



architectural  
ironmongery  
journal

no.152 issue 1 2014

*advancing architectural ironmongery*



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**TECHNICAL**

Questions & Answers on  
Escape Doors  
CE Marking





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**S**pring has sprung and it seems that the sap is rising in the AI trade. Awards for some of the brightest stars at the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers AGM. Reports of more promising business prospects from AIs across the board. And encouraging take up of the new GAI Foundation in Hardware module. One of the latest people to gain their certificate is yours truly and it was certainly very enlightening for a non-techie such as myself. I'd highly recommend it for anyone who wants a speedy but comprehensive introduction to hardware. Read how I fared on page 18.

The Chancellor's recent budget also had some cause for optimism for AIs with the announcement of plans to build homes in the south east which could "unlock the construction of up to 11,000 new homes". Plus, data published by the ONS shows that construction output in January rose 1.8% compared with December while new orders for the final quarter of 2013 rose 1.5% compared to the third quarter. Perhaps the green shoots of spring have finally made it through.



*Helen Curry*

no.152 issue 1 2014

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# industry news

*Allegion unveiled...KCC wins major contract...HOPPE (UK) 25th anniversary*

## MAJOR QATAR WINS FOR KCC

Dublin-based KCC Architectural has announced a multiple contract win with three prestigious projects in Doha. The company has been appointed to supply door hardware and access control solutions to the Kempinski Hotel, Lusail Multi-Purpose Sports Hall and the Al Sadd Sports Stadium. The announcement was made during the Enterprise Ireland Trade and Investment Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE.

The wins follow two other high-profile projects in Doha that have recently been completed for Qatar Airways Crew Accommodation Village and the Aspetar Hospital.

According to KCC Architectural Managing Director Chris Kilpatrick, "We anticipate that these projects will have a very positive impact on our order bank for 2014, leading to the employment of more staff in the Middle East, as well as in our Dublin office. It will also give us a strong platform to expand into other Middle Eastern markets."

He continued, "we opened our office in Doha in November 2011 and received our first order for the prestigious Qatar Airways Crew Accommodation Village in 2012. Since then we have won numerous projects and we are looking forward to building on our success in 2014 and beyond." KCC Architectural expects to open additional Middle East locations in Dubai, UAE and Oman during 2014.



Left to right KCC Managing Director Chris Kilpatrick, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, and KCC Middle East Regional Manager Jamil Mikhael



## ALLEGION UNVEILED

Allegion has been unveiled as the new name for Ingersoll Rand's Security Technologies division following the spinoff from its parent company.

The new company, with headquarters in Ireland, has a substantial presence in the UK, with a portfolio of well-known brands, such as Briton, Dor-O-Matic, Martin Roberts, CISA, Interflex, Normbau, Randi and Schlage.

Allegion's UK business will continue to be based at its head office in Walsall in the West Midlands, which employs more than 270 staff to service and support the UK market. Other than the name change the company has made no changes to its normal account management structure or the regular sales contacts for its customers.

Allegion, which will be a stand-alone company focused solely on security technologies, will operate in more than 120 countries around the world and has revenues of \$2 billion per year.

Mark Hoskins, Vice President Sales at Allegion, commented: "Allegion is a new name, but the company has a long heritage in manufacturing and supplying state-of-the-art security products and solutions into the UK market. Our technical expertise remains, and the message to customers is very much business as usual."

He continued: "We are confident that our customers in the UK will quickly come to recognise and trust the Allegion name and that it will become synonymous with commercial and residential security."

## HOPPE UK IS 25 YEARS YOUNG

When HOPPE was established 25 years ago, Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister and a pint of beer cost less than a pound. While lots of things might have changed, some things remain the same: HOPPE's commitment to quality and innovation.

"It's no mean feat to hit 25 years of successful trading, especially in a sector renowned for commodity focused suppliers and short lived importers of product that are just looking for short term volume regardless of sustainable growth and quality," said HOPPE's Andy Matthews. "In contrast, as a solid European manufacturer with 60 years' experience, HOPPE is well placed to continue to offer new designs and innovations across a range of materials and product ranges."

HOPPE (UK) celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with a customer day that was rounded off with a trip to Uttoxeter races. The company took the opportunity to look towards the future with news of new product launches and investment in facilities, staff and products.



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# industry news

*Richard Cullum obituary...  
Helen Curry reports from Ecobuild*



## ACORN ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY ANNOUNCES THE DEATH OF RICHARD CULLUM

Richard started in the ironmongery trade in 1981 when he joined Laidlaw. From there he moved to KCC before starting his own company - Acorn Architectural Ironmongery Ltd in 2002 with son Mark. Richard was very well known in the trade and a keen supporter of the GAI. In fact, he was Silver Medal Winner when he completed his GAI Diploma in the mid 80s. "Richard was very proud of his Silver medal and was always reminding staff and customers. He was also very well thought of throughout the industry and was very passionate and proud of starting up his own company in 2002" says his son Mark.



## SHOW TIME

If attendance at an exhibition can be seen as the barometer of anything, then optimism in the building trade is growing if this year's Ecobuild exhibition in London is anything to go by. Helen Curry visited to find out more.

I visited the exhibition, at London's Excel Centre for two days (4-6 March) and the first thing I noticed was the volume of visitors and the buzz around the place. It's not exactly as though the recession never happened, but the atmosphere was considerably more upbeat than in previous years. The organisers say that 44,538 people came through the doors – a 3% increase on last year. It certainly felt busier and more vibrant.

As well as the usual exhibition space with lots of very high tech stands, Ecobuild prides itself on its seminars, lectures and its place in shaping green construction policy. For instance, at Ecobuild this year, Ed Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, launched the government's consultation on the future of the Energy Company Obligation and Greg Barker MP announced a £19 million boost for the Green Deal as it awarded funding for six community based retrofit programmes.

While the EcoBuild exhibitors list boasts an impressive roll call of some of the construction industry's biggest names - Skanska, Balfour Beatty, Saint-Gobain, Baxi, Worcester Bosch, Mitsubishi and Travis Perkins for instance – names from the AI industry were sadly thin on the ground.

A notable exception was Assa Abloy Security Solutions' who used Ecobuild to launch nine BIM doorset objects (and a range of CPD offerings). Tina Hughan, Head of Marketing for ASSA ABLOY UK, said: "This is now the third consecutive year that we have exhibited at Ecobuild. It attracts the largest gathering of architects and specifiers in the UK, so naturally it is an important exhibition for ASSA ABLOY Security Solutions. In my opinion this year's show was the best to date. It was a great opportunity to showcase the steps we are taking towards a greener building future, including our new product families and to see the entire spectrum of sustainable construction products for new build and refurbishment projects."

It remains to be seen if next year's show (3-5 March 2015) will attract more interest from the AI sector.

A collage of various Briton door hardware products, including floor springs, digital locks, and door handles, arranged in a grid pattern. The text "More great Briton products" is overlaid on the top left, and "Floor springs and digital locks" is overlaid on the bottom left.

## Floor springs and digital locks

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## Briton 9260 Digital lock

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# ALLEGION™

# gai matters

Our regular roundup of the latest news, views and developments within the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers

## aijdiary dates

### ON NOW

#### ☛ The Brits Who Built the Modern World, 1950 – 2012

Date: 13 Feb. - 27 May 2014

Venue: The Architecture Gallery, 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

Description: Inspired by the BBC series the 'Brits Who Built the Modern World' this exhibition explores what and where the British built and the reasons behind architecture's dramatic transformation in the post war years. Through the work of a definitive generation of architects and other key players, it charts the projects and influences that put British architecture on the world map.

### April 2014

#### ☛ Ecoshowcase - Newcastle

Date: Apr 29, 2014

Venue: St James' Park, Newcastle

Description: Regional exhibitions of sustainable products and solutions for the entire construction process, from the ground up, combined with authoritative educational seminars, focusing on key sustainability issues, government directives and legislation

### May 2014

#### ☛ GAI AGM & Conference 2014

Date: Saturday 17th May

Venue: The Belfry Hotel

Description: The key gathering in the architectural ironmongery sector calendar, bringing together all of the industry's key movers and shakers from both the manufacturing and distribution sides of the business.



## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT MARKS GAI SUCCESS

The GAI has unveiled its plans for its annual conference in May, the culmination of a successful and rewarding year for the Guild as the voice of the whole architectural ironmongery sector. The conference will have a theme of Shaping Our Future and will take place on Saturday 17 May at the stunning Belfry hotel in the West Midlands.

The conference is the key gathering in the architectural ironmongery sector calendar, bringing together all of the industry's key movers and shakers from both the manufacturing and distribution sides of the business. The GAI's AGM forms the first part of proceedings and this will be followed by a programme of speakers and networking opportunities.

"The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers is the voice of the industry – the only body which truly speaks for the whole trade – manufacturer and distributors, individuals and companies," comments Gary Amer, the GAI's Chief Executive. "Our conference is an excellent opportunity for members to hear about the latest developments in the industry and the GAI, and meet colleagues, customers, and friends old and new in a relaxed setting."

## BUILDING FROM THE FOUNDATIONS

The GAI's new Foundation in Hardware module is now fully up and running and the first success stories are beginning to roll in. The new module is a one-stop introduction to door hardware that will help raise knowledge and standards amongst many trades in the building industry and is the perfect "taster" for those new to the trade or who do not require an in-depth understanding of door hardware. It is perfect for builders merchants, locksmiths, office support staff at architectural ironmongers or anyone who simply wants to gain a firm basic knowledge about door hardware.

The first company to sign up a student for the GAI Foundation in Hardware module was East Anglian ironmongers AC Leigh. "When we took on a new external specification representative with no experience at all of this trade, we saw straight away that the GAI Foundation module would make a perfect grounding for him," says AC Leigh MD Leon Buxton. "He will be doing the GAI Diploma but this was a quick and straightforward way to give him a good overview of the products and concepts involved in door hardware." The tactic certainly worked as, from a standing start the AC Leigh candidate, Perry Philpott passed the exam with an impressive 85% mark. AC Leigh supplies ironmongery across the region from its network of branches and has a strong commitment to training. "Well-trained staff are key to our business and we certainly think the Foundation Module is a useful addition to our training portfolio."

First past the post to pass the exam was Louise Mallard at Willenhall-based Croft Architectural Hardware. Croft designs and manufactures a wide range of door hardware and interior fittings, many of them by hand. Louise works in the company's production team as a Production Administrator.

**To be part of the Foundation Module success story, you can find out more and sign up at [www.thebuildingacademy.com/GAI](http://www.thebuildingacademy.com/GAI)**





# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CERTIFICATED FIRE DOOR INSPECTOR

The Fire Door Inspection Scheme (FDIS) is now operating across the UK with Certificated Inspectors out and about conducting inspections which not only make public spaces safer, but also generate extra revenue for their businesses. We talked to Neil Heather, a Surveyor at Doorcare South West to find out what his job entails.



"Our clients are across the South West. As property managers become more aware of their responsibilities regarding fire doors, we are being inundated with requests for inspections. A typical day will see me head off from home early so I can hit the A38 to beat the rush to the M5, the main route into and out of Devon.

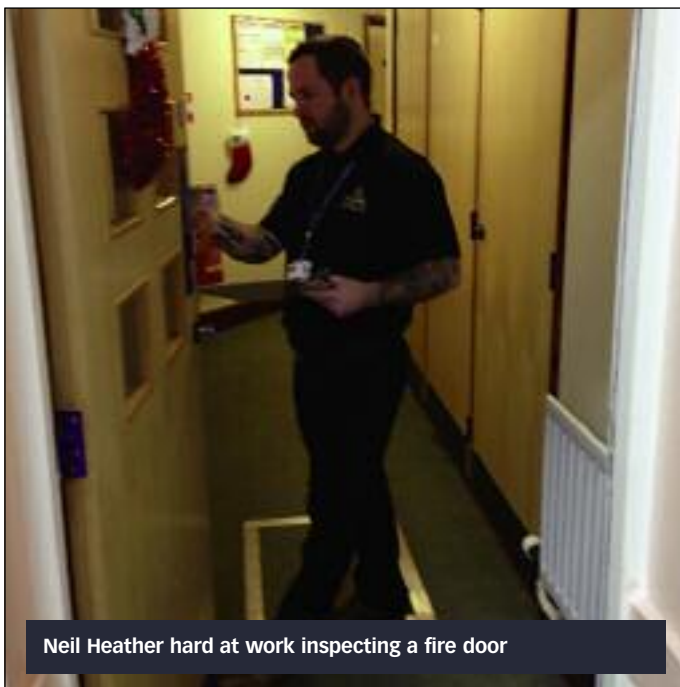
Whenever I am going to conduct a fire door inspection, I visit the premises the day before so that I can familiarise myself with the site. I also use this as an opportunity to collect documentation I might need such as fire drawings, fire risk assessments and anything else that the estates manager or fire officer thinks I will find useful.

This means that when I arrive I am well acquainted with what I am going to be faced with and the scale of the task. Inspections are thorough and typically take 15 to 20 minutes per fire door. So as soon I get to the premises I can crack on with my trusty clipboard in hand so that I can make notes about each door ready to prepare a report for the client that will cover what I found together with any points that require clarification from the Responsible Person and a summary of any issues I have identified.

This process is going to be made much more efficient very soon, when I receive training on how to record information using the FDIS online forms. This will see my clipboard relegated and a shiny new iPad come to the rescue which will mean I don't have to spend time deciphering my handwriting and creating forms on my laptop and clients will receive their reports much more quickly.

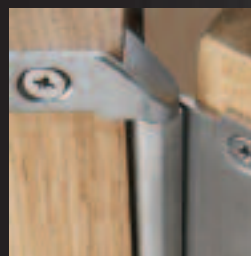
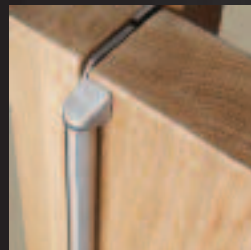
I am really enjoying the new challenges that becoming the company's resident fire door expert are bringing. This is a whole new side of the business for us and it's really taking off amazingly quickly. In fact it's quite likely that we will be looking to recruit others to join the fire door inspection team if things continue to be so busy - which has to be a good thing."

Anyone considering with the idea of becoming a Certificated Fire Door Inspector can find out more at [www.fdis.co.uk/latest-news/advice-for-would-be-certificated-inspectors](http://www.fdis.co.uk/latest-news/advice-for-would-be-certificated-inspectors)



Neil Heather hard at work inspecting a fire door

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# gai matters

*Our regular roundup of the latest news, views and developments within the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers*

The **GAI staff** at HO are ably assisted by four committees; **Marketing, Technical, Education and Institute**, manned by volunteers that crunch through much of the policy, strategy and tactics of the GAI's activities. In each issue we highlight one of those **committees' work**; this time it's the turn of the **Technical Committee**.

## MAKING TECHNICAL MAKE SENSE

Architectural Ironmongery must be one of the sectors most bound by legislation, regulation and guidelines. The fire safety, security, and accessibility of a building hinges on the hardware. That perhaps explains why the work of the GAI Technical Committee is so vital.

Chaired by Paul Duggan, Certification Manager at Exova Warrington Certfire, it meets four times a year to set policy and strategy for the GAI's programme of informing and educating its members about changes in standards and legislation and policy and strategy in implementing them in their day-to-day business dealings.

This effort starts from a position of knowledge with many members sitting on the key committees and bodies which set the legislation, working hard to build and improve the standards for door hardware. In fact, Paul Duggan himself is Convener of TC33 WG4. TC33 is the CEN Technical Committee with responsibility for the production of product standards for hardware, doors and windows. Working Group 4 of TC33 is specifically responsible for hardware. "We are very active at all levels in European standard committees, helping to shape future policy and influence standards which will be used in the UK," says Paul Duggan. "We have to be at the table to ensure that these standards work for the UK industry."

And the price for failing to do so is clear, as expressed by long-time Technical Committee member and former Convenor Graham Shirville. "It is clear why the GAI wanted to get involved in shaping legislation - a genuine fear of what would happen if there was no direct British involvement. It seemed likely that the standards could have been based on the lowest common denominator; this would have allowed low quality products into the market - with the resultant safety risks for the user not to mention the financial risks for the industry."

Keeping GAI members up-to-date with the latest technical developments is, of course, the key task of the Technical Committee as it provides direction to the Marketing Committee and the team at Head Office.



**// We are very active at all levels in European Standards committees, helping to shape future policy and influence standards which will be used in the UK. We have to be at the table to ensure that these work for the industry. //**

There are ten members of the Technical Committee at any one time alongside GAI Chief Executive, Gary Amer, and the organisation's Technical Consultant, Jacky Sinclair. This team oversees various sub-committees and working parties which stem from the main group.

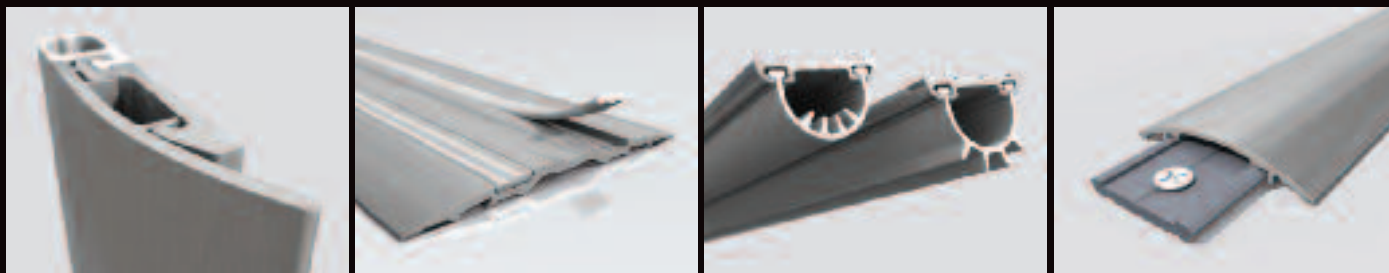
2013 was a particularly challenging time for the Technical Committee with the introduction of the Construction Products Regulation which brought with it the mandatory CE Marking of products (where a harmonised standard exists), the possibility of CE marking doorsets for the first time, and the compulsion to produce Declarations of Performance for manufacturers and distributors. The committee has produced a raft of resources to help members understand and fulfil their obligations including a three-part guide to the CPR and its implications, and a new reference site - which contains easy-to-use templates for manufacturers to create online DoPs

"Communicating these important changes to GAI members is a key part of what we do," says Paul. "We need to do that in a timely, easily comprehensible way that members can actually use in their businesses." GAI Technical Updates, a technical section on the GAI website, talks to the Institute, PR, and eshots are all part of the armoury that the Committee uses to communicate with the membership.

Jacky Sinclair, the GAI's Technical Consultant, also plays a pivotal role, sitting on committees, writing technical papers and staffing the GAI's technical helpline. Members can call Jacky and pose any technical questions they may have. With a lifetime's technical experience Jacky can answer most questions then and there by email or phone. If she doesn't know the answer, she will make it a mission to find out!



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# the aij meets

*Stuart Courcoux,  
Gold Medal winner*

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

When the winner of the **GAI Diploma Level Three 2013 gold medal** received a letter to say he was among the prize winners, he simply **didn't believe it!** But his achievement was genuine. The AIJ talks to **Stuart Courcoux** of Abloy UK to find out the secret of his success.



**S**tuart Courcoux has been working for Abloy UK for 3 years and in that time he's learned a lot. Abloy, part of the ASSA ABLOY Group specialises in the high security market providing mechanical and electronic locking solutions and access control systems to businesses with high security requirements. Utilities, banks and hospitals are among typical Abloy customers.

Stuart is the Electronics Workshop Supervisor and also acts as the main admin support for the Abloy Academy. He asked to be entered onto the GAI Diploma course almost as soon as he started at Abloy because, as he describes it, "it really is the main qualification in the industry."

While most of Stuart's day-to-day work revolves around locks and electro-mechanical locking, he found the breadth and depth of the GAI Diploma very useful. "It has been really helpful to know about the whole door and understand its specification – especially the ways in which they all interact and affect each other," he says. "Levels 1 and 2 gave me a better understanding of door hardware but Level 3 really opened my eyes as it's a substantial step up. But gaining my DipGAI has definitely made me more confident when dealing with customers"

Stuart is the first to admit that he perhaps didn't treat the first year of the course quite seriously enough and, he acknowledges, this showed in his result. But he upped his game in Levels 2 and 3 and his hard work paid off. "Before the Level 3 exam I spent many hours going through door after door after door because I don't schedule on a day-to-day basis and I knew the scheduling paper would be the biggest challenge."

Stuart attributes some of his success to attending a GAI residential training course in his Level 3 year. "The course was a real benefit – in fact I think I would have struggled without it," he says. "I learned a lot about what was expected of me in the exams plus tips and insight on how to answer most effectively." Plus Stuart met fellow students from other companies which provided extra insight into different aspects of different businesses.

And so the hard work and study paid off when Stuart received a letter, prior to the GAI Education Awards Lunch, to tell him he was among the prize-winners. "To be honest, I wasn't even sure I had passed the scheduling paper and I was so surprised to receive the letter that I phoned the Guild to make sure they had got it right!" So it was no surprise that Stuart was a happy man when he was unveiled as the gold medallist. "The reaction to me getting the gold medal has been great," he says. "At ABLOY UK we have a lot of DipGAIs so they really know the value of the qualification."


Stuart has no hesitation in recommending the Diploma to anyone in the industry. "Learning and qualifications can only ever be helpful," he says. "It gives you confidence. It gives you contacts. And in this trade, it really counts."





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# world news

*New IAI branch up and running...Hong Kong spreads the word*



## NEW INSTITUTE BRANCH HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Following its launch late last year, the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers (IAI)'s GCC branch based in Dubai is now fully up and running with its first meeting well-attended and a full committee appointed.

The first meeting of the new branch was held on 10 February and was very well supported with over fifty members attending ranging from manufacturers through distributors to architectural ironmongers.

"We were really pleased with the attendance and just how knowledgeable an audience we had," said Branch Chairman Adam Taylor. "Lots of good questions were asked and we believe that this is an excellent way to spread and improve knowledge in this sector in the Middle East."

The branch also now boasts a full committee made up of Angus Grant, Eurospec Architectural from Hardware, Mike Lumsden of Laidlaw International, Adam Taylor, Häfele GCC who is the branch Chairman, Katy Hassen from The Silver Shore Trading Company and Liz Bilton of

DORMA Gulf Door Controls FZE (Photographed above). The committee is working on putting together a full programme of meetings throughout the year and will also be focussing on students of the GAI's Diploma course to attend.

The new branch was launched at the Big 5 Exhibition, Dubai World Trade Center in November 2013. The initiative cements a growing trend in the GAI's education programme with an increasing number of successful candidates from the region. Indeed, the 2013 winner of the GAI Pinnacle Award - the top GAI prize, given to the student who has achieved the best results over the whole three years of the course - is a student from Dubai: Ahlam Al-Sharo who works for GEZE Middle East.

The Institute was created to offer ironmongers access to education, continuing professional development and the prestige of belonging to the most respected ironmongery organisation in the world and now this opportunity is now available in the GCC.

## HONG KONG BRANCH SPREADS THE WORD

The successful Institute branch in Hong Kong has certainly started a ripple effect in the region as the first students from mainland China successfully complete their GAI Diplomas. The first DipGAI holder from China is Jenny Li, followed by Joanne Xu passed her scheduling paper in June 2014.

Hong Kong Branch chairman James Wong is convinced that the Hong Kong branch, initiated in 2012, played a major part in this success. "Companies in Hong Kong are already showing the branch some tremendous support by enrolling students on the DipGAI course and attending meetings," he says. "This is now extending as they spread this education to their Chinese operations, with ladies very much leading the way!"

These achievements are recognition of the popularity and significance of the IAI and the GAI's education programme in that region. The new Hong Kong branch was launched in November 2012 at the British Consulate General in Hong Kong and its regular meetings are well-attended by ironmongers, architects and manufacturers.





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# iai matters

## INSTITUTE GETS TALKING IN TORQUAY

*Our regular roundup of the latest news, views and developments within the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers*

**This year's Institute of Architectural Ironmongers' AGM was held in Torquay on 22 February, the home turf of the Chairman Shaun Brown. He reports from the South West on a very successful weekend of sunshine, business and winners.**

Those heading to the 'English Riviera' after the wettest winter in history were greeted with the prospect of a warm Torquay welcome with plenty of sunshine, beautiful sea views, and for some, crab fishing on the harbour side! The hotel was packed with ironmongers on both the Friday and Saturday evenings who had arrived from far and wide, with Hong Kong branch chairman James Wong jetting in for his first IAI AGM, and a record attendance for the Institute AGM.

The meeting room had been set to include 'The Ironmongers' Village' where sponsors were able to set up a stand to promote their products. Our thanks once again to: Access 2, Allegion, Allgood, Astra Door Controls, CES, Cooke Brothers, DORMA UK, Frank Allart, GEZE UK, Glutz, Gretsche Unitas, HEWI UK, HOPPE UK, KABA UK, Laidlaw Interiors, Lorient, Royde and Tucker and Strand Hardware.

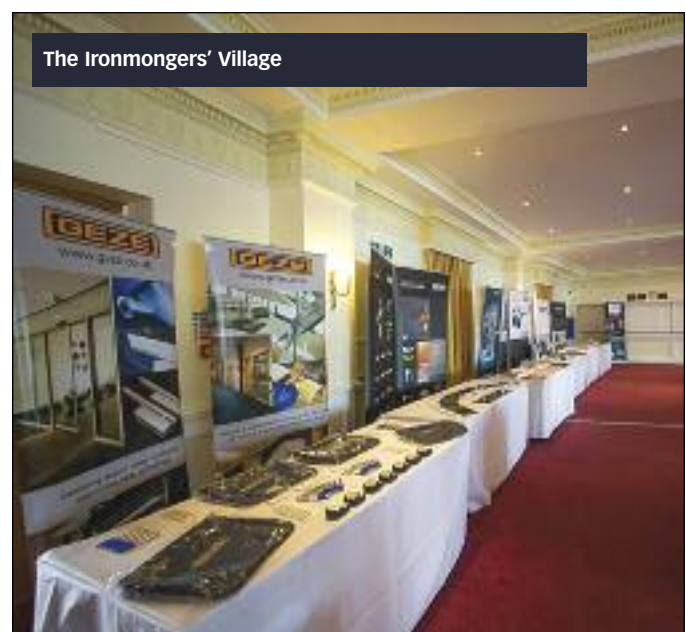
The format for the AGM was enhanced to include a 'workshop' style approach where members were encouraged to mix in groups. This session, titled Improving Membership Value was headed up by Mario Del-Signore, IAI Vice Chairman, and the response was overwhelming. We have received plenty of great ideas for consideration; these will be tabled at our IAI Executive meeting with feedback being given back to the membership on the resulting actions. The passion and commitment is evident, and together we can make a difference.

The AGM was followed by a very well attended dinner where the Institute awards were announced and presented. The awards were followed by a presentation from our guest speaker and retired Irish Association and former Premiership referee Dermott Gallagher who gave an amusing account of life in the black shirt. The evening rounded off with dancing to live music keeping the dance floor filled.

Plans are already underway for the next year's AGM, diary date Saturday 21 February 2015.



IAI National Chairman Shaun Brown





Jacky Sinclair receives the Paul Lewis Award



## EYE ON THE PRIZE

Karen Nelson receives the GAI Trophy for Services to the Institute



The architectural ironmongery trade is full of people who not only have many years' experience behind them, but also go the extra mile for their customers, and, vitally, for the industry as a whole, volunteering their time and effort to advance the cause of the trade. The Institute of Architectural Ironmongers recognises this excellence with a series of awards. The AIJ finds out what the awards mean to the winners.

This year's IAI Awards were announced at the organisation's AGM. The declaration is of the highlights of the event, presented each year to individuals and teams who have performed outstandingly throughout the year, as voted by their peers. Nominations came from the IAI local Branches with the Executive Committee making the final selection on the recipients.

Shaun Brown, Chairman of the IAI explains: "The IAI annually gives three awards to recognise companies and individuals who have contributed above and beyond the expectations of the industry. Nominations are put forward by members of the Institute and a panel comprising executive committee members of both the IAI and GAI decide on the successful candidates. This year that has been joined by a new accolade, Promising Ironmonger of the Year. This award, sponsored by the GAI, has been created to acknowledge the most aspiring and forward thinking Ironmonger on their first steps of their career."

### The four awards are:

- The Paul Lewis Award for Customer Service
- The GAI Trophy for Services to the Institute
- Fellowship of the Institute
- Promising Ironmonger of the Year

Robert Buckley receives Fellowship of the IAI



The **Paul Lewis Award** was won by **Jacky Sinclair**, the GAI's Technical Consultant. The Paul Lewis Award is named after a very well-known and popular ironmonger who sadly passed away. Paul was passionate about customer service and so sponsors Royde and Tucker decided to create an award for service in his name. Jacky won the award for the outstanding technical Information Services she provides to GAI members – a technical helpline, tech updates and guides, and, this year, sterling work on informing members on the requirements of the CPR. "I really enjoy working for the Guild's Technical Information Service, so it's an added bonus to know that members appreciate the support it provides. I'm tickled pink to get this award!" said Jacky.

The GAI-sponsored trophy for services to the IAI was won by **Karen Nelson of Cooke Brothers**. Karen has been in the trade for what she describes a "mere" 12 years but in that time she has been an energetic member of her local Midlands branch, the largest in the country, including a period as Treasurer and, more recently, Vice Chair. "I am so chuffed that I've won this award," says Karen. "I always thought this type of award happened to big noises in the trade, not people like me who have been working away behind the scenes!" Karen has loved her time as an Institute member. "It gives you the kind of breadth of knowledge you can't get anywhere else because you can access the experience and wisdom of so many different people. I've also made so many friends and acquaintances."

Fellowship of the IAI is awarded to an individual that is considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the ironmongery industry as a whole. This year's recipient was **Robert Buckley of DORMA**.

The newly inaugurated **Promising Ironmonger of the Year Award** went to **Lucas Singh** of Allgood.

Shaun Brown said "I am so pleased to present the first Award for an ironmonger who represents the future of our industry. I am thrilled that Lucas Singh has been recognised and awarded the first award, and I am sure that he will continue to progress and enjoy his career in this fascinating industry."

Lucas Singh with GAI President John Jefferies and IAI Chairman Shaun Brown



# TEST DRIVE

The **Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI)** has introduced an innovative new development in its respected education portfolio: the **Foundation Module in Hardware**. AIJ Editor **Helen Curry** took the course for a test drive.

The GAI's new module was created to be a little different from the rest of its education portfolio because the classic AI isn't the main target audience. In fact, self-confessed hardware anoraks need not apply! Instead, it is aimed at anyone who wants to get a basic grasp of door hardware quickly, simply and at an attractive cost but who might not deal with hardware all day, every day in their line of work. So it is perfect for builders merchants, locksmiths, office support staff at architectural ironmongers or anyone who simply wants to gain a positive but basic knowledge about door hardware – a “working knowledge” of the subject.

## Easily doable

The first thing that is apparent about the course is that it is easily “doable”. There twelve sections with ‘test yourself’ questions at the end of each, so you can double check that you have got to grips with the section. It is all completed online so you can take as much time as you like doing each section and go back and redo it again if you wish.

You can do the whole course in one sitting or dip in and out as required. In my case I settled myself down, earphones on, at my desk to do the course in one fell swoop. In all it took me about five hours to complete and take the exam.

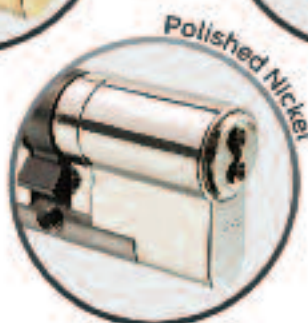
The twelve sections cover all the basic hardware categories, plus a couple of extra sections on subjects like handing of doors, standards, fire doors and access control.

### The sections are:

- Intro to hardware
- Handing of hardware
- Hinges
- Closers
- Locks and latches
- Door furniture
- Door bolts
- Fire and escape doors
- Escape Hardware
- Signage
- Access Control
- Standards



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None of the sections individually is too long – the ones on closers, and lock and latches are the longest – and each is both narrated by a very authoritative voiceover, and illustrated with pictures and drawings to help make sense of the subjects. You can pause, rewind and replay as much as you like as you go along and it all made sense to someone who has a very basic knowledge of hardware. I found the section on handing a door the most difficult so don't let that one put you off as it is the first section. Perhaps I should admit that I failed the self-test section on that part! I made notes as I went through the course as I felt that this would help me absorb the information better and stopped and started the narrative many times to make my notes.

The self test sections offer you a selection of multiple choice questions – from five to 12 depending on the subject – which are challenging but not impossible if you have been paying attention.

Then at the end of the course there's the final

exam. I prepared myself with a cup of coffee and dived straight in. Thirty multiple choice questions, randomly generated, covering each of the subjects

from the course, which you can take your time over or race through. It's also possible to go back and change an answer and review them all before pressing the "submit" button. I am pleased to say that I passed! I only got one question wrong and passed with a 98% score. For my efforts I received a Certificate of Competence in 'The Foundation in Hardware' to print off and the satisfaction of learning something new. It has certainly whet my appetite for study and I am now considering entering for my Level One exams in the GAI Diploma. I can imagine for a locksmith or a member of the counter team at a merchants, completing this course would give them confidence to talk with more authority about hardware to customers and suppliers.

I asked the GAI's Education Manager, Keith Maer about the thinking behind this new course. "The module has been designed for those who don't live and breathe ironmongery as their day-to-day job," he said. "It will give users a basic, realistic understanding of products that hang,

close, lock, and then furnish a door, as well as information on fire and escape doors. Hardware plays a vital role in every single building as some of the few moving parts in any building and help toward the smooth passage of people in, out and around it. Part of this movement of people relates to both fire safety and accessibility for all concerned, including those who may be less able. With regards to fire safety, it could be literally a matter of life and death if incorrect fittings are

specified, supplied and fitted."

**I would heartily recommend the course to anyone, who like me, who wants to learn more about this important subject. It was certainly a very worthwhile and interesting way to spend a morning!**



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**Q** Does any electric locking device whether a magnet, an electric strike or an electric lock have to bear a CE mark before it is fitted to a fire resistant or escape door, especially now that BS EN 14846 is in place?

**A** No. BS EN 14846 applies only to electro-mechanical locks and strikes. It specifically excludes purely magnetic locks in the scope. Where a product falls within the scope of EN 14846, it must be CE marked, and it is illegal to place it on the market without a valid CE mark. Non-CE marked electro-magnetic locking can still be used where national building regulations allow.

**Q** Can an electromagnetic lock be fitted to an escape door subject to connection to a breakglass call point, the fire alarm and an exit switch?

**A** Yes, subject to risk assessment of the type of over-ride provided, and acceptance under national building regulations.

**Q** If fitting an electromagnetic lock to a fire door, does the lock need fire test evidence to prove it is suitable?

**A** Yes.

**Q** Approved Document B states that (5.26) all escape routes should have a clear headroom of not less than 2m and there should be no projection below this height (except for door frames). Does this mean that where a maglock projects below the door frame, this would not comply with the regulations and therefore should not be fitted?

**A** No. Door frames are excluded from the height restriction. See also 3.17. in the same document. Maglocks are normally in the corner of the frame, and our shoulders push our heads towards the middle of the frame when going through. You might need a risk assessment on any hazard resulting and maybe offer a full width bracket, or yellow/black striped tape across the projecting part of the magnet.

**Q** Given that prEN 13637 is not published yet, does this rule out maglocks as a solution for escape doors as they do not comply with EN 179/EN 1125 either?

**A** No again. Maglocks are acceptable according to ADB 5.11, as long as there is a manual over-ride on the escape side, AND they are fail open if there's a fire alarm or power failure.

As ADB is a guide, not the Regulation, if a premises with a high security risk (say bonded warehouse) wanted to have maglocks that had no local over-ride, but were linked to the alarm system, they could do that, as long as they wrote it up in their fire risk assessment, ensured staff were fully trained in emergency evacuation procedures, and were happy to defend their position in court, if it came to that. The Building Regulation to comply with requires that escape doors be operable at all material times. The "material time" is when there is a fire, so the lock must fail open in these circumstances, but can be secure in non-fire situations. (Note that Scotland has a different approach to magnetic locks on escape doors.)

**Q** What if there is a terrorist risk or gas leak that requires emergency egress from the building? In this instance the fire alarm would not be activated, and in a gas leak it may not be advisable to electrically release the doors. Obviously ADB is a fire safety document, but is there any other guidance on escape from buildings that should also be taken into account to cover these instances?

**A** Not that I'm aware of. This is the responsibility of the building owner/manager, and they have to risk assess the situation in their buildings. As you say, ADB is concerned solely with the fire risk.

**Q** The CE marking of electro-magnets currently being done by some manufacturers is misleading. Installers wrongly believe the product is safe to use on fire or escape doors because it bears the CE mark. In reality the CE mark refers to the product's classification in relation to electromagnetic compatibility. This raises the question – can more than one CE mark be applied to a product and if yes how should they be displayed and which takes precedence?



# OPEN AND SHUT CASE

The **GAI's Technical Consultant Jacky Sinclair** answers the questions she is most frequently asked about electrical locking on escape doors.

**A** A product needs to show only one CE mark, but having done that, it must meet the requirements of any and all directives which apply to it. You can't cherry pick the ones you want. At present, maglocks need to meet the electro-magnetic compatibility and possibly the low voltage directives.

A CE mark does not imply suitability for use on fire doors. Its purpose is to let observers know that some minimum standard has been reached, and there is documentary evidence available to give more information.

**Q** *Is anyone fitting a device that is not CE marked to a fire or escape door committing an offence?*

**A** It will be an offence to place the item on the market if not CE marked to a relevant standard. If there's no harmonised standard covering the product, then you can't CE mark it, but you can still use it. Maglocks fall into this category, (except for the electro-magnetic compatibility and possibly the low voltage directives).

**Q** *BS EN 14846 Annex A says "An electrically operated lock or striking plate intended for use on fire/smoke door assemblies shall not depend on any electrical energy to keep the door in its closed (latched) position." My German supplier will only sell me locks which fail secure, and ADB requires fail safe (open).*

**A** In most of Europe, fire doors rely on latches to stay closed during fire tests. This means that Notified Bodies (NBs) outside the UK will only CE mark fail-secure electric locks and strikes. This might not suit UK applications on internal doors on escape routes, where fail open is needed, depending on the application and door hardware combination.

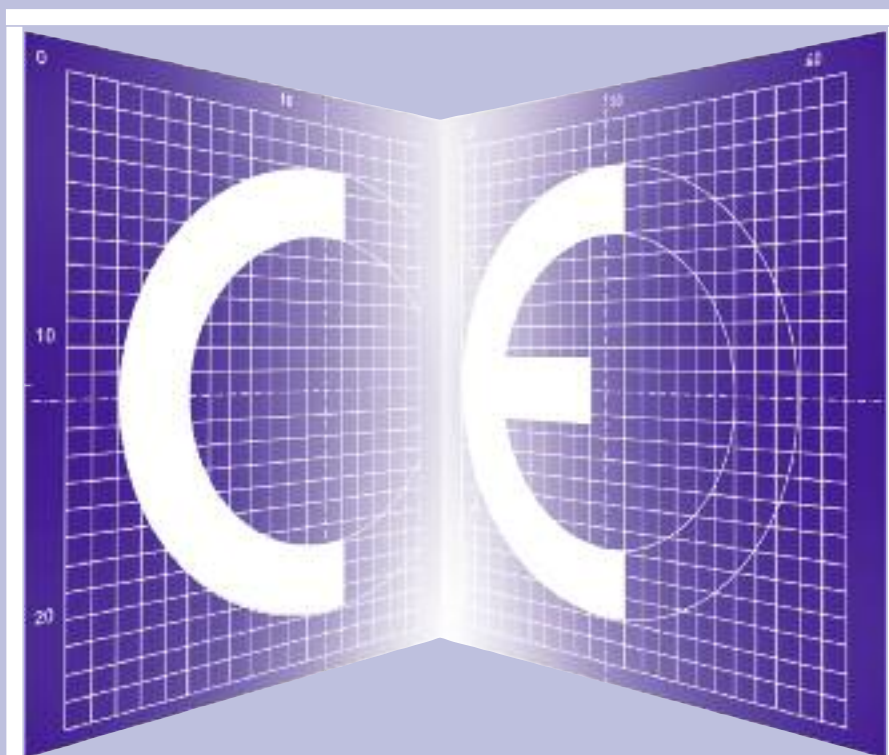
If there is over-ride of the lock via lever handles (in the direction of escape) then the set-up is compliant. But if there is no lever handle over-ride (because perhaps the activator is a key-card, etc.), the lock/strike must fail open, allowing escape. In the UK, a lock failing open would still meet the requirement of Annex A in the standard, as long as the door was not dependent on the latch in its fire test. This

applies to most commercial door leaves, which rely on the door closer and then the intumescent seals for stability in the closed position. In other words, the lock/strike does not need to depend on electrical power to hold the door shut. This job is covered by other products. UK-based NBs would probably look more favourably on CE marking a fail-open lock/strike.

**Q** *With regard to prosecutions brought under the RRO, are these likely to take account of the fact that hardware fitted to a fire door may reduce the door's integrity and will this be picked up when hardware that has not been subject to a fire test is fitted to a fire door?*

**A** Until recently, such prosecutions have dealt with larger issues, such as no means of escape, and no fire doors. However, if a disaster occurs and an investigation shows that incorrect product was the cause, or assisted spread of fire, those involved would be answerable. As the GAI/BWF Fire Door Inspection Scheme gets more widely used, FDIS Certificated Inspectors could pick up these details and notify the clients employing them. In the summer of 2013, the installation of apartment fire doors in a new block was severely criticised after an inspection arranged by occupants. In the same year, a hospital checked its fire doors and found that intumescent pads/gaskets should have been fitted behind the hinges, but had been omitted. In each case, contractors or the supply chain were chased for remedial work to be done.

Best practice is - supply ONLY CE marked product (where a CE mark is possible). Some products can't be CE marked (no harmonised standard available) so in these circumstances use products you know or can prove to be of good quality. You can give your client guidance on Building Regs and standards requirements, but these days, it's the Responsible Person and the Fire Risk Assessment they create which take the responsibility for how the building will comply. It's no longer totally black and white. The flexibility allows the right solution for the particular application to be selected, as long as the right standard of fire safety is achieved - i.e. the possibility of escape at all material times (when there's a fire).



# CHANGE MANAGEMENT

The compulsory CE Marking of hardware (where it falls under the scope of a harmonised standard and is therefore CE mark-able) is now becoming second nature for ironmongers. The possibility of CE marking of doorsets is, to some extent, more shrouded in confusion. Not least because of the issue of “interchangeability” of hardware on a CE Marked doorset. The AIJ spoke to Paul Duggan of Warrington Exova Certifire and the GAI’s Technical Consultant Jacky Sinclair to find out the latest news about interchangeability.

Most people involved in making, supplying, scheduling or specifying door hardware for fire and escape route doorsets know that, as of last summer, any product which falls within the scope of a harmonised EN standard, must be CE marked. Doorsets can also now become CE marked, all as a result of the ratification last year of the Construction Products Regulations.

## DIFFERENT STROKES

Perhaps it’s worth taking a moment to explain the difference between a doorset and a door assembly because there’s no visible or practical difference between the two once they are in situ. The difference lies in how they are supplied to site and by whom. A Door Assembly: is the term an architectural ironmonger is used when writing specifications. A CE marked Doorset is supplied by one legal entity, or company.

Typically, a door assembly is supplied to market from more than one source, with each company taking responsibility for its own part of the final door assembly. Characteristically, the door frame, door leaves and glazing beads are supplied by a joinery firm, the hardware from an architectural ironmongers and the glass from a glazing supplier. This balance may change but essentially there are separate contracts and invoices for each component and so the contractor must contact the relevant company if there are any problems or snags.

The essential difference with a Fire Doorset is that it is supplied by one company which takes responsibility for the whole doorset. It is worth

noting, however, that a doorset might not be delivered to site fully assembled and it is quite possible that it will be delivered in parts, even on separate days.

It is a common misconception that a doorset must be supplied fully finished and ready to hang. This is not always the case. It is the fact that it comes from one source that makes it a doorset, not its state of assembly when it arrives on site. In both cases, the fire door comprises the frame, door leaves, glazing and beads and all the associated essential hardware. This essential hardware is the hardware that must be present for the door to perform its fire protection function: hinges, closers, operating furniture and intumescent/smoke seals.

## MAKING A CHANGE

Looking ahead once a doorset has been CE marked, the hardware can be changed, within strict rules called EXAPs (Extended Applications of test evidence). The EXAPs give details about what can and cannot be changed on a CE marked fire doorset. Anyone supplying hardware to doorsets will have to liaise with the doorset manufacturer to ensure that the EXAP rules are followed rigorously to allow the Interchangeability of hardware on the doorset.

EXAPs allow some interchangeability on hardware which saves money and time on retesting the doorset, although there will be a cost from the Notified Body assessing Hardware Performance Sheet (HPS). However, the system is not a carte blanche to change hardware willy-nilly – even if the hardware itself is CE marked in its own right.

The key standard for fire doorsets, prEN 16034, could be published following the European voting process in September this year and will bring together under one umbrella, many other standards to cover different aspects of the door’s performance. Each performance category is covered by a standard eg EN 12046-2 for operating forces.

Once a timber fire doorset has been tested - and CE Marked – to EN



16034, hardware must complete two stages before it can be substituted on the door without affecting that door's CE marked status.

The first step refers to the new hardware's performance. It must have been tested on a similar door in EN 1634-1 fire test to meet the relevant product standard match self closing requirements.

If all of these boxes have been ticked, the hardware can then be referred to the EXAPs which will explain the acceptable parameters for change. These refer not only to the product's performance, but to its physical attributes such as materials and dimensions. The EXAPs themselves, while extensive, are straightforward to use. They are presented in a table format and specify the detail of what can be changed without the need to retest the whole doorset.

For example, if a hinge has passed all of the required testing required in the first stage but is more than 25% larger than the hinge used in the doorset's fire test, then it cannot be used in the original's place. If it is less than 25% larger, it can be exchanged.

Once these parameters have been tested, it is possible to submit paperwork to request the change to the Notified Body who will confirm whether the change is acceptable and add the new product to the CE mark for the doorset. The paperwork takes the form of a Hardware Performance Sheet (HPS) for the existing product and the proposed new product.

This lack of flexibility in making hardware changes mean that anyone putting a doorsets through the CE marking procedure would be well-advised to include a wide range of hardware in the original assessment for the doorset's CE Mark, because it will take time and money to get further hardware options assessed and included at a future date. By including a broad array of hardware of different prices, styles and finishes, it will still be practicable to offer customer choice without the added expense and delay caused by constant reassessment.

## GLOSSARY

**Doorset:** a door construction comprising a door leaf (or leaves), frame and all associated hardware, glazing and seals, supplied to site from ONE IDENTIFIED MANUFACTURER (often the door manufacturer), completely or partly pre-assembled.

**Door assembly:** a door, frame and associated hardware arrive on site as COMPONENTS from SEVERAL SOURCES (door blank manufacturer, joinery shop, glass supplier, architectural ironmonger etc) to be assembled on site.

**CE:** The abbreviation for the French phrase "Conformité Européene".

**EN:** European Norm.

**CPR:** Construction Products Regulation. This has now been passed by the EU Commission and Parliament, and becomes law in all CEN Member States, without "interpretation". This makes it mandatory to CE mark anything that can be CE marked. The option not to mark will be removed.

**EXAPs:** Extended Application of test results. These are the assessment standards which govern the alteration of a CE marked fire or escape doorset. They ensure that any changes will maintain the doorset's function at the tested level, or better.

EXAPs allow a Notified Body (such as Exova Warrington Certification Limited) to increase / change products that are covered on a CE marking certificate, such as door sizes, hardware items, etc.

**Interchangeability:** the process of changing door hardware without negatively affecting previously measured fire or escape doorset performance.

**Harmonised standard:** a standard against which products can be CE marked. Not all standards are harmonised.

**HPS:** Hardware Performance Sheet: a summary of test evidence, designed to facilitate the interchangeability of building hardware on fire resisting and smoke control doorsets.

**Similar product:** an alternative product which will not change the classification and/or the declared value of a performance characteristic of the doorset to a lower value. In other words, the change must not lessen the minimum declared performance of the doorset, but it may improve it.

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## **Q** *What is CE Marking?*

**A** The letters CE stand for 'Conformité Européenne' which means 'European Conformity'. It is a declaration by the manufacturer that the product meets the essential performance aspects of a harmonised (CE markable) standard that is recognised across Europe. The new legislation has been ratified, effectively making CE Marking mandatory for certain construction products covered by the Construction Products Regulation. This regulation is EU law, being adopted by all member states including the UK.

## **Q** *What is the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)?*

**A** Under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), it is mandatory for manufacturers to draw up a Declaration of Performance and apply CE marking to any of their construction products which are covered by a harmonised European standard or conforms to a European Technical Assessment which has been issued for it. A construction product is a product for incorporation in a permanent manner in construction works.

## **Q** *What do I have to CE Mark?*

**A** This will depend on what products you manufacture. The details of the requirements are within the relevant standards. However, there are common tasks required for each product standard:

- Factory Production Control (FPC)
- Initial type test on products to the relevant European standard
- Declaration of Performance and System Description
- CE Marking/labelling

## **Q** *What is a Factory Production Control system (FPC)?*

**A** An FPC is basically a quality manual to ensure the manufacturer is accountable with recorded and auditable procedures for production of the product. The product standards provide guidance on what information and procedures will need to be included.

## **Q** *What is a Declaration of Performance (DoP)?*

**A** The document applies when a construction product is covered by a harmonised European standard or conforms to a European Technical Assessment (ETA). The DoP details the product and the standard and contains information about its performance in relation to the essential characteristics defined within the applicable harmonised technical specification. CE marking must be applied to a product which has either a current DoP or a previously issued Declaration of Conformity

# **CE MARKING – YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**



(DoC) under the Construction Products Directive (CPD). The manufacturer through provision of a DoP assumes legal responsibility for the conformity of the product.

## **Q** *What is a harmonised European standard (hEN)?*

**A** A harmonised standard is one which all member states of the EC have agreed has essential characteristics which must be CE marked before the product is placed on the market.

## **Q** *What is initial type testing (ITT)?*

**A** All the performance aspects required within the standards require an initial type test (ITT) report from an independent Notified Test Laboratory to cover the range of products supplied. A Notified Test Laboratory is an organisation which is approved by its member state to issue test evidence to support the CE Mark declaration

## **Q** *Is provision of the CE marking information via a website allowed under CPR?*

**A** CPR permits DoP's to be made available via a website subject to a Delegated Act being enacted. Best practicable means for CE marking shall be employed by making CE marking available through company websites as is the current practice under the CPD. This decision is made on the basis that a future Delegated Act will legalise this method of issue as being the only practicable method of CE marking for bulk supplied loose products. At present, those supplying electronic DoPs must be listed on the DCLG website, via the PAA agreement.

## **Q** *If a customer asks me to supply a paper copy of the Declaration of Performance and/or the CE marking information do I have to do this?*

**A** There is a requirement within the CPR to supply a paper copy of the DoP if the recipient requests it.

## **Q** *Can additional information, such as opening forces, be added to the CE marking information?*

**A** No. It is recommended that any additional information is placed in a separate enclosed text box titled "Additional information" which is clearly segregated from the CE marking information.

## **Q** *Who issues a DoP?*

**A** The organisation marketing and distributing construction products under their own brand name within the EU are classed as the 'legal entity' and will need to produce a DoP for the product to the relevant hEN or ETA. The legal entity placing branded products on the market can be manufacturers, importers or distributors and all have the responsibility under the CPR to declare the essential characteristics of the product within the DoP.

## **Q** *What action has to be taken by the manufacturer or distributor when Trading Standards suspects a product is not in conformity with the Declaration of Performance?*

**A** Action required by the appropriate standard within the Factory Production Control requirements is followed to return the product to conformity. If appropriate the product is withdrawn or recalled. If neither is possible the user, customer or client is informed giving details of the non-conformity and any corrective measures taken.

## **Q** *Is the manufacturer obliged under CPR to make available supporting documentation for Declarations of Performance and the CE marking information?*

**A** On receipt of a reasonable request from Trading Standards, all the information and documentation necessary to demonstrate the conformity of the construction product with the DoP and other applicable requirements within the CPR shall be provided. Response to other requests is discretionary.





# PAST PRESENT FUTURE



"We have kept the best bits of our heritage, but that doesn't mean we are stuck in the past," says **Samuel Heath Sales Director David Pick**. **Helen Curry** visited their Birmingham base to find out more.

**A**rriving at Samuel Heath's factory and HQ in Birmingham city centre, the company's heritage is immediately apparent. Founded in 1820, the firm has operated out of this same building since 1850, although it is a very different site now behind the Victorian facade. A listed plc, Samuel Heath is still very much a family business with a 5th generation Heath sitting on the board as Executive Chairman and the Heath family remaining in control of the company.

What makes Samuel Heath so unusual today is the massive percentage of its product range – which is vast – that the company makes itself. "We buy in brass, and cardboard for packaging, but pretty much everything else we make ourselves" says David Pick. "We have looked at manufacturing elsewhere but we can never get past the benefits of keeping it all here – in terms of controlling quality and schedules. In our trade so much is made in the Far East but we believe that the premium sector that we operate in is still best serviced from here in the UK. You only have to look at other high-end products like, cars, furniture, tailoring and many other industries to see that this still very much holds true."

The company tends to have very high staff retention, adding to the sense of tradition and experience at the firm. David Pick himself has spent most of his working life – 30-odd years – at Samuel Heath. He started as an assistant to the Production Manager on the factory floor and it was there he found the passion for manufacturing which he still has today.

But that doesn't mean that Samuel Heath is stuck in the past. Far from it – as a visit to the company's showroom at London's Chelsea Harbour will testify. And this high quality British design and craftsmanship is clearly still valued elsewhere as up to 40% of Samuel Heath sales are overseas.

Nowhere is this mix of traditional values with a 21st century twist more apparent than on a tour of the factory. The company started out making all sorts of metal products – from lamps to beds and even coffin furniture and in WWII the site became a munitions factory. But while the building itself may be listed, the machinery, expertise and equipment inside it are far from old-fashioned. Investment in new machines, new products, and training has been consistently high.

It starts in the design office where cutting edge IT and 3-D printers are put to use to design beautiful traditional style fittings. All the design is carried out in-house although with an impressive back catalogue of models to draw on! If an architect wants a particular design of handle it can be drawn, designed and 3-D rendered and on his desk in 24 hours if needs be. For larger projects Samuel Heath are able to design new, exclusive products – all controlled in-house.

Craftsmanship lies at the heart of the company's ethos and, where appropriate, some elements of the manufacturing process employ traditional techniques, but these exist alongside state of the art CNC manufacturing technology. So individual components are precision machined, to ensure the precise manufacture of intricate designs, but experienced craftsmen finish every product by hand. "There are no shortcuts at Samuel Heath," says David.

Samuel Heath insists on hand polishing, for example, to ensure the smoothest and most receptive surface for high quality plating, which is also carried out in-house. Each component goes through multiple stages of hand polishing by skilled craftsmen. Polishers are indeed a rare breed even in this traditionally "metal bashing" region but the requirement for a perfectly smooth finish for flawless plating makes it essential even though it takes many years to fully train a Samuel Heath polisher.

One of the products that Samuel Heath is best known for is the "Perko"

range of concealed closers. "Perko is still a generic catch-all name in the trade for jamb-mounted closers, and to be honest that can be a double-edged sword," says David. "The day our patent for the product ran out, many many other companies brought out their own versions, some of better quality than others!" But the original Perko sowed the seeds for the Powermatic range of controlled, concealed door closers which is now one of the company's best-selling lines.

Powermatic Free Swing is the latest addition to the range, launched in August 2013. Connected to a building's fire alarm system it allows a door to be operated manually and left open as desired once the mechanism has been primed by opening the door to its maximum. When the fire alarm is activated, or there is a power failure, the inactive door closer becomes active and the door is closed automatically at a controlled rate. "Architects very much like the closer to be concealed, because it is unlikely to be vandalised or stolen and, of course, it just looks so much more attractive than a surface mounted closer," says David. "A jamb mounted closer can also be easier to adjust than an overhead and can be combined with concealed hinges which makes a perfect specification."

As you'd expect from this design-led company, Powermatic Free Swing is available in nine finishes, including polished brass, polished chrome and satin chrome to complement traditional and contemporary decorative themes in residential care homes, health, commercial, hotel and education projects. The closers are made, assembled and tested right in Birmingham – there's more to this company's manufacturing expertise than knobs and knockers.

Although Samuel Heath is beloved by architects, AIs still lie very much at the heart of the business. That's why a number of the sales and technical team have achieved the Guild's DipGAI status – including the Managing Director himself. "I did my Diploma because I wanted to find out more about the whole door and I have genuinely found the learning very useful over the years," he says. "In the sales office staff will often get asked how a closer will affect the whole door, or what kind of hinges to use – it makes sense that we can talk to our customers with confidence and authority." That knowledge can be passed on to the architect and AIs in RIBA-accredited CPD seminars.

It is certainly heartening to see a company still flying the flag so enthusiastically for British design and manufacturing in the heart of the industrial Midlands. "We don't live in the past," says David. "But we do like to remember it." Seems like a perfect combination of past, present and future.





# ANCIENT &





# MODERN

**THE WORD  
"JUXTAPOSITION"  
MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
INVENTED FOR  
THIS YEAR'S RIBA  
STERLING PRIZE  
WINNING SCHEME  
ASTLEY CASTLE IN  
WARWICKSHIRE.  
HELEN CURRY  
TALKS TO THE AI  
IZÉ ABOUT THE  
CHALLENGE THAT  
THIS PROJECT  
PRESENTED.**

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## // Astley Castle is an exceptional example of how modern architecture can revive an ancient monument... //

Stephen Hodder RIBA president

**L**ess a castle, more of a fortified manor, Astley has had something of a chequered history. The site has been in continuous occupation since the Saxon period and includes a moated castle, walls, a lake, church and the remnants of gardens. As Grade II\* listed, the castle is counted of national significance but after a mysterious fire in the 1970s, the site and the buildings on it were in a sorry state.

The main, fortified manor house was started in the 13th century and, in subsequent years became home to three English queens until it was improved and restored in the 1600's before becoming a garrison for Parliamentary soldiers in the English Civil War of the 1640's, passing through many families until the 19th century Astley Castle became a dower house and was then let to a succession of tenants. Requisitioned during World War II for convalescing service men, a dilapidated Astley Castle was restored in the 1950's as a hotel which it remained until it was gutted by fire in 1978. It then became prey to vandals and scavengers and by 2007 English Heritage had listed it as one of the sixteen most endangered sites in Britain.

That's when the Landmark Trust stepped in to add Astley Castle to its portfolio of historic buildings converted into spectacular holiday lets. The organisation instigated a competition for architects to restore the site – something of a dichotomy since many parts of the buildings were simply beyond repair and needed taking down. The winner was Witherford Watson Mann Architects who imagined a modern abode, entwined through the ancient buildings and ruins, using what remained intact while using the gaps to enhance views and light within.

The first lucky holiday makers are due to arrive in July and they will undoubtedly enjoy living – if only for a week – in a building which has now received the UK's highest architectural prize, the RIBA Sterling Prize. It was chosen from six shortlisted buildings to win the annual award, which is the Royal Institute of British Architects' highest accolade. RIBA president Stephen Hodder says, "Astley Castle is an exceptional example of how modern architecture can revive an ancient monument," he added.





## THE RESULT IS STRIKING

The attention to detail in the project is one of the reasons that RIBA awarded its top prize. The ironmonger on the project was London-based Izé who assembled a team to look after the project from both an aesthetic and technical point of view. Izé manufactures ranges of architectural hardware and works with architects and designers to create bespoke ironmongery and lighting.

Eddie Heathcote, Izé's Creative Director worked closely with the architects to get the look and the feel of the hardware just right – and this very much started with the door handles. "The ironmongery brief pretty much mirrored the architectural brief," he says. "The handles needed to be contemporary but not jar in the historic surroundings. Not overtly modern, but not some twee faux historical imitation either. This was very much a new build, not a conservation project."

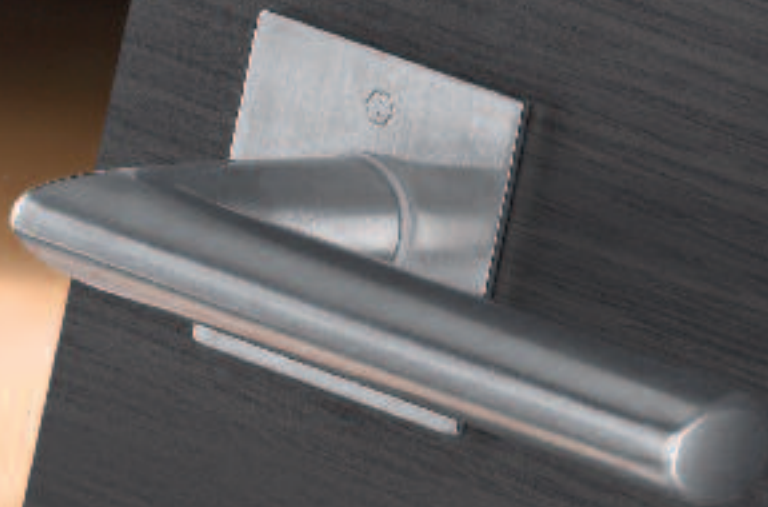
Eddie and the Izé team worked closely with WWM and the result was a suite of hardware in a dark bronze finish. "We wanted the hardware to blend and melt into its surroundings – not stick out like a sore thumb," says Eddie.

The chosen handle was a new design called Budapest from Izé's own team, based on a nineteenth century Hungarian apartment handle. "This type of handle was very standard in Budapest at this time and we felt it had the right human scale with no corporate overtones – a perfect blend of the historic and domestic", says Eddie.

All of the hardware on the project was of the highest spec. For instance, KABA's expert secure reversible key cylinder lock were used throughout. KABA expert cylinder locks are built in a modular system. This makes it possible to modify cylinders simply and quickly by authorised KABA dealers and increases the flexibility of the system for the highest level of investment security.

Once the handles had been selected, the rest of the hardware followed, also in dark bronze. This even went as far as staircase rails and balustrades. "To be honest, once we had made the aesthetic choices, this project was relatively straightforward," says Eddie. "There were some doors with narrow stiles and extensive glazing which proved challenging for fitting locks and latches but this project was a joy to work on."





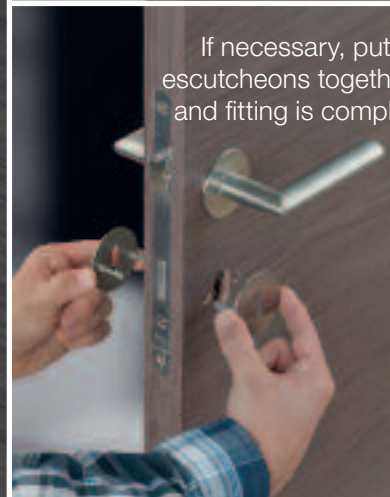
Put the handle  
roses together



Put the door  
handles together



If necessary, put the  
escutcheons together –  
and fitting is complete!



## HOPPE Quick-FitPlus – Less is more

HOPPE Quick-FitPlus is the logical further development of the tried and tested HOPPE Quick-Fit connection. It is not just the door handles which can be fitted easily but also the attractive flat roses. The stainless steel roses, which are only 2 mm thick, come in round or square shapes and are available in various technical specifications and make a striking feature on any door when combined with the many attractive handle designs.



for all HOPPE  
door- and window handles!



**london**

**john lewis head office**

## JOHN LEWIS HQ IS FIT FOR HEAVY FOOT TRAFFIC

At the London headquarters of one of the UK's most successful brands, the specification of materials during the upgrade of their reception area and main entrance had to meet the company's exceptionally high standards. With a daily footfall of 7000 people, high performance automatic doors DORMA were specified to offer durability, robustness and aesthetics.

As part of the renovation and remodelling of the ground floor of The John Lewis Partnership headquarters in London's Victoria by main contractor ITC Concepts Ltd, the architects Bamber and Reddan designed an entrance which would not only give a positive first impression and clear statement of the company's image but would also allow a smooth flow of traffic. Ideal for high-frequency entrances where space is at a premium, DORMA RST-R Automatic Space-Saving Door met the brief and offered the client the desired aesthetics.

'We needed a solution which could give us the maximum clear opening width and operate as swiftly as possible to their maximum width,' commented Michael McDonnell, B + R Architects. 'The sheer volume of JLP Partners, visitors and suppliers entering and exiting the building at peak times meant we needed a compact and fast acting solution which could be retrofitted into a constrained opening which had minimum head clearance already. The DORMA RST automatic space-saving doors with their pivot and location of head gear made them the ideal solution to a complex problem.'



**london**

**the tower**

## TOWERING SUCCESS

Architect Broadway Malyan selected concealed TECTUS hinges from SIMONSWERK for its 'The Tower' prestigious new 180m tall, 50 storey project in London's Vauxhall. Now the tallest residential property in the UK, containing 223 deluxe apartments, the luxurious interiors feature heavy American Walnut doors requiring high quality hinges to achieve an uninterrupted flush finish timber face. SIMONSWERK TECTUS heavy duty fully concealed hinges were considered the ideal choice for the internal doors and were additionally chosen for the front door from the lift lobby into the apartments, interior cupboard doors and the majority of en-suite bathrooms and dressing room doors. The entrance doors use TECTUS 528-3D 1 hour fire hinges in polished stainless steel while the internal doors have TECTUS 540-A8 units in bronze metallic antique and stainless steel effect finishes.



**exeter**

**student apartments**

## UNION SUPPLIES LUXURY STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

The Printworks offers new, independent student apartments in Exeter, conveniently situated between the city and the University. The modern building provides a range of facilities and services based on feedback and suggestions from students, including a cinema room, well-equipped gym and an on-site café.

The residences were fitted throughout with 596 of UNION's Optimus3 modular lockcases, providing reliable access to the student homes. The Optimus3 range is tested as suitable for high frequency use, making it the ideal choice for the heavy demands of student accommodation. Specifying the correct duty of products reduces maintenance costs throughout the lifecycle of the building and, in this case, keeps disruption to the students to a minimum.

Speaking on the installation, Stephen Besley from ironmongers SWS said: "The Optimus3 latch is easily reversible, which simplified the installation process for us, while its profiled shape enables smooth operation. The spindle-gripping feature further enhances its performance by reducing the potential to rattle, which is beneficial in student accommodation where it is likely to endure aggressive use by multiple students." "UNION offered features that would normally only be found on more expensive lockcases, such as the splinter guard for the strike plate," he added.

Fully tested to BS EN 12209 and CE marked, the Optimus3 range from UNION has been assessed by Certifire for use on 30 and 60-minute fire doors. The escape lock, supplied with a split spindle is tested to EN179, making it suitable for use on emergency escape route doors when used with the 1000 series lever furniture.





## RIDING THE WAVE

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has undergone a significant transformation since the London 2012 Olympics with the iconic Aquatics Centre ready to provide world-class facilities for both elite athletes and the local communities. Door controls and floor springs from DORMA provide reliable and efficient closing of doors throughout the venue.

Designed by award-winning architect Zaha Hadid and a focal point of the 2012 Olympic Games, the Aquatics Centre will not only be home to a new Diving High Performance Centre but will also cater for swimmers

of all abilities now that it is open to the public.

To match this world class design, door controls from DORMA were specified by London-based architectural ironmongers Yannedis for their compact and elegant design, long term durability and ability to withstand constant heavy use. DORMA floor springs BTS 75 and BTS 80F, door closers TS 71, TS 73 and TS 92 and concealed cam-action door closers ITS 96 proved to be the ideal solution for safe, secure and reliable access.



## LEARNING CURVE

Leaderflush Shapland has supplied approximately 2,000 doorsets to nine different schools across Lewisham, South London as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF). In partnership with Costain, Leaderflush Shapland has supported the Lewisham BSF programme, which encompasses both the new build and refurbishment of several secondary schools in the area.

Vulcan doorsets, offering 120 minutes fire resistance were used for lobby entrance doors and server rooms. Acoustic requirements were met by Leaderflush Shapland's bespoke Designer range of doorsets, combining aesthetics with sound control properties – offering sound reduction levels of up to 32 dB Rw.

For the kitchen areas Leaderflush Shapland's Plasform performance doorsets were ideal due to the radiused vertical edges of the door leaves and frame edges, in addition to the postforming of facings around them. These features make the doors easy to clean and resistant to low impact damage.

Safety was also a major deciding factor for the specification of certain products - with figures from RoSPA suggesting that around 30,000 children trap and seriously injure their fingers in doors every year, a solution was needed that would ensure this became a thing of the past. As such, the

scalloped profile of the Sentinel doorset from Leaderflush Shapland was perfect. Due to the way in which the door leaf sits within the frame, delivering unobtrusive finger protection.



## HOPPE JOINS CPD TRAINING



Leading hardware manufacturer HOPPE UK now offers architects and other specifiers a RIBA-approved Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training on Lever Handles and Liability. The training, which can be carried out as a seminar at any location, covers the importance of specifying the correct lever handles to comply with legislation, regulatory guidelines, building regs and fire regulations. It also advises specifiers of door hardware how best to limit their liability.

The training can be carried out in seminar format by HOPPE's team of specialist architectural ironmongery representatives on the architectural practice's own premises. It has been assessed by RIBA as meeting the high quality standards required to conform to strict CPD guidelines and can be counted by architects, architectural ironmongers and other specifiers towards their annual CPD requirements.

The presentation covers some of the things that can go wrong with lever handles – unsuitable for access, incorrect performance grade, inappropriate standard for fire doors, amongst others – and the myriad of legislation covering handles. And, crucially, it focuses on what specifiers can do to ensure they specify the right handle every time and reduce their exposure to liability if a problem occurs.

## GEZE UK RELEASES GLASS FITTINGS PRODUCT GUIDE



GEZE UK, has released a new illustrated product guide and price list for its range of glass fittings.

The "Solutions for Toughened Glass" guide provides detailed descriptions of GEZE's range of fittings for toughened glass doors, to enable specifiers to choose the most suitable products for their needs. The guide also includes full glass preparation and technical performance information. The brochure is available both electronically and as a printed version.

The range is suitable for single and double action doors, pinch free doors, internal and external doors. The brochure includes full details of the rails and fittings available and the range of finishes – mill, silver anodised aluminium (EV1), satin stainless steel, and polished stainless steel. Other finishes are available on request.

## NEW WEBSITE FROM CODELOCKS



Codelocks has launched a new, improved website at [codelocks.co.uk](http://codelocks.co.uk). As well as comprehensive product info, the new site features extensive technical support including installation, programming and operating instructions, in written and video forms. It is possible to purchase the whole Codelocks range online, including spares. Special offers, events, news and access to training are all available through this practical and easy-to-use portal.



## ■ TIME-SENSITIVE ACCESS CONTROLS

# NEW WEB-BASED APPLICATION FOR REMOTE ACCESS CONTROL

Codelocks, manufacturer of standalone access control products, has enhanced its KitLock 1000 cabinet locks to enable cabinet owners to grant temporary access to their cabinets by using time-sensitive access codes.

"Many of our digital locks are used to restrict access to equipment locked inside cabinets, for example, data servers locked inside cabinet racks or machinery within utility cabinets," said Grant Macdonald, Managing Director of Codelocks. "NetCode is a new web-based application that gives managers the ability to grant temporary access codes to a remote location, so an authorised engineer or customer can access their equipment unaccompanied."

The application is particularly useful where access is required for routine servicing or one-off maintenance purposes, for example, where service engineers might visit many different locations in one day. Using the

application, a field service manager (FSM) can generate time-sensitive codes for the engineer to gain access to the locked cabinets. The code can be sent via an SMS text message or by email to the engineer's mobile on the day the access is required. Using time-sensitive access codes is a more secure way to grant access, as the code will not work outside a designated timeslot.

KL1000NC cabinet locks are configured prior to dispatch with a unique matching algorithm, allowing the NetCode software to predict the access codes on the lock.



## ■ EASY FIT HANDLES

# YOU CAN'T FIT QUICKER

HOPPE's door handles with Quick-Fit plus connections are a doddle to fit in double quick time and they are so stylish and sleek that they will complement any interior decor scheme.

HOPPE's patented Quick-Fit plus connection is the next step on from the company's Quick-Fit system. It comprises stylish handles plus flat roses and escutcheons which are just 2mm thick and come in round and square versions. This gives myriad design options in brass, stainless steel and aluminium with design styles and variations to choose from. They are especially well suited to refurb projects thanks to the extra large roses and escutcheons in the range. Because Quick-Fit plus hardware is fitted at the last minute, they are less likely to get damaged in transit and so they will remain rattle-free and solid for years to come.

HOPPE reckons the Quick-Fit plus system could save up to 75% fixing time on site. There is no need for tools or fixings to complete the job as the handle, rose and escutcheon are simply pushed together into position in a matter of seconds with a satisfying click. Users are already reporting fast fitting times – well under ten seconds in some cases.

The new HOPE quick-fit connection does not compromise the outstanding performance characteristics of its handles. Quick-Fit plus handles will continue to comply with BS EN1906: 2002 Grade 3 and corrosion resistance to EN1670 Grade 4 on all finishes.



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## NEXT ISSUE

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All adverts are accepted subject to approval from a Technical Approval Committee





- ➡ Are you working with or selling door hardware?
- ➡ Need to know more to help your business?
- ➡ Would increased knowledge help your customers too?
- ➡ Want to be able to prove your competence?
- ➡ Looking for a user friendly solution to these issues?
- ➡ Want to access this solution anywhere in the world?



The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) has introduced a new one-stop introduction to door hardware to its education portfolio.

It is an online aid designed to raise knowledge and standards among those who don't live and breathe ironmongery as their day-to-day job. You can learn at your own pace through the audio and visual presentations.

It's perfect for:

- locksmiths
- builders merchants' staff eg; sales, trade counter, etc..
- back of house staff at AI companies and many others

**This exciting new online module is available to anyone in the world!**

Some features:

- Learn at your own pace – at home or at work.
- Self test your knowledge – each section has its own help test leading to an overall exam at the end.
- Repeat tests as often as you like.
- Receive a personalised **Certificate of Competence** as evidence of your new found knowledge.

**Find it at:** [www.thebuildingacademy.com/GAI](http://www.thebuildingacademy.com/GAI)  
**Simply pay online and the learning experience begins!**

**It costs:** £175 (plus VAT)  
 £150 (plus VAT) for members of the GAI.