at London's Brewery venue on Thursday 23 November.

Sponsored by Briton and George Boyd this event will celebrate the achievements of the successful learners from the current GAI education year.

Before then, the Guild's AGM and Members Event will be held on Friday 9 June.

GAI members will receive more information on both events through the usual member channels.

Trade events

The GAI will be at key trade events in April and May to raise the profile of the architectural ironmongery sector, broaden UK and international links, and meet with Guild members. First up is BAU in Munich from April 17-22. More than 2,250 exhibitors are expected to meet more than 250,000 visitors.

The Guild will then be exhibiting at FIT Show, at Birmingham's NEC from 23 to 25 May. It will be promoting the industry and member companies to end users, contractors, architects, interior designers and specifiers throughout the event. In addition to the pavilion, the organisers are creating a GAI trail around the show to highlight GAI members.

fitshow.co.uk

HUB IN FOCUS: WALES

Shaun Brown DipGAI RegAI Abloy regional specification manager – South and South West who heads up the GAI Wales Hub on how thrilled he is to have in-person meetings again

It must be great to meet members face to face again after so long limited to virtual events. How are members responding?

We are fortunate to hold our meetings at the Aberavon Beach Hotel in Port Talbot overlooking the beach and the sea, a perfect tonic after a day's work. We have a very strong core membership and dedicated committee who are passionate about the success of our Hub. We love the social aspect and it is so good to be able to get out and meet 'old friends' again and welcome some new student members. I have supported the Branch from the very beginning some 20+ years ago and this is my second stint as Hub Ambassador.

What events do you have planned for this year?

We want to capitalise on the success of our recent Eurobond Factory tour and RegAI presentation by Douglas Masterson. It was an all-time record attendance for the Welsh Hub.

We are already planning our next factory tour and CPD meeting with PWIDF in South Wales. We will also be supporting our students in preparation for the exams in June, plans for a product demonstration evening and a social event at the end of the year.

Is there anything your Hub does that makes it stand out?

I strongly believe that the social aspect of meetings is key to our success, along with the opportunity to gain valuable CPD. We have a core following here in South Wales – after two decades some of our regular members are still attending. For me it is all about great company, great food, great opportunities to learn and a great industry that we are all passionate about. And the beach!

The HUB meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Contact shaun.brown@abloy.co.uk. Meetings will be listed in GAI events.



ABOVE: Shaun (far right) and Dave Timson of Eurobond with the GAI team on the recent GAI CPD tour

On the podium

Meet the top performing students in the 2022 GAI Diploma

PINNACLE AND GOLD

Ruth Banta Consort Middle East LLC

1) How did you feel about winning the award?

Massively overwhelmed. After sitting in a four-hour handwritten specifications exam, my sole goal was to pass the exam and get my Diploma. Getting both top awards was way beyond what I was hoping for. It was one of the most immense moments of my life.

2) Why did you study for the Diploma?

What's a better gift to yourself than knowledge and self-improvement?

Though my previous experience covered architectural trade in construction, I didn't have that deep knowledge regarding the technicalities of ironmongery. I found it

fascinating how architectural ironmongery plays a vital role in a building particularly in the security, life, and safety. This made me determined to study for DipGAI.

Initially, I was planning to personally enrol in the program. Luckily, I shifted job and joined Consort Architectural Hardware and they enrolled me with stage 1 & 2 for Certificate in Architectural Hardware and subsequently enrolled me in to stage 3. That initial fascination I had turned me into a Diploma holder.

3) What advice would you give to anyone else looking to take that same step?

Establish your goal and feasibly plan for it. Establish your plan A on how to reach it and a plan B (or more) so you have a back up. Initially, my plan A was to look for a sponsor



ABOVE: Ruth Banta

for my studies. My plan B was to pay from my own pocket, so I started to budget for it. The universe aligned for me, when I decided to shift my work so I could revert to Plan A.

If you want to pursue getting the Diploma approach your company. You never know the answer if you don't ask. And if you get a 'no' it doesn't have to be a 'stop' sign. After planning how to start, plan how you want to finish your studies – fuel yourself with determination and hard work. The outcome is always satisfying if you exerted your full effort on the process.

SILVER

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

1) How did you feel about winning the award?

When I received the call that I am a top three student I couldn't believe it. I was overwhelmed and my eyes filled with happy tears. I studied hard but I never thought I would be an award winner.



2) Why did you study for the Certificate in Architectural Hardware? What has been the impact on your career?

I started the certification in hardware after my apprenticeship in 2013 but did not start the diploma studies because I had no contact with specification work at that time. When FSB hired a spec writer and a colleague got his diploma, my interest in getting the diploma

was piqued and I started study directly. I feel more confident now dealing with international business partners; I gained a great deal of knowledge during my studies.

3) What advice would you give to anyone else looking to take that same step?

Take the classroom course, especially if you are not from the UK. I had lots of 'aha!' moments with topics I did not understand learning at home and in a group we learned from each other.

BRONZE

**Muzaffar Hussain
Consort Middle East LLC**

1) How did you feel about winning the award?

I felt extremely delighted, overwhelmed proud and grateful. This is a lifetime achievement in my career.



2) Why did you study for the Diploma?

If I want to learn then I will learn properly so taking this course was a solid foundation to build on. I wanted to become as proficient as I possibly can in all the aspects of door and hardware, and to be able to confidently advise clients on BS EN codes, standards and application.

3) What advice would you give to anyone else looking to take that same step?

My advice is believe in yourself and have confidence in achieving your goal. Rather than focusing strictly on the results of your accomplishments, take notice of the small steps needed to achieve success. If you allow yourself to enjoy small victories along your journey, reaching your goals can feel more achievable, and you are more likely to stay on track. Education is priceless and learning is a never-ending process.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Through our website Knowledge Base, the GAI supports member companies with a wealth of technical information and advice.



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 more than 20 guides to the most relevant British and European standards which impact the ironmongery industry.

3. Quarterly Technical Review

Published four times a year to provide 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 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".

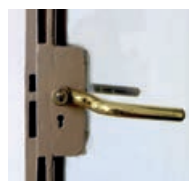
6. RIBA Approved CPDs

The GAI now has ten CPD presentations which have been approved by RIBA and 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

Hold that thought

The modern door handle that owes its origin to a philosopher



ABOVE:
Wittgenstein's
handles

LEFT: The Vienna
house the handles
were designed for



Metaphysical door handles anyone?

Ludwig Wittgenstein is known as an influential philosopher of the 20th century, but is less famous for his modern door handle design.

The Wittgenstein handle, designed in 1927, is considered the model for every subsequent tubular handle. It's a simple L-shaped steel lever, but Wittgenstein designed several variations—all of which appear in a single house in Vienna.

Wittgenstein's door handle designs stem from the years following the publication of his first and only book, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. After teaching primary school, the philosopher receded from society, working as a gardener at a

monastery and living in a shed. His sister, eager to bring the philosopher back into the Viennese mainstream, invited him to help design her new house. Wittgenstein—who had no experience with architecture or design—agreed to help.

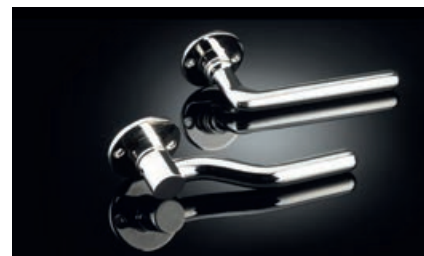
He focused on the smallest of details: windows, doors, window locks and

radiators. The handles, in particular, were of concern to Wittgenstein. To the point of "driving locksmiths and engineers to tears" with infinitesimal changes, he spent a full year obsessing over the precise definitions of the handles. Their asymmetry reflects both a functional condition of the French windows – in which one lever has a double step in order to accommodate the mullion – and an unusual arrangement which allows the levers to express a hierarchy of spaces.

It took him another year to design the radiators. And each window was covered by a metal screen that weighed 150 kilograms, moved by a pulley: a metal curtain that could be lowered into the floor. He also insisted on other tiny details, like raising the ceiling of a room by 30 mm. However as one critic commented: "This is not as marginal as it may at first appear, for it is precisely these details that lend what is otherwise a rather plain, even ugly, house its distinctive beauty."

Once the house was completed, Wittgenstein resumed his career of philosophy. Wittgenstein handles can still be sourced today. ♦

BELOW: The modern descendants of
Wittgenstein's handle





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The Guild of Architectural Ironmongery (GAI) supports, assures and represents architectural ironmongers, wholesalers, manufacturers and others working in and alongside the sector.

Membership of the GAI demonstrates your company's commitment to highest standards of technical excellence, professional competence and regulatory compliance.

Join the GAI today for:

- 50% off fees for the GAI's renowned education programme – the only one in the world leading to qualifications in architectural ironmongery to British and European standards.
- Specialist technical resources, advice and support.
- Regular networking opportunities to help you expand your professional network, make new contacts, and help shape the industry.
- Free business support services to save your company £££ on HR, legal, health & safety, and recruitment.
- Attractive discounts, free publications including AIJ magazine, and much more!

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