

DUBAI 2.0

OPPORTUNITIES IN
THE CITY'S SECOND
CONSTRUCTION BOOM

inside

NEWS

IAI AGM review

PROFILE

CES UK

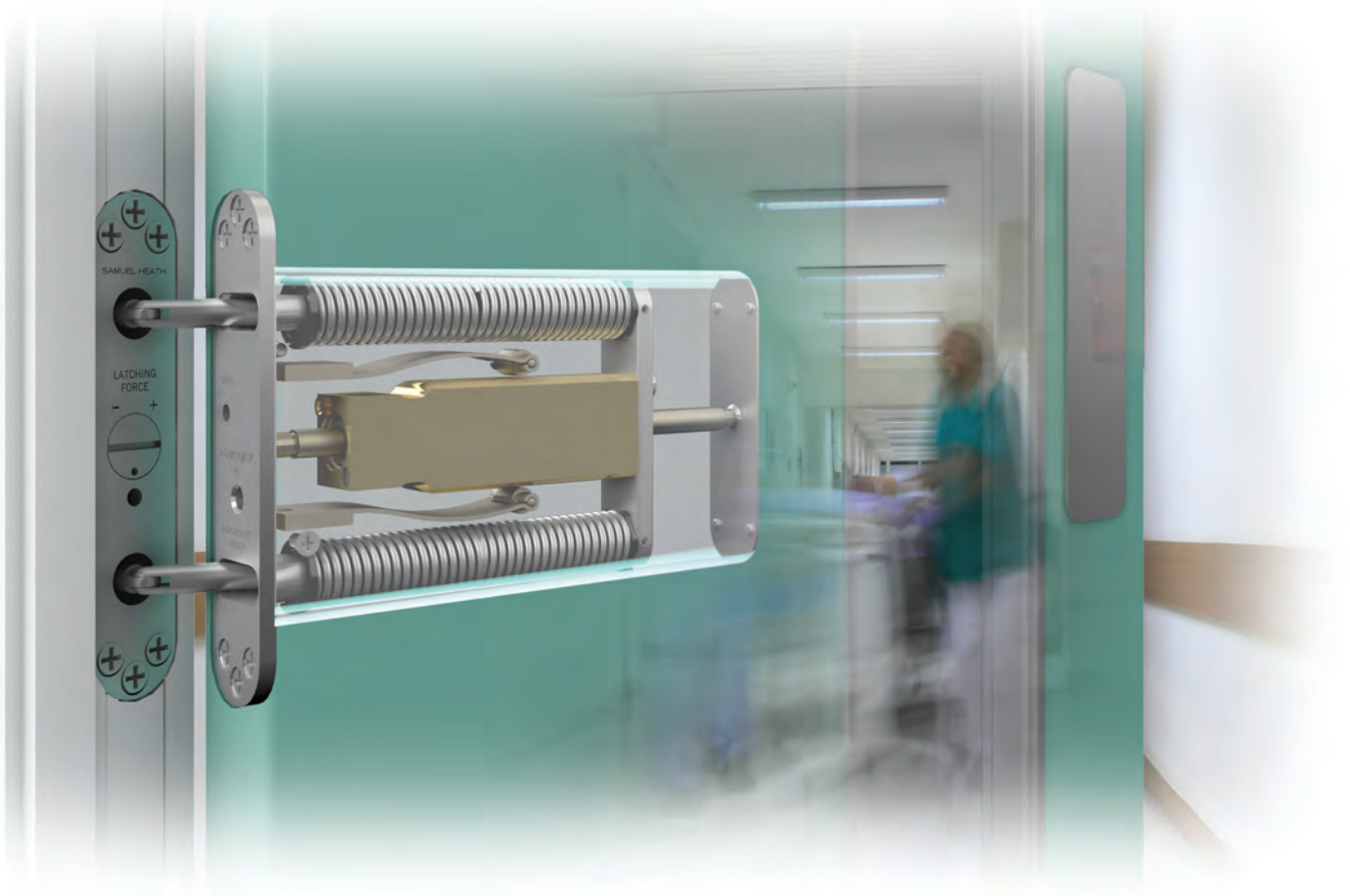
FEATURES

Ethics
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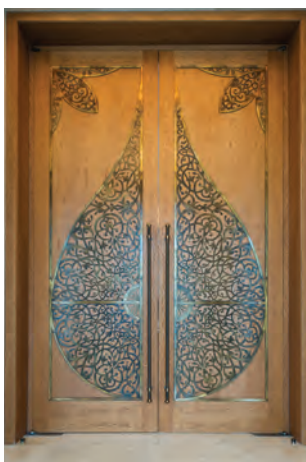
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AI AND DOORS PROVE TO BE CRUCIAL TO AWARD-WINNING BUILDS



GEZE doors have all been integral to award-winning builds recently (from top): Glasgow Theatre Royal, Maggie's Centre Oxford and New Balance UK HQ

Three award-winning UK buildings have installed GEZE doors into their projects. New Balance's UK HQ in Warrington has been transformed with a funky industrial gym theme and, as part of the renovation, GEZE UK was commissioned to install a pair of bi-parting automatic doors powered by ECdrives to the entrance of the canteen.

The canteen, which provides an informal space to meet, relax and eat for over 100 employees based at the office, was commended as a catalyst for improved interaction between staff when the company won the Best Workplace Fit Out Award held by the British Council for Offices.

In Glasgow, Page\Park Architects brought the city's Victorian Theatre Royal firmly into the 21st Century with a new elliptical foyer extension designed to tackle the limited accessibility and cramped, poorly functioning space.

As part of the solution to make the theatre accessible to all, GEZE UK was commissioned by Gray and Dick to install automatic sliding doors to create an entrance lobby on either side of the new foyer and a further set of automatic sliding doors were installed to access the City's only public roof terrace. Allgood PLC also specified a number of the company's manual closers throughout.

Two new entrances were created and GEZE's

Slimdrive SL NT single operators with ISO doors and pocket screens were specified.

The new foyers have been nationally recognised with the Scottish Design Award and the RIAS Cultural Building of the Year Award and nominated for the AJ 100 Cultural Building of the Year.

And in Oxford, in a site of special scientific interest, the Patricia Thompson Building for Maggie's Cancer Centre has been designed around a treehouse concept, providing calm amongst the trees for anyone affected by cancer.

The main entrance to the building, which is built on stilts, is approached via a land bridge and features a pair of integrated all-glass system (IGG) swing doors each powered by a TSA 160 UFO underfloor operator from GEZE UK. The building was designed by architect Wilkinson Eyre and was shortlisted for World Architecture Festival Awards 2015.

The IGG system was specified because the profile and fittings are integrated invisibly between the panes of glass so there are no bulky or visible elements on the surface of the glass. At the same time, the TSA 160 UFO is concealed under the floor meaning that neither the operators nor the doors detract from the overall design of the centre, which thanks to its expansive glass facades gives panoramic views of the trees throughout.



TOOLKIT ALLOWS SMES TO CHECK DATA PROTECTION COMPLIANCE

The ICO – the Government office responsible for the enforcement of the Data Protection Act 1998 – has launched a self-assessment tool that will help small and medium sized organisations (SMEs) to assess their compliance with the Data Protection Act. The toolkit provides links to relevant guidance and further information, and will generate a rating based on responses.

The toolkit may be completed as one comprehensive assessment that embraces the key obligations that SMEs have in relation to processing their customers' or clients' personal information. Alternatively, it can be broken down into separate checklists so users can tailor it to their organisation's particular needs and risks.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/improve-your-practices/data-protection-self-assessment-toolkit/>



NEW MAILBOX WEBSITE DELIVERS INFORMATION

DAD UK, the door mailbox specialist, has launched a brand new UK website offering information for architects, architectural ironmongers, facilities managers and contractors.

The site gives full technical details of DAD's range – which includes drop boxes, parcel boxes and bespoke entrance doors. Users can drill down to line drawings and installation information for each product in the range. As well as the online catalogue, the site includes a feature to order replacement keys, details box specifications, project portfolio and DAD's Decayeux security door range. These have a steel core with timber panel finish and are approved by Secured By Design and meet all European security standards.

DAD box range includes fire-rated and anti-arson boxes, wall-mounted boxes, free-standing and through the wall options.



GROWTH EXPECTED IN UK DOOR AND WINDOW FITTINGS MARKET

A new report shows growth in the UK door and window fittings market.

According to figures from AMA Research, the market increased by around 2% in 2015, following similar annual growth rates in 2013 and 2014. The sector remains very competitive with a recovery in volumes partially offset by downward pressure on average prices and margins.

Locks and handles represent the two major product sectors, together accounting for over 50% of the fittings market.

Door closers were estimated to account for around 15% of the market in 2015 having grown in recent years. The sector has particularly benefited from the introduction of higher specification products, with legislation such as The Equality Act in conjunction with BS 8300 helping to boost demand.

Current forecasts show further steady rates of value growth over the next four years. The private sector is forecast to drive growth, with the new housing market also driving demand. In addition, the commercial sector is growing strongly – particularly office construction. As a result, the trend is likely to be towards higher specification products, particularly those which offer added security features.

The Door and Window Fittings Market Report – UK 2015-2019 Analysis is available online at www.amaresearch.co.uk



GEZE UK SUPPORTS BD ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

GEZE UK was a category award sponsor at the recent BD Architect of the Year Awards.

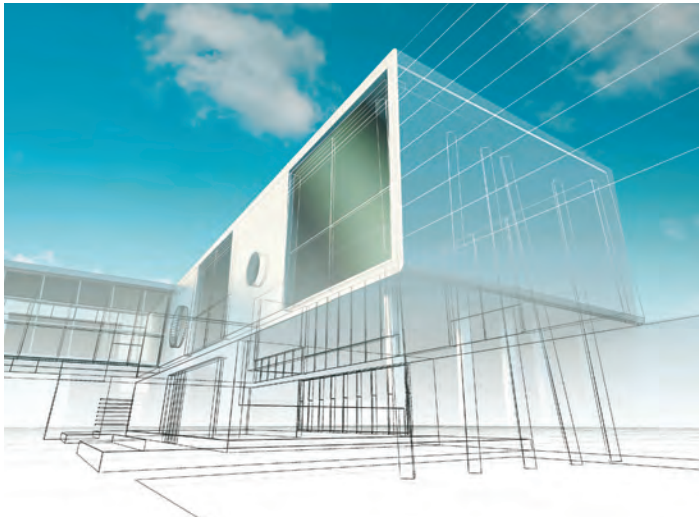
The Office Architect of the Year Award is open to architects working on the design of offices whether new built or refurbishments. Eight leading architects were shortlisted, and the winner was Bennetts Associates. The full awards ceremony was held at London Excel on 9 March hosted by Stephen Fry as part of Ecobuild's Architecture Day.

There were 13 different award categories and the other winners were:

Small Project
Matheson Whiteley
Individual House
Delvendahl Martin Architects
Education
AHMM
Housing
Levitt Bernstein
Interior
Jestico & Whiles
Masterplanning & Public Realm
Fletcher Priest
Public Building

AHMM
Infrastructure
Studio Egret West
Sports & Leisure
Panter Hudspith
Sustainability
Gort Scott Architects
Office
AHMM
Refurbishment
Hawkins Brown
Young Architect of the Year
Gort Scott

The Schueco Gold Award is presented annually to the practice that has made the most significant contribution to British architecture over the past year. It is voted for by public and a live vote at the Awards. The winner was Cottrell & Vermeulen who was also named Education Architect of the Year on the strength of a string of exceptional schools projects.



ONLINE BIM PRODUCT LIBRARY LINKS DESIGNERS AND MANUFACTURERS

A new online library of BIM products for mechanical, electric and plumbing (MEP) design has been launched allowing access to more than 50,000 products for free download.

Two hundred leading manufacturers' products are listed with comprehensive technical data and 3D models. MEP designers can now collaborate effectively with teams from across the build – key to achieving the benefits of BIM for any large-scale building project.

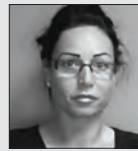
Launched by Finnish company, Progman the online resource at www.magiccloud.com allows users to find detailed, accurate dimensions and comprehensive technical data for products by nearly 200 manufacturers. 3D views are included for each product, which can be spun and viewed from any angle. Designers can quickly select the components they need, downloading them into their Revit, Revit MEP and AutoCAD projects. Free download capability is possible for more than 50,000 products and this number is continuously growing.

For manufacturers, the library offers the opportunity to have products modeled and hosted in MagiCloud and gives them open-door access to MEP designers working on hospitals, office buildings and large construction projects all over the world. MagiCAD is widely-used throughout the globe and is popular in the Nordics, Russia and China. The intelligent models include 3D geometry and comprehensive technical and marketing information for each product. Once product models are created, they are made immediately available to more than 18,000 MagiCAD customers and published globally through MagiCloud.

Interested manufacturers should get in touch with MagiCloud Sales Manager at ruggero.valsecchi@magicad.com. www.magiccloud.com

AIJ PEOPLE

NEW ACCOUNT MANAGER AT ALLEGION



Specialist security manufacturer, Allegion, has appointed

Louise Nulty as its UK national account manager to provide dedicated support to its large multi-site national trade accounts.

Nulty, who brings a wealth of experience in developing installer and contractor engagement through former roles with Assa Abloy (Yale) and Plumb Center, will be responsible for assisting business growth and supporting promotional activity with national account customers and social housing contracts.

Chandler joined GEZE in 2002 as project estimator and has more than 20 years' industry experience across technical, sales and estimating and customer support.

In his new role, Chandler will be responsible for increasing the company's market share across the East Midlands and East Anglia. He will work closely with fabrication companies as well as architects, specifiers and contractors.

NEW NAMES AT DORMA AS SALES LEGENDS RETIRE



DORMA UK has appointed Debra Stott and Samantha



Fawn as Territory sales people for Distribution and Industry. Both have a

DipGAI and bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their new roles.

Debra Stott succeeds Tony O'Neill in the role of sales, new equipment for the North East & Yorkshire, following his retirement after 36 years. Debra previously held specification and technical roles at Scott Beaven Ltd and Lloyd Worrall Newcastle.

Samantha Fawn has taken over as territory sales person for Distribution and Industry for the London & South East area, replacing Dick Watts, who retired after 32 years with the company.

Samantha has previously held sales roles with Leaderflush Shapland and Laidlaw.

GEZE UK APPOINTS TWO NEW REGIONAL MANAGERS



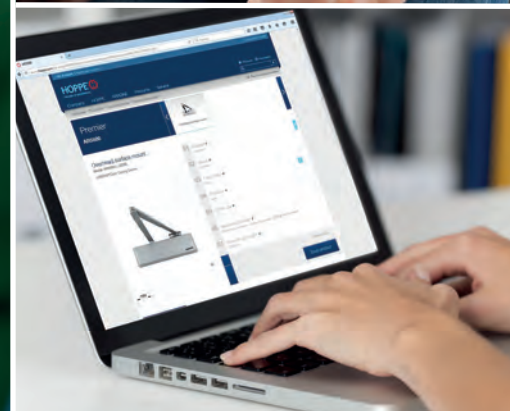
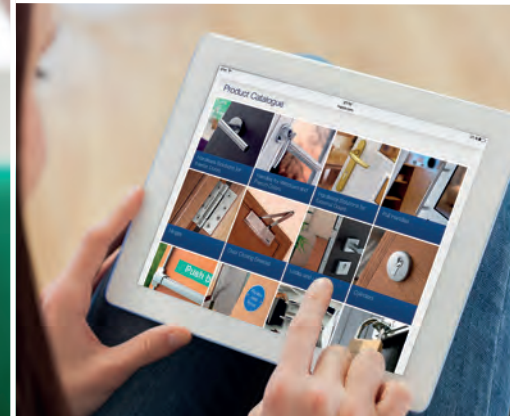
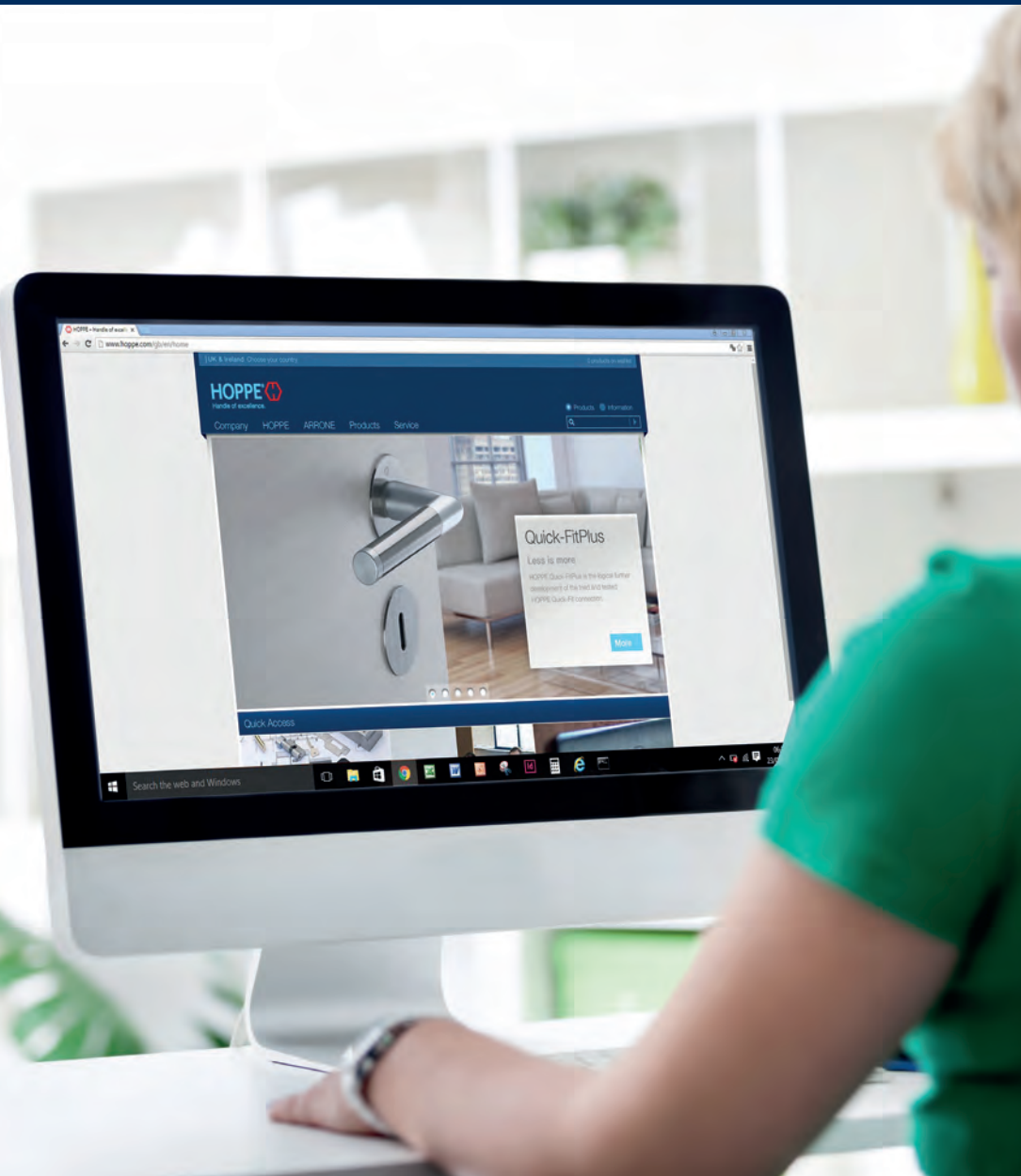
GEZE UK has appointed Richard Stepniewski as service manager for London North (pictured top left).



Stepniewski will be responsible

for all technical and financial management of the office which supports GEZE customers in the area from central London to Norwich, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. He will lead a team of 13 including 10 field-based engineers.

The company has also strengthened its presence in the East of England with the promotion of Steven Chandler (pictured above) to area sales manager for automatic doors.



HOPPE (UK) new look website!

HOPPE (UK) is excited to announce that after months of hard work, the brand new website is officially up and running!

The new site contains significantly more content than its predecessor. Visitors to "www.hoppe.com" can now not only find a great deal of information about the company, standards and technical solutions – they can also access a wide - ranging product catalogue.

Don't just take HOPPE's word for it, why not visit the site today, **www.hoppe.com**

FORECAST FOR GROWTH SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH CAUTION



The latest forecasts from the Construction Products Association (CPA) predict that construction output is expected to rise by 19.7% between 2015 and 2019, with 2016 enjoying a 3.8% increase. Growth in private housing,

commercial – new office developments – and infrastructure will fuel this upward trend.

In the public sector, despite a government focus on austerity, both education and health are expected to see healthy increases by 2019, 22.3% and 12.8% respectively. This is in part thanks to capital raised by private projects under PF2, so whilst new builds are unlikely to be hit by austerity cuts, the industry should brace itself for falls in maintenance and refurbishment programmes.

Commenting on these latest figures from the CPA, Allan Thomson, specification director, for ASSA ABLOY's UK Specification (pictured above), is wary of over-optimism. "Whilst these latest forecasts clearly make for positive reading for those involved at the specification stage of the construction market, one must proceed with caution," he advises. "There are still risks to the industry, some of which are known issues, such as skills shortages and the elimination of the public sector deficit, whilst others are less easy

to account for such as the EU referendum and growth prospects of countries like China."

Thomson does point to opportunities. "Office developments are expected to continue to influence the growth in the commercial sector. Last year we saw a lot of London-centric development whereas 2016 will see this extend to Birmingham and Manchester, which is positive news for the industry and will lead to further investment projects in and around these second cities.

"Another area expected to prosper in 2016 is education, as it benefits from both the fruition of PF2 investments and planned University spending, boosted further by the removal of caps on student fees. One trend that we've been able to capitalise on and which we expect to see continue in 2016 is specification across multiple schools.

"The private investment in both education and healthcare under the PFI schemes is positive for the industry and whilst there may be cuts to RMI in public sector facilities, the BIM level 2 deadline in April will help to ensure that those projects which do go ahead aren't 'under specified'."

For more information on the CPA report as well as its latest Quarterly Construction Trade Survey see www.constructionproducts.org.uk.

Join the debate on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/assa-abloy-uk.

HOWELLS PROVIDE NVQs TO TACKLE SKILLS SHORTAGE

Howells Patent Glazing is investing in its workforce and the future of manufacturing in the Midlands by offering NVQs to all its staff.

The firm is keen to address the skills shortage that is affecting businesses in the UK.

According to The Employer Skills Survey (ESS), manufacturing businesses like Howells are most likely to encounter skills shortages when looking to recruit suitable candidates for their roles in the industry, accounting for 30% of hard-to-fill manufacturing vacancies.

One of Howells's most recent employees to enroll on an NVQ course is 17-year-old welding apprentice Reece. Working alongside long-standing employee Dennis, an experienced welder, Reece will be completing his Level 3 Diploma in Engineering and NVQ Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations. Debbie Willetts, company secretary said, "As a construction company, we have to keep up to date with training with IOSH, CSCS, Platform etc, but more importantly we feel it's our responsibility as employers to invest in our staff. Our long-term growth strategy isn't just about processes; it's about developing our staff by building on their qualifications and in turn, passion for our business. We are really excited to be rolling out new qualifications to all our staff during the course of 2016."

The ESS estimates that employers are spending £4.9bn on workforce training.

NEW NORTH OFFICE FOR GEZE

To meet growing customer demand from across the midlands and the north, GEZE UK has opened a new 1500 sq ft service office in Cheshire. Based in Warrington, GEZE Service Midlands North will support customers across the M62 corridor, offering quotations, technical advice and faster response times.

As well as the large main office there is a meeting room and a training room, which will be fitted out with all the latest automatic door operators for engineer training.

The new office complements the service teams based in Glasgow, Newcastle, Bristol, Farnborough (London South), Leighton Buzzard (London North) and the Midlands South team based at the company's head office near Lichfield.

Lee Coulton has been appointed as manager and he is joined by Susie Perry who has been with GEZE UK for eight years and has been promoted from service co-ordinator at GEZE's Midlands Service Office to assistant service manager. They will be supported by two service co-ordinators and eight field engineers.



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GARY AMER • GAI TALK

// Knowledge is power, they say. So the natural temptation is to hoard it, to keep hold of it and lock it away for our personal advantage. But there is some knowledge which the GAI is very keen to share far and wide – indeed, we want every architect in the land to have it.

I'm talking about the knowledge of how to work effectively with your architectural ironmonger (AI). The understanding of what an AI needs to know in order to provide the best advice to an architect. An insight into common risks and how to avoid them, alongside how to access the specialist expertise of a Registered AI (RegAI). This partnership will not only produce a comprehensive, informed schedule for door hardware meeting the requirements of all relevant regulations and legislation, but also one that will work in harmony with the architect's design brief.

This knowledge is now contained in our new Architect's Guide which is available to download, free of charge, via the GAI's website.

We share this advice because it makes good business sense, for our members and for their prospective clients. We're committed to building a stronger working relationship between the best in our industry and the best architects and specifiers in the UK and overseas. The more we are empowered with this knowledge and mutual understanding, the better we can thrive.

I welcome your feedback on the Guide, and I hope everyone will use it, share it, add to it. It's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the knowledge and expertise within the Guild's membership, but it's an important first step to make the specification process run smoothly and to achieve the best possible end result.

Gary Amer
Chief executive of the GAI



GAI LAUNCHES GUIDE TO AI FOR ARCHITECTS

The GAI has produced a new resource to assist architects in working with AIs and specifying door hardware. *Specification of Door Hardware – An Architect's Guide* contains all the key information an architect needs when choosing architectural ironmongery in one place.

The free guide includes main considerations when specifying architectural ironmongery, information on the risks and how to avoid them, tips on choosing and working with an architectural ironmonger, and a glossary of technical terms.

It also aims to draw attention to the often overlooked potential of architectural ironmongery to make or mar a project, and to encourage architects to appreciate and make more use of the range of skills of architectural ironmongers. In particular, it emphasises the importance of working with a Registered Architectural Ironmonger who is guaranteed to be both qualified and experienced.

Download a free copy of the guide at www.gai.org.uk

SERVICES BOOST FOR GAI MEMBERS



The GAI has appointed two new membership services officers as part of its ongoing commitment to provide additional support and services to its 200 members.

Harry Evans will focus on the GAI's extensive education portfolio, and will support the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers' (IAI) branch meetings and administration.

Davina King will have particular responsibility for the management of the GAI and IAI's subscriptions and membership database; the issuing of membership certificates; the distribution of *AIJ*; and for all financial matters.

Gary Amer, chief executive of the GAI, said: "We now have a team at full strength, and

Harry and Davina have already made a significant impact on improving our responsiveness to our members' needs.

"We are the UK's only trade body solely dedicated to promoting the interests of the whole architectural ironmongery industry. Our commitment is to provide members in the UK and across the world with a highly rated education programme, technical advice and support, publications and networking opportunities.

"It is great to have Harry and Davina's additional expertise and energy within the GAI, and I'm sure members will be pleased to meet them at our events throughout the year."

GAI PUBLISHES NEW GUIDE TO EUROPEAN AND BRITISH STANDARDS

The GAI has published a new set of guides to European and British Standards.

Douglas Masterson, GAI technical manager and author of the guides, has written them to explain not only what the standards are but also provide some extra information on the products they relate to.

There are 10 guides which cover the following Standards:

BS EN 1935, BS EN 1154, BS EN 1155, BS EN 1125,

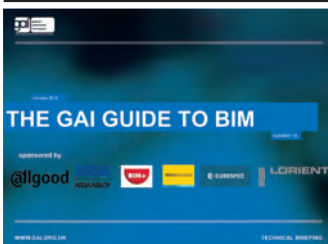
BS EN 179, BS EN 12209, BS EN 1303, BS EN 1906, BS 8300, BS EN 16005.

There is also a guide which serves as an introduction to standards, including background and history.

These can be downloaded from the technical section of the member's area of the website under 'Standards and Regulations'.

www.gai.org.uk

DOOR HARDWARE PROFESSIONALS URGED TO PREPARE FOR BIM WITH NEW GAI GUIDE



The GAI has released its largest ever technical guide, in a bid to ensure its members are ready for the impact of mandatory Building Information Modelling (BIM).

BIM Level 2 becomes compulsory on all public sector projects from 4 April, but low levels of awareness may be putting some AI businesses at risk, the GAI is warning.

The *GAI Guide to BIM*, which members can download for free, outlines what BIM obligations architectural ironmongers and hardware manufacturers will need to fulfil to work on public sector projects from April.

It explores possible business opportunities but also highlights key pitfalls to avoid such as expensive and unnecessary investment.

Douglas Masterson, technical manager of the GAI and the author of the Guide, says he hopes the technical briefing will provide a wake-up call to the industry:

"The *Guide to BIM* is our longest ever technical briefing, which is a reflection of how important understanding BIM is to the architectural ironmongery industry.

"Architectural ironmongers and everyone involved in the door hardware supply chain cannot afford to be complacent and assume that BIM is something that only concerns the larger parts of the construction industry.

"Preparing for BIM need not be a costly or complicated process. The GAI can arm you with the necessary information to make your own judgments about what's best for your business."

BIM involves creating a digital computer model which contains all the data relating to a building project. The UK Government is mandating BIM at a specified minimum level (Level 2) on all public sector projects from April 2016. Als working on such projects will be responsible for the handover of the relevant BIM documentation to the main contractor. It will then be their responsibility to provide all BIM material to the end-user on project completion.

Members can download the *GAI Guide to BIM* at www.gai.org.uk/technical/technical-briefings-137 For more details see p30.

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From left Andy Matthews, Mario Del-Signore, Debbie Chance & Andy Chapman.

IAI AGM PROMOTES VALUE OF WORKING WITH REGAIs



Isaac Tam with John Tibbs



Debbie Chance and Maria Powell



Mario Del-Signore
presenting

With Windsor Castle just a few minutes away, the beautiful Beaumont Estate played host to this year's IAI AGM, drawing a healthy attendance of over 100 architectural ironmongers and manufacturers. IAI Chairman Mario Del-Signore led a weekend blending business with pleasure under the theme of 'Raising our Profile'. With renewed focus on CPD and the spotlight on the value that RegAIs can add to the hardware specification process, the event showcased all the activities planned and underway to promote this even further.

Kicking off the weekend was an informal comedy night in the stunning setting of the Chapel, kindly sponsored by Lorient. Delegates were treated to not one, but three hilarious stand up acts complemented by an Italian-themed buffet. Laughter was in plentiful supply.

The business agenda got underway on Saturday morning with the now legendary Ironmongers Village, which saw over 20 individual sponsors setting out their wares, engaging in valuable networking over coffee, generously sponsored by Allegion. A new addition to the village this year was a dedicated new product showcase which put the spotlight on a number of recently launched products. The village served as the nucleus of a thriving networking zone for the entire day during coffee breaks.

Chairman Mario Del-Signore has pledged his support to driving forward a refreshed approach to the delivery of CPD content to IAI members. In order to achieve the status of Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI), a qualified AI needs to annually collect at least 10 CPD points via a variety of methods, but most commonly through Branch meetings at which CPD seminars are presented on a range of topics. For the first time the AGM offered an opportunity for two CPD points to be collected towards the 2016 target, as GAI technical manager, Douglas Masterson, presented on both Hardware for Fire Doors and on Accessibility.

The AGM itself got underway with a welcome address from GAI President Maria Powell, who shared news about a strategic project for both the GAI and IAI, with the establishment of a working group exploring the long term outlook and mission of the organisation.

Mario then got proceedings underway with his speech and presentation elaborating on the significant achievements secured for the Institute over the past 12 months. With a clear passion for the people that make up the IAI membership, Mario spoke with pride about the hard work that had gone into producing some tangible results for the IAI. These included:

- Creation of a new branch – North and Borders chaired by Simon Sutton
- Welcoming in a new Branch Chair in GCC – Mike Lumsden
- Formation of a working party to explore enhanced delivery of CPD point opportunities.
- A new PR and marketing plan designed to lift the profile of the RegAI
- Elevated awareness for the annual IAI Awards
- Follow up activity from the IAI workshop
- RegAI survey canvassing opinion on a range of issues
- Publication of the Architect's Guide to the specification of door hardware

Delegates then heard from Gary Amer the GAI's chief executive, who introduced the Architect's Guide in more detail. For the first time, the crucial role the architectural ironmonger plays in the hardware specification process has been captured in a new and stylish brochure, designed intentionally to appeal to architects. The Guide which is freely available to download from the GAI website explores in detail the unique relationship Als have with architects during the specification of door hardware. Containing useful information, plus a comprehensive glossary in a pocket at the back of the brochure, it demonstrates the GAI's firm commitment to raising the profile of qualified

Als and, in particular, the respected contribution RegAls make to a project.

Finally, Liz Male from LMC outlined to members the extent of the PR and marketing work that has rolled out in the past 12 months. The very clear emphasis on raising the profile of the RegAI has been the central focus and a great deal of new engagement has been secured through an enhanced press programme of IAI activities and elevated awareness of the value of working with a RegAI via social media. Male promised extensive plans to further this work in the coming 12 months – especially by lifting awareness to architects, specifiers and the construction industry in general. Exciting times ahead!

Mario closed the formal business session of the day with a repeat of his personal pledge to continue to work in the interests of the IAI membership and to continue to raise the profile of qualified Als and especially the RegAls – all around the world.

Rounding off the weekend was the dinner dance, which got underway with a stylish pre-dinner drinks reception, generously sponsored by CES UK. Highlight of the evening was the presentation to award winners of the four IAI awards, voted for by members of the IAI in a national voting process.

The first award – Promising Ironmonger of the Year, awarded by the GAI – was won by Isaac Tam of Tung Fat Ho Building Material in Hong Kong. Isaac was unable to attend the event, but the audience was able to share his proud moment, by watching a video recording of the award being made to him by the Hong Kong Branch chair, John Tibbs. This followed on from a succession of education awards Isaac received at November's GAI Education Awards event in London.

The second award – the Paul Lewis Trophy for Customer Service – was made by Jon Simms, MD of Royde & Tucker, who annually sponsors the award. The trophy is awarded to an individual, team or company that has made an outstanding commitment to customer service throughout the past year. This year's worthy winner was Andy Chapman of Dorma UK. Speaking of Chapman's contribution to Customer Service, Simms said that he had been voted as the winner for his constant attention to customers' needs, being affable and personable in all his dealings and for always ensuring that he only ever gave the highest standards of service to his customers.

The third award of the evening saw Debbie Chance of KABA UK take the GAI Services to

the Institute Award. The award is given to an individual who has made a recent and visible contribution at branch level. Announcing the winner, GAI president, Maria Powell said that Chance is readily acknowledged by everyone to be tremendously supportive of not only her local branch in the South West for which she is secretary, but also the Institute and its events in general. She's always on hand to help others, and her professionalism is second to none.

The final award of the evening, made by Mario Del-Signore, was for the Fellowship of the IAI. This award is made to an individual who has shown a longstanding and ongoing commitment to the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers. This year the Fellowship was bestowed on Andy Matthews of HOPPE UK. A former Chairman of the IAI, Andy continues to be proactive and supportive of all the IAI activities – and especially promotes the interests of those studying both for their DipGAI and continuing to maintain RegAI status. A previous winner of the GAI Services Award, Matthews is also a member of the GAI Executive.

Once these fabulous celebrations of those who excel at the top of the industry were concluded, the attendees relaxed into the remainder of the evening enjoying music and dancing until midnight. The event has already been hailed as one of the best IAI events, and the profile of RegAI was well and truly lifted!

GAI AND IAI TO REVIEW CPD

A working party of GAI and Institute members met at the end of January this year to take a fresh and challenging review of the present way Registered Architectural Ironmongers (RegAls) can attain their CPD points.

Mario Del-Signore, the IAI Chairman, said the present way in which RegAls attain their CPD points has its historical limitations so the working party has begun to explore a number of opportunities to modernise the existing arrangements.

"We certainly want to try and establish a schedule of Institute branch meetings with CPD content that boosts interest and attendance by all Institute members. These meetings, and a more flexible model for RegAls to collect other points, will hopefully enable them to take control of their personal development.

Some of the traditional elements for points collection remain valid but we hope to enhance their value and introduce new opportunities".

The next working party meeting is scheduled for April. If you wish to help and add your experience please contact Gary Amer at gary.amer@gai.org.uk





RISKY BUSINESS

Virginia Matthews reports on the unethical use of non fire-safety compliant hardware, often flying in the face of the correct spec

I always make sure I dot every 'i' and cross every 't' when it comes to providing hardware for fire doors because I believe it is in our interests to be squeaky clean when it comes to certification," says Teresa McQuay, director of the Cornwall-based JEB Supplies, and a RegAI. "I want to be able to sleep at night without worrying that I have put people at risk or at the very least invalidated a firm's insurance. However, it's becoming increasingly clear to me that not everybody in the construction industry takes the same ethical stance."

From her vantage point in Redruth, McQuay has discovered that the problem of non-compliant latches, closers, hinges, locks and other hardware being specified for both fire and final exit doors is widespread in the construction industry.

McQuay believes that "either through ignorance or the desire to cut corners," some developers are opting to replace correctly-specified hardware with cheaper, uncertified alternatives and – even more worryingly – it appears these are being passed by building control officers.

Last year, JEB specified and supplied GEZE Boxer concealed closers with intumescent packs for flat entrance doors along with concealed bearing hinges and intumescent pads for use on a collection of fire doors

being installed on a local building project. The construction company fitted spring hinges (which were not suitable and had no intumescent protection) that they obtained elsewhere, and no closers.

"The products had been ordered, delivered and paid for and a few weeks later, a project manager working on the same job came in and asked for some standard spring hinges; also for use on fire doors," she says.

"We got talking and it emerged that the hinges I'd originally specified had been replaced with ordinary spring hinges and these were already in situ, despite not being CE-marked and having no fire tests behind them."

It later emerged that the building control officer who had asked her to specify the far more expensive but correct products had signed off the inferior replacements. She has as yet been unable to find out what happened to the originals.

Common practice

While he agrees with McQuay that such corner-cutting by construction firms is worryingly commonplace, to Barry Turner, head of technical policy at Local Authority Building Control, there is very little that can be done about it.

"I have no doubt that some fire doors are signed off with hardware which doesn't meet current safety standards and I have no way of either defending it or indeed proving it isn't the case."

"Your readers may well be correct in saying that there is widespread ignorance over the finer points of fire certification – and again I can't prove or disprove that claim – but it's worth stressing that it's down to the builder or developer, not the building control officer, to satisfy him or herself that the right products are being used."

// I want to be able to sleep at night without worrying that I have put people at risk or at the very least invalidated a firm's insurance."

He stresses that when it comes to specifying hardware for new-builds or refurbishments, there are many factors which may alter a specification, even if AIs are unaware of them.

"A fire door for example may have fitted on it a five-lever lock which is needed for security reasons but which on the face of it doesn't satisfy the regulations in terms of means of escape."

"Yet if this door was to be kept unlocked whenever people were present, then it may well be perfectly acceptable for building control to pass it, even though the AI supplier had no knowledge of this in advance."

Listen to professionals

To Teresa McQuay, there is a broader principle at stake here, however.

"What we recommend is frequently ignored by building control officers, even though in this company for example, we are all qualified RegAIs who have gone well beyond the usual training to ensure that our knowledge is kept fresh and up to date."

"Nobody expects individual officers to be up to speed with every single regulation in the construction industry because that would be impossible."

"But that is precisely why they need to listen to and take due note of the experts – AIs in this case – when it comes to specifying door hardware which may ultimately help protect life."

For Graham Hulland, product manager at DORMA UK, McQuay's concerns are spot-on.

"Everyone in the supply chain bears responsibility for making sure that the right products are specified in the right settings and all of us involved in the construction industry have a duty of care."

"Unfortunately though, AIs tend to be the last people on site and it's all too easy for a contractor to save money by taking the view that a door closer is a door closer and as long as there's one fitted, the finer details don't matter too much."

Would a proliferation of RegAIs improve matters, does he believe?

"I'm a RegAI myself and I think it would be good for more of us to

gain this extra layer of knowledge but simply being a GAI member can make a difference too."

"It's true that non-Guild members can supply all sorts of rubbish – as of course can the builders merchants who supply the bulk of the market and who don't have a clue how a piece of ironmongery is going to be used – but simply being part of the GAI suggests an understanding of compliance."

Hulland is concerned that contractors have too much power to change specifications at the last minute in order to "save a few bob" but believes that poor performance and poor maintenance can be as big a problem as fire or smoke-inhalation risk.

While nobody knows if incorrect door hardware played a part in recent incidents such as the fatal tower block fire which saw housing association Lewisham Homes fined £40,000 in January for failing to properly maintain fire doors, he believes that the use of inadequately-certified hardware or closers that don't shut doors properly is a potential risk to life.

McQuay quotes examples of manufacturers which have failed to pay sufficient attention to the 'declaration of performance' or DOP which AI manufacturers or importers are obliged to sign. In one case, a well-known manufacturer repeatedly despatched products containing no confirmation of the requirement for intumescent product being required as tested in a fire test. When this was pointed out, the company not only apologised but changed its certification policy.

Cost issues

Turner argues that "a piece of paper is not always necessary before perfectly acceptable work is signed off" and his stance is backed by Colin Campbell, sales manager at the manufacturer Codelocks.

"We have fire testing on some of our products and this is clearly advertised on our website and in our literature, but it's important to point out that in some cases, fire testing is not financially justifiable."

"The lack of a DOP doesn't necessarily mean that a product is

not suitable for use on a fire door however."

Hulland believes that in the vast majority of cases, architects know what to specify and do so correctly, only for their efforts to be subverted further down the chain.

"An architect can and mostly will take pains to make sure that a product is CE and fire certificated, but if the contractor involved offers a cheaper alternative, how many developers will insist on the original spec?"

"Education is always key in technical areas, but in the final analysis, it's all a case of where we believe the buck should stop." ■

// Everyone in the supply chain bears responsibility for making sure that the right products are specified in the right settings"



LOCK, STOCK & 22 SMOKING CYLINDERS

In six short years, Mario Del-Signore, has grown CES UK from start-up to a thriving business. **Nicky Roger** meets the man with a passion for product and people.

A small, inauspicious trading estate in Kent isn't the first place you'd expect to find a business that's built a reputation for high end product, impeccable service and integrity.

However, as soon as you step through the door into the lobby of CES Security Solutions you come face to face with a display of quality products that defies its modest surroundings. Products that are far more at home in the exclusive projects they are specified for, such as the Reichstag in Berlin; One Canada Square in Canary Wharf; American Express HQ in Brighton; a personal yacht with gold plating; and, most recently, one of London's most hotly-anticipated residential conversions of an iconic industrial landmark on the South Bank (you know the one).

CES UK is part of the €50m European CES Group which started life 175 years ago in Germany, and where it

still has its state-of-the-art HQ and manufacturing facility. It is the oldest cylinder manufacturer in Germany.

The UK outfit is headed up by Mario Del-Signore, who joined in 2009 to set up the UK subsidiary when CES embarked on an ambitious expansion plan, seeing it also open offices in France, Italy, the Netherlands and the Middle East.

So, in the middle of a recession in a window-less, serviced office with no staff, Mario set about growing the UK company and building its reputation for supplying high-end, commercial projects on a fast turnaround. He has grown the business 25% year on year to a £1m turnover and this year's targets are especially ambitious.

Mario says the growth has come from establishing a reputation and he says the true mark of success is that people now pronounce the firm's name correctly – SESS and not as three letters. It's clear to see why Mario was hand-picked for the job. His passion for the products and the industry is undeniable, and his integrity almost palpable. "People and projects give me a kick," he says. "I believe in trust and I hate cheap rubbish. We work closely with our AI partners helping them protect their hard work and schedules."

A flavour of success

One product that has helped CES to growth and to become synonymous with the luxury commercial market is its Flavours range. Launched last year, this is a suite of cylinders that come in a choice of 22 finishes, or flavours. Presented in a cylindrical tin set which includes the different finishes, four different CES key systems, the CES cylinder and a compact brochure, they were launched with flavored, coloured cocktails at industry events and trade shows and heavily promoted on the architect's favourite social media app, Twitter. "I saw an opportunity and I knew the market in London would love that option." He's right; London architects have lapped it up and CES UK is leading the business group with Flavours.

But Flavours wouldn't have been such a hit without CES's reputation which is built on its business system



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CES Flavours Quality Suite, vertical reversible key system, CES flexible lock system

that combines quality product with fast turnaround service. The process starts with the plating process. CES has its own in-house plating meaning that whatever finish is specified is guaranteed to be uniform and to exacting standards. "We plate our cylinders thus controlling the thickness of plating, this enables our assemblers to easily pin our cylinders and ensures that there is a smooth operation once pinned." Mario proudly hands me a CES key to allow me to feel the weight and depth of the metal. The other USP is that CES will produce cylinders to different length/offset (there is one on display that is 350mm long). And if it's an order of more than 60 it can be delivered the next day. This is vital in the UK market where the AI is often the last minute addition to a build, unlike in Germany where it's planned in virtually at groundwork stage.

The service method is split into four segments: S48 (for orders up to 60), S5 (for up to 500), legend (honouring older systems as much as 70 years old) and OEM (small cylinders such as cabinet and post box locks).

"This segmentation makes us leaner and quicker and more efficient at stock-holding," explains Mario.

And the firm will consult with a customer to ensure the right product solution is supplied. "When we calculate systems we use our own bespoke software. This enables us



// We only work with AIs – not directly to end-users and we liaise closely with our partners, helping protect their specifications."

to calculate large systems that other software cannot produce. For example, we work a lot with universities where we provide a "repeat differ" so systems work across various sites, or 30-40 different buildings."

CES produced the first masterkey system for the University of Cologne. It was dubbed the 'magic lock' because they couldn't believe one key could open so many locks.

But while product may be the hero of the story, Mario firmly believes the industry is about people. And this is one of the reasons he devotes time to the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers (IAI), as chairman. "I got involved because there was no one encouraging the youngsters and it could seem quite daunting if you were new to the industry. So I started by running the South East branch and went from there."

And Mario's passion for quality is another reason he supports the Institute – to promote the RegAI status. "It really is the best kept industry secret. It's really important to me, to have quality product on quality projects. The Institute is about people, not organisations and we need architects to be insisting on RegAIs. Then the non-believers will come round when it becomes a commercial imperative."

Mario has been instrumental in changes to the GAI CPD programme. "CPD needs to be meaningful and credible and the awarding body has a duty to promote it."

CES UK staff have all been through the Foundation in Hardware Course and one employee is a diploma holder. Brian Ferguson, national sales manager, collected a GAI Education Award last year. In Germany, where no similar qualification system exists, all the export staff undertake the Foundation.

So as chair of IAI Mario has a significant to-do list but business is also looking busy. The future holds in store two new product launches: a new commercial triple latch lock case range and a new access control range launching in June, as well as a cylinder catalogue. Looks like CES is on track to meet its aggressive growth target for 2016. ■

EASTERN PROMISE

The fantasy landscape that is Dubai is set to become even more astounding and the opportunities for AIs are many.

Nicky Roger reports on a construction oasis.

Rising out of the desert, Dubai has defied its natural environment and become a tourist mecca, the fastest-growing city in the world, with a dizzying array of ever-more ambitious, ostentatious and luxury build projects, where money is no object and the landscape no limitation.

This unprecedented construction boom is a result of the Dubai government's decision to diversify from an oil-based economy, and to put Dubai on the world tourism map. Part of Dubai Strategic Plan 2015 unveiled by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai, there are a number of multi-billion projects currently under construction or in the pipeline to add to those already created. The opportunities for overseas companies are plentiful and GAI members are involved in many of the projects.

One of the most iconic Dubai landmarks has to be the Burj Khalifa hotel and residence, the world's tallest building rising to almost 830m. The architecture, construction and design

of the hotel is complex and needed the best in the business. Created by specialists in ultra-tall structures, the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) with Adrian Smith FAIA, RIBA as consulting design Partner, the selected design was subject to an extensive peer review program to confirm the safety and effectiveness of the structural systems. Inside houses the Armani hotel, luxury residences and corporate suites. There are also Sky Lobbies, state-of-the-art fitness facilities including swimming pools open to the outside offering residents the option of swimming from inside to the outside balcony.

The interior design of Burj Khalifa public areas was also done by the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP and was led by award-winning designer Nada Andric. It features glass, stainless steel and polished dark stones, together with silver travertine flooring, Venetian stucco walls, handmade rugs and stone flooring. The interiors were inspired by local culture while staying mindful of the building's status as a global icon and residence. GAI member SIMONSWERK group provided the hinge systems. During the selection of the hinge systems, SIMONSWERK met the stringent requirements regarding design and functionality and was awarded the order for the area of the high-quality doors. SIMONSWERK's products, were also used in the Armani hotel and suite that forms part of the Burj. Leather-upholstered wooden doors with steel frames used the fully concealed hinges from its TECTUS model series.

Emaar Properties, who built the Burj, is now involved with another landmark innovative project – a new observation tower in Dubai Creek harbour. The tower will be designed

// The interiors were inspired by local culture while staying mindful of the building's status as a global icon and residence"

DAVID JONES



GUILHEM VELLUT

by engineer and architect Santiago Calatrava. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has said this new landmark will be "as great as the Burj Khalifa and the Eiffel Tower".

Joining the Burj by 2018 will be another luxury hotel with boundless architectural ambition. The \$550m Rosemont will be the first building on earth with its own rainforest: a 75,000-square-foot jungle, complete with a splash pool and cafe. The supersize terrarium will use only recycled water collected from condensation and will feature a novel artificial beach—one without sand.

The 1.1m sq ft complex centers on a pair of glass skyscrapers – a 53-storey hotel and a 55-storey apartment building on Sheik Zayed Road – atop a luxury retail space. Designed by ZAS Architects Dubai, the development will have 448 hotel rooms and 280 furnished apartments, including a 6,300 sq ft presidential pad with its own private spa, sauna, jacuzzi and swimming pool with waterfall feature. >>>

**TOP: Entrance to the Armani Hotel at the Burj Khalifa
ABOVE: Indoor hall at top of the Burj Khalifa**

» Expected to open in 2018, the resort will also have a cantilevered infinity sky pool with a glass bottom, plus a bowling alley, a nightclub and high-tech gaming entertainment.

The Rosemount is one on a long list of planned epic new projects also including floating luxury homes and a climate-controlled leisure district.

In the clear-blue waters off the coast of Dubai lies a chain of islands known as The Heart of Europe. They're a manmade reconstruction of actual European nations, just on a smaller scale – part of an even larger archipelago known as "The World." This spring The Heart of Europe will get its very first floating home – "Floating Seahorse." It'll be the first of a giant fleet of Floating Seahorses. The \$2.8m build is the product of more than 5,000 hours of research and 13,000 hours of design and engineering. More than 200 designers, engineers, and architects from 25 countries have been working to make the underwater fantasy a reality.

The first models went on sale last year and around 60 Seahorses have already been sold. The underwater portion, composed of a master bedroom and bathroom, will make up approximately 270 square feet on the interior. Just outside the walls is a 500 sq ft coral garden.

The developers says it hopes to set a new standard for what it means to live lavishly.

Work is also starting this year on the \$6.8bn Mall of the World, a mixed use, indoor climate-controlled (with retractable roof) development. A kind of pick'n'mix urban collage, the project samples bits of cities from around the world. There will be a 'celebration walk' modelled on Barcelona's Las Ramblas, a theatre district modelled on New York's Broadway, and a shopping area based on London's Oxford Street – all sealed under snaking bubble rooftops.

// Dubai [has] some fantastic building design opportunities in a highly competitive market"



There will be 20,000 hotel rooms and enough parking for 50,000 vehicles, making it the largest shopping mall in the world, at 8m sq ft. The centrepiece will be a vast 'cultural celebration centre', shaped like a disco ball sliced in half and hollowed out to form a glittering backdrop to an outdoor amphitheatre. It will lead, via an avenue lined with spear-like towers, to a retractable glass dome beneath which will sprawl the largest indoor theme park in the world.

Even arriving at the city is a luxury experience: Dubai airport is a feat of innovative architecture. The world's busiest airport has also just added

ABOVE TOP: The Rosemount Hotel with indoor rain forest

ABOVE: Dubai Airport, the busiest in the world

a further \$1.2bn concourse allowing passenger capacity to increase to 90m annually. Allegion was involved in providing security and life safety products for a working facility that addressed all the requirements of passengers, workers and visitors.

The efficiency of the security is compromised if doors do not close properly, every time. The architects were guided to the specification of the LCN 4000 series of cast iron closers – heavy duty and offering the durability of 10m cycles.

The architects selected Von Duprin panic and emergency exit hardware solutions with delayed egress features which guard against unauthorised entry to the tarmac.

Dubai management was concerned about key duplication. A patented proprietary keyway was also provided by Schlage for their mechanical access control.

World Expo 2020 represents a huge opportunity for architectural ironmongery in the Middle East. With the United Arab Emirates Government reportedly investing \$7bn on infrastructure, suppliers to the country's building trade are no doubt excited by the prospect the investment will bring.

// The Rosemount will be the first building on earth with its own rainforest: a 75,000-square-foot jungle"

The six-month long exhibition will attract millions of visitors to the region and, as a result, a huge building programme, including the venue itself (a massive 483-hectare site on the edge of Dubai) together with hotels and public transport networks is well underway.

British company Codelocks is in on the action. The digital door and locker lock supplier has recently appointed Advanced German Products (A.G.P.) as its authorised distributor for the region.

Codelocks sales manager, Colin Campbell, explains how the move will help the company increase its share of the region's access control market: "United Arab Emirates is a very attractive market area for us right now and with a such a large number of hotels being built, demand for our products is strong. We are supplying many operators in the leisure industry with our KitLock digital locker locks, and demand for door access control is also increasing. We are now working with an authorised distributor so that we can carry stock in the region to help meet this demand.

"It was important for us to find a partner with an established business

network – one with region-specific market knowledge and the necessary infrastructure in place to provide on-the-ground support. Working with A.G.P. gives us access to a team of people we can train to provide customers with sales and technical support, installation and maintenance if required.

Finding a partner or distributor is crucial for overseas companies looking for a slice of Dubai action. The UKTi in Dubai offers assistance with that. Karen Williams deputy head of UKTi Dubai, United Arab Emirates explains. "We undertake commissioned research e.g. in order to find distributors. We have a programme arranging service or we help launch products for those companies already in the market. We also now have our very own incubator – British Business Centre – for companies wanting to move to Dubai. A licence and visa is given for up to one year with hot desking facilities."

However, with the city becoming such a rich vein of business many companies are deciding to open a regional office here.

Lorient has incorporated a new group company in Dubai – Lorient Gulf Building Materials Trading LLC. For over 30 years, Lorient has been supplying the Middle East via distributors. Now, with its own direct operation it will offer a local team and extensive stocks on the ground.

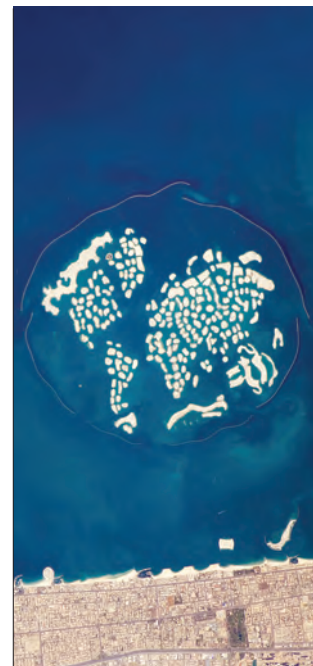
Lorient's acoustic, smoke and fire containment systems are enhancing

the performance of doors in state-of-the-art hospital Al Jalila Children's Hospital, revolutionary hotels Nikki Beach Resort & Spa, Madinat Jumeirah Hotel, Kempinski Hotel, and Viceroy Hotel, as well as world-class office-space DIFC Tower, New York University and banks.

ASSA ABLOY agrees that local stock is vital to successful business in the region. "The most important keys to success in the Middle East region are firstly, working with key local people who are the decision makers and secondly holding stock in the region so as to enable the provision of excellent customer service," says Iain MacKenzie, vice president export for ASSA ABLOY UK.

Andy Odell at Allgood says working as an ironmonger in Dubai can be a rewarding experience. "Dubai is currently among the most Westernised, tolerant, safe and visionary regions in the Middle East. You will find yourself in a cosmopolitan metropolis, with the majority of its population comprised of expats and an international diversity of some fantastic building design opportunities in a highly competitive market.

Allgood has operated in Dubai since the 1970s and has supplied hundreds of projects in that time including the World Trade Centre, Emirates Towers, DIFC Gate and most recently, the Four Seasons Dubai. The Four Seasons project in particular required a full dedicated team to run the door >>>



**ABOVE: The World man-made archipelago
BELOW: Floating island homes setting new standards of lavish living**



» hardware package. The front of house required one of the most complex specifications that Allgood has encountered in its four decades of business in Dubai. The brief was to create a hardware specification to suit the rich heritage of Dubai, whilst meeting budget and adhering to the strict Four Seasons design standards. The specification included high security master key suiting, custom made bronze lattice pull handles adorning the ballroom doors and antique brass levers handles adapted to work with the Vingcard hotel operating system.

"Grander designs are more prevalent in Dubai and there are very few restraints on buildings of historical significance or areas of natural beauty! Designing ironmongery solutions, often bespoke, for these future iconic buildings is highly gratifying," says Odell.

But he warns that Dubai is not without its challenges.

"In the UK our BS EN Standards, CE Marking and other associated codes of practice are a known entity, whereas Dubai and GCC regional authorities having jurisdiction accept dual Standards. Just when you thought you'd cracked it you find yourself learning a new language, that being ANSI/BHMA & NFPA.

"There are fundamental differences between the American and British Codes and it is not uncommon to find yourself unravelling a mixed specification containing both Standards, where knowledge is key to provide a solution acceptable to the local authorities, whilst achieving the design intent.

"There are far less ironmongery 'boots on the ground' within this relatively young region and one which locally may be considered as a niche product speciality. Most ironmongery is imported and that is where their skills bases remain. Having the ability



to assist beyond the design stages is often called upon; installation, inspection, coordination with other trades and alternative solutions etc.

"Another noticeable factor is the greater level of ironmongery schedule detailing required, subsequent to the time and costs involved of importing further materials. Like the UK, Dubai is no different in leaving consideration for our trade until the last possible moment! However, invariably we cannot pop down the road to obtain extra materials and therefore trying to prevent rework is always high on the agenda."

Daniel May, director at Consort Architectural Hardware agrees. "To work in the Middle East – especially Dubai – can be rewarding but fraught with problems. Unlike in the UK

ABOVE: Allgood had a complex spec for the Four Seasons Hotel

there are no easy ways of pursuing money such as seven-day letters and government contracts do not have rules on paying suppliers on time. This means some people take payment terms of 120 days and even sometimes sign up to back to back terms with clients.

"Other issues you encounter are a mixture of American and European practice being mixed together. If you are able to accept it will take years once you are established it is a good market."

However, May points to the many positives in the region "There is still growth in the region and some really exciting projects coming up to work on in the future. For individuals there are tax free salaries and great incentives for performance but you tend to find the working hours are far longer than those in the UK."

Jeff Bennett, commercial leader in the MEA for Allegion, has found that being an established player pays dividends. "The requirements of the Middle East are unique; it is a global market with global projects of a scale not often found in other parts of the world. To really support these projects from specification through to execution requires a big investment, a lot more co-ordination and support over a typical build."

"We overcome many construction challenges by owning our manufacturing footprint. To be able to deliver in the timelines required strings need to be pulled and it is a lot easier to pull these strings internally than rely on a third party manufacturer."

The future of Dubai appears very bright and getting in on the action – while no mean feat – promises to reap dividends. ■

For help on doing business in Dubai see www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/uk-trade-investment-united-arab-emirates

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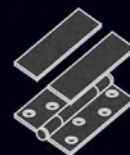
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SAFETY IN

In the wake of the Talk Talk data breach, we look at what small firms should do to protect their customer information

“SMEs can be just as vulnerable to cyber and database attack with debilitating consequences to revenue and reputation”

Irrespective of size, hacking and cybercrime is something that all businesses are susceptible to. Even giants with sophisticated systems fall prey: recently we had the TalkTalk debacle and in November 2014, Sony Pictures Entertainment had its business network attacked by a group called Guardians of the Peace, which managed to wipe the company's hard drive, email system and steal the social security details of 47,000 employees.

However, there is still a common belief among smaller businesses that data security isn't really an issue. But it isn't just large companies who are the targets of technological attacks. SMEs can be just as vulnerable to cyber and database attack with debilitating consequences to revenue and reputation. Quite often, SME employees practise lacklustre security processes

because they think in a world of big business, why would anyone want to target them? What they're failing to realise is that their smaller, more vulnerable size is exactly the appeal for data hackers.

In the past year there has been a significant increase in the amount of security breaches both in small and large companies. According to Price Waterhouse Cooper's (PwC) 2015 Information Security Breaches Survey, 90% of large organisations have had a security breach in the past 12 months (up from 81% in 2014) with 74% of small businesses reporting a breach (up from 60% the previous year). More than two thirds (69%) of large organisations and 38% of small businesses were attacked by an outsider in the past year. In total £1.46m-£3.14m is the cost of breaches to large corporations, with small businesses facing costs of £75k-£311k.

Research by global identity protection firm, CSID recently found that more than half (52%) of small firms are not taking preventative steps to guard against cyber attacks.

In addition to the most obvious consequences of direct revenue loss and reputation damage, a data breach also carries a significant opportunity cost. It is a lengthy and time-consuming process for an organisation of any size to recover from a data breach. With these considerations in mind, it seems staggering that more

MINIBUS

than two thirds of UK small businesses do not have a disaster recovery or business continuity plan in place.

Protecting your assets is quite simply a must for all businesses in the digital age, so these top tips can help ensure you are protected from illegal online activity.

Plan for disaster

Arguably the most important step for data protection: planning. It may be tempting to put it off, but those SMEs that take the time to do this will be thankful they did, should anything disastrous happen. When looking at preparation, address these key issues:

- *How long could you stand to be away from your customers?*
- *Do you have copies of key records and applications?*
- *How fast could you recover critical data? And how up-to-date would it be?*
- *What would you do if your servers went down for any period of time?*
- *How much data have you created since the last back up?*

Designate

Appoint one employee to essentially "own" data protection and disaster recovery processes and ensure they have the support they need to do this job effectively. Then, get a group together consisting of all the people with a stake in the data and look at your various options and regulations more closely. This is a great opportunity to decide which applications and data are critical, for example, e-commerce outlets, websites and email capabilities. Be realistic here, and take time to focus on what would have the biggest impact if it was lost.

Protecting your assets is quite simply a must for all businesses in the digital age"

Move your data

These days, cloud solutions are the go-to for businesses of all sizes looking to store data externally. The opportunities presented by this technology are seemingly endless – and it can also provide a viable solution for SMEs looking for ways to protect their assets.

Collect information

If there is downtime, calculate the overall cost – for employees, customers and even suppliers – which will give you a wider picture of just how much the loss of critical information will set your company back. Then, ensure this data is provided by other managers, as this will give further ammunition for your case for taking steps to protect data.

Look beyond tape

One good thing about using tape is its low cost and portable nature, not to mention the fact it is still a viable option in this day and age. However, it no longer cuts the mustard for those critical business applications

because it's too slow to recover data and leaves your business open to failure.

As an alternative, consider the following:

- **Hardware storage mirroring** – this is good for meeting recovery point objective, but expensive. It is also no good for low bandwidth in remote locations.
- **Software replication** – cheaper than hardware storage mirroring, and also simpler, making it less bandwidth hungry.

Collaboration is key

All good businesses listen to their customers, and this is no exception. Speak to members of your target audience – including vendors – and ask them to identify the services that they consider to be the most important, and what they would want recovered first.

Overall, it is essential for SMEs to have a plan in place when it comes to disaster recovery, failure to do so could lead to more than just monetary losses in the long term. ■

The government has a useful document on cybersecurity for SMEs. Download it at www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412017/BIS-15-147-small-businesses-cyber-guide-March-2015.pdf



SOUND ADVICE

In the first in a series on continuing professional development we look at acoustics in door assembly

The demands of the various Approved Documents of the Building Regulations are placing an increasing burden on door assembly, which has been fire and smoke rated for many years, but may now have to be acoustically rated too.

The door core plays a vital part in achieving the right level of acoustic performance – and they are rather like fire and smoke seals – in that they are door dependent. A very dense or moderately flexible door leaf is harder to set into vibration, therefore is a good acoustic barrier. A less dense or excessively stiff door leaf is a poor acoustic barrier. Like fire tests and smoke tests, acoustic tests are carried out with a full size door and frame assembly attached to a chamber and exposed to an ‘acoustic environment’.

In order to make easier comparisons between one door assembly and another, it has been found useful to have a single figure rating, rather than myriad different graphs or performance figures. This rating standard is BS EN ISO 717-1:2013 and contains a set of mathematical rules that weight the sound barrier performance of a door assembly, according to the more commonly encountered frequencies.

It uses the results of the BS EN ISO 10140 tests to determine a single figure performance guide – known as the Weighted Average Sound Reduction Index – and is always denoted in terms of the number of dB followed by the suffix Rw. The Rw figure doesn’t tell us

everything, but does enable a quick rule of thumb comparison of various acoustic door set performances. A typical door leaf can have a mass of only 18-22 kg/m² and can meet 29dB Rw with a good sealing system.

Approved Documents

The main reference point is Approved Document E which only applies to England. The acoustic performance contained with Approved Document E is clearly stated as minimum requirements, although they are widely interpreted as being absolute requirements. There are three main clauses to consider.

1. New build – all public and commercial buildings
2. Dwelling houses and flats with a material change of use – such as a single house being converted into apartments.
3. Rooms used for residential purposes – this particular section is extremely wide ranging and includes care homes, student accommodation and hotels, or any other buildings where sleeping people lie. However hospitals are exempt.

Approved Document E Clauses 2.26/4.20/6.6 states: “Ensure that any door has good perimeter sealing (including the threshold where practical) and a minimum mass per unit area of 25kg/m² or a minimum sound reduction index of 29dB_{Rw}...”

This paragraph is critical. However the recommendation neglects to tell us what a good sealing system is. It also neglects to

detail that it is impossible to achieve a credible acoustic performance without sealing the threshold. And the use of a door leaf with a minimum 25kg/m² is also no guarantee of an acceptable acoustic performance – particularly if the threshold isn’t sealed. Also, the statements 25kg/m² or 29dB RW are not equivalents as implied, in practice it is neither either/or.

“Noisy parts of the building should preferably have a lobby, double door or high performance doorset to contain the noise. Where this is not possible nearby flats should have similar protection.”

By double doors they mean two doors in a series to reduce the sound transmission and NOT two doors side by side.

Approved Document M details the recommended opening and closing forces clearly, which makes the selection of the door closer and its adjustment absolutely critical. >>>

TESTS

Various standards exist on door acoustics:

BS EN ISO 10140-1:2010 Acoustics – Laboratory measurement of sound insulation of building elements:

PART 1: Application rules for specific products.

PART 2: Measurement of airborne sound insulation.

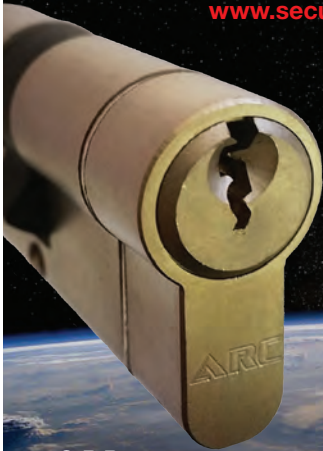
PART 3: Measurement of impact sound insulation.

PART 4: Measurement procedures and requirements.

PART 5: Requirements for test facilities and equipment.

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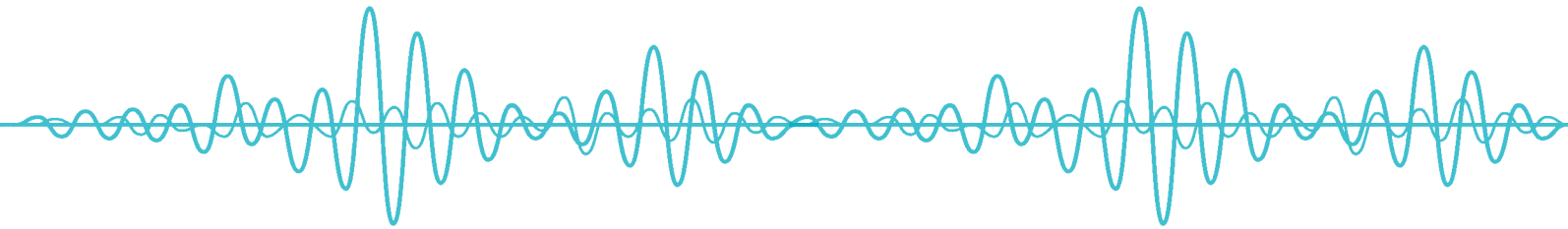
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»»» And therefore the careful selection of the perimeter seal is vital in order to reduce the potential friction that the door closer encounters in the final moments of latching the door shut – as friction must be eliminated or at least minimised, at all costs

Approved Document E also covers acoustic conditions in schools: “Each room or other space in a school building shall have the acoustic conditions and the insulation against disturbance by noise appropriate to its normal use.”

Section 8 of Approved Document E recognises Building Bulletin 93, “The Acoustic Design of Schools”, as the normal way of meeting requirement E4.

“Performance standards for airborne sound insulation between circulation spaces and other spaces used by students: Minimum sound reduction index R_w :

- All spaces except music rooms = 30dB R_w
- Music rooms = 35dB R_w

This now means, for example, that a classroom which leads onto an escape corridor will now have to be an FD30S, with a 30dB R_w .

Interpretation of test reports

When we look at an acoustic report or brochure from a door manufacturer we need to be aware of certain things:

- Door factors
- Kind of door used
- Full-size, operational door assembly
- Type of door construction
- Door thickness
- Configuration – single leaf, double leaf
- Glazing used
- Seal factors
- Door perimeter sealing
- Threshold sealing
- Glazing seal

Many acoustic tests are carried out on fully-caulked doors that have been rendered inoperable as the air gaps around the perimeter are filled with a dense putty.

Alternatively the tests may be carried out on assemblies which are tightly wedged shut using sealing systems which are over compressed in order to maximise the results – but again the door is inoperable.

Similarly seal manufacturers may resort to practises which artificially enhance the performance of their products, such as undersized or over compressed and otherwise inoperable seals.

What makes a good acoustic door?

For a general purpose door i.e. the 29dB R_w , the doors will be mainly solid core, minimum 44mm thick. By solid core we mean, laminated timber, particle board or extruded particle

board. Paper honeycomb cores are not able to give us the required acoustic performance.

For typical FD30 fire doors, the density and stiffness will not vary enough to make a significant difference in performance.

A good sealing system should achieve performance in the region of 31–35dB R_w . Higher performance needs a specialist door leaf. A good sealing system should come as close as possible to this theoretical maximum performance – without impeding its operation.

The hinge will not stop sound waves passing through, acting as straight through air gaps. In order to optimise the acoustic performance, the perimeter seals must be continuous and uninterrupted at the ironmongery positions i.e. the hinges on one side of the door leaf and the lock/latch on the opposite side.

Threshold seals are less well understood yet are absolutely essential for effective acoustic performance – because without one the required 29dB R_w , is not achievable.

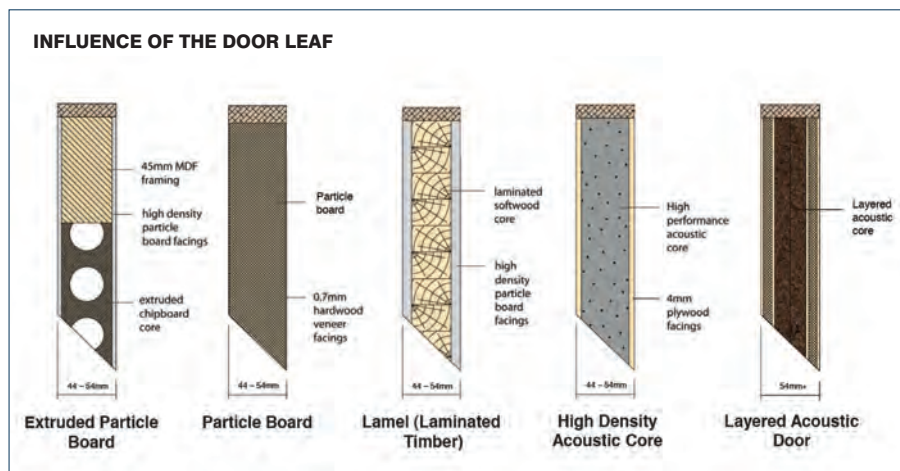
We need to be aware that the results obtained in the clinical environment of the lab may well be higher than those achieved when the doorset is fitted on site and therefore we should be aiming for an acoustic rating of 1-2 dB higher than required.

The one-off exposure to the BS EN ISO 10140-2:2010 test tells us nothing about the serviceability or the long term performance of the seal. Two schemes exist for smoke seals and can be used as benchmarks for serviceability and durability: Certifire and the British Board of Agreement scheme.

Conclusion

Document E places responsibility on the specifier to look for existing proven solutions to meet and exceed the requirements. A professional sealing system will deliver acoustic, smoke and fire performance with low friction and exceptional durability. ■

Many thanks to Dunstan Ferris and Doug Law of Lorient for their invaluable help in creating this article.



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BIM GOES BOOM

BIM becomes mandatory on public sector projects from April. Are you ready?

A new GAI guide gives GAI members the lowdown on BIM.

Douglas Masterson reports

The GAI has released its largest ever technical briefing in a bid to ensure its members are ready for the impact of mandatory BIM (Building Information Modelling) to Level 2 on public sector projects from April 2016.

The *GAI Guide to BIM* is an introductory guide for the ironmongery industry. It explores the definition of what BIM is, looks at how it works and also what is driving its implementation. It answers some of the most commonly-asked questions on BIM in our industry, as well as providing relevant reference material for further research.

The following article is a brief summary of the key points featured in this guide which can be downloaded from the technical section of the GAI website.

WHAT IS BIM?

BIM is the process of creating a rich, digital, computer model of a building project that can be used to design, fully analyse, build, manage, maintain, refurbish and even demolish that building. BIM refers to the creation and use of co-ordinated, internally consistent, computable information about a building project for design, construction and use. As a model its purpose is to co-ordinate data and drawings between disciplines in a 3D environment, and seek to bring order from information chaos.

// As a model its purpose is to co-ordinate data and drawings between disciplines in a 3D environment, and seek to bring order from information chaos"

BIM is effectively the digitisation of construction as it takes many separate systems to one defined location and allows the data to be structured in such a way that it can be easily searched.

WHAT IS IT NOT?

- A 3D CAD drawing. Whilst BIM does utilise 3D models, CAD does not give detail on the application or the information behind it.
- A computer system, a technology application or simply a type of software. BIM is a process for building a model which uses software as a tool.
- The future. Many projects have already been built and are currently being built using BIM.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN BUILDING BLOCKS?

- **Software.** BIM software is different from normal 3D software because it can differentiate between building elements and store a great deal of information about them. Some of the most popular drawing tools are: Nemetscheck Vectorworks, Autodesk Revit and Graphisoft Archicad.
- **BIM objects.** BIM models are created from a series of objects. If the object is changed, these changes will appear throughout the model. This makes models automatically consistent and reduces errors. BIM objects can be created through the likes of NBS national BIM library or BIMstore. These can be downloaded directly in to the BIM software system.
- **Product data templates (PDTs).** These are templates which help generate information about a manufacturer's product. From this template a product data sheet (PDS) is produced which can be made available by the manufacturer to anyone who requires it. The GAI, working closely with BIM4M2, has established a working party to create a number of PDTs for the most relevant products in the ironmongery industry.
- **3D model output.** Whilst 3D modelling is only a part of the process of BIM it is a key ingredient and the ability to virtually walk through a building in its 3D format is a huge benefit.
- **Output of information.** Another output is the information the BIM software provides. Industry standards are COBIE (construction industries building information exchange)

and IFC (industry foundation class). This information is provided in an excel-type spreadsheet of information required by the clients during the design stage and throughout the use of the building.

WHAT IS LEVEL 2 BIM?

● **Level 2 BIM** is a system of collaborative working with all parties using their own 3D CAD models, but not necessarily working on a single, shared model. The collaboration comes in the form of how the information is exchanged between different parties and this is the crucial aspect of this level. Other levels include Levels 0, 1 and 3. Level 3 BIM represents full collaboration between all disciplines by means of using a single, shared project model which is held in a centralised repository.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN DRIVERS?

● **UK Government mandate.** Level 2 BIM will be compulsory on all UK Government public sector projects from April 2016, as announced in The Government Construction Strategy which was published on 31 May 2011. The intention of the strategy was to reduce the cost of public sector construction by up to 20%.

● **Market driven.** Many main contractors are already utilising BIM to level 2 on private sector work, largely due to demand for this level of detail from the building owner/client.

● **International.** The first International BIM Survey, carried out by NBS and international partners, has showed that UK consultants who do not adopt BIM could struggle to secure overseas work.

PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES

These include:

- **Clash detection** as the architect will be able to design these out at an early stage.
- **Time savings** for example the designer

will no longer spend time retyping the data from a 2D CAD model into Microsoft Excel to produce different schedules.

● **Facilities Management.** Any items needing maintenance can easily be identified and either repaired or sourced and replaced.

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES?

● **Learning.** There is a steep learning curve.

● **Finance.** There will be an initial outlay to invest in software and training for architects, contractors and other stakeholders. Also the cost of creation of a full 3D BIM object for manufacturers can be substantial.

● **Productivity of staff.** This can reduce for the first few months when using new software and new systems of working.

WHAT IS THE GAI'S ADVICE ON BIM?

Communicate. You should talk to all relevant people and see what their BIM requirement is and always remember that it is the customer you need to satisfy.

Look at how you present your data. If nothing else consider how to provide your data to your customers and look at how well it is structured.

Think 'BIM'. You know your business, your routes to market and your customer base – what do they want from you with regards to BIM?

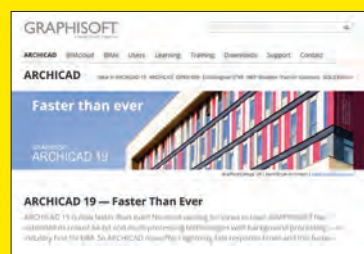
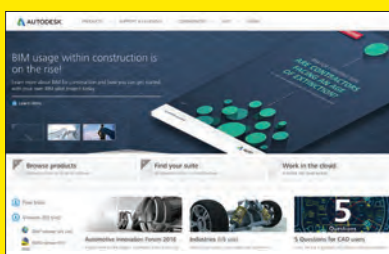
Educate. Consider the training needs and requirements of your staff on BIM.

Get started now. It's not too late to get started but the April 2016 deadline for Level 2 BIM adoption on all public sector products is imminent. Don't be left behind!

Spend your time before you spend your money. There is a large amount of information available so research it thoroughly, to avoid investing heavily and potentially unnecessarily on expensive BIM objects. You may only need to invest time in creating Product Data Sheets. ■

// Spend your time before you spend your money. There is a large amount of information available so research it thoroughly"

Below: some examples of the most popular BIM software but research your needs before you invest your money



NEW PRODUCTS »



DORMA HSW EASY SAFE GLASS WALL OPENS UP NEW DESIGN POSSIBILITIES

DORMA UK has launched HSW EASY Safe, the latest addition to its horizontal sliding wall and glass partition range.

HSW EASY Safe, the horizontal sliding wall system with frameless doors offers easy planning and installation which are ideal as

store fronts in shopping malls or in airports or for internal winter gardens in residential apartments.

In addition to using Toughened Safety Glass (TSG) panels, DORMA's new Clamp & Glue Technology provides the option to use Laminated Safety Glass (LSG). This solution reduces the danger of glass breakage while introducing all the functional and customization advantages of the different intermediate film types now available in LSG.

A wide range of finishes and functional options is available and the modular track system allows

for a variety of configurations to meet specific design or layout requirements. The open panels can be stacked in parallel with, or at ninety degrees to the frontage and parked in view or concealed in niches or behind columns. Single or double doors for access through the closed frontage can either be installed as pivoting end panels or integrated into the sliding panels.

HSW EASY Safe features secure and convenient locking devices at the top and bottom of each panel, while a cylinder lock secures the whole assembly. On pivoting or sliding panels, a new indicator shows the status of the top locking device. Green indicates the panel is enabled to slide or pivot while red on the indicator shows the panel is locked. The locks located at the bottom, which couple the panels together or secure their position on the floor, can be foot operated. The new 3-in-1 Multilock can be fitted in three ways to meet the requirements of the project.

Double brush seals are built into the top door rails as standard. To achieve a better draft exclusion performance, full height vertical brush seals and seals on the bottom rail are available as an option.

» For more information please visit www.dorma.com or follow @DORMAUK



ASSA ABLOY LAUNCHES NEW FLOOR SPRING DOOR CLOSERS

ASSA ABLOY UK has launched a comprehensive range of floor spring door closers.

The new Cam-Motion® floor springs are floor-mounted for uncluttered look and are suitable for both fire and non-fire rated timber, metal and glass doors and are configurable for single or double action applications.

The Cam-Motion® technology ensures the requirements of BS8300 (low opening forces) are met to aid designers or building owners in meeting the requirements of The Equality Act 2010 and Approved Document M of the Building Regulations.

The range includes three models: the DC450 that provides EN4 fixed power size and is suitable for a 40mm slab, the DC477 that offers EN2-4 variable power and the DC475, which offers EN3-6 variable power.

Differing installation depths, can all be configured from the same unit. Back-check and CE Marking to EN1154 is also standard across the range.

All models share a platform of accessories: varying spindle heights, top and bottom pivot sets and cover plate finishes.

All parts can be individually tailored or bought as a complete kit.

» www.assaabloy.co.uk/Door-closers

GEZE UK IS 'THE AUTOMATIC CHOICE'

GEZE UK has published a new technical guide to provide contractors, fabricators and architects with the information they need to specify the most appropriate and effective automatic operator.

The Automatic Choice brochure encompasses GEZE's extensive range of sliding, swing, revolving and folding doors including the latest Powerturn swing door drive and the Slimdrive range. This is supported by information and advice about how to specify the right products taking into account accessibility requirements, sustainability and regulations.

» The Automatic Choice brochure is available to download from GEZE's website or call 01543 443015 or email info.uk@geze.com



NEW BRITON HANDLES ACHIEVE HIGHEST EN 1906 GRADE

Specialist security manufacturer, Allegion, has introduced the Briton 4700 Series to its range of door furniture and accessories, including lever handles that have achieved EN 1906 Grade 4 and are suitable for high-frequency areas where long-lasting performance is essential.

Featuring a high-quality and high-specification selection of

Grade 4 handles, as well as pull handles and complementary accessories in stainless steel, the lever furniture uses a unique fixing method that provides a firm, positive and highly durable installation.

Facilities managers can be confident that the hardware meets the requirements of BS 8300 and has been successfully tested to 90 minutes on timber doors and four hours on steel doors. The hardware additionally comes with a 10-year guarantee, for peace of mind.

The Briton 4700 Series includes lever and pull handles, plus accessories such as kick plates, push and pull plates, symbols and signage, flush bolts, door stops and hooks.

» Contact the Allegion Customer Care Team on 01922 707400 or visit the website at www.allegion.co.uk to learn more.

INTRODUCING DORMA'S MUNDUS PATCH FITTINGS

DORMA has launched its new range of MUNDUS patch fittings. With a variety of colours and materials to suit a range of contemporary interior design schemes, the fittings feature upgraded trims to ensure no visible fixings for an elegant frameless glass solution for doors and other structures.

The shape of the MUNDUS fittings consists of clearly defined edges, which blend into radiused corners. This is complemented by the addition of a dark trim, between the patch fitting and the glass – obscuring any visible fixings, which could interfere with a seamless and minimalist design scheme.

MUNDUS fittings are available with a choice of cover finishes including satin and polished stainless steel, aluminium and a number of new colour finishes aligned to current trends in interior design.

Suitable for different glass thicknesses ranging from 8mm to 22mm and door panel weights of up to 200kg, DORMA MUNDUS fittings allow the easy creation for 24 standard types of toughened-glass assembly and customized solutions. The flexibility of the fittings also allows for retrofitting to existing installations.

If Laminated Safety Glass (LSG) is a requirement, installation is simple due to DORMA's established Clamp & Glue Technology. The adhesive cures in a few minutes – leaving the glass held firmly in place.

» For further information on see www.dorma.com or follow @DORMAUK



DOOR CLOSER COVERS NOW AVAILABLE IN NEW FINISHES

ASSA ABLOY UK has launched a new range of finishes for its closer covers that can be tailored to suit specific project requirements.

The new door closer covers are available in a variety of finishes including stainless steel, polished stainless steel, brass and bronze and can be customised with a company's branding, with a small additional cost.

The covers can be used in conjunction with ASSA ABLOY's full range of variable rack and pinion and cam action door closers. For additional aesthetic appeal, the covers perfectly match the plating of the door closer arms

and guide rails and also have a 320-grit finish to reduce the appearance of scratches.

ASSA ABLOY UK has recently brought a number of new high performance door closers to the market and has developed these finishes to ensure that the door closers look as good as they perform and give customers the option to tailor the look to suit a project, building design ethos or statement.

» For further information, visit www.assaabloy.co.uk/ Door-closers



SIMONSWERK EXTENDS HARDWARE RANGE

SIMONSWERK UK has introduced a comprehensive range of solid brass edge pulls. With a simple, modern design these new edge pulls are ideal for use on drawers, cabinets and various door types and will complement any style of furniture and room.

The edge pull series is suitable for 18mm and 44mm+ profiles and is available in standard or bespoke lengths in a wide choice of finishes including an abrasion and tarnish resistant PVD.

Edge pulls are the latest addition to an already extensive selection of SIMONSWERK hardware products which include door stops, letter plates and flush bolts.

» For further information email sales@simonswerk.co.uk or visit www.simonswerk.co.uk

HINGE APPEAL - PHOENIX COVER PLATE HINGES

Master hinge makers Cooke Brothers now offers a choice of cover plated options in its popular range of 7700 series of 304 and 316 grade stainless steel, fully-concealed bearing, high performance architectural hinges.

The positively located stainless steel cover plate has been specifically designed to enhance the overall aesthetic appearance of the doorset, whilst improving the hygienic impact of the hinge by acting as an effective barrier against the potential build up of dust and dirt typically associated with visible screw heads.

The highly specified 7700 range of fully concealed bearing hinges are CE marked, Certifire

approved and tested to BS EN 1935, grade 14. Independently tested to one million cycles, the low friction, integrated high performance bearings have been designed to provide maintenance free performance with a 25-year manufacturer's guarantee.

» For more information about the 7700 cover plate range or to request the latest literature contact visit www.cookebrothers.co.uk





JOBGING ROBOT?

A team of Swiss scientists and architects has created a bricklaying robot capable of working on a construction site. The In-situ Fabricator has been developed by the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) in Zürich.

The robot is made up of an articulated arm moved around by caterpillar tracks. It is controlled by two computers, one of which handles bricklaying and another that moves the unit around the

Robots have been used in car manufacturing for decades but could they be employed as trades in future building projects?

ABOVE: The robot brickie
BELOW: Formwork mesh created by a robot

site and uses information from a laser rangefinder and computer algorithms to build up a 3D map of its surroundings. It can follow a plan and deal with obstacles in its path.

Matthias Kohler, an architect who is also the director of the centre, said the robot was attractive to architects because it created a more direct link between the design and the finished building.

He said: "The benefit from an architectural point of view is that you can really design the construction directly, so you can plan for how it is built instead of designing your plan and then that plan afterwards being

converted on the construction site. So it actually changes the paradigm of how you design and build quite fundamentally."

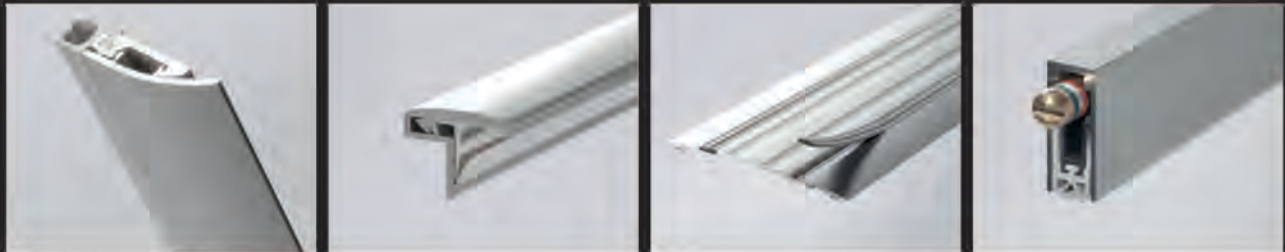
Will it put human bricklayers out of business? "I think this will become a game-changer in construction," he says. "I think that in the next five to 10 years we are going to see mobile robots on the construction site, but they're not going to replace humans. They'll actually collaborate with humans, so the best of each kind of skills come together."

As well as the autonomous robot, the NCCR is working on a range of construction-related projects, including robots that can fit together rubble to make a free-standing structure, and another called "Mesh Mould" (pictured left), in which robots use 3D printing to form reinforcement meshes that can be filled with concrete, eliminating the need for formwork. ■



// I think that in the next five to 10 years we are going to see mobile robots on the construction site

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EASY TO INSTALL
EASY TO ADJUST

MUNDUS glass patch fittings for easy and smooth adjustability. Even when mounted.



Unique and inspiring design combined with simple, fast installation. Thanks to the variable, multi-dimensional adjustability of the patch fittings, the door can be optimally aligned - even after installation.

Adjustable for different glass thicknesses without the use of different gaskets - all that is required is the adjustment of two screws.



MUNDUS can also be retrofitted to existing installations by simply replacing the patch fittings. It is particularly suitable as a retrofit solution as it is able to cover the most common glass cut-outs used around the world.