



Architectural  
Ironmongery  
Journal

SUMMER 2023



INSIDE

- Road to UKCA
- Theatre case study
- Morrell report



## SENSE AND SUSTAINABILITY

How reducing your carbon count can  
boost your business as well as your  
net zero contribution



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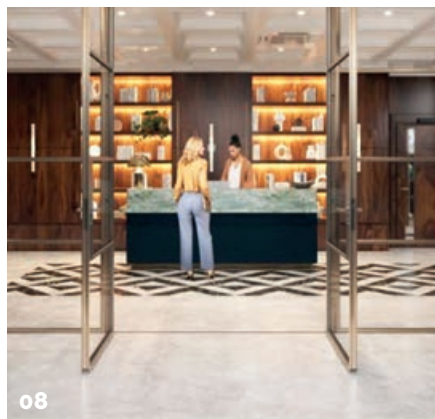
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## CONTENTS

SUMMER 2023

## NEWS AND VIEWS

- 04 Digest
- 06 Thinking: intumescent competence
- 28 Community: GAI news

## FEATURES

- 08 What I specified....
- 10 Inspiration: The UKCA journey
- 14 Cover story: Counting carbon
- 20 Inspiration: Shakespeare North Playhouse
- 22 Best practice: The problem of storing stock

## TECHNICAL

- 24 Dear GAI... the Morrell Report explained

## PRODUCTS

- 26 Considerations when specifying for education settings

## BACK DOOR

- 34 Gaudi's door handle

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Updates  
Projects  
Standards  
Events

# Digest



## New handles from German firm inspired by Corbusier palette

German door handle manufacturer FSB has launched a series of door hardware informed by French architect Le Corbusier's Polychromie Architecturale colour palette.

Les Couleurs Le Corbusier can be used in conjunction with both windows and doors. Made from aluminium and available in 63 shades, the collection includes handles

for doors, windows, fittings and fixtures for users with reduced mobility.

FSB designed the Les Couleurs Le Corbusier collection to have an "architectural colour palette" that provides a consistent colour scheme in interiors. It includes a variety of colours, including neutral creams and greys, deep plum purples, sky blues and leafy green shades. "Having stood the test of time, Le Corbusier's colour palette gives every project an individual look, from the door or window handle to the entire space", says FSB managing director Tobias Gockeln. "All shades of the Polychromie Architecturale can be combined with one another. The sophisticated system gives architects plenty of scope for creativity, confident that they are making the right choice, thereby simplifying day-to-day planning", adds Jürgen Hess, FSB's second managing director."



[fsb.de/en/](https://fsb.de/en/)



**ABOVE:** Les Couleurs Le Corbusier come in 63 shades and are designed for doors, windows and fixtures

# Regional winners line up for building of the year

RIBA Regional Awards celebrate great architecture across the UK in 11 regions, judged on the importance as a piece of architecture to the area. Several projects are awarded in each area. The shortlist for the RIBA Stirling Prize for the best building of the year will then be drawn from the RIBA National Award-winning projects, and announced in October. Listed here are the winners of the Building of the Year for each region.



**East Midlands**  
Simpson & Brown's  
J16m Lincoln  
Cathedral Visitor  
Centre (above)

**North East**  
17Nineteen by  
Mosedale Gilatt  
Architects

**London**  
John Morden  
Centre by Mæ

**South East**  
F51 Sports Park by  
Hollaway Studio

**West Midlands**  
University of Warwick

Faculty of Arts  
by Feilden Clegg  
Bradley Studios

**North West**  
L'Ecurie at Dorfold  
Hall by Zoë  
Polya-Vitry Ltd

**South**  
Radley College  
Chapel Extension  
by Purcell  
Architecture Limited  
(Purcell)

**Northern Ireland  
(RSUA award)**  
Hill House by  
McGonigle McGrath

**East**  
Ashraya by Kirkland  
Fraser Moor  
**South West**  
East Quay by Invisible  
Studio

**Scotland (RIAS)**  
To be announced  
in June. View the  
shortlist at <https://tinyurl.com/bas4urs2>

**Yorkshire**  
Creative Centre by  
Tate+Co

**Wales (RSAW)**  
Pen Y Common by  
Nidus Architects



## INDUSTRY FIRST AS DLINE ENTERS CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**Danish designer  
dline has set a  
carbon challenge  
to the industry  
by embarking on  
the industry's first  
circular economy  
initiative.**

**The company will  
be taking original  
products to be 're-  
handled'. Products  
will be fixed, parts  
replaced and  
brushed to work as  
good as new. The  
firm claims each Re-  
handle® will save up  
to 90 per cent CO2  
emission and renews  
the 20-year product  
warranty period.  
The prices for a  
re-handled product  
will be 60% lower  
than a newly-  
produced item.**

**The firm says it  
is "straightforward to  
make the  
enduring choice  
and reuse instead  
of buying new."  
(See p14 for more on  
this topic and to read  
the full story visit  
[ajjmagazine.co.uk](http://ajjmagazine.co.uk)).**

## Ambitious new RIBA President gets ready

Muyiwa Oki, takes his seat this September as the RIBA's youngest ever and first black president. Most unusually of all, he is not the founder of an eponymous practice, nor a long-serving RIBA committee member, like the 79 other presidents that preceded him. Instead he is an 'architectural worker', selected by a grassroots campaign of early-career architects determined to elect one of their own. They hope he will shake things up.

Oki has an ambitious agenda, including mandating paid overtime; engaging members in key decisions; and putting the climate emergency at the forefront of everything the RIBA does. Education is also key; he supports the campaign to scrap the onerous parts of the qualification process, which take a minimum of seven years to complete.

He's keen to expand the membership of the RIBA beyond conventional practice – a view informed by his own career. After graduating from Sheffield, Oki worked on residential projects at Glenn Howells Architects before moving to work for Grimshaw on HS2 Euston and the North London Heat and Power project. In 2021 he joined Mace, as technical assessor.

"The key is inclusion, and making it possible for people from all backgrounds to get into architecture," says the Nigerian born Oki. "That's my main goal as president."



# Competence is key

Intumescent hardware protection on fire doors saves lives – but only if it's designed, manufactured and installed to the highest standard, warns **Mike Sutcliffe**



**“The importance of competence when it comes to intumescent protection kits cannot be overstated”**

**MIKE SUTCLIFFE**

**When it comes to ensuring the safety of** a building, fire protection is a top priority, particularly important in commercial and public buildings where the risk of fire can be high. One area that requires special attention is the protection of doors, especially those made from timber or composite materials.

All hardware installed on timber and composite fire doors must be fitted without compromising the integrity

of the assembly and this is critical where hardware such as hinges, locks and latches, flush bolts, door controls and letterplates, is rebated into the doorset.

To ensure maximum protection in the event of a fire it is essential to add intumescent protection, which greatly reduces the rate at which heat transfers through the door, expanding upon exposure to heat, preventing heat transfer on the hardware and sealing voids created during the rebating process. However, the importance of competence when it comes to intumescent protection kits cannot be overstated and their effectiveness depends on a variety of factors.

Intumescent kits should be precision engineered and designed to fit perfectly around the hardware, making them as effective as possible.

## **Material issues**

The quality of the materials used is also crucial. Intumescent materials are not made consistently across manufacturers. For example, there is no minimum requirement for graphite content in graphite based intumescent and no maximum activation temperature, meaning seemingly identical intumescent materials can behave very differently from one another.

Buying intumescent with third party certification, which covers initial testing and includes audits to assess the consistency of production, ensures that the material will behave consistently and as stated by the manufacturer, and ensures traceability.



**ABOVE:** The quality of materials is vital

It's also important to remember that even the best-designed and highest quality intumescent kit can be rendered ineffective if it is not installed correctly.

It is essential to use kits that have been developed and manufactured by companies with expertise in intumescent protection. Rebated hardware can be vulnerable and allow the spread of fire and smoke quickly, putting a building and its occupants at risk.

Intumescent protection creates a barrier around those weak points, helping to maintain the integrity of the fire door thus giving occupants of a building sufficient time to evacuate, while also helping to limit the damage caused by the fire. ♦

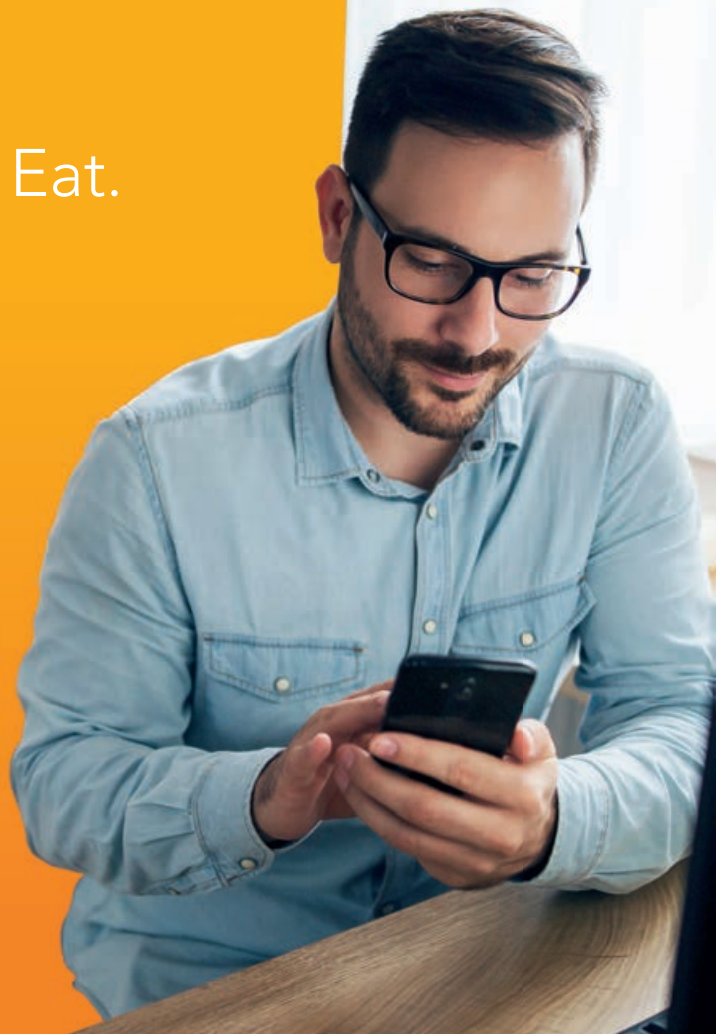
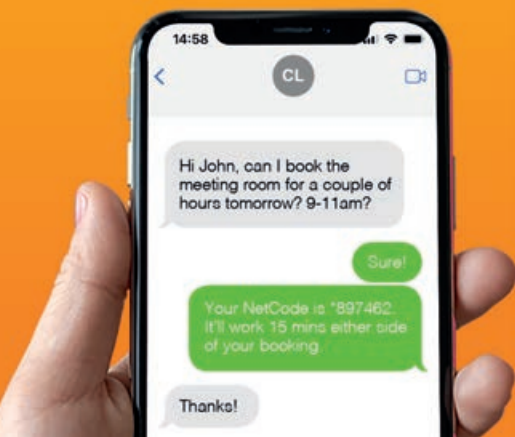
**Mike Sutcliffe is business development manager at Vanquish Hardware Protection**  
[www.vanquish-hp.co.uk](http://www.vanquish-hp.co.uk)



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# What I specified for...

## Bond, Manchester

**Tony Crawshaw**  
DipGAI, RegGAI  
director at  
Integrated  
Ironmongery  
Solutions



**We were recently asked to specify a** suite of ironmongery at 38 Mosley Street, Manchester, now named Bond. Architect AXI studios designed Bruntwood's £7m transformation of the former 19th century bank into a modern workplace but retaining historical features. The Grade 2 listed building now houses a communal lounge with a fireplace and four floors of fully-fitted office suites ranging from 1,000 sq ft to 6,000 sq ft.

The brief? Unusually quite simple. A very robust range of ironmongery suitable for a development of rented office spaces, stylish, with a bronze finish. They also wanted the finish to perfectly match throughout the entire range.

### The challenge

As an ironmonger of nearly 30 years there were two parts of this brief that hit with a dread that only a seasoned ironmonger would understand: 'fully matching bronze' and 'cost effective'!

The difficulty was matching the ironmongery finish throughout the entire project. Bronze is a very finicky finish: what one supplier calls antique bronze another will call dark bronze – and they still will not match when they are side by side. Speciality manufacturers could provide the range, but we were asked to keep the cost down.

### The solution

We decided on a 'T' shaped knurled lever in a non-standard PVD bronze. The lever itself was unsprung BS EN 1906 grade 4 and surprisingly from one of our partner suppliers didn't break the bank.

We asked the lever supplier to PVD all items and so long as the base metal was the same the finish would match. We carefully chose the rest of the ironmongery package



**ABOVE** Bronze was used throughout Bond  
**BELOW:** Rendering of Bond reception

"Two parts of this brief hit with a dread only a seasoned ironmonger would understand: fully matching bronze and 'cost effective'!"



being careful to ensure that all items met the required relevant standards as the bulk of the project would be FD30/FD60.

The project came in just about on budget. And will be supplied in eight weeks fully door packaged to the customers requirement.

Most projects are quite fluid around the time of hand over. Little fussy bits need finishing or extra doors are slotted in. To help with this we suggested holding a small amount of stock in this special finish to ensure the project completes smoothly. ♦



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# Testing times

The journey to UKCA is a long road. Two GAI members who have completed the process share their experience

## The UKCA mark was due to come into

effect in January 2023 but at the end of last year the government announced it would be delaying this implementation date to reduce the burden on industry. The CE mark is currently accepted and will continue to be accepted in the GB market until June 2025 for construction products.

However, some manufacturers in the hardware industry had already begun their transition to UKCA and rather than press pause, continued their journey. Zoo Hardware for example, will continue to release its products with dual CE and UKCA markings where applicable.

## Hinged on standards

SIMONSWERK has secured UKCA for its multi axis hinges: a feat it is proud of as securing the marking for this type of hinge is a complex process. For multi axis hinges there is no European standard. Prior to Brexit, as there was no joy with the creation of the standard or a new standard, European hinge manufacturers combined to apply for a European Technical Assessment (ETA) via EOTA. This was granted.

Following Brexit the UK government decided not to recognise any European ETA's to European standards. This left SIMONSWERK UK with an issue regarding its popular TECTUS multi axis hinges; ►

## Transition period ►►►

CE and UKCA Product markings will be accepted for the UK market, although CE marking will be mandatory for GB market.

## Transition period ►►►

UKCA product marking can be affixed to the product as a label or on a document accompanying the product.

Reducing retesting costs for UKCA certification by allowing conformity assessment activities for CE marking undertaken by the 31st of December 2024 to be used by manufacturers as the basis for UKCA marking, until the expiry of the certificate or until 31st of December 2027 which ever is sooner.

## JANUARY 2021

### LAUNCH

UK launches UKCA product marking scheme

## JANUARY - JUNE 2025

### IMPLEMENTATION

- January 2025- UKCA markings must be used when placing certain products on the GB market with the exception of construction products.
- June 2025, UKCA implemented on construction products.

For products sold in both the UK and EU markets, dual markings are acceptable as long as product complies with both UKCA, which have been certified in the UK, and CE, which have been certified in the EU.

## JANUARY 2028

### DEADLINE

UKCA marking and important details must be applied directly on to relevant product unless legislation allows otherwise.







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## "The European side was fairly straightforward but the UK side was problematic"

ROBIN GUY

construction industry publications, including the AIJ, were stressing the importance of UKCA marking construction related hardware by the initial deadline of the January 2023.

Having cycle tested TECTUS with European test houses and fire tested with UK test houses SIMONSWERK had the issue of asking the test houses to communicate with each other.

### Problematic process

"The European side was fairly straightforward," says Robin Guy, SIMONSWERK UK managing director, "but from the UK side it was problematic. Enquiries started in 2021 and consultation with the GAI technical team revealed that if an ETA was issued before Brexit date and listed on the UK government respective list a UK Technical Assessment Body (TAB) could be created via a UK test house (UKAS approved). Then they could issue a UK assessment and the UK manufacturer could issue a declaration of conformity and then UKCA mark the product."

After significant emails and calls further information was discovered. "The UK test houses needed to sign up to be a member of EOTA before they were able to offer a UK TAB," says Robin Guy. "Only one UK test house was able to offer this service. After more than 12 months of pursuing UKCA markings for multi axis hinges the UK TAB was created, all our test evidence submitted and UK assessment granted. This enabled

SIMONSWERK to UKCA mark our TECTUS hinge range and offer a Declaration of Performance."

### Tests and audits

In 2022, Zoo Hardware also embarked on the UKCA journey. It undertook extensive product testing and certification across its broad suite of hardware solutions in order to meet the original January 2023 UKCA deadline. The business also updated factory control audits to satisfy UKCA requirements.

Jason Tonks, technical product manager at Zoo Hardware, explains: "Whilst we are pleased that clarity of the extension to the deadline has been given for building hardware products, we had already undertaken a lot of work ahead of this and we will therefore be continuing this process.

"It's imperative that we regularly undertake rigorous third party testing and certification for our products, and meeting the previous January 2023 deadline for UKCA was no exception.

"By continuing to supply our products with the new UKCA mark where possible, we can further provide our industry with reassurance that our products are conforming with the requirements outlined by the UK government."

Over the last 12 months, Zoo Hardware's technical team has been working in partnership with its extensive customer base to assist them with the marking transition to ensure compliance is maintained as far down the supply chain as possible.

Both Zoo Hardware and SIMONSWERK have extended thanks to the GAI technical team for their help, advice and support.

Douglas Masterson, GAI technical manager says: "The transition from CE to UKCA conformity marking has been a long and arduous process for the ironmongery industry. We have been pleased to support Zoo Hardware and SIMONSWERK as GAI members in their journey to UKCA." ♦



ABOVE TOP:  
SIMONSWERK UK's  
TECTUS Hinge

ABOVE: Zoo  
Hardware product



# Project delivery timescales tight?



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# Net gains



Building sustainable credentials and being able to demonstrate carbon calculations will enable product suppliers to the construction industry to not only help meet net zero challenges but also gain a competitive edge.

**Dan Rising** reports.



**Delivering net zero buildings is**

construction's next big challenge. In October 2021 the UK government published its Net Zero Strategy with the intention of setting out a pathway to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. As the construction industry is responsible for 39% of global carbon emissions it places a huge obligation on all stakeholders to make drastic changes to the way projects are approached. The sector needs to ensure that any building it puts up results in a minimal carbon impact – from the materials and processes used to build it, the amount of energy used in its operation and maintenance, any refurbishment work and ultimately its end-of-life disposal.

**Raising material awareness**

Material manufacturers play a fundamental role in providing designers of buildings with not just a declaration of their commitment to net zero targets as a business, but also to playing a supporting role in defining the embodied carbon calculations for the products supplied. And that's on a project-by-project basis. It's now pivotal to consider the carbon cost of a project, both during the construction phase and beyond.

When it comes to construction, it is both the embodied carbon and operational carbon that need to be accurately calculated before a project commences. How much carbon will be emitted at all stages of the development, from concept to completion? Carbon cost needs to sit at the heart of projects for the construction industry to even be in with a chance of hitting net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

**Bringing embodied carbon upfront**

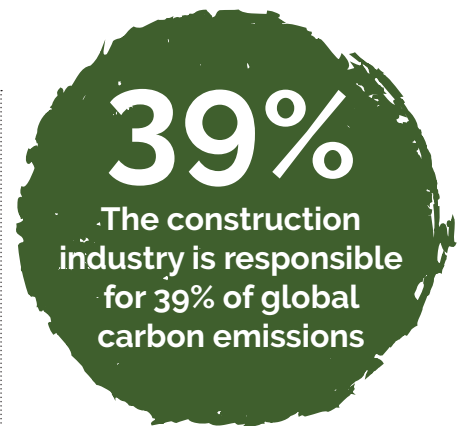
Hardware manufacturers may not be able to affect a project's operational carbon, but they can have an impact on the embodied carbon from their products.

The factors affecting a product's carbon cost go much further than the raw materials used, and the manufacturing process undertaken to create it. It's about more than just material and product choices. Anything from the transportation of goods, the fuel it takes to get the work force to site (in both sourcing the raw materials and manufacturing the product), and the amount of waste produced, can be recorded to determine the real impact the choice of product has had.

To stay ahead of the curve and remain competitive in this space, it's vital for suppliers and manufacturers of product to not only cost a project in monetary terms, but also the total carbon cost. If accurate calculations are not easy to access for the building designers' life cycle assessment, you can guarantee that an alternative product that can, is likely to be specified.

**Calculating cradle to grave**

Embodied carbon figures normally encompass emissions from all the raw materials' extraction, transport and manufacturing processes required before products are ready at the factory for delivery to the customer. It should also cover transport to site, installation impacts, maintenance such as cleaning, repairs, replacement and refurbishment of the products, and the impacts associated with the product's end of life, such as recycling and disposal. ►



**"To stay ahead of the curve and remain competitive in this space, it's vital for suppliers and manufacturers of product to not only cost a project in monetary terms, but also the total carbon cost"**

Whole life carbon costs are therefore influenced by durability – component replacement interval, maintenance activities and frequency as well as the supplied product's initial carbon cost. BRE published a national methodology for assessing the cradle to grave environmental impacts of construction products with the Environmental Profiles Methodology published in 1999. This type of analysis should be considered our marker in the sand. Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are no longer a reasonable method of assessment, they are simply static data.

#### Project specific declarations

EPDs do not require data to be provided for the life cycle stages beyond the manufacturing plant, and so users of EPDs need to include the data for the product's life cycle scenario beyond that, relevant for the building in which they are using the product.

For example, an EPD for a product manufactured in the Far East will not be specific to the transport required for its intended project's location, most likely its transport carbon will be based on it staying within the continent of origin. Similarly, the service life and maintenance provided for the product may relate to an internal installation in the same continent, rather than an external installation in the UK for example. ►

**"Whole life carbon costs are influenced by durability – component replacement and maintenance as well as the supplied product's initial carbon cost"**

## GO CIRCULAR

**Re-using materials is vital to reducing embodied carbon.**

The UK's construction sector could reduce its emissions by two-thirds within 12 years solely by cutting its use of raw materials, a new report from Green Alliance has concluded. The report confirms that the construction sector is the UK's biggest user of non-renewable materials and the biggest producer of waste. Given that much of the raw material used is high in embodied carbon, a failure to make the construction sector more circular will likely mean it is unable to reach net-zero in line with the Government's legally binding 2050 deadline, Green Alliance warns.

Green Alliance is calling on the UK government to lead by example and set a target to reduce raw material use in construction by at least one-third by 2035. Key to delivering this target will be ensuring that developers can reuse materials already in use.

Danish firm dline has already taken action. In May it announced an industry first in that it will enter the circular economy with its 're-handled' initiative (See p5). Paul Martin, MD, told AIJ: "This is not a single adventure, as we need other businesses to join



**"We hope our business making a change with circular economics, will also influence others"**

**PAUL MARTIN**

with similar ventures, otherwise we will not have the legacy regarding sustainability that our planet needs in the future.

"We hope our business making a change with circular economics, will influence others. I believe we are the only manufacturer talking about reversing our logistics right now."







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LEFT: from manufacturing to installation, counting the carbon impact of products must consider the whole lifecycle

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://learninghub.gai.org.uk/login/index.php>

## "The AI industry is capable of working with the designers of buildings to provide whole life costs"

Furthermore, the end-of-life scenario may be based on typical disposal in the country of origin, where the end-of-life material may result in a mix of recycling and landfill, whereas in Europe, the end-of-life product would be used for energy recovery.

EPDs are based on assumption, rather than being project-use specific. The AI industry has the technical ability and the responsibility to not rely on assumed scenario performance declarations. It is capable of working with the designers of buildings, providing accurate whole life costs from the sourcing of raw materials, through manufacturing and finishing, to the installation of the product on site. Most importantly, it should be prepared to stand by the carbon cost of its individual products, be proud of them, or seek ways to reduce them. ♦

**Dan Rising is national sales manager, CES Security Solutions.**

## HOW ONE ARCHITECT PRACTICE IS DOING IT

HTA's work in sustainability helped it secure an industry award

Housing design specialists HTA won Net Zero Architect of the Year at the 2022 BD AYA awards in 2022.

The practice has a separate unit to lead on its sustainable design on all projects, providing services to clients on energy, daylight, overheating, and prefabrication, as well as manage sustainability and ISO 14001 certification across its four UK offices.

Since HTA made a firm commitment to the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge, it has followed a clear route to achieve zero carbon through the process of predicted and measured performance of buildings at the design stage and in use.

"We engaged with all our clients to increase awareness and commitment to achieving this goal. Our progress has made significant strides throughout 2021, resulting in HTA becoming leaders in reporting our energy performance and whole-life carbon emissions projects to RIBA. All four studios report our carbon footprint annually and offset any remaining emissions to achieve carbon neutrality," the practice says.

But it is going beyond its own business. "We have projects with local authorities where we are advising them on energy strategies. In other projects, we are helping large industrial clients develop prefabrication systems that will radically change how we build buildings, moving most labour off sites into clean factories, reducing embodied energy and improving the life quality for construction workers."

HTA says it is most proud of the completion of Ten Degrees in Croydon. At 44 storeys, the tallest modular building in the world, its embodied carbon was reduced by up to 40% against traditional construction.

"We believe that each project we embark on represents an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change among residents and community organisations in the areas where we operate."

Read about Ten Degrees at [hta.co.uk/project/101-george-street](https://hta.co.uk/project/101-george-street)





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### The Shakespeare North Playhouse opened

in July 2022 to a rapturous reception. The £27m build in Prescot, Merseyside, features two theatres, with 420/60-person capacities respectively. The building also offers an exhibition gallery, café, studio space, visitor centre and learning centre. The main theatre is based on a cockpit-in-court style and is in-keeping with other replica Shakespearean theatres in the UK and internationally.

The project designed by architect Dr. Nicholas Helm and built by main contractor Kier, had sustainability at its heart. It was built from reclaimed hardwood and used carbon-reduced building methods. The Playhouse itself sits in a conservation area, with Knowsley Council looking for social benefits and minimal environmental issues during construction.

RB Architectural Hardware was asked to work with similar concepts in mind, using a UK firm for the creation of the ironmongery to minimise environmental impact, and working with the wooden materials that had been chosen for the theatre, as well as glass doors that form part of the main lobby and make use of natural lighting.



**ABOVE LEFT:** cockpit-in-court style theatre  
**ABOVE:** natural light is a key feature

# Dramatic entrance

The Shakespeare North Playhouse is a unique architectural project that set a challenge for RB Hardware and Instinct Hardware. **AIJ** reports



## The door furniture needed to fulfil two separate briefs but to match seamlessly and link the theatres to the outdoor areas

The door furniture chosen needed to fulfil two separate briefs, but to match seamlessly and link from the theatres to the outdoor areas. The handles needed to easily work with the large doors, but not be too cumbersome and distracting. The well-informed team at RB enlisted Instinct Hardware to help bring this vision to life.

### Ironmongery style

The hardware style chosen was solid mitred door furniture in PVD matt black and satin stainless steel. The styling of the theatre mixes a historic layout with



modern style, with reclaimed wood making a visual impact. The door furniture needed to complement this, while remaining simple in design. Minimal intrusion and reflection of lighting was a must for the theatre, making PVD matt black an ideal finish – matching the balconies and accents in the theatre itself. The solid mitred pulls are slimline but extremely sturdy – allowing full power to the pull but again meaning that the eye is not drawn away from the action on the stage. Double mitred solid lever handles matched the pull handles, with adjustments made allowing for matching lift to lock handles in the accessible bathrooms.

**LEFT:** Shakespearean quotes adorn the steps along with those of a local hero  
**BELOW:** The theatre mixes traditional layout with modern style

On the other side of the theatre doors, satin stainless was the order of the day, mirroring their matt black counterparts inside. The same solid steel was used to provide a slimline finish to the overall look, whilst ensuring the larger doors could still be easily manoeuvred. Finally, all accessories such as escutcheons and radiused flush pulls were created to match the handles, providing a polished look to this project.

Instinct was a good choice to meet the sustainability brief: the manufacture of the products was done in house. The material (19mm solid stainless bar) is sourced from a UK supplier, modern manufacturing techniques are used to minimise any environmental impact, and excess materials are recycled.

Shakespeare North Playhouse won Theatre Building of the Year at this year's The Stage Awards. ♦

[instincthardware.co.uk](http://instincthardware.co.uk)





# Storing up problems

Ordering stock way ahead of time and stockpiling may have made sense during the uncertainty of the pandemic but this can lead to problems. **Amanda Haley** asks if it's time for a new way to manage supply

**Who remembers queuing up to buy toilet rolls during the pandemic?** We were all guilty of the same thing in those early lockdown days: hoarding, or just buying that little bit extra due to uncertain supplies. But that way of buying, seemingly harmless, has consequences and it doesn't matter what product is involved. Supply chains and distribution networks try to cope with re-filling shelves after the sudden spike in demand and what was once a fairly flat demand pattern is chaos.



### Just in time

Anyone who has studied supply chain mechanisms will be familiar with JIT - Just in Time. Developed in the 1970s by Toyota, it is the method of bringing in components to manufacturing plants almost just before they were needed. This must be managed carefully as it is reliant on the suppliers to deliver exactly to schedule. However, the advantages are worth the effort as there is much less storage needed for stock of components, so lower warehousing costs and less chance of stock being lost, stolen, or damaged while waiting to be used.

Due to the pandemic many supply chains that were once very reliable became erratic and in certain sectors, such as construction, JIT became less practical. Many buyers, contracts managers and site agents took the 'just in case' approach instead. The industry saw orders/call-offs being placed further ahead than in pre-pandemic days to factor in the uncertainty of delivery lead-times. It was understandable but this approach carried with it a risk.

### Damage control

One large housebuilder recently confirmed that the stock stored on site is over three times higher than it was pre-pandemic leading to the issue of where and how to store those extra items. Consequently, doors and hardware are hanging around on sites far longer than they would normally be, increasing the likelihood of something happening. Doors made with timber elements not stored in the right conditions can bow/warp as the timbers either absorb too much moisture or dry out too much. Also, they are more likely to get knocked, scratched or dented the longer they are being stored on site.

Similarly, ironmongery packs waiting on site to be fitted to doors can get lost or cannibalised the longer they are there. Mechanical parts such as locks, latches, hinges, could react badly to being stored



**"Doors made with timber elements not stored in the right conditions can bow/warp"**

for a prolonged period of time in damp conditions, or conversely could dry out prematurely. Parts could tarnish or start to rust before they've even been fitted. Keys become parted from their cylinders, cover caps get mislaid for hinges etc; all resulting in delays on site when these parts are eventually required and panic stations to get replacements there quickly.

Carrying larger stocks was the right thing to do during the pandemic but now that supply chains have more or less returned to pre-pandemic levels, is it necessary to continue that degree of 'just in case'? Whilst many would argue that the Just in Time approach is rather extreme and perhaps not practical in construction, could there be a meeting in the middle?

### Working together?

Doorset manufacturers and AIs have for many years provided the service of scheduling products for projects, but it

has been the contractor responsible for ordering/calling-off those products as and when they need them. Could it be time for a more collaborative approach? Sharing build programmes with the doorset manufacturer and/or AI assigned to the project to assist in planning deliveries? One approach is to look at build programme and decide at which stage the goods are required and arrange delivery one to two weeks before.

Is it also time to rethink the way we pack up and deliver ironmongery for doors? If we send a full doorset worth of ironmongery on day one then the contractor is likely to need to store some of those items as it isn't practical to fit them at that stage. Fitting specially finished handles, for example, to doors too early in the build could risk damage to them and may require replacements before handover, but if delivered with the hinges and locks then these handles would need storing until later in the build increasing the risk of something getting lost/damaged.

### First fix/second fix?

We also know that fitting some items too early in the build, before a building is water/air tight or before wet trades have finished, could lead to premature failure of the item, particularly finishes not designed for high humidity conditions. Taking the first fix/second fix approach reduces this risk, therefore working with the AI and/or doorset supplier to split out the components of the doorset into different deliveries in line with how they are to be fitted could help.

In this age where sustainability is at the forefronts of all our minds and we all need to reduce waste is it time to apply a more reigned-in approach? Perhaps using an 'almost just in time' or 'for when it's needed' approach and who knows, could AJIT or FWIN become the supply chain buzz words of the post pandemic doors/AI world? ♦

**Amanda Haley DipGAI RegAI is technical & marketing director at Ian Firth Hardware Ltd.**

# Dear GAI...

We have seen the recent publication of The Morrell report on construction product testing. What is it and what does it mean for the hardware industry? Technical agony aunt, **Douglas Masterson** answers the question



## The Independent Review of the

Construction Product Testing Regime was published in April. Its purpose was to identify any potential weaknesses in the system and to make recommendations for improvement.

The report highlighted the susceptibility to failure of some existing processes:

- Only construction products for which there is a designated standard are covered by the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) – about two-thirds of products (approx 30,000) remain unregulated.
- Regulation was originally designed to create a level playing field for a single market and not to ensure a safe or sustainable product or building. As a consequence there isn't a specific 'UK system for testing the safety of construction products'.
- Everything depends on the relevant standards, how a product is to conform, how it is to be tested and accredited. And also how Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) themselves are reviewed by UKAS, and how UKAS itself is reviewed. The report found that this process can be "slow, insufficient and of variable quality". The result is that many standards are outdated, inconsistent or non-existent.
- The CPR assessment process is seen as overly complex meaning few people fully understand it and therefore open to misuse.

## Remedies proposed in legislation

The primary targets of legislation are coverage and enforcement.

**Coverage:** all construction products will be brought into the scope of the CPR by virtue of a "general safety requirement". This is derived from the EU General Product Safety Regulation where products are designed to function as part of a system rather than on a stand-alone basis. In addition, some products not currently covered by the CPR regime can be brought within it by virtue of being covered by a new designated standard; or by being added to a list of "safety-critical" products.

**Enforcement:** under the new regulatory regime, enforcement is to be strengthened by two new regulators: a National Regulator for Construction Products who will work with a new Building Safety Regulator based in the HSE. Manufacturers must share technical documentation and information with the National Regulator for Construction Products and/or enforcement authorities. They need to be honest and offer full disclosure to the Approved Body conducting the assessment, in the Declaration of Performance, in technical information and in all marketing/communication information. A breach of any part of this duty is an offence subject to enforcement by the Regulator.

**"Manufacturers need to be honest and a breach of duty is subject to enforcement"**

## So what is missing from legislation?

A number of areas are missing according to the report. These include :

- Government, UKAS and the oversight of CABs) – questions over remit of UKAS (no enforcement powers) and requires more dynamic oversight of CABs to strengthen third-party certification schemes.
- Purpose of UKCA marking – there is no question over the fundamental purpose of marking or the potential to simplify the process. UKCA could be developed as a mark of safety or quality.
- Assessment process – this needs to be simplified and strengthened. The report proposes a series of graduated options to raise the standards of the system and making assessment of safety critical products more stringent.
- Conformity Assessment Bodies – it doesn't believe CABs have demonstrated any sense of a need for change in the wake of the



Grenfell tower fire. It wants a clearer statutory duty to be aware they're acting in the public interest, and to warn the new regulator where they suspect manufacturers are manipulating the system.

- Product manufacturers – more self-regulation is required such as use of third-party certification schemes and the potential for a Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI).

- Government procurement – Government should use its buying power as an incentive to adopt good practice by setting out how designers, contractors and specifiers can approach safe building outcomes.

- Joint government-industry action plan

– continuous engagement is required by government and industry to ensure success of Building Safety Act.

- Body of knowledge – this is particularly fragmented around fire, with many organisations engaged in this specialism. There is a need to pull a body of knowledge together which is accessible and kept under review with public interest at its core.

### Conclusions

The report reflects on arguments used in defying or deflecting responsibility in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. It states that there are some truths which have emerged which are evident:

**“Everything depends on the relevant standards, how a product is to conform, how it is to be tested and accredited”**

- Product manufacturers must develop products that do the job expected of them, and to market them honestly, making no false claims;
- CABs will test and assess those products against defined specifications, impartially and independently
- Designers must choose products with the performance that is fit for purpose, and then design them into the works so that the performance can be achieved;
- Constructors must bring everything together with the same objective in mind - to find better ways of doing things
- It is not for regulators or enforcement authorities to act as the industry's quality assurance department, but it is their vital role to keep a watchful eye out for non-compliance, and to aid compliance;
- Regulators and enforcement authorities must see that regulations are enforced
- Future reforms should ensure that such principles are reiterated and reinforced.

Whilst it is not yet known to what extent the recommendations will be adopted by government, Michael Gove has said it will set out proposals for reform building on the work of the Review. GAI members should therefore note that many elements of this report will be of huge relevance going forward. ♦

**A Technical Briefing is at [gai.org.uk/knowledge](https://gai.org.uk/knowledge).**

**Take an online quiz for one CPD point at <https://learninghub.gai.org.uk/login/index.php>**

The report tackles truths that emerged after the Grenfell tragedy





1.

### Legislation and guidelines for performance

As well as Building Regulations, the Department for Education has a comprehensive set of guidelines for the construction and renovation of buildings in the education sector. This legislation covers a broad range of criteria, including fire resistance, fire escape, acoustic performance, accessibility, safety and consideration for those with disabilities and special needs. The guidance is quite detailed, and the doors for different rooms may vary depending on the room's location and use.



2.

### Safety

Safety in schools is of paramount importance, and the requirements for fire safety and security are well-regulated. For example building regulations recommends any corridor over 30 metres in length should be separated by a set of smoke stopping fire doors. It pays to do your homework here.

However, there are other safety considerations specific to schools. For example finger trap injuries (RoSPAclaims



School's out and the holidays are when construction and maintenance work starts. But when specifying doors for schools, colleges and universities, there are several things to consider

30,000 children are injured yearly in this way ) can be greatly reduced by specifying finger trap protection devices.

Vision panels (the glass windows in the door leaf) play a role in access and fire safety. Hygiene is an issue on doors that are frequently touched, so consider specifying doors that can be easily and frequently cleaned possibly with a special antimicrobial finish.



3.

### Durability

The doors in most education establishments will be subjected to high use so need to be robust and durable to eliminate the need for repair or replacement. DfE guidelines state hollow-core doors are not suitable for schools and solid-core doors should be specified instead.



4.

### Aesthetics

Style and design still plays a role. For example, in a primary school or nursery, use of colour may be valid for atmosphere, whilst in a secondary school or university, colour could be used to help identify the rooms or denote different areas.

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Regulations are a key consideration; colour is common aesthetic in schools; different doors will be specified for classrooms and corridors; hygiene may also be in the brief; fire door safety is imperative





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## GAI TALK

**Simon Forrester,**  
GAI chief executive



The architectural ironmongery industry has worked long and hard to get ahead of the curve on construction's competence agenda.

Through our courses and qualifications the GAI has established an internationally-recognised benchmark for ironmongery expertise and knowledge. Last year we introduced three new diploma-level courses to reflect a growing range of specialisms in our industry.

Of course professional competence isn't a 'set and forget' matter. Continuing professional development lies at the heart of genuine and ongoing competence, and the new CPD model we have introduced this year is designed to ensure that once again our industry remains at the forefront of best practice. And this work is increasingly recognised. When, earlier this year in response to the Hackitt Review, a white paper on construction product competence standards was published, our sector was held up as an exemplar highlighting the critical role of RegAI.

So, our industry has worked hard to define competence and to create qualifications and professional standards which embody this. Now our very urgent challenge is to educate the specifiers and others in the construction sector, letting them know what to look for – and why they must insist on it. We need to make sure that everyone involved in construction understands that the RegAI is about more than just a qualification or time served. RegAI's are professionally competent specialists, trained to add value to every project they work on and design out risk.

This is the challenge the GAI has set itself, and we will continue to urge everyone involved in and with architectural ironmongery to join us in achieving this industry-defining objective.

# GAI Community...

## Leading man

The GAI has a new president. Kaz Spiewakowski, managing director of GEZE UK will take up the position for two years. AIJ asked him about his plans

"For me, being president is about doing something for the industry and the plan is to continue the good work of the last two years. I have huge respect for Mario (Del Signore) and have enjoyed my time as vice president. Together, with Steve Bewick as treasurer and Simon as CEO, we have cleared some legacy issues, built a real focus on value for membership and validation of competence. That is the agenda we will continue to push.

"We will continue to focus on education, improve the process for developing new material and how it is delivered. We will explore getting the content validated and third party audited as well as looking to produce new course content. We also need to develop our relationship with RIBA and with our overseas members. But there is no need to deviate from the achievements the



ABOVE Kaz Spiewakowski new GAI President

**"Being president is about doing something for the industry. I plan to continue the good work of the last two years. I have huge respect for Mario and have enjoyed my time as vice president"**

**KAZ SPIEWAKOWSKI**

team has made in the last year especially when it has worked so hard.

"For our members the challenge is in compliance, standards and the huge changes brought about by BS476 and fire accreditation. The Guild can help members navigate that. It came out so quickly and gathered pace quickly posing a threat and challenges to businesses.

"CPD and compliance is vital for members: becoming trained and qualified and demonstrating competence. The work that has been done over the past couple of years has increased the focus on professionalism, particularly RegAI status, and the Guild will continue and consolidate that. We still have challenges and work to do but fundamentally we will continue to increase the value to members through technical, education, CPD and the community aspect of the industry.



# GAI challenges UK and Ireland fire door testing proposal

The GAI has strongly challenged new fire door testing proposals from both the UK and Ireland governments. Both governments' proposals would remove the national classification system for construction products – BS 476 – and instead require classification to the British Standard version of the European Standard EN 13501, with testing to EN 1634 test standards becoming the new norm.

In its consultation responses, the GAI argued that there is no evidence to suggest that this change will make fire doors any safer. It will, however, have significant impacts throughout the architectural ironmongery and construction sectors of both countries.

The removal of assessments of products which can be fitted to fire doors will contribute to a reduced interchangeability of fire door hardware, inevitably leading to product shortages and delays. The multi-million-pound cost of retesting thousands of products is among a number of factors that would create competitive advantages for large global

door manufacturers at the expense of specialist UK hardware businesses.

Reduced export opportunities and increased reliance on overseas products would in turn lead to a substantial loss of jobs and expertise. Price rises as a result of these changes also introduce the risk of value-engineering and reduced specification – and therefore greater safety risk – on fire doors.

GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "We believe that in its current form, the UK Government's proposal will cause immense damage to the UK's world-class architectural ironmongery sector, and problems throughout the architectural and construction sectors, while failing to deliver any meaningful benefits.

"The Irish Government's proposals are generally more balanced than those in the UK, allowing BS 476 to remain valid for products already on the market. However, they will still create problems for future projects, while failing to deliver any meaningful benefits."

He added that BS 476 – or more specifically, part 22 of that standard –

has successfully delivered robust safety assurances for timber fire door users for many years and is still widely recognised as fit for purpose. Indeed, post-Grenfell, testing volumes have increased even further.

"Among our members are companies that have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on this testing this year, with similar amounts budgeted for next year and beyond. One of our members has cited that its business alone has more than 600 BS 476 part 22 tests which will become redundant if the proposed changes go ahead.

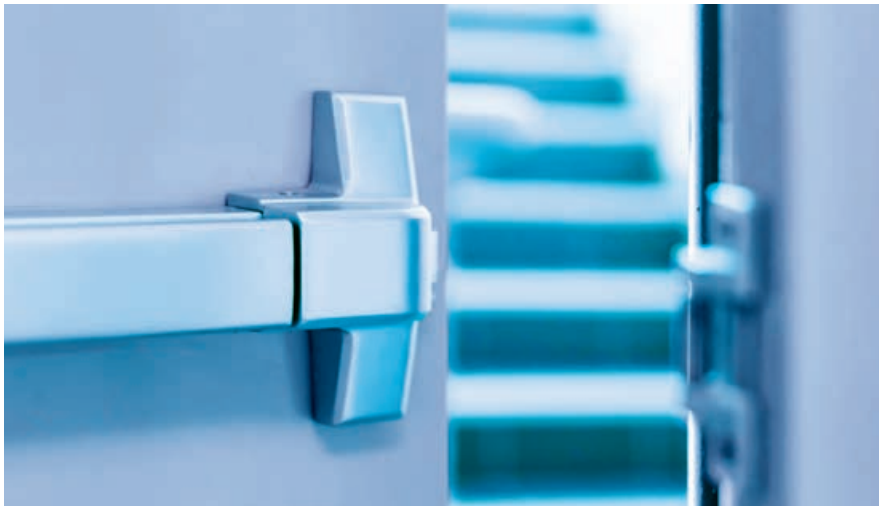
"With the cost of each typical fire test up to £11,000, and current waiting times at six months or more for each test – and then another six months for the report – retesting would cause huge disruption and cost the industry many millions of pounds – a cost which would have to be passed on to developers and ultimately the consumer."

**To read the GAI's consultation responses in full, visit [www.gai.org.uk/advocacy](http://www.gai.org.uk/advocacy)**

**FIT 2023 SHOW** Making a hit at FIT  
EVERYONE'S GOING

The GAI was at FIT Show at NEC Birmingham in May, promoting key industry initiatives to more than 10,000 end users contractors, architects, interior designers and specifiers.

The event was used for GAI to launch the new doorset Product Data Template (see p30) and to promote and distribute its new end-user guides. Published to help property owners, managers and occupiers maintain the safe, effective and efficient performance of their building hardware, they are also available as free downloads at [www.gai.org.uk/users](http://www.gai.org.uk/users). Further guides are due this summer to address the education and healthcare sectors.



## New doorsets PDT shows the way towards Golden Thread

Manufacturers and distributors of doorsets looking to build confidence in their products and move closer to implementing the Golden Thread principle can now supply consistent performance data with a new industry-approved Product Data Template (PDT).

A Product Data Template describes essential product characteristics which can be traced to a credible source such as a product standard. Once completed, it outputs a Product Data Sheet which summarises the performance and other technical characteristics of the product, structured to make the information more consistent, audience-specific, and identifying all the performance information needed to make appropriate choices.

The doorsets PDT has been launched at a critical time, following the recent publication of the Morrell Review into the regulation, testing and verification of the performance of construction products. It is the latest to be published by the shadow Fenestration Relevant Authority, a group of 14 organisations and trade associations.

GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson, chair of the shadow Fenestration

**"Structured product information is absolutely vital to a joined-up construction and built environment sector"**

**HANNA CLARKE**



Relevant Authority, said: "This new PDT is the first of its kind which has gone through a full consultation process. It incorporates many of the key functions of doors including fire, smoke, security and acoustics and presents this data in a consistent structured format."

Kevin Underwood, technical director of the British Woodworking Federation (BWF) and chair of the working group which created the PDT, said: "In the production of the doorset PDT we tried to capture all characteristics that would be of interest to those responsible for, and using, construction product data in the built environment. The characteristics were taken from relevant national and European standards, regulatory requirements, such as building regulations, and industry recommendations, such as third-party product certification. This information was then presented in a machine-readable form.

"By involving interested parties during the initial development, through the shadow Fenestration Relevant Authority, and then subjecting the draft PDT to peer review, we have captured the information that a manufacturer or distributor would wish to

communicate to their customers and would be required by end-users, such as designers and Accountable Persons."

Hanna Clarke, digital and policy manager at the Construction Products Association (CPA) added: "Structured product information is absolutely vital to a joined-up construction and built environment sector. But the key to arriving at this information is consensus, and the CPA is pleased to see that the trade associations in the fenestration area have come together to form a shadow Relevant Authority as per the processes identified in the LEXICON project.

"It is these consensus processes and due diligence that will allow all those using the template and resulting product data sheets to trust that the information has been appropriately considered and will have longevity in application."

This PDT is part of an ongoing programme by the Fenestration Relevant Authority, with window hardware as the next project.

**The PDT was launched at the FIT Show on 23-25 May and is available to download from [www.gai.org.uk/pdt](http://www.gai.org.uk/pdt)**



## New energy and sustainability services

The GAI has partnered with energy management consultancy Inenco to help member companies tackle their energy and sustainability challenges.

GAI company members can now access free of charge services including: energy & sustainability consultancy sessions; energy & sustainability compliance gap analysis; SME energy quotes & support; energy procurement back tests; net zero readiness tool & reports; and energy & sustainability newsletters, updates, webinars and more. Inenco has over 50 years' experience in helping companies make better procurement decisions, manage utility billing, and optimise consumption in order to control costs, improve margins and achieve regulatory compliance. Its customers include both corporate and SME businesses in a wide range of industries.

GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "We know that energy cost and consumption, alongside sustainability objectives, are key concerns for a significant proportion of our members. We are delighted to be working with the experts at Inenco to provide new member services aimed at addressing this."

**GAI members can find more information about these new services and how to access them in the GAI website Member Hub at [www.gai.org.uk/energy](http://www.gai.org.uk/energy).**



### ENROL EARLIER FOR GAI COURSES

**The GAI has introduced a new earlier enrolment date for its internationally-recognised programme of certificate and diploma courses. Enrolment will now open from 1 July, giving candidates time to complete their applications and associated paperwork ahead of the release of course material and the start of the courses from September. The new enrolment date applies to the Certificate in Architectural Hardware; Diploma in Scheduling; Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control; Diploma in Door Systems; and Certificate in Standards & Regulations. Visit [www.gai.org.uk/learning](http://www.gai.org.uk/learning)**

## MEET A MEMBER

### Pete Wozniak, managing director, Price & Oliver Ltd

#### Tell us about the business

Founded by Harold Price and William Oliver in September 1934, Price & Oliver is a fourth generation independent architectural ironmongers based in Birmingham.

It was one of the first architectural ironmongers in the world to have an accredited Quality System achieving what was then BS 5750 in 1992. It is now accredited to ISO 9001:2015. It has been a full GAI member since 2008. In addition to core business in the healthcare, education, commercial and residential sectors, it has expertise in architectural ironmongery for historic buildings.



#### How did you get into the business?

I am an accountant by trade and have been a finance director for over 30 years in many different industries. My wife Jane is a third generation 'Oliver' who also works in the business. She suggested I help push the business forward. I took up the challenge in 2022.

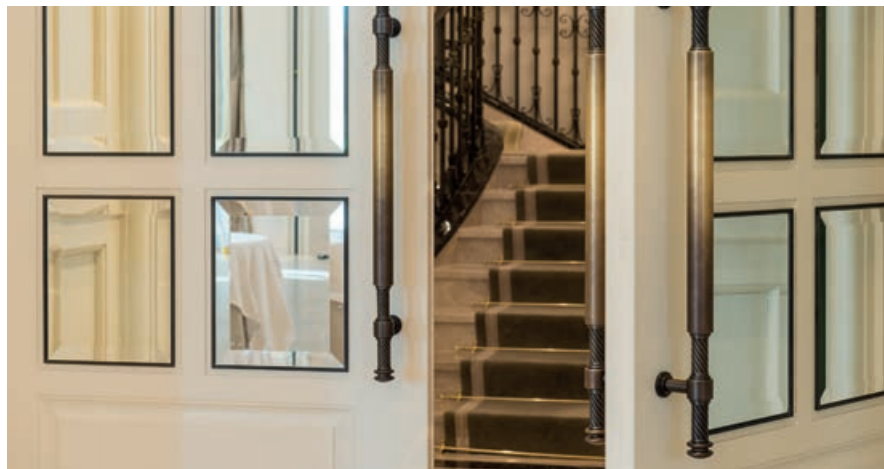
#### What do you like about the industry? What changes would you like to see?

The industry is fast paced and extremely competitive and there is always room for quality products. Ironmongery is becoming more automated and some of the new door security systems on the market are a real eye opener.

One thing I have noticed is that certain manufacturers go 'direct' to the end user, hence cutting out the AI in this process. When things go wrong, and they invariably do, I have found that the end users tend to go to the AI's for solutions to the problem, rather than the manufacturer who has supplied them. We must keep promoting AI's as the hub of this industry. There is a place for everybody in the industry and we must protect the route to market at all costs, otherwise the industry will lose the valuable experience of many GAI members over time.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

For my sins I follow West Bromwich Albion FC and play golf, tennis and padel-ball very badly! I am also the proud grandfather of two boys. Who knows, they could be the fifth generation 'Oliver' in the future? Let's hope so.



## Specification Awards launch search for global excellence

Architects, specifiers, building contractors, clients and their architectural ironmongery advisers and suppliers are being urged to submit entries to the GAI/RIBA AI Specification Awards 2024.

These biennial awards are designed to identify and reward excellence in the specification of architectural ironmongery and the design and innovation of new products.

The Awards comprise nine categories:

- Public and Commercial (sponsored by ASSA Abloy)
  - Hospitality (sponsored by dormakaba);
  - Health and Education (sponsored by FireDNA)
  - Residential (sponsored by Frank Allart);
  - International (sponsored by Norseal)
  - Product Design and Innovation – Mechanical (sponsored by CES)
  - Product Design and Innovation – Electronic (sponsored by ADSA)
  - Ethos Award (sponsored by Codelocks)
  - Winner of Winners (sponsored by GEZE).
- The Ethos Award is a new category for 2024 which reflects the skill of the ironmonger in challenging circumstances.

Projects and products must have been

either completed or released on to the market between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2023. Nominations can be made by GAI members, RIBA members, or for any project in which a RegAI was involved. Nominations close on 1 December 2023.

Projects will be visited and scrutinised by experienced assessors, with judges looking at the scope of works, the suitability of the ironmongery and its fitness for purpose, its compliance with relevant regulations and standards, and its aesthetic excellence. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in London in April 2024.

**For more information, and to enter visit**  
[www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards](http://www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards)

## Celebrate excellence with the GAI Community Awards

GAI members are being urged to make sure the industry's best companies and brightest talents are recognised in the GAI Community Awards. Nominations, which can only be submitted by GAI members, are now open in five categories designed to celebrate all aspects of excellence in the architectural ironmongery industry.

● **Achiever:** to seek out and acclaim the brightest and best among those who are still developing their careers in the sector.

● **Company Innovation:** for companies which have demonstrated they are innovating through improved processes that deliver positive change to them, their customers or wider society.

● **Leadership:** celebrating those who have demonstrated leadership within the architectural ironmongery sector.

● **Customer Focus:** formerly the Paul Lewis Award, this award is for individuals, companies or teams that have delivered excellence in customer service.

● **Fellowship:** awarded to an individual who has shown a longstanding and ongoing commitment to the GAI.

Nominations close on 11 September. The awards will be presented at the GAI's prestigious Education Awards ceremony at London's The Brewery venue on 23 November.

**Visit [www.gai.org.uk/communityawards](http://www.gai.org.uk/communityawards)**

## GAI AGM: new president and outstanding contribution

The Annual General Meeting of the GAI was held on 9 June at Ironmongers' Hall, London.

The AGM included the appointment of Kaz Spiewakowski as GAI president and also confirmed changes to the Guild's Executive Committee, with seven members being either elected or re-elected to serve.

Outgoing Executive Committee member Nish Mohamed was presented with the GAI Medal for Outstanding Contribution.

The AGM was followed by a member event and networking lunch.

**Find the full event report at [gai.org.uk/agm-2023](http://gai.org.uk/agm-2023)**





# SERIOUS ABOUT ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY?

## PROVE IT

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!

To find out more about GAI membership, email [membership@gai.org.uk](mailto:membership@gai.org.uk) or visit [www.gai.org.uk/membership](http://www.gai.org.uk/membership).



Guild of  
Architectural  
Ironmongers

# Breaking the mould

Gaudi may be most associated with Catalan intricate architecture but his door handle designs also push the envelope

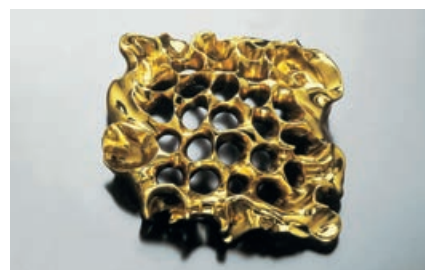
**Antoni Gaudi's modernist buildings draw** thousands of tourists to Barcelona every year. But his individualised design style also extends inside the buildings to door hardware.

Door handle for Casa Milà ('La Pedrera'), model 1 is a brass fixture designed by Gaudi in 1910. The piece was made by the architect squeezing a ball of clay to create an impression of his hand, from which a mould was made and subsequently cast in metal. The fixture is intended to conform to the shape of the human grip, its volume providing the negative space around which the user can wrap their palm and fingers,

in what is often seen an early implementation of ergonomics in design.

The door handle was produced for the Casa Milà ('La Pedrera') apartment building in Barcelona, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1984. The architect used similar processes to design door and window fixtures—as well as fittings and furnishings—for Casa Milà and other buildings between 1902 and 1910, including the Casa Calvet and Casa Batlló. A spy hole for an apartment door of the Casa Calvet was produced by the architect sticking his finger into a block of clay to create a honeycombed grid of openings.

**RIGHT:** Honeycomb spyhole and the mould handle **BELOW:** Casa Milà; **LEFT:** Gaudi



The Casa Milà door handle's play on soft and hard is a characteristic that has often been applied to Gaudi's architecture as a whole. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, in an essay published on the occasion of the retrospective devoted to Gaudi at MoMA, New York, in 1957, writes of the "strange biological plasticity" of the Park Güell, and notes how "From a distance the exterior of 'La Pedrera' looks as if it were all freely modelled in some clay-like substance..."

Today exact reproductions in both form and material of eight original metalwork fittings designed by Antoni Gaudi for various of his works of architecture are available. Designed by Barcelona Design with the architect David Ferrer, they are solid cast brass with polished finish. See [bdbarcelona.com/collections/art-editions/gaudi-door-knobs](https://bdbarcelona.com/collections/art-editions/gaudi-door-knobs). ♦







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- Certificate in Architectural Hardware
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- GAI Diploma in Door Systems
- GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control
- Certificate in Standards & Regulations
- Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI)
- Certificated Standards and Regulations Advisor (CertSRA)

From our introductory Foundation in Hardware and skill-building Certificate in Architectural Hardware courses, students have a choice of three specialist diplomas – each leading, through participation in our CPD programme, to the industry benchmark for professional competence, Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI) status.

Specialist expertise in industry standards and regulations can also be developed via the a dedicated certificate course that paves the way to the Certificated Standards and Regulations Advisor (CertSRA) status.

#### Find out more

Enrolment opens 1 July for course commencement in September 2023. Download your copy of the GAI Education Prospectus 2023-24 today at [www.gai.org.uk/learning](http://www.gai.org.uk/learning)



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