



architectural
ironmongery
journal

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advancing architectural ironmongery



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Consideration must be given to door widths, other installed hardware and differential air pressures within the building to ensure they still meet the recommendations in situ.



The recent kafuffle over the arrival of the Olympic flame in London has, perhaps, brought the issue of the 2012 Olympics to the forefront of the nation's mind. It has certainly been on the minds of the building industry in general and the AI trade in particular for some time now.

Not just for AIs and manufacturers near the Olympic site – like the focus of one of our AI profiles in this issue, Harbrine – but companies all over the country are hoping that the Olympic push will give their businesses a boost.

Architectural ironmongery will have an important part to play in the success of the scheme. For although it may only account for ½% or so of the total building cost, it provides visitors with the first contact and interaction with the Olympic buildings in all their forms.

AIs are working hard to negotiate their way through the labyrinthine tendering and procurement processes which surround the Olympic project. It is to be sincerely hoped that they succeed and encourage architects, contractors and other specifiers to involve them at the earliest possible opportunity if the buildings are to reach truly Olympian standards.



Helen Curry

aijfront cover



The redevelopment of Fort Dunlop, once the largest factory in the world, has resulted in a building of impressive industrial scale that truly merits the icon tag.

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Publisher:
Gary Amer
Tel: 020 7790 3431
Email:
gary.amer@gai.org.uk



Editor:
Helen Curry
Tel: 01268 692195
Email:
editor@aijournal.org



Editorial Panel:
Wayne Harris
Guild President
Tel: 020 8980 8000
Email: wayne@harbrine.co.uk



Editorial Panel:
Jules Quedest Williams
Guild Communications
Committee Chair
Tel: 01543 443000 Email: jqw@geze.com

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Page layout and production:

Jim Dansie Design Tel: 01702 218879 Email: j.dansie@homecall.co.uk

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NEXT ISSUE

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HELLO & GOODBYE AT ADAMS RITE

Adams Rite has appointed David Wigglesworth as its new Managing Director. David will replace Iain Mackay, Adams Rite's current Chairman and acting Managing Director who will be retiring in March.

He brings with him a wealth of commercial and leadership experience gleaned from a career starting as a trainee Electrical and Electronics Engineer, through to Commercial Director of Fict Logistics at GDA Holdings Ltd. His commercial experience includes operating in the the wholesaler, distributor, B2B and OEM markets. Other senior Director roles include two as MD, operating within the print franchise and electrical industry.

Iain Mackay joined Adams Rite in 1982 as General Sales Manager and held positions of Sales & Marketing Director and Managing Director before becoming Chairman in 2007. As well as taking the helm of Adams Rite, Iain has been instrumental in the development of the aluminium and fenestration industry.

Iain is reflective on his time at Adams Rite: "My 25 years at Adams Rite has been challenging, fulfilling, but above all enjoyable and obviously I am sad to be leaving it all behind. It is a great company and I wish it continued success in the future. However, now is the time for me to spend more time with my family, including our new granddaughter, and to improve my golf handicap."



FAMOUS FIVE

Five HOPPE (UK) employees have been awarded diplomas from the GAI, the only recognised professional qualification within the architectural ironmongery industry.

"We put many of our staff through the GAI Diploma course so that customers can have confidence in the support they get," comments Business Development Manager, Peter Rea. "The knowledge HOPPE staff gain

from this diploma ensures that all of our customers get top quality service as well as top quality hardware."

HOPPE's successful Architectural Ironmongers were: Sam Mills, Lee Piper, Dean Cox, Jason Tonks and Chris Mills, who also received the Level Three Silver Medal Award for his distinctions gained in Business Studies and Scheduling.



Min fire door width 908mm



Min fire door width 792mm



Min fire door width 890mm



Min fire door width 767mm



Min fire door width 767mm



Min fire door width 783mm



Min fire door width 733mm



Min fire door width 733mm



Min fire door width 867mm



Min fire door width 867mm



Min fire door width 926mm

Q. Which of these door closers produces an opening force of 30N or less when fitted at size EN3 helping doorsets meet the requirements of Approved Document M and BS8300, and is CE Marked and Certifire Approved?

A. All of the above.

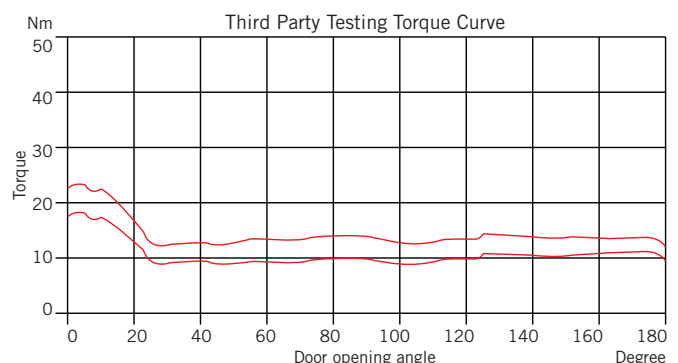
These products can meet the opening force recommendations of BS8300 and Approved Document M. However consideration must be given to the door width, other installed hardware and differential air pressures within the building to ensure they still meet the recommendations in situ.

For details on minimum door widths for non-fire doors please ask us for a copy of the "Which Door Control?" brochure.

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Manufacturer: Dorma
Model: TS93 B EN 2-5
Sample: B 1
Size: 3
5000 cycles

Standard installation

27.10.2008

Handwritten signature



THE RIGHT GUY

SIMONSWERK GmbH, has announced the appointment of Robin Guy as Managing Director of SIMONSWERK UK Ltd. Formerly Sales Director, Robin will now take on a combined sales and general management role with Patrick Calvey as the senior Sales Manager and Martin Cartwright appointed Works Manager responsible for all factory production areas.

Michael Meier and Christian Jurczyk, based at Head Office in Germany, will continue as Directors of the SIMONSWERK UK subsidiary Company.

CONTINUING PROGRESS

Leaving a well known and large Company for a large but mainly European known Company was a major decision Warren Mackie had to make when he left UNION and the Assa Abloy Group to join Portuguese company CIFIAL.

"I was impressed by CIFIAL's plans and ambitions and when a member of the board flew in especially from Portugal to interview me and ultimately offer me a position I was delighted".

Warren's initial brief was to assess the Company's current offering of Door Hardware and to assemble a product offering suitable for the UK market. With virtually a free hand Warren has put together four quality ranges of Door Furniture for what is just Phase 1 of CIFIAL's ambitious plans, which include complete door solutions up to and including RFID technology.



Another brief for Warren was to establish routes to market, which he admits has been helped by his own history "It has been a terrific couple of years with a lot of blood, sweat and tears shed but one I wouldn't change for the world and I can't wait for the next Phases of our plans."

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Gretsch-Unitas UK has appointed a new national sales manager, window division, Rob Rossall. Rob is already a familiar face at Gretsch-Unitas having notched up more than thirteen years as area sales manager,



He boasts more than 20 years' experience in the industry – this means Rob is well placed to see G-U through what he predicts will be a tough year for the industry. "I don't doubt that over the next twelve months we will see a downturn in the marketplace. It's going to be a tough year but I think there is a real opportunity for G-U if we can continue to get the right product to market and maintain service levels."

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT MARKS GUILD SUCCESS

The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) has unveiled its plans for its annual conference in May, the culmination of a successful and rewarding year for the Guild as the voice of the whole architectural ironmongery sector. The conference will have a theme of Sustainability.

The conference, which will take place over four days from 29-31 May at the Westminster Hotel in Le Touquet on France's northern coast, is the key gathering in the architectural ironmongery sector calendar, bringing together all of the industry's key movers and shakers from both the manufacturing and distribution sides of the business.

The Guild's AGM forms the first part of proceedings with the election of the new President of the GAI. This will be followed by a packed programme of speakers, seminars and networking opportunities. Highlights will be speeches by former president of the RIBA Sir Maxwell Hutchinson and sailor Tracy Edwards MBE.

Since the last conference, the GAI has seen its corporate ID overhauled, launched GuildMark, the only RIBA accredited quality scheme in the construction industry, and appointed a new Chief Executive Gary Amer.



RECORD YEAR FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This year will be one of consolidation for the education programme building on the excellent results of last year. And what a flying start it has got off to with 164 candidates registering for the Level One exam. Approximately 400 students will be embarking on the courses at various levels, armed with some newly written and redesigned manuals to help them along.

Next year will see a significant shift in the way that students access the courses with the introduction of open, on-line learning. Keith Maer and the Education Committee have plans for the new scheme well underway.

ROONEY SCORES HAT-TRICK

Well 3 certainly was the magic number for the first recipient of the newly inaugurated Pinnacle Award, sponsored by Assa Abloy Door Solutions. Michael Rooney, who works for Perrem Architectural Hardware in Dublin was not only the top Level 3 student (unusually coming top in both the Scheduling and Business modules), this was also the third time he has been in the number one position, having been top Level 2 and Level 1 student in the last two years.

The Pinnacle Award, sponsored by ASSA ABLOY Door Solutions, is part of the GAI's ongoing commitment to excellence in education and training in the architectural ironmongery trade.

For all his hard work Michael collected an impressive Pinnacle trophy and a trip for two to New York City.



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Like most people in this business, Wayne Harris didn't plan a career in Architectural Hardware. However, his first job working for a city Insurance Broker left him with a slightly clearer career ambition, anything but insurance broking. His father was an Architect and had close ties with Yannedis, so in 1974 Wayne started a career in the Hardware business. "I started out as an assistant to a chap called Ernie Ansell" Wayne explained "he was a great bloke – Uncle Ern". A joiner by trade he knew just about everything there was to know about timber and hardware. "I used to accompany him on his visits to Architects and Contractors and the first thing he would say to them was "do you mind if I bring my boy" to which they all said no they didn't mind. He would then follow up with "taught him all I know, still he knows nothing". All in all, it was a brilliant apprenticeship. Having found his niche, Wayne set himself what he describes as a vague target of making a success of being an ironmonger. The company grew steadily throughout the eighties ending up with over one hundred staff throughout the UK. "I looked after some cracking projects" explains Wayne. We were involved in the start up of the Travelodge chain, supplied hardware for the Emirs Palace in Doha and also the five star Hotel Arts in Barcelona – built to coincide with the Olympic Games of 1992.

By the end of the 1980's things were looking less rosy as the recession started to bite. Trading got tough alarmingly quickly as Wayne recalls "it didn't seem to matter what action we took, sales just fell off a cliff. We kept on fire-fighting for two or three years but eventually I felt I had had enough". He left Yannedis in March 1993 and for a while looked at alternative options but when after a couple of months Harry Singh, his work colleague of fourteen years, also left, they decided to set up their own business. "We bought an off the shelf company called Harbrine Limited in the first week of June 1993 and started from scratch" says Wayne. "I worked from my father's old office at my mother's house and Harry worked from his spare bedroom.

It was not an ideal start being separated but it worked perfectly well. I can remember packing deliveries on my mother's hall carpet. I think she actually quite enjoyed all the action, deliveries arriving, goods being re-packed and despatched, representatives visiting – never a dull moment. Meanwhile, Harry was doing the same from his home.

Their first project was the fit-out of the new Head Office for Management Consultants, McKinsey at No. 1 Jermyn Street. "It was an extraordinary project" explains Wayne. "That building was another world, an incredible specification. As a new company we were fortunate, the contractor



olympian plans - just around the corner

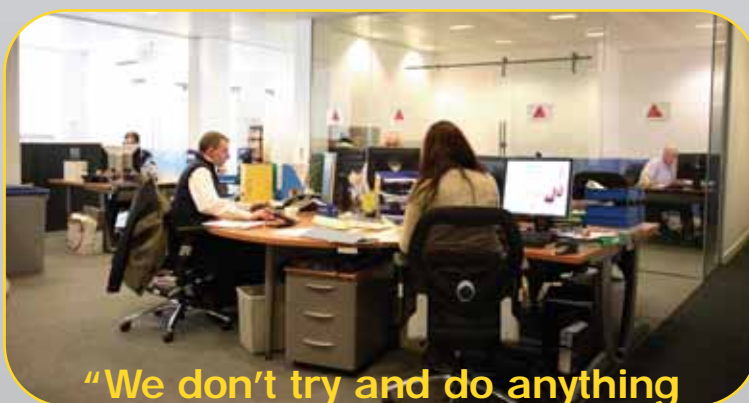
Harry and I had worked from there so knew of its possibilities. "It was just what we needed" says Wayne. "I gave their Chief Executive a ring, a price was agreed as well as a six week completion period. So in May 1995 we had our own premises, 3500 square feet of office and 8000 square feet of warehouse, just perfect". The location couldn't have been better. At the time it was the closest ironmongers to Canary Wharf and now it's the closest to the 2012 Olympic Park. Although Wayne is the first to admit location doesn't always help to win business, being close to your market place is a great help to any company.

In the summer of 1999 Harry and Wayne were joined by Nick Hancock. Nick brought many of his customers with him and subsequently joined the board in 2005. The company which started with just two now employs twenty eight and can list a string of high profile projects for clients as varied as Fortis Bank, IKEA and ITN. "We don't try and do anything different or spectacular" says Wayne, "we just try and do it better. Service is always our watchword. If you help someone out of a difficult situation the chances are they'll come back next time. Also, let's be honest, urgent orders and good service usually support better margins". Business is still good with this financial year looking to show a 13% increase in turnover and Wayne is cautiously optimistic about the future. "Obviously, ironmongery is at the end of the construction programme but we don't see any signs of a downturn at the moment".

Wayne has been an enthusiastic supporter of the GAI for many years. He was on the Executive Committee for 8 years before he left Yannedis but returned in 2000 and has been President for the last two years and Vice President before that. He steps down in May. "It's been a hectic couple of years", he admits, "but I'm really

pleased with what we've achieved. We've launched the Guild Mark, completely re-branded the organisation and managed the transition between Directors after Peter Spill announced his retirement after 34 years".

As for the post-presidential future: "I'm looking forward to having a bit of my life back, more time for Harbrine and generally a bit less argy-bargy". There is certainly still plenty of work to chase – not least that little sporting event across the road in 2012.



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Dear Madam

Whenever a new standard looms on the horizon, manufacturers are faced with the question of whether to wait until they have to apply them or to get ahead of the game. At Adams Rite we believe that the aluminium industry should start to make its move to BS3621 now.

Written several decades ago, locks to the theft resistant BS3621 standard have long been mandated by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) for residential timber door locking systems. The physical impracticalities of manufacturing a lock case that would fit into a profile with maximum dimensions of 44mm² granted exceptions for aluminium systems fabricators. The situation was simple: this sector of the industry did not have to comply with regulations, because there were none.

Standards essentially set a minimum level that a product has to perform to and integral to them are the benchmarks against which they have to be tested. If the benchmarks do not exist, the manufacturers cannot test. This situation changed irrevocably last year with the introduction of EN12209 covering single point locks and latches. In theory within Europe, there cannot be a national standard that conflicts with a Euro standard, so we saw BS3621 being rewritten to incorporate the relevant points from EN12209 and now we have a fully written standard against which single point locks for aluminium systems can be tested.

As yet, fitting locks to the standard is not mandatory, so should the industry maintain the status quo while it can? Our view is that it should not, and for a number of reasons.

One argument is that a level of security mandated in the domestic market for between 15 and 20 years should be applied in the commercial market. Why should customers settle for a less secure solution when there are products available that will meet the standard?

We also have to consider future scenarios. Secured by Design (SBD) already figures high in the consideration of many specifiers. As an organisation wholly owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and supported by the government, it draws up specifications for building design from the security aspect. Although it is written for the domestic rather than commercial building sector, it has already had an impact in the commercial sector – and to a degree is currently causing confusion. In particular since it covers every aspect that could impact a building's security, many architects and specifiers are using it as a guide to good practice and attempting to apply all of the principles, including those pertaining to door sets, regardless of the building's purpose.

The Council for Aluminium in Building (CAB) is currently working with SBD to develop a specification suitable for commercial products especially doorsets. The standards under consideration include PAS 24, BS 7950 and BS 3621 and will involve independent verification by an approved third party certification body.

The involvement of SBD is significant for our industry. The government regards security as a high priority and SBD offers the convenience of a one-stop security benchmark. SBD will also update and define the insurance industry's minimum requirements in both the UK's residential and commercial markets. Inevitably these factors will lead to revision of the Building Regulations to require new build and major refurbishments to conform to the SBD specification, in fact SBD already features in the Code for Sustainable Homes. The insurance industry also requires minimum door/lock standards which are likely to be based on those within SBD. Hence the aluminium fabrication sector will no longer be granted the exceptions to the standard that it currently enjoys.

The current question is whether we should wait until all of this is in place. At Adams Rite we take the view that the industry should take the lead and not wait until the inevitable happens. Realistically there is no longer any reason to wait. In BS3621 we have parameters that enable us to test locks. We have locks that meet the standard. With that we have the opportunity to raise the game for security in aluminium doors within our own industry. Responsible systems manufacturers should be demanding testing to the current standards now, taking the lead and setting their own benchmarks.

Tim Almond, Product Manager, Adams Rite

Dear Madam

With regards to the Jacky Sinclair Column (AIJ issue 128 Winter 2008) about fitting a double panic bolt at heights to prevent unauthorised egress by children, I was surprised to note a suggestion to fit panic bar door openers "upside down" to operate by pushing upward.

Surely this is dangerous in that persons overcome by smoke inhalation, in an advanced state of fatigue or crawling along the floor to avoid smoke would not be able to release the catch. I was of the opinion that body weight was the key.

Do I recall the case of an Irish disaster where the victims were unable to open the doors as they were "push up" and having fought their way to the door had no strength left to lift the bar and those that had the strength could not get a footing because of those persons fallen against the doors.

Unfortunately I am unable to offer any better solution!

Glynne Shackleton, Architect

The response to this issue shows that the article wasn't sufficiently clear about the location of the doors in question. These were not final escape doors, requiring panic or emergency escape equipment. They were doors within the building, such as a classroom opening on to a corridor. Hence the use of locks and lever furniture, as is common in such circumstances.

Approved Document B requires such internal doors to or on escape routes to have a single operation for escape. In some parts of the country, local authorities have used an additional set of levers on these doors at a level where the children could not reach it. As I commented, this appears to be contrary to the "one operation" requirement for doors on escape routes.

Any solution must offer the capability of

- *one operation to open the door*
- *ease of use for everyday passage through the door*
- *ready access from the non-classroom side of the door (i.e. not locked).*

The suggestion of fitting one set of levers at a sufficiently high level, and upside down, seems to offer a neat solution which meets fire life safety requirements, whilst ensuring the necessary containment of energetic infants.

I thank correspondents for their contributions to the debate, and apologise for any confusion caused.

Jacky R Sinclair DipGAI, FInstAI, Reg AI

Dear Madam,

With regard to Jacky Sinclair's question of 'how to restrict the egress of young children from a room within a nursery/infant school', (AIJ issue 128 Winter 2008) may I suggest the following specification:

To remove any existing bevelled bolt locks/latches from the door. Consideration may be given to retaining an existing mortice deadlock, with outside/inside key locking, for additional out-of-hours security; subject to acceptance by the local fire officer. A lock with an inside thumbturn is not recommended, as a person/child could throw the deadbolt whilst the room is occupied, preventing the normal means of escape. The deadlock must only be secured, by an authorised keyholder, after first checking that the room is totally unoccupied. The door to be fitted with a pull handle and push plate.

To supply and install:

- 1 only Low profile, direct-pull, electromagnetic lock - 12/24 Volts DC.
- 1 only Local pushbutton with Green raised or mushroom head button and legend: Door Release (fitted to the outside at low level)
- 1 only Local pushbutton with Green raised or mushroom head button and legend: Door Release (fitted to the inside at high level)

- 1 only Local Green, double pole, break glass type emergency point, with flexible membrane and legend: Emergency Door Release (fitted to the inside at low level)
- 1 only Local sounder 12 Volts DC (fitted at high level)
- 1 only 2.0 Amp Regulated power supply unit with 12 volt DC output and battery support facility.
- 1 only 7.0 Amp hour sealed, lead acid, rechargeable battery.

The above will allow free access/egress by the use of the push-buttons on the outside and inside of the door, however, as the pushbutton on the inside is fitted at high level, this will restrict its use to adults. You cannot stop a child from standing on a chair etc., and operating the inside, high level, pushbutton, however, this would be the case with a lever handle fitted at high level.

The inside Green, double pole, break glass type emergency point is fitted at low level, to enable children and adults to permanently release/unlock the door in an emergency.

The local sounder is activated by the use of the above. It is not a problem if the break glass point is used in an emergency, however, you need to be aware of its use at all other times, as this would indicate an unlocked/insecure door.

The lock should also be released on activation of the fire alarm system, via a local relay controlled by the fire alarm system - by others.

As direct-pull electromagnetic locks, for outward opening doors, are fitted to the underside of the transom, their use may reduce the clear opening height to a height which is unacceptable for the area's building regulations. I have seen very many unacceptable installations where this is the case, which could cause severe injury and possible legal consequences.

Should the door open in, then the electromagnetic lock can be fitted, with the appropriate top jamb mounting (Z) bracket, to the inside face of the transom, which would then not reduce the clear opening height. This arrangement can also be used for free access doors, such as pushbutton operation, where the door could be considered as opening in, to what would normally be the insecure area. This arrangement cannot be used when the door is controlled by an access system, on the outside, as the electromagnetic lock would then be fitted on the insecure side and could be subject to tampering/manipulation to obtain unauthorised/illegal access.

Where access control is used, it would be beneficial to fit an on/off switch/keyswitch to the local power supply unit, to provide free access periods for open days, etc.

If an alternative electric locking device is considered, such as a fail safe/fail unlocked electric strike/solenoid bolt, then you must ensure that it will release under the appropriate side-load conditions.

I have successfully used this specification for many nursery/infant schools and for child therapy/assessment areas in a doctor's surgery/hospital.

Colin A. Milne. Dip GAI, Trio Security Systems Ltd



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Andy Howland, Sales Director at Royde & Tucker discusses the evolution of the pocket door in the UK helping to increase the useable space within a dwelling.

For a long time one of the main reasons to move has been for location - to be nearer a particular school or town. In the last few years though, it is not just location that has set the price of property, but also size. Space often comes at a high premium, particularly within city areas where there is a high population density. Buyers can expect exceptionally high prices for comparatively small living areas. As in many overseas markets Real Estate professionals are now increasingly focussing on the size of a property for pricing and marketing purposes.

The demands on the housing infrastructure continue to rise at an alarming rate, altering the speed, style and delivery formats of residential buildings. With an increasing focus on dwelling density – up to the new strata of Superdensity (150-500 dwelling per Hectare), the NHBC's latest statistics show that the principal housing type being started in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are flats and maisonettes, making up more than half (51 per cent) of new homes. Large buildings are often being re-modernised and sold off as individual flats, increasing the amount of profit made but in a lot of cases, compromising on the useable space available. In addition, UK houses are becoming condensed, with more rooms such as en-suite bathrooms and utility rooms being created within the same footprint.

It is no longer possible to judge a house on the number of rooms or bedrooms as the higher amount does not necessarily mean it will be roomier. The Edwardians built 3-bedroom flats at 120m² while today there are some 4-bedroom houses built at 100 m². The dimensions have always gone up and down through the eras as the housing market shifts power between buyer and seller - high ceilings in 1930's semis and galley kitchens of 1980's flats. Older houses that are still lived in today have survived because they are roomy enough to adapt to ever changing lifestyles.

Although the latest trend amongst newer buildings has been for an open plan feel, invariably for some flats and houses, it has been essential as there is not enough space once the furniture has been added. Size can dictate not just how comfortable someone feels but also how much privacy there is. Size should not be a compromise, but rather a workable mix of space and privacy offered by open and separate rooms. Areas that "feel" cramped can affect stress levels, reduce quality of life and social well being.

To compensate for smaller floorplans, space-saving products have



THE RISE OF THE POCKET DOOR

With the country in the grip of a credit crunch, mortgage lenders tightening their clasp on loans and the demand for housing continuing to outstrip supply, more than ever before the onus is on housing providers to supply more cost effective or affordable places to buy or rent. The challenge for these providers however, remains the comparatively small spaces available for development and the need to provide homes that are liveable and comfortable, often with space being a key conundrum.



been developed by some of the leading manufacturers. An often overlooked area though, is the space that doors take up with their opening arc. By simply switching the door specification from a traditional hinged door to a "pocket" sliding door a huge impact and benefit on the amount of useful space within a dwelling is gained. Substituting a pocket sliding door for a standard

door will save around 10 sq ft per door.

This is possible because a pocket sliding door removes the need to allow space for the "opening curve" of a standard door. Whilst a sliding door will also remove the need for this curve, the pocket door creates additional space by sliding inside the wall cavity itself. This not only creates extra floor space but generates extra wall space which can be utilized more productively than simply as a dead area hidden behind the back of the door.

A pocket door is easy to operate, ergonomic to maintain and is aesthetically stylish. The sliding system is ideal where design flexibility and space saving are of prime importance. Being able to slide a kitchen, bedroom or bathroom door within a wall and out of the way saves about 6% of the overall floor area.

Any standard door blank can be used, maintaining a consistent aesthetic with other side hung doors. There are many considerations affecting the choice of system from the position and purpose of the door to the frequency of opening and closing and thermal/sound insulation requirements. The options of specifying self closing mechanisms, bi-part opening mechanisms and kits to fit any size doorframe, such as Royde & Tucker's Portman Pocket Door System, all contribute to an effective and sophisticated ergonomic system.

Aesthetics are an important part of any specification and the ability to select various components

heightens the flexibility and versatility of design. As well as a variation of timber panels, many systems incorporate glass doors, from simple glass door hangers to hangers and covering valences. By specifying e.g. an opaque glass leaf a sleek and contemporary style is created, allowing light to permeate whilst giving privacy when required.

As population densities increase and average property sizes decrease the need to develop innovative ways of utilising the finite space available is leading the development of new products and solutions to meet changing demands. Pocket sliding doors are ideal for new build developments but can easily form part of a refurbishment programme. By incorporating the latest developments in materials engineering to maximise wall and cassette stability, a pocket door system provides easy installation and quality aesthetic detailing.

Easy Access Night Latches



UNION Architectural Hardware is one of the most established brands in the UK lock industry, supplying quality locks and door furniture for over 150 years.

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- Red tactile rubber surfaces providing a comfortable, non-slip grip
- Contrasting colour to assist the visually impaired

Product Codes

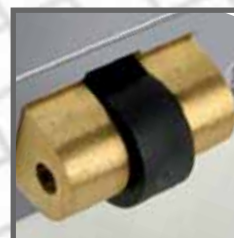
1026EA	Night latch with 50mm backset
1028EA	Night latch with 60mm backset
1158EA	Roller bolt with 60mm backset

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KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY



HELEN CURRY TALKS TO THIS YEAR'S SECOND-PLACED EXAM CANDIDATE

Over the years, the GAI's education programme has seen husbands and wives studying together as well as brothers and sisters. But it is not too common to find a father and daughter graduating from the Level Three exams at the same time.

But that is precisely what happened to this year's silver medal winner, Chris Mills of HOPPE UK. He and daughter Sam both became proud Diploma holders at last autumn's annual luncheon.

These family values shouldn't surprise anyone who knows Chris. He's been in the trade for twenty-five years. That in itself is not so astonishing as Chris is Willenhall born and bred and comes from a family with strong traditions in architectural ironmongery. Chris worked for Union when he left school and joined eight other members of his family who had already worked at the firm. "I went to Aston University and studied for an Engineering degree but was sponsored by Union during that time and I stayed with the company for sixteen years. It's certainly fair to say that ironmongery is in the blood."

Daughter Sam is following in the Mills family tradition and embarked on her GAI exam journey at 17 making her one of the youngest people to gain a Diploma at aged just 20. And it was Sam that motivated Chris to finally take up the studying after over twenty years in the business. He had been approached by HOPPE's Arthur Taylor many times to take the GAI exams but it was Sam that finally convinced him "I started studying to keep Sam company and help and encourage her along the way," he explains. "But once I got stuck in, I found it really enjoyable and learned a lot."

Although Chris has been in the architectural ironmongery trade for twenty five years, in that time he has only ever written one schedule, and that was in the Level Three exam! That's because Chris's AI career has taken him into every aspect of an ironmongery business, from sales office to warehousing, from

engineering to setting up a master key department for Union, but never into scheduling per se.

That's why the exams were helpful to Chris who, although he had a wealth of knowledge, welcomed the focus the studying gave him. "Unlike most people, I found the Business Studies element of the Level Three exam quite straightforward because of the breadth of experience I have in AI businesses," he says. "But the scheduling was another matter – by far the hardest task I faced"

Today Chris is Logistics Manager at HOPPE UK, managing all aspects of the company's transport, and warehouse operations or "getting orders out of the door" as Chris modestly puts it.

As a company with a strong heritage in the AI trade, HOPPE is very committed to training and education in general and the GAI education programme in particular. This is led by the company's training manager Peter Rae who leads all of the HOPPE students undertaking the GAI exams. Inside the company there is a degree of friendly rivalry among the students taking the GAI courses with Chris particularly determined in the third year not to be outdone by a colleague who pipped him to 2nd place in the Level Two exams last year.

As well as internal training, Chris attended a GAI Residential Training Course when he was studying for Level Three which he found immensely useful "It was great to be able to interact with people from across the trade and gave me a much better understanding of the scheduling process," he comments.

When he heard he had in fact not just passed but been awarded the GAI's silver medal, Chris was shocked but delighted. "Being as I don't actually do scheduling every day as part of my job, I was very pleased and surprised – I felt like asking if there had been a mix up!"

And with daughter Sam also passing at Level Three it was a day of double celebration in the Mills household, where the AI family tradition looks set to pass down to another generation.



Contributory negligence

Not a phrase with which you want to be associated? Then read on...

The RRFSO (or FSSR in Scotland) places a duty on specifiers of fire safety products. If you provide an incorrect or inadequate door hardware specification which contributes to a breach of this criminal legislation (or worse, actual loss of life) then you may be held liable.

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For further information on the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order go to the 'Our Solutions' section of our website.

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Briton 996 Series

Incorporating an electromagnetic hold-open and swing-free mechanism, the Briton 996 Series is ideal for use in areas where a conventional door closer could be inconvenient or hinder access.

This new prEN13633 European Standard will specify requirements for the electrically controlled panic exit systems operated by a horizontal bar conforming to EN 1125, for the purpose of achieving safe exit under a panic situation on escape routes.

A system may consist of the following elements:

- **ELECTRICAL LOCKING ELEMENT** for securing an exit door
- **REQUESTING ELEMENT** for requesting release of the locking elements in order to exit
- **ELECTRICAL CONTROLLING ELEMENT** for supplying, connecting, controlling locking element and requesting element.

As prEN13633 will be classed as a panic standard, **it will be one operation only allowing immediate release.** However this standard will allow for extra locking elements fitted to enhance the security of the exit door from outside but as soon as the device is operated, power to all additional locking points will be removed to allow immediate exit. Additionally the devices may be hard wired into buildings which will allow instant release of the locking elements upon "power failure" or with the sound of the fire alarm.

For the product to be able to claim "CE marking" the exit device, locking elements (electromagnetic locks) and wiring harness will be tested as a complete system. Audible alarms can be included to detect that the door has been opened.

Example of products covered by prEN13633

- 1 operation and no delay
- Cross bar or Touch bar

prEN13637 Electrically controlled exit systems with time delay

This new European Standard will specify requirements for the electrically controlled exit systems operated by a horizontal bar conforming to EN 1125 or push pads and lever handles conforming to EN 179, push plate and sensitive bars for the purpose of achieving safe exit on escape routes.

The prEN13637 standard will allow for a time delay to exit with the classification numbers consisting of the following grades.

- **GRADE 0** = No time delay, immediate release.
- **GRADE 1** = Time delay between 1 - 15 seconds.
- **GRADE 2** = Double time delay, firstly between 1 - 15 seconds and this can then be increased to a maximum of 3 minutes (Grade 2 can only be used when there is a central control unit in use with CCTV's monitoring the final exit doors and there is also radio contact with the door area via intercom or staff working within the building).

The devices used in these applications may have the option for a two operation sequence for exit - that means:

The proposed new European standards prEN13633 and prEN13637 are currently in draft form. The two new draft standards should be ready by May 2008 for sending for a 3 months comments period and BSI editing. After answering the comments it is hoped that the standards will go UAP (Unique approvals procedure) by December 2008 with "CE" marking permissible during 2009.

1 Requesting the power to be cut from the additional locking elements via the controlling/requesting element (push button) which should be fitted adjacent to the door. (This is the first part of the sequence)

2 The second part of the sequence is by operating the device i.e. touch bar, cross bar, push pad etc. However the

locking elements will prevent the door opening until the pre-set time delay has passed.

These systems will also have options for audible alarms and illuminated countdowns broadcasting/showing the time of delay.

Even though these systems can have an optional delay they will always remain immediate release when the fire alarm is activated. Some systems may have an additional battery back-up system so even if a power cut occurs, the doors will not release. i.e. Banks, Stores, Airports, Prisons, etc.

Example of products covered by prEN13637

- 1** Operation with or without time delay (time delay built-in to device)
- 2** Operations with or without time delay (single or double time delay)

Some of the requirements that will have to be met by these systems for "CE marking"

- Ability to release
- Signal release
- Number of operations to release
- Delay sequence (signal and manual releases)
- Fail safe (fire alarm, power supply failure)
- Door under-pressure (release forces)
- Environmental (cold, dry and damp heat, corrosion, temperature rise)
- Impact resistance
- EMC (electromagnetic compatibility of the complete system)
- Variations in voltage
- Foreign objects (dust, water, etc)
- Fire resistance

Example of signage for 2 operation sequence

The signage will be very important as will audible alarms, (count down etc). Both standards will give examples for these:

Why these systems ?

These proposed standards are intended to counter various methods currently found in public buildings such as doors locked with steel chains, additional bolts or coloured plastic cables around cross arms preventing safe egress from buildings.

France has used the time delay systems for many years on airports and power stations where terrorism threats may occur. They have changed their building regulations to allow installation of these systems as standard in these areas.

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MARKET RESEARCH OPENS THE DOOR TO DISCUSSION

Just under half of all door fabricators claim to have not been influenced by the legislation DocM, covering access to and use of buildings, according to market research carried out by Adams Rite. The research highlighted a number of areas that fabricators within the industry need to consider when choosing the right locking hardware for Thermally Broken (TB) and Shop Front (SSF) systems.

The research also indicates that sales of Shop Front systems are on the increase in all sectors including, leisure, health, retail and education. As a result, the need for careful consideration and understanding of legislation is absolutely essential.

The results of the research show that nearly half of the fabricators surveyed have not been influenced by the legislation Doc M and, following on from this, only 55% of respondents believe the insurance industry's minimum security requirement in both the UK's residential and commercial markets defined by 'Secured By Design' (SBD) will have impact on the projects by fabricators. As a result of these findings, Adams Rite believes more needs to be done to work towards new legislation standards and educate fabricators on the impact these will have on future systems.

NOT SO FLAT MARKET

"There has been a significant rise in the percentage of flats and apartments built in recent years; these are now estimated to account for around 48% of newbuild homes. Factors influencing this growth have included increasing land costs, planning pressures to increase housing densities, an emphasis on affordable housing, growth of the buy-to-let market, a growing niche market for retirement homes and an increase in single person households."

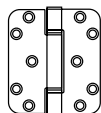
That's the conclusion of a new report from AMA Research into the Flats and Apartments Market 2008-2012.

The report reviews the Flats Market focusing on key market trends, major housebuilders and developers, and buying and specification issues. In the last few years, the profile of the flats sector has increased substantially, primarily in response to the growing housing shortage and lack of available land for development, which is driving the need to increase housing density levels, particularly in England.

Overall housing completions have increased steadily in recent years, but are still only around 200,000 dwellings, despite the Government's targets to increase the number of houses built to address the current serious housing shortage. Preliminary estimates of the number of housing completions in 2007, however, are indicating a decline, reflecting the first downturn in house prices for over a decade.

In parallel, there has also been a rise in mixed use developments on brown-field sites, incorporating significant residential schemes. This has contributed to the growth in apartment building and has stimulated greater competition within the housebuilding industry as property developers and construction companies specifically target these projects.

In the short-term, 2008 is likely to prove a difficult year for the housebuilding industry in general, and the flats sector in particular. Output levels were



Innovating, not imitating.



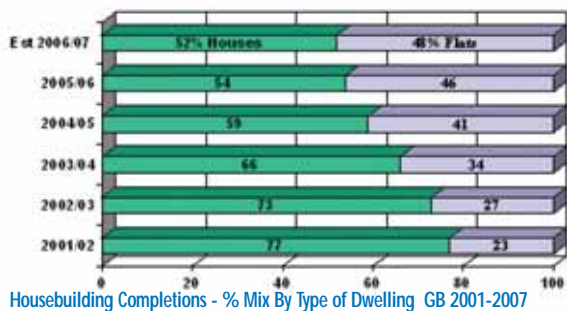
HI-LOAD hinges are unique in their construction and performance and are designed for longevity and as a 'fit-and-forget' solution, they do not wear, will not fail and require no maintenance. HI-LOAD hinges are manufactured from carbon steel or stainless steel. Metal to metal contact is avoided using unique porous bronze bushes impregnated with a special

lubricant. This combination eliminates the wear often experienced by other types of hinge. HI-LOAD's construction also creates exceptionally low resistance and more importantly ensures this high level of performance throughout the hinge's lifetime, allowing door closer power to be kept to a minimum and contributing to a highly efficient doorset.

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Hinges**

Pocket Door Systems

**SmoClo:
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falling in late 2007 as a result of the downturn in house prices and consumer confidence, and this is forecast to continue in 2008. In addition, the buy-to-let market, which has been a major driving factor for the building of large-scale city-centre apartment developments, has slowed considerably and suggests that the share of flats has peaked - at least in the short term.

However, it is clear that housing completions must rise over the medium term. Gordon Brown has already announced that he is committed to increasing housing supply, with particular emphasis on affordable housing where current volumes are clearly substantially below market demand. Mixed use developments on brownfield land should continue to increase, with commercial developers expected to develop an increasing number of residential units themselves, while the lack of development land in England, in general, will underpin the building of flats.

In the longer term, the supply of flats will ultimately be driven by housing density issues and the level of Government investment in affordable housing. While current industry supply is focused on private sector mid-upper priced dwellings, demand is increasingly driven by low-cost social / affordable housing needs and this mis-match will need to be addressed relatively soon.

The report is available in hard copy or electronic format can be ordered online at www.amaresearch.co.uk or by calling 0871 3103450.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING FRAMEWORK STANDARD

BRE Global is creating a new product standard that will provide a level playing field for the sustainability of construction products. The framework will take into account specific environmental, economic and social impacts and provide recognition for suppliers embracing genuine sustainability.

The proposed scheme will assess products by focussing on responsible sourcing and product stewardship, addressing the social, economic and environmental impacts of construction products over their whole life.

Products will be assessed by looking at existing quality, environmental, health and safety management systems together with other important criteria including:

- global warming emissions
- minimising raw material usage
- labour practice
- biodiversity
- social dimensions and impacts

Development of the standard has been influenced by the addition of a responsible sourcing credit which has been included in BREEAM since 2006.

This scheme is open for consultation until 2 May. For further information and to take part visit www.bre.co.uk/responsible-sourcing



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ARCHITECT CHRISTOPHER SYKES LOOKS AT AN INCREASING PROBLEM AND THE WAY IN WHICH ONE LEADING MANUFACTURER HAS DEVELOPED INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE SAFETY IN BUILDING DESIGN.

BEATING THE BOMBERS

Terrorism continues to dominate. Society's concern about terrorism has become a Government priority. With so many real, thwarted and threatened incidents, some of the responsibility is falling on building product manufacturers to create solutions which will help better protect buildings and their occupants from the effect of bomb blast.

Bomb rated automatic doors

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies, a leading global provider of products and services designed to make environments safe, secure and productive, is one such company which has developed many innovative products aimed at increasing public safety and improving building design. Their latest innovation is the bomb blast rated automatic door – the first bi-parting automatic door to have been independently tested to GSA and ISO EXV 25 standards.

Up to now, architects and designers have been unable to incorporate fully protective entrance systems into their projects. Consequently, the research and development division of Ingersoll Rand has focused on the development of a suitable solution without creating a 'fortress' environment. The result is a blast-resistant, secure, bi-parting automatic door system which will withstand the

blast overpressures associated with a typical vehicle bomb. This is particularly suitable for high risk areas and buildings, such as embassies, railway stations, airports and other transport hubs.

The aim of any bomb blast product is to protect the occupants from the effects of an explosion, such as high-velocity shards of glass and the effects of materials being projected into an occupied area. An additional aim is to ensure that, after the "event" security from intruders is not unduly compromised and integrity is maintained.

The enhancements to the standard security doors required the development and re-design of many key components, including:

- Increasing the strength to the supporting head track and door running system.
- Introducing strength, whilst maintaining the flexibility and ductility of the door framing components.
- Incorporating a heavier door, enhancing the drive motors, running gear and operating system to cope
- The door having the capability to accept varying thickness and combinations of multi-laminated glass, with anti glass shard (NS) capability if required.
- Special structural bonding of glass to door frame.
- Compliance of International standards such as reaction on opening times.

- Restricting the door from fully 'jumping' track when experiencing the high forces involved in an explosive event.

- A hardened blast shock anti-jump runner systems at head and base to avoid any internal projections.

- Hardened sensor controls

- Remaining viable, post blast as a barrier to physical attack by unauthorised/forced entry.

This development involved a 2 year programme, involving static load tests, computer modelling and optimisation and working in co-operation with one of the world's leading airport operator 'technical' departments, to develop bi-parting doors to meet ASIAD (Aviation Security in Airport developments) requirements.

Dramatic testing

A new website, www.bombblastdoors.co.uk, showcases dramatic video footage of the bomb blast test.

The testing was carried out in accordance with the US General Services Administration, International Standards Organisation and Bomb Blast Standards. Blast gauges were used to measure the blast pressure and the blast loading for each test. As a result, the range met or exceeded the GSA (C) and ISO EXV 45 and ISO EXV 25 standards.

The first test was carried out in accordance to both GSA and ISO criteria. In simple terms the blast loading equated to a 100 kg TNT



car bomb at approximately 45 m standoff range. Damage to the door was slight and there was considerable "reserve" both for the glass and the framing/support system. Hence, the bomb blast classification for this first test is: GSA (C) – Very Low Hazard Rating and ISO EXV 45 – Very low Hazard Rating

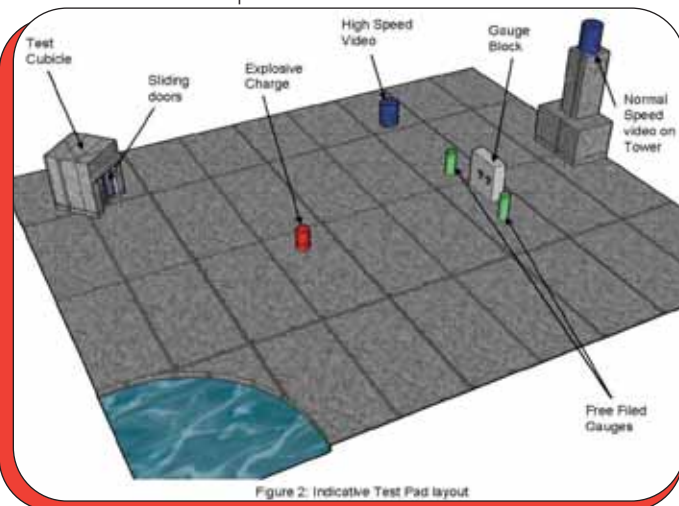
The second test was carried out in accordance with ISO criteria. In simple terms the blast loading equated to a 100 kg TNT car bomb at 25 m standoff range. The glazing was heavily cracked, but had considerable "reserve". The door frame was heavily damaged at the corners, but remained firmly held in place by the head detail and the support angle at the floor. Classification for this second test is: ISO EXV 25 – Low Hazard Rating.

In conclusion

Architects, by definition, are taught architecture - aesthetics, design, construction and the relationship between the inanimate and the animate, namely buildings and people. But times, of course, have changed and certain buildings, particularly public ones, demand design concepts not dissimilar

to that of the medieval castle. The trick now, in uncertain times, is to ensure that these buildings do not look hostile or become fortress architecture. The design of bomb blast doors is a very good example of how this can be achieved by designing vital building components which have extraordinarily enhanced performance, integral and not obvious, while still looking good and being visitor-friendly.

www.bombblastdoors.co.uk includes information about the range together with a link for ordering the new comprehensive Guide to blast protection automatic doors.



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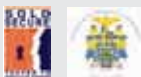


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If trade at Powell Hardware in Manchester is anything to go by, talk of recession in the building industry is premature. According to director Barry Townsend, their turnover so far this year is up 40% on 2007 - and that year was a bumper one. "Touch wood, things are looking pretty buoyant," he admits, "we're not seeing any signs of a slow down at the moment, quite the opposite."

Powell Hardware is a relative youngster in AI terms, having been set up in 1992, but the 3 directors Stan Powell, Barry Townsend and Joe French have been around rather longer than that as Barry explains. "My brother in law, Joe and I were at Lancashire Hardware in Blackburn. Swinton Ironmongery were looking for acquisitions in our area and purchased the company; this was how we met Stan. Swinton was eventually bought out by the Cooper Group and when our contracts ended we left to set up Powell

Hardware. Stan has been in the business for 60 years myself 40 years and Joe, the youngest Director, for 20 years. Stan Powell was one of the best known people in the business locally, so we used his name for the company" says Barry. "We started up with not much more than an empty warehouse unit and a desk. Luckily we were well enough known to our suppliers to negotiate 90 days credit - so we were in business!"

"In no time we'd run out of space so we took on another warehouse unit, then another and yet another. We had 4 or 5 in the end, but they were dotted all over the site. We did manage to get a couple knocked through, but we really needed something a bit more practical. That's when we found our current premises in the Swinton district of Manchester which were ideal. We moved here five years ago, so obviously now, we're bursting at the seams yet again."

Bursting at the seams they certainly are - and not just with ironmongery. Powell

take a very broad approach to their stock range, keeping almost any item of general hardware that their customers could need - from screws and fixings to decorating materials and garden tools. "We don't claim to be a one stop shop, but our customers are busy people so if we can help them with other products, we will" says Barry.

Powell's clients are spread across all the main market sectors from the smallest residential and commercial jobs to giant, highly specialised public sector projects. Responsibility for the different markets split between the Directors. "A number of architects and other clients have come to us for ironmongery for their own offices", says Barry "That makes us feel that we're doing something right. We've even specified for clients' private homes".

Powell set great store by their local business and have already expanded into two further regional outlets as Barry explains: "When Arcon went into liquidation we bought their Blackburn premises and set

BURSTING AT THE SEAMS



Directors: left to right: Joe French, Barry Townsend, Stan Powell.

that up as Northern Hardware. Then last November we felt we had achieved the business peak at Blackburn so we acquired space in Accrington to set up Lancashire Hardware. Both outlets have big trade counters and good levels of stock, but can obviously be supported from the main operation in Swinton. "We pick up all kinds of business through the trade counters. A couple of bits and pieces one day can turn into a major project next time." Joe organised the set up of the two new companies whilst Barry and Stan concentrated on keeping the Manchester office running smoothly.

You only have to look at the Manchester skyline to see why the last few years have been so good for business. City centre development has continued at a spectacular pace, especially in the commercial and residential sectors.

Despite the local business focus, the company supplies projects all over the country with recent jobs as far apart as the Lake District and Heathrow. "We're currently doing a cosmetic surgery in Essex," says Barry.

Powell have only been Guild members for a couple of years but have 3 Dip GAs within the organisation. Barry puts much of Powell's success down to the calibre of their

staff: "We have around 25 people altogether, probably with a slightly higher average age than some organisations, but you can't beat them for knowledge and experience. Plus, they're never ill, never

late and always happy to help. Everybody just mucks in – including the Directors. No one here is too important to help unload a van." It's a model that any new business might do well to adopt.



The Trade Counter at Swinton offers more than just ironmongery



Powell's main warehouse at Swinton

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SLOWDOWN, BUT NO RECESSION

Construction output for the coming year is forecast to grow by just over 1% compared to 2.6% enjoyed in 2007. However the industry expects to avoid recession during the current economic slow down according to the latest Forecasts from the Construction Products Association, even though this rate of growth is expected to remain at a modest 1% per annum, all the way through to 2012.

Commenting on these latest forecasts, the Association's Chief Executive, Michael Ankers said: 'The economic backdrop against which these forecasts have been prepared is more uncertain than for many years and there was a time when the construction industry was the first to suffer in such a situation. What we are seeing, however, is the fall in private housing – both new build and repair and maintenance – over the next couple of years, balanced by continued growth in the commercial sector on the back of major schemes that are already underway.

'The industry will also be supported by increasing government investment in its schools' programme, a modest recovery in spending on infrastructure projects and the start of the major projects associated with the Olympic Games and the Stratford City Development. As a result, construction output is expected to grow by about 1% in both 2008 and 2009.

'Looking further ahead to 2010-12, the prospects for the commercial sector are less bright as investors cut back in response to the large amount of commercial space that will become available following significant investment in recent years. However, this decline is expected to be balanced by a recovery in the housing market and the commencement of a number of large infrastructure projects such as Crossrail and the M25 widening scheme. The consequence of all this is that growth in output is expected to remain at around 1% a year.

'There are undoubtedly risks associated with these forecasts and we are assuming that the Bank of England will continue to lower interest rates throughout 2008. Failure to do so will undoubtedly delay any recovery in the housing market, whilst any cut back in consumer spending will directly impact on investment in the retail sector and the private repair and maintenance market. The forecasts also rely on government remaining committed to its investment plans for education and health and whilst significant reductions in these programmes seem unlikely in the run up to the next Election, what happens after that will to some extent depend on the strength of the government's finances.'

RHETORIC INSUFFICIENT TO TACKLE CHALLENGES

The Construction Products Association has welcomed the recognition in the Chancellor's first Budget statement of the challenges faced on climate change, housing and transport; but stressed that rhetoric alone will not resolve these issues.

Michael Ankers, Chief Executive at the Association, said: "We are pleased that the Chancellor has recognised these challenges, and confirmed that action is needed to address these issues. However, it is disappointing that the Chancellor chose not to utilise this opportunity to lay out in detail how the government will begin to deliver its solutions to these crucial challenges.

"The Chancellor's renewed commitment to provision of new housing is welcome. However, the announcement of an additional 70,000 homes does little towards meeting the government's stated aim of three million new homes by 2020. It remains unclear how this target will be met.

"The government has also missed the opportunity to address the problem of carbon emissions from existing housing stock. Government must recognise that it has a key role to play in encouraging householders to invest in energy saving measures. The Chancellor has a responsibility to provide fiscal incentives, through a reduction in either stamp duty or in VAT on specific energy saving products. This will significantly influence homeowners' spending priorities in a way that will support the programme to reduce carbon emissions in the UK.

"The Association welcomes the recognition from the Chancellor that historically investment in transport infrastructure has been poor. However, having abandoned its original target of a 5% cut in congestion on the national road network by 2010, the government's new target is also at risk. 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. The government must now make firm commitments to reduce congestion if this issue is to be resolved."



PUSH FORWARD ON RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

Construction product manufacturers have come together to push forward the development of a framework standard on responsible sourcing, at a pivotal meeting hosted by the Construction Products Association.

Jane Thornback, Environmental Policy Advisor at the Association said: "Clients, contractors and designers are all now demanding information on the sourcing of the products used in buildings. As such it is imperative for industry that there is a publicly available independent standard against which products can be certified. Whilst the general interest from contractors in responsible sourcing should be welcomed, manufacturers need clear harmonisation rather than a plethora of schemes. The Association hosted the meeting in an attempt to make progress towards this common goal."

Construction product manufacturers are keen to see the development of a responsible sourcing framework standard which would enable tailor made schemes to be developed for each sector. This would give manufacturers credibility in the market place by showing that their products are responsibly sourced. Currently the timber industry is the only sector to benefit from such schemes. As such other sectors are excluded from gaining credits in the Code for Sustainable Homes, BREEAM and the Olympic sustainability requirements.

The meeting heard views from the steel and cement sectors, which are in the early stages of considering a scheme. Those present agreed that an independent standard must be developed which could be certified by multiple bodies. The Association will now be working with BSI, in collaboration with BRE, to develop a framework for responsible sourcing schemes.

FORT PROCESS

HELEN CURRY VISITS
THE NEWLY REFUR-
BISHED FORT DUNLOP.

IF EVERY REGION HAS
TO HAVE AN ICONIC
LANDMARK ALONG ITS
PRIMARY TRANSPORT
ROUTES, LIKE THE
ANGEL OF THE NORTH
ON THE A1, THEN **FORT
DUNLOP** SURELY FUL-
FILS THAT ROLE FOR
THE WEST MIDLANDS.

26

25

As a native of the Black Country, exiled in the south east, I can only feel truly "home" when I have passed this massive architectural tribute to the area's industrial past.

Opened in 1917, in its heyday Fort Dunlop was the largest factory in the world and home to 10,000 workers: the jewel in the Midlands' industrial crown. It produced tyres for formula one cars, WWII fighter planes and world land speed record holders, as well as turning out millions of ordinary car tyres.

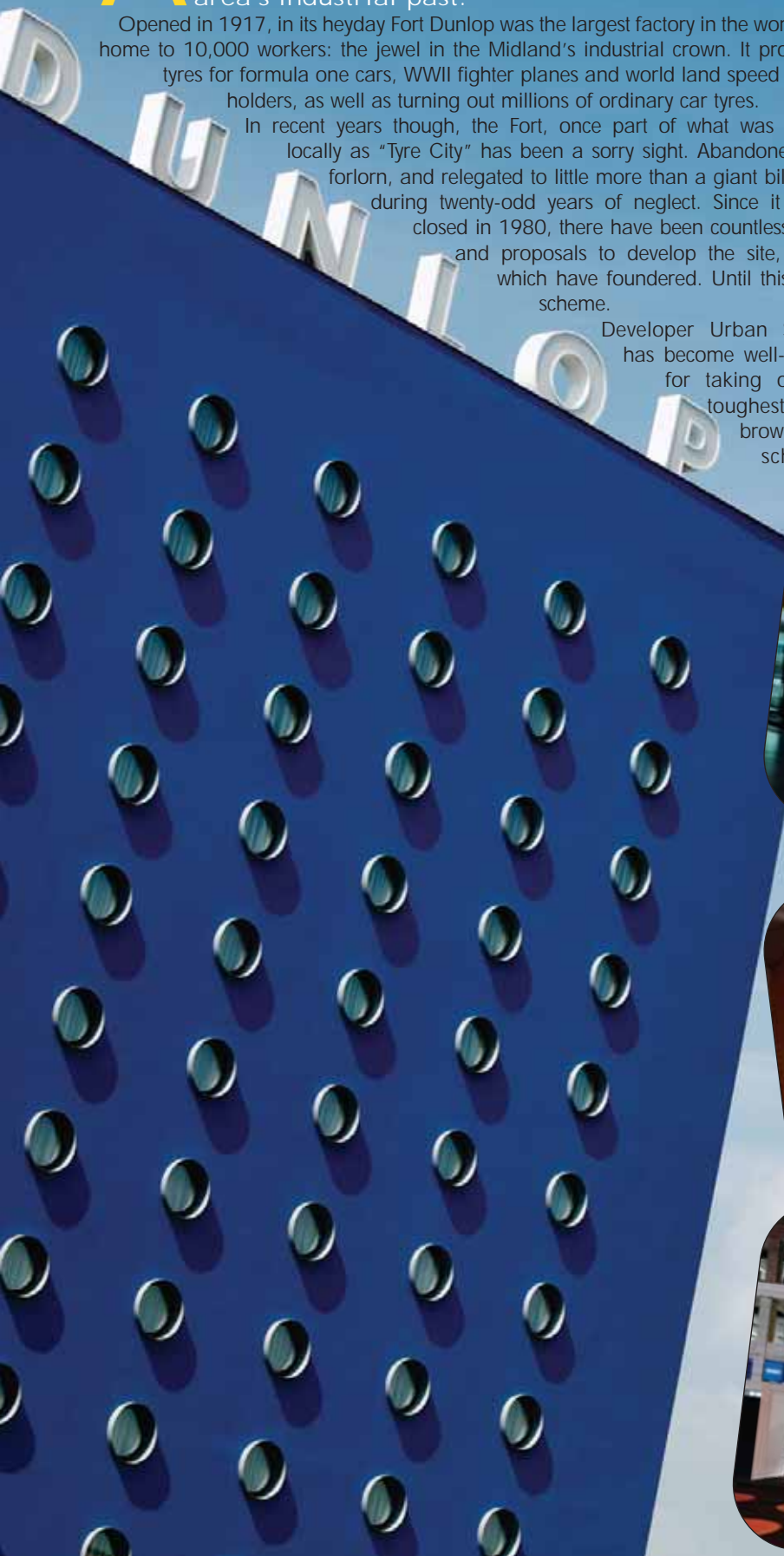
In recent years though, the Fort, once part of what was known locally as "Tyre City" has been a sorry sight. Abandoned and forlorn, and relegated to little more than a giant billboard during twenty-odd years of neglect. Since it finally closed in 1980, there have been countless ideas and proposals to develop the site, all of which have foundered. Until this latest scheme.

Developer Urban Splash has become well-known for taking on the toughest of brown field schemes

and making them into a success and they called in architects shedkm to help it realise its vision for the Fort in a £40million make-over. Central to this vision was to retain the building's impressive industrial scale while softening its somewhat monolithic countenance.

The softening was achieved by using large expanses of structural glazing including replacing a whole end of the building with a huge atrium, and by adding a protruding blue spine the length of the building. The UK's largest green roof also helps mitigate the building's uncompromising architecture.

The result is a redevelopment which truly merits the icon tag that the building has assumed. The 45,000 sq ft ground floor has been given over to sports and leisure facilities. There is 345,000 sq ft of prime commercial space, much of which is already let. The remaining six floors, of



50,000sq ft each, are for office accommodation with many of the region's funkier brands already finding a home at the Fort. In addition, shedkm designed a blue extension to the central spine to create a 100-bedroom hotel which has been snapped up by Travelodge.

The industrial scale of the building has been embraced inside too, with features which reminisce about the Fort's glorious past in a modern vernacular. And nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the lobby entrance doors – some of the largest ever to be installed in the UK.

As well as design considerations, these doors had to tick an awful lot of boxes for the team at shedkm led by Hazel Rounding. 3000 people will use the doors every day: they were central to the vision for pedestrian access and circulation around the building as the entrance point to the Fort's central atrium. The doors had

to comply with DDS and emergency egress requirements and limit heat loss – in fact they were designed to be kept permanently open in summer months but be effective barriers against cold and draughts in the winter.

Rounding and her team came up with the idea of two huge circular sliding drum doors which would allow DDA compliance and, linked to the fire alarm system, allow speedy egress in an emergency. But in many ways, having the idea was the easy part. With 5m wide openings to fill, the sheer size of the doors had several suppliers scratching their heads until GEZE came up with a working solution.

"Once we'd settled on the sliding drum door design we wanted to push the boundaries of how large we could make it. The building has a 5m-wide column spacing, so we specified a door that could occupy that space. We spoke to several manufac-

turers, whose reaction was basically: 'that's too big, we can't do that, you'd have to install extra doors'," comments Rounding.

The doors have been designed to stay open at peak times when there is a constant stream of people coming through, but to act as an air lock when that flow slows to a trickle. Each drum has two sets of sliding doors four metres apart. When a person passes through the centre of the drum the doors behind them close while the ones ahead open to allow passage. The drum is slightly pressurised to form an airlock preventing heat loss.

The doors were installed in September 2007 and it was critical that this complex operation should be finished in time for the grand opening in December 2007. A team of six – three from Urban Splash Build and three from Geze - took three days to install each drum.

Each door is powered by GEZE Slimdrive SCR operators. The sleek design of the door operator - it has an overall height of

just 7cm - makes it almost invisible against the lintel, whilst the addition of several rollers in the roller carriage ensures near soundless running and optimum weight distribution. The Slimdrive SCR has a maximum power consumption of just 300 VA and can be installed almost everywhere including concrete, masonry, steel and glass fixtures and is operated by two control computers.

GEZE UK's sales and marketing director Jules Quested-Williams commented: "We were able to supply doors for Fort Dunlop's main entrance that not only met the demanding size requirements of the project and ensured the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements were adhered to but also reduced heat loss. The doors also feature mechanical power storage and are linked to the fire alarm system so that during an emergency they immediately

open, allowing a safe and reliable exit.

"The idea was to use one very large door that would accommodate for every possible need rather than several smaller doors, which many of the other door manufacturers were unable to cater for. At GEZE UK we specialise in creating bespoke solutions and were able to provide the perfect answer, which combined the best in design and style to suit the contemporary design of the complex."

"THE IDEA WAS TO USE ONE VERY LARGE DOOR THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE FOR EVERY POSSIBLE NEED RATHER THEN SEVERAL SMALLER DOORS, WHICH MANY OF THE OTHER DOOR MANUFACTURERS WERE UNABLE TO CATER FOR."



AN ARRESTING PROJECT

Leeds based Pickersgill-Kaye Ltd has won an order to help improve secure accommodation in a leading police station's new custody suite - and the company is also breaking new ground by manufacturing the hatches for the facility's cell doors.

Pickersgill-Kaye's team will project manage the interface of the hatch, door and lock for 10 units in the cell extension, which has been added to the Midlands-based constabulary's recently built holding facility.

The Kaye Class 1 cell lock was specified by the police station, which cannot be named for contractual reasons, after it was successfully installed at Cleveland Police's new state of the art headquarters in Middlesbrough.

Designed to prevent self-harm, the lock has new anti-ligature features that help in the provision of safer cells, whilst providing excellent levels of security and high resistance to damage and wear and tear.

However, in a first for the Leeds-based cell lock manufacturer, Pickersgill-Kaye will also make the hatches - to enable items to be passed to prisoners.

Pickersgill-Kaye's sales manager Harry Griffiths flagged up the crucial requirements in this ongoing project, which had a deadline of February 2008 for the final door assembly.

He said: "It's the first time we've made the actual hatches for custody doors which required us to develop a new design, although the actual function is nothing new. However, precision is vital for aligning the hatch, door and lock to ensure security and safety, and like our development at Cleveland Police's headquarters, we have again recommended the cell lockdown facility."

Another vital element in the choice of Pickersgill-Kaye security solutions is the need for a robust key management regime that streamlines efficiency and heightens security - as all those using the Pickersgill-Kaye system know that they can request an exclusive key code and that there will be no other key like it anywhere else in the UK.

Harry Griffiths added that Pickersgill-Kaye aims to manufacture reliable, robust and high quality engineered products for custody cells in police stations as they are an important link in the nation's security chain and it is vital that they provide maximum safety and security for aggressive and vulnerable detainees alike.



aijleamington spa

RACE AGAINST TIME

Bolton-based Booth Industries is in a race against time to build specialist sound reducing doors for Ireland's premier theatre before the grand opening night in November.

The doors will cover the main access points to the backstage area at the Point Theatre in Dublin, including the entrance to the Boneyard, where all the unloading and inner workings of the theatre happen.

The contract awarded to Booth distributor Skelly Opening Solutions, is worth more than quarter of a million pounds and will see Booth Industries build and install seven specialist doors including the huge Boneyard doors, a 15m x 5m vertical sliding door and a 15m x 5m bi-fold door. These need to be fire resistant and provide 45-47dB acoustic attenuation, so sounds from the theatre don't carry to the outside of the building thereby creating environmental noise problems.

Booth's work is part of the larger redevelopment of The Point Village. One of the walls of the theatre will be knocked out and extended to create an arena with a capacity of more than 14,000. The development will also include an underground car park, cinema, shopping centre, a small 2,000-seat theatre, a hotel and a 35-storey tower with offices, retail and 150 residential units.

Barry Gregson from Booth Industries said: "It's great to be involved in such a prestigious project and use our expertise to face the challenge of creating doors of such considerable size, which need to offer very best in terms of fire protection and sound-proofing."

Booth Industries manufactures and supplies bespoke steel doors for a variety of applications including blast, sound, security and fire and has worked on a number of high-profile projects including the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and St Pancras International Station. The company also has a new arm, Booth Commercial, which supplies pre-engineered steel doors to existing and new market sectors.



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THE GREAT ESCAPE



UNION Architectural Hardware is launching an innovative and contemporary range of exit hardware.

"UNION has been a major player in the traditional exit hardware market for many years" says Pauline Richardson, Product Manager for UNION. "However, an increasing number of our customers have asked if we could supply exit hardware for the higher specification and new build markets. Typically, these are where aesthetics are often more important

and where there is a need for a lighter, smoother and quieter alternative to the traditional bolting action."

Two years of extensive research covering European standards, safety requirements, product design and development resulted in the launch of the UNION 880 Series of exit hardware which combines quality engineering and high performance with contemporary aesthetics – at competitive prices.

The range comprises of both 'push bar' and 'touch bar' variants for single and double doors. For single doors there is a choice of either a single point latch variant, or 2/3 point locking using upper and lower Pullman Latches. For double doors, a choice of 3 and 5 point locking is available.

The UNION 880 Series is CE marked to BS EN 1125 and fire tested to BS EN 1634 on both timber and metal doors.

Available in silver as standard with other finishes available as work to order, the modern design will suit both new build and refurbishment projects.

For more information about the 880 Series, and to see the UNION Great Escape movie visit www.uniongreatescape.co.uk

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

SIMONSWERK UK has launched a new range of stainless steel Double and Single Action Spring Hinges. These top quality, tension adjustable hinges can be specified in 75, 100, 125 & 150mm sizes for door weights up to 45 kg. They are purpose designed specifically for internal doors with self closing single and double action requirements.



HOT COCOA

Recently launched by Turnstyle designs Cocoa is a beautiful, dark and rich finish created from a Composite blend of marbles and pigments giving a warm and varied finish. That will work well in both traditional and contemporary settings.

As well as rich and beautiful, Cocoa is also extremely practical, it can be used indoors and outdoors and is a great match when used in conjunction with Turnstyle's Chocolate leather. The Cocoa finish is available in all of Turnstyle's composite designs from the minimal Barrel handles to the richly textured Rough Cut design.



SLIDING SOLUTION

GEZE UK is launching two stainless steel space saving door systems for glass doors, designed to create stylish internal or external features in a variety of buildings: Geolan and Aerolan

The Aerolan offers a minimalist twist on a traditional wall-mounted system, using a contemporary steel-finish slim frame attached to the ceiling or wall to support suspended glass doors.

The Geolan is a floor mounted door system, making it possible to specify sliding doors in buildings where wall or ceiling mounting is not possible, especially where there is a suspended ceiling or where heavy or extra large doors are required. While the Aerolan holds door leaf weights up to 105kg, the floor mounted Geolan can support heavy weight doors of up to 135kg.

Creating a design feature of the door gear itself, GEZE UK uses a clean steel finish on all the rollers and rails in both products to ensure function and aesthetics are combined. High quality nylon bearing surfaces ensure both door systems operate noiselessly and offer minimum energy expenditure, while the small design of the carrier rollers means Aerolan can be mounted onto ceilings where there is little clearance and both Aerolan and Geolan can be fitted close to the edge of walls.

Used with glass doors, Aerolan is equipped with a door leaf holder to ensure a safe and secure fitting, while its precision floor guide with wear-free insert is suitable for toughened safety glass of 8mm, 10mm and 12mm thicknesses.

INTRODUCING UNION 880 SERIES EXIT HARDWARE

THE GREAT ESCAPE

CE MARKED to BS EN 1125
FIRE TESTED to BS EN 1634 - 1



"LIGHT TOUCH OPERATION"

"TOUCH AND PUSH BAR VARIANTS"

"PULLMAN LATCHES"

"COMPETITIVELY PRICED"

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A UNION ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE PRODUCTION

WRITTEN BY AESTHETICALLY PLEASING CASTING BY QUALITY ENGINEERING

EDITED BY VARIED CHOICE OF APPLICATION OPTIONS MUSIC BY SUITABLE FOR ALL PROJECT TYPES

PRODUCED BY 1 TO 5 POINT LOCKING OPTIONS PRODUCED BY LINE BARS TO SUIT MAXIMUM DOOR WIDTHS OF 900mm and 1200mm





3D VISION

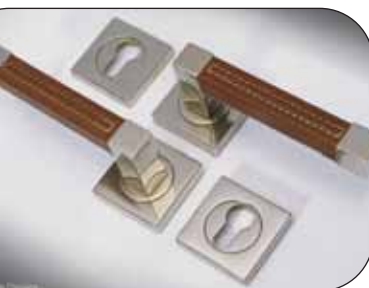
Nico Manufacturing has recently launched a 3D Adjustable Door Hinge. Part of the Load Pro range of heavy duty, maintenance-free door hinges, the Nico 3D Hinge is the ideal choice for off and on-site installation.

Fully adjustable in three directions for precise positioning and fixing, it is quick and easy to fit and its patented design allows the hinge to remain fixed to the door during the adjustment process.

Like the rest of the Load Pro range, the Nico 3D Hinge features low-friction bearings for smooth operation, and is designed for long-life, reliable performance under the most arduous conditions – guaranteed for up to 25 years.

Manufactured in the UK, the Nico 3D Hinge is available in a choice of finishes, including Yellow Zinc, Supercoat 500 – a silver finish with high corrosion resistance – and colour coating.

IN STITCHES



Turnstyle has combined leather bridal work with precision engineering in a new range of square door levers and door pulls with hand stitched leather finishing.

Blending tradition with contemporary gives the leather a cutting edge and the square symmetry of the metalwork a softer, more tactile finish. Door levers come with square roses and

escutcheons to complement the grips along with door pulls. The choice of leather now stretches to six different colours and tones, from the rich Chestnut to the vibrant Jazz Red.

A HANDLE ON HÄFELE

A new range of top quality, satin anodised aluminium lever handles from Häfele has been introduced at comfortably under a fiver a pair. Matching aluminium escutcheons and emergency release turns are also equally inexpensive.

Pairs of matching lever handles are available on latch backplates and also backplates for bathroom use or for euro-cylinder compatibility. All three are sprung for use with standard duty followers and bolt-through fixings.

In addition to the touch-friendly satin anodised finish, a stainless steel version of the same pattern design is also currently available at very low cost.



CYLINDER SUCCESS

Gretsch-Unitas is launching Janus - its most advanced range of cylinders to date aimed at thwarting even the most accomplished criminals in private and commercial settings.

Janus cylinders are equipped with multiple security measures to help safeguard against criminal issues such as bumping and picking. Twenty individual multi-directional tumbler pins are located around the circumference of the cylinder. These pins prevent cylinder bumping since their comprehensive alignment needs to be exact in order to gain entry - an impossible achievement without the correct key.

A steel reinforcing bar runs through the cylinders to strengthen their performance, and a second steel bar positioned between the front and back of the cylinder also makes them anti drill.

Available in a variety of finishes Janus Cylinders can comply with BS EN1303.

Gretsch-Unitas also offers architectural ironmongers a master key service when a volume of keys is purchased. This service allows properties to be fitted with varying levels of access control as each key is uniquely registered and unavailable from any other source; again offering complete security assurance.



TURNING HEADS...

UNION Architectural Hardware is giving its existing cylinder turns a makeover this Spring as well as introducing three brand new designs. In addition to the new turns, the UNION cylinder range will now include construction keying, clutch release and classroom functionality.

Currently, UNION has three traditional styles of cylinder thumb turn – 'Round', 'Diamond', and 'Signature'. These existing products have been updated, making the turns more user friendly, whilst creating a more modern appearance.

In addition to these improvements, UNION are also launching a unique and contemporary 'Wave' turn design, bringing a fresh new look to the UNION cylinder range. To assist in fulfilling the duties required under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), UNION have also developed a 'Large' turn with a flat surface area facilitating easy access.

An anti-ligature turn for use in hospitals, mental health centres, detention units and prisons is also new to the range. The product is available in all cylinder lengths up to 170mm overall or up to 85mm to the centre of the cam.

All of the new turns are available in euro and oval profile and both single and double cylinder types.

TIMBER!



Orbis Premier is a fully co-ordinated, comprehensive range of door hardware from Laidlaw Solutions, available in either Satin or Polished Stainless Steel finishes. The range comes with a standard 15-year guarantee and includes new and unique lever and pull handle designs with a distinctive dual-finish back-plate system. Its components are interchangeable, allowing the two finishes to be mixed if required.

Available as a complete door package with Orbis Timber Doorsets, hardware can be factory prepared if necessary. Pre-fixed lever and inset rose options have an integral phosphor bronze bearing washer and offer a 3-point fixing method. A new 35-page Orbis Premier brochure is available to accompany that for Orbis Timber Doorsets, providing information on every component, from lever and pull handles to hinges, door closers, mortice cylinder locks and finishing accessories.

NIGHT VISION

UNION Architectural Hardware are launching a brand new range of night latches, combining ergonomic form, texture and colour to facilitate easy access.

The products were developed with the support and co-operation of the Walsall Disability Forum. The products have an extended length operating lever and large sliding snib for easier location and operation. Contact points feature red tactile rubber surfaces, which provide a comfortable, non-slip grip, whilst the contrasting colour assists the visually impaired. The products are also supplied with a unique oversized, easy grip key bow cover, to aid access from the outside of the property.

The new Easy Access night latch range consists of both 50mm and 60mm backset cylinder night latches and a 60mm roller bolt deadlock. They are available complete with either a UNION cylinder or case only.

The unique features have been specifically developed to assist in fulfilling duties required under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and satisfy the recommendations of BS8300 and Approved Document M (ADM).



CLEARER VISION

Designed for installation in domestic front doors, the new 'X' vision panel from VISTAMATIC has been specifically created to provide effective, face-to-face solution for any domestic front door.

The new 'X' vision panel is operated using a simple mechanism: three layers of glass sheet, featuring a range of attractive opaque designs, are placed on top of each other within a single panel frame. The centre sheet is designed to move freely and when lifted via a simple hand-operated lever mechanism or knurled knob, the view through the vision panel is obscured. Unlike traditional fish-eye apertures or 'spyholes', which can often present a distorted view, the VISTAMATIC 'X' panel offers a clear view through to your doorstep when in the open position, while a quick turn back to the closed position ensures complete privacy.





NEW 3D Adjustable Hinge



Offering great all round performance, the Nico 3D adjustable Door Hinge is the ideal choice for off and on-site installation.

Part of the LOADPRO range of UK manufactured heavy duty hinges, the 3D Hinge is fully adjustable in three directions while fixed to the door – allowing precise positioning and quick and easy installation.

For smooth, reliable, maintenance-free long-life operation, in a choice of finishes, choose LOADPRO.

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DESK RESEARCH

To assist with the selection and specification of door closers, DORMA has produced a useful table that clearly defines every application on every DORMA product, (pull side door mounted, parallel arm, etc) along with door types (timber doors, insulated steel doors, etc) and the duration of the approval. Furthermore, where there are requirements under the certification for intumescent material to be used this is clearly detailed within the table to ensure compliance with the Certification. In addition to the door closers CERTIFIRE Certification is also detailed for the DORMA range of panic hardware and Mortice Locks.

With regards to the opening forces, details are included of the minimum door width to which the door closer will produce an opening force of 30N or less when fitted to a fire door at size EN3 (Mandatory requirement under BS EN1154). In addition to the maximum 30N opening force from 0 to 30 degrees of opening the further requirement of 22.5N maximum opening force between 30 and 60 degrees of opening is also met when applied to these door widths. The latter requirement is something that is often overlooked when seeking products suitable for ADM/BS8300 requirements.

The table is available on a Desk Pad that will, it is hoped, provide easy identification of product suitability when specifying or selecting products to comply with Building Regulations. Naturally all products detailed are CE marked to their relevant standard.

To aid correct product specification further for both customers and specifiers, alternate leaves within the Desk Pad also detail a DORMA Panic Hardware selection chart. The flow chart diagram guides you to the correct panic device for your application and latching/locking requirements.

The Desk Pads and copies of CE Certificates and full CERTIFIRE Certificates are free and available upon request from DORMA UK Ltd. or on DORMA's web site at www.dorma-uk.co.uk. Alternatively, you can contact DORMA on 01462 477600, fax 01462 477601, or email hardware@dorma-uk.co.uk.



HOPPE ON SCHEDULE

HOPPE (UK) has launched a new computer scheduling software service. The software, which is aimed at architects, developers and housebuilders, provides users with a full list of HOPPE products making it easy for them to order products for specific projects. The service can also be used by the end-user so they have a record of products used so they can order them if they need to be replaced.

The software can produce a list with information on:

- Individual doors with a door set number, its location and what hardware was used
- Hardware requirements of each house
- Overall project requirements
- Prices of individual hardware components and the overall project price.

Martyn Saunders, HOPPE's Regional Specification Sales Manager says: "The software produces a hardware schedule which is clearly laid out with each projects specific requirements, making it an easy reference guide when working on site."

SECURISTYLE'S CERTIFICATE OF SAFETY

Securistyle's anti-manipulation door lock cylinder has been awarded one of the most prestigious awards for quality and safety - a product kitemark.

The cylinder is Kitemark approved to BS EN 1303:2005, BS 3621: 2007 and approved by Secured by Design, meeting the requirements of PAS24:2007. It features an 'active' bump resistant technology which engages a pin to lock the key out if anyone attempts to bump the cylinder.

Another benefit is a unique two-way key operation. This means that if a key is left in the lock on the inside in normal circumstances, the lock can still be operated from the outside - ideal for elderly or immobile residents if neighbours, family members or other key holders need to gain access to the property.



INSTANT ACCESS

Product drawings for all Intastop product ranges including Door & Wall Protection, Anti-Ligature and Access & Acoustic Products can now be downloaded from the Intastop website at the click of a button.

This will enable designers and specifiers to instantly access drawings in both AutoCAD and PDF formats by simply clicking on the technical information pop ups provided on each product page, or by going to the 'downloads' page.

For a full A-Z product listing, sales brochure downloads, a 'products in action' project gallery and a wealth of detailed information including colour charts and fitting instructions, please visit the Intastop website at www.intastop.com



TOUGH READING

Gretsch-Unitas has launched its first catalogue aimed specifically at the architectural ironmongery industry featuring product information and images of the company's range of fittings for toughened glass assemblies including patch fittings, door closers and locks and strike boxes.

Copies of the new Fittings for Toughened Glass Assemblies catalogue are available free from G-U by calling 02476 217 900.



GOING INTO ORBIS

Laidlaw Solutions' Orbis Anti-Ligature range of door furniture has been extended considerably to incorporate new products which include a new anti-ligature door viewer, the eyehole cover of which can only be released by key operation. It matches a similarly new clutch operated bathroom door turn and the range's existing standard knob set and escutcheon. A bevelled circular surface mounted door pull now has a D-shaped finger cavity to prevent any attachment within it, and was developed to meet one particular specifier's requirements.

The alternative rectangular recessed flush pull now offers the added benefit of an intumescent backing which, depending on door thickness, provides fire resistance of between 30 and 60 minutes. Elements of the finger grip pull handle on a doorplate have also been improved to provide a shallower depth of grip on the patient's side and faceplate fixing on the other. Products are available in a choice of Satin Stainless Steel and Silk Anodised Aluminium, all with a standard 10-year guarantee.

FLYING A KITE

Kaba (UK) Ltd can now boast a range of cylinders with the prestigious KITEMARK Approval with full backing from the BSI. Products with a Kitemark have been independently tested by BSI and conform to the relevant British Standard, and has a BSI licence to the company to use the Kitemark.

NEXT ISSUE

Copy date for the **Summer** issue is **27 June**.

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

Efficiency

TS 3000 B: The slim cam closer



Automatic Door
Systems

Window
and Ventilation

**Door
Technology**

RWA and
Safety Technology

Glass
Systems



Probably the slimmest most effective surface-mounted door closer in the marketplace today, the TS 3000 B combines aesthetics and functionality as well as assisting with the demands of the DDA and approved document M of the Building Regulations.

With fully adjustable closing force, closing speed, hydraulic latching action and back check, the independently tested TS 3000 B is a remarkably efficient door closer.

For more information please call our customer helpline on 01543 443000, email info@geze-uk.com or visit www.geze-uk.com



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