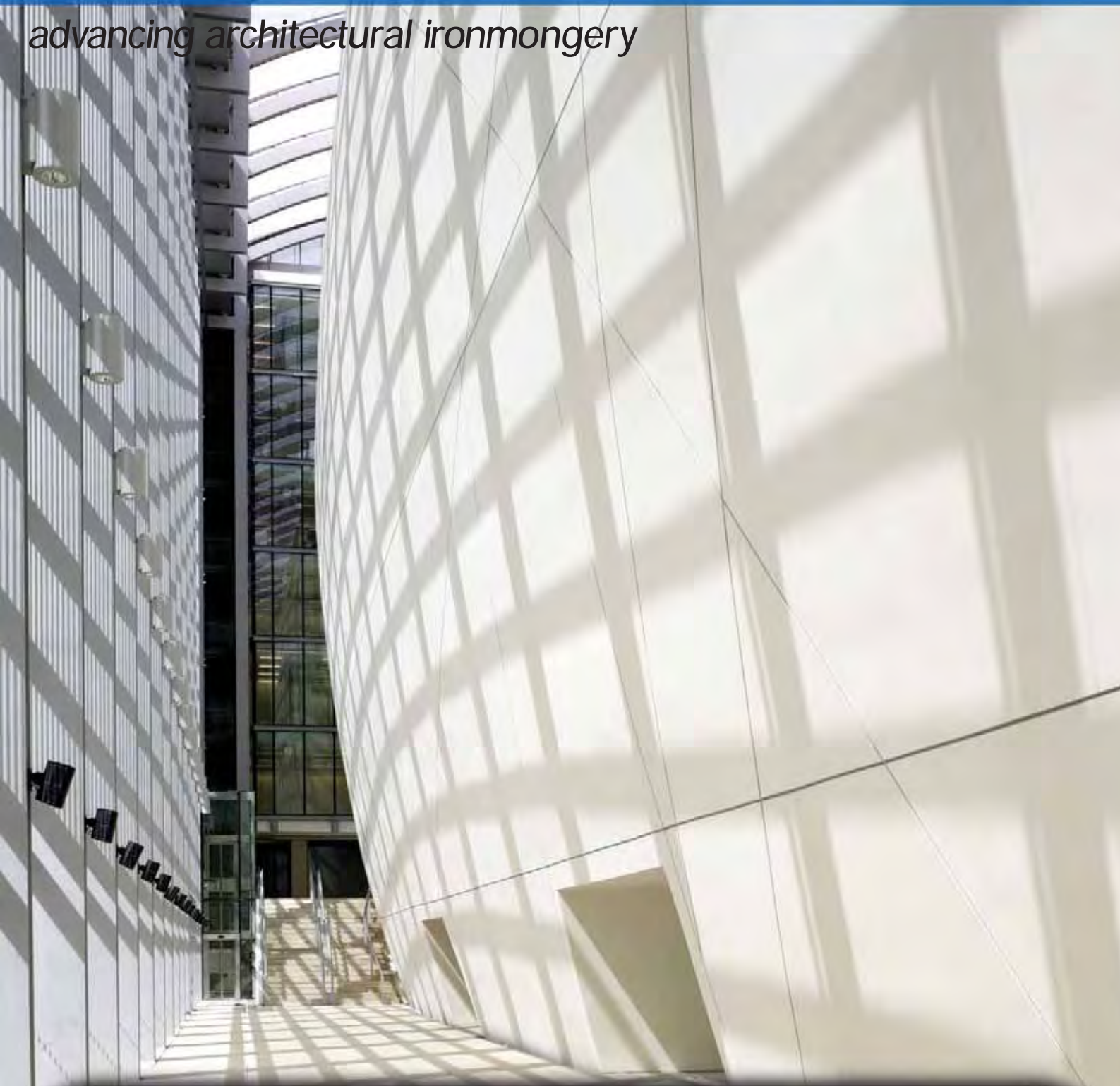




architectural
ironmongery
journal

no.135 autumn 2009

advancing architectural ironmongery



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As a new academic year begins for the GAI's education programme and the industry celebrates last year's successful students at the annual Education Awards Lunch, thoughts turn to training and education budgets in many companies. In a recession, training may seem to be an obvious area to make some cost savings.

But a recent report from the Institute of Directors would seem to suggest that many UK businesses are not succumbing to this temptation. In fact, a survey of their members during the summer would suggest that investment in training is holding up well under the economic clouds and that many directors believe that training in this recession is vital since it presents a real opportunity – those able to invest now would reap the reward in the upturn.

This is backed by the findings of the CBI's 2009 Employment trends survey which found that two thirds (66%) of firms were targeting their training more effectively – focusing training on those areas of their business where they will see the most benefit and which will help them come through the recession.

This also seems to be true in the AI sector where a fully qualified AI, up-to-date with standards, regs and legislation is still valued by employers and clients alike. Architects still look for a qualified AI and the Reg AI status still carries real currency. It is only by maintaining this strong commitment to education, investing in the future, will the AI sector emerge strongly from the stormy waters of the world recession.



Helen Curry

insideaij

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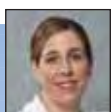


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Graham Shirville

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NEW FACES AT EXOVA

Andy Kay, outgoing chairman of the Association of Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP) has joined Exova Warringtonfire as its new Divisional Business Development Manager.

With more than 25 years experience in the construction industry, Andy has spent the last nine years heading up the fire protection business of Hilti (GB), during which time he guided the company to be number one in the penetration seal market. As well as being involved with the ASFP, Andy is also a former vice chair of the Fire Safety Development Group.

In addition, Hayden Parry has been appointed as Exova Warringtonfire's first General Manager for its UK testing businesses.

An engineering graduate, Hayden has been with Exova for almost 10 years and was most recently Operations Manager for the company's Polymers Division. He will be responsible for UK testing carried out at Exova Warringtonfire's Reaction to Fire and Fire Resistance laboratories in Warrington and Exova Warringtonapt, the company's hardware and product testing lab at Willenhall in the West Midlands.

Leigh Hill, a former Senior Certification Engineer with Exova Warringtonfire has also been promoted to the company's new Business Development Manager for Certification.

Leigh has extensive technical experience managing fire test programmes to National, European and International standards, and conducting test approval in accordance with Certifire technical schedules, for the Dubai Civil Defence Approval procedure, as well as the Wheelmark/United States Coast Guard and the Construction Products Directive. Leigh has also been involved in business development activities relating to testing, which he will now have the chance to expand further in his new role.

For more information contact Exova Warringtonfire on 01925 646690.

BRASSART IN SAFE HANDS

After many years under group or corporate ownership, the well-known Midlands manufacturer of brass door furniture, Brassart, has recently returned to private ownership. The entire business was purchased from Instock Hardware by Alan Lambert in September 2009.

As a long established British brand dating back to the early 1900s Alan saw an opportunity to restore Brassart as a leading manufacturer of handcrafted solid brass door furniture and associated fittings. Brassart's long established Princess and Constable brands are at the forefront of his plans.

The first stage of this campaign is already underway with a number of key appointments in Customer Services and Production. Jackie Kibbler is now heading up the customer service department and Dave Gregory leading manufacturing operations. This new era has already seen significant growth from UK and export markets despite the current difficult trading conditions.

As well as many traditional designs, Brassart will be relaunching some of the attractive designs held in the pattern room alongside new designs to underpin the continued growth of the business.

Alan comments, "I hope that by bringing a professional engineering and manufacturing background to the business, the new team will bring strategic planning, modern marketing, and progressive manufacturing techniques to grow the Brassart business. As an experienced retailer myself I can contribute a thorough understanding of the prime issues affecting retail ironmongery in the UK."

DEFYING FINANCIAL DOWNTURN

Supplier of ironmongery products to the trade, Ironmongery Direct has announced a £7.2m turnover in the last nine months with an operating profit increase of 45% compared to the same period in 2008 accounts.

In line with this growth trend, Ironmongery Direct continues to invest in its brand through increased marketing activity and business development. This includes a new Content Management System provided by Perigee, which will synchronize sales channels and streamline the process of catalogues creation and web content, improving the customer shopping experience.

Wayne Lysaght Mason, Managing Director of Ironmongery Direct believes the company's continued increase in growth is due to their commitment to provide outstanding customer service and staff development. He comments:

"I am delighted that we are still on track to reach our £10m target which shows 40% year-on-year growth in what continues to be a difficult market. This growth allows us to continue to invest in the business, both people and processes, to improve our offering to customers. Our success has also been recognised by The National Business Awards, where we are a finalist this year."

DORMA'S GLASS DIVISION BECOMES CLEARER

DORMA's Glass Division is now under the control of David Stacey, Head of DORMA's Door Controls Division. As a result the Door Controls sales team will take responsibility for the sales of glass fittings, rails and accessories. Customers will benefit from one point of contact for all their glass fitting components and door control needs, combined with a highly experienced and skilled sales team most of whom are Dip. GAI qualified and are Registered Architectural Ironmongers through the GAI.

As door controls and glass fittings often go hand in hand, this new structure, with one point of contact for both Divisions, provides a more efficient service for customers, particularly those who specify both door hardware and glass fittings for doors, partitions and other glass assemblies. Whilst the sales and customer service arms for both divisions are now shared, each retains their dedicated technical support staff for expert advice on their distinct product ranges.

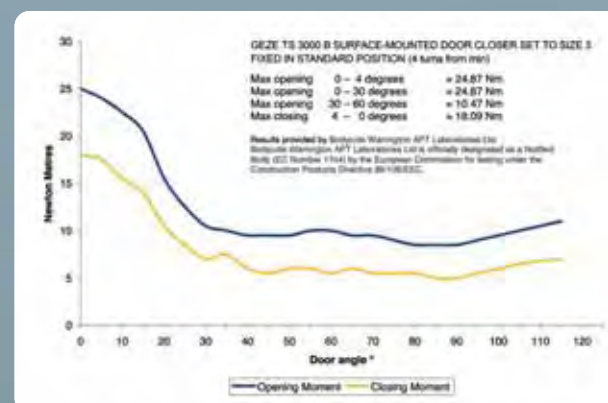




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aijobituary

IAN STEWART

One of the best known and well liked figures in the AI industry sadly passed away in August. Ian Stewart, who achieved over forty years' experience in builders merchants and architectural ironmongery, lost his battle with cancer at the age of 65.

Ian was latterly Specification Manager at Yannedis, calling on his high levels of technical knowledge to work on some of that company's most prestigious projects. He joined the Lloyd Worrall Group as MD of Lloyd Worrall London in 2002 having previously been Regional Ironmongery Manager for George Boyd Architectural Ironmongers for seven years. Prior to that Ian worked in various management roles for Laidlaw for nine years. He joined the Yannedis team when they incorporated with Lloyd Worrall London in 2005.

Throughout his career Ian was a keen and active supporter of the GAI. He joined the GAI Technical Committee in 1997 and served for eleven years, the last eight of them as Chairman. He was also a member of the GAI Executive Committee and, in recognition of his services to the Institute of Architectural Ironmongery he was made a Fellow of the Institute in 2007.



OWLETT LAUNCH

Owlett Architectural, the UK's newest distributor of architectural ironmongery, has unveiled the experienced team that will help establish the company as a leading supplier for the AI industry.

Led by Graham Sims, Commercial Manager, who has over 23 years' experience with companies such as CHUBB, ABLOY and HOPPE, the new team will be working with businesses throughout the UK to distribute high quality, fully certified products at competitive prices.

Graham believes customers will reap the benefits of a new distributor with modern ideas and a comprehensive range of high quality architectural ironmongery.

Graham said: "In such a challenging economic environment, customers are in need of a new distributor that can offer next-day delivery of high-quality products at affordable prices. As part of Owlett-Jaton, the UK's largest provider of fasteners, fixings and hardware, we can already boast stock levels and a distribution infrastructure that rival our competitors.

"The experience within the team is invaluable. We understand what customers want – that's why we've set up our 24-hour online ordering service so any item from our range can be specified and ordered any time of the day or night."



HONoured FOR INNOVATION



GEZE GmbH, parent company to GEZE UK, has secured its place in the Top 100 most innovative small and medium sized enterprises in Germany for the fourth time.

Lothar Späth, the former Prime Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg and mentor of the competition has awarded the Top 100 seal of approval to GEZE for its new product development, innovative approach to the market and cost saving process improvements.

GEZE has even succeeded in halving the development time for a new products by using a roadmap system that monitors the large number of tasks associated with the innovation process so that each department knows when each activity has to be carried out and completed.

Now in its 17th year, the award has become a benchmarking project for medium sized enterprises and

GEZE underwent a stringent, two stage process devised by the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration to qualify. The assessment looked at the innovation stimulation by top management, innovation climate, innovative processes and organisation, innovation marketing as well as innovation success.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

In July of this year, Westminster City Council put a select number of their street signs up for sale in the first ever auction of its kind. Strand Hardware's successful bid for the famous Strand sign meant that it was soon on its way to its new home in Strand House, close to Walsall town centre.

Joint Managing Director Catherine Franks explained: "Way back when we started the company, we chose a logo that was based on the iconic London street signage. So it was a nice touch to find ourselves in a position to buy the original."





SITE EFFICIENCY RECOGNISED

Laidlaw Solutions's Orbis Integra Doorset System has been recognised for 'Improvements in Site Efficiency' in the Construction Products Association's 2009 edition of 'Construction Products Innovation and Achievement' (CPIA).

Orbis Integra is one of only 24 products to be chosen for the annual showcase of the year's most innovative products and processes. Ian Hopkinson, Managing Director of Laidlaw Solutions's Doorsets Division commented, "Integra's patented, steel frame system makes it ideal for fast track building environments. It is important that our industry recognises and showcases innovation and we are grateful that CPIA does this."



Fire Assessed Push Button Locks

KABA

Unican can on fire doors...

The Kaba range of Unican push button locks has recently been included in successful fire tests to BS EN 1634-1, for up to 60 minutes' duration. Anyone specifying or purchasing door hardware has a legal duty of care to ensure that the products are safe to use on the fire doors to which they will be fitted. Kaba now provides this evidence, so that Unican push button locks can be specified and used on both timber and steel fire doors.

The correct Kaba Intumescent Door Kits must be fitted to the relevant push button lock for use on a fire door, in accordance with the fire assessment.

Features:

- Quick, clean and easy to install, custom shaped intumescent kits provide protection against fire.
- The intumescent material is supplied with a self adhesive backing, which simply wraps around the kit for a neat and easy installation.
- Kaba Intumescent Door Kits are customised to each PBL model.
- Kaba Intumescent Door Kits can be used on both UK type timber fire doors.
- Fitting instructions are supplied with the Intumescent Door Kit to ensure the material is fitted correctly with the PBL, in accordance to the report and assessment.

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FIRST FOR FIRE RISK ASSESSORS

Warrington Certification Limited, (WCL), has launched the first United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited 'third party certification' scheme for fire risk assessors; in partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

The Fire Risk Assessors Certification Scheme (FRACS) is the only competent persons certification scheme for fire risk assessors, complying with the requirements of BS EN ISO/IEC 17024:2003 – the internationally accepted standard for bodies operating certification of competent persons; and it is the only competent fire risk assessors scheme in the UK to have national accreditation status from UKAS.

The scheme is open to any practicing fire risk assessor who wishes to prove their competence through third party assessment. For individuals affiliated to the RICS, the scheme provides the basis for entry onto a register of competent fire

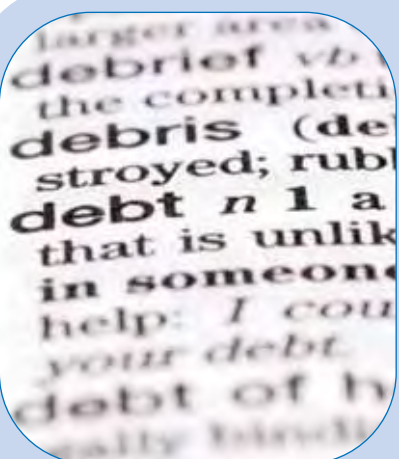
risk assessors held and managed by the RICS. All assessors who are certificated against the requirements of the standard are issued with a photo identity card and also listed on the WCL website: www.warringtonfire.net/riskassessor

The scheme has been developed in response to the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, that requires a 'suitable and sufficient' fire risk assessment for the purpose of life safety to be carried out, and subsequently maintained by the 'responsible person'; workplaces, public buildings, sleeping accommodation, (hotels) care homes, licensed premises and houses in multiple occupancy (flats) are all subject to the RRO regulations. Individually owned domestic homes are generally exempt from the order.

'Responsible persons' who wish to appoint a 'competent' fire risk assessor to carry out a fire risk assessment on their behalf should ensure that any assessor they appoint is 'competent' to

complete the assessment. With no regulation or control from central Government, currently anyone can set themselves up as a practising fire risk assessor regardless of knowledge experience or training. Third party certification is increasingly being recognised by government, end users and within the fire safety industry as being essential for fire risk assessors. FRACS sets a level of quality assurance previously unavailable in the UK.

Candidates who apply for certification undergo a comprehensive two stage process to demonstrate their technical competence; stage one involves a detailed review of previous work carried out by the assessor, and stage two is a three part technical interview. Only assessors who pass both stages become certificated, and in order for them to maintain certification they must continue to demonstrate their competence by satisfying on going surveillance criteria every two years.



POOR PAYMENT TOPS BUSINESS HATE LIST

Cash flow worries as a result of increasing late payments are causing small businesses the most headaches, according to the latest Economic Downturn Panel survey carried out by the Forum of Private Business (FPB).

Almost a quarter (23%) of respondents to the survey selected late payment and, subsequently, poor cash flow as their 'key issue' – more than those who voted for a lack of sales (20%), and complying with health and safety regulations (11%).

Even declining bank lending was deemed to be less of a concern than poor payments. Banks' tardy decision making was chosen as the major issue by 6% of respondents, and the steep cost of bank lending by 4%.

In all, 42% of FPB members who took part in the survey reported a deterioration in prompt payments from customers – typically bigger businesses – compared to just 3% who said there had been an improvement. A total of 56% said there has been no change from previous months.

FACTORY PRODUCTION CONTROL SCHEME NOW IN PLACE

Member companies within the Door and Hardware Federation (DHF) now have assistance available to them which will enable them to comply with the latest Factory Production Control requirements, thanks to an arrangement reached between the federation and Warrington Certification Ltd.

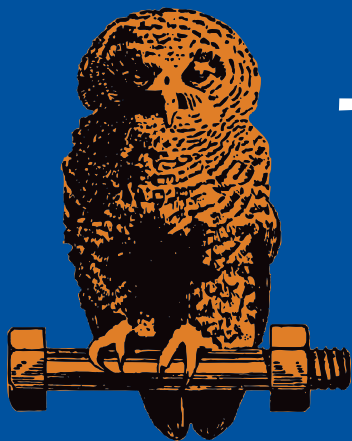
The Federation, which represents most of the UK's main manufacturers, suppliers and installers of industrial and commercial door and shutters and garage doors, has come to an arrangement with Warrington Certification Ltd, the leading quality systems and certification body which is also a member of the DHF. Warrington Certification Ltd will be working with the DHF to inspect and review issues relating to Factory Production Control (FPC) systems set up especially for the needs of the industrial door industry by DHF members.

The arrangement will assist DHF member companies who need to CE mark their products under the Construction Products Directive (CPD) and its likely replacement - the Construction Products Regulation. This will give industrial door specifiers and end users the confidence that by choosing doors and shutters from DHF member companies they will be receiving correctly CE marked products, so ensuring they are complying with legislation.

ACCENT ON SALES

Steel and glazed door manufacturers and installers AccentHansen, has appointed David Hindle as Sales Director. This new position continues AccentHansen's growth against the market trend.

Having started his career as an apprentice engineer, David has worked in a number of successful sales roles within the door industry and construction marketplace and is relishing the opportunity of working for AccentHansen, "I am looking forward to joining a company with a strong sales team, industry leading technical backup, a large project pipeline and a continual stream of new products coming to market. AccentHansen are in a great position to weather the current recession and is an exciting place to be."



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THE RESULTS ARE IN

This year's results from the GAI's education programme show a record pass rate at Level One and an impressive 44 candidates passing their Level Three examinations and becoming Diploma holders with the right to use the Dip GAI letters after their names. These newly qualified professionals will also become Registered Architectural Ironmongers (Reg AI) upon registration.

The outstanding results from this year's exams - which were taken by an unprecedented number of candidates - reflect the GAI's continued commitment to education excellence:

● **Level One:** 83% pass rate: up 1% on last year's previously record breaking results

● **Level Two:** 68% pass rate: down on last year

● **Level Three:** Scheduling 40% and Business Studies 66% pass rate: both well up on last year

Mike Kelly, Chairman of the Examination Panel is impressed with the results. "Once more the results are very encouraging and reflect the hard work that the students have put in," he comments.

At all levels, the most successful students were those who attended residential courses. "The Gold, Silver and Bronze medallists at Level Three, as well as the fourth and fifth placed students all attended either the residential course or an in-house course this year - testimony to how well these events are run," concludes Mike Kelly.



HÄFELE COMES TO THE TABLE

This year's GAI Education Awards Lunch was sponsored for the first time by HÄFELE. It is fitting that a company which has a long tradition of investing in GAI education (with a long list of medal winners to prove it!) should be so firmly associated with the event where educational excellence is recognised and celebrated.

HÄFELE's excellent track record in producing successful and medal winning students is a testimony to the time, money and expertise which the company invests in training students from across all of its divisions, including entering candidates from as far afield as India.

Director of HÄFELE's AI Business, Mike Kelly, believes the new partnership offers a very exciting prospect "We are pleased to be associated with the GAI and the event and are looking forward to the opportunity to work together on this project, and to staging successful Awards Lunches over the next two years."

GAI Chief Exec, Gary Amer, also believes this deal offers both organisations a real opportunity to take the event forward. "I have been pleased and impressed with the commitment which HÄFELE has already shown to this event and I'm sure the day will be successful for them and the GAI. I'm really looking forward to working with the team to step this event up to new levels in the coming weeks."



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The GAI's education programme has been changed to reflect new modern ways of working.

The first of these is a change in the style and way in which information is presented and communicated to students. Each of the education manuals is being completely redesigned to a new "Open Learning" style giving students a fresh new perspective on the information and ways of studying which better suit the modern age. Open learning allows students self-determined, independent and interest guided learning which will give them a much better long term understanding of the subject.

In addition, this year marks a new approach in the way the learning materials are delivered with Level One students receiving their training manuals in electronic format. Not only is this so much more convenient for students who can take their work with them anywhere in the form of a memory stick, it will also be a huge financial and logistical boost for the GAI which will save many thousands of pounds a year in printing and postage costs, to say nothing of the environmental benefits that using this modern media provides.



SPACE MAN

June 2008 saw one of the AI trade's best known figures, Graham Shirville, step down as Convenor of one the industry's most important European standards bodies after more than 20 years in the hot seat. Helen Curry visited him to find out how he views those 20 years and what his plans are going forward.

Graham Shirville's long career with Allgood, where he is now Chairman, is well known in the AI community, as is his many years of work for the GAI which resulted in him being granted an Honorary Life Membership in 1995. What is less well documented is the long time he has spent working on behalf of the UK AI industry on various European standards committees including more than 20 years as Convenor of TC33 WG4. TC33 is the CEN Technical Committee with responsibility for the production of product standards for building hardware, doors, windows and curtain walls. Working Group 4 of TC33 is specifically responsible for the hardware.

When Graham took up this post, it was believed that the job of creating CEN standards for building hardware would take no more than two years. But the job clearly took much longer. "We have created more than twenty full product standards pretty much from scratch and that process seems to take forever," he comments. "I believe, however, that the committee has done a good job in developing an almost complete set of standards with a second generation now being produced."

Looking back, Graham is clear about why he wanted to get involved in the first place – a genuine fear of what would happen if there was no direct British involvement. It seemed likely that the standards could have been based on the lowest common denominator; this would have allowed low quality products into the market –

with the resultant safety risks for the user not to mention the financial risks for the industry. His motivation for his own personal involvement is equally simple, "intense personal interest" he admits. "I was already Chair of the GAI Technical Committee and the passion came from being a second generation AI – it's in the blood."

Graham's father, Paul Shirville, was one of the founders of the GAI, an organisation born out of his strong belief in the importance of training, education and professionalism in the trade. So Graham grew up in the industry, remembering early GAI Executive Committee meetings being held around the family dining table. He joined Allgood in 1966, the company his father and his partner Derrick Carter-Clout had taken over after the war, as a gopher at Allgood's Cambridge branch. "I had learnt quite a bit about ironmongery at home and, when I joined the family business, I did a bit of everything and learned again that way."

Graham undertook the GAI training programme, gaining his Diploma in 1971 as Silver Medallist. His final paper was marked by his own father – surely a daunting prospect. "I was piped to the post by Dave Martin who is now the GAI's Education Consultant, so it was obviously a good year," he jokes. The Scheduling paper was a police station in 'an emerging desert nation' he recalls and remembers that "barrel bolts were an almost acceptable alternative to indicator bolts on toilet doors in those days."

After a stint as a salesman with Allgood Continental Ltd, where he helped open up the then emerging markets in Dubai and elsewhere in the Middle East, Graham took over the helm in the mid-1980s along with his fellow shareholder and Derrick's son, Anthony Carter-Clout. "And that's how it continues to the present day, now with CEO Phil Newson running the company to

ensure that it maintains its position as a leading provider of top quality hardware with top quality service."

Graham's position as an AI of many years' standing gave him an unrivalled understanding of the bigger picture in door hardware, seeing the market from a customer, manufacturer and contractor's point of view which made him well qualified to chair WG4.

Coordinating the efforts of technical experts from across Europe – with the UK, France, Italy, Germany and Scandinavia being the leading lights – does take some considerable skill and Graham believes that his time with WG4 did see some real achievements. "I think the biggest was to produce graded standards to allow specifiers to choose products with the correct performance specification for their project," he says. This quality is unusual in building product standards and has allowed the building hardware standards to be used successfully across the single European Market and beyond – but it also makes them complex and time consuming to produce.

Graham also sees the achievement of the Working Group in getting hardware recognised as important enough to warrant CE marking as one of their greatest successes. "The fact that there has to be third party accreditation to achieve CE certification ensures only good quality products are used – which is vital in fire and safety applications."

Graham enjoyed his extended stretch on the WG4 committee. They met in some interesting places – one even on a cruise ship in the Baltic – and he had the opportunity to work with a strong UK team. "I worked really well with David Yates who was Technical Director of Newman Tonks along with Norman England and a great bunch of other experts from the UK and around Europe."

But it seemed like the right time to step down in 2008. "Nobody should do this job forever and it was time I allowed some new blood to take the helm", he concludes. Now that new generations of standards are being written, there is a real need for someone to handle the minutiae and, as Graham admits, "I'm probably not really a minutiae man." He has been succeeded by another Brit, Business Development Manager for Exova Warringtonnapt, Paul Duggan. Paul, is of course the current Chair of the Guild's Technical Committee.

Graham hasn't had a chance to be bored since he stepped down. As well as his work with Allgood and the GAI, where he remains an active member of the Executive and Technical Committees, Graham has another passion – amateur radio and placing small satellites in space. That means rockets to you and I and Graham is busy setting up an educational programme on this theme to get children interested in science and technology. Any puns about a stellar career have been omitted for fear of embarrassing a man who remains so modest about his achievements for the industry.

NAME CHANGE

TESTING AND ADVISORY BUSINESS, BODYCOTE WARRINGTONFIRE HAS UNDERGONE A NAME CHANGE – EMERGING AS EXOVA. HELEN CURRY WENT TO SEE WHAT HAS CHANGED AT THE ORGANISATION – AND WHAT HAS STAYED THE SAME.

When the management team at new owners Clayton Dubilier & Rice (C,D & R) was looking for a new name for the business it had a tight brief. The company wanted a brand that would work in its 130 labs across the world and with employees who speak 13 different languages. It needed to communicate the brand values and vision of a highly technical and professional business. It needed to be memorable. After asking employees and even running a competition, the team turned to a brand consultancy who devised the name 'Exova'.

"The 'ex' stands for expertise and experience, the 'ov' for innovation, and the 'va' means 'go' in many languages," says Tim Cornes, Exova's Director for Fire Safety Engineering Technology in Europe. "We're very happy with our new identity although we recognise that Warringtonfire is a very well known brand in the AI market so we won't be forcing through the change overnight," he adds.

The need for the name change came about when the testing business of Bodycote plc – which includes Warringtonfire – was sold by the company in October 2008. This testing business, known as Bodycote Testing Group, provides testing and advisory services to the aerospace, energy, oil and gas, civil engineering, transportation, pharmaceutical, food and consumer products industries and has over 130 facilities in 25 countries. Bodycote Testing

Group had owned the Warringtonfire business since March 2006 – a period which has seen considerable growth and acquisition in the group.

In 2008 the two parts of the Bodycote business – thermal

processing and testing – were separated and the testing side was put up for sale. The sale was confirmed to Clayton, Dubilier and Rice (CD&R), a private equity firm from the States which owns a number of well known brands such as Hertz. Now completely separate from Bodycote plc, the testing business needed a new name and identity to take it forward.

"The new name has been greeted very positively," says Tim Cornes. "It's fresh and modern and the vision and values we have put in place behind the brand back that up. We aspire to be number one in the services we provide and this translates into the core values of our business."

But while there have been changes in the headlines, many elements of the business remain the same. Tim Cornes himself has been with the business for a number of years, arriving with Bodycote in 2004. Paul Duggan, Business Development Manager for Warringtonapt, Exova's testing facility for architectural products is well known in the AI trade and is Chair of the GAI's Technical Committee. "We still have the same management team, the same numbers of staff, the same technical expertise," says Paul Duggan. "In fact the new owners intend to invest in increasing our services and technical competencies."

The Exova group certainly has impressive resources. With headquarters in Edinburgh, Exova operates from over 130 facilities in 25 countries and employs over 4000 people. As well as testing the architectural products and door hardware that the company is well known for in the AI trade, Exova tests and analyses products in many different industries including food processing, textile manufacture, transport, automotive and engineering sectors.

A key part of the Exova business in the AI sector is Warrington Certification, the body which provides certification for passive fire protection products and services through the highly respected Certifire scheme – now seen as the definitive system of certifying hardware for fire doors. Certifire was joined in 2003 by FIRAS, a certification scheme for companies installing fire protection products and systems. Which involves assessment of the installer company, competence, assessment of its site workforce and regular, random inspection of actual contracts.

Now Exova has added two new services to this portfolio for fire protection products: Certisure is a range of technical schedules and certificates for the enhanced security testing of

doors and windows, while the Risk Assessors Certification Scheme (FRACS), the first United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited 'third party certification' scheme for fire risk assessors.

"These new schemes have been launched to reflect changes in the market and in government regulation, explains Tim Cornes. "We want to be able to offer a full range of fire safety certification products as well as continuing our surveillance of Certifire and its members to ensure that certification is used correctly at all times." In fact, Exova has withdrawn a number of Certifire certificates and published the fact on its web site although, as Paul Duggan explains, "we prefer to work with clients to make sure their marketing claims don't overstep the mark."

"Trading Standards don't have sufficient resources or manpower to police the industry and this is not Exova's remit," continues Paul Duggan. "But we will be doing more and more to ensure that Certifire certification is used correctly and being more robust to ensure the scheme retains its integrity in the AI sector. The industry wants Certifire to have teeth but, ultimately, companies have the power over their own destiny by ensuring their certification and claims are correct," he concludes.

The new FRACS scheme is the only competent persons' certification scheme for fire risk assessors, complying with the requirements of BS EN ISO/IEC 17024:2003 – the internationally accepted standard for bodies operating certification of competent persons; and it is the only competent fire risk assessors scheme in the UK to have national accreditation status from UKAS. It was launched in partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for any practicing fire risk assessor who wishes to prove their competence through third party assessment.

Exova also continues to work hard to build and improve the standards for door hardware. In fact, Paul Duggan recently took over as Convenor of TC33 WG4. TC33 is the CEN Technical committee with responsibility for the production of product standards for hardware, doors and windows. Working Group 4 of TC33 is specifically responsible for hardware. "We are very active at all levels in European standard committees, helping to shape future policy and influence standards which will be used in the UK," says Paul Duggan. "We have to be at the table to ensure that these standards work for the industry."



Paul Duggan

BS 8300 - KEY TO DESIGN FREEDOM

Updates to British Standards and Building Regulations on the needs of disabled people are being made on a regular basis. The 2001 edition of BS 8300 gave rise to a number of concerns which the 2005 amendment did not fully address. The 2009 revision, published in February, is therefore understandably comprehensive. Some aspects have attracted greater attention than others, but two areas affecting door design warrant specific comment because of the greater flexibility they will undoubtedly provide to architects.

The disposition of vision panels is now based on the concept of having a minimum zone of visibility not interrupted excessively by opaque areas. Though essential to give strength to the door and to accommodate door furniture, the way the opaque area between vision panels was expressed in the previous edition gave very little opportunity for variation in door design. Allowance was made only for a single obstruction to the zone of visibility, corresponding to the position of the lock case. In the revised Standard, multiple vision panels of varying shape are now permissible. The only stipulation is that the minimum zone of visibility must not be obscured in total by more than 350mm vertically. As far as the

position of vision panels across the width of the door is concerned, they should be placed either centrally in the door or towards the leading (opening) edge. Clearly, a position towards the opening edge gives optimum visibility.

In taking this approach, the intention has been to avoid the criticism levelled at the old Standard that it encouraged uninspiring, 'institutional' design. Indeed, feedback from architects confirmed that there had long been a desire to use vision panels more creatively.

The second key change concerns the design of lever furniture. Here too, there had been criticism of the previous edition, in particular because it showed only one example of a round bar, return-to-door lever handle. The impression given was that this was the only acceptable design. The absence of any alternatives prompted specifiers to take the safe route and stick to what was clearly acceptable. There are now four examples of lever handle design, including the conventional round bar return-to-door design, a curved return-to-door design and

a design cranked up at the end of the lever to enable it to be operated more easily without a tight grip. This cranked up design does not return to the door, in order to avoid clothing being caught, but it does have the

advantage over the other designs of an easy lever action. The final example is of a cranked design that brings the handgrip zone away from the door edge where the door has a narrow stile (less than 100mm wide). There is no reason, of course, why it should not be used on doors with wider stiles.

As far as lever profile is concerned, diagrams suggest a circular profile simply because the dimension of the lever itself is described as a 'diameter'. However, since it is made clear in the figure that the lever designs are purely indicative, there is no reason why a rectangular bar could not be used, assuming of course that it has no sharp edges and is comfortable to grip.

The new 2009 edition also introduces the concept of a "hand grip zone" which needs to be at least 95mm wide and at least 45mm from the face of the door, irrespective of the lever handle design.

The long awaited revision to BS8300 has clearly laid the foundation for comprehensive change, and the greater flexibility now offered in these two areas give increased scope to manufacturers in the design of their doors and door hardware. As such, it will doubtless continue to prompt renewed comment and discussion.



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ARCHITECT CHRISTOPHER SYKES STUDIES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM AND EXAMINES WAYS IN WHICH PREVENTATIVE SOLUTIONS ARE BEING INTEGRATED INTO BUILDINGS

Infection control is a deadly serious subject. Whilst the daily round of physical cleaning and disinfection is effective and necessary, it is impossible to clean a surface continually. Similarly, disinfectants will instantly reduce levels of contamination but tend not to maintain their effect. All this means that, unfortunately, bacteria can rapidly begin to grow, with some having the ability to double in number every 20 minutes. Obviously, as bacteria begins to grow again, so does the risk of cross-contamination, illness and the spread of infection.

Infections are caused by bacteria, fungi or viruses entering the body. Clearly washing hands is one preventative method but it is the contact surfaces which are a prime breeding ground. Touched many times a day by all sorts of people, and encouraged by the warm environment, bacteria can thrive on door handles, grab rails and other surfaces. As we all know, the good news is that the design of healthcare facilities has undergone substantial change. However, the bad news is that cross-contamination is still a major problem and the chance of patients, often in a weakened condition and with impaired host defences, becoming ill is on the increase. The same applies to schools, public toilets and anywhere where uncontrolled touching of surfaces by different people occurs.

The matter is urgent because of the statistics. In England alone there are at least 300,000 cases of HAIs (Healthcare Associated Infections) and 5,000 deaths as a possible result together with a NHS cost of over £1billion and patients' length of stay in hospital trebled.

Proactive planning

Proactive planning now dictates the need for designed-in precautions which will provide highly effective permanent solutions. More than ever before, it is vital that Infection Control professionals educate architects, engineers and construction workers about potential infection control risks and advise them about the appropriate methods of reducing the risks.

Of course, built-in precautions are not new. Traditionally, hygienic sensitive facilities, especially laboratories, operating theatres and their attendant furniture, have been designed in such a way to reduce dirt harbouring joints and to enjoy tough smooth surfaces which are extremely hygienic.

Nowadays, as part of the planning process for constructing a new facility, especially a hospital, an infection control risk assessment should be conducted to determine the potential risk for transmission of microorganisms. In general, the risks can be classified as infections transmitted by air, water, or environment. The association between construction and the development of infections is well known. More

recently, the contamination of the hospital environment has been associated with transmission of Clostridium Difficile, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), and Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE).

All sectors are now getting involved. For example, the Design Council has been commissioned by the Department of Health to lead the 'Design Bugs Out' project as part of its HA Technology Innovation Programme. The programme aims to speed up the development and adaption of new and novel technologies to help combat healthcare associated infections, especially MRSA and C.Difficile.

Developments in product design

The architectural ironmongery industry in general and manufacturers in particular have a great responsibility in all this. This is why leading suppliers have developed new ranges of furniture to tackle the problem. A good example is Normbau which embraces the widest range of products, such as door handles, grab rails, sanitary fittings, bathroom accessories and products designed for people with special needs. Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies was the first manufacturer to design and offer fittings with antimicrobial protection in order to provide the very highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

This is a process of protection incorporated into the polymer structure of the nylon during the production process. Since it cannot be removed, by washing, cleaning or rubbing, it remains continually effective for the duration of the product's life. This means, simply, that the previous continual germ transmission and subsequent cross-contamination is effectively broken. Microban effectively captures the germs and bacteria, rapidly destroying the cell membrane.

Nylon is a good choice and not only from the DDA perspective because it is 'warm to the touch' and available in a number of colour contrasting options to help the visually impaired. Clean lines, concealed fixings, non porous surface and easy cleaning are particularly attractive in environments such as hospitals and schools where through traffic is intense and infection risk high.

Two types of products are available - those which are 100% nylon and those which combine nylon with high grade steel cores in various colours. Further development of the antibacterial protection means it can be widely used on surfaces, horizontally and vertically on fixtures and fittings, linings and partitions.

More information can be obtained from www.security.ingersollrand.co.uk.



// Touched many times a day by all sorts of people, and encouraged by the warm environment, bacteria can thrive on door handles, grab rails and other surfaces //



Fighting at the front

The John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford was the first hospital in the UK to specify Normbau antimicrobial door handles and fittings. This was a significant development because for the first time it was recognised how important 'built-in' precautions are at manufacturing stage and how proactive, well thought out integrated building design and construction can play such a vital fighting role in infection control.

This technology is now widely understood and adopted across a host of different products for widely differing facilities. For example, similar antimicrobial technology is used on Ingersoll Rand's biometric hand geometry units. Here an innovative silver-based agent is embedded into the materials used to produce the HandKey and HandPunch platen of the biometric units, thereby providing a hygienic finish that helps reduce the spread of bacteria on its surface and again reduces the risk of cross-contamination.



ANCHOR MAN

In June this year the Construction Products Association's Chief Executive **Michael Ankers** was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours list for 'services to the construction industry'.

Helen Curry met him to find out more about his vision for the construction products sector.

The CPA membership represents more than 85% of the £40 billion UK construction products industry and it is the strategic significance of this industry that Michael Ankers modestly attributes his OBE to. "I am very honoured to have been given this award and the recognition it gives to the importance of construction products manufacturers and suppliers to the economy," he comments.

Clearly having spent over 20 years in the construction industry has not dampened his enthusiasm for the sector. "I'm hugely motivated by the continuing challenges that our industry faces. At this time of economic uncertainty it is imperative that we have a healthy construction industry to help lift us out of the recession and provide the homes, schools, hospitals and transport infrastructure that this country needs," he says.

During those two decades, Michael has been Director at the Chartered Institute of Building and Chief Executive of the Brick Development Association. What is perhaps most surprising is that it was as recently as 1999 that he moved to London to set up the Construction Products Association which was launched at the beginning of 2000. Given the position which the CPA now enjoys, and the influence it has in political circles, it is hard to believe that just a decade ago, the CPA did not exist.

The Association has an interesting structure which was designed to ensure that companies and trade associations from across this hugely diverse industry could have a voice. The CPA has the power to invite up to 25 major companies (there are currently 23) to become members. This system was conceived to provide a good balance of members – manufacturers and merchants on both the light and heavy side. In addition there are 43 trade associations - including the GAI – representing specific industry sectors.

"It is not always well known that member companies of these trade associations have full access to all the services which the CPA offers, totally free of charge," Michael comments. "GAI members can access our information and influencing services no matter how large or small and this gives every company in the sector a place at the table with the biggest names in the industry."

The CPA certainly produces a plethora of information which every business in the sector will find useful – from weekly notes which round up the events and trends in the industry in the last seven days, to monthly market trends, quarterly forecasts, trade surveys and policy updates.

But it is in influencing movers and shakers in government where the CPA punches far above its weight. "We have managed to assemble a team here which has access to government," agrees Michael. "But meeting key people is only a means to an end. It is what we can communicate and what we can achieve as a result of that which counts." At the moment the CPA is working hard, for example, to communicate the importance for the government to extend the credit insurance top-up scheme beyond the end of the year. "Our job is to alert the right people about the concerns of our great industry."

Michael also sees the CPA as a facilitator for trade associations, opening doors for them and smoothing their path. "We can get people from trade associations in to see the real influencers because they know that the CPA will not waste their time," he says. "We don't aspire to do the job

of trade associations for them, but we can act as facilitators, advisors and a conduit to help them articulate their concerns."

Michael currently has an even trickier job, working with the Conservatives and Lib Dems as well as the Government, helping them understand the issues facing the industry and hear their opinions so that they are on side if and when the Government changes.

This is of particular import given the parlous state of some sectors of the construction industry. Michael is particularly concerned about housebuilding. "The number of houses being built at the moment is at unprecedented levels at 70-80,000 new private starts this year," he says. "Only once since 1953 have we built less than 100,000 new private sector homes and even then, in 1980, the level was 98,000. The CPA has some concerns about the Conservatives' 'localism agenda' which would see local authorities set their own levels of housing starts rather than be guided by national and regional targets."

But Michael is keen to point out that the construction industry does not only stand or fall on new housebuilding which accounts for only 16% of the sector as a whole. In fact, concerns about levels of future public sector spending and commercial construction are also causing shock waves in the industry.

"The private sector is in dire straits at the moment but government spending is still strong. But there will be cuts – they are inevitable." Even the current government is forecasting reductions in capital spending of 17% each year until 2013. But Michael sees construction as an excellent way to help recovery. Partly because it creates lots of jobs, and partly because modern transport infrastructure, schools, hospitals and public buildings will help UK plc to remain competitive. "If spending in these sectors is cut, then construction is in for a long recession."

But Michael is not totally mired in gloom about the industry he clearly loves. "Construction will always be around, it will survive," he enthuses. "The entrepreneurial spirit which drives the industry gives it the flexibility and drive to survive." He points out that the media don't always enjoy a good news story. For instance, just a few miles from Michael's office, the Olympic project is going really well, on time and on budget.

He also sees construction as a key driver in the fight against climate change. By focussing on sustainable building, both new build and existing stock can make a big impact on the green agenda. With UK legislation, the EU, and global agreements increasingly pricing in carbon, every company in the sector – large and small – will soon have to have a much more enthusiastic focus on being 'green'.

"The Code for Sustainable Homes talks about building products and their embodied impacts. This will be increasingly used and measured by specifiers and clients to choose products. Although the environment has been pushed down the news agenda by the economy of recent months, it is still just as important as ever for businesses with most responsible clients sticking to the environmental agenda."

But in typical fashion, this sustainable imperative is also being embraced by construction products companies. "Sustainability is driving innovation, partly because it offers a competitive advantage and partly because smart companies realise that the issue is not going away and needs to be faced proactively."



CONFLICTING DOCUMENTS – WHICH DO WE FOLLOW?

JACKY SINCLAIR, THE GAI'S TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, SHARES A RECENT ENQUIRY FROM THE TECHNICAL HOTLINE.

Q We're preparing ironmongery schedules for a primary school, and the architect has given us a copy of "School Furniture UK". The fixing heights for door furniture shown in this document vary from those in BS 8300. Which document should we follow?

A The guidance in School Furniture UK is supported by a local authority organisation, a government department (Children, Schools and Families), and trade associations from the education supplies industry. They have put together guidance based on ergonomics for youngsters of various ages. The document is advisory, not regulatory.

Another document, Doorsets in Schools, issued by the Department for Schools and Learning, gives guidance on fixing heights for pull handles, but not levers. It refers to the 2001 edition of BS 8300, but following the changed advice in the later 2009 edition would not create a problem.

BS 8300 also applies to school buildings, and is advisory, not regulatory. However, any of these documents might be called up in a contract.

In such circumstances, we give advice on what the various documents recommend, and the client – who takes ultimate responsibility for the access issues – makes an informed choice and writes up his reasons in the Access Statement. This shows that options were considered, and rational decisions made. We have done our job by providing the options. But it's not our final decision, because we don't run the building.

Changing goal posts

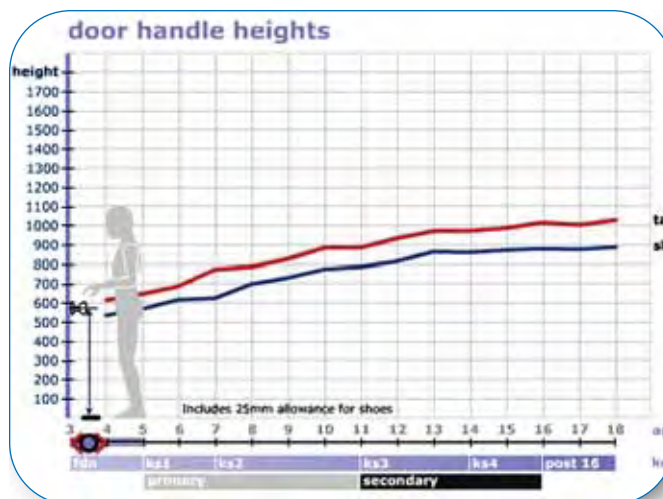
At one time, ironmongers expected to give definitive advice based on regulations and standards. Today, issues connected with Access, Fire Safety, and Anti-Ligature are the ultimate responsibility of the building operator, and where there are choices, the building owner has to take responsibility. Other examples that have recently come my way are:

- The client wants anti-ligature furniture, but this doesn't meet BS 8300 requirements. What do I offer?
- We supplied appropriate furniture for the escape doors, but now that the client has written the Fire Risk Assessment, they want the furniture replaced to reflect what they have in their document. Can they make us change what we supplied?

In these cases, the ironmonger should have asked before specifying for sight of the Access Statement and the Fire Risk Assessment. These documents cover any situations where a reasoned decision has been made to deviate from standard practice. If these mandatory documents have not yet been written – a likely situation – then the ironmonger can only put before the architect the options available. If the architect and/or building operator are not in a position to make decisions, then the specification should follow best practice, according to advice given by the GAI, which follows regulatory and standards recommendations (for example, the Code of Practice: Hardware for fire and escape doors, and Technical Updates).

The Technical Committee has worked on a set of preambles to cover these situations, and after legal vetting, hopes to publish them soon for Members to incorporate into their own documents, if they so wish. This will then offer some protection from being "second guessed" by clients after handover.

(For further information on School Furniture UK, see <http://www.schoolfurniture.uk.com>)



Jacky Sinclair can be contacted for answers to your technical questions (in order of preference) on 01952 414411; jacky@jrconsultancy.co.uk; or 07852 - 225996

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INNOVATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Construction Products Association has once again launched the annual publication Construction Products Innovation and Achievement (CPIA), showcasing some of the most innovative products and processes that have been developed by the construction products industry within the last twelve months or so.

Commenting on the entries chosen for the publication, Simon Storer, Communications and External Affairs Director for the Construction Products Association said: 'Despite the UK economy experiencing the sharpest fall in economic activity since 1948, we are delighted that the construction products industry has once again shown an enormous desire to introduce a variety of new and exciting solutions to the benefit of all concerned. Companies understand only too well the competitive edge that innovation brings and that creativeness is a key part of their current and future commercial success. Encouragingly recent reports have shown that investment in product improvement, innovation and R&D has remained

consistently strong throughout the recession, whilst other areas of capital expenditure have experienced significant cuts.'

'If anybody believed this industry was standing still then you only need to look at the products and processes showcased in CPIA 2009 to see how the industry is continuously delivering improvements. The construction products industry has proved once again its enormous ability to lead, by devising new, more efficient, more sustainable ways of doing things. This creative and innovative approach is not confined just to a select few in one or two sectors, but can be seen as a key driver for an industry that is continuously improving and constantly changing.'

'The 24 entries in this year's publication are featured under four headings; Energy and Carbon Saving; Health, Safety and Security; Improvements in Site Efficiency; and Resource Efficiency. The companies featured in these categories demonstrate that by improving efficiency and creating safer operations on site, the industry is

leading the way in developing new improvements to the benefit of everybody concerned, including clients and end users, company employees and especially the environment in which we live.'



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GOOD ADVICE

Construction Products Association has welcomed the Government's announcement to appoint a Chief Construction Adviser, believing that the person appointed will play a key role in bringing the industry and government closer together.

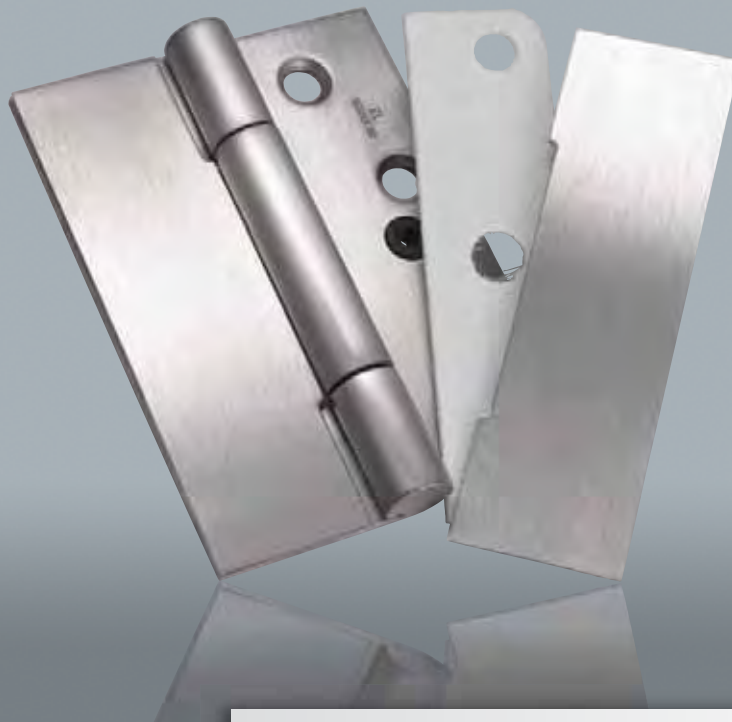
Commenting on the announcement, Simon Storer, Communications and External Affairs Director at the Construction Products Association said; "We very much welcome the government's decision to appoint a Chief Construction Adviser. We are particularly encouraged that the role the Adviser will have, covers both public sector procurement of construction projects, as well as the wider links government has with the construction industry in relation to initiatives such as New Industry New Jobs and the wider sustainability agenda. We also welcome the government's ambition to have a suitable individual in place by November. In this way the Chief Construction Adviser should be in a strong position to influence the thinking of the next government, whichever party is elected in next year's General Election. Furthermore we should not be frightened if the appointment comes from outside the industry, as in many ways this could help bring some wider experience to the relationship our industry has with government."



After suffering the sharpest fall in activity on record during the first quarter of 2009, the construction output figures from ONS for the second quarter of 2009 highlighted a further deterioration in construction activity. Total output in construction fell 15% compared to the same quarter a year earlier despite growth in work funded by the public sector such as housing, education, health and infrastructure.

Private housing output fell 27% in 2009 Q2 compared to a year earlier despite recent increases in activity from house builders, which will take time to feed through into output. At the same time, private sector construction is suffering from sharp falls in industrial and commercial output.

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ANDY KEARNS, TECHNICAL MANAGER AT EXOVA WARRINGTONFIRE GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF EN1634-2, THE NEW EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR THE FIRE TESTING OF SMALL ITEMS OF BUILDING HARDWARE SUCH AS HINGES, LOCKS OR BOLTS.

Door testing



The new European standard EN1634-2 allows evaluation of the contribution that a selected item of building hardware makes to the fire resistance of a hinged or pivoted doorset or an openable window assembly, without the need for a full size test. Previously, in order to test the fire resistance of a small piece of building hardware, it had to be affixed to a full size door or window, since it was viewed that the piece of hardware itself only has fire resistance when attached to a 'structure'.

The new standard will allow for reduced size specimens in the test assemblies of the proposed construction and also for more than one specimen to be tested together in a standard furnace test, providing the separation of elements required by EN 1363-1 is maintained.

Scope of the standard – what type of product is affected?

The scope of standard EN1634-2 specifies a method for characterising the influence on fire performance of items of building hardware for incorporation into hinged or pivoted vertically installed fire door assemblies (having either one or two leaves) or vertically installed openable window assemblies of known fire resistance of up to and including 240 minutes integrity (and where relevant insulation) in accordance with EN1634-1.

While the standard applies to the testing of building hardware for use on hinged and pivoted doors and openable windows which include framed glazed doors and windows, it does not cover glass doors.

It also does not include a test for durability or other performance characteristics, which should be evaluated according to the product standard for the item of building hardware or as set out in EN14600.

The test method is suitable for building hardware for use on non-metallic door or window assemblies consisting of cellulose materials or mineral boards faced with cellulosic materials, hung in either cellulosic, mineral cored or metal frames or conventional steel doors

made from sheet steel, not more than 1.5 mm thick, hung in steel frames. The size of these assemblies can be up to that given in the field of direct application for the door leaf construction concerned.

The test method is not directly appropriate for evaluating building hardware for use on glass or glazed doors with decorative perimeter framing.

This European standard does not constitute a fire resistance test for a leaf, window, frame, intumescent seal or anything other than the selected item of building hardware. The use of any resulting field of direct application is restricted to leaf and frame constructions which have been successfully tested to EN1634-1.

The method has been developed primarily to permit the evaluation of building hardware for hinged or pivoted door assemblies and openable windows, but the method is also suitable for evaluating some items of building hardware, which are non-edge mounted for use with sliding doors and openable windows.

Clearly the ability to set individual items of hardware or to test several products together without having to attach the hardware to a full size door can have considerable cost and time savings for architectural ironmongers.

In view of the new standard and the benefit that changes to test methods can bring to Als, Exova Warringtonfire has invested in a new 1.5m high by 1.5m wide by 2 m deep fire resistance test furnace to enable a greater capability to cater for newly introduced standards.

The furnace includes data logging and control systems which are at the cutting edge of the current technology and will enable precise control to the new European fire resistance standards as well as existing BS 476 and hydrocarbon standards.

The new furnace has been installed to provide manufacturers with a facility that enables them to test to the very latest European standards for building hardware, amongst others. The furnace will allow tests to be conducted economically and efficiently to the new EN 1634-2, the small scale characterisation test for building hardware, which was published at the end of 2008.



Door closer rig



Exova Warringtonfire furnace

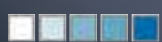
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SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST



THE NEW, £78 MILLION **DARWIN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**, THE NEW EXTENSION TO LONDON'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, OPENED ITS DOORS TO VISITORS IN SEPTEMBER TO GREAT ACCLAIM FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL PRESS AND VISITORS ALIKE. AND THOSE DOORS WERE THE PROJECT OF **AI LAIDLAW SOLUTIONS** AND THEIR SUPPLIER **DORMA**. **HELEN CURRY** FINDS OUT ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THE PROJECT THREW UP FOR THE TEAM.



The Darwin Centre represents the most significant expansion at the Museum since it moved to South Kensington in 1881. Towering eight storeys and 210ft high, the new centre was designed by architects C F Møller like a giant cocoon to house the museum's millions of plant and insect specimens and over 200 working scientists. Uniquely, visitors can see the scientists at work, even ask them questions about what they are working on.

Everything about the structure is ambitious. It is, for example, the largest sprayed concrete, curved structure in Europe and its surface contains 3,500 square metres of hand-finished, polished plaster encased in steel to represent silk threads. The thirty structural steel columns are, at 28m, the longest ever to be transported through London.

Anna Maria Indrio, partner in charge at C F Møller explains the varying and often conflicting demands that this building placed on the design team. "There were many fascinating elements to explore: the sheer size of this valuable collection; the complexity of the scientists' working environment, and their relationship to this collection - all bound together by the very contemporary concept of allowing the public to see behind the scenes."

Around 1,500 visitors an hour stream through the Darwin Centre's doors and this provided a unique challenge to Laidlaw Solutions who won the internal door package on the contract back in 2008. "This project, with in excess of 400 internal doors, was quite a challenge," comments Mike McCann who handled the project for Laidlaw Solutions. "The schedules went to revision seven with amendments and changes coming into our scheduling team long after we received the order!"

The front-of-house doors proved particularly interesting for the team. Most of the doors are large and heavy but with narrow headframes and the architectural team wanted to achieve shadow gaps. For the hardware, Laidlaw provided guardsman style pull handles on back plates to fit with the scale of the doors. For toilet doors these were 1000mm, rising to 1500mm on main corridor and through doors. The back plates accommodated signage as well with symbols engraved on the plates including "fire door keep shut" signage on fire door plates. At back of house doors (some of which were steel), Laidlaw scheduled its Orbis Commercial range of furniture in brushed stainless steel.

Closers also provided a challenge for the huge variety of doors involved and Laidlaw used an array of DORMA door



controls, automatics, and glass fittings to fulfil the architect's brief. "We had to use a wide range of different DORMA accessories to allow us to use them with the huge number of door constructions and floor coverings at the Darwin Centre," says Mike McCann.

DORMA TS92, TS93 surface mounted cam-action closers, and ITS96 concealed cam-action door closers were specified by architect C F Møller, due to both their low opening forces in accordance with BS8300 and their aesthetical design, which is in keeping with the overall style of the Darwin Centre. The TS92 and TS93 cam-action closers have also been installed with the electro-magnetic hold-open feature which is designed to remain open, closing automatically if the fire alarm is triggered.

DORMA BTS 75V and BTS80 floor springs also feature at the redevelopment. These universal floor springs feature a hydraulically controlled closing cycle, adjustable closing speed and mechanical backcheck.

Laidlaw scheduled DORMA ED200 for the centre's automatic swing door in the highest traffic areas. During an emergency, fire doors and exit doors must continue to open for people to exit, but close firmly to prevent the fire or smoke spreading. The DORMA ED200 has a package of interfacing features which will revert the closer from automatic to manual operation with a hydraulically dampened spring close action when a fire alarm is actuated, or when the power is cut.

In addition, on the smoke vent doors on each level reverse arm closers were used. These are, in normal circumstances, held closed with magnetic locks. Once the fire alarm is activated, the locks are released and the closers work in reverse to open the doors.



aijprofile jrs consultancy

POSITIVE VETTING



JRS Consultancy has recently seen an upsurge in demand for its product vetting service. This trend is due to manufacturers, importers and suppliers increasingly realising the need to be absolutely sure that a product is "street legal" before putting it on the market.

These days, anyone in the supply chain stands to be prosecuted if a product does not meet the regulatory and standards requirements expected of it. In fact, it can be illegal just to place a non-conforming product on the market – that is, put it into stock or in

a catalogue - never mind actually specify or sell it.

Says proprietor, Jacky Sinclair, "There are so many issues with getting, for instance, CE marking right that it needs expert attention to detail. A near miss is not acceptable. It's either right or it's not. It can be easy to make a false claim through misunderstanding the rules."

When Jacky receives a product for vetting, every detail is considered and noted. Any claims of standards conformance are checked with the relevant test house, and all the necessary markings and information on the product, packaging and fixing instructions are examined. Any discrepancies or inaccuracies are then recorded on a specially designed report template to ensure all aspects are covered.

Access issues are also included. The product is assessed against the relevant performance and dimensional criteria in ADM and BS 8300. A product might seem ideal for use on accessible routes, but if a vital dimension is a few millimetres adrift, it is likely to meet market resistance. The client needs to know this before placing any orders.

Jacky says she welcomes any move towards a highly professional approach to product marketing. "I am shocked at how many products are advertised on the internet as being suitable for fire or escape doors. They might have been acceptable at one time, but today they are not. Reputable companies will always seek to differentiate themselves from the rest by the quality of their products and service. I'm happy to be able to help them maintain their standards of professionalism."

aijmanchester

MAKING A HOME IN MANCHESTER



Briton 1100 Series slide arm door closers and Briton 5400 Series cylinder lockcases from Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies have been used at the new Belvedere House office development in Manchester.

Designed by AEDAS Architects in consultation with English Heritage, Belvedere House is an innovative new office building in the hub of Manchester's business district and boasts over 103,000 sq ft of grade A office space with large double height entrance foyers, reception halls and dramatic views across the city.

Working in conjunction with AEDAS Architects on the architectural specification, Tuscan Hardware Ltd was confident that these Briton products would match the performance and aesthetic requirements of this innovative new building.

aijmanchester

LIDLAW KEEPS ITS BOTTLE

For Robert Wiseman Dairies's new 325,000m², £80 million milk bottling, food processing and distribution centre in North Petherton, near Bridgwater, architects Stone + Partners specified Laidlaw Solutions to supply doorsets and an extensive range of co-ordinated ironmongery. The project won the 2008/9 RIBA/Guild of Architectural Ironmongers Specification Award for Best Commercial Building and is said to be the most environmentally advanced dairy in the UK. With an ultimate capacity of 500 million litres per annum it will not only become the largest milk processing facility outside of the USA, but will account for 10% of the UK's milk needs.

In all, 229 Ash veneered, Acrovyn and specialist hygienic doors of varying configuration and size were supplied with co-ordinated frames, architraves, glazing and ironmongery. Calibre of ironmongery was crucial in terms of the requirement for high durability, long service life and low maintenance. The building was commissioned in stages with differing requirements for each. In addition to fitting out conventional interiors,



doors for outbuildings and commercial workshops were also required. Orbis Premier Closers, Orbis Commercial Pull Handles and signage in Satin Stainless Steel were used to provide a stylish, contemporary finish to the doors and to the overall look and feel of the interior.

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aijcambridge

'CHILD FRIENDLY' INSTALLATION MAKES THE GRADE

DORMA ES200 sliding door operators and complementary fixed glass screenwork have been installed at the main entrance of The Perse School in Cambridge.

With approximately 750 pupils, the provision of safe and reliable access and egress at this secondary school was vital. The pedigree of the ES200 made it a natural choice for this type of high-traffic environment and the accompanying fixed glass screenwork has been designed to provide additional safety. The screens effectively provide a recess for the doors when they are activated to open, ensuring that no one is at risk of a fall by leaning against the encroaching end of the doors.

Ruth Scally, Architect, at Surveyors and Architects Pleasance Hookham & Nix comments: "We were advised that the DORMA products would meet all the required technical specifications and they are aesthetically designed too. But what really impressed us was the child friendly installation. This was a critical requirement as far as we were concerned in such a demanding environment. DORMA and the contractor, T Butler & Son (Sawston) Ltd, were very accommodating and completed the project in a very tight timeframe during the school holidays".



aijpreston

HOPPE FITS THE BILL FOR POLICE STATION

Door closers, handles, locks and cylinders from HOPPE (UK) have provided a durable and stylish ironmongery solution for the internal doors at Preston's new police station.

With the brief to provide ironmongery with long term performance qualities in a demanding public working environment, the project architect in conjunction with architectural ironmonger R Slinger & Son chose HOPPE and ARNONE branded stainless steel hardware to ensure the doorsets were able to meet the required usage.

Supplied by HOPPE (UK), ARNONE Plus AR3500 series door closers work in combination with HOPPE Paris series AR300 levers on round rose handles and pull handles, ARNONE Plus AR900 series DIN standard sash locks, bathroom locks and deadlocks, plus CES master suite cylinders.

Chris Thorpe, manager of R Slinger & Son who was involved in the specification and delivery of the ironmongery for this project, says, "Given the demanding application of a busy 24-hour police facility, it was important that the ironmongery offered reliability in the long term without excessive maintenance or the risk of premature failure.



aijcanterbury

A CANTERBURY TALE

GEZE UK has helped Canterbury's Age Concern day centre out of a tight spot with a space-saving folding automatic door to enable access for all.

Retrofitting automatic doors into existing buildings can be a squeeze, but for Age Concern, easy access to their day centre for their elderly and disabled visitors was essential. GEZE UK specified its Slimdrive SF automatic folding doors to provide an elegant, effective solution that maximised the available opening width.

Part of GEZE's Slimdrive range, the SF operator is just 7cm high, which enables the drive to be discreetly located while operating within limited space. By using folding doors, GEZE was able to maximise the opening space through the doors, as they don't require the space on either side of the entrance like sliding doors, or the depth in the corridor need for hinged swing doors.

Judith Griffiths, Chief Officer at Age Concern said: "Easy access for our elderly visitors is vital and it can be hard to find products that are simply able to do the job. GEZE's automatic folding door is reliable, effective and gives visitors plenty of room to enter and exit, even with walking sticks, frames or mobility scooters."



aijdoncaster

TOP MARKS FOR GEZE

Doncaster College's multi-million pound Waterfront campus, The Hub, features more than 50 automatic doors throughout its facilities, supplied and serviced by GEZE UK.

GEZE UK's team of experts worked with more than 2500 builders and the contractors to ensure all entrances and doors were both effective and aesthetically pleasing. Used each year by more than 1,000 staff and 20,000 students, the site's accessibility has been positively rated by the award-winning disability organisation DisabledGo.

The main atrium, reception area and public seating areas within the Hub feature five sets of Slimdrive SL operators, electronic sliding door systems ideal for high traffic areas.

At the busy entrances to the food hall and learning resource centre, GEZE UK has installed TSA 160s, automatic swing door systems. The heavy-duty operators are essential for these high footfall areas, which are accessible to all members of the public and especially hectic at peak times during the day.

At the food hall, the double door is fitted with industry leading infrared sensors, opening the door safely and automatically as people approach, helping ensure the installation conforms to BS 7036 (Safety at Powered Doors for Pedestrian Use). Monitoring both the full height and leading edge of the door, the fail-safe sensor is designed to prevent anyone from being trapped or injured.

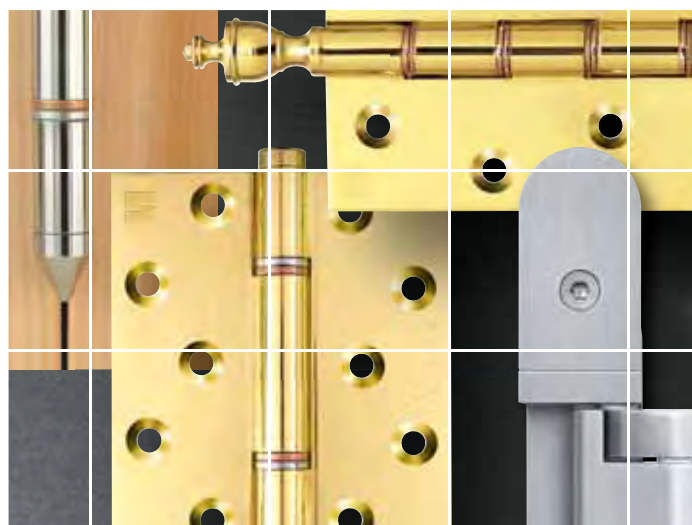


aijgillingham

SCHOOL REPORT

September 2009 saw the opening of MidKent College's new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and Laidlaw Solutions was selected to supply doors and architectural ironmongery for Nightingale Associates' design of the UK's biggest single phase education building project to date. The site, which was formerly occupied by a division of the Royal Engineers, included an underground command complex and was bounded by military defences dating from the Napoleonic wars.

With facilities for 6000 students, the campus's three, five-storey, 'finger' buildings are linked by two transparent lower floor atriums with an internal floor area of around 28,500m². 580 Laidlaw Orbis Timber Doorsets, softwood primed frames, laminate doors and Orbis Commercial Ironmongery in Silk Anodised Aluminium were fitted. Laidlaw's scheduling team produced detailed door-by-door ironmongery schedules, bill of materials and project managed supply of product throughout.



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SIMONSWERK are a leading manufacturer of high quality door, window & conservatory hinges for the Architectural Ironmongery & Builders Hardware sectors. Ranges include the award winning TECTUS steel & stainless steel fully concealed system and an outstanding selection of solid brass hinges made in the UK



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aijbarcelona

POLE POSITION FOR DORMA

One of the world's most elite Formula 1 racing teams has incorporated DORMA ES200 sliding door operators into its new hospitality suite.

The hospitality suite has been constructed by Colchester based A Smith Gt Bentley (ASGB). The company is one of the largest specialist coach builders in Europe and the new F1 facility comprises of five articulated trailer transportable modules linked together to form the new suite.

David Newton, Senior Project Manager at ASGB explains: "This is one of those projects where we really couldn't afford to get it wrong – with the specification or timing – as the new suite had to be delivered to Barcelona in time for the Spanish Grand Prix. We chose the ES200s for their sleek aesthetics and space saving capability, especially compared to swing doors. We have worked with DORMA in the past and know they can be relied on to provide their products to meet tight deadlines".



aijstaffordshire

A STUDY IN SECURITY



ASSA ABLOY has designed a bespoke security system for Chase Terrace Technology College in Burntwood, Staffordshire, following the devastation caused by a serious fire.

In addition to successfully integrating the new security system across both existing buildings and new replacement teaching facilities by supplying a variety of its products, ASSA ABLOY introduced a master key system to provide added security for the college, and the increasing number of students attending classes out of normal school hours.

Exclusively designed to work with the new design of the building, the security system comprises electromagnetic hold open units installed throughout all corridor doors to create a simple tunnel effect. Whilst allowing the free passage of students in everyday operation, these units help reduce the wear and tear on the actual door closers and the doors themselves and, if required, they also permit the doors to be individually locked. In the event of fire, they will automatically close the door.

For added security, all classroom doors were fitted with stainless steel door furniture and classroom escape locks to protect against forced entry and to provide quick and convenient exit if required.

aijsouth devon

NO MYSTERY AT CHRISTIE'S HOUSE

As part of a major £5.4m restoration project by the National Trust, DORMA door controls have been installed in the Visitor Centre of Greenway, the former South Devon holiday home of crime writer Dame Agatha Christie

Greenway was gifted by Agatha Christie's family to the National Trust in 2000 and this is the first time that Grade II house itself has been accessible to the public.

The DORMA closers have been supplied by Al Wessex Ironmongery Ltd, based at nearby Dartington, and are installed throughout the Visitor Centre, including at the main entrance, as well as upstairs in the main Greenway house where DORMA TS93 EMF closers have been used.

Chris Blacker Director at Wessex Ironmongery, comments: "The TS93 is a versatile and elegant system that provides the ideal architectural solution for a high profile project like Greenway. The more conventional TS68 and TS71 rack and pinion closers have been fitted to the less demanding traffic areas of the house and visitor centre, which is one of the reasons we work well with DORMA, as with their product range you always have the right option to meet different requirements."



HYGIENE HINGES

Royde and Tucker has added the H207-400 hinge to its collection, comprising a minimal aesthetic, zero maintenance and inherent hygiene benefits.

The H207-400 builds upon the tried and tested HI-LOAD H207, R&T's concealed bearing butt hinge. Manufactured as standard from grade 304 stainless steel, the H207-400 offers a new more discreet design option and recognises that hinges, although functionally essential, from an aesthetic perspective are often an undesirable additional component to doorsets.

The concealed bearing and cover plates of the H207-400 as well as the reduced knuckle projection mean that it does not have the same visual impact on the overall appearance of the doorset. In addition the innovative cover plates omit the creation of a dirt trap, also making the H207-400 one of the most hygienic hinges on the market.

The 101.6x72.2x5mm triple knuckle butt hinge is suitable to use on all 30 and 60 minute fire doors and is Certifire approved CF215. It has been tested to BS EN 1935, grade 13 and is guaranteed for 25 years.



A MODERN TWIST ON DOOR HANDLES

Valli&Valli, manufacturer of handcrafted architectural hardware, has collaborated with acclaimed architect Zaha Hadid to create its new H356 series of handles.

With an intricate spiral twist design that captures the flowing designs for which Hadid is renowned, the H356 series is an extension of Valli&Valli's Fusital range, designed and inspired by over 50 of the world's leading architects.

The H356 door handle provides a striking finishing statement for any luxurious setting. It is available in both satin chrome and chrome finishes, complete with euro profile and standard key way escutcheons. A matching bathroom privacy set is also available.

QUICK CODE FROM EXIDOR

Fred Duncombe has added further options to their heavy duty Exidor Codelock range with the introduction of the new CL3 and CL4 models.

Designed for use with all latch and Pullman latch versions of the Exidor 200, 300, 400 and 500 series products, the latest CL models incorporate the new Quick Code system, which allows the door code to be changed, simply and quickly, without the need to remove the unit from the door.

Ideal for public buildings and commercial facilities where maintaining control over restricted access is a major consideration, the Exidor Quick Code allows the keyholder to change the door code in seconds. Other standard features of the new product include a non-handed handle; front load cylinder feature and a key override facility enabling the door to be opened without the code if necessary.

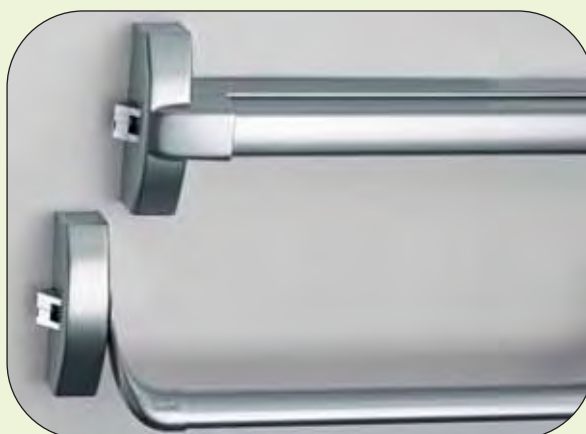


PANIC OVER!

DORMA's PHA2000 and PHB3000 modular panic hardware systems offer an unrivalled combination of quality, style and performance at an affordable price.

Ideal for public buildings such as schools, hospitals and offices, the PHA2000 crossbar and PHB3000 push-bar systems can be configured for single, double or multi-point locking with horizontal, vertical and lateral latch options. Both models are available with die-cast zinc latches or, for added security, steel anti-thrust latches.

The PHA2000 is a crossbar design that is ideal for narrow-framed and fully-glazed doors whereas the PHB3000 push-bar is perfect for flush-fitting to solid timber doors. Both systems feature DORMA's award-winning Contur design concept which boasts clean lines, elegant proportions and distinctive cubic styling, also available on DORMA door closers and automatic door operators. Both panic hardware systems are available in a full range of standard colours as well as a stainless steel finish.

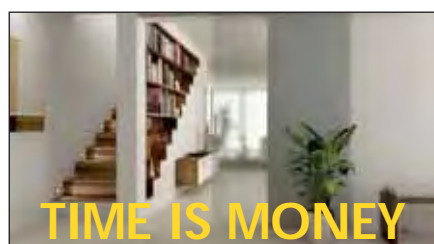


PROTECTING ARCHITECTURE FOR ALL

GEZE UK has combined its hidden under floor operator, the TSA 160 UFO, with a surface mounted guide rail for use on valuable, listed doors.

The new TSA 160 UFO-G has been developed to meet the needs of architects refurbishing ancient buildings or iconic architecture and is ideally suited for arched and curved doors, where automatic access and preservation are both essential. This updated model is an under floor automatic operator that maintains the original door surrounds, with a surface mounted guide rail to avoid altering the doors themselves. The TSA 160 UFO-G is easy to install and maintain and can easily operate heavy listed doors up to 120kg in weight.

The electro-hydraulic operator can be used with all types of swing doors offering whisper-quiet automatic access. Waterproofed to IP 64, the TSA 160 UFO-G also allows for DDA compliance in accordance with BS8300 and is easily accessible for servicing whilst being virtually tamper-proof.



HAWA Purofino 80 the Swiss sliding door solution for frameless glass sliding doors is now available in the UK from Häfele.

HAWA Purofino 80 features concealed suspension for super fast wall and ceiling assembly. Installation time is reduced thanks to the clever fixing method, allowing doors weighing up to 80kg to be wall mounted, ceiling mounted or integrated into the ceiling. And because the technology disappears invisibly into the top track there is no need of additional pelmets.

The system is the epitome of quiet sliding thanks to the high quality ball bearing technology and plastic coated steel rollers. Doors can be made of toughed or laminated glass giving additional design and safety options.

Available in a variety of sizes with a standard 32mm diameter, each handle is supplied with fixings suitable for most door sizes, ensuring the installation process runs smoothly.

PULLING POWER

Adams Rite has launched the Rigel Pull Handles range for commercial aluminium doors.

Specially designed for safety and convenience across a variety of commercial applications, the pull handles come in four designs; Straight, Offset Cranked, Circular C and Spigot Mounted C, all of which are available in either satin or polished stainless 304 steel.



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

Adams Rite has launched a new battery-operated keyless entry control, eForce-150 to complement the company's round cylinder deadbolts, dead latches and exit devices. The device is compatible with a range of aluminium, steel and wood door applications and can accommodate up to 150 users (including master, supervisor and emergency users) plus two one-time codes.

The eForce-150 can be programmed via the keypad to operate in three modes: Standard, Passage and Lockout. Device operation is confirmed by both a visual LED light indicator and an audible sound generated by a piezo horn.

Features include surface mounting with concealed fasteners, field selectable handing, free-wheeling lever with clutch to prevent vandalism, mortise cylinder control, die cast housing and lever, UV stable keypad material, and will operate in extreme temperatures (-35°C to 66°C). It is available in a plated satin chrome finish as standard.

SUITE SUCCESS

ABUS have developed the 86/55 service padlock to take any brand of 10/30mm half euro cylinder.

The ABUS 86/55 can either be fitted with an appropriate ½ Euro cylinder to enable them to slot easily into master and grand master key suites, maintaining security levels without compromising simple operation. The cylinder can be fitted by a specialist retailer, or arranged through either HOPPE or Toolbank.

The ABUS 86/55 is a heavy duty, 55mm solid brass lock body with a 9.5mm hardened steel/alloy shackle which is saw and drill resistant.

It is supplied without cylinder allowing easy, final assembly in the workshop without the need for specialist tools.

SHINING EXAMPLE

The Nico 3D Adjustable Door Hinge is now available in polished chrome and brass finishes to enhance the most prestigious door installation project.

Part of the Load Pro range of heavy duty, maintenance-free door hinges for demanding applications, the 3D Hinge is suitable for off and on site installation.

Fully adjustable in three directions for precise positioning and fixing, it is quick and easy to fit and - unlike some other adjustable hinges, the 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. It is guaranteed for 10 years.

Manufactured in the UK, the Hinge is tested to BS EN1935:2002 standard and available in a selection of finishes, including Yellow Zinc, Supercoat 500 - a silver finish with high corrosion resistance - and colour powder coating.



EASY COMBINATION

Henry Squire & Sons Ltd has introduced its latest range of heavy-duty recodable combination padlocks, specially designed for ease of use.

Squire's new CP50 padlocks for medium security protection are constructed of a die cast body and steel shackle - with a dual compound protective body cover for easy handling.

They operate using a fully recodable four-wheel dial with 10 digits - from zero to nine - offering over 10,000 code combinations.

Helpfully, the digit wheels are spaced apart making it easier for those who find smaller dials more difficult to operate. When the correct code is entered, a simple push button opens the lock.

Recoding is straightforward too and they can be coded 'alike' so one sequence opens several locks. Importantly, Squire has responded to increased demand for combination locks by including a separate recoding bar, so it cannot be accidentally recoded. Four variations are available.



RETRO CLOSERS MAKE NEW START

The Retro3 and Retro4 door closers from UNION Architectural Hardware aimed at the retrofit market has been modified and updated with several modifications to the design, improving fixing procedures and fitting instructions.

UNION aimed to make the Retro closers easier and quicker to fit so the company modified the design, made the fixing process quicker and simpler, and revamped the step-by-step pictorial diagrams to help make fitting more straightforward.

In most cases neither a new template nor door surgery is needed to fit the Retro3 and Retro4. The successful Retro3 and Retro4 models come with a 10 year guarantee - ideal for retrofitting in schools, offices and hospitals.



QUICK AND SIMPLE

UNION Architectural Hardware has unveiled a new range of six-pin keySHIELD™ cylinders, a step up in physical security that can be quickly and simply retrofitted to existing Euro profile doorsets.

The range, including single and double cylinders, has a selection of key and key, and key and turn variants. All applications have been independently tested to BS EN 1303:2005 achieving the Kitemark for enhanced security and have Secure by Design approval.

KeySHIELD™ cylinders can be supplied individually keyed, keyed alike, or for small master key suites. The cylinders come in a variety of sizes and a selection of thumb turns are available including a large turn for compatibility with the Disability Discrimination Act. KeySHIELD™ has also been assessed under EN 16341 as suitable for use on 60 minute fire doors.

SNAP TO IT!

ERA Security Hardware Solutions has launched Snap Lock a new security device which is easy to fit and operate, and can be used with most materials including PVC, Timber, Composites and Aluminium.

The Snap Lock prevents the window or door being forcibly opened, providing additional security that complements existing locking solutions.

Available in choice of white and brown finishes, locking and non-locking versions, the sash jammer can be used as an additional safety feature for the young and elderly by preventing the operation of outward opening windows and doors.

The Snap Lock is supplied complete with fixings and wedges accommodating sashes of different sizes with frame up-stands from 16mm - 20mm thick, with plugs inserts to conceal and protect the fixing screws.



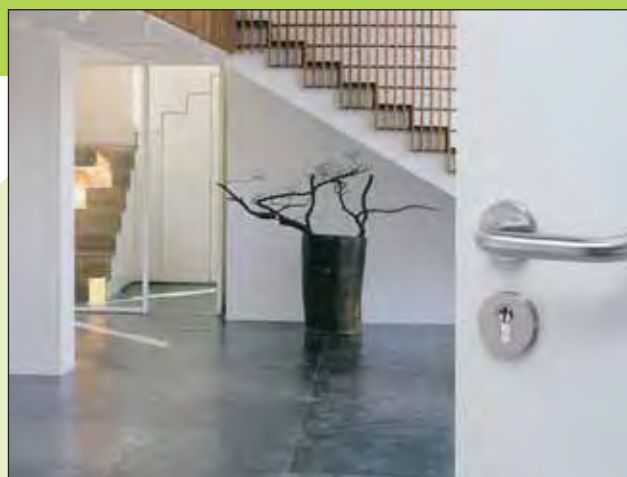


NEW CODELOCKS MEET THE CHALLENGE

Introduced as part of the electronic cabinet lock range from Codelocks, the robust new CL1200 is intended for heavy use on lockers, cabinets and cupboards within challenging environments.

The stylish CL1200 has all the electronic functionality of the CL1000 but with larger scale individual stainless steel buttons (now with audible button press) and an IP54 resistance rating, making it a stronger and more resilient model.

The CL1200 has 3 programme levels. The Master Code can be used to put the lock into two modes of operation; the Multiple User Code mode is a default setting which can be repeatedly used to open the lock; and the One-Time User Code mode in which the lock can be locked and opened once before the code is erased for the new user to enter a new code. A restricted lock time can be applied to the One-Time User Code, using a timer function to automatically unlock the CL1200 after a set time making it ideal for units with multiple short-term occupancy such as gym lockers.



THREE-TIER DOOR FURNITURE RANGE FROM DORMA

DORMA has introduced a new range of door furniture, designed to meet most market requirements and product specification. To help architects, door and profile manufacturers and the general trade market with product selection, the new range is offered in a three-tier portfolio consisting of Premium, Plus and Pure ranges.

Incorporating over 40 different designs of lever handles and knobs, the Premium range combines high functionality with aesthetic design styling. Suitable for timber, metal and narrow stile door applications, it is a newly developed door furniture system with maintenance free, securely bushed lever handles for lasting reliability and smoothness of action.

The Plus furniture set also offers aesthetic solutions, but is designed for more standard applications on timber and narrow stile doors. It is ideal for door manufacturers who are looking for an attractive, totally reliable and cost-effective solution to meeting standard design requirements on the more functional doors throughout the building, but at the same time may need to complement the Premium series. The Plus product line is also certified according to EN1906, category of use Grade 4, EN179, EN1634-1, DIN18273 and come with a 5-year warranty.

The Pure handle set was developed as a more functional solution to requirements for interior doors in commercial buildings, DORMA Pure satisfies demands for stability, safety and corrosion resistance. The Pure range includes the most popular high quality models at an attractive price. The range is compliant with EN1906 (category of use grade 3) and EN1634-1 and comes with a 5-year warranty.

CLEAN SOLUTION

Dortrend International has introduced a new anti-bacterial coating on all its product range in a bid to increase protection against the spread and arrival of viruses.

Dortrend has developed an anti-bacterial coating treatment which is now being professionally hand-sprayed and coated on all its door handle product ranges for the first time at its Worcestershire plant.

It will protect against viruses including Swine Flu, MRSA, SARS, c difficile and e-coli, which can be transferred and picked up on regularly touched surfaces such as Door Handles.

The new anti-bacterial coating treatment has been specifically formulated and developed for Door Handles from TouchClean, an anatase titanium dioxide based nano technology photocatalyst which destroys bacteria, spores, viruses, mould, odours and pollutants.

TouchClean is an anti-bacterial coating treatment applied by Dortrend International to surfaces, walls and equipment used in UK Hospitals, Schools and the Food Industry to protect against viruses and super bugs.





FOCUS ON TIMBER DOORS

Exova Warringtonfire has launched Part 5 of its Technical Directory of Products and Services Certificated by Warrington Certification, covering the important sector of fire resisting timber doorsets (including hardware, glazing and seals).

The Directory – which is free of charge – has been designed to build into a significant technical resource of fire protection products, installation contractors certificated by Warrington Certification and information about current fire protection legislation and related standards.

Over 20 parts are planned, covering a range of certificated products as well as an overview of the voluntary FIRAS certification scheme as it relates to installation contractors.

Part 5 of the Directory is an invaluable reference of Certifire certificated timber fire and/or smoke doors. The document also provides a listing of Certifire certificated door hardware, glass, glazing systems and fire/smoke seals as well as companies certificated to cut apertures into door leaves and provide frames for fire doors.

RICH RESOURCE FOR DOOR AND HARDWARE SECTORS



The Door & Hardware Federation (DHF) has relaunched its website as a must visit destination for specifiers, customers and end users wanting to access a wealth of industry news, resources and specialist advice.

The website - www.dhfonline.org.uk - covers industrial and commercial doors and shutters, garage doors, building hardware and architectural ironmongery.

Specifiers, contractors and end users can use the new site to find DHF member companies' contact details and specialist offerings using a simple search tool. Members are listed by name and by product type. Website visitors can also use "find a supplier" links from every page on the site to allow them to make direct contact with relevant DHF members.

Specifiers can also download the federation's large library of technical publications, specification guides, codes of practice and codes of conduct which set out the standard of workmanship, quality assurance and business integrity of its members. These technical guides are easy to find as they are grouped under areas of interest such as Security, Fire, Architectural Ironmongery, Garage Doors, Repairs and Industrial Doors.

The site also offers guidance on standards and legislation that impact on the specification of both doors and door hardware.



PIVOTAL GUIDE

Royde & Tucker has updated its Emergency Release Pivots Directory with advice on legislation and product specification for door pivots.

Doors which ordinarily open in one direction only, but which are required to open in the opposite direction in certain situations, can be fitted with a pivot hinge and emergency release bolt or stop. The new guide arms architects and specifiers with advice on the specification of pivots in accordance to Approved Document M on accessibility, anti barricade situations, locks and aesthetics. It includes the many pivot and emergency stop options, schematic diagrams and product detail.



AUTOMATIC CHOICE

GEZE UK has launched a new technical guide to help specifiers choose the most appropriate and effective automatic operators, promoting accessibility and best practice.

Helping contractors, fabricators and architects make informed choices, the automatics guide from GEZE UK provides a detailed overview of the full range including sliding, swing, revolving and folding entrances as well as GEZE's unique Slimdrive range of operators.

The guide features a wide range of buildings to show the products in situ, as well as technical drawings to help users select the best product for the job. Information and advice on the types of doors available and detailed product data pages make comparisons between products even easier. It is available to download from the GEZE UK website at www.geze.co.uk, or available in print by calling 01543 443015.



WHICH DOOR CONTROL?

Specifying compliant ironmongery has been made easier thanks to the revised "Which Door Control?" brochure from DORMA. Updated to include Third Party Test torque curves for all their closers, the comprehensive guide helps specifiers to keep in line with the latest edition of BS8300:2009, as well as continuing to meet the requirements of Approved Document M (ADM) and for fire-resisting doorsets, Approved Document B, (ADB).

ADM (Access to and Use of Buildings) and BS8300 (outlining the design of buildings for the needs of disabled people) require the opening force of the complete doorset to be no greater than 30N from 0 to 30 degrees of opening, and no more than 22.5N from 30 to 60 degrees of opening. By evaluating the opening and closing force performance of a door closer prior to installation, through an independently certified torque curve, installers can be completely informed and more confident in meeting these stringent targets.

The brochure also offers advice on the specification of external doors that comply with regulations. A selection of DORMA automatic doors, including their sliding, swing, low energy, folding and space saving automatics, are included in the brochure for further guidance.

DORMA's new "Which Door Control?" brochure, is available by calling 01462 477600 or by emailing hardware@dorma-uk.co.uk.



GET A GRIP

At 80 pages, Laidlaw Solutions' 2009 Handrail and Balustrade Solutions brochure provides comprehensive guidance on handrail and balustrade design, with detailed information affecting upright, infill and structural glazing specification.

Coverage of Regulations and Standards includes specific reference to the newly updated BS8300 and comment on risk of slips, trip and falls in the workplace. Case studies covering a range of environments illustrate how systems can be used to fulfill aesthetic as well as functional requirements, capitalising on the benefits of Laidlaw's component based, rather than site fabricated systems.



HOME ON THE RANGE

The new 'Ironmongery & Security Hardware' catalogue from Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies has been designed as an easy to use guide to their trade range of architectural hardware and access control products.

The 88 page trade catalogue offers in-depth information about the collections and brands available from Briton, Legge, CISA and Kryptonite. It provides comprehensive details on their ranges of door closers, exit hardware, security products for residential and commercial applications, portable security, door furniture and access control.

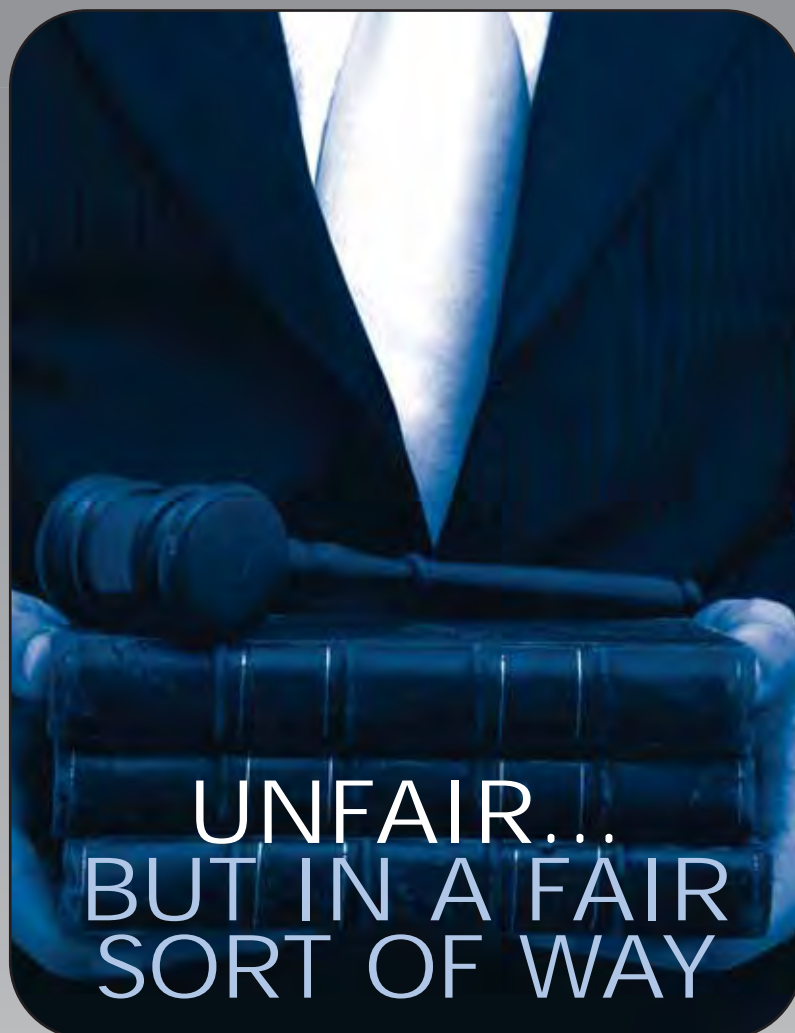
In addition to analysing each individual product, this very informative one stop, shop catalogue includes solutions and guidance about the correct specification and products for different applications. It also explains and guides the reader through relevant requirements and the latest legislation, such as Standards, IP Ratings and DDA.



NEW INSPIRATION

Valli&Valli, has unveiled a new range of inspirational catalogues that depict a stunning line-up of products from two of its leading brands - Valli&Valli and Fusital.

The Valli&Valli and Fusital catalogues present a visual feast of door handles, furniture fittings and accessories, and feature several new collections inspired by some of the world's leading architects and designers. The comprehensive catalogues are accessible in pdf format via the company's website: www.vallievalli.com



We have had two recent cases involving selection for redundancy where the procedure used by the employer got nowhere near satisfying the minimum obligations, so the Tribunal concluded that what happened was technically (and statutorily) unfair, but when it came to compensation there was some light relief.

CASE 1: The employer suffered a massive and unexpected cut in funding, which meant that 16 out of a workforce of 45 had to go. In the Investigations Department, the gruesome arithmetic was that 6 out of 21 positions had to go. Those working in this department lived all over the UK so face-to-face consultation was not practical. The curious timetable allowed three weeks for staff to present any ideas or alternative strategies, but in the event no-one came forward, so on the appointed day, as there were no volunteers, the Senior Management Team drew up the selection criteria to be used in assessing the workforce. All staff were told that they would know the results of the assessments by the end of that week. Due to the geographical scatter of staff, they were given the option of being interviewed personally or being contacted by telephone. "A" opted for the latter, so heard that he was selected for redundancy by way of a phone message. He appealed to a non-executive Director, and the appeal was dismissed.

"A" complained of unfair dismissal. Unfairness had to be admitted at the very start of the hearing, as there had been no "step 2" meeting prior to dismissal, rendering the termination automatically unfair under the then existing Regulations. However during the hearing, the tribunal looked into: was there a redundancy situation? Were the selection criteria suitable? Did the appropriate people undertake the scoring? Was there documentary justification for the assessments? Were there any indications of bad faith or an over subjective approach to the scoring process? Was there a proper appeal?

The tribunal were satisfied on all these matters and found that, but for the procedural glitch, this was a fair process, and awarded no compensation.

CASE 2: "D" was one of two paint sprayers in a coachworks, and with a major falling off of work, they only needed one. There were only 13 employees, so it was a very intimate working environment. The MD put a note out to all staff to explain that all areas of cost were being examined very closely and that probably would include redundancy. Other cost reductions included reducing the number of courtesy cars from 7 to 2. The next day the MD had a brief word with "D" to explain that he had been selected. "D's" reaction was very relaxed, saying only: "If it's got to be me, then it's got to be me". The conversation ended amicably, "D" being told that he could use the workshop facilities for his own purposes any time. An appeal was not considered as "D" seemed to accept the situation also that the firm could not afford to pay him for standing around.

But..."D" went to tribunal, and once again the company had no option but to admit unfair dismissal because of the defective procedure. This did not prevent the company bringing evidence to prove to the tribunal why "D" was selected, and the tribunal accepted that. However, they criticised the brevity of the "consultation" and awarded "D" 3 weeks pay, while enhancing that by 35% for the failure to get anywhere close to being compliant with proper procedures.

So, two "Unfair Dismissals", but very little compensation arising.

The Lesson: It is never ideal to start your defence by having to concede the primary issue of fairness, so, if presented with redundancy, or indeed any dismissal, concentrate on a sensible, reasonable and timely procedure. These two companies managed to satisfy the tribunal as to the justice of their selections. But if they had failed, substantial compensation could have been awarded. A tribunal will look at the facts and probabilities, but it can be a risky business if you get off on the wrong foot.

Don't forget that you can always contact the GAI Employment Law Helpline on 01372 462262 if you need any help or advice. Roger Vincent

A DIMENSION AHEAD
DOM PROTECTOR®

New



SICHERHEITSTECHNIK

Using the latest advances in security technology, DOM has developed a revolutionary product designed to meet the demands of a growing electronics market. Access control meets mechanical locking in this unique mechatronic solution offering convenience and versatility whatever the application.



Wireless programming
and installation



Intelligent transponders
Hitag/Legic/Mifare



Compatible with existing
access control systems



Compatible with euro profile
lock cases



Software package for
PC/PDA



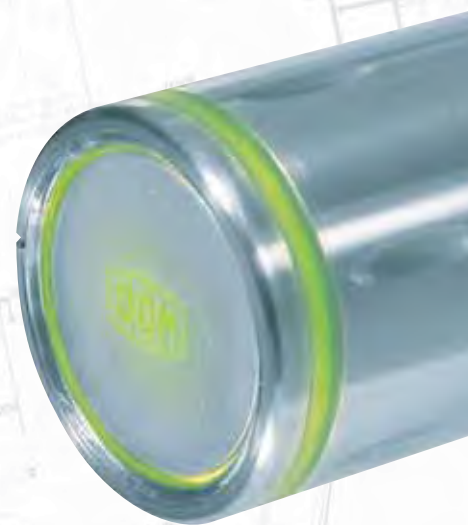
Online/Offline solution



DOM Protector® EE for
emergency exits



Suitable for hotel applications



SECURITY, QUALITY, DOM.

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