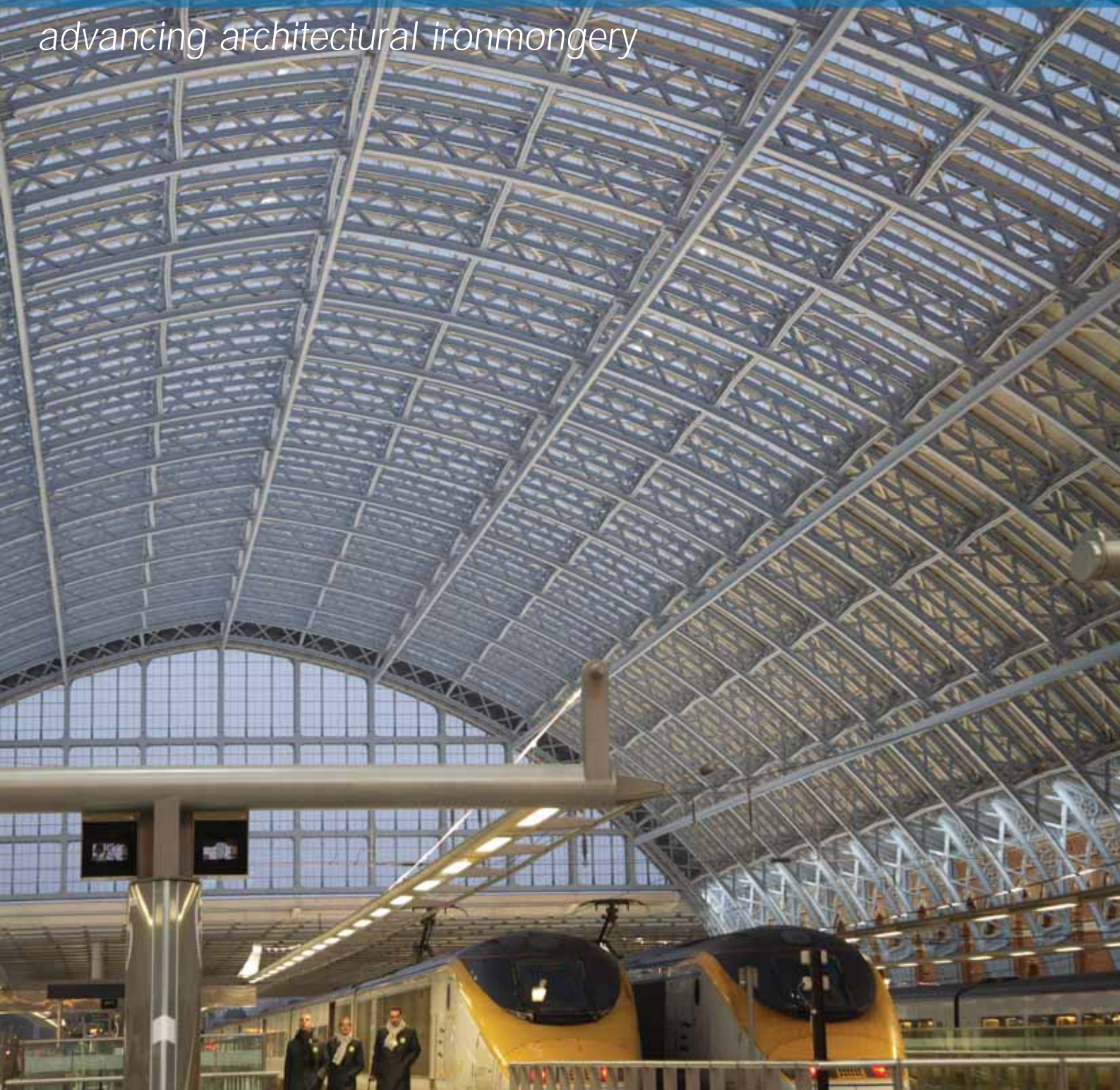




architectural
ironmongery
journal

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advancing architectural ironmongery



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CE Marking of doorsets



PHA 2221 panic latch, EN 1125



PHA 2100 panic pad, EN 179



PHA 2220 panic bolt, EN 1125



External trims available

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At the time of writing, the world's financial markets are going into meltdown with every day seeing record losses and governments intervening to stop their economies from nose-diving. Every news bulletin brings more tales of doom and economic despondency. The media looks set to follow the traders down the path of talking ourselves into a recession. Well the AIJ isn't going to follow that trend. Things don't look quite so gloomy in the AI sector. In fact, in the construction industry as a whole.

Many of the UK's leading AIs and AI manufacturers report a strong start to the year with many already up on last year's healthy figures. Of course there will be bumps in the road but 2007 was something of a rollercoaster year for sales and many companies reported excellent results. Its time to hold our nerve and look positively to the future in a strong market.

Nowhere can a proud achievement in AI be more clearly seen than in our front cover story - the refurbishment of St Pancras where the AI and architect have worked closely together to achieve spectacular results.

Finally, I am sad to report the death of another former AIJ editor, Robin Adams. Robin held the post of editor for over 20 years and was also a key figure in the GAI's respected RIBA Specification Awards. He passed away suddenly just before Christmas and our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends.



Helen Curry

aijfront cover



St Pancras station has been magnificently restored. And while the train shed's roof may get all the attention, it is in the detail that this project really wins hearts and minds - not least the lovingly recreated hardware.

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NEXT ISSUE

Copy dates for advertising and editorial for inclusion in the **Spring 2008** edition of AIJ will be **21 March 2008**



WHICH IS THE BEST LOCK?

The UNION J2134E five lever BS deadlock has been awarded both 'Best Buy' and 'Exceptional Value' awards in the Which? magazine report on locks, published earlier this year.

The UNION product fought off competition from other established brands to take the top spot in the report.

Each lock trialled was put through a wide range of gruelling use and abuse, testing strength, attack and weather resistance. The UNION J2134E was given full marks in every category by the independent research team, performing exceptionally in all the security tests successfully resisting attempts to force it with more than a ton of pressure and drill the mechanism over a ten minute period. It also passed all of the durability tests, operating at extremes of temperature, and proving resistant to corrosion. Locksmiths testing the installation of the product found the lock simple and easy to install, following the clear and detailed instructions provided.

The UNION J2134E is successfully third party tested to BS3621:2004 and is approved the police initiative Secured By Design, making it ideal for domestic applications. The product has a 20mm extended throw deadbolt and anti-pick and anti-saw security features for additional resistance to attack. It is available in both 2.5" and 3" case sizes with a 45mm or 57.5mm backset. The UNION J2134E carries a 15-year guarantee.

GLOBAL REACH

Bodycote warringtonfire has joined forces with Underwriters Laboratories (UL), headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois, USA to offer globally expanded fire safety services to their respective clients. The initial scope of the alliance relates to initial type testing of fire and security related products for the purpose of gaining UL Listing and / or CERTIFIRE Certification and Certification in support of CE marking. Additionally, each company will accept each others test data, and provide for surveillance/follow-up inspections services as needed and in connection with listing or certification of the test product(s).

"We are pleased to be able to expand our global capabilities for our Fire and Security clients, enabling both UL and Bodycote warringtonfire manufacturer clients more options in testing their products locally, minimising the costs and burdens placed upon them when in need of certifying their products for international distribution," stated Chris Hasbrook, Global VP&GM for UL's Fire Safety & Security sector and Bodycote warringtonfire, Tim Cornes Divisional Director in a joint announcement.

MBO SECURES FUTURE FOR LORIENT

Newton Abbot based Lorient has become the subject of an MBO by three of its Directors.

The majority shareholding in Lorient Holdings Ltd, which specialises in the design and manufacture of acoustic, smoke and fire sealing systems, has been acquired by Maria Simmonds, Tom Kingdon and Jason Williams. Founder Rob Mann retains a stake in the business and his role remains at the heart of the business; continuing to serve as Technical Director and providing strategic direction on significant international projects.



Lorient was established in 1979 manufacturing fire seals from a base in Surrey, relocating to Devon in the early 80's. The Lorient Group has grown to encompass businesses around the world and has established Lorient operations in Australia, the Middle East, as well as the UK, USA and Hong Kong. Recognised as a leader in its field, it has a strong reputation for innovation, research and development and sophisticated extrusion technology.

The MBO team has plans to develop the business, which employs 100 staff in the UK and a further 30 worldwide. Speaking of the deal Simmonds said:

"This provides the very best future for Lorient, in that we are a proven, successful team with over 30 years' service between us, taking the company forward for the next generation. Our commitment to staff and all those associated with the business is to continue to operate with the same values upon which this business has been built, but extend our thinking to grow into an even more successful internationally renowned company. Our investment in our relatively new 30,000 sq ft factory and office complex underlines our intention to remain and grow on Heathfield, Devon, with the help of our talented and dedicated staff," Commented Maria Simmonds.

NEW FACE AT THE HELM OF DORMA IRELAND



Ian Mullally has been appointed Managing Director of DORMA Ireland Limited, part of the DORMA Group, the world market leader in door controls, movable walls, automatic door systems, glass fittings and accessories.

Based at the DORMA Ireland office in Foxrock, Dublin, Ian first joined the company in 2001 as General Manager. Ian began in the architectural ironmongery business over twenty years ago, and received the Guild of Architectural Ironmongery Diploma in 1992. Since joining DORMA Ian's expertise has broadened to cover automatic doors and glass fittings.

Alan Blower, CEO of DORMA UK & Ireland comments: "Ian's appointment justly reflects his commitment to the company and the success he has brought to the Irish operation. The service levels are particularly high in the region, which has an extremely loyal team of engineers, salesmen and administrators, many of whom have been with DORMA for over 15 years".



NEW TECH HEAD FOR G-U

Gretsch-Unitas UK has announced the appointment of Paul Pearson as technical manager. Paul has more than sixteen years engineering and design experience and is a former project engineer for McLaren and product manager for Winkhaus.

With considerable knowledge of the market place and impressive industry expertise, Paul is clear about his task in hand and is confident of the year ahead. He says, "My years of experience have shown me that there needs to be synchronicity between all departments of the company. Our game plan must be more customer focussed than ever before, with customer satisfaction being at the heart of all operations.

"As everything today is electronic, customers are simply not prepared to wait.

The challenge over the next year is going to be to make sure that we have systems in place that help us to answer customer queries immediately, keeping lead times to a minimum."

Paul continues: "The industry is currently under more intense competition than ever before, as cheaper imitation products flood the market from the Far East. In order to defend and build upon our number one status, we need to empower the sales team by giving them as much technical and practical information as possible, so that together we can inform and assist our customers.

aij5

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LEADING DHF ONWARDS

Door hardware industry stalwart David Whitworth was elected chairman of the Door & Hardware Federation (DHF) at its recent Conference and Expo.

He will now oversee the implementation of a strategy, unveiled at the event, designed to increase the size of the federation and make it more influential in the market place to the commercial benefit of its members.

David, who is a director of a number of UK and European hardware manufacturing and distribution companies, is vice president of the European Hardware Manufacturers Association (ARGE). He has twice been chairman of the GAI. He was chief executive of architectural ironmongers the Laidlaw Group for 30 years which he took onto the Stock Exchange and went on to become main board director of the Newman Tonks Group until its acquisition by Ingersol Rand.

He was described by outgoing DHF chairman Andrew Lloyd, managing director of Bolton Gate Co Ltd, as a "legend"

in the hardware sector. "His name is synonymous with the door hardware industry," he said.

David told the conference, held at Loughborough University: "In his two years as chairman, Andrew Lloyd has worked with chief executive Ian Wood to put a strategy in place for the federation. It's my job now to deliver results for the members and for the industry."

Members heard that there were three key objectives in the strategy:

- To promote members' shareholder value
- To provide the highest level of expert direction to members to satisfy the regulatory and statutory requirements in their markets
- To grow external awareness of the role of the DHF in the UK construction market.
- Over the next two years a wide-ranging programme of initiatives designed to meet these objectives will be put in place.

Bob Perry, managing director of Laser Key UK, a division of Yale, was elected as vice chairman of the DHF.



TUNNEL VISION

The UK's leading manufacturer of door and window control systems, GEZE UK, is celebrating with the world's elite wheelchair athletes, after becoming the first corporate sponsor of the extreme Tunnel 2K International race.

The GEZE Tunnel 2K International, an intense test of daring and endurance through Newcastle's Tyne Tunnel, was won by South African Ernst van Dyk who conquered the extreme 2km course in just over four minutes, while Britain's Shelly Woods won the women's race with a time of just six minutes and 24 seconds. UK favourite Tanni Grey-Thompson finished fourth, in 11 minutes 16 seconds.

GEZE UK, who specialise in automatic and assisted doors to make disabled access easier, presented £1000 to van Dyk, the UK's largest cash prize for wheelchair racing.

GEZE UK's sales and marketing director Jules Quested-Williams, who was at the race, said: "This race is truly unique and it was exhilarating from start to finish. GEZE UK specialise in automatic and assisted doors and windows that makes access – and life, easier for disabled people, so we felt this was an excellent opportunity to show our support for extraordinary athletes at a world-class event."

Organiser David Burdus, an ex-road wheelchair racer said: "The GEZE Tunnel 2K International is a modern classic. We have the world's best athletes on a unique course. Achieving speeds of nearly 50mph this is wheelchair racing at the extreme and definitely not for the faint hearted.

NEW ASPEX IN SCOTLAND

Martin McGinniss Dip GAI has joined Aspex UK as a main board director and will be responsible for establishing a new operation for the company in Scotland.

Speaking on his appointment, Martin said "Aspex may be a new company but the current directors have a vast amount of experience which has helped them to grow the business very quickly in England. The natural progression for the company is to expand into Scotland and I am delighted to be joining them to head up this new operation"

Also joining Aspex in Scotland as a Director is Martin's former colleague Duncan Hutton Dip GAI. The new company will operate from a 4000 sq ft industrial unit based in Cumbernauld to the east of Glasgow in Scotland's central belt.

Aspex UK are also pleased to announce that Ramsay Malcolm the former managing director of Thomson Brothers Group is joining the board as non executive chairman.

Commenting on his appointment the managing director of Aspex UK Ashley Burbury said "The directors of Aspex are absolutely delighted that someone of Ramsay's stature within the industry has agreed to join the company as chairman. We have all worked for him previously and his vast experience of the architectural ironmongery industry will be of great benefit as our company continues to expand"

OBITUARY: BRIAN HULIN

Laidlaw has announced that sadly Brian Hulin passed away just before Christmas. Brian had spent nearly all his life in the architectural ironmongery industry, having left school in Manchester, he worked for a couple of local hardware companies before joining Laidlaw and Thomson. He took an opportunity to work in their Gateshead branch, helping to set up their Group Stock operation. He was eventually

promoted to Director. Brian worked at this branch for a number of years before returning to his home town of Manchester where he became joint Managing Director.

Brian became involved in numerous initiatives, one of which was to qualify the company for BS5750 accreditation. When Laidlaw were owned by Newman Tonks and joined forces with DA Thomas to become Thomas Laidlaw, Brian took the

role of Group Purchasing Director. He later moved to the Newman Tonks organisation, and later worked for himself as a consultant. He was very sport driven, having been a keen footballer, and a lifelong fan of Manchester City. He took up golf in his thirties and it became the love of his life.

Brian's funeral took place at Dukinfield Crematorium on 4 January, the packed church was a testament to his popularity.

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NEW MAN AT THE

HELM OF THE GAI



The GAI has appointed a new Chief Executive who takes over the role vacated by the retirement of Peter Spill in mid February. Gary Amer joins the GAI from the National Federation of Builders where he was a Regional Director.

Gary's previous roles have had a strong commercial bent and the GAI has appointed him to grow the organisation's membership and create a professional, outward-facing organisation.

Gary comments, "My appointment as Chief Executive is a very exciting opportunity for me and I know my appointment has inevitably aroused a range of expectations amongst the AI fraternity. I relish such opportunities and look forward to getting my teeth into the new role.

Building on the recent developments within the Guild will be key and these provide a platform for continuous development and further successes. In this respect I am keen to understand the needs of the membership and intend to meet with as many members as possible. It is important to keep raising the bar on the internal and external profile.

I'm confident the fine work of the Executive Committee has established a sound organisation and overall reputation in the industry. I am hoping more members will assist in the continuous development process through their active participation.

For instance do we need to develop the overall membership portfolio to fit and satisfy the wants of members according to their business interests? An interesting challenge and one we should be prepared to examine.

It is clear from my limited contact with members and staff to date that there is genuine passion and dedication to the Guild. This is most heartening and has served to whet my appetite even further."

Gary, 50, is married with two grown up children. He lives in Buckinghamshire and enjoys golf and football having managed and coached a local football club. He also likes entertaining and DIY.

AUTUMN LEAVES LUNCHEON MEMORIES

This year's Autumn Luncheon was the biggest and most successful ever with over 300 people attending for one of the highlights of the GAI calendar. As well as a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues, the Luncheon aims to showcase the real stars of the day, the top students at each level of the Education Programme, along with the presentation to this year's crop of successful Level 3 students of their Diploma. This year there were 99 Diplomas to be presented which certainly kept the organising team busy producing certificates!

This year's awards and Diplomas were presented by the Rt Hon John Redwood MP, the guest speaker for the day. His address included some challenging views on private v public sector efficiency and the performance of the current government. GAI President Wayne Harris also used his address as a chance to announce the formal launch of GuildMark.



NEW FACE IN TECHNICAL

After four years in the position of Chairman of the Technical Committee, Ian Stewart has stepped down. Stepping into his shoes is Paul Duggan.

Paul is a Reg AI and a keen supporter of the GAI. As Business Development Manager at Warrington Bodycote in Wolverhampton, Paul is well placed to steer the Technical Committee through the complex issues facing the industry today.

Paul's new committee has already met and is tackling diverse issues such as the CE marking of door sets.

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Architectural ironmongery and inclusive design

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 (as amended in 2005) was introduced to help eliminate the discrimination that many disabled people face. The DDA gives disabled people rights in the following areas:

- employment
- access to goods, facilities and services
- education
- transport

Public bodies have an additional duty – the Disability Equality Duty – under the DDA to actively promote equality for disabled people.

In terms of physical features of buildings, the legislation does not actually recommend the best height at which to place a door handle, for example, or state a minimum gradient for a ramp. It simply outlines the duty to consider barriers that might be created by the built environment, and to make reasonable adjustments where necessary. In response to the DDA, a range of best practice guidance has been produced to help designers, specifiers, and building owners, occupiers and managers to gain a practical understanding of how to remove – or at least reduce the impact of – physical barriers. Anybody commissioning a new building or adapting an existing one should refer to this guidance to ensure that people with a range of abilities are able to use the premises safely and comfortably. One of the most comprehensive publications on this topic is the British Standard Institution's BS 8300:2001 Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. The information contained in Approved Documents B and M of the Building Regulations, which deal with fire and access respectively, should also be considered.

If the architectural ironmongery on doors and windows is not selected carefully and used appropriately, it makes it much more difficult for people – especially those with disabilities – to move easily and safely throughout a building. There are three main elements that can have an impact on this:

The design of the components that form the interface between the user and the door. These include handles, locks and latches.

The visual contrast between door components and the door surface. Adequate contrast will help visually impaired people to identify them. Objects with a higher light reflectance value (LRV) have a higher reflectance. BS 8300 suggests that the LRV

SPOTLIGHT ON THE DDA



of two adjacent surfaces should ideally differ by 30 points or more, but 20 points may be acceptable when the surfaces are both large in area.

Door opening and closing forces.

Fire doors in particular can be heavy, often making them difficult to open and close if appropriate components are not selected. BS 8300 recommends a maximum opening force of 30 newtons when the door is between 0 and 30 degrees open, and a maximum of 22.5 newtons between 30 and 60 degrees of the opening cycle. It also recommends that the maximum closing force exerted by a controlled self-closing device should be within 0 and 15 degrees of final closure.

Careful selection of door components with consideration to all of these elements will help to create a more accessible environment. Here follows a brief overview of some technical guidelines that will help achieve this.

Hinges

To improve door swing, minimise opening and closing forces and to reduce wear, use low-friction hinges. High-performance hinges will contribute less than one newton friction to door movement. Open doors are often hazardous to people with visual impairments; rising butt hinges can rectify the situation by helping to keep a door 'closed to'. They also help wheelchair users to close the door behind them as they enter a WC.

The door of an accessible WC should open outwards so that they do not encroach on usable space. Inward-opening doors may be acceptable, although not ideal, if the

room is large enough and a 1500mm turning circle is maintained. In this case, pivot hinges could be used with an emergency door release to allow the door to open outwards in an emergency situation when something is blocking the door. If the clear opening width of a door is not ample, swing-clear hinges could be used to increase it. When the door is open 90 degrees, they allow the door leaf to align with the door stop, reducing the projection of the door handle into the opening space.

Door furniture

Door furniture – such as handles, bolts, locks and latches – needs to be not only well designed, but suitably positioned, too, in order to maximise accessibility. BS 8300 contains detailed recommendations on positioning. Door knobs are difficult to grip and turn, especially for people with limited manual dexterity, so they should be avoided. Lever handles are more appropriate; they can be operated with an elbow or the palm of the hand as well as a gripped hand or fingers. To ensure comfort of use, there must be adequate room between the back of the handle and the door face. Handles on the external side of entrance doors should be made of a material that is not cold to the touch; suitable surface materials include plastic and timber.

If pull handles are used, full-height tubular handles are a good option, as they can be operated at a range of heights. Bear in mind, though, that their position might restrict the effective clear opening width of the door. Adding a horizontal rail to doors without self-closing devices will be particularly helpful to wheelchair users, helping them to open the door or to pull it closed

behind them. Push plates on the leading edge of push-only doors that have no other handles should indicate which side of the door should be pushed. Handles should be a colour that contrasts visually with the door surface so that they can be identified easily, but ensure that the material is not highly reflective. All handles and rails should be securely fixed, because users may lean on them for support; use bolt-through fixings where possible.

Latches need to be chosen carefully, as they contribute to the force needed to close a door; high-performance latches are available. Locks also need to be carefully specified. People with reduced manual dexterity may find thumb-turn locks and small levers difficult to operate.

Door control

Door control devices include mechanical or electrically powered devices that close a manually operated door, electromagnetic hold-open devices, swing-free devices and low-energy power-assisted door operators. Selection of the most ideal type will depend on the door type, size, location, expected traffic and performance requirements, as well as whether an automatic fire detection system is installed.

To cater for people who move more slowly

through a door opening, door-closing devices can include a delayed action facility, allowing the door to stay open for an adjustable period of time before closing at a pre-set speed. Electrically powered door hold-open devices allow a door either to swing free or to be held in the open position; the door closes automatically when the electric power is released. Low-energy door operators can be used in areas in which doors might need to be operated manually, but can also be operated using powered assistance. The powered assistance can either be operated by providing an initiating signal of contact with a door leaf or handle, or via a manual or automatic activation device. Manual controls should be situated between 750mm and 1000mm above floor level, and set back 1400mm from the door's leading edge.

Door seals and thresholds

Seals have a range of uses, from reducing heat loss to preventing water ingress and keeping out smoke in a fire. They do, however, increase

the friction between the door leaf and frame, and contribute to the force needed to open and fully close a door; this must be taken into account when implementing them.

Ideally, door thresholds should be as level as possible to ease the passage of building users. Where a change in level is necessary, a threshold bar should be used. This will hold down the edges of flooring materials, which might otherwise present a trip hazard, especially to people with reduced mobility. All corners of the threshold should be chamfered or pencil rounded.

Further reading

- **BS 8300:2001** Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people
- **Approved Document M:** Access to and use of buildings
- **Approved Document B:** Fire safety

The topics raised in this article are covered in more detail in guides published by the Centre for Accessible Environments:

- Specifiers' Handbooks for Inclusive Design: Architectural Ironmongery
- Specifiers' Handbooks for Inclusive Design: Automatic Door Systems
- Designing for Accessibility

Visit www.cae.org.uk/publications for more details.

Katie Dock, Information Officer, CAE



PEACE OF MIND... WITH CERTIFICATED FIRE DOORS AND HARDWARE

In February 2008 Warrington Certification will begin the roll-out of a Directory of Certificated Fire Products and Services. This will build into an essential guide for designers, product specifiers, contractors/installers and regulators. The Directory will grow to cover all types of fire rated building products and systems, including timber and steel doorsets and associated hardware. It summarises the latest legislation and related standards that affect product specifiers in relation to fire protection, as well as giving a comprehensive listing of a range of certified

products, from fire-resisting doorsets and cavity barriers, to ductwork and fire-resistant glass and glazing systems. This extensive reference guide has been compiled in response to changes in fire safety regulations (Regulatory Reform Order), and Approved Document B of the building regulations, as well as other European legislation. The guide is designed to provide clarity to specifiers and end users, and as such provides an invaluable resource to all involved in specifying and regulating for fire safety.

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WEB WISE

The new GAI web site is now up and running and functioning at almost full capacity. The amount of information and functionality on the site makes it a truly useful business tool and a great shop window for the GAI - and the whole AI industry - for AIs, manufacturers and their customers.

The new site includes a company members search linking into Google Map, a dynamic site header, as well as other features such as company by product searches, a navigation bread crumb trail, member's login area, latest news section and an active calendar.

Visit the site at www.gai.org.uk and check out the new features for yourself.

REWARDING EXCELLENCE

The Institute is once again looking for nominations for its annual awards. These awards offer a unique opportunity within the AI trade to recognise, reward and celebrate excellence by individuals. Over the years the Institute has awarded honours to some of the industry's leading figures in recognition of their contributions to the business. The awards will be made at the Institute's AGM in Bath in April.

The Mike Lewis Trophy is awarded for excellence in customer service. The Bob Ramage Trophy is for services to the Institute specifically while Fellowship of the Institute is awarded in recognition of a lifetime's achievement in the industry.

All three awards are made after the recipients had been nominated and voted for by their peers. You can nominate individuals or teams for any of the awards through the GAI or by contacting the Institute's Chairman, Peter Haywood on p.haywood@geze.com

CONFERENCE DATES AND VENUES ANNOUNCED

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers will be held on 26 April 2008 in Bath. It aims to be the best attended and most successful ever, a culmination of a successful year for the Institute.

As well as a programme of speakers and awards, the meeting will see the election of a new Institute chairman as Peter Haywood steps down after two years in the office. The new Chairman will take over the organisation in good shape. The last twelve months have been successful for the Institute with attendance at all branches increasing and every region boasting a full programme of speakers and events. The inauguration of a new branch in the North East in October capped this successful programme of local events.

Tickets for the Institute AGM are available through the GAI by emailing Sue Speed at sue.speed@gai.org.uk.

TAKE THE HEAT OUT OF SPECIFYING PRODUCTS



Bodycote Warringtonfire has launched The Warrington Certification Directory of Certified Products and Services, or 'Blue Book', an invaluable new technical source of information on fire protection products and installation contractors, certificated by Warrington Certification.

The Blue Book has been launched in response to significant recent changes in fire safety regulations and in Approved Document B of the Building Regulations as well as other European legislation and it has been designed to clarify some of the standards to specifiers and end users. Chris Miles, Divisional Business & Technical Development Manager of Bodycote Warringtonfire looks at the significance of third party certification of architectural products for both manufacturers and contractors certificated to install the products.

"The fundamental benefit of third-party certification - put simply - is that it gives the specifier, customer, end user, regulator or any combination of these an informed choice when purchasing or selecting the product. Choosing a product, which carries the badge or mark of a reputable third-party certification body, will provide safeguards as to the performance of the product. Testing (to national or international standards) will have verified that it meets the specification, while inspection of the manufacturing process has checked that there is consistency in quality. Also, in the rare event of a failure, choice of a certificated product will help to mitigate against a possible accusation of negligence, which may be directed towards the specifier or others in the supply chain.

"Third-party certification equally applies to the installers of the products and in reading this directory the word 'product' can be considered also to embrace the installing company. In the directory much emphasis is placed on the need to use certificated products and systems, as well as on the need for them to be fitted by competent, specialist and certificated installers.

This provides a mechanism which now resolves some weaknesses in the previous system which allowed a manufacturer to conduct a test on products supplied direct to the test laboratory, products that may not be wholly representative of production with no independent monitoring of the ongoing production.

"One area where this type of scheme will assist manufacturers to support specifiers is with doors that require particular fire or smoke resistance. With so many different types of doorset, ironmongery and glazing apertures for example available, it is very easy to specify a complete door set that will not perform in a fire, even when it is assembled from tried and tested products from reputable manufacturers. The interaction of all the components of a fire door is critical to its ability to function satisfactorily and provide the intended fire performance. If each of the components have been approved to a recognised scheme such as CERTIFIRE for example, specifiers can be reassured that all the components will work together in a fire situation.

"The new directory has been launched to be an 'at-a-glance' directory of certificated products and installers to help specifiers make the right choice of products and so ensuring that safety is not compromised. As well as summarising the latest legislation and related standards that affect product specifiers in relation to fire protection, the directory gives a comprehensive listing of a whole range of certificated products from fire-resisting doorsets and cavity barriers, to ductwork and fire-resistant glass and glazing systems.

For more information on the directory telephone 01925 646 777 or email blue-book@warringtonfire.net.



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DECENT START



The government has invested billions of pounds in its Decent Homes Initiative. Originally scheduled for completion on 2010, Helen Curry takes a look at where the scheme stands and what it means for the door sector specifically.

The government set the target of bringing homes up to a "decent" condition in the 2000 spending review – in 2001 the

ODPM estimated that about 1.6 million council homes were below standard, a backlog of £19bn. A decent home is one that is wind and weather tight, warm and has modern facilities. Below standard homes commonly have kitchens that have not been refitted for 20 years, bathrooms that have not been refitted for 30 years, poor insulation and inefficient heating systems. Bringing homes up to standard has generally involved refitting kitchens and bathrooms, re-roofing, and fitting items that are now standard in new homes such as central heating and double-glazing.

We have reduced the number of non-decent social homes by one million, and increased the proportion of private sector vulnerable households in decent homes to 65 per cent. By 2010 local authorities and housing associations will have spent over £40bn on housing.

In addition, new entrance doors have played a major part in upgrading homes with knock-on benefits for the AI sector. Since 2001 the number of non-decent homes in the social housing sector has been reduced by over 50 per cent. By 2010 it is expected that 95 per cent of all social housing to meet a decent standard.

But how is the initiative matching up to expectations. With spending slowing or even reducing, can the 2010 target be met? The Experian Report stated "In 2005, the government's plans were interrupted (scaled back, postponed or even discontinued) as it wrangled to bring its ambitious spending plans into line with more modest revenue streams". In March 2007 the Housing Association magazine made the following comment "With Government budgets already stretched by the NHS, defence and other departmental spending, and Gordon Brown trying to build up a 'war chest' to bribe voters ahead of the next election.....". Both statements indicate that a slowing down of expenditure has been taking place due to government belt tightening rather than a planned reduction in public spending.

During 2006 two new factors appeared related to the creation and on-going expenditure of ALMOs (Arms Length Management Organisation). The government allowed certain local authorities – whose housing departments are judged by the Audit Commission to perform efficiently – to set up a private limited company to manage the authorities housing stock. The local authority still owns the housing stock but the ALMO will have access to subsidies from central government. In order to access the available funds the organisation must

be rated by the Housing Inspectorate (part of the Audit Commission) with at least two stars (good) or three stars (excellent) and have a place on the Government's programme.

Firstly, the government announced that the final phase of ALMO creation (Phase 6) would be delayed. In addition, in August 2006, the CLG (Communities and Local Government) requested the ALMOs in Phase 4 & 5 consider delaying their improvement works beyond the 2010 target of the Decent Homes Programme. The CGL warned that they would not award funding to the Phase 6 ALMOs until agreement to extend had been reached with Phase 5 & 6.

It is also clear that the Audit Commission has used the star rating system as a method of restricting funding awards. The star rating system (1 star to 3 stars) is tied to the award of funds for their improvement works according to the star rating. Many ALMOs have found themselves awarded one star less than anticipated.

Finally, the Government has announced that it is prepared to consider extensions to the 2010 Decent Homes deadline where:

- Accelerated delivery will reduce value for money
- Where ALMOs are late starting the programme i.e. Phase 6 and possibly Phases 4 & 5.
- Where ALMOs have had performance difficulties.

The Scottish parliament has already decided to delay the Decent Homes programme to 2015 and the Welsh Assembly has delayed until 2012. On balance it would seem that the English counties will roll over to 2012 giving the local authorities and housing associations another two years to complete.

Since 2002 ALMOs have spent £1.8 billion on the programme and have a further £1.5 billion to spend in the next three years. The National Federation of ALMOs, said that the £1.5 billion spend would be "difficult but not impossible".

Only this month the Government has announced a fillip to the public housing sector with the news that they are investing an extra £11.5 million for home adaptations to help them live independently in their homes. The funding will help councils ramp up their Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme until the end of March.

On 7th June last year Ruth Kelly launched the 2006 Decent Homes bidding round for the social sector; at the same time, the DCLG published a discussion document, "From Decent Homes to Sustainable Communities" which adds a wider community aspect to the initiative. Security obviously has an impact in this case where architectural ironmongery plays such a vital role.

Please send correspondence to:

Helen Curry, Editor aij

The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, 8 Stepney Green, London E1 3JU

Tel: **01268 692195** Email: **editor@aijournal.org**



Dear Madam,

I was interested to read the letter from David Woolcock on the subject of doors with unequal leaves, in the autumn issue of AIJ. I should like to preface my comments by saying that I write as a private individual, and not in my capacity as the GAI's Technical Consultant.

I think David has got it spot on. A minor leaf is not a door, but an access panel, and therefore suitable for bolting. A pivoted leaf with a width of 600 mm or less seems inadequate on its own as a door, as the aperture would be too narrow for comfortable use. One shouldn't have to rely on two leaves opening together, as sometimes happened in the past with a pair of narrow leaves. That is no longer an acceptable solution. With the advent of access codes, we have all started to expect better ease of access, regardless of our mobility and capabilities.

In my book, a narrow pivoting leaf should not have

furniture, but have only suitable bolts and possibly kick-plates for matching across the door width. If the assembly is fire rated, the bolted leaf should carry a fire sign to read "Keep locked shut", as it has the status of a locked leaf, not a self-closing door.

Fire test evidence from the door manufacturer should be obtained, to ensure that the furniture fitted doesn't compromise fire performance. If the minor leaf was bolted for the test, it cannot be necessarily be made self-closing in use.

On the other hand, if it was self-closing when tested, bolting it is unlikely to reduce its fire performance.

Yours faithfully,

Jacky R Sinclair, DipGAI, FInstAI, Reg AI

Dear Madam

Since news of my impending retirement was reported in the Autumn issue of AIJ I have received many letters and e-mails in response to this announcement.

I have to say that I am somewhat embarrassed and overwhelmed with the many kind sentiments that have been expressed in these communications suffice to say that the past 34 years with the Guild have been very enjoyable.

I can still remember the day I joined the Guild in February 1974 in the days of the three-day week, when the lights were going out, rubbish was piling up in the streets, the dead were not being buried and when the miners were on strike. Not the best time to start a new job I thought to myself

Who was to imagine that 34 years later I would still be in the same job, although it has changed considerably since that time. Having moved offices three times and since 1983 are comfortably resident in our own freehold building.

It would take too many column inches to recount the many changes that have taken place within the Guild during my tenure, safe to say that the Guild of old is but a shadow of what it is today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have written to me with their very kind comments and would wish the Guild and my successor every success for the future.

Yours faithfully

Peter Spill

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DELIVERING SUSTAINABILITY

The Construction Products Association has responded to the Sustainable Construction Strategy Consultation, and highlighted the actions needed to ensure construction products can play their key role in helping to deliver a sustainable built environment.

Jane Thornback, Environmental Policy Advisor at the Association said: "The construction process happens because buildings and infrastructure are desired by society. The Government has ambitious targets for new homes, better hospitals, schools, and transport infrastructure. The challenge is how to carry this out in a sustainable way which acknowledges the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. Construction products are part of this solution, both in terms of how they are manufactured and the functions they perform in a building, such as improving energy efficiency and in capturing renewable energy."

Other key messages covered in the Association's response include:

COHERENCE. The Association would like to see the strategy bring coherence to government initiatives and agencies on all aspects concerning sustainability in the built environment.

CONSISTENCY. To invest and innovate, industry needs clear long term targets using standardised methodologies that do not change frequently. Industry does not want, and cannot respond to, a plethora of conflicting targets measured in different ways.

WHOLE LIFE CYCLE APPRAISAL. It is fundamental to assess whole life cycle impact rather than highlighting single issues, whether they are one part of the lifecycle such as operational or a characteristic such as resource depletion.

EARLY ENGAGEMENT OF MANUFACTURERS. Much of what must be achieved would be greatly facilitated by the early engagement of manufacturers in construction projects, as recognised by Egan and earlier BERR work.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IS CRUCIAL FOR ADDITIONAL HOUSING

The Construction Products Association has welcomed the findings of the Callcutt Review which was published late last year, but reasserted that the early establishment of a clear framework for regulatory change is crucial if the increased volume of housing, which the government has committed to, is to be delivered.

The Association supports Callcutt's view that housing can be delivered. However, it has again called for the establishment of a clear framework for regulatory change at an early stage in the process. This is essential in ensuring that manufacturers and suppliers know where to make their investments in order to supply the products and solutions which are needed. As such the Association welcomes Callcutt's reassertion that finalising the methodology by the end of 2008, and keeping SAP stable for 10 years, is vital. The Association is already working with industry on finalising the scope of improvements to SAP, and will be reporting to the 2016 Task Force shortly.

Commenting on the review, John Tebbit, Industry Affairs Director at the Association said: "We welcome Callcutt's recognition that a more integrated approach is necessary to deliver the higher volumes of housing to zero carbon standards and to a design quality that will provide greater customer satisfaction. However, integration must extend throughout the supply chain or these important objectives will not be achieved.

"As Callcutt says, we are moving from being behind the pack to being a world leader in the delivery of zero carbon housing, and from the outset we have advocated the need for an effective management of the project. We are therefore very pleased to see that this has been recognised by Callcutt in his call for a delivery body. We would urge an early decision on the best way to take this forward."

Whilst supportive, the Association remains concerned about the level of resources which the delivery body will have and how it will be funded. Without thousands of prototype and pre-production homes being built in the next few years, the chances of delivering zero carbon homes in the volumes, quality and costs needed, will be severely reduced. As Callcutt concurs the housebuilding industry is answerable only to its investors and shareholders, not to the public interest. The Association therefore believes that it is essential that a framework of incentives and opportunities be put in place to ensure that the triple goal of increased numbers, increased quality and increased energy performance is reached.

BROWN MUST DELIVER ON TRANSPORT COMMITMENTS



The Construction Products Association welcomes the high political priority given by the Prime Minister to improving the UK's transport infrastructure, and the importance he placed on taking the right long term decisions now, for a more successful tomorrow.

In its recent report "Achievable Targets, is Government Delivering?" the Association has shown that for eight of the last ten years, construction output on transport infrastructure has fallen, whilst construction of new and improved roads is at its lowest for a quarter of a century. The Association therefore welcomes the Prime Minister's promise to step up investment, but urges Brown to ensure delivery of this infrastructure.

Commenting on the announcement, Allan Wilén, Economics Director at the Association, said: "Historically investment in transport infrastructure has been poor and this is undermining UK competitiveness; the World Economic Forum recently ranked the overall competitiveness of the UK's infrastructure, at thirteenth, behind the Netherlands and Sweden."

The Achievable Targets report found that construction of new and improved roads is now at its lowest for a quarter of a century and the current pace of progress is proving insufficient to accommodate traffic growth and curb congestion. Of particular concern is that six years into the ten year programme only 40% of the promised 360 miles to widen the network have been completed. Investment is also urgently required to provide the necessary rail network capacity to accommodate increased passenger numbers and freight traffic.

Concluding Wilén said: "We welcome the Prime Minister's commitment today and the recognition that solid investment in the transport infrastructure is necessary. The Association has recommended that the government's longer term strategy should provide a clear programme of capacity enhancements that will enable both the rail and road networks to accommodate the demands of a growing economy."

ENTERING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY DEBATE

Reducing a building's carbon footprint through eco-friendly design is already big news in the construction industry but new legislation to improve energy efficiency in retail and office space looks set to create another hot potato for architects, specifiers and constructors.

With many retail and office buildings requiring sustained heating throughout the winter and cooling throughout the summer to benefit staff, maintaining a constant temperature is essential to reduce unnecessary energy consumption and reduce the carbon footprint. The new energy efficiency legislation now encompasses entrances, setting a new challenge for access specialists.

From new product development, to the elemental impact of an entrance's location, the access point to a building will become a major obstacle for many, in the need to prevent heat loss and gain.

By its very nature, an access point must allow movement between the outside and inside of a property, which generates potential energy loss. The access point must also be convenient to use, durable for high footfall sites, comfortable for staff working in the proximity of the entrance, accessible for all as well as being aesthetically pleasing.

Specialists in access control systems like GEZE UK, are already working on new products and techniques to improve the energy efficiency of entrances, but the original challenge lies with the architect, who must plan the site and style of each entrance with energy efficiency in mind. It has never been more important for specialists, builders and architects to work together – simple decisions made at the design stage, can have serious implications for the energy efficiency of the building once it is in use. By situating a main entrance on the side of a building that is exposed to the elements, for example with prevailing winds or in strong sunlight, makes it more difficult for a satisfactory level of efficiency to be achieved.

Incorporating a staggered entrance system will also help to preserve energy and prevent heat loss or gain, but this needs to be considered at the initial design stage, rather than compromising the vision of the architect at a later date.

GEZE UK'S SIMON BOWDEN TACKLES THE ACCESS ISSUES CREATED BY ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEGISLATION IN THE NEW APPROVED DOCUMENT PART L.

GEZE UK is already working with developers to enhance the efficiency of their entrances, using a combination of design techniques and new products. Revolving doors similar to GEZE's TSA 325, provide a manual option to create an energy efficient entrance, that limits traffic flow as well as the loss of heat and avoiding blasts of hot or cold air which are uncomfortable for staff.

Intelligent sensing on automatic doors ensures that entrances are fully accessible, but by using unidirectional radar sensors, the doors are only open when a user approaches but not when departing the entrance thus greatly reducing 'hold open' time by 40 per cent, therefore enhancing its energy efficiency.

Responding quickly to issues is also a key element of maintaining

energy efficiency once the building is in use. Ongoing maintenance and experienced, local service teams are an essential component; ensuring doors remain efficient and effective.

GEZE UK has even developed iContact, a new remote monitoring system, which enables engineers to be instantly informed of any issues regarding an automatic door, and in the event of a fault, to remotely close the doors to prevent heat loss and ensure the building is secure. This instant approach to servicing looks set to be key in the battle to reduce energy consumption.

When these techniques are combined with special products, the effects can be even more dramatic. Glass entrances can be designed using efficient Low E coated glass that reflects UV rays, or using halogen filled double-glazing, which buffers heat loss and gain even more effectively.

This is why it is so important for everyone in the industry to start talking, sharing ideas and pooling expertise to develop solutions that not only comply with legislation, but reduce the costs of running the building and help towards preserving the environment.

So will the energy efficiency issue spur the industry to work together to create innovative, sustainable solutions, which will improve the efficiency, effectiveness and aesthetics of entrances? One thing's for sure – every part of the construction industry will be handling this hot potato.



Simon Bowden is GEZE UK's Technical Director. He has 25 years' experience in the automatic door, window and gate industry.

Founded in Germany in 1863, GEZE is one of the world's leading manufacturers of door and window control systems. Investing millions in research, development and manufacture of innovative solutions, GEZE sets the global standard for advanced door and window technology.

DESPERATE OR DYNAMIC: HIDDEN STORY BEHIND JOB CUTS

The slowdown in the UK economy could cost 1875 jobs in the architectural hardware industry, according to business analysts Plimsoll Publishing.

But it's the story behind the headlines that will determine the survival of the companies in question. Customers, suppliers and competitors have no way of telling from a job reduction announcement whether the cuts were made in panic mode or for clearly thought out strategic reasons.

"Obviously the reasons will make little difference to those who are losing their livelihoods," says David Pattison, senior analyst at Plimsoll. "But for customers, suppliers or competitors there is a crucial contrast between cost cutting without any obvious focus and scaling back jobs as part of an active programme of management designed to steer the ship and keep the company competitive."

Plimsoll's latest survey suggests that of the 566 companies surveyed, up to 249 will need to reduce staff in some form or other. Driving this need are two main issues - the fact that 45 businesses in the sector are showing declining sales, and also the increase in salaries as a percentage of overall costs.

Salaries already account for 8% of sales. But if, as expected, wages rise next year by the projected 4% to an average of £20100, then 44 companies will be unsustainable businesses by this point, according to Plimsoll.

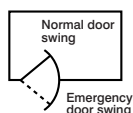
Plimsoll's report does, however, highlight some encouraging signs. Jobs are being created in the architectural hardware sector, mainly by 11 expanding companies looking to grow their workforce to cope with more business. This, says David Pattison, is further evidence of where good management is creating confidence for the future.

SECTOR IS STRONG

The construction industry grew firmly during the third quarter of 2007 and remains confident for the year ahead despite heightened uncertainty over the UK's economic prospects, according to the latest joint Trade Survey Report from the Construction Products Association and the Construction Confederation.

Construction products sales increased again during the third quarter, with 57% of firms on balance reporting higher sales than a year ago. A third of light side firms reported that their sales volumes had increased by more than 5% compared to last year, the increase in heavy side sale volumes was more modest.

Strong activity in the public new housing sector and a rebound in repair and maintenance activity were the principal drivers for the further strong rise in overall workload for Building Contractors. In addition civil engineering contractors reported a further strong upwards trend in their workload, with current growth driven by strong activity in railway infra-



Make a quick exit.



Doors which ordinarily open in one direction only, but which are required to open in the opposite direction in an emergency can be fitted with a double action pivot and emergency release. An example is a door to a WC, ordinarily the door opens inwards, however it is important that the door can be opened outwards in the event that someone collapses against the back of the door.

If the person loses consciousness or is unable to move the only way of gaining access is through a double action pivot set. RT have recently also launched a domestic version of the commercial pivot set which is better suited to, for example, care homes and sheltered housing or indeed anywhere where having a double action door is preferable.

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DESPITE CONCERNS OVER UK ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

structure, water and sewerage works, and site works for building developments. Disappointingly, however, roads related works remains weak.

The overall rise in construction output during the third quarter was accompanied by a general increase in site labour recruitment difficulties. More than 25% of building contractors reported that recruitment difficulties had prompted them to turn down work during the quarter. There was also a marked increase in firms reporting that labour shortages had contributed to the late delivery of work.

Commenting on the survey, Måren Baldauf, Economist at the Construction Products Association said: "This latest survey shows that light side manufacturers in particular continue to benefit from strong sales growth, due to an increased demand for insulation and the government's investment to improve the existing social housing stock. Heavy side sales were ahead on the same period last year, though the pace of growth has moderat-

ed, reflecting the continued weakness of road investment and an easing in key new build sectors. Whilst product manufacturers' capacity utilisation edged up during the third quarter, the vast majority of firms report that available capacity is not expected to constrain output growth. However, manufacturers continue to face upward pressure on their unit costs. This maintains the pressure on their margins and as a consequence raises manufacturers' selling prices."

Stephen Ratcliffe, Chief Executive of the Construction Confederation said: "Contractors remain positive about short-term and longer-term prospects although margins are being squeezed, due to both an increase in material prices and higher labour costs. This is despite a rise in tender prices. Strong activity in the public new housing sector and a rebound in repair and maintenance activity are the principal drivers for construction growth, with building firms across all sizes benefiting from the increase in workload.

Key survey findings are:

- Contractors report third quarter output was well ahead of both the preceding quarter and a year ago, with 37% and more than half of firms on balance reporting that output was up respectively.
- The products manufacturing industry remains very positive for the year ahead, despite forecasts of a slowdown in overall construction growth during 2008.
- Product manufacturers' capacity utilisation edged up during the third quarter, but the majority of firms report that available capacity is not expected to constrain output growth.
- Manufacturers' continue to report widespread increases in their unit costs over the last year.
- Higher unit costs continue to filter through to manufacturers' selling prices.
- Contractors report that their building costs continued to increase, with cost inflation picking up during the third quarter.
- Contractors report that labour availability worsened during the third quarter.



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CE MARKING OF DOORSETS -

The approval of doorsets within Europe is complex and so this article is intended as a guide to those doorsets which presently can be CE marked and those which will be CE marked in the future, and sets out a few basic principles to assist stakeholders understand the necessary steps.

Product Standards are required to be 'applicable' before products can be CE marked. Product Standards give the requirements for doorsets that are intended to be placed on the European market. Some of the requirements will be mandatory, such as the need to prove fire resistance performance for a fire resisting doorset, and some will be voluntary eg air, wind and water permeability for Industrial and Commercial garage doors. Additionally, not all countries will pick-up the same characteristics, although all possibilities are included in the Standards.

Currently most of the Product Standards for doorsets are not 'applicable', but the Standard for 'Industrial, Commercial and Garage Doors without fire resistance or smoke control requirements' has been available since May 2004 and many manufacturers have CE marked these doorsets. The fol-



Testing a window for air, wind & water

For doorsets that do have a fire resistance or smoke control characteristic, the characteristics that may be evaluated are contained in the Product Standard and there is need for a producer to evaluate the relevant charac-

Fire Resistance and/or Smoke Control Characteristics

The characteristics for fire resistance and smoke control will require tests to EN 1634-1 and EN 1634-3 respectively. However, a producer conducting or wanting to perform tests to these Standards and who expects to CE mark their doorsets in the future should discuss the pre-testing process with the test laboratory or certification body now. This will ensure that tests conducted before the Product Standards are 'available', (known as 'historic' testing), can be used once the Product Standards have been issued. As an indication, it is suggested that all doorsets that are being tested for fire and/or smoke characteristics now, are sampled from stock or the place of manufacture. This will be a requirement under the CE marking process and it should mean that tests conducted now have the highest value once CE marking begins.

Classification/Extended Application

In order for European (EN) test results to be used across European boundaries, there are a series of classification 'codes' or classes, which will be used, contained in EN 13501-2. The classes for fire resisting doorsets are, at least on the face of it, simple. A letter 'E' is used to signify Integrity, 'I' for Insulation and 'W' for (heat) radiation control. These letters are used alongside the time period to signify

Title	Standard Reference No.	Start CE marking
Industrial, Commercial and Garage Doors		
Product Standard without fire resistance or smoke control	EN 13241-1	May 2004
Product Standard with fire resistance or smoke control characteristics	prEN 13241-2	*2009
Windows and Pedestrian Doorsets		
Windows and external pedestrian doors without fire and smoke characteristics	EN 14351-1	March 2007
Internal pedestrian doors without fire and smoke characteristics	prEN 14351-2	*2010
Windows and pedestrian doors with fire and smoke characteristics	prEN 14351-3	*2010
* Forecasted date		

lowing table shows which Product Standards are appropriate for doorsets and also the status and likely date of applicability.

Based upon the above dates, it was possible to CE mark Industrial, Commercial and Garage doors from May 2004 onwards, providing they did not have a fire resistance or smoke control characteristic.

It is also possible to CE mark windows and external pedestrian doors without fire and smoke characteristics and will be mandatory in some member states by Feb 2009.

teristics dependant upon which countries the doorset is to be sold in. These are likely to vary from country to country.

The requirements for fire and/or smoke characteristics dictate that a producer will need a higher level of outside involvement as these are 'System 1' characteristics. Producers should contact an appropriately accredited Notified Certification Body as soon as possible and implement a plan of action in order to cater for the needs of CE marking.

AN OVERVIEW

PAUL DUGGAN, AND CHAIR OF THE GUILD OF ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, GIVES AN OVERVIEW ON THE CE MARKING OF DOORSETS AND THE CHALLENGES FACING THE INDUSTRY WITH NEW LEGISLATION.



EN1191 complete door set cycling

the duration of the doorset. For example an EI 30 doorset would satisfy Integrity and Insulation for 30 minutes.

Additional classes will be available as follows:

Class	Characteristic
Sa	: Smoke leakage (test to EN 1634-3 – Ambient temperature)
Sm	: Smoke leakage (test to EN 1634-3 – Medium temperature)
C0	: Self-closing – 0 cycles
C1	: Self-closing – 500 cycles
C2	: Self-closing – 10,000 cycles
C3	: Self-closing – 50,000 cycles
C4	: Self-closing – 100,000 cycles
C5	: Self-closing – 200,000 cycles

Factory Production Control

Within the CE marking system there is a need to ensure the doorsets are manufactured on a consistent basis. For System 1 products i.e. those that have either; fire, smoke, bullet or explosion characteristics, the requirements are that a Notified

Certification body shall check and certify the factory production control. These will need to include any aspects specified in the Product Standards for FPC.

Marking/labelling

Once all of the required steps have been taken and the Product Standards are 'applicable', the manufacturer will be able to CE mark the doorsets covered by the scope of the certification. The labels are a declaration by the manufacturer that the doorset, as it leaves the factory, satisfies all the claimed characteristics with all of the components. The Declaration is a legal document and any mis-claims could result in prosecution by the local Trading Standards body.

If you wish to know more about the CE marking of doorsets for use in Europe or the testing or approval of doorsets in general, please contact:

Paul Duggan at Bodycote Warrington apt
Telephone: 01902 722122
e-mail: paul.duggan@bodycote.com

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There have been more column inches written about the restoration of St Pancras station than perhaps any other building project in recent years. Opened by HM The Queen amid a media scrum in November last year, St Pancras has unleashed a previously silent wave of sentiment and nostalgia for rail travel.

But as recently as ten years ago, there was a very different picture for St Pancras and its associated buildings. The Station itself was used only for a few provincial services to the East Midlands and the fabric of the building was somewhat shabby. In fact the front of the building had been clad in scaffolding to make it safe.

Few people crawling down the stop/start jam on the Euston Road can have failed to be impressed with the magnificent Victorian façade of St Pancras Chambers, formerly the Midland Grand Hotel. But despite the grand frontage, this building saw its last hotel guest as far back as 1935 and had even been vacated as an office building by the late 80s. The gracious architecture, once the pride of Imperial railway architecture was looking sadly neglected.

In fact it was only the intervention of a vociferous public campaign, fronted by

John Betjamen that saved the station and St Pancras Chambers from the demolition ball in the 1960s. Unlike Euston just along the road, St Pancras was saved and Grade 1 listed by the government of the day. But it seemed that, with the train increasingly unable to take the strain post privatisation, the station was destined to slip into aged decrepitude.

The Barlow Shed

Nothing could have been further away from the station's Victorian heyday. The steel and glass train shed was designed by William Barlow, Engineer in Chief to the Midland Railway Company who commissioned the building. The Barlow Shed as it became known, was started in 1866 and was completed just two years later as the largest enclosed space in the world - a title it held for many years. At over 100 feet high at its apex, 620 feet long and 240 feet wide the shed is an impressive space even now.

The red brick Grand Midland Hotel, arguably the masterpiece of George Gilbert Scott, was completed in 1876 and remains a byword for high Victorian gothic architecture, a cathedral-like testimony to nineteenth century civic pride. Pinnacles, towers and gables, with monochrome highlights, made the hotel a fashionable and comfortable place to stay

ACTION



with 450 rooms and corridors up to 500 feet long. The building has gone through a number of guises.

Once the hotel closed in 1935, the building was used as a meeting point for soldiers, a departure point for soldiers off to the front and children being evacuated to the countryside to escape the blitz. A number of bombs hit the station during the war although engineers worked quickly to open the platforms. After the war the building was used as British Rail offices until 1985. In the 1990s emergency safeguarding work was carried out to control roof leakages and general decay.

And in the 21st century, the station and hotel has risen from the ashes and been restored to its Victorian splendour - with flashes of modern features which bring it bang up to date. Now the home to Eurostar trains to Paris and Brussels as well as Midland mainline services, St Pancras sets out to restore the glamour and excitement of rail travel. Touches such as Europe's longest champagne bar next to the Eurostar platform make St Pancras a destination in its own right, as well as simply a point of departure and arrival. Thirteen platforms are now operating against the original seven and the station is already alive with commuters, travellers and visitors.

The restoration of the station has been a

labour of love for architect Alistair Lansley, an enthusiastic exponent of the intrinsic glamour of train travel and a long-time aficionado of railway architecture having worked previously on the restoration of Liverpool Street and Ashford International station. Given the Grade 1 listed status of the station and the ensuing hawk-eyed supervision of English Heritage, the project was a painstaking eulogy to Victorian confidence.

Fosteresque ethos

The project was started by Sir Norman Foster in 1999 with Lansley joining the Fosters team shortly after the design stage started. Foster was replaced in 2001 but Lansley stayed on and saw the project through to the end for Arup. But Lansley strove to maintain a Fosteresque ethos. "I tried to make it look as if Foster had never left," he comments. "To use the Foster way of detailing old and new."

The design style of the new elements - such as the extension to the train shed needed to accommodate the long Eurostar trains - was clean, rather than organic. "Where old and new meet is always a crucial moment in a building's design," comments Lansley. "Separating old and new elements brings them together most effectively which is why 22mm of glass separates the old and new parts of the train shed."

The roof of the train shed remains the glory of the station. Barlow's ridge and furrow glazed roof contains 14,080 glass panels making up a glazed area of nearly 10,000m² - almost two football pitches or 36 tennis courts. The bottom third of the roof is finished with 300,000 slates hand crafted and supplied from Wales. The steel framework has been restored and taken back to its original pale sky blue. This was achieved by referring to the original roof drawings which had been conserved at the Public Records Office at Kew which showed the roof details and balustrades as originally designed by Barlow.

An early decision was made to cut away some of the original railway arches beneath the station in order to open up the space to create the new platforms. But while the structure of the station was changed dramatically, the details of the building were followed, copied and restored very precisely. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the architectural ironmongery.

Yannedis, the Als on the station restoration part of the project, are recipients of high praise from Lansley who clearly takes as much joy and pride in these details as in the grand sweep of the architecture. "The drawings for the architectural ironmongery were completed six and a half years ago and to be honest the brief was extremely prescriptive because of the listing status of the building and to avoid any possibility of contractors changing the spec," comments Lansley. "Gothic design is all about preciseness of detail and sharpness of line so it's vital to get it right."

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STATION





Architect Alistair Lansley (right) with Terry Moore of Yannedis

Technical Q & A: with Jacky Sinclair, the GAI's Technical Consultant

Q An ironmonger recently phoned wanting to check something for an architect he was working with. The project was a nursery school, and the architect was considering putting an additional set of levers with a latch at a fairly high level on the door, to ensure the small children couldn't let themselves out without permission. The architect wanted to know how this would sit with Building Regulations Approved Document B, and its requirement for doors on escape routes to have single handed operation for escape.

A Having two sets of levers on a door certainly means it's a two handed operation to open the door, and apart from the recommendations of ADB, using the door on a daily basis could be impractical, especially as teachers and their assistants often carry things, or otherwise have their hands full!

I made the following points –

Two sets of levers on the door would not be in line with ADB, but the Approved Documents are advisory, not mandatory. Alternative ways of meeting the Regulations are allowed. However, in this case, the additional set of furniture would impede ready escape.

One set of furniture with a lock could be fitted at a suitably high level.

Another solution which has been used is to fit the lock upside down, so the lever must be raised, rather than depressed, to withdraw the latch. Fixed at an appropriate height, this would be very difficult for little ones to operate. (An after-thought here is that a small sign with an arrow showing the direction of operation would be helpful in ensuring a visiting parent was not confused by this reversal. It would help to prevent abuse of the levers. Also, it would be a wise measure to indicate correct operation to anyone needing to use the door in a fire emergency).

Do any of our readers have other solutions to this problem of allowing normal operation of the door to adults, but keeping the children safely inside?

As the AIs, Yannedis had to be very exact. Much of the hardware had to be remade from scratch based on the original design. Everything - including twelve types of hinges, "jesters hat" escutcheons made in brass - was manufactured in Birmingham and finished in Watford. The process was not without its traumas. For example, £25,000 worth of hinges were stolen from a warehouse just a few days after they had been made and finished. They were never recovered - presumably melted down for the brass - and had to be painstakingly remade.

A case in point is the espangolette bolts on the windows between the station and the yet-to-be-completed hotel. They measure right from the bottom of the window to the fan light at the top, acting like a hinge to support the huge weight of the windows.

This devotion to accurately recreate the past all had to be achieved by Yannedis with an eye to modern regulations. For example, the huge solid oak doors to the booking office, restored by Howard Brothers in Hastings, now feature modern door springs and electro-magnetic closers to comply with 21st century regulations. In fact, these doors are actually too big and heavy to open and close thousands of times a day. They are opened every morning and closed again at night while modern glass doors in the opening actually offer access. Another example of old and new working together effectively.

"I think we've restored the glamour of rail travel and done justice to a building which was once described as the 8th Wonder of the World."

Lansley and his team, Yannedis and English Heritage worked very closely together to achieve the right results and Lansley is enthusiastic about how well the relationship worked. "We involved Yannedis early in the process and that was vital to the success of the scheme," Lansley concludes. "A project like St Pancras is a marathon, but you can't leave the AI out in the cold until the last minute when money and intent is running low.

"Yannedis did not simply put in a price and waiting for instruction. They were closely involved in the project, working hand-in-hand with Arups' architectural team."

On the day we met Lansley he was clearing his desk having completed this once-in-lifetime project but his enthusiasm for St Pancras remained undimmed. "I think we've restored the glamour of rail travel and done justice to a building which was once described as the 8th Wonder of the World." His next project? He remained tight-lipped but the lure of the railway will undoubtedly be strong for this survivor of the old British Rail architectural team.

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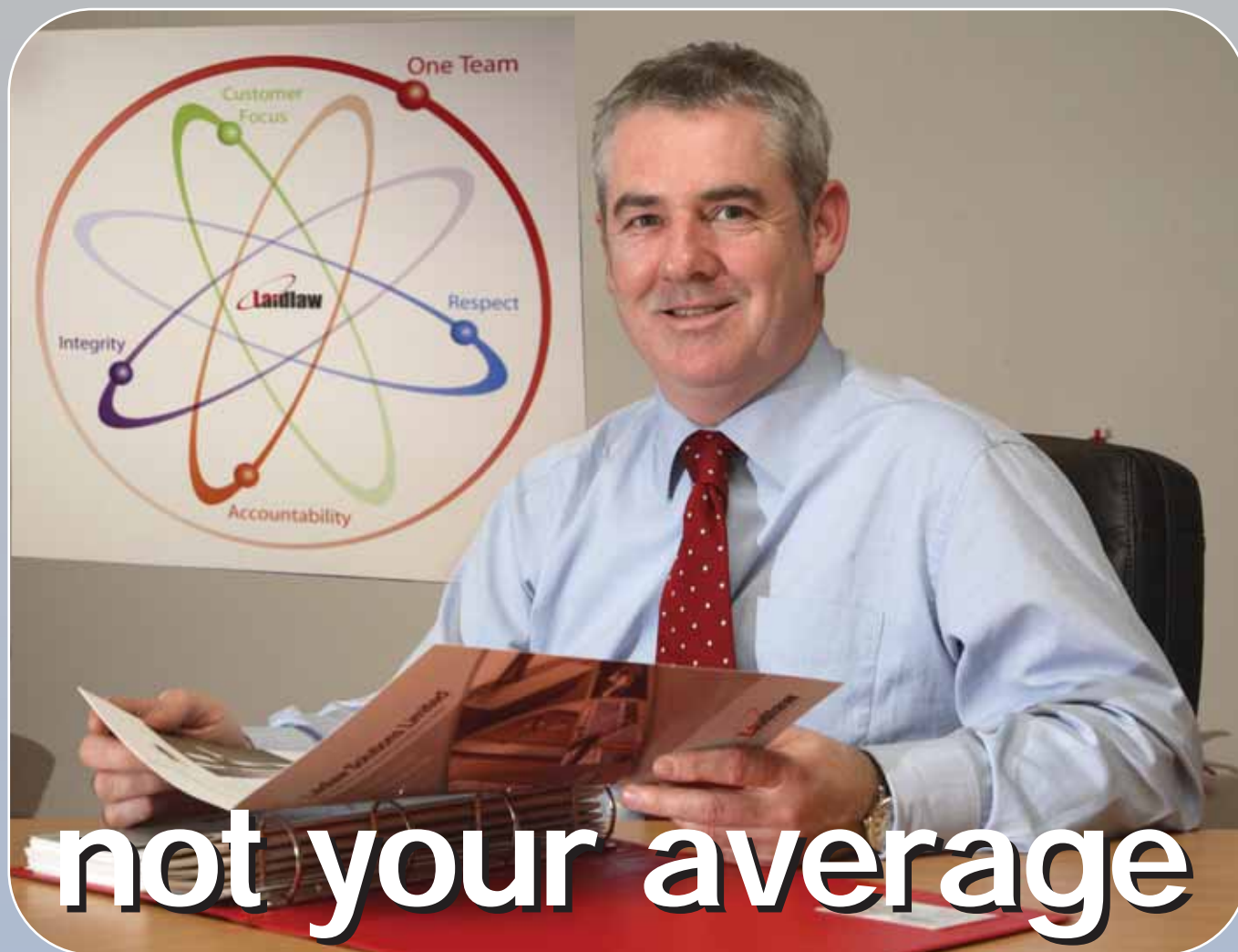
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ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE



not your average architectural ironmonger

Although Laidlaw can trace its history back over 125 years, Managing Director John Jefferies isn't your average Architectural Ironmonger. An accountant by background, he was brought in by Laidlaw's then owners Ingersol Rand to dispose of the company. But he was so impressed with the potential he saw there that, like Victor Kyam, he took the company on himself.

John describes himself as a 'Liverpool Lad', raised and educated there – and still a keen Everton supporter. He came into the building industry after training as a Chartered Accountant, spending 13 years with the Glass Fibre Insulation section of Pilkington Glass which later became Owens Corning. There he progressed from Works Accountant to UK and European Finance Director and finally Managing Director, ultimately overseeing their voluntary liquidation and sale in the face of massive asbestos

liabilities. "I sold myself out of a job," he admits, "I didn't really fancy working for the new owners, a German Plaster Board manufacturer, so I decided to pursue my own destiny."

Initially John set up a consultancy specialising in the distribution of insulation products, but things took a significant turn when a colleague recommended him to Ingersol Rand who were looking for help disposing of the Laidlaw business. They had acquired Laidlaw in the mid 90's as part of Newman Tonks and John's experience seemed just what they needed.

"The more I looked at Laidlaw the more I realised the potential there," he says. "It was a gem of a company with lots of potential. It was lacking leadership and really just needed fixing". Initially Ingersol Rand were skeptical: "They didn't seem to think I was serious," John explains, "So we put a package together, flew to the head office in Brussels and came back with draft heads of agreement."

To pull the business round, John put

together a management team from within the company and brought in a few new members. "The core objectives were quite straightforward", he explains, "Reacquaint ourselves with our customers, establish their objectives and devise ways in which we could add value to their business as well as ours. We looked at the market to find ways to expand our sales offering and we looked at the supply chain to see how we could extend our involvement – from manufacturing right through to contracting. We needed ways to expand our offering beyond the traditional AI business"

One of the early decisions was to start offering complete door sets. It was an obvious way of making the clients life easier and increasing Laidlaw's share of the business. "It's a simple one-stop, packaged option," explains John, "Fully approved by all the authorities, we supply the door, frame and architraves with all the ironmongery pre-fitted. We have an experienced door set team working along-

side qualified ironmongers. You just need the contractor to build the opening the right size!" Laidlaw now offer their own range of timber door sets which they claim will reduce installation time by up to 40%. The doorset business has proved a bedrock of growth for the company.

The other key area of diversification for Laidlaw is their balustrade business. It's a logical extension to the conventional ironmongery and gives an even greater project involvement. Using a modular system with a range of finishes, the company offers a complete package from initial survey and design through to manufacture and installation. This fits in with John's core objectives of a joined-up supply chain and maximising the product offering to their customers. Laidlaw's entire product range is supplied through a single sales force which incorporates experts in the various specialist areas.

Despite the new initiatives, traditional ironmongery is still at the heart of Laidlaw's business. They are the largest independent AI in the country with 12 locations - 10 with trade counters, and around 200 staff. They have a comprehensive selection of own-brand product ranges manufactured to their own designs. But John believes that the Ironmongery business needs to evolve quickly to adapt to a fast moving market. "The construction industry is changing," he says, "It's becoming far more profes-

sional with a relentless focus on efficiency, speed and safety. This will push its way down into our business. At the same time our products are becoming far more sophisticated with new electronic access systems requiring a radical new set of skills which the Guild must address.

John Jefferies came into the business as an outsider and readily admits that he

had little knowledge of Architectural Ironmongery. His approach to turning the Laidlaw business around is therefore doubly interesting. But his straightforward approach to expanding the product range, getting closer to his customers and broadening the service package have paid dividends and point towards interesting developments in the future.



"The more I looked at Laidlaw the more I realised the potential there, it was a gem of a company with lots of potential. It was lacking leadership and really just needed fixing"

John Jefferies



aijleeds

HOLY TRINITY FOR LAIDLAW

Refurbishment of 'Trinity and All Saints', a Higher Education Institution accredited by the University of Leeds, included Laidlaw Solution's Nylon railing system for 26 staircases. The extensive refurbishment utilised navy blue nylon-sleeved steel top rails and uprights with 10mm clear glass infill panels. Apart from Part M requirements that handrails and balustrades should contrast with their background, Laidlaw's range of 12 sleeve colours meant the product could complement the college's corporate colours. Handrails follow the key heights above the pitch line and landings, while upright connections from the underside to the top rail enable uninterrupted handhold along the rail.



aijlondon

CARDINAL VIRTUES

GEZE UK has created a striking entrance within London's futuristic Cardinal Place in the heart of Westminster.

Working directly with Radian Partitioning, GEZE installed Slimdrive SL sliding door operators at the entrance to the offices of Microsoft giants MSN and the luxurious restaurant complex based in Cardinal Place. The mixed-use development, spread over two ultra-modern buildings, stretches across more than 57,000 sqm in London's prestigious Westminster.



The durability of the Slimdrive SL door operator was a key factor in the specification, as the high traffic entrance needed to withstand a continuous flow of people. With a minimalist design, which is integrated into the structure of the door and an overall closer height of just 7cm, the sleek look of the Slimdrive SL helps to enhance the modern style.

The economical use of energy to operate the closer also makes it environmentally friendly, which is of increasing importance to businesses and is essential for new buildings.

Liam Whyte from Radian commented: "We chose GEZE UK's products for this very prestigious project as they offer a level of quality and reliability in tandem with aesthetics, that is unsurpassed. It's a tough brief to install a practical and durable access portal while matching the exquisite design of Cardinal Place, but these doors really fit the bill."

aijbavaria

CLEAR CHOICE

Glass doors provide greater visualisation, better perspective and genuine rays of light within modern interior decor and design. That's why they are becoming increasingly popular in commercial, public and residential sectors.

SIMONSWERK hinge systems for all-glass doors have recently contributed to the realisation of an extraordinary project. Architect Ludwig Holzschuh has designed a house that is aligned with the sun in which the room-high interior doors are made from 12 millimetre thick glass and made to measure with black vertical wooden friezes.

Both the technical requirements and demand for visibility made by the architect played a part in choosing the correct hinge. The extreme weight of the high glass doors, with the requirement for them to run from the ceiling to floor without gaps, made high performance demands of the hinges.

The SIMONSWERK VARIANT VG glass door product line proved to be the ideal hinge solution. For visual reasons and because of the extremely heavy load, 120 millimetre hinges with a square-edged design were chosen. The 3D receiver series was used in order to make the door easy to adjust without the weight causing the glass door to drop when the receiver is slackened.

Hinges made from brushed stainless steel were used to emphasize the clear lines of the overall architecture. For the architect Ludwig Holzschuh, the SIMONSWERK hinge system that was specified represented a successful symbiosis of his requirements, namely elegant appearance, good load-bearing capability and freedom from maintenance.



aijleamington spa

BANKING ON SUCCESS

The HSBC Trust Company based in Leamington Spa required a new front entrance at its call centre on Exchange Place as the existing door system was inefficient at maintaining a constant climate and provided a poor level of security so the bank called in Coventry-based Gretscht-Unitas.

Paul Lewis, sales & marketing manager for G-U's door division, said: "We had been contacted by facilities management specialist Carillion about upgrading security and improving climate control at HSBC's call centre. We discussed the options that were available to them and recommended removing the existing sliding doors and replacing them with a fully secure G-U revolving door system. This would allow HSBC to increase security and provide an effective solution to improve climate control."

The first stage was to remove the existing sliding door and install the GRA 4GMS, a fully automatic revolving door with framed turnstile and drum walls consisting of thermally insulated smooth panels. The door features internal and external card readers, requiring all users to present their security pass to enter the door.

The door automatically starts to revolve when entered and, if entry is attempted from the opposite side at this point, the door will stop and sound an audible warning. The door's features also allow security to lock the door down at any time.

In order to ensure that the automatic door system was fully DDA compliant, a Swing Master DTL-1 was also fitted. This automatic swing door features an overhead swing door drive and provides entrance and egress for disabled employees. Requiring the use of a disabled access card ensures that security is not compromised, whilst the door also provides facilities management with a means to admit oversized deliveries.

Finally, G-U installed a manual swing door as an emergency fire exit. Once again security issues were a top priority, so G-U fitted a door complete with a security magnet. This ensured the door would remain locked at normal times but, in an emergency situation, become operative.

Paul added: "The Gretscht-Unitas automatic door system delivers expert functionality and high quality performance for the call centre. It provides a modern, stylish glass entrance to the building that achieves the objectives of improving climate control whilst also increasing security."



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aijweymouth

SCHOOL REPORT

Selecting the optimum mix of door controls to ensure safe access and egress throughout a school environment is a complex task these days, and Holy Trinity Primary School in Weymouth found DORMA's input invaluable. Holy Trinity is a 630 pupil new build school and the first project to be built as part of Dorset's new "Modernising Schools Project". The internal and exterior door closers had to meet security, health & safety requirements, compliance with parts 3 and 4 of the SENDA (the equivalent of the Disability Discrimination Act for the education sector), and of course endure tough wear and tear.

Six different product types were selected to meet the requirements at Holy Trinity; the first two installed throughout the school were the TS92 and TS93 cam-action closers. They feature a linear drive mechanism and heart-shaped cam, and operate quite differently to conventional rack and pinion closers. The clever design means that when the door is opened the opening force falls away rapidly after the first few degrees, resulting in little resistance throughout the opening cycle – and the same happens on closing. The result is a much easier and safer door operation for children, those carrying books and equipment and for people with physical disabilities.

The emergency exit doors from school halls, classrooms and general utility areas at Holy Trinity have to be opened with the minimum of effort from inside, but also be totally secure from intruders on the outside. DORMA AD4000 full door width touch-bars, with stainless steel deadlocking Pullman type latches met this requirement perfectly.

In the main traffic routes and at the main entrances, DORMA ED200 swing door operators have been installed. These provide an excellent access solution for heavy traffic routes, offering no obstruction at all to users.

DORMA locks were chosen in conjunction with the OGRO range of lever handles from DORMA. They combine an attractive design with a robust mechanism where the latch and handle are independently sprung. As a result the latch can be lightly sprung so that the door will fully close and latch on a low power door closer setting –the lever handle is guaranteed to remain tightly sprung so that it always returns to its original position, and ensures practically maintenance-free operation even in a demanding school environment.

Hardware Solutions of Poole supplied the ironmongery for all of the internal applications, and Spiller Architectural Ironmongers of Yeovil supplied the external doors and associated ironmongery.



aijoxford

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

GEZE UK has helped to create a striking entrance at Oxford's John Radcliffe Children's Hospital.

GEZE UK's bi-parting Slimdrive SL sliding door operators were chosen by contractors Parry Bowen for the grand entrance to the state-of-the-art development on the John Radcliffe site.

Meeting both practical and aesthetic demands, the Slimdrive SL is durable enough to stand up to the heavy footfall through the main doors and the operator, at just 7cm high, can be integrated into the door, which complements the stylish facade.

Elite Ironmongery also chose GEZE UK's products throughout the hospital, ranging from automatic swing doors, TSA 160 / 162 to TS 4000 overhead door closers.

Installed with minimum disruption to staff and patients, the TSA 160 / 162 swing doors were fitted with an electro magnetic locking system to provide reliable security to sensitive areas of the hospital.

In addition to the security benefits, the TSA range was perfect for the high footfall areas of the hospital, as it requires little assistance to open and provides access for all, making it suitable for less able-bodied patients, children and theatre trolleys.

Vickie Holcroft, project director at John Radcliffe Hospital said: "We're really delighted with the entrance, which creates exactly the right impression for a clean, modern, state-of-the-art hospital. It has a high quality finish that reflects a nice, warm, welcoming environment for patients and staff."

Many of the hospital's vital services, including the state-of-the-art operating theatres and critical care facility have been transferred to the new building, after the hospital was required to close operations in its former 18th century premises.



The turn of the millennium saw big changes for Kaba in the UK. Previously known for cylinders, the company has now expanded its operations to a much broader range of access control, identification systems, safe locks and systems integration products and services. Helen Curry visited Kaba's UK headquarters in Devon to find out more.

While Devon isn't necessarily renowned as a hot bed of AI manufacturing, Tiverton, is in fact, home to the UK operations of one of the largest companies in the world in the sector, KABA. The UK arm of this Swiss/Austrian giant already runs a pretty slick manufacturing operation and has big plans to improve and refine this further and achieve World Class Manufacturing status. The depth and breadth of the fields that the company is involved in worldwide may surprise some in the trade who know the company for its Swiss round cylinders and dimple-style keys.

The company was established in 1862 by Franz Bauer, making safes with a staff of just three. Over the next hundred years the company grew and expanded its operations across Europe and North America. Today, Kaba is an internationally active, listed company with around 9,000 staff in more than 60 countries. The Kaba Group is the world's number-one producer of key blanks, key-cutting machines, transponder keys and high-security locks and with global manufacturing, sales and service operations. The scale of the group's activities can be gauged by the fact that they make approximately five million keys a day.

The company entered the UK market in 1966 with its round cylinders - unusual in the largely oval casings market in Britain at the time. The dimple-style key - which could not be copied - proved very popular and KABA concentrated its efforts in the OEM and industrial sectors. The acquisition of Grundmann in 1977 changed this focus however as the company shifted its focus on to the architectural ironmongery sector. Today Kaba UK Ltd turns over around £13million a year, employing 123 people.

Locks still remain at the heart of Kaba's UK business with locks and master key systems accounting for 5% of sales. Today's product portfolio is a little broader than the original Swiss round variety and includes mechanical, mechatronic and electronic locks and cylinders. In fact, the company has been a pioneer in these fields since launching Kaba Nova, the world's first mechatronic locking system, in 1984. The Kaba Group is the world's number-one producer of key blanks, key-cutting machines, transponder keys and high-security locks and is one of the world's leading providers of electronic access systems, locking systems, hotel locks, security and automatic doors and time recording systems. The company has recently acquired a Chinese operation which already has excellent connections in key European markets.

But there is much more to Kaba's product offering in the 21st century, based on its fundamental strategy of offering 'Total Access' for integrated security solutions. Now it offers automatic and security door systems, access control systems including data collection, turnstiles and digital identification systems. Kaba UK Ltd have now



BIG CHANGES AT KABA

added the Security Door section to its product portfolio.

Kaba in the UK now operates a full technical, sales and marketing support functions to the AI sector as well as its manufacturing operations. Not that these facilities have got stuck in the past. The company is putting into place a massive revolution in its manufacturing processes to put in place lean manufacturing techniques. Spearheading this programme is Andy Pacey, Kaba's new Production Manager and a man with a missionary zeal for manufacturing.

Surrounded by flow diagrams and critical path analyses, Pacey's department is putting a remarkable series of changes in Kaba's production facilities. In the six months since he joined the team, Pacey has

drawn up a vision of how Kaba can achieve its targets of eliminating waste and improving efficiency.

The team value streamed the whole production process and mapped it as it exists now, where it will eventually be, and in interim stage as the changes are implemented. These plans are literally mapped on a series of hand drawn diagrams which give a clear and incisive oversight of all of the stages in each production line. These are displayed publically and suggestions and discussion among the whole workforce actively encouraged.

Focus on customers

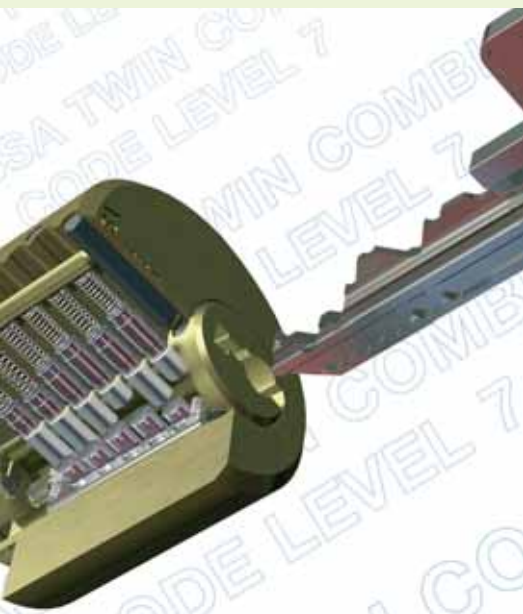
"Everything we're striving for when we are making these changes is focused on our customers," comments Pacey. "Changes in the way we produce will give us the flexibility to give them what they want, when they want it and how they want it." The changes should be manifested in 98% on time in full deliveries and a three day turnaround as standard. In fact, in that short time Pacey has already reduced this time frame from 8½ days to 4½ days for standard products.

This has been achieved by project working groups who have been tasked with improving flow and coordination between departments. For example, Pacey has mapped and analysed the amount of walking which takes place during the production process as product is moved from one department to the next and has eliminated 790 miles walked per year on one line alone.

The workforce is taking to the changes well and an intensive training programme is underway to improve not only skills but also the versatility of each worker. This is designed to cope with the ebbs and flows of demand and the inevitable bulges caused by sudden high volume demand. Pacey explains, "We are training people to handle critical and skilled activities to help us cope with a sudden big push, enabling flooding of critical processes; with lesser experienced personnel covering the lower skilled activities." Pacey hasn't balked at calling on office staff to help with packing and the like in these "all hands to the pump" scenarios.

And his hard work and vision is paying off with rapid strides being made in efficiency and quality. Pacey believes that there is plenty more to do and that Kaba's already impressive manufacturing capabilities will have been further transformed in the next few years. Customers and staff are already reaping the rewards with the promise of more to come.

CODE LEVEL 7 - NEW CYLINDER SYSTEM FROM ASSA ABLOY



Code Level 7 is a new enhancement to the ASSA Twin Combi range of cylinders from ASSA ABLOY Door Solutions. It offers extended patent protection and heightened resistance to all forms of manipulation and picking, in order to provide the highest level of security for users of master key systems.

Key protection and security is a primary concern of major institutional organisations such as hospitals, universities, commercial and government applications, who often need extensive master key systems with many different users and a high turnover of staff. For over 50 years the ASSA range of cylinders and key systems supplied by ASSA ABLOY Door Solutions has offered the highest possible defence against illicit duplication. Patent protection of ASSA products linked to a stringent system of key registration and control is an essential part of this strategy.

To ensure that the ASSA range remains at the leading edge of security for these market sectors, ASSA ABLOY Door Solutions is currently launching this new innovative patented enhancement to the highly successful Twin Combi 5800 cylinder range. The main feature of this newly redesigned cylinder is the addition of a highly engineered 15 degree swivel pin. This finger pin, called Code Level 7, provides a new patent and heightened pick resistance capability to the established Twin Combi range. Along with the new patented keyblank, this combination offers extended legal protection against unauthorised key copying.

The new patented product is available in all standard cylinder shapes as well as padlocks, for maximum flexibility of specification.



Gretsch-Unitas has unveiled a brand new swing door drive suitable for a range of situations, including helping to ensure DDA compliance. The turnMaster is the latest addition to the company's automatic door portfolio.

The turnMaster's specification provides a high level of functionality with adjustable opening speed, adjustable hold-open time and an adjustable wind pressure function. Suitable for single or double leaf exterior and interior doors with a leaf weight of up to 250kg, the new turnMaster can provide low-energy, servo assist and full-auto operations from the one unit.

With a quick and simple installation the turnMaster is ideal for retrofitting and modernising existing door systems and to help assist buildings in attaining DDA compliance.



AS ONE DOOR CLOSES...

ASSA ABLOY Door Solutions has launched the ASSA 215 Series of door closers.

Manufactured from cast aluminium the ASSA 215 Series door closer has a template adjustable strength of power rating 2 to 4, meeting the performance requirements of BS EN 1154 and providing a cost effective solution.

The high performance ASSA 215 Series includes the Contract Closer standard arm, which allows a maximum opening angle of 180. As an added user benefit the ASSA 215 Series also offers an adjustable closing and latching speed function.

Suitable for all internal doors the ASSA 215 Series is available with silver, brown or white covers and can be installed to the door leaf or frame.

Successfully third party tested to BS EN 1154, ASSA 215 series door closers carry the CE mark and are covered with a ten-year performance guarantee.



PUSH PAD PANIC HARDWARE

DORMA has launched a new Push Pad series of panic hardware - the PH 2100 - which is specifically for use in areas of "trained traffic". This addition to the already extensive choice available means that DORMA can now provide a solution for practically any panic hardware requirement.

The PH 2100 is a high-quality range of Push Pad emergency exit devices for use on escape routes and can be fitted to both single or double-leaf standard doors, or fire and smoke check doors, up to 200kg in weight.

A major feature of the range is its modularity. The units can be used as a standalone, or in conjunction with DORMA PHA 2000 accessories - rods, covers and latches - to provide three-point locking for extra security. Also, there are complete modular Push Pad packages for two-point locking available with the option of Mazak latch bolts, steel anti-thrust latch bolts, or steel shoot bolts. The PH 2100 series can also be combined with the existing DORMA PHT range of external operating trims.

The DORMA PH 2100 offers both single-point and two-point options with latch or shoot bolt locking, and the series is CE Marked to BS EN 179, for emergency exit devices operated by a lever handle or push pad, where the exit door is used by trained personnel only and not the general public.

This is complemented by the other panic hardware solutions available from DORMA which are CE Marked to BS EN 1125, where the exit door is used by the public and escape can be made with minimum effort and without prior knowledge of the device.

In addition to being CE Marked to BS EN179, the new Push Pad products are also CERTIFIRE Approved (CF318) for use on Timber Fire Doors for 1 Hour and Metal Fire Doors (Insulated and Un-insulated) for 4 Hours.

OPENING NEW DOORS BIOMETRICALLY

Häfele's new Electronic Security and Access Control catalogue introduces a move by the Rugby company into the field of Biometrics - a new generation of security based on the statistical analysis of biological features. The scope currently encompasses finger and hand 'print' readers, faces or, more specifically, the irises of the eyes to identify and selectively admit individuals.

Häfele's Security Products Manager, Dave Edwards says "This move into a security sector will, for us at least, open a lot of new doors! This technology is ideally suited to any and all applications involving selective admittance of numbers of individuals, whether on fixed or flexible or on a specific timetable basis."

This makes the new products of Häfele's Biometrics Division ideally suited to security for hotels - to buildings, to rooms, or to specifically access controlled areas including blocks of rooms, bars, sports or recreation facilities - and, of course, for car parks. All of these applications can now be securely restricted to approved individuals without need for the issue of any key or access card device - though smart card readers can also be built into packages for applications in which multiple authentication of individuals is desirable.

Scanning at the point of access compares images of fingers, hands, faces and eyes, each captured by an algorithmic program which reads and compares unique points with existing stored images. The data is recorded by and imported into a unique and patented mathematical template - once the user image has been identified as valid the individual is granted access by the automatic opening of doors or other barriers.

Fingerprint readers represent a low cost and biometric solution for smaller access control applications - the reading is taken from the finger tip to the first knuckle extracting unique points from the information. Hand print readers, by comparison, analyse more than 30,000 individual points of the hand presented, including overall dimensions in all axes, and stores the information either on servers or on a card - ideal for high access and throughput control.

Also for high volume access controls, Häfele's iris reader records and stores the unique features of the eye - every eye is unique in a radial composition that is formed since the moment of birth by 'chaotic morphogenesis' and remains constant throughout time. The digital template that is formed of the iris pattern cannot be reconstituted or re-engineered to form any other image and large databases can be generated, stored and operated at unparalleled search speeds without impairment of authentication accuracy.





TŌKYŌ CALLING

HOPPE's flagship Tōkyō range of handles now comes with a wider external plate offering improved visual presence when fitted to the door as well as added strength. To make it even stronger the screws have been upgraded from M5 to M6 with the fixing points improved too.

National Sales Manager Stewart Lamb comments: "Our customers have come to expect proactive development across the HOPPE product range. The launch of the new Tōkyō is just another step along its evolution. The new design will enable our customers to offer products with cutting edge designs and performance."

FIRE DOORS DELIVERED IN DAYS

Fire Doors Limited, manufacturer of bespoke Certifire-rated doors have recently launched its new web site at www.firedoors.ltd.uk

A typical tour of the site details a brief history of Fire Doors Limited, its bespoke product ranges, customer services and delivery lead times. The site shows how a fire door is constructed, how quality control is maintained throughout the order process that guarantees that every bespoke door manufactured by Fire Doors Limited is certified. This is done by an online factory tour which offers a step by step guide showing how a typical fire door makes its way through the factory from initial customer enquiry to delivery

The product section promotes the style, versatility and bespoke design options with emphasis on hand finishing and servicing options. Included in this section is a veneer selector which will assist in the choice of the more popular veneers.

Information is provided on certification of the company and its products and covers their environmental policies and practices. Prestigious clients and projects are highlighted and will be updated on a regular basis to present all the past and current projects.



'KILL ON CONTACT' BACTERIA PROTECTION

In the majority of Hospitals, Schools, Care homes and public access facilities, doors are generally opened by using a lever handle or pull handle, it therefore follows that the likelihood of harmful bacteria being passed from one person to another via the door hardware is a distinct possibility.

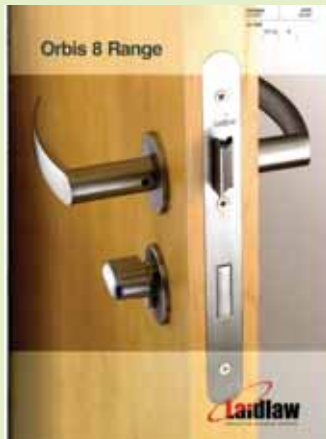
To combat bacteria being transmitted in these obviously vulnerable areas, Webb Lloyd has launched the unique Hygienilac antibacterial protection, which is exclusively available across the complete range of Webb Lloyd door hardware products.

The highly effective Hygienilac protection has received specific NHS endorsement and has been independently certified by Bodycote Lawlabs, one of the UK's leading microbiological laboratories, confirming a kill rate of 99.9% over a 24hour period against the bacteria that commonly causes food poisoning (MRSA, Listeria, Salmonella and E.Coli).

Commenting on the launch of the Webb Lloyd - Hygienilac furniture range, Managing Director Kaz Spiewakowski stated "We have been asked on a number of occasions to supply bacteria resistant surfaces on our furniture, with Hygienilac we can now exclusively offer a unique and durable antibacterial protection, which does not employ silver technology and is therefore completely UV stable".

Hygienilac protection is available across the complete range of Webb Lloyd Aluminium and Stainless Steel products and can be supplied as a clear protection or in a wide range of colours.

ANTI-LIGATURE GUIDE



Laidlaw Solutions' new 16 - page Orbis Anti-Ligature brochure contains comprehensive information on this specialised aspect of interior design. The considerably extended range includes locks, handles, hinges, door closers, escutcheons and access devices, all designed to create a safe environment without an institutional appearance. Products are available predominantly in a choice of Satin Stainless Steel and Silk Anodised

Aluminium, all of which have a standard 10-year guarantee. Specific design advice is available along with information on timber doorsets and finishes.

DO THE STRAND

Strand Hardware has launched a new STRAND ANTIPANIC range of slimline emergency and panic exit devices suitable for timber, steel, aluminium or PVC-U doors. The range is the result of European co-operation, designed, styled and manufactured in Italy, assembled in the UK. This has produced the ultimate range of reversible escape devices combining ease of operation with simplicity of fixing. The devices all have the option of outside access offering a choice of knob or lever handle together with either standard or high security euro-profile cylinders.

The STRAND ANTIPANIC range of push bar, push pad and touch bar devices are easily reversible and include options of single point, 3 point latches and 2/3 point bolts. In addition, electrically controlled latches can be used to give a higher level of access control using electric keypads or swipe cards. The range also includes a neatly concealed high security 3 point mortice device suitable for aluminium and steel doors.

Strand offers standard powder coated colours of silver, white and black together with brass plated and stainless steel plated finishes. All the hardware is available with the Touchclean™ anti-bacterial coating which provides protection against many types of bacteria, viruses, moulds and other organic infectious agents leaving the surface clinically clean.

A new brochure offers technical guidance for specifying the correct devices for single and double doors, however for more complicated specifications and electric devices Strand offers expert technical assistance.

SAMSON FOR STRENGTH

Samson high performance solid brass hinges from UK manufacturer SIMONSWERK are now available in a choice of new finishes including dark imitation bronze metal antique. Samson brass butt hinges have a 25 year guarantee, are maintenance free and suitable for heavy weight flush doors tested to BS EN 1935 – Grade 12. They are also offered in a series of six exciting Designer Finials already very popular with specifiers. Samson hinges are available with CE marking and are suitable for use on half hour and one hour timber doors to BS EN 1634.



HIGH SECURITY PADLOCK RANGE EXTENDS

Continuing the theme of flexibility within the high security padlock range, UNION are introducing a long shackle variant in January 2008 to provide a more extensive solution for padlock applications.

The high security padlock range is an interchangeable platform of padlock bodies and cylinder systems providing strength and durability to withstand today's security and environmental demands.

The long shackle variant means that the benefits of the UNION high security padlock can now be utilised in a wider variety of applications. Available in both 50 and 60mm brass or hardened steel bodies, the shackle has a 50mm clearance from the padlock body, an additional 25mm on the standard size.

Padlocks can either be supplied fully assembled as an off-the-shelf solution or as sub-assembled products enabling the locksmith's inventory to be kept to a minimum.

GuildMark- blueprint for a higher standard



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