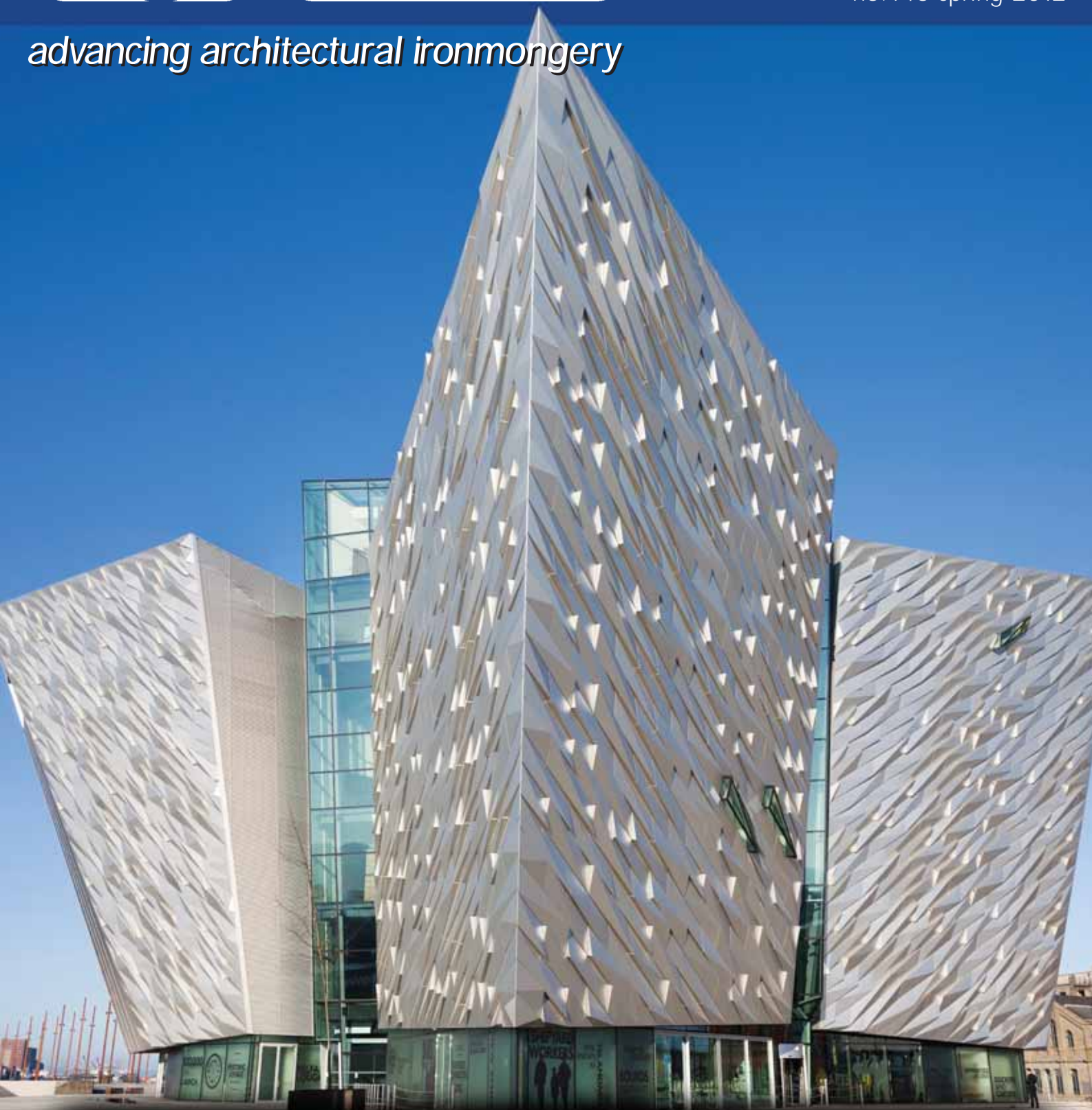




architectural
ironmongery
journal

no.145 spring 2012

advancing architectural ironmongery



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The Titanic visitor centre
Ironmongery In Situ
Pinnacle Award winner

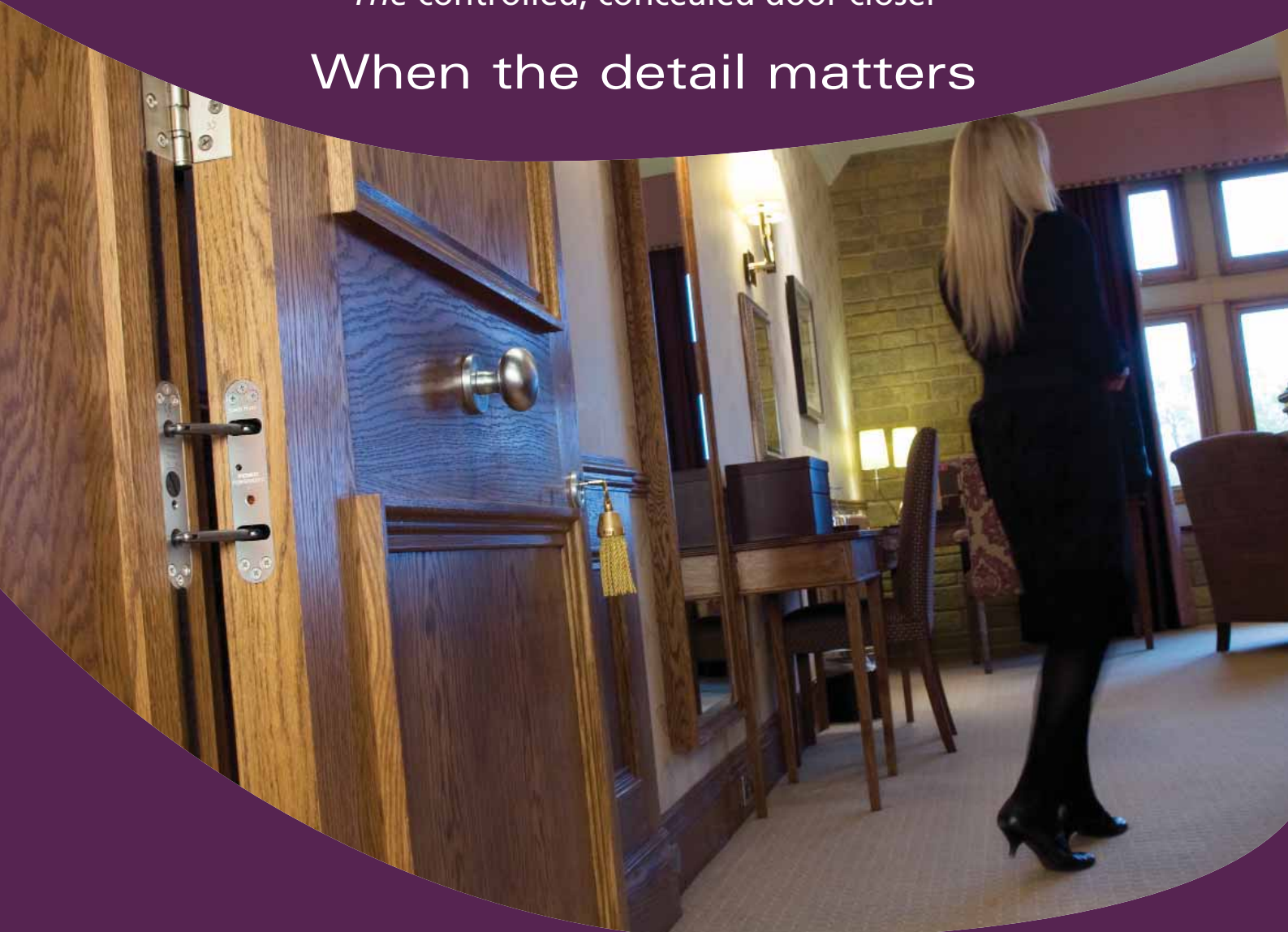
TECHNICAL

Lever and pull handles
under BS 8300
Q&A on CE marking

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As the cold economic wind continues to blow across Europe and the UK slips back into recession, it's becoming increasingly difficult to remain upbeat about the prospects for businesses at the moment - especially as the news for our sector was compounded by such disastrous figures for the construction industry.

Still, most AIs continue to trade on, with remarkably few casualties. They are looking for new ways to do business and new avenues to explore to survive the storm, which the Construction Products Association predicts, will last until 2014.

But for a really uplifting tale, turn to page 14 and read about last year's GAI Pinnacle Award winner: A really inspiring story of a woman who is determined to give everything one hundred per cent. In these tough times that's all any of us can do.



Helen Curry

no.145 spring 2012

insideaij

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Front cover picture: Titanic Visitor Centre, see page 24



Technical
Lever and pull handles
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industry news

GEZE in Singapore...Ironmongery Direct turnover up....New Astra deal

ASTRA CLOSES THE DEAL FOR LOCKSMITHS

Astra is offering locksmiths the chance to profit from the increasing sales of its new 3000 series of fully-controlled concealed door closers in key markets such as schools, hotels and hospitals.

Locksmiths who sign up for Astra's Approved Installer Scheme at www.astradoorcontrols.com complete the Astra training programme and fulfil the company's quality criteria, will become Astra-certified installers and benefit from a range of advantages including live local sales leads and the ability to offer a full guarantee backed by Astra. Training can take place at Astra's HQ or at a location close to the locksmith's premises.



NEW SINGAPORE SUBSIDIARY FOR GEZE

GEZE has established a new subsidiary in Singapore.

A showroom housed within the new headquarters will display and demonstrate the full GEZE product range, including automatic door systems, door closer technology, sliding door systems, window and ventilation technology, smoke and heat extraction systems (RWA), escape route and emergency exit and access control systems, as well as glass products.

IRONMONGERYDIRECT POWERS AHEAD

IronmongeryDirect has announced today its 2011 year end results which saw turnover hitting £15million, up 20% on 2010. IronmongeryDirect's Managing Director, Wayne Lysaght-Mason, commented: "This is now our seventh consecutive year of growth which is a major achievement in any circumstances, let alone in the tough times the construction sector has experienced. We've invested heavily last year, with a move to new premises, double the size of our previous one and in implementing new business management software concurrently. We will continue to improve efficiencies and order fulfilment, which is already one of the fastest next day services in the industry."

Online turnover for the company continues to perform strongly accounting for turnover of £6million in 2011, up 40% on the previous year.



FREE ACCESS

Codelocks is launching new training sessions for locksmiths who want to refresh their technical knowledge of digital push-button locks. The training sessions will take place in May, June and July 2012 at Codelocks' headquarters in Newbury, Berkshire, and are free to attend.

"We understand that locksmiths don't always have the time to keep up with the latest developments," said Grant Macdonald, Managing Director of Codelocks. "The free training will give locksmiths the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the complete Codelocks mechanical and electronic product ranges. They will get advice on installation, service and programming in a hands-on training environment. By increasing their knowledge locksmiths will find it easier to identify new business opportunities and be confident in specifying new products."

Codelocks training will take place on 27th June, 11th July and 18th July. Book online at www.codelocks.com/freetrainingoffer or by calling 01635 239645.

people news

*Apprentice refurbishes Victorian lock...
Tony Gaynor joins KCC*



VICTORIAN SPLENDOUR

Lincoln Security's latest apprentice Connor Dixon has refurbished a 19th century Victorian lock and cut a key by hand to fit and operate this traditional lock. Connor joined Lincoln

Security in January 2012 as an apprentice and is progressing through the Lincoln Security structured 4 year apprenticeship programme to become a fully trained locksmith engineer.

The new apprentice was given the task of refurbishing the early Victorian lock and making a new "Bridge Ward Key" to fit as the original had been lost. Connor said "Key Wards" need to be cut symmetrically in order for the key to engage with the "Bridge Wards" within the lock

The lock is a "Wood Stock Lock" also known as a "Plate Lock" and is early Victorian, normally fitted into the cavity of a wooden block which is then surface mounted onto the inside of the door. This type of lock was commonly used in the 18th and 19th centuries can still be seen today on many old churches and houses from where this example originates.

NEW MANAGER FOR KCC

KCC Architectural has appointed Tony Gaynor as General Operations Manager of their Dublin and Cork offices.

Tony has over 25 years' experience in the construction industry. He started his career with Davis Langdon in the UK as a surveyor, and then moved to the contracting side of the industry, working initially as a QS and Contracts Manager with Michael McNamara & Co and more recently as Managing Director with RS Finishing Systems Ltd, Dublin, a specialist building envelope contractor.

Prior to joining KCC he worked as a consultant surveyor whilst undertaking an MBS in Strategic Procurement in DCU.



Kaba Intumescent Door Kits



Kaba's range of Unican push button locks (PBL), when fitted with Kaba Intumescent Door Kits, have been successful in fire tests to BS EN 1634-1, for up to 60 minutes duration.*

Both the Simplex and Eplex range of push button locks were tested along with their intumescent protection. Assessments established that the push button locks, when fitted with the intumescent material, are non detrimental to the integrity and performance of the fire doors. The correct Kaba Intumescent Door Kits must be fitted to the relevant push button lock for use on a fire door, in accordance with the fire assessment.



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KABA®

Features:

- Quick, clean and easy to install, custom shaped intumescent kits provide protection against fire.
- The intumescent material is supplied with a self adhesive backing, to assist in the installation.
- Kaba Intumescent Door Kits are customised to each PBL model.
- Kaba Intumescent Door Kits can be used on 30 and 60 minute timber fire doors.
- Fitting instructions are supplied with the Intumescent Door Kit to ensure the material is fitted correctly with the PBL, in accordance to the assessment.

* Dependent on model



gai matters

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

LIVERPOOL AGM PROVES IAI SUCCESS

The Institute of Architectural Ironmongers' (IAI) AGM in Liverpool in February has been universally described as the best event ever! IAI Chairman Andy Matthews believes that the key to the success of the event was the affordable ticket prices which were the result of the superb support they had from the AGM's sponsors. "Industry stalwart Bob Ramage commented to me it was the best IAI event he had been to," says Andy. "I have to take that as a compliment as Bob has probably attended every single AGM since they began!"

As well as the formal business of the AGM, the event proved to be a great networking opportunity and also featured a presentation from Maria Simmonds on the new Fire Door Inspection Scheme (FDIS).

The event was such a success, in fact, that the IAI has decided to return to the same venue in Liverpool next year so an early date for the 2013 diary is 9 February.

During the evening's dinner dance, the IAI awarded honours to some of its leading figures in recognition of their contributions to the industry and Institute. The awards were the result of a newly revamped nomination process. "Every IAI region was responsible for putting forward candidates from within their branch membership which resulted in three very credible winners," says Andy.

The GAI Trophy for services to the Institute was awarded to Mario Del Signore, Chairman of the IAI's South East branch and long-time supporter of the organisation. He was presented with his trophy by GAI President Phil Newson. Mario has been instrumental in revitalising the South East branch and is one of the Institute's most vocal advocates in the trade. "I took over the south east branch chair last year," says Mario. "Having always had opinions and ideas on the institute over the 26 years that I had been in the industry I decided to take up the role and reinvigorate the branch."

This year's Paul Lewis trophy for customer service, sponsored by Royde and Tucker, was won by GB Locking Systems. Although the company is a relatively new member of the GAI, they received several nominations from around the regions. "It is clear that they offer exemplary customer service, critical in the current climate where this can give you a huge edge over competitors who maybe offer cheaper products," says Andy Matthews. GB Locking Systems was particularly pleased to accept an award that bears Paul Lewis's name as they regarded him as a 'torchbearer' for customer service excellence.

Finally, Fellowship of the Institute was awarded to Chris Colley of John Monaghan Ltd. Chris has been actively involved in the IAI for many years, including a stint as National Chairman from 1998 to 2000. Originally from the South West where he served for many years on the branch committee, Chris moved to the North in the early 2000's to work for Monaghan Group. Despite his relocation, Chris has continued his involvement with the IAI by holding various positions on the North West branch (currently he is branch secretary). He had several nominations for the award and the IAI Executive Committee decided to award him the Fellowship from a very strong shortlist.

The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers represents the majority of architectural ironmongers in the UK as well as the leading manufacturers of architectural door and window hardware. The Guild also administers the benchmark qualifications for professional architectural ironmongers and is dedicated to raising specification standards and encouraging best practice in all aspects of this sector. For more information on the Institute visit www.iai.uk.com.

Membership of the Institute section of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers is open to those individuals actively engaged in the architectural ironmongery industry. Full membership is available to those who have gained the GAI Diploma. Affiliate membership is available to other interested parties.

// Industry stalwart

Bob Ramage

commented to me it
was the best IAI event
he had been to... //

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ME**

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Door Controls

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gai matters

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



aijdiary dates

JUNE 2012

Design Stories - The Architecture behind 2012

Date: 25 June - 21 September

Venue: Gallery 1, RIBA 66 Portland Place London W1B 1AD

Description: Design Stories examines the architecture and engineering behind the 2012 sporting venues. A place to explore and view drawings, images, videos and amazingly detailed models of London's key new sporting venues.

LGA group Annual Conference & Exhibition

Date: 26 - 28 JUNE 2012

Venue: Birmingham International Conference Centre, Birmingham

Description: LGA group Annual Conference & Exhibition exhibit Latest Technology in Building Construction Including all of its Supporting Industries. Participants will also receive country market briefings from Embassy officials as well as opportunities to meet with leading private sector experts.

ONGOING

British Design 1948-2012

Date: March 31 - August 12

Venue: Victoria and Albert Museum, London, SW7 2RL

Description: The exhibition highlights significant moments in the history of British design.

OPEN DOOR TO YOUR AI FUTURE

Whether you are a student working towards a level one, two or three exam, a Diploma holder looking to gain or retain **RegAI status**, or simply a practising AI who wants to stay at the cutting edge of the industry, membership of the **Institute of Architectural Ironmongers** represents a great opportunity. The AIJ looks at ways that membership of the IAI can help the average AI's career.

Unlike the GAI, membership is open to individuals – not companies – who are qualified Diploma holders, students, or people active in the AI trade. This makes belonging to the Institute a real benefit to AIs personally, and one which you can take with you from job to job

Benefits of membership include:

A regular programme of local meetings where members get together in an informal atmosphere to learn, network and socialise.

Access to the Institute's established CPD programme. Either collect CPD points towards gaining or retaining RegAI status or simply use the informative talks to keep up-to-date with industry trends, developments and standards. Students will find these sessions especially useful as special events are held to help them through the compulsory parts of their qualifications.

Regular technical updates on the latest developments in standards and practice and, if you are a RegAI, access to the GAI's latest training manuals, and quarterly editions of the AIJ.

The right to use the designated letters MInstAI after your name – proof to colleagues and customers of your on-going commitment to excellence and a membership certificate to display as proof of that commitment.

Access to the 'Members Only' sections of the GAI's web site

You can join the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers at any time for an annual fee of just £40. Joining makes sound business sense – an open door to the inside track on the industry – as well as an enjoyable, friendly and relaxed way to stay one step of the competition.

There are branches all around the UK and Ireland with meetings held at regular intervals. A full schedule is available on the Institute's website. Alternatively, give your local branch manager a call. He or she will be pleased to talk you through the process and let you know what to expect. Once again, their numbers are all on the website.

For further information visit the Institute website at www.gai.org.uk/iai, email institute@gai.org.uk or call Claire Inman 0207 790 3431.

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BS EN1125: 2008
BS EN179: 2008
BS EN1154: 1997
BS EN1155: 1997
BS EN12209: 2003
BS EN1303: 2005
BS EN1935: 2002
BS EN1634-1
BS EN1670: 2007

(all certificates available on request)



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BS EN ISO 14001: 2004



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gai matters

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



MOVING FORWARD BRIGHTER FUTURE



The GAI's AGM and Conference took place on the 9th May on a theme of growing for the future. The event brought together AIs and manufacturers at the Forest of Arden Hotel in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside for a programme of business and leisure

activities as well as the formal proceedings of the AGM.

The GAI's AGM formed the first part of proceedings. Phil Newson of Allgood was re-elected for a second year as President, with John Jefferies of Laidlaw Interiors as Vice President and David Stacey of DORMA UK as Treasurer. The rest of the Executive Committee was also voted into place.

In his President's address, Phil acknowledged that the market is still extremely tough for the construction industry in general and ironmongery in particular. Despite this, and a gloomy budget forecast for the GAI, 2011-12 had been more successful than expected with membership numbers marginally up, better than expected revenue from Education, improved credit control, and savings on head office expenses and marketing. Phil outlined some of the developments coming up in the next 12 months including a drive to increase membership overseas and the Fire Door Inspection Scheme (FDIS).

The chairmen of the various GAI committees also made their reports to Conference:



Paul Duggan outlined the work the Technical Committee is doing on upcoming standards and the Construction Products Regulations, plus improved ways of communicating these important messages to members and the wider market.

This was **Andy Fitzgerald's** first AGM as chair of the Education Committee. The 2011-12 academic year was very successful for the GAI and Andy was able to report very pleasing enrolment figures for this year as well. Andy and his fellow committee members have been working hard on a root and branch review of the GAI education programme. Full details of

its findings will be announced next year but the aim is to continue the modernisation of the programme and offer students more options for courses.

Shafiq Sharif, chair of the Marketing Committee talked about new procedures and structure for the



TO A



Shafiq Sharif

committee and plans for marketing in 2012-13 including a concerted push to communicate with markets outside the UK.

IAI National Chairman **Andy Matthews** made a passionate case for the Institute and described some of the highlights of the previous year and plans for the future. This includes the planned launch of an Institute branch in Hong Kong in November.

After the business of the AGM, there was a programme of keynote speakers.



Simon Storer

Simon Storer, Communications and External Affairs Director at the Construction Products Association (CPA) outlined the role of his organisation and the ways in which GAI members can access its wealth of economic and political information and resources. The outlook for the construction industry, the CPA believes, is not very bright in the short term with the sector set to shrink by 2.9% in 2012 and to stagnate in 2013. But if information is power, then the CPA's impressive economic data and forecasting will prove a valuable resource for AIs and manufacturers alike.



Paul Wilkinson

The second speaker was Paul Wilkinson of pwcom.co.uk, a social media specialist. He urged the GAI delegates to get up to date with social media channels and use them to promote and build their businesses. Paul pointed out that the AI industry is woefully underrepresented on social networks and gave invaluable pointers on how to take the first steps onto web 2.0.

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the aij meets

*Kerry Hicks, first GAI member
to pass FDIS diploma*

FIRST IN LINE

The first GAI member to pass the new FDIS diploma has been revealed. **Kerry Hicks**, National Sales Manager at seal specialist **Lorient Polyproducts**, sailed through the newly inaugurated scheme with an impressive 96% pass rate

Kerry has been with Lorient for nine years, moving up to Key Account Manager then National Account Manager in 2009. He looks after the company's strategic house accounts such as larger Als and door manufacturers. "I wanted another string to my bow," says Kerry. "And given my role, the FDIS diploma was the logical choice. I already felt I had a good understanding of fire doors but this knowledge was very closely focused on seals for obvious reasons. I feel that the FDIS Diploma gave me a good broad understanding of the other components and of standards and regulations in particular."

Kerry was keen to lead his team by example. He manages a team of seven across an external and internal sales team and wanted to set himself a goal. "I booked a test date and gave myself a week to pass!" he says. Clearly determined to succeed, Kerry locked himself in a room, learned the modules and tested himself online. Then he waited a few days before self-testing again. "The course was very logical and

my travels as I'm really proud to be the first GAI member to pass!"

The FDIS is the first such scheme in Europe, designed to transform people's knowledge and understanding about the critical purpose and function of fire doors. Its ultimate purpose is to help improve safety and save lives through creating a new pool of expertise and competence to help those with legal responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. It provides a vital new resource to help the 'Responsible Person' complete fire risk assessments for the premises they manage. It also raises awareness of defective fire doors and the potentially tragic consequences of leaving these unchecked.

This new FDIS Diploma is not just for Als or hardware manufacturers. It is an invaluable resource for any fire safety professional, health and safety consultant, building inspector, facilities manager or employee within the fire door industry - a valuable additional qualification under your belt which proves your knowledge in fire door inspection and advice.



Kerry receiving his diploma from Gary Amer Chief Executive of the GAI

easy to use," he says. "I learned a lot, especially about hardware, panic systems and signage - a great grounding on the whole door."

Kerry took his exam in Exeter - one of a network of centres across the UK - which was the handiest for him to get to. He finished the test within the allocated time with plenty of time for checking and reviewing his answers. He was pleased with his score of 96% which he says has given him the confidence of confirming what he knew. "I feel more confident now in talking to Als."

This impressive score has certainly motivated Kerry's team who are all now taking the FDIS Diploma. "Everyone is trying to beat my score - and I'm sure they will!" he laughs. "I would recommend other people go for the Diploma," he says. "I've been talking to customers about it on

The Diploma modules cover:

- Foundation
- Timber fire doors and frames
- Metal fire doors
- Glazing
- Seals
- Ironmongery and signage (in two parts)

Each module looks at the relevant regulations and standards that apply to fire door components and how certification is crucial to meeting these standards.

The Diploma in Fire Doors is accessed via an online programme which students can complete in their own time and at their own pace. Students who pass the final exam are awarded the Diploma in Fire Doors and are entitled to use the designation DipFD.

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Rack & Pinion door closers

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Concealed CAM-motion door closers



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the aij meets

Farana Farooq Baig, the first student from outside the UK to win the GAI's Pinnacle Award

When Pinnacle Award winner Farana Farooq Baig was announced as the winner of the GAI's Pinnacle Award sponsored by ASSA ABLOY at last year's GAI Education Awards Lunch she became the first student from outside the UK and Ireland to win this top prize. Helen Curry talked to her about what the award means to her.

When Pinnacle Award winner Farana Farooq Baig was announced as the winner of the GAI's Pinnacle Award sponsored by ASSA ABLOY at last year's GAI Education Awards Lunch she became the first student from outside the UK and Ireland to win this top prize. Helen Curry talked to her about what the award means to her.

Nobody who attended the 2011 Awards Lunch will forget Farana. She was the first Pinnacle Award winner to make an acceptance speech and left a lasting impression on everyone who heard it of a warm, enthusiastic and happy woman! And Farana says that every moment of that day is still etched onto her memory! "I still remember every slightest particular of that day," she recalls. "I sometimes think back to it and it always makes me smile!"

Farana, who works for DORMA Gulf in Dubai, has had a meteoric rise to this moment having only worked with the company for five years. Originally from India, she had worked for a distributor there which dealt with DORMA products. When she married and moved to Dubai, she decided to apply for a job with DORMA. "In my previous job I had only dealt with the products in very general terms but here I am on the Project Management team in the specification department so I started to gain some more in-depth knowledge of the products straight away."



DE



DORMA Gulf places great emphasis on training and has now made the GAI Diploma course mandatory, seeing it as the industry qualification in the AI trade. Several of Farana's managers have taken the course and, inspired by them she began the course. "There is plenty of guidance and support at DORMA Gulf when you are doing the course," says Farana. "The management know the importance of our studies so give us help along the way – including time to study."

This approach, coupled with Farana's determination clearly paid dividends as she finished as top student in her Level One and Level Two exams. When asked about the secret of her success, Farana is very modest. "Whatever I do, I like to do excellently, with my full interest. I try to do things perfectly, at home and at work, because that gives me immense satisfaction." Farana applied this principle to her GAI studies. "The GAI exams gave me a chance to work internationally and gain some recognition and that spurred me on too," she says.

The Pinnacle Award, sponsored by ASSA ABLOY is part of the GAI's ongoing commitment to excellence in education and training in the architectural ironmongery trade. It is won by the student who gains the best aggregate score over three years of the education programme and, as such, is a just reward for the best all-round achiever in the industry. The prize is a substantial travel voucher. On the day of the GAI Awards Lunch, Farana clearly knew she was in with a chance of winning the Pinnacle Award after her success in previous years. But when her name was called out, she was still amazed!

"I can't describe how I felt but it sent shivers down my spine," she recalls. Her proud husband also attended and Farana is particularly satisfied with her parent's reaction. "This is my gift to them, for all they have done for me," she says. "As a parent myself now I want my son to excel at something and so this is one way I can thank my parents."

The reaction Farana has received to her award has been very warm from colleagues and customers alike and she is looking forward to planning the trip she will be taking with her prize money. It is plain that the award means the world to Farana: "It is something I will cherish all my life," she says.



// The **GAI exams** gave me a **chance to work internationally** and gain some recognition and **that spurred me on...** //



the aij meets

Paul Grech MD of Glutz UK

HONEST OPINION

A conversation with **Paul Grech** of **Glutz UK** is never dull. As one of the AI trade's most outspoken members, he has strong opinions on most subjects. **Helen Curry** went to meet him and see if he lived up to his Honest Joe reputation.



Having been involved in the company since its early days in the UK, Paul and Glutz's names are almost synonymous. Paul joined the company in 2000 just after the business started up here but this was not his first career. Before that, he worked in the stationery trade for seventeen years. "I really enjoyed it – it was great fun!" says Paul. "But as the big office supply catalogue companies came along, the trade started to change and I decided it was time to move on."

A friend of Paul's was running Glutz at the time and asked Paul to join him. "I decided it was time to change – it was the right time for me and for the trade." This was Paul's first stint at Glutz and lasted four years before he went to work for KABA for a short while. "I really enjoyed working with Nick Dooley and the team at KABA but the opportunity arose to go back to Glutz as MD and I felt like I couldn't turn that opportunity down." He returned to Glutz in 2005 and has been there ever since.

The company remains small in the UK with just three members of staff but that is backed up by the parent company's considerable resources in Switzerland. The business is very spec driven rather than commodity with the team usually working on a project for six to twelve months before it comes to fruition. A typical Glutz project is a high end and with a commitment to quality. "In previous years we have done a lot of schools and hospitals where quality was still a priority," he says. Now that kind of work is drying up, Paul has seen a shift towards upmarket residential projects, predominantly in London.

Glutz's typical customer is a small AI. In fact, almost 80% of the company's business is through AIs with the remainder made up of locksmiths and OEMs. "Most AIs are cherry pickers," says Paul. "They will buy handles OR locks from us but not enough buy both because they are constantly looking to save pennies – often to the detriment of quality." He puts this down to a lack of ambition among some AIs who tell him that they would love to sell Glutz product but who don't believe they will be able to command a good price for a pair of handles.

Paul is typically direct about how the market is performing. "If people ask me how things are, I'll tell them," he says. "If I've had a good month, I'll say so. It's tough out there at the moment though, without a doubt." He reports that there is less work and everybody is fighting harder for what work there is. He strongly believes that quality will out, however. "Those companies that still have a commitment to quality will prosper otherwise you will find yourself scrabbling around for the scraps," he says. "You can either be the cheapest or the best and there are too many people trying to be the cheapest."

Paul sees this race to drive down prices as one of the biggest problems facing the AI trade. "AIs are having their time wasted by contractors who have them running around, quoting and getting samples, only for the contractor to change the spec at the last minute." Paul believes that the GAI has a key role to play in maintaining standards in the market. "The Guild cannot stop spec changing," he concedes. "But it can be more robust in cracking down on passing off and dodgy CE claims." Paul would like to see more regulation in the AI industry to support quality manufacturers like Glutz with codes of practice and Building Regs being made mandatory.

Paul's commitment to quality also extends to his support for the GAI and the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers: he is vice chairman of the South East branch of the IAI and he is currently undertaking the GAI Diploma course – he wants his staff to do the course and so thought it only fair that he should do it himself.

Paul is justifiably proud of the work the committee of the South East Institute branch has done to transform it into one of the UK's most successful branches. The team, under the chairmanship of Mario Del Signore, meets regularly to share out tasks and speak on a daily basis. The result is one of the best-attended most vibrant branches around – often with standing room only at its monthly meetings. "We are not passive; we actively encourage people to come to the meetings with a good mixture of AIs and manufacturers."

The branch has tried to mix things up a bit with presentations on different subjects. For instance, meetings covering Secured by Design and by Glenigans are coming up soon. "We don't just want a succession of people talking about handles," says Paul. "We want the people who come to the branch to develop new skills, business skills that will help them through the hard times."

Paul has attended meetings for many years and remains passionate about the Institute. He sees it not only as a way to better himself and increase his knowledge, but also as a great networking opportunity, travelling round different branches regularly. "The meetings are very sociable – and I am very sociable so I enjoy that aspect as well."

Paul concludes with his philosophy on life. "I'm passionate about everything I do – football, ironmongery everything. If you're going to do something, give it 100% I say."



readers' letters

Write to: **Helen Curry, Editor aij**
8 Stepney Green, London E1 3JU
Tel: **01268 655511**
Email: **editor@aijournal.org**

Dear Madam

INTUMESCENT

I am writing to draw your attention to an issue which, as a working AI who prepares schedules every day, is causing me increasing frustration and concern.

Time and again, when scrutinising manufacturers' literature, I find that they contain statements that their products are "fire rated", but rarely is there any mention that the product requires intumescent protection in order for it to be fire rated. After further investigation I find that there is a need for an intumescent liner, but when I ask the manufacturer to supply their fire tested product with the correct intumescent pack I often find that they don't supply them. They seem to rely on the AI to get something themselves, without the knowledge of what type and what thickness was used in the original fire test. Surely this means that there is a good chance that the product I supply is not the exact product that achieved Certifire certification.

I believe that manufacturers need to help suppliers to get this right. It is highly reprehensible for a manufacturer to sell products for fire doors without giving at least full information about any intumescent material required and preferably supplying the appropriate intumescent pack to suit the product.

Yours faithfully

Jon Bryant
Edward Steel and Craig Ltd

Dear Madam,

DIGITAL LOCKS

I read with interest the informative article on FAQs about digital or push button locks in the Autumn 11 issue of the AIJ.

There are two issues which were not addressed – no doubt because they are not frequently asked about – but which I should like to mention here.

Fitting push button locks on fire doors

Before fitting any push button lock to a fire door, the supplier must provide documentary evidence of a successful fire test on a door of very similar construction. This information should include details of the maximum size of mortice permitted, and any intumescent material used to protect the mortice during the fire test. Without such evidence, any push button lock fitted to a fire door will invalidate that door's fire rating, and any certification awarded to the door.

Fitting push button locks on escape route doors

If a mechanical push button lock is fitted to a door on an escape route (and this will include the majority of doors), any other latch on the door must be disconnected, so that there is only one hand operation required to open the door. This will comply with the recommendation of Approved Document B. All too often, a mechanical push button lock is fitted above an existing latch, and both must be operated to open the door – a two-handed operation. This doesn't comply with ADB.

I hope this addendum will be helpful to readers in their specification of these popular and useful devices.

Yours faithfully,

Jacky R Sinclair DipGAI, RegAI, FInstAI

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FULL MARKS

Q Is it mandatory to use CE marked hardware on fire and escape door assemblies?

A No it isn't at the moment, but it will be after mid-2013, so it would be good practice to start now.

Q Is it mandatory to use CE marked hardware on CE marked fire and escape doorsets?

A Yes, it is. If the product can be CE marked, then it must be, before it's included in a CE marked doorset. (Escape doorsets can already be CE marked to BS EN 14351-1, but the standard for fire doorsets is not yet published.)

Q If it's not mandatory to use CE marked hardware on fire and escape door assemblies, should I bother?

A Yes you should!
It protects your business in the following ways:

- It shows that the products conform to the requirements of the Construction Product Regulations. (It is an offence not to ensure that products comply).
- It shows compliance with Building Regulation 7, which requires that "proper materials" be used (see ADB – Materials and Workmanship: page 5).
- It is a clear way of proving that the products are "state of the art" and "current rule of technology". (This links with the next benefit.)
- It shows you have exercised due diligence in sourcing products which are proven in their suitability for use in fire/life safety situations.
- In any action under Health and Safety legislation involving the product, the CE mark is a defence which can stop the action proceeding. Several cases brought by "no win, no fee" lawyers with regard to door closers have been dropped, because the closers were CE marked, and doing what they were CE marked to do. Without the CE mark, the cases are likely to have been successful and very costly to the supplier.

Extending on the tried and tested HI-LOAD hinge range Royde & Tucker are pleased to launch the new range of hinges for frameless glass door panels.

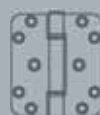
Available in both two knuckle lift off and three knuckle fixed pin versions and manufactured in stainless steel this range can accommodate frameless glass doors up to 120kg as standard, or variations to customer requirements on request, with precision laser cut components, representing the latest in design and function.

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RAVEN
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Jacky R Sinclair DipGAI RegAI FInstAI, the **GAI's Technical Consultant**

receives many queries about **CE Marking** on the GAI's technical helpline (**a free service for GAI members**). Here she runs through some of the most frequently asked questions on this hot topic for the industry.

Q *What if the product complies with a harmonised standard, but the manufacturer hasn't bothered to CE mark it?*

A Without the CE mark, YOU are warranting that the product complies with the standard. The CE mark includes regular audit testing, and checks on factory production control. These ensure continuing compliance. If you sell a product that you claim complies with a standard, but without a CE mark, you are taking responsibility for its compliance. This applies to EVERYONE in the supply chain.

Q *What if the product isn't covered by a standard, for instance – a spring hinge?*

A This is where Building Regulations kick in. You have to ask, "Is this product allowed on a fire/escape door in the Building Regulations covering the project I'm supplying?" In the case of a spring hinge, or other uncontrolled door closing device, it won't match the definition of a "self-closing device" given in ADB (England and Wales). Therefore it can only be used on a fire door in the following circumstances:

- The door is normally kept locked shut
- The door doesn't require a self-closer under Building Regs. e.g. an internal fire door in a flat where hard-wired smoke sensors are fitted
- An internal fire door in a flat where there are no hard-wired smoke sensors

Additionally, there would need to be a risk assessment on the use of an uncontrolled closing device.

Q *Is it possible for a product to be CE marked, but still not meet the requirements of Building Regulations?*

A Yes, this is a possible scenario. European standards are pan-European, but each country or region has its own building regulations. The CE mark shows that the product has reached the minimum performance levels to allow it to be placed on the European market. Local building regulations should be consulted to see if such a product is allowed or required in the particular locality.

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GET A GRIP

The requirements for lever and pull handles under **BS 8300** are still cause for confusion amongst specifiers and schedulers.

Jacky R Sinclair DipGAI RegAI

FInstAI, the GAI's Technical Consultant outlines the dimensional issues that AIs need to understand.

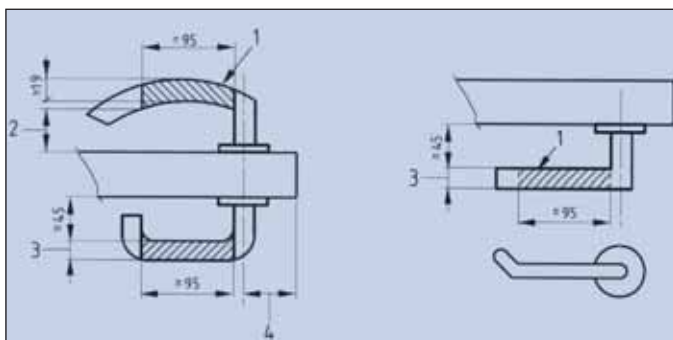
Updates to British Standards and Building Regulations on the needs of disabled people are being made on a regular basis. The 2001 edition of BS 8300 gave rise to a number of concerns which the 2005 amendment did not fully address. The 2009 revision, published in February, is therefore understandably comprehensive. One aspect that attracted greater attention is the issue of dimensions and profiles.

There had been criticism of the previous edition, in particular because it showed only one example of a round bar, return-to-door lever handle. The

impression given was that this was the only acceptable design. The absence of any alternatives prompted specifiers to take the safe route and stick to what was clearly acceptable.

The word "diameter" is used in BS 8300 with regard to the cross-section of lever handles and pull handles, but it is not intended to exclude other cross-sectional forms. Ovals and "D" sections for example could be equally effective, as long as they provide the key dimensions, and have no sharp edges. So it is possible to include flair and still provide access under BS8300

Figure 15 in the latest edition now gives four examples of lever handle design, including the conventional round bar return-to-door design, a curved return-to-door design and a design cranked up at the end of the lever to enable it to be operated more easily without a tight grip.



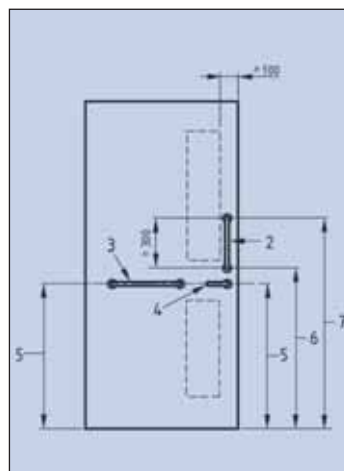
So why are the dimensions for levers outlined in BS8300 so important?

- 1** Handgrip zone – min 95 mm: allows whole hand to hold lever
- 2** 45 mm from face of door: avoids scraping/banging knuckles
- 3** Lever section min. 19 mm: easy to hold without gripping
- 4** Backset min. 54 mm: Clears frame-stop on closing face
- 5** Lever either return to door OR with upturn: stops hand sliding off and prevents clothing catching.

The key dimensions for pull handles have also been clarified. The revised guidance moves away from fixed positions for the vertical pull handles, giving only minimum heights for the top fixing of 1300mm, and maximum height of 1000mm and minimum height of 700mm for the bottom fixing, effectively allowing a minimum 300mm pull handle. The diameter (or cross-section) of a pull handle remains at 19mm- 35mm. Although a conventional "D" shape is shown, other shapes of pull handle are acceptable, as long as

they meet the dimensional criteria. The fixing height for lever furniture has also been changed to 800-1050mm, with 900mm being the preferred position.

2 Vertical pull handle: 19 mm to 35 mm diameter



3 Horizontal pull rail to help people close the door behind them

4 Lever handle

5 800 mm to 1050 mm (900 mm preferred)

6 Bottom end of pull handle no lower than 700 mm and no higher than 1000 mm above the floor

7 The top end of pull handle should be no lower than 1300 mm above the floor.

(1300 – 1000 mm = 300 mm)

So, while 300mm is the MINIMUM length which will enable the fixing dimensions to be met, pulls can be 600+ mm long.

Also need to know the key dimensions pull handles for doors with narrow stiles. They require cranked pull handles with an offset of not less than 50 mm from the door edge.

The standard now specifically deprecates the use of knob furniture and small symmetrical turn buttons (thumbturns) in favour of levers. Also, where a lever handle intercepts the viewing panel, any projecting glazing beads should not interfere with the operation of the lever handle or reduce the effective clearance behind it. Finally, the handle should contrast visually with the face of door: an LRV difference of 15 points is acceptable.



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BROTHERS JAMES AND JONES WONG, WHO RUN SUCCESSFUL AI COMPANY **KEYTECH** IN **HONG KONG**, VISITED THE UK RECENTLY TO TALK TO **THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERS** ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IAI BRANCH THERE. THEY MET WITH **HELEN CURRY** OF THE AIJ TO TALK ABOUT KEYTECH AND WHY THEY REMAIN SO COMMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE AND EDUCATION FOR THEIR TRADE.



EASTERN

The offices of Allgood, one of KeyTech's shareholders, on a rainy afternoon in London may seem a world away from Hong Kong but James and Jones Wong are no strangers to the workings of the GAI and the UK AI trade as regular visitors to these shores. In some ways though, Hong Kong could well be on a different planet as James describes an economy still showing stable growth and a government still committed to capital building projects, a situation which most UK AIs can only dream of.

KeyTech was set up in 1987 by husband and wife team Neil and Alison Harvey. As a qualified Quantity Surveyor, Neil had been selling Allgood hardware in the Middle East and was offered the chance to represent Allgood in Hong Kong. An opportunity he grabbed with both hands.

At that time, James was working for a property developer in the project management team. As part of his job he undertook tender analysis on projects and met Neil through that work. Neil's tender technical knowledge stood out to James because of it he was the only one who was able to respond to all queries at the technical interview. "Having the Diploma really made Neil's tender stand out," says James. "I interviewed many suppliers in the course and Neil impressed me straight away. I'm a technically minded person myself and Neil was the only person who could answer my questions." And it was here that James began his abiding connection with the GAI's education programme.

Neil eventually decided to move back to the UK to educate his daughters but he very much wanted KeyTech to continue and approached James, with whom he had established a close working relationship, to see if he would like to take over. James joined in January 1990, became a director in 1991, and over the following years, bought parcels of shares until he became a majority

shareholder of the company. Allgood remains a shareholder but Keytech is fiercely independent and buys across the industry, depending on client requirements.

James's brother Jones joined the business in 1996. Jones is a trained chemist with a history of working for multinationals like Dow Chemicals. "Keytech was growing too fast and I needed an extra pair of hands to help me," says James. "Jones came in and set up the systems that allowed us to grow successfully." The two brothers clearly work well together with complementary skills – although they do admit to the odd disagreement, they generally get on well.

Keytech's projects category cover airports, universities, hospitals, exhibition centres, hotels, offices & commercials complex, high end residences and other public communities services buildings. James was trained as a builder by profession and is also member of the Chartered Institute of Building and the Institute of Clerks of Works & Construction Inspectorate in the U.K. Because of his building related background, James finds his academic qualification and experience come in handy when communicating with other professions in the industry. The contribution and recognition in the industry has resulted in James being invited as adviser on the review of the General Specification in Ironmongery for Hong Kong SAR Government projects.

This technical performance spec is modelled very closely on UK performance specs and the brothers' team are very used to dealing with UK products and standards as a result which speaks volumes about their commitment to standards and qualifications in their business. Looking back to his thirty odd years in the construction industry, James added "I was lucky to be associated with Allgood right at the beginning. I have been inspired by Graham Shirville in many ways in the business and their persistence in



// **Technical expertise** is what makes us stand out from the crowd. **We truly believe** that it doesn't matter how many **good things** we do, it will be the **mistakes that are remembered**. //

PROMISE

quality has moulded me to what I am today. Whenever we write a schedule, we suggest the inclusion of a clause about using a qualified architectural ironmonger on the job," says James. "Education is central to our company philosophy because it is vital that an AI has the knowledge to give the architect the solutions they need."

Jones then draws an intriguing analogy. "I always think that an AI is like a Chinese herbalist," he says. "We know a lot of characteristics about different plants – or hardware products – projects' needs are like patients with a problem. We use that knowledge to 'diagnose' and find a 'cure' for their problems" James agrees. "Technical expertise is what makes us stand out from the crowd. We truly believe that it doesn't matter how many good things we do, it will be the mistakes that are remembered."

In Hong Kong the GAI's qualification is gaining recognition within the industry. There are currently sixteen GAI diploma holders and three RegAIs in Hong Kong, half of them started their career and being nurtured in architectural door hardware at KeyTech. James has been helping with the annual GAI exam invigilation in Hong Kong since 2000 and is longing to see more students passing the exams and carry on with their CPD programme to achieve a RegAI status.

Brothers' drive to establish branch

This is where the brothers' drive to establish an Institute branch in Hong Kong derives from. "We really want to raise industry awareness about standards and education," says James. "We see so much illiteracy in specification writing and poor quality hardware here and are constantly demonstrating to clients and architects through educational technical seminars that scrimping on a project will end up costing them more in the long run." Keytech sees the IAI as the vehicle to get this important



message across.

The company will be celebrating its silver jubilee later this year and is proud of being the longest established AI in the region, certainly in the specification market. There will be a big special Keytech event in November when it is hoped, the Institute branch will also be inaugurated. "The driving force behind KeyTech is to raise standards, not just chasing the bottom line," says James. "Every single day we tell customers that cutting corners on hardware is a false economy."

Further details about the establishment of the IAI's new Hong Kong branch in November will be detailed in future editions of the AIJ. Plans are already well underway for a launch event, and in the hands of two such committed enthusiasts, it would seem that the new branch should have a healthy future.

A TITANIC PROJECT

As the commemoration of the Titanic reached a crescendo in April, the Belfast docks where the ship was built saw the opening of the impressive new **Titanic Belfast visitor centre**. Built at the heart of the 75 acre former industrial area now known as the **Titanic Quarter**, the new building tells the story of the design, construction and tragic demise of the great ship and its enduring legacy as probably the most famous ship that ever sailed.





Designed by Eric Kuhne, the spectacular £93m building provides the centrepiece for the redevelopment of the whole waterfront area. Built on the original slipway, next to the Edwardian drawing offices in which the ship was designed, its soaring aluminium clad elevations have been visually compared to the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao. Belfast's grandees will be hoping that it will be as successful at attracting visitors to the area.

It is a striking structure, incorporating nine interactive galleries and corporate banqueting and hospitality spaces on the upper floors. Visitors can walk through the original Harland & Wolff shipyard gates, take a six-minute suspended ride through recreations of different parts of the ship (complete with the sounds of riveting and smells of burning metal) and see replicas of the first, second and third-class cabins. There's also a glass floor with eerie video footage of the actual ship where it now lays on the seabed beneath.

Ironmongery for the project was supplied by Irish AI KCC Architectural who provided a

26

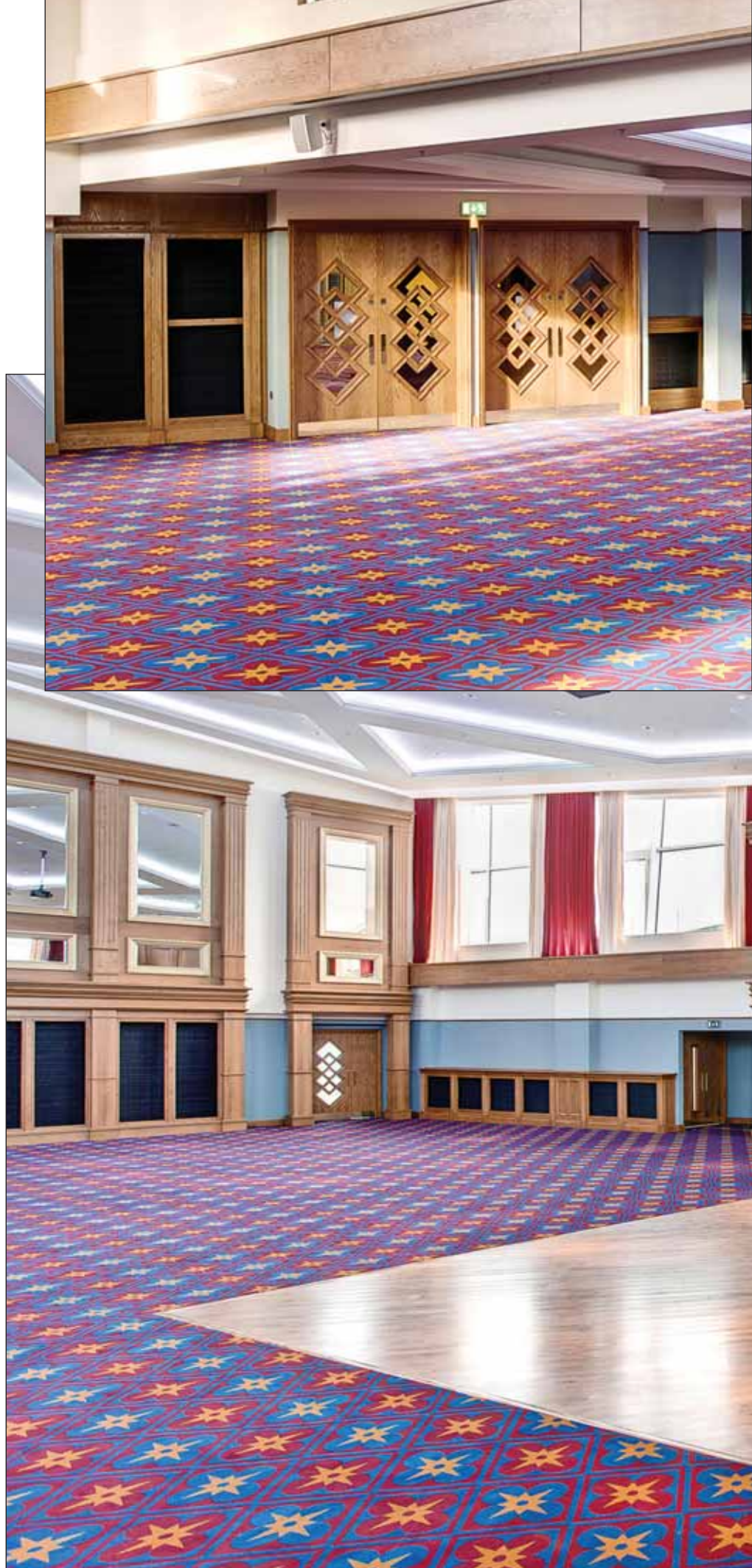


25 complete range of interior door hardware and automatic door systems as well as frameless glazing. The company became involved in the project at an early stage as Commercial Director Alan Currie explains: "We have a longstanding relationship with Todd Architects, project architect for the scheme. They called us in early in 2010 when the Titanic project was in its preliminary design stage and we started working with them preparing proposals and ideas from day one. On such a high profile building both the client and the designers were very particular about their requirements so it was a huge benefit being onboard at such an early stage."

In the building's gallery areas KCC specified stainless steel fittings from their own Premier range switching to brass in the banqueting spaces where the designers wanted to reflect the atmosphere and period feel of the original ship interior. "Highest quality was a requirement throughout the building," explains Alan, "the stainless steel was all grade 316 solid metal – with the exception of the metre long pull handles which were tubular. With around 350 doors to supply, the value of the hardware and automatic door systems was close to £100,000. The door hardware included pull and lever handles, closers, fittings and a locally built master key system. This was provided 'supply only' with the automatics and glazing under a separate supply and install contract."

Alan is pleased with the way the project ran; "Every job has its 'moments'" he confesses, "but for such an unusual building things really went very smoothly. The interior designers for the banqueting suite came onboard quite late in the project which generated a certain amount of adjustment to the final specification but, as ever with jobs like this, flexibility is the key! We had a big advantage in that our Belfast branch is literally a stone's throw away from the site. The supply process went on for 8 or 9 months so that location was a real help."

// With around
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// The **interior designers** for the banqueting suite came onboard **quite late** in the project which generated a certain amount of adjustment to the final specification but, as ever with jobs like this, **flexibility is the key!** //

PROFILE KCC

KCC has been in Belfast for 22 years. Originally part of NT Laidlaw, the company was created 13 years ago with a management buy-out from Ingersoll Rand. They cover all of Ireland with branches in Dublin and Cork but more recently have expanded their operation into the British Isles and the Middle East. "It's no secret that the market in Ireland is pretty tough right now" says Alan, "Here in the north 70% of construction is public sector work so the outlook is pretty uncertain. If you want to meet the Belfast construction community, go to the airport on a Monday morning. They're all heading for England and beyond"

KCC opened a London Office in November 2010 and have had a promising start supplying, among other projects, the International Broadcast Centre at the Stratford Olympic Park. That supply and install contract involved 1700 timber doors and frames. Their involvement stemmed from a successful relationship with main contractor FCC Elliott with whom they'd worked on the huge Enniskillen Hospital project back in Ireland.

With an eye further ahead the company opened an office in Qatar at the end of last year which Alan is confident will be a sound move: "It's early days for us over there, but with the huge developments planned in the coming years, the potential is massive."

Back in Belfast, KCC have given their marine links a new twist by providing deck balustrades for the refurbishment of SS Nomadic in the Hamilton Docks. Back on dry land they have also supplied many of the new buildings in the Titanic Quarter including the new Public Records Office of Northern Ireland and White Star House - a new office building for Citigroup. It's an area that's clearly looking forwards as well as back, and the new museum is definitely worth a visit.



// Highest quality was a requirement throughout the building the stainless steel was all **grade 316 solid metal** - with the exception of the metre long pull handles which were **tubular**. **//**



london

london eye

EYE CATCHING ACCESS

A combination of Dor-O-Matic concealed all glass automatic swing doors and glass manual doors now welcome the average 3.85 million visitors a year to the EDF Energy London Eye's ticket office.

The doors, metalwork and specially designed curved toplight complete a refurbishment of the existing entrances. These were supplied and installed in their entirety by Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies.

The EDF Energy London Eye is the top paid for visitor attraction in the UK so it is vital that the doors at both the front entrance and the more accessible ground level entrance are able to cope easily and safely with the huge pressures of a very heavy daily visitor footfall. Two new pairs of manually opening doors have been installed in the front entrance while concealed all glass automatic swing doors service the side entrance. This entrance is fully compliant with the Equalities Act, giving easy access to all including disabled visitors and those with pushchairs.

The extensive use of glass and minimal metalwork is designed to maximise the welcoming character of the entrances and provide a bright, airy and contemporary feel to this iconic venue.



manchester

student flats

NO "LOCK OUT" BLUES

Following the successful launch of their "Network on Card" e-link access control system, GB Locking Systems has now unveiled the latest addition to their battery powered handles set range.

The "Privacy Snib Latch" version features an integral privacy control function which is designed to alleviate the inconvenience of residents inadvertently locking their cards in their rooms, which has historically been an administrative and security problem within multi occupancy sites such as student accommodation.



GB Locking Systems customer Powell Hardware recently supplied the new system to Boundary Lodge student accommodation in Manchester, the system has dramatically reduced anti-social hour's callouts for the letting agents and security staff to open up doors where cards have been locked in.

london

mint tower hotel



MINT CONDITION

As one of seven city centre hotels in the group, the 583-room 'Mint Hotel Tower of London' has undergone a £65 million refit. In order to avoid on-site disruption associated with multi-supplier provision of doors, frames, architraves and ironmongery, Laidlaw Solutions was chosen to schedule an integrated package of its Orbis Timber Doorsets. Architects Bennetts Associates' brief was to provide a distinctive, contemporary interior design style so over 2100 quarter-cut veneered doorsets were installed, the majority in an American White Oak finish. For conference and meeting room doors a distinctive, contrasting, Black Walnut veneer was chosen. Bespoke ironmongery was factory-fitted using morticed lock fittings and VingCard Access Control and installed with Orbis Commercial Softline door closers and accessories.

NEW fire rated mailbox

Mailboxes GB are proud to present our new Fire Rated mailbox, the 1325FR.

Fire safety is a key factor when specifying products for fire exit areas or postal rooms that need to be fire rated. Our new model 1325FR has Intumescent lining to both the flap and door which provides a 60 minute (Integrity only) fire rating, which more than satisfies the criteria specified by Warrington Fire in BS 476: Part 2: 1987

The model 1325FR also satisfies section 21 and 24 of the Secured by Design.



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blackburn

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ROVERS RETURN

As part of a programme of reducing maintenance costs whilst improving security across its stadium and ancillary club buildings, Blackburn Rovers has launched a new "open and closed doors" policy. As part of the policy, the football club has installed DORVISION, a GPRS based door controls system developed by DORMA, which enables the remote opening and closing of multiple doors from one central location. The system has enabled the Football Club to significantly achieve its goals of reduced costs and increased security.

An extensive review of the way the club manned the many entrances associated with its estate and the costs involved with using staff to maintain security, highlighted the rising costs associated with manually unlocking and locking its doors plus emergency and regular maintenance visits. They required a solution that would cut man hours associated with manually opening and closing doors as well as reduced service costs.

A GPRS based wireless system, DORVISION is cleverly concealed within the door equipment. From there, it captures up to the minute data, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing the user with real-time remote handling functionality of the doors' main controls.

DORVISION was installed onto the existing twelve sets of doors which included DORMA'S automatic sliding door operators ES200 and ES90 and the electro-hydraulic swing door operator ED200. These were located at various parts of the stadium including entrances for fans and players, a reception area and a retail shop. The club had the additional requirement for a retail shop, located offsite in Blackburn city centre which also required a remote opening, closing and locking facility on the existing DORMA door closers.



london

beaufort house

CURVE APPEAL



The striking 12-storey Beaufort House in the heart of the City of London features individually designed, oval-shaped entrance lobby with curved automatic doors from GEZE UK.

Home to stockbrokers, solicitors, telecoms and insurance companies, Beaufort House has been refurbished by Osel Architecture who envisioned a large, wholly original entrance that makes a dramatic statement to all staff and visitors, and complements the building's grand 60ft-high atrium. Specialist fit-out firm Sykes worked with GEZE UK, to help deliver this very unusual project with minimal disruption to office workers and visitors.

With extremely high footfall expected at peak periods, a curved entrance was chosen that would enable the largest possible number of people to flow through the lobby at any one time. It was also important to maintain a feeling of space within the lobby area and create an easy transition between the building's atrium and the busy square outside.

As a result, the lobby's unique oval design features two automatic bi-parting sliding outer glass doors which are gently curved, and two identical inner doors, maximising footfall, minimising heat loss or gain and enabling access for all. GEZE's energy-efficient Slimdrive SC, a curved automatic door operator was chosen for its sleek appearance and versatility as it can be tailored to bespoke radii and door dimensions, as well as meeting the highest efficiency and quality standards.

Two glass swing doors with EMD-F automatic door operators were also installed on either side of the lobby for security use and out-of-hours access. These highly compact operators are able to move large and heavy doors easily with virtually no noise.

london

old workshop

INVISIBLE LINK

Architect Jack Woolley's almost invisible live/work scheme on the site of a former carpenters workshop won this year's Architects Journal Small Projects Award, against strong competition from 24 short listed practices. Described by the judges as "delightful" and a superb use of a found site, the office & home project featured a "hidden" door built into the brickwork of an existing wall.

Architectural Ironmongers Poole Waite & Co Ltd recommended the door should be fitted with satin finish TECTUS TE640-3D hinges, from leading door hardware manufacturer SIMONSWERK, as this "fully concealed" hinge, itself an award winner, was by definition and specification the perfect partner for the project, a worthy recipient of the prestigious AJ Small Projects prize.



■ HIGH PERFORMANCE KICKPLATES

QUICK DELIVERY KICKPLATES

Eurospec has launched a new range of high performance kickplates under its Steelworx brand available on next working day delivery. These are designed with high corrosion values and suitable for commercial use, such as in hospitals, schools, leisure centres and other heavy traffic areas. They complement the other products in the Steelworx High Performance range which includes handles, knobs, door pulls, fingerplates, escutcheons and door stops

The new Collection includes 17 different cut to size 6" high kickplates to cater for UK door widths in both metric and imperial from 626mm to 926mm and from 27in to 36in inside & outside face. The range is available in various finishes - polished stainless steel, satin stainless steel and stainless PVD brass - and all kickplates have polished edges with soft corners to minimise the risk of injury by both installers and end users.



■ HIGH SECURITY PADLOCKS

PROVING ITS METTLE

UNION's range of high security padlocks demonstrated their resilience, when they were tested against the elements for 12 months.

The padlocks were tested at a farm 1,400ft up in the moorlands of the Peak District, chosen because of its exposure to the harsh weather conditions. This, combined with the wind and months of cold weather, helped to provide an ideal environment for testing products in extreme conditions.

The padlocks were attached to fencing, fully exposing them to the elements. They were not operated on a frequent basis, allowing plenty of time for them to seize in the extreme conditions. The padlocks, constructed of brass and hardened steel, continued to function as normal despite a year-round onslaught of wind, rain, hail, sleet and snow.

EXIDOR

Panic Hardware for uPVC Doors

The new Exidor 500 series universal keep for uPVC doors ensures correct operation and ease of fitting regardless of the profile of the door and frame.

- One keep fits all uPVC profiles
- Specify, supply and use with the confidence that the product will always fit
- Supplied complete with uPVC fittings, keeps and packing pieces
- Available with shoot bolts or Pullman latches
- Upgrade kits available for wooden and aluminium doors
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Available in a variety of powder coated finishes



EXIDOR PANIC AND EMERGENCY HARDWARE

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■ 60 MINUTE GLAZING SYSTEM

PREMIUM AESTHETICS WITH RF1

Lorient's RF1 is a versatile new 60 minute glazing system that has been developed in response to strong demand from door manufacturers for a well designed, bead-applied glazing solution with style.

It comprises a pair of bead applied intumescent glazing seals, a sodium silicate intumescent liner and is designed to be used with appropriate hardwood retaining beads (which Lorient can supply).

Its unique design allows tolerances between door, bead and glass thicknesses to be accommodated and provides fire resistance for 60 minute applications for doors and screens. Caps are available in a variety of finishes to harmonise with the door.



■ EASY CODE LOCKS

EASY CODE PLUS DIGITAL LOCKS

Securefast has now launched the Easy Code Plus SBL330.SL with lever handles on both sides and the Easy Code Plus SBL330.S with an internal turn knob and hold back snib for the tubular latch.

Designed to provide security in low to medium traffic areas, the new Easy Code Plus range incorporates a superior mechanism specifically designed to prevent the code from being detected by opportunist thieves, whilst eliminating the necessity of moving retainers around the mechanism to alter the code setting. With the SBL330 range all that is required is a simple push and rotation of the dials for each digit located on the inside of the external unit by using a flat screwdriver. The clearly visible indicator dot on the dial next to each digit indicates the set code.

The new Easy Code Plus Digital Locks are supplied complete with a 60mm backset tubular latch and a clear eleven button display, offering a choice of over 2,000 non-sequential codes.



■ UVPC UNIVERSAL KEEPS

UNIVERSAL SOLUTION

Exidor has introduced a range of uPVC universal keeps for their 500 series slimline range. The Exidor 500 series 38mm footprint is particularly suited for use on uPVC and narrow stile doors, and the addition of the innovative universal uPVC keeps ensures that the architectural ironmonger can specify and supply with the confidence of knowing that, whatever the uPVC profile, the hardware will fit every time.

This is achieved by combining the unique keep with a number of different packing pieces, all supplied as standard, to ensure the correct operation on any profile of door and frame. It is now offered as a complete package for doors constructed from wood, aluminium and uPVC, including specialist keeps and fixings.



■ CONTINUOUS HINGE

MIND THE GAP

Master Hinge Makers Cooke Brothers Ltd has announced the launch of its Interleaf Continuous Hinge onto the market.

Recognising the growing demand for a minimal space between the frame and door profile, the new Phoenix Interleaf hinge reduces the typical gap of a traditional heavy duty continuous hinge from the usual 12mm down to a mere 3mm.

Ideally suited for both 44mm and 54mm timber and metal doorsets, the aesthetic lines of the Interleaf hinge completely fills the void between the door and frame, reducing the risk of finger trapping considerably. For secure environments where the risk of self harm is a major consideration, the Interleaf hinge is also available with reduced ligature end caps as a specified option.

Incorporating the Phoenix high performance maintenance free polymer bearings, the new CE marked Interleaf hinges have been successfully tested to BS EN 1935: Grade 14 (160kg) and is CERTIFIRE approved for use on fire doors.



■ MIX AND MATCH

MIX AND MATCH

HOPPE (UK) can now offer the market the freedom to mix and match brass levers and backplates from its Atlanta and Cortina range.

Two of HOPPE's popular Duraplust levers and backplates – the Cortina and Atlanta – are available in polished brass, polished chrome or satin chrome and the finishes can be mixed and matched across the range to provide an individual end product. Both ranges are HOPPE manufactured products and come backed with both the Resista 20 years' surface and the 10 year operational guarantees. The Atlanta series also comes with the innovative quick-fit connection making installation fast and simple, and both ranges are suitable for domestic and light commercial applications.



■ NEW RANGE OF DOOR HARDWARE

GRIPPING STUFF

IronmongeryDirect has launched three new ranges of door hardware, from luxury to cost effective.

The Elan Lever Handle is a luxurious designer range ideal for high-quality domestic and office projects, the sleek designs offer a premium finish to interior doors. Be it minimalist or homely, customers will find a look to suit any style.

The Morello range is a contemporary option which represents excellent value. It includes modern and traditional levers in a variety of finishes suitable for commercial through to domestic projects. They are also available as door kits with latch and hinges or just the handle on its own.

The Touchpoint Hardware budget range of lever handles for interior doors features low maintenance finishes, including chrome and brushed satin nickel. This is a low cost alternative with concealed bolt-through fixings which ensure a solid, permanent fit.



■ FIRE RATED HINGE RANGE

FIRE RATED HINGE SOLUTION

SIMONSWERK have introduced the FR (Fire Rated) option into its TECTUS hinge range.

TECTUS FR is for FD30 - fire door applications and now incorporates the intumescent material within the hinge body. This is the perfect solution for Architects and Designers who want clean lines and a huge leap forward for door manufacturers and installers who no longer have to fit the intumescent kits behind or around hinges, giving a much more aesthetically pleasing look.



■ HIGH SECURITY HANDLE

ERA GETS A NEW HANDLE ON SECURITY

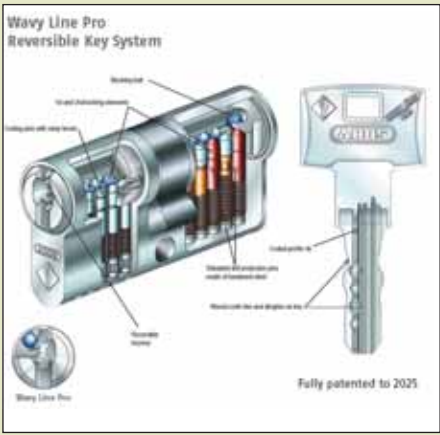
ERA has launched a new High Security handle, designed to protect door cylinders from attack. Meeting the new TS 007 two-star rating, the High Security Handle is suitable for both new and retro-fit installations.

The handle is specifically designed to shield the lock cylinder behind its backplate, giving access to only the cylinder keyhole. Tested to PAS 24, amendment 11, the profile of its backplate ensures an attacker cannot grip it using any of the methods of attack laid down in the standard.

When used in conjunction with a kitemarked cylinder, it protects the lock against snapping, bumping and other known methods of gaining illegal entry. The handle is manufactured from forged aluminium and high tensile M6 screws give added strength.

Available in white, gold and silver anodised, polished gold and chrome; the High Security Handle will fit door thicknesses up to 70mm. Supplied with a spring cassette as standard, it is suitable for 92mm centres for a variety of locks.



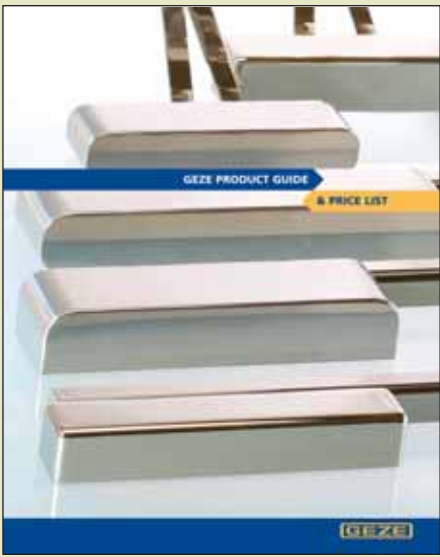


2012 ABUS SPECIFICATION CATALOGUE

The new ABUS Specification Catalogue and Price List has been launched, putting everything from a key differed cylinder through to a complex grand master suite in one indispensable reference document.

The 40-page full-colour catalogue provides access to the fully integrated ABUS locking systems allowing distributors and specifiers to combine in one system all types of cylinders including electrical switch gear, padlocks, to create high-grade security systems for both commercial and domestic security applications.

The ABUS Specification Catalogue is available by contacting ABUS UK on 01275 390610 or info@abus-uk.com. Alternatively, go to the ABUS UK website at www.uk.abus.com and download the latest version.



GEZE'S NEW PRODUCT GUIDE

GEZE UK, has updated its Product Guide and Price List to help architects, architectural ironmongers and specifiers choose the most effective product for their needs.

The detailed, illustrated technical guide provides specifiers with essential information about GEZE's extensive range of door closers, window control systems, sliding door fittings, RWA smoke and heat extraction systems including its latest innovations.

The new version of the product guide includes technical drawings, application descriptions and finishes so specifiers have all the options at their fingertips.



EMBODIED IMPACTS

The quest for a more sustainable and low carbon built environment has turned a spotlight to the embodied impacts of construction products, especially embodied carbon.

The Construction Products Association has published a Guide to an Understanding of the Embodied Impacts of Construction Products written by Life Cycle Assessment expert Jane Anderson. The detailed Guide is available electronically and a short summary is printed. The Guide aims to improve the understanding of the wider construction industry to the ways in which embodied impacts of construction products are assessed and how this information can then be used for building level design.

The Guide discusses what is a Life Cycle Assessment, what are Environmental Product Declarations, what is the significance of the new European Standards CEN/TC 350 and the impact of the Construction Products Regulation, and looks in detail at the range of environmental indicators.

holiday stuff

Oh, dear. Once upon a time before our European Brothers started passing Directives, and their Courts were asked to interpret them, life was a great deal simpler. This is not an anti-Euro lament, but an observation about complications that have been imported into our employment law system.

An Update on Holiday Rights:

These are conferred by the Working Time Regulations and provide for 5.6 weeks paid leave per year, to include Bank/Public Holidays. So, the normal full-time worker gets 28 days, to include the 8 Bank/Public Holidays. What about June 5th? Most employers would expect to give this simply as an extra day's leave, but not all employers have to, and it depends on how your Terms and Conditions of Employment are drafted. If you give: "4 weeks paid leave, plus Bank Holidays", then you have no choice, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Holiday has to be given. If, however, you state that you give paid leave in line with the Working Time Regulations, being 5.6 weeks per year, to include Bank Holidays, then you would not be in legal breach to count 5th June as part of the 5.6 weeks.

Part-Time Workers:

Those on part-time hours have parallel rights, so, if they work 3 days per week, they are entitled to 60% of 28 days, being 17 days. If you experience problems with this you can always contact the GAI Helpline.

Long-Term Sick Leave:

The Courts have got themselves in a right old muddle over the leave rights of those who have been absent sick for over a year. The European Courts have been extremely (some would say ridiculously) employee-friendly in their interpretations, so that in one case, they found that someone who had been absent for over 3 years, would continue to accrue Holidays throughout that time, that Holiday entitlements are an integral part of the EU's Health and Safety Directives, therefore such accrued holiday rights are sacrosanct. However, this has not been followed in the UK, and we teeter between "use it or lose it" and carry-over. Just to explain this, the "use it" case was one where the employee had been absent for some time, they did not seek to specify that any part of the year in question was to be treated as Holiday Leave, so they could not pursue payment for that lost leave once the Leave Year had finished. The Working Time Regs do help us in this regard, as they restrict Leave Pay rights to the specific year. Is that clear? Well, no, because another UK Court found the opposite, that in a Leave Year, if someone is unable to take their leave because of illness, then they must have the right to carry it over. This is a moving situation, so if you have a problem like this, phone the Helpline.

Sickness Whilst on Holiday:

For years, this was a standard try-on for the universal lead-slinger, I was so sick on Holiday, I never got any rest, can I have more Holiday please? This occasioned very little sympathy from Mr Average Employer. But, now, we have to consider the Health and Safety roots of Holiday entitlement. The whole purpose of taking leave away from the stresses and strains of your work is to rest and recuperate, so if you do not have the chance to do that because you are struck down by illness, then the chance to relax must be restored. Obviously, you would need compelling proof about the illness in question, but if that is produced, then you have to grin and bear it.

Holiday Pay:

For most staff, this is a straightforward issue, you simply get paid your normal basic pay for any authorised leave. However, for those whose earnings vary with the amount of work done, then the Regulations require you to pay an average, not just the basic. This is a bit of an unexploded bomb, as many employers only do pay basic pay for leave times, and in organisations that rely strongly on commission-earning sales staff, there could be a problem.

And finally:

Make sure that your Holiday terms properly protect you, that you do stipulate that leave can only be taken with permission, that Sections have to be manned sufficiently, and that no expenditure on flights, for example, should be made until it is absolutely clear that leave can be taken at that time. If you would like a review of your Leave Terms and Conditions, contact the Employment Law Helpline on 01372 462262 or by the means of e-mail at roger@rvassociates.co.uk.

Roger Vincent



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- Office and workshop areas with high traffic doors.
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