

Architectural Ironmongery Journal

AUTUMN 2023



#### INSIDE

- Digital helps heritage
- Red Bull handles
- Competence and CPD

# 

what to specify for this growing market

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**ART EDITOR:** Heather Rugeley Updates Projects Standards Events

# Digest

ASSA ABLOY



# Danish housing complex chooses self-powered access control key

ABOVE: Denmark's A Place To... sets new standards in residential complexes and uses ASSA ABLOY'S PULSE key A Danish housing complex, called "A Place To" is a new development that meets the changing needs of young businesspeople seeking sophisticated, maintenance-free and environmentally-conscious housing solutions. The development focuses on sustainability and maintaining a green profile throughout the lifecycle. With over 317 apartments divided between three towers which connect with common areas offering multiple opportunities for social activity and "co-living", it had a complex access control brief.

There is a café, fitness and yoga facilities, a big screen, reading nooks and workstations, communal kitchens and more. For efficient access control in keeping with their contemporary style and sustainability ethos, the developers sought:

• An energy-efficient system which would operate without batteries or wires

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• Integration with other building technologies including online readers and door-phones

• Inbuilt future-proofing,.

The developers chose ASSA ABLOY's PULSE key-operated electronic cylinders to lock all apartments. PULSE devices are self-powered by energy harvesting technology and run without any external energy source. The power generated on key insertion is harvested to energise encrypted electronic security.

The PULSE key also contains an RFID chip: It doubles as an access card for the entrance and communal areas, for convenience and efficiency. Access control at the site is managed with Incedo Open software. The administrator can change anyone's access permissions online via the cloud-based system. Keys are updated at integrated doorphones or online readers. An administrator can also see who has used a lock at any time, which helps to create an increased sense of security among residents. Importantly, the platform-based Incedo ecosystem is "futureproof" able to integrate with other systems and expand on demand.

### AT Awards prepare to unveil winners

Showcasing the technology of architecture at its best, CIAT's AT Awards event will be held in East London on 20 October 2023.

Designed to recognise excellence in Architectural Technology globally, the suite of AT Awards are open to all professionals and students, whether they are based nationally or internationally. The Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology comprises three categories:

- small to medium size projects, up to the value of £2m
- medium to large size projects, £2m-£10m
- large to mega size projects, £10m+

Assessment is based upon the innovative application of architectural technology against a set criteria for each award. Judges will look for robust and functional designs that are: constructed economically; environmentally sustainable; and of durable performance.

Other award categories include Student, Emerging Talent, Gold Chartered Technologist of the Year and the President's Award.

For full details see architecturaltechnology.com



ABOVE: The Martello Park café in Felixstowe, winner in 2022

#### The finalists for small to medium are:

- Bekstone House, Chatterpark
- Holly Hall BarnIrish Life Sciences
- Global HQ, ● New Build
- Contemporary House,
- Plot 9, Caxton.

The finalists for medium to large are: Blythe Rose Guiness Storehouse Gravity Bar Expansion, Specialists Veterinary Referral Hospital

The finalists for large to mega are: • Mildenhall Hub • Sutton Rose/ Boldmere Court



#### INTERIORS SHOW LINES UP LUXE BRANDS

**High-end interior** design exhibition Decorex will be held at Olympia London from 8-11 October. In its 45th year, the event features exhibitors from a wide range of interior design brands as well as a series of design talks and skills/crafts demonstrations. More than 12,500 visitors are expected to attend the trade fair. which exhibits furniture, lighting, flooring and textiles.Among hardware exhibitors are Turnstyle Designs, JD Beardmore & Co. **Croft Architectural** Hardware, Samuel Heath and Armac Martin. decorex.com/ en/visit/yourticket.html

#### London focus on Stirling shortlist

The RIBA Stirling Prize winner will be announced on 19 October. Annually RIBA awards the Stirling Prize to the building that has made the greatest contribution to the evolution of architecture. The shortlist of six, drawn from the winners of the regional awards, is:

- A House for Artists, Apparata Architects
- Central Somers Town and Community
- Facilities and Housing, Adam Khan Architects • Courtauld Connects, Witherford
- Watson Mann
- John Morden Centre, Mae
- Lavender Hill Courtyard Housing, Sergison Bates
- University of Warwick Faculty of Arts, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

The ceremony will take place in Manchester at Victoria Warehouse. An exhibition showcasing each project will be on display at RIBA until 10 November.

BELOW: A House for Artists BOTTOM: University of Warwick Faculty of Arts





## What I specified for... RNLI Tower, London



Dan Hawkins RegAl, Door Controls Direct

The RNLI is a UK-based charity that saves lives at sea. Who wouldn't want to support this cause, create, and cultivate a longstanding supportive working relationship with them? This, combined with the RNLI head office being so local to us in Poole, Dorset, they've always been a perfect partnership for Door Controls Direct.



#### **Floating challenge**

With over 230 lifeboat stations, ancillary buildings, and storage spaces, there are always ironmongery requirements for the RNLI. With a wealth of buildings to manage in challenging locations facing the extremes of the UK weather, it's not always an easy specification. All of that was blown out of the water (excuse the pun) by Studio Four Architects Ltd getting in touch about the latest lifeboat station – RNLI Tower.

What a project, what a journey! From receiving the initial plans through to the recent supply, it was a challenge for all involved, but one that saw the launch of an incredible life-saving floating station on the River Thames, London in June this year.

We have been supplying door hardware and locking systems to the RNLI for over three decades but this project was unique in its requirements. Staffed 24/7, there were some key differences in how physical access was managed compared to a regular RNLI station specification.

#### Hybrid ironmongery solution

Standard specification Hewi door furniture, hi-load hinges, and mechanical locking were suitable for some of the more usual areas of the station, floating or not, but we had to think outside of the box when it came to the external doors.

In a 'shout' situation, single action egress for RNLI staff and volunteers is required to facilitate a swift response to an emergency call, but doors need to remain secure to protect the premises. Mortice locks and cylinders were supplemented with a tailored access control system. This was the sticking point of sticking points with this specification.



ABOVE hi-load hinges were required BOTTOM LEFT: The Thames floating station

"The unique requirements of an emergency response coupled with a floating structure made us scratch our heads"

At Door Controls Direct, we're no strangers to access control but the unique requirements of an emergency response charity, coupled with a floating structure, made us scratch our heads for a little while. However, working alongside the architect, client, joiner, and various contractors, we got it over the line and working as it needs to with no snags or teething issues.

For all of our customers, we're always here for aftersales support, project snagging, O&M documentation, and any on-going supply. With the RNLI though it's always so much more than that. We continue to be a proud partner of theirs, with decades of history that we continue to build on, and helping them now to innovate their network of facilities to enable them to do the life-critical work they carry out on a daily basis.

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# Flying the flag

One of the most influential British Standards committees has shaped hardware standards from infancy to the current post-Brexit, post-Grenfell landscape. Throughout, it has been chaired by GAI and its influence has never been more crucial. **AIJ** reports



#### The BSI Committee B538/4 is an influential

committee focusing on building hardware products. The GAI has been heavily involved in shaping outcomes both historically and currently. Graham Shirville, joint chair of Allgood plc and veteran of GAI committees, chaired the committee in the 1980s, handing



ABOVE: Graham Shirville began the run of chairs

"It was a watershed moment. We had a blank a sheet of paper, passion and an intent to make ironmongery safer and more durable" **GRAHAM SHIRVILLE** 



ABOVE: Paul Duggan took the baton from Shirville

over to Paul Duggan in the 2000s who, in turn, has recently passed the baton to GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson who is the current chair.

Shirville's reign took place when the UK operated in a pre-single market, pre-CE Marking landscape. Building hardware standards did not include quality requirements for ironmongery so he was influential in developing the performance standards we now take for granted.

"It was a watershed moment," he says. "We were in Europe and the single market brought in European CEN standards which meant we were a working group within a CEN committee. We had a blank sheet of paper to work out what standards we wanted for which products. We had a passion and an intent to make ironmongery safer and more durable."

Fast forward to 20002 and Paul Duggan, certification manager at Warringtonfire and former GAI technical committee chair, took over as chair of the committee. "Once we had a set of standards for hardware – hinges, door closers, emergency exits and panic devices, locks etc – Europe had caught up and started to understand hardware a lot more. We had to fight our corner as the UK to maintain or improve standards," says Duggan. "CEN consultants, responsible to the European Commission, were becoming more active in standards writing and German European manufacturers were becoming very dominant at meetings. So our chair role became crucial to ensure we didn't lose the opportunity to tackle the main issues."

Shirville cites it as "another watershed moment". "CE Marking was created by the Europe Commission as part of the 'Single Market" developments. Recently however, lawyers became involved with standard creation and tried to remove all the categories we love and valued. I could see all the performance level requirements were in danger of disappearing."

Duggan adds: "CE marking was intended to mean something in terms of performance and durability but it looks likely that it will just be a legal regulation with no minimum thresholds required. So simply a mark to enable free trade."

#### Choppy waters ahead

As the built environment awaits the final Grenfell report Shirville says the work of the committee will become even more important. "We are now out of Europe so our hands are not tied as tightly as they were, so there is now an opportunity to make our standards better. In the post-Grenfell world there is a lot of work to be done in the UK. This committee will have a much more important role now.

Shirville predicts challenges and opportunities. "There are choppy waters ahead. But there is an opportunity to refine our standards to suit our market. Hopefully, we will be able to keep classes and thresholds which exist in the current standards. For example, fire

#### "There is a lot of work to come. And we will be at the sharp end" PAUL DUGGAN

doors in UK are different to those in Europe so our door closing device standards need to be different. There is an awful lot going on.

"We can already manufacture high efficiency, safer, door closers and we want everyone to rise to that level. The Grenfell report, when it comes out, will be asking our industry questions about door closers and I hope we have the answers. We need to be making positive statements."

Duggan agrees. "There is a lot of uncertainty as EN standards have been unable to be changed or revised for many years now, but we are not standing still. We have a bit more freedom to look at UK Designated Standards and we know we can do better than this. We have to stand up and be counted and look to improve standards. Douglas's role as chair affords us the potential to look at the standards on existing products and new ones. There is a lot of work to come. Any changes to standards will come where they potentially deviate from the EN version and be written by UK industry via BSI and we will be at the sharp end."

# In with the new

**George Boyd** may have notched up 175 years in the trade but under new ownership its sights are squarely set on future.





TOP: The firm's USP is built on relationships **RIGHT**: The early days

#### 2023 has seen George Boyd celebrate 175

years in business. Established in 1848 the UK distributor of architectural ironmongery and commercial doorsets has built upon strong foundations. However, while celebrating this impressive heritage this year, the business has also been adjusting to change.

The distributor was bought by Stark Group this year and in May welcomed a new managing director Scott Cooper. Cooper came from Jewson Partnership Solutions part of the same larger group as George Boyd that was acquired by Stark. The Stark Group is one of Europe's largest retailers and distributors of building materials for professional builders. Headquartered in Denmark it has major operations in six European markets.

The changes are very positive, says Tommy Geddes commercial director with George Boyd, and mark a new chapter for the business. "Stark is very passionate about what we do and who we are and understands our attitude. It's been a great move for us and brought a renewed passion," he says.

"Stark is very focused on collaboration," Geddes says. "Its mission statement is 'We use our united strength to build local value' and there is a lot of crossover between our two customer bases of NBS [large house developers] and Jewson Partnership Solutions in the public sector and local authorities. It's about collaboration and how we can leverage support and expertise."

#### **Competence and professionalism**

In a competitive market Geddes says the George Boyd USP is people. "Everyone has access to products but our key differentiator is our people. Our industry is still very much a 'people deal with people' landscape. Strong relationships are a key part of what we do whether that's with architects, customers or suppliers. We are lucky we have loyal people – some who have been with us for over 20 years."

The firm puts staff through GAI education programmes: four this year, including

Geddes who secured his DipGAI and has plans to continue next year for DipAC.

"Competence is something we have always taken seriously," he says. "When you are putting yourself out there as experts, professionalism has always been required. It's always been at the heart of what we do. There is so much legislation to comply with not just fire regulations. It's an overlooked profession."

George Boyd may have been around since the 19th century but its focus is firmly on the future.

#### www.george-boyd.co.uk/

"When you are putting yourself out there as experts, professionalism has always been required. It's always been at the heart of what we do" **TOMMY GEDDES** 





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# Golden age

AIJ shines the spotlight on Frelan Hardware as it reaches its 50th anniversary



celebrates 50 years in business this October.

Established by Fred Adams and Allan Muggleton, combining their names to make the FRELAN name, they initially worked as sales agents for several companies before becoming stockists and buying their first premises in Stoneleigh.

The business expanded quickly and soon they were importing their own range of ironmongery under the JEDO brand using the combination of their wives' names Jean and Doris.

Moving to larger premises firstly in Wimbledon and then Sutton they moved to their current premises in Mitcham in 1998. Frelan is now a third generation family-owned business with Peter Muggleton and Sue Arnold running the business with other family members, and with 36 members of staff, The latest family members to join the company are James Muggleton and Matt Arnold.

James is head of the design team and producing new products as well as dealing with the bespoke range of Ironmongery. Matt is the company's digital marketing expert who, with Simon Boisson general manager, launched the company's website in January. A recent recruit to the Frelan team is Paul Wallis who has joined as sales director.

#### Looking after staff

Many of the staff have been with the company for over 20 years – some as many as 35. "I like to think we look after staff. We do have a good work



"I like to think we look after staff and we invest in them to continually improve our service" **PETER MUGGLETON** 

ABOVE: Frelan is best known for its Hoxton and Burlington ranges RIGHT: The Frelan founders Fred Adams and Allan Muggleton







The company has over 4000 product lines with a large range of levers, accessories and hinges and locks but is best known for its Jedo, Hoxton and Burlington ranges.

It is also launching a new 316 Range. "It has a PVD finish in antique brass, dark bronze, satin brass – replicating all the finishes in the Burlington range but on a base material of stainless steel instead of brass," says Peter Muggleton. "It's ideal for settings that need a higher performance and longer lasting finish such as coastal areas."

Reflecting on the milestone anniversary Peter says: "We have come a long way from that small shop in Stoneleigh to our two warehouses in Mitcham. We continue to develop and improve our products and our services to our customers who have helped us reach this anniversary"

Frelan: fifty and not out. ♦



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# Mindful space

Ever-growing numbers of people are living with dementia which places a greater need for best practice in design for their environment. **AIJ** reports.

GAI

#### The World Health Organisation estimates

that 35.6 million individuals around the globe have dementia, with 7.7 million new cases being identified each year. This means designing spaces for dementia will become an increasingly common brief.

Designing for dementia involves creating environments that are specifically tailored to the needs and challenges faced by individuals living with dementia. Dementia is a progressive cognitive disorder that affects memory, thinking, and behaviour. As the condition advances, people with dementia often experience confusion, disorientation, and difficulties with spatial perception. Designing spaces that accommodate these unique needs can greatly enhance the quality of life for both individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

#### Design guidance

Lesley Palmer, head of design services and chief architect at the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) at University of Stirling said in a roundtable on 'design for the mind' in 2019: "I have written design guides for people with dementia. All I can say with any certainty is you can write design guides, but you cannot guarantee that people are going to read them. The dementia design principles came out 10 years ago and research that underpinned them came out 18 years ago and still we don't see architects engaging with them. There are many guidelines out there on dementia design. Some of those are not based on evidence. Some are incorrect."

The BSI developed guidance on the design of the built environment to include the needs of people who experience sensory or neurological processing differences. PAS 6463 incorporates principles to ensure that people with or having a range of processing



"The dementia design principles came out 10 years ago and research that underpinned them came out 18 years ago and still we don't see architects engaging with them" LESLEY PALMER

differences are able to access and enjoy their experience of the built environment.

#### **Principles of design**

So what key principles should be borne in mind when designing spaces for dementia? The following are largely drawn from the Department of Health's Health Building Note 08-02 – Dementia-friendly Health and Social Care Environments. It incorporates research and guidance from experts including the DSDC and The Kings Fund.

• Wayfinding and Navigation: individuals with dementia often struggle with spatial orientation and memory, which can lead to disorientation and anxiety. Clear signage, visual cues, and distinct landmarks can OPPOSITE AND LEFT Natural light, large windows, access to outdoor space and sensory spaces like gardens are key design principles

help them navigate spaces more easily. Colour-coded paths, large and easily recognisable symbols, and simple signage can all contribute to improved wayfinding.

• Simple layouts: complex and cluttered layouts can be overwhelming for people with dementia. Design spaces with simple and intuitive layouts that minimise the potential for confusion. Open floor plans and clearly defined areas can help individuals maintain a sense of spatial understanding.

• Natural light and views: incorporating ample natural light and providing access to outdoor views can have a positive impact on mood and cognitive function. Spaces with large windows and comfortable seating near them allow individuals to connect with nature and the outside world.

• Safety and security: safety is paramount. Minimise trip hazards, ensure well-lit areas, and avoid the use of reflective surfaces that might cause confusion. Installing handrails and grab bars where needed can enhance mobility and prevent accidents.

• Calming and familiar elements: use calming colours, textures, and materials that evoke positive emotions and memories. Incorporate familiar objects and elements that resonate with the individual's personal history and experiences.

• Noise and acoustics: excessive noise can cause distress and confusion. Use materials that absorb sound and design spaces to minimise echoes and reverberations.

Sensory stimulation: engage the senses with various textures, scents, and sounds. Sensory gardens, tactile surfaces, and soothing music can create a multisensory experience that promotes relaxation and cognitive engagement.
 Personalisation: allow for personalisation

of spaces by incorporating items of 🕨



personal significance. Familiar objects, family photos, and mementos can provide a sense of comfort and identity.

• Restorative spaces: design spaces that offer opportunities for rest and relaxation. Quiet areas with comfortable seating and soothing decor can help individuals recharge and reduce feelings of agitation.

• Continuity and consistency: Maintain consistency in elements such as colour, patterns, and furnishings, to help individuals recognise their surroundings.

Morten Gregersen, architect, and partner of Danish NORD Architects who created the benchmark-setting Alzheimer's Village in France, describes the need for recognisability in everyday life and architecture. "For people with Alzheimer's or dementia, it is crucial that the environment is recognisable. It mustn't feel challenging or disturb their

"For people with dementia it is crucial that the environment is recognisable. It mustn't feel challenging or disturb their cognitive abilities" **MORTEN GREGERSEN**  LEFT AND BELOW: dementia villages are setting the bar for design



#### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Dementia villages and specific settings are setting the standard

NORD Architects has designed several dementia villages, including the Alzheimer's Village in Dax, which is the first care home in France for people with dementia. Recognisable surroundings, free from alienating or obstructive elements, are essential for leading a meaningful life. Alzheimer's Village has integrated functions familiar from resident's prior neighbouhoods: a grocer's, a hairdresser's, a restaurant and a market square. The complex is grouped into four clusters, each housing around 30 residents who live in smaller 'families' with all the necessary facilities and outdoor spaces. Hogeweyk Village in the Netherlands

is also recognised as best practice.

cognitive abilities. That's why the architecture in Alzheimers village also has an explicitly local feel, featuring elements from the local building style. The built environment provides a kind of cultural extension that alleviates the transition from living at home to living in an Alzheimer's centre.

#### What about specifics of door hardware?

Door hardware plays a significant role in designing spaces for dementia, as it directly impacts the ease of navigation, Home to 152 residents living with dementia residents live in groups in 23 specially-designed houses. The village has streets, squares, gardens and a park where the residents move around independently, but in a safe environment.

Limewood, in Stafford, is a specialist dementia care home with 59 bedrooms. It includes an innovative dementia hub called the High Street – a 1950s internal street scene with a pub, a cinema based on the local Stafford Picture house, and a hairdressers and barbers. It has been independently audited by the University of Stirling and accredited with a gold award for its design.

safety, and comfort of individuals with cognitive impairments. Here are some specific considerations when selecting and implementing door hardware for dementia-friendly spaces:

 Contrast and visibility: Choose door hardware that contrasts with the colour of the door to make it more visible and distinguishable. This helps individuals with dementia identify doors more easily.
 Lever handles: lever handles are generally easier to operate than traditional round

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**BELOW AND RIGHT**: The Alzheimer's Village in Dax in France made strong use of the design principles that create the right environment



"Designing spaces for dementia requires a deep understanding of the condition and its effects on individuals"

doorknobs, especially for individuals with reduced dexterity and hand strength. Lever handles allow for a more natural and ergonomic grip.

• Large and clear signage: attach large and clear signage to doors indicating their purpose and destination. Use simple and recognisable symbols along with text to aid individuals in identifying the correct door for various areas.

• Colour coding: consider colour-coding door hardware or using coloured stickers to help individuals associate certain doors with specific spaces or functions. This approach can enhance wayfinding and reduce confusion.

• Reduced noise: Choose door hardware that operates quietly to prevent sudden loud noises that might startle or confuse individuals with dementia. Soft-closing mechanisms or padded latches can help minimise noise.

Dementia-friendly locks: opt for locks that



are easy to operate and understand. For instance, thumb turn locks are generally easier to manage than key-operated locks. In certain settings, electronic keyless locks or RFID cards might be appropriate for increased security without the need for traditional keys.

• Automatic doors: in spaces with higher foot traffic, consider installing automatic or motion-activated doors. These doors eliminate the need for manual operation and can be particularly beneficial for individuals with mobility challenges or cognitive impairments.

• Door visibility: ensure that doors are easily visible and not obstructed. Clear lines of sight to doors can assist with wayfinding and navigation.

• Consistent hardware design: maintain a consistent design for all door hardware throughout the facility. Using the same style and finish across all doors can help create a familiar and predictable environment.

• Compliance with standards: while ensuring ease of use, also ensure that door hardware meets safety and accessibility standards.

Designing spaces for dementia requires a deep understanding of the condition and its effects on individuals. Collaboration between healthcare professionals, architects, interior designers, specifiers and caregivers can result in environments that support the quality of life for individuals with dementia. It's important to stay updated on the latest research and best practice to create the most effective and compassionate spaces.

An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI learning Hub and worth one CPD point.

#### LEARN MORE

 BRE Trust built a demonstration home for those living with dementia, which presents evidence-based design, adaptation and support solutions.
 RIBA offers several CPD options around designing for inclusivity which includes dementia specific modules.
 See www.ribacpd.com

• The Altro CPD on Designing for Dementia includes a video interview with Lesley Palmer from the DSDC. https://tinyurl.com/mzxsd32z

• For products to specify for dementia refer to GAI Specifiers Guide on Ironmongery for Specialist Applications at gai.org.uk/specifier

• Download PAS 6463 at bsigroup. com/en-GB/standards/pas-6463/



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# Chemical reaction

AIJ finds out how London Architectural Hardware used digital technology to recreate the historic detail in the former ICI building

#### London Architectural Hardware (LAH)

merged the past and future with its restoration work at Imperial Chemical House, a Grade II listed building that was once the headquarters of chemical giant ICI.

The work undertaken in this heritage restoration project provides a glimpse into the future, where an antique is produced by cutting-edge technology, utilising the latest advancements in artificial intelligence, 3D printing, and security digitalisation.

In 1920s London, Imperial Chemical Industries, was an industrial titan producing a range of goods from general chemicals to pharmaceuticals, food ingredients to fragrances. Imperial sought a headquarters that would reflect its global stature. The company landed on Millbank in London, an area boasting prime real estate along LEFT: The Conrad Apartment in 9 Millbank

BELOW: The neoclassical architecture of the 1920s building RIGHT: Door handles replicate historic aesthetic with modern-day safety standards

the banks of the river Thames and overlooking the Houses of Parliament in the heart of Westminster. In 1929, Imperial Chemical House was completed, a grandiose edifice that came at a cost of nearly £1,800,000 – roughly equivalent to £120,5m in today's currency. It was designed by Sir Frank Baines who also designed the neighbouring Thames House, occupied by MI5.

The awe-inspiring Imperial Chemical House was far ahead of its time, fusing neoclassical architecture with the latest in technology. Building innovations halved the time it took to complete construction and among its technological advancements was the introduction of "artificial daylight," an innovative feature that added a touch of modernity to the building's design.

Baines infused the structure with decorative nods to Imperial's innovative activities and celebrated chemists. For example, the entrance doors were cast in cast nickel alloys made by the company itself at its Kynoch works in Birmingham, featuring 12 panels that depicted the evolution of mankind from primitive beginnings to the modern, evolved man of the 1920s.

Imperial Chemical House was awarded a Grade II listing in 1981 in recognition of its architectural splendour. But in 1999, the lights went out as ICI moved out, leaving the iconic building empty.



#### Fusing history and innovation

Now, in 2023, the building has been given new life by developer Berkeley creating a luxury residential address, known as 9 Millbank. And, following Baines's original intention in the1920s, the restoration is a fusion of the historic with cutting-edge innovations.

In The Conrad Apartment, worth £27.5 million, LAH spared no expense in recreating the intricate heritage polished brass door handles and fixtures. The key to LAH's approach? Technology.

Collaborating closely with the Midlandsbased BrassArt, a manufacturer of classical "Every door becomes a handshake with the building's history. [It] is the integration of history with technology" DANIEL BLACKWELL

and opulent ironmongery, LAH employed a blend of advanced 3D printing technologies and conventional restorative techniques to meticulously restore every intricate detail to its former grandeur.

Daniel Blackwell, commercial director of London Architectural Hardware Ltd, shares details. "The result is nothing short of spectacular, as every door becomes a handshake with the building's Imperial history. LAH's work is the seamless integration of 1920s history with modern technology. LAH upgraded the handles to comply with modern-day safety standards,





featuring multi-point locking mechanisms that replicate the interior's intricate aesthetic. This was no small feat, and the team worked tirelessly for hours on end to ensure that every detail was perfect."

This restoration work at 9 Millbank reflects current trends in architecture and design. There is a growing demand for the restoration and preservation of historic

"It's virtually impossible to distinguish between an original fixture and one which was manfuactured using 3D printing. It's a game changer" DANIEL BLACKWELL buildings, while also incorporating modern amenities and design elements. Technology plays a significant role. LAH's use of advanced 3D printing technologies and other modern techniques in restoration work at 9 Millbank by LAH is a prime example of this trend.

"Entering into The Conrad, it's virtually impossible to distinguish between

LEFT AND BELOW: Technology such as digital locking systems and security sensors are tucked away in the historic aesthetic

an original fixture and one which was manufactured using 3D printing. It's a game changer and an example of how technology can bring us closer to history," says Blackwell.

As artificial intelligence and improved 3D printing techniques continue to revolutionise the world of design and security, it will become increasingly common to encounter seemingly antique objects that have been digitally crafted with cutting-edge technology.

One example is the possible discreet addition of digital locking systems, which use smartphones for access, to historic doors without being visibly noticeable. Sensor systems for extra security can also be tucked away within any historic aesthetic.

"As trends in restorative architecture and design continue to evolve, our work at 9 Millbank sets an excellent example of how modern technology can be used to enhance and improve the restoration of historic buildings," says Blackwell.

berkeleygroup.co.uk/developments/ london/westminster/9-millbank





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#### INSPIRATION

GAI

**BELOW:** Red Bull's UK HQ with the bespoke door handles



# Energy boost

How Instinct Hardware gave wings to an AC Leigh design for Red Bull HQ AC Leigh was briefed to produce a

bespoke bar feature door handle for Red Bull HQ in London, styled on the iconic logo and making use of the well-recognised colour palette of Red Bull.

AC Leigh developed an initial concept sketch of a handle, showing the two Red Bull bulls welcoming you to the area with the traditional yellow sun completing the handle. It asked Instinct Hardware to make this reality.

Instinct's design team created a working CAD design of the logo and the handle using Solidworks design technology. These photo-realistic renders were sent through to AC Leigh for approval.



#### Thank you to all our customers





www.frelanhardware.co.uk

#### "The handle had specified RAL powdercoated colours applied to completely match with the branding"

Initially, concerns were raised about how the handles would interact on the face of the door when this was swung open. Instinct was able, thanks to the design technology capabilities, to show that the handles would cause no interference when placed on the door. Advanced rendering and digital illustration allowed Instinct to demonstrate the door opening and closing and where the handle points would meet and close. The client required specialist RAL powder coated colours for the finished item, so sample swatches were provided (on the correct material) within seven days for approval. This was done alongside the manufacture of the handles, so not to slow down the production times.

Delivery was required within six weeks of the order so the process was managed in-house, to minimise delays. The approved designs were turned into technical drawings, to provide works instructions for the manufacturing team. The CAD files were converted to DXF in Solidworks and these were then imported into FlowXpert to generate the program for the waterjet, meaning full use of in-house integrated CAM systems.

Instinct's waterjet cutting machine provided the ideal tool for this level of intricate cut, effortlessly slicing 10mm thick solid marine-grade 316 stainless steel. Using





ABOVE: 316 stainless steel was cut with waterjet for precision LEFT: The finished product in the factory

the waterjet meant that the intricate edges needed for the outline of the bull were precisely cut. Lasers have previously been used for this kind of work but waterjet provides cleaner edges – meaning no additional timeconsuming hand filing is required for buffing.

#### Thread milling for tolerance

The components were then clamped to the CNC vertical machining centre to ensure the fixing holes were made to the tightest tolerance. Due to the slim 10mm material used, the decision was made to thread mill the required holes rather than the traditional drilling and tapping techniques. Thread milling has the advantage of milling holes to the perfect depth and tolerance, by using a specialist Vargus solid carbide tool. This small thread mill packs the punch needed to work with solid steel and once again just adds to the strength and clean finish of the handle.

The corner edges of the handle were hand-finished and smoothed and the handle then had the specified RAL powder-coated colours applied, to completely match with the branding and the surroundings in which it was to be placed. Hand inspected, handassembled and then securely packaged, the pull handle made its way to the HQ within the six week deadline.

# AVVARDS 2024

#### Celebrating the best in architectural ironmongery specification

Organised by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) in conjunction with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the biennial AI Specification Awards identify and reward excellence in the specification of architectural ironmongery in the construction industry.

Entries are judged on the effectiveness of the architectural ironmongery specification and how it enhances the security, accessibility and safety of the building, whilst also adding to its aesthetics, functionality and longevity.

To enter, projects or products must be:

- Either completed or released on to the market between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2023.
- Submitted to the GAI for judging by Friday 1 December 2023.



The AI Specification Awards consist of the following awards:

- Public and Commercial Sponsored by ASSA Abloy
- Health and Education Spansored by FireDNA
- Residential Sponsored by Frank Allart
- Hospitality Spansored by dormakaba
- International Sponsored by Norseal
- Product Design and Innovation -Mechanical - Sponsored by CES
- Product Design and Innovation Electronic - Sponsored by ADSA
- Ethos Award Sponsored by Codelocks
- Winner of Winners Award Sponsored by GEZE

#### NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards

#### IN ASSOCIATION WITH

RIBA

Guild of Architectural Ironmongers

# Dear GAI...

Continuing Professional Development is gaining more and more traction in the construction industry – why is this and what industry schemes are available? **Douglas Masterson** answers the question

The construction industry in UK is currently

experiencing an increased appetite for CPD, much of which is due to the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy with a resultant increase in requirement for competency and up-to-date learning. CPD refers to the process of tracking and documenting the skills, knowledge and experience that is gained both formally and informally on an ongoing basis, beyond any initial training.

Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety entitled "Building a Safer Future" was commissioned by the UK Government following Grenfell. This report placed a huge onus on CPD and stated the following. "Career development, learning and education, and its active management should be considered essential. Qualifications and training are only part of the answer – continuous professional development (CPD) throughout a career is needed to ensure levels of competence remain relevant."

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 alongside the Building Safety Act 2022 also put great emphasis on those involved in construction projects having the appropriate competence requirements in respect of their skills, knowledge, experience and behaviour. Therefore, whilst initial training is of utmost importance, there is a direction of travel which seeks to ensure that those who are involved in construction products are not just trained but are fully up to date in their competence. CPD is seen as a concrete demonstration of this.

#### Knowledge maintenance

GAI has been at the forefront of industry competence since its inception in 1961. This includes training at all levels, from the Foundation in Hardware to provision of in-depth product knowledge from the Certificate in Hardware and then right through to the internationally recognised DipGAI which develops the skill of specifying fully compliant ironmongery products on to a project. In 2022. GAI introduced three gualifications in the fields of access control and electric hardware (DipAC); Doors as Systems (DipDS) and Standards and Regulations (CertSR). The first recipients of these new gualifications have just been announced and will receive their awards at the Education Awards in November.

Therefore, whilst it is important to have the initial training, this does not provide a demonstration that skills and knowledge are current, which is where CPD comes in. Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI) status is therefore of huge importance for all who have DipGAI as it demonstrates that "In 2022 it was decided that RegAI be amended to further align it to a post-Building Safety Act world"

product knowledge is maintained and kept fully up to date with industry standards and latest developments.

In 2022, it was decided that RegAI be amended to further align it to a post-Building Safety Act World which places higher emphasis on up-to-date learning and competence. As a result, a number of changes to the programme were introduced which included:

An increase in annual CPD points requirement from 10 to 20 points to make RegAl more robust and therefore be comparable with other sectors and industries.
An increase in the compulsory coursework from two to three elements which are to be on the GAI Core CPD topics set out by GAI Education Committee each year.

• Ensuring RegAl members are up to date on standards and regulations by providing a CPD presentation on this as a core topic each year.



 Providing online quizzes on GAI Learning Hubs on all non-core CPD presentations delivered either by webinar or in GAI
 Community Hubs. (completion of two of these quizzes is now a mandatory requirement).

• Online submission of CPD points as opposed to by PDF logsheet.

In a further commitment to CPD from GAI, from 2024 onwards the RegAI CPD scheme will be accompanied by equivalent CPD programmes for the new Diplomas and Certificates previously outlined. This will mean that those in possession of the CPD qualification will become a GAI Registered Professional which will include the following schemes:

- Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAl)
- Registered in Door Systems (RegDS)
- Registered in Electric Hardware and Access Control (RegAC)
- Certificated Advisor in Standards and Regulation (CertSRA)

To comply, all GAI Registered Professionals must have successfully completed a relevant

#### "GAI registered professional status is a clear demonstration of professional competence"

GAI qualification and will continue to maintain and update their knowledge through the GAI continuing professional development (CPD) programme. GAI Registered Professional status is therefore a clear demonstration of up to date and professional competence in matters which are critical to building safety, accessibility and security.

#### For further details on CPD visit gai.org.uk/cpd

An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI learning Hub and worth one CPD point. https://learninghub. gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php



#### **CPD POINTS**

This list provides some examples of how CPD points can be attained to go towards RegAI status:

- Attendance at CPD presentations
- through GAI webinar programmes
   Attendance at GAI Community
   Hubs for CPD presentations or
   product showcases
- Attendance at GAI-approved factory tours
- Answering online quizzes on GAI Learning Hub
- Attendance at RIBA-approved CPD Presentation or industry related external CPD Presentation or webinar.
- Presentation of company CPD material to architects or industry audience
- Delivery of industry-related training such as lecturing at GAI training courses or webinars.
- Provision of training material for GAI training courses or GAI CPD programmes

• Delivery of industry related in-house or external training seminars or webinars.

• Attendance at industry related in-house or external training seminar or webinars.

• Reading relevant CPD material in AIJ when backed up by the answering of online quizzes

• Writing of industry-related articles in publications such as AIJ or Locksmiths Journal.

• Answering online compulsory coursework for the three core topics (noting that these are the only activity which will attract two CPD points – all others referred to previously will attract one).

#### GAI TALK

Simon Forrester, GAI chief executive

The announcement of yet another extension to the UK's use of the



CE mark was hardly a surprise. Although August's announcement did not include construction products, for the architectural ironmongery sector it added further to an overall impression of inconsistency and a total lack of joined up thinking. At the time of writing, we are left with last December's announcement that recognition of the CE mark for construction products in Great Britain will continue until 30 June 2025, but now with the expectation of further reforms.

It is a cliché to say what business needs to thrive is certainty, but it is true. Aside from the vast costs that GAI members are incurring in trying to meet (and in many cases anticipate) future regulatory requirements, it is the uncertainty that is doing real harm, by hindering the ability of companies to plan, invest, train and develop in what is already a difficult economic climate.

With a possible UK general election next year, it will be interesting to see what a Labour government proposes to do differently. Its manifesto speaks of sustained (and sustainable) growth through a National Wealth Fund, for example, and a jobs boom driven by net zero transition. As with all manifesto pledges, we wait with great interest for the detail that backs this up.

Turning to this edition of AIJ, I am particularly pleased to see the cover story on dementia. As someone who has witnessed at first hand the terrible toll of this illness, I have been extremely proud to read of the ways in which architectural ironmongers and specifiers are working with suppliers to make sure environments are properly designed for support and care. It is an example of our industry at its very best and a reminder, if any were needed, of the importance of our work.

## GAI Community...

# GAI appoints new treasurer

Philip Goldberg, managing director at Em-B Solutions, has been appointed GAI Treasurer. Goldberg, a legal and commercial specialist, has served on the GAI's Technical Committee for the last four years and been part of the judging panel for the last two AI Specification Awards. He was elected to the Executive Committee at the Guild's June AGM.

He said: "I'm honoured to be able to serve the Guild in the role of Treasurer at what feels like a critical juncture with the industry facing unprecedented levels of change. The GAI has a central role to play in helping members attain and demonstrate the required skills and competencies and meet the many challenges moving forwards."



**ABOVE** Philip Goldberg, managing director at Em-B Solutions

#### GAI boosts member support with new appointment



The GAI has appointed Laurence Whittle as membership engagement manager. Laurence (pictured) joins the GAI with a strong

background in membership organisations. He has spent over 10 years working as a membership manager for organisations in healthcare, cybersecurity and digital marketing. His new role is to support individual and corporate GAI members and to build the wider GAI community. He said: "I am excited to introduce myself as the newest addition to the GAI team. I look forward in the coming weeks to meeting as many people as possible to learn all about the organisation and its members.

"Throughout my career, I've found that collaboration is the best way for organisations like the GAI to meet their goals and deliver the best possible service. This engagement is something I'll be looking to achieve which will, ultimately, help members achieve their goals, whether they be professional or personal."

GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "I'm delighted to welcome Laurence to the team as a key link between the Guild and its membership. He is a specialist with great experience in this area, so we are thrilled to have him on board."

#### Don't miss out! The search for the world's best AI

The search for the world's best architectural ironmongery projects and products is entering its final stages, with the 1 December deadline for entries to the AI Specification Awards 2024 fast approaching.

Architects, specifiers, building contractors, clients and their architectural ironmongery advisers and suppliers are being urged to submit entries.

There are nine categories: Public and Commercial; Hospitality; Health and Education; Residential; International; Product Design and Innovation – Mechanical; Product Design and Innovation – Electronic; Ethos Award; and Winner of Winners (chosen by the judges from the previous project categories). The Ethos Award is a new category for 2024. Celebrating ironmongery specifications which reflect the professional skill of the ironmonger



in challenging circumstances, the award is designed to honour all types of projects and specified products, not purely those which may be seen as prestige.

Entries for the Ethos Award will be asked to demonstrate how the specification had to go the extra mile in response to challenges such as budgetary restraints or finding a bespoke solution to a unique or unusually difficult problem.

GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "The AI Specification Awards are a unique and prestigious celebration of the best that architectural ironmongery has to offer, and I really do urge anyone with an eligible project or product to commit to entering it, and in plenty of time to meet the 1 December deadline." www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards

BELOW: Em-B collecting the Winner of Winners Specification Award in 2022 with Mario Del-Signore (left) and Kaz Spiewakowski



"The AI Specification Awards are a unique and prestigious celebration of the best that architectural ironmongery has to offer" **SIMON FORRESTER** 

#### Foundation in Hardware provides perfect platform

The GAI has relaunched its introductory qualification, The Foundation in Hardware, with updated content and a new online learning platform.

The Foundation in Hardware is a flexible online course for those just starting out in the sector, providing an ideal induction course for back-of-house, trade counter, support, or new employees at architectural ironmongery companies.

It also provides a basic understanding of the industry for those who aren't involved in the detail of architectural ironmongery in their day-to-day job, at companies such as locksmiths or builders' merchants.

The course contents, fully revised and updated for 2023, cover the basics of architectural hardware, fire and escape doors, and access control. Comprising 12 online modules, the course can be progressed at the learner's own pace with up to six months for completion.

The Foundation course has also been integrated into the GAI's new Learning Hub, providing a single platform that can support learners from the Foundation and on to the Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) and GAI diploma courses as required.

www.gai.org.uk/foundation

#### New GAI guide to PAS 24: 2022

The GAI has published the 24th in its Guides to Standards series – PAS 24: 2022 Enhanced Security Performance for Doors and Windows.

The new guide covers the test methods and acceptance criteria for enhanced security performance of doorsets and windows as set out in the standard.

These member resources provide the background and detail of relevant products, and guidance of whether standards are harmonised or designated. An introductory guide provides a detailed review of current standards, how they work, and how they should be identified and applied.

GAI technical manager Douglas Masterson said: "With more than 300 pages of up-todate information, these guides combine to provide a unique resource which can free GAI members from the need to purchase full copies of the various standards themselves."



"Now in their 43rd year, the Education Awards are rightly anticipated as the industry's No.1 celebration of training, skills and career development" **RACHEL TIPTON** 



ABOVE: The Brewery in London: the venue for the 2023 GAI Education Awards

## Get ready for the 43rd GAI Education Awards

Booking is now open for the 43rd GAI Education Awards, which is being held at London's The Brewery on Thursday 23 November.

The ceremony will celebrate the outstanding achievements of the industry's rising stars, with the award of diplomas and prizes to successful candidates from the 2022/23 education programme.

This will include the first cohort of students to be awarded the new GAI Stage 3 qualifications: the Diploma in Door Systems (DipDS); Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control (DipAC); and Certificate in Standards & Regulations (CertSRA). GAI training and development manager Rachel Tipton said: "Now in their 43rd year, the Education Awards are rightly anticipated as the industry's No.1 celebration of training, skills and career development.

"We are pleased this year to welcome back Briton and George Boyd as joint sponsors, both of whom sponsored 2022's fantastic event at the Oval. And we are delighted to welcome Robust as the sponsor of The Pinnacle Award for the top student – without the support and commitment of our sponsors, an event of this kind simply could not happen."



#### Enrol now for GAI courses

The GAI's 2023/24 certificate and diploma courses are now underway, with learners encouraged to enrol as early as possible.

GAI qualifications are a globally recognised demonstration of expertise and essential professional competences. Developed over 50 years, it the only programme in the world that leads to qualifications in architectural ironmongery to British and European standards.

Enrolment is now open for: Certificate in Architectural Hardware; Diploma in Scheduling; Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control; Diploma in Door Systems; and Certificate in Standards & Regulation. The Foundation in Hardware is available for year-round enrolment.

GAI training & development manager Rachel Tipton explained: "While enrolment remains open until 31 December, all our experience shows that early enrolment gives learners the best possible opportunity to do well and achieve the results they are truly capable of."

Visit www.gai.org.uk/learning to download the latest GAI prospectus and enrol.

# Hardware user guides for education & healthcare

The GAI has extended its series of architectural ironmongery user guides with the publication of new resources for the education and healthcare sectors.

The free guides are designed to help property owners, managers and occupiers maintain the safe, effective and efficient performance of their building hardware. They detail maintenance recommendations and care of finishes for relevant materials, and provide checklists to help the user with safety critical products such as fire doors, escape doors and automatic doors.

The new guides, along with existing versions for the residential and commercial sectors and other user resources, are available to download free of charge from the GAI website at www.gai.org.uk/user

As well as making these resources easily available to property developers, facilities managers, maintenance companies, occupiers and anyone involved with the care of buildings following their postconstruction handover, the GAI encourages specifiers, installers and all those involved in the hardware supply chain to include them in their customer service processes. GAI chief executive Simon Forrester said: "While architectural ironmongery typically comprises less than 2% of the cost of a new building, its impact on maintenance costs can be as much as 20% of the total budget in some sectors.

"In addition, aside from its role in a building's design aesthetic, properly functioning hardware is critical to the property's ongoing safety, security and accessibility.

"All of this makes proper maintenance and management of building hardware as important as the correct specification and installation."

Visit www.gai.org.uk/user

"Properly functioning hardware is critical to the property's ongoing safety, security and accessibility" SIMON FORRESTER



# The 100K handle

Could this be the most expensive door handle ever created?

The Tribute to Doha is a handle encrusted with diamond dust and gemstones and backlit using a patented LED system. It is priced at around €100,000.

Manufactured by door handle and accessory specialist F.lli Razeto & Casareto, suppliers to the yachting industry, the piece of "furniture jewellery" premiered at the Qatar International Boat Show in 2015. F.lli Razeto & Casareto developed the concept and engineering for the handle, collaborating with Dblux, a diamond broker.

The design presented in Qatar was

'The hand-applied finish is created using very fine diamond dust, in addition to both natural and man-made diamonds' purely illustrative as the firm creates bespoke handles to order. Aside from brass, which is galvanised to obtain a gold, black ruthenium or palladium colour finish, the handle can also be ordered in any other type of metal, including solid gold.

The wireless frame-to-door transmission system for the backlighting serves aesthetic and safety functions by indicating exit paths in case of a blackout. It can also be programmed to use colour coding to communicate with service staff. For example, red would mean 'do not disturb', while green would indicate they are free to enter. In all, 10 light colours and three different levels of intensity are available, all adjustable directly by the user. The titanium back cover is further perforated to allow the light to shine onto the door surface.

The hand-applied finish is created using very fine diamond dust (grain dimensions are under 0.3mm), in addition to both natural and man-made diamonds. Each handle is accompanied by a certificate attesting to the standard of quality of the precious gemstones adorning each piece.

A close runner-up to claim the world's most expensive door handle was created by Australian master jeweller Nic Cerrone. He was asked by a Sydney socialite – whose identity remains unknown – to design a bespoke 18 karat gold door handle, with diamonds, for her home.

The value of the handle comes in at approximately \$100,000 and was made in Cerrone's Sydney workshop by a team of skilled artisans.

What do you think? Is there a place for such extravagance in hardware? Does it push the envelope on design possibility or do such design choices fail to align with the needs, values, and sustainability considerations of both the occupants and the environment? Share your thoughts at aijmagazine.co.uk

## SERIOUS ABOUT ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY? PROVE IT

Globally recognised as the mark of expertise in architectural hardware, GAI qualifications are the best way to prove your knowledge and professional competence to customers and employers alike.

Study with the GAI to learn and progress through the following qualifications:

- Foundation in Hardware
- Certificate in Architectural Hardware
- GAI Diploma in Scheduling
- GAI Diploma in Door Systems
- GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control
- Certificate in Standards & Regulations
- GAI Registered Professional (RegAI, RegDS, RegAC)
- Certificated Standards and Regulations Advisor (CertSRA)

From our introductory Foundation in Hardware and skillbuilding Certificate in Architectural Hardware courses, students have a choice of three specialist diplomas – each leading, through participation in our CPD programme, to the benchmark for professional competence as a GAI Registered Professional (RegAI, RegDS, RegAC).

Specialist expertise in industry standards and regulations can also be developed via a dedicated certificate course that paves the way to the Certificated Standards and Regulations Advisor (CertSRA) status.

#### Find out more

Enrol today to begin your 2023/24 course. Download your copy of the GAI Education Prospectus 2023-24 today at www.gai.org.uk/learning

Guild of Architectural Ironmongers

# FIRE DOOR SAFETY WEEK



#### Your access to compliant door control & safe specification

Fire doors require fire door compliant hardware and ironmongery to meet the British & European fire safety standards. Changing an approved specification has potential risks for buildings and resident safety.

At dormakaba, we focus on the importance of specifying the correct door closers for specific applications and we ensure that all of our high quality products are certified to help meet the requirements of BS 8300, and by extension the Equality Act 2010, in addition to the fire regulations.

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Fire Door Closer Checklist for Approved Specification











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