



Architectural  
Ironmongery  
Journal

SPRING 2025



INSIDE

- Grenfell report response
- Bryony Matthews interview
- Heritage hotel inspiration



## MAKING AN ENTRANCE

What's next for access control?

# ARC Pro-Tek

## PRO-TEK 3 Star Euro Cylinder & Turn

- 10 Year Mechanical Guarantee
- 3 x Keys Per Cylinder
- Tested to TS007
- FD30 - 30 Minute Fire Test
- FD60 - 60 Minute Fire Test
- Locking Cam Technology (Creates an impenetrable barrier to your home if lock snapping is attempted)
- Ergonomic Key Fob
- Convenient Thumb Turn Operation
- 6 Pin
- Anti-Snap
- Anti-Pick
- Anti-Drill
- Anti-Bump
- Anti-Plug Extraction
- Restricted Key Section (Keys can only be obtained via Authorized Key Cutting Centres)
- Various Sizes & Finishes Available (Contact the sales team for more info)



### Available as:

- Keyed to Differ
- Keyed Alike
- Under Master Key



Anti-Snap



Anti-Bump



Anti-Pick



Anti-Drill



Anti-Plug  
Extraction

FD  
30

FD  
60





**CONTENTS** SPRING 2025

**NEWS AND VIEWS**

- 04 Digest
- 06 Why quality matters on door closers
- 10 The GAI response to the Grenfell Report
- 28 Community: GAI news, including a new HQ, and Gold Medal winner interviews.

**FEATURES**

- 08 What I specified for Kayali by Huda Beauty in Dubai
- 14 Interview with Bryony Matthews
- 16 Cover story: what's next for access control?
- 22 Modern luxury in listed London hotel
- 24 How CES fulfilled a carbon cost brief

**BACK DOOR**

- 34 Milan's Duomo doors: entrance or art?

**EDITORIAL PANEL:**  
Kaz Spiewakowski  
President

Rachael Bliss  
Chief executive  
Email: rachael.bliss@gai.org.uk

Marc Sanderson  
Head of marketing  
Email: marc.sanderson@gai.org.uk

Douglas Masterson  
Technical and Training Director  
Tel: +44 (0) 7469 141657  
Email: douglas.masterson@gai.org.uk

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:**  
Atom Publishing  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7490 5595  
www.atompublishing.co.uk

**EDITOR:**  
Nicky Roger  
Tel: +44 (0) 7704 336835  
Email: nicky.roger@atompublishing.co.uk

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
David Smith  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7490 5595  
Email: david.smith@atompublishing.co.uk

**ART EDITOR:**  
Heather Rugeley



ajj is published by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.  
Ironmongers' Hall, Shaftesbury Place, London EC2Y 8AA  
Telephone +44 (0)20 3370 8540 Website: gai.org.uk

Although this magazine is the official publication of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, claims and opinions expressed by contributors and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the official views of the GAI. Copyright the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers 2007 ISSN 0959-986x

Updates  
Projects  
Standards  
Events

# Digest



## New additions to Zoo Hardware Rosso range



**TOP AND ABOVE:**  
 The new roses joining the Rosso Tecnica range bring a minimalist premium aesthetic and the turns boast improved operation and accessibility

Architectural hardware supplier, Zoo Hardware has introduced a new range of minimalism inspired, premium aesthetic roses and accessories to its Rosso Tecnica range of designer door levers.

Building upon the collection's clean and contemporary design language, the new mini roses bring a more minimalist and premium aesthetic, thanks to their almost invisible appearance. Plus, the new mini roses are easily mixed and matched with levers across the Rosso Tecnica range, thanks to their innovative two-part magnetic design, creating a more custom look that is ideal for high-end residential projects.

Also new is an industry-first 4mm slim sprung rose tested to BS EN 1906 – Grade 3, offering a more contemporary aesthetic for commercial applications, such as hospitals, offices and public spaces.

Completing the new additions are extensions to the range for commercial projects: larger accessible turns delivering improved operation for users with limited dexterity, and new indicator window options with red/white indicators, improving clarity of the door lock status for those with visual impairments.

Manufactured from Grade 304 stainless steel, selected for its high corrosion resistance, durability and hardness properties, the Rosso Tecnica collection features six contemporary lever designs. They form part of a range that also includes hinges, door closers, escutcheons, turn and releases and flush bolts.

Rosso Tecnica levers and accessories are available in a variety of finishes including luxurious PVD Satin Brass and Bronze, and contemporary Powder Coated Matt Black and White.



## Interiors products Oscars open for entry

The Society of British and International Interior Design (SBID)'s Product Design Awards are open for entries.

The SBID awards attract entries from across the world. They recognise design excellence in interior design, fit-out and product. They are judged by industry experts for technical content and aesthetic creativity before being put to a public vote. There are 17 categories for interior design, 12 for product design and five for fit out.

Last year's awards saw door hardware sweep the floor in the product of the year categories: ASSA ABLOY won for its Close-Motion® door closer in the contract category, and Hendel & Hendel won the residential category for its Brokk Collection of cabinet hardware (pictured below).

Previous winning hardware includes The FinBolt Triple Doorset which scooped the interiors fittings winner in 2021 and the Digbeth range by Armac Martin which won the KBB product winner in 2022. Enter at [sbidawards.com](http://sbidawards.com)



## Lead names to exhibit at Fire Safety event

ASSA ABLOY, Lorient, Dorplan, Allegion, HALSPAN, Fire DNA, Norseal and UAP are some of the names that will be exhibiting at The Fire Safety Event in April.

Taking place on 8-10 April at NEC Birmingham the event promises product demos, seminars and networking opportunities.

For full details and to register visit [www.firesafetyevent.com](http://www.firesafetyevent.com)



### FIT SHOW EXPANDS FOR 2025

**The FIT Show – the UK's trade show for the window, door, flat glass, hardware and roofing industry – returns to the NEC from 29 April- 1 May. FIT Show 2025 will be the biggest edition yet, spanning four halls of the NEC, with thousands of products on display from hundreds of exhibitors, as well as a CPD accredited content programme, Demo Zone, with installations in action. Visitors can register for free at [www.fitshow.co.uk](http://www.fitshow.co.uk).**

## dline adds bronze finish

PVD bronze is the latest addition to dline's curated collection of colours. dline identified a need for a deeper warmer hue and PVD bronze with its rich tone complements a variety of styles, adding depth and character to both modern and classic spaces. PVD bronze joins the range of heritage finishes – stainless steel, PVD black, PVD brass, and PVD copper.

With the resilience of PVD technology, this finish is designed to withstand the test of time, making it durable and practical.

Speaking about the addition to its ranges, dline said: "Bronze offers a luxurious yet understated aesthetic, bringing a rich softness to our signature minimalist designs. It pairs beautifully with natural materials like walnut wood, marble, and textured stone, adding warmth and sophistication. It also complements neutral tones like warm greys and off-white or makes a striking contrast with bold colours like forest green and navy blue for a balanced, elegant look."

All PVD products are done on a bespoke basis, ensuring a conscious approach to design and production. [dline.co.uk](http://dline.co.uk)

**BELOW:** The new bronze option to PVD finishes



# Closing the deal

The quality of the closer is as crucial as the fire door itself, says **Andy Howland**



**Fire doors are essential components in building safety**, acting as barriers that help contain smoke and flames during a fire. While the fire door itself must meet strict regulations, the quality of the door closer is equally crucial. Specifying high-quality door closers is vital for ensuring that fire doors function reliably, maintain safety standards, and enhance the users experience.

#### **Reliable performance in emergencies**

The primary function of a fire door is to contain fires and protect escape routes. High-quality door closers are designed to ensure that fire doors close securely and completely. This capability is essential in preventing smoke and flames from spreading, thus providing occupants with crucial time to evacuate safely.

#### **Compliance with regulations**

Fire safety regulations and building codes dictate specific requirements for fire doors and

their hardware. High-quality door closers are typically tested to ensure they adhere to either EN 1154 or EN 1155. Specifying products that meet these standards ensures compliance and reduces liability for building owners.

#### **Longevity under high traffic**

Fire doors are often located in high-traffic areas, such as hallways and entry points. High-quality door closers are built from tested, durable materials in order to withstand frequent use without compromising their performance. Cheaper, low-quality models may wear out quickly, leading to malfunctioning doors.

#### **Smooth operation**

High-quality door closers provide adjustable closing forces and speeds. This feature is particularly important in environments where users may have varying levels of strength, such as in schools or healthcare facilities.

**“Investing in high quality results in lower maintenance costs”**

**ANDY HOWLAND**

A smoother operation minimises the risk of injury and enhances the overall user experience.

#### **Accommodating accessibility**

Fire doors must be accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. Quality door closers can be adjusted to ensure that the door opens with low force, closes gently and does not pose challenges for users with mobility issues.

#### **Reduced maintenance**

Investing in high-quality door closers often results in lower maintenance costs. Reliable models require less frequent servicing, which can save building owners both time and money. In contrast, low-quality closers may need regular adjustments, repairs or replacements, leading to increased operational and product lifetime costs. ◆

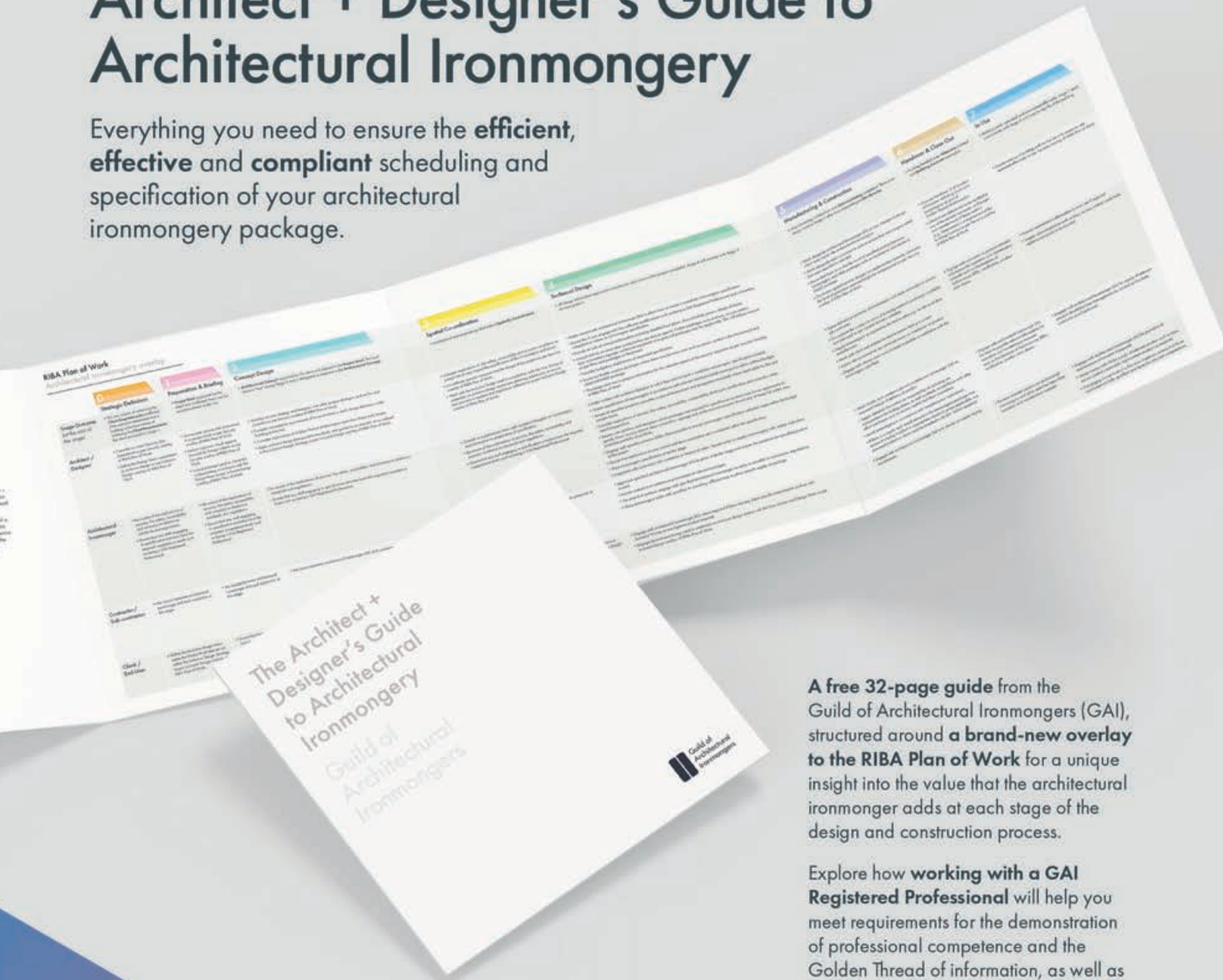
**Andy Howland is sales & marketing director at GEZE UK.**



THE ALL-NEW

# Architect + Designer's Guide to Architectural Ironmongery

Everything you need to ensure the **efficient**, **effective** and **compliant** scheduling and specification of your architectural ironmongery package.



A free 32-page guide from the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI), structured around a **brand-new overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work** for a unique insight into the value that the architectural ironmonger adds at each stage of the design and construction process.

Explore how **working with a GAI Registered Professional** will help you meet requirements for the demonstration of professional competence and the Golden Thread of information, as well as the functional, performance and design considerations raised by architectural ironmongery scheduling.

**Essential information** for all architects, designers and specifiers, and for architectural ironmongers to use in their own customer relationships.

Get your copy today at [www.gai.org.uk/SPECIFIER](http://www.gai.org.uk/SPECIFIER)



# What I specified for...

## Kayali by Huda Beauty

### Christian Badran RegAI

shares his specification solution on a high-end beauty brand in Dubai



#### Beauty is often considered a form of

self-expression and our specification for Kayali by Huda Beauty mirrored this mantra, with us transforming a corporate office environment into a conduit of creativity and individualism.

The Huda Beauty head office sits in the heart of downtown Dubai and now serves as a 'creative lab' for the international cosmetics company. The repurposed headquarters has been designed to provide its users with a comforting and intimate space to experiment with fragrance designs and express themselves when creating content. When navigating the specification process, we worked closely with the client to evaluate how each individual would interact with the new office space as they execute their latest cosmetic concepts, and upon listening to the client's needs, we presented a set of tailored door hardware solutions that combined functionality and sensory stimulating design.

#### From vision to canvas

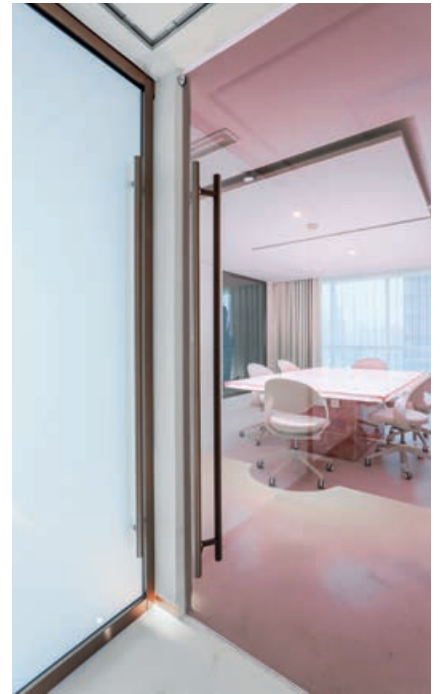
When it comes to hardware specification, our formula is simple: we believe environments can shape mindsets. From the grand entrance to the private sanctuaries found throughout Huda Beauty's creative workspace, it was crucial to supply bespoke door hardware solutions that would merge elegance and synergy with functionality and durability. Beautiful glass door hinges

have been paired with custom handles to add a touch of luxury to each doorway, and the use of sliding door systems and floor springs offer seamless movement between rooms whilst modernising the space. Offset pull handles, standing tall at 1670mm with a refined 30mm diameter, make a bold statement in each room too, with concealed hinges fire rated to FD240 playing a part in protecting the building and its people.

During the office renovation project, the application of textures and colours was also key. The inspiration behind the design – bare skin as a canvas – was central to the success

“When it comes to hardware specification our formula is simple: environments can shape mindsets”

**CHRISTIAN BADRAN**



**ABOVE:** Glass doors with custom handles  
**BELOW LEFT:** Rose gold complements the pink theme

of the project. In collaboration with the client, and in pursuit of visual impact, we chose to incorporate a rose gold metallic finish across our range, a selection designed to complement and accentuate a striking pink colour scheme. The collection of tones used throughout the space imitates the allure and charm of fragrances used on bare skin, whilst providing Huda Beauty's in-house creators with a range of visually striking backdrops for video content. In trusting us with their vision, Huda Beauty has elevated its workspace beyond expectations. ♦

**Christian Badran is business development manager at Consort Architectural Hardware.**





# SERIOUS ABOUT ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY?

## PROVE IT

The Guild of Architectural Ironmongery (GAI) supports, assures and represents architectural ironmongers, wholesalers, manufacturers and others working in and alongside the sector.

Membership of the GAI demonstrates your company's commitment to highest standards of technical excellence, professional competence and regulatory compliance.

### Join the GAI today for:

- 50% off fees for the GAI's renowned education programme – the only one in the world leading to qualifications in architectural ironmongery to British and European standards.
- Specialist technical resources, advice and support.
- Regular networking opportunities to help you expand your professional network, make new contacts, and help shape the industry.
- Free business support services to save your company £££ on HR, legal, health & safety, and recruitment.
- Attractive discounts, free publications including AIJ magazine, and much more!

To find out more about GAI membership, email [membership@gai.org.uk](mailto:membership@gai.org.uk) or visit [www.gai.org.uk/membership](http://www.gai.org.uk/membership).



Guild of  
Architectural  
Ironmongers

# Clarity, competence and conformity

The UK Government response to the final Grenfell Inquiry Report will prompt the widest ranging reform of construction products seen in a lifetime. **Douglas Masterson** outlines its most significant points

**The UK Government has now formally** responded to Sir Martin Moore-Bick's Phase 2 Report which drew the Grenfell Inquiry to a close. The Inquiry made 58 recommendations, of which 37 were directed at the Government and 21 were directed at other bodies and institutions. Of these recommendations, 49 have been accepted in full and nine in principle. The government's response lays the foundations for long-term reform that will create better, safer buildings and reform the construction products system. This will include ensuring there are clear standards and expectations and clarity on roles, responsibilities and accountabilities across all professions involved in designing, constructing and maintaining buildings. It also notes the role that the UK Government must play in driving forward change.

The most relevant detail within the Government response for the ironmongery industry is the publication of a construction products green paper. This is a hugely detailed document which sets out their proposals for system-wide reform of the construction products sector, the regulatory regime that governs it and the institutions that must fulfil their responsibilities in assuring safe products that can be safely used. The publication of the green paper marks the start of a formal consultation

and period of active engagement to ensure Government gets the detail of the proposed reforms right. It also serves as the Government's response to the Independent Review of Product Testing and Certification (the Morrell-Day Review). It is of vital importance that all in the construction product sector read the paper and answers the consultation as the recommendations and proposals within this will shape the industry for many years to come.

## Reform for a new regime

Under a new regime, it is proposed that all construction product manufacturers would take responsibility for ensuring that their products are safe, and that users and

**"It is vital that all in the construction products sector read the paper as the recommendations and proposals will shape the industry for many years to come"**

other stakeholders are provided with clear, accessible information about the safe use of their products.

In addition, the construction industry and supply chains which includes designers and specifiers are stated as having an important role to play in raising standards, using experience and expertise to drive competence, growth and innovation and ensuring that products are used appropriately.

Conformity assessment bodies (CABs), UKAS and BSI are also singled out as key players in order to ensure consistency and rigour to the underlying structure of standards and conformity assessment.

## Interaction between UK market and European Union

It is noted in the green paper that "deciding whether the EU's reforms meet our objectives of safe products and sustainable growth, and the resulting relationship between the UK's position and the future EU regime, is a key determining principle underpinning system-wide reform." The green paper sets out a clear potential case for close alignment between UK and EU, particularly with the implications of EU publishing its new Construction Product Regulation, and the resultant potential for divergence between UK and EU.



“Specifiers have an important role to play in raising standards, using expertise to drive competence”

#### Product requirements

The paper explores options and proposals for how products will be regulated and accompanied by information that businesses and consumers can access, understand and trust.

It will continue to be mandatory to comply with a designated standard or technical assessment for products within scope, also to provide the necessary information to demonstrate compliance, including affixing a product conformity mark.

For products not covered by a designated standard or subject to a technical assessment, a risk-based general safety requirement would apply. This would require the economic operator to understand, and take proportionate action to eliminate or control, any safety risk connected to the intended use and the normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use of their construction product before it is supplied or placed on the market.

For products classified as critical to safe construction (previously referred to as “safety critical” in the Building Safety Act) it is proposed that additional measures would apply, including that all such products be covered by a national or recognised standard and requirements to support safe installation. ►



### Third-party certification schemes

These schemes are an integral part of the UK hardware and door industry and are referenced in the paper as "playing an important role in providing additional assurance about the performance, and consequently safety, of products." The Government is proposing the introduction of minimum requirements that would apply to all third-party certification schemes. As a minimum this would require transparency of each scheme in terms of its process, form and content.

### Product information and labelling

Product information and labelling must support those designing and building to choose the right products for their purpose, including when combining products into systems or choosing substitute products. The government proposes a requirement that all construction products should be accompanied by appropriate and clear information to support safe installation under intended and normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use. The Code of Construction Product Information (CCPI) provides an example of establishing principles and details of good product information and Government is welcoming of this initiative.

### Marketing

The Government expects manufacturers and distributors to take appropriate steps to avoid the use of misleading information, particularly in relation to the suitability of a product for a particular use. Marketing information must be aligned to assessments of risk and results of tests undertaken. The government is seeking views on what further legislation may be required to support the provision of clear and accurate product information, and to support honest marketing to ensure safe products that can be safely used.



**"The Government expects manufacturers to avoid the use of misleading information. Marketing must be aligned to test results."**

### Competence

The Government is working with industry to address skills shortages and improve skills, competence, and productivity across built environment professions. The GAI is pleased to have been an integral part of the competence agenda thus far with its ongoing work in the Industry Competence Steering Group (ICSG). The consultation seeks thoughts on what more can be done to support the improvement of competence in industry.

### Clear accessible information

The Government accepts the recommendation from the Inquiry in relation to transparency of test results in principle, although noting the complexity of this area. It is seeking industry view on what level of information be made available.

There is also acceptance of a construction library being set up which would contain a database hosting product

information including test results as well as links to other useful documents, such as fire safety and academic reports.

### Digital solutions and traceability

Government will invite views on a range of proposals to support their aim of accessible, transparent and trustworthy information. This to include digital labelling including Digital Product Passports.

### Product marking

It is proposed in the green paper that in order to remove unnecessary trade friction, promote growth and protect the UK internal market, that the Government continues to recognise CE mark. Views are being sought on other product markings including UKCA mark or a potential voluntary mark to demonstrate that a higher standard has been met.

### Conformity assessment and accreditation

It was originally proposed in the Grenfell Phase 2 Report that the construction regulator should be responsible for assessing the conformity of construction products. However Government is seeking views on proposals to strengthen the functions and duties of all Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the construction products sector where they would remain in the private sector, reflecting the global nature of conformity assessment and need for capacity, but with new obligations. ♦

**The consultation will last until 21 May 2025 with responses to be submitted through this link <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/building-safety/construction-product-reform-green-paper>. GAI members are strongly encouraged to participate.**

**An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI Learning Hub. Completion is worth one CPD point towards Registered Professional status. [learninghub.gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php](https://learninghub.gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php)**



# STEALTH COMMANDER



Introducing the STEALTH Commander range - the UK's 1st universal fit high security handle. Discover more features at:

[loxta.co.uk/stealth](https://loxta.co.uk/stealth)

# “It’s vital that I work with those who value compliance”

Bryony Matthews, RegAI, owner of consultancy Iron Out, talks to **AIJ** about building clarity, competency and her mug collection

## How and why did you get into the industry?

How is easy: it was by accident. I’m one of many who stumbled into this niche by chance. I’d unknowingly gathered hardware knowledge across various jobs until a job ad made me realise it all fell under ‘architectural ironmongery’. This journey led me to become a qualified professional in the field and, ultimately, to create Iron Out.

As for why? I wonder that when I catch myself looking at hardware when out and about.

## What prompted the creation of Iron Out?

It was unplanned. I was meant to take a career break, but that lasted all of two weeks! Turns out, when I relax, I start new business ventures... who does that?

I was reflecting on my sector experience and noticed companies often didn’t have someone solely responsible for overseeing technical and compliance matters. Instead, tasks get fragmented across different people. It makes it harder to maintain overall visibility. These odd jobs, sitting between technical support, marketing, and process management, often found their way to me. It wasn’t a new idea, just something I’d already been doing that I turned into a service.



**“The main challenge is how culture impacts the perceived value around competence”**

## What have been the main challenges?

Culture. Mainly how culture impacts the perceived value around competence, compliance and the knowledge we offer as ironmongers.

Whether I’m brought in reactively or proactively, it’s vital that I work with those who value compliance and cultivate an environment of psychological safety and respect to achieve it.

## What has success looked like?

That’s a great question. I’d say success has looked like many things along the way.

It’s looked like receiving my workwear in the post, or getting my first payment. Creating new solutions, learning about myself, and gaining confidence in commercial decisions. It’s looked like helping a customer achieve their goals, or helping a company save tens of thousands of pounds with just a simple email. It’s looked like achieving the things I set out to do each day.

## What does the future hold for you?

Well, I’ve been collecting mugs from ironmongers I’ve networked with, so I’m thinking a display cabinet might be in order! Beyond that, my visions are for Iron Out to be a key driver in innovative solutions that transform the industry, elevate quality standards, and enhance public safety and security when it comes to building hardware





OPPOSITE: Matthews at GAI Community Awards

**“The near future may include supporting suppliers who need to adapt to the demand for digital. Some are visibly unprepared”**

and have access to all relevant standards, enabling me to offer clear, evidence-backed insights for fact-checking tasks.

With limited market research in the sector, I help clients understand that market alignment is key to visibility and clarity. The right processes and management systems enable companies to capture important intelligence, empowering them to make informed decisions and stay ahead of industry changes. This is central to quality assurance and risk mitigation. I help businesses bridge these gaps, equipping them with the tools and insights to stay ahead without being dependent on me.

**What do you expect clients to need support with in the near future?**

I expect the near future may include supporting suppliers who need to adapt to the growing demand for digital clarity – again, it’s about aligning to the market.

Some suppliers are visibly unprepared, and those failing to provide accurate, transparent information are already losing sales. Buying influencers, like fire door inspectors, are a great example; if a supplier makes accessing information difficult, they recommend those who simplify their job and meet the client needs. Those who don’t act will be left behind in this market shift. ♦

and doors. Ultimately, I aim to use my knowledge to help others and be fulfilled in doing so. As long as the future holds that, I’ll be exactly where I want to be.

**What are you finding are the most common challenges your clients are bringing to you?**

The biggest challenges revolve around visibility – both giving and getting it. Suppliers need to provide buyers with clear, accurate product information, documentation, and quotes, while buyers need the knowledge and competence to verify suitability. It’s the same for CPD and

training – people want to trust what they’re learning. Having third-party support helps build that trust.

Suppliers also struggle with engagement and market insights – where to invest in testing, how to collaborate on testing costs, or how to demonstrate competence.

The second biggest challenge is capacity. Many companies know what they need, they just need support to get tasks and projects over the line. Being in a technical role and familiar with the market, I can quickly provide relief or project support as needed. I stay ahead through CPD, maintain a digital library of resources,

A hand is shown scanning a fingerprint on a door lock. A red laser light is projected from the lock onto the finger, creating a bright spot. The lock has a red fingerprint icon on its surface. The background is dark blue with some vertical lines.

# Raising the entry level

Access control innovations are moving fast. What can we expect in the near future? **AIJ** reports



**RIGHT:** Biometrics like the face recognition used in Salto Orion will become more widespread

**In February Salto launched Salto Orion** – the first single-sourced face recognition access control solution on the market. Users gain access through a genuinely unique access credential – their face. This eliminates the need for physical keys or keycards; the user simply walks up to the access point, looks at the Orion-C terminal, and the door unlocks. Access is granted or denied in under a second, using a clear red or green LED light to display the status. It is also completely contactless, and no special positioning of the user's face is necessary.

The advantages of this technology are clear for both user and building owner: it both streamlines the access process and enhances security by removing the risk of lost or stolen credentials entirely.

The use of identity authentication technology has risen rapidly in recent years. Other biometric credentials include fingerprints, voice patterns, iris scanning, facial recognition and even DNA. In a report published by market research company Technavio, the Biometric Access Control Systems Market Size is predicted to grow by \$4.38 billion between 2023 and 2028.

Anyone with an iPhone or an Alexa will already be familiar with using voice, fingerprints or face and although these biometrics have been around for a while in access control, integration with security systems has been limited. In the past, it was much too expensive and inaccurate, and there were concerns around privacy. But as face scanning technology improves in quality, and prices fall, it's become far more common. And with both 3D face recognition and fingerprint scanning now commonplace in smartphones, concerns about privacy are much less of an issue for users.



**“A mobile phone is more powerful than even the best access control controller that's on the market today”**

**PIP COURCOUX**

But biometrics is only one way that technology is redefining how people access spaces.

#### **The future is mobile**

According to Pip Courcoux, technical and product director at ASSA ABLOY, the future of access control lies with mobile phones. “A mobile phone is more powerful than even the best access control controller that's on the market today,” he says. And The Chris Lewis Group, a bespoke fire and security system installer, offers this advice: “If you're buying a new physical access control system, you should make sure it either supports mobile devices now, or in the future.”

According to SJA, the mobile access control credentials market is set to reach over \$750 million in revenue by 2028, up from only \$295 million in 2022.

Instead of a key card or key fob, which is costly, slower to set up, and easily lost, users

download security credentials directly to their smartphone. A mobile-capable reader will check these credentials using a Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, mobile, or NFC connection. To gain access, you simply take your phone and wave it in front of a reader. In some cases the reader will detect the phone credentials in your pocket. So far, so nothing new. But with the ubiquity of smartphones what happens next will be that, as Courcoux puts it “people become the network”.

He explains: “Every time a phone comes within range of a reader and the identity of that phone can be linked back to a person you can track them around a building. That we can do today, but it is currently limited by the lack of perfect network coverage. When we get to the point where we have perfect resilient coverage why would anybody put in their own network, their own wireless routers into a building, if there was already 5g Network coverage from one of the providers?”

“When we sell an access control system today we sell a boatload of infrastructure to install all over the building. But a mobile phone is more powerful than even the best access control controller that's on the market today,” says Courcoux. “If you are using cloud technologies and secure communications then you don't have to have your own networks. You will rent space from BT or Vodafone and then the people ▶

walking around with their phones become your edge device. In access control systems today you have a network of controllers, so for every door you have a two door controller or 12 door controller, in wireless access control you have proprietary wireless hubs. But with phones, everyone has got one and decisions can be made instantly and locally."

It's a huge cost saving for building owners. Users upgrade their phones and operating system every three years which means there's no longer a need to replace control infrastructure.

Smart Spaces is an example of this already in action. A cutting edge app, it enables users and building control to control their environment and offer secure and fully hands-free access all from a mobile.

To work fully, this mobiles-as-network system also needs a standardised mobile credential (go Google Alira), a protocol between access readers and user devices, so that it's easier to integrate irrespective of whether it's for iOS or Android. This makes life much easier for manufacturers of readers.

Next up is robotic process automation (RPA) which Courcoux predicts to be huge in 10 years. RPA - Robotic Process Automation - is a technology that employs software bots to automate tasks by replicating human actions, thus reducing the time and cost associated with manual labor. Added to this is an Application Programming Interface (API), a set of protocols and definitions that

**"You will rent space from BT or Vodafone and then the people walking round with their phones become your edge device"**

**PIP COURCOUX**

## LIFE ON THE EDGE

Dutch smart-office pioneer Edge will be opening its first premises in London next year. Designed by architects Pilbrow & Partners it has ambitions to be the most sustainable office tower in London. Through its design and use of technology it marks a radical departure from that of a traditional London office building. Alongside sustainability and wellbeing, smart technology is the third pillar of the developer's design philosophy. It will use the Internet-of-things to connect everything and everyone in the building. Real-time data from the thousands of sensors enables air quality, occupancy and energy efficiency to be closely monitored and adjusted.

This also extends to AI-powered access control systems. These systems employ facial recognition and behaviour-based authentication to ensure secure and efficient entry for occupants. The integration of AI allows for real-time monitoring and anomaly detection, enhancing overall security.

enable different computer applications to communicate with each other.

RPA tools already exist in programmes like Microsoft Power Automate and If This, Then That. "Essentially they are workflow engines and in building systems this might translate as "if someone rings my doorbell it flashes the lights," Courcoux explains. "Two different products from two different providers but I use an RPA tool to make that connection happen."

What does that look like in daily life? If a person has a permit to drive forklift truck but their permit expires then the system will rescind their access control permissions, preventing them entering the warehouse. "The access control provider hasn't had to



ABOVE: Edge will use smart tech throughout the new building in London

The smartphone will be the workers' passport to Edge London Bridge. An app will enable them to personalise their workplace and customise the lighting and temperature. Over time, it is hoped that the smart technology will provide information that will be able to measure productivity improvements and benefits. Deloitte, when it moved to the new Edge Amsterdam, used this technology and found that sick leave and absenteeism went down, and staff retention went up.

build a competency management module - you just linked the two things together as you already have the competency management data somewhere else," explains Courcoux.

What this all means for the longer term is that what we currently understand by the phrase 'access control system' will cease to exist and while there will always be a lock the system running behind it will be replaced by a phone, a 5G network and RPA tools."

### Clouding over

Cloud based access control systems are another invisible force behind how access control is being revolutionised.

Cloud computing has completely revolutionised how we think about storing. ▶



# mailboxesgb

## LEADING THE WAY IN POSTBOX SOLUTIONS



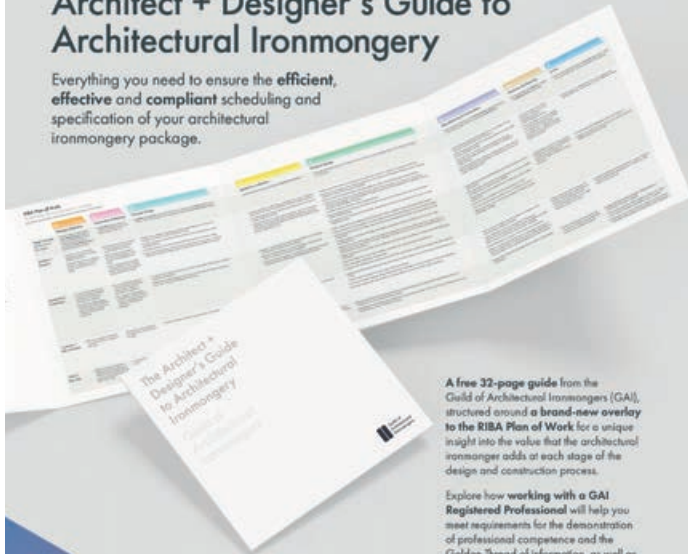
Mailboxes GB, the preferred mailbox supplier to the ironmongery trade for the last 20 years.

01922 452111 [www.mailboxesgb.co.uk](http://www.mailboxesgb.co.uk)

THE ALL-NEW

## Architect + Designer's Guide to Architectural Ironmongery

Everything you need to ensure the **efficient, effective and compliant** scheduling and specification of your architectural ironmongery package.



A free 32-page guide from the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI), structured around a brand-new **overlaid to the RIBA Plan of Work** for a unique insight into the value that the architectural ironmonger adds at each stage of the design and construction process.

Explore how working with a **GAI Registered Professional** will help you meet requirements for the demonstration of professional competence and the **Golden Thread of information**, as well as the functional, performance and design considerations raised by architectural ironmongery scheduling.

**Essential information** for all architects, designers and specifiers, and for architectural ironmongers to use in their own customer relationships.

Get your copy today at [www.gai.org.uk/SPECIFIER](http://www.gai.org.uk/SPECIFIER)



Guild of Architectural Ironmongers

# SIMONSWERK

## BILOBA

The self-closing screw-on hinge system for glass doors



Visit us!

### FIT SHOW

29<sup>th</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

NEC, Birmingham  
Stand Q61

It all hinges on excellence.

[www.simonswerk.co.uk](http://www.simonswerk.co.uk)





## AI can identify unusual behaviour patterns or suspicious activity and flag them to security

managing, and processing data. We are all familiar with our photos and videos from our smartphones no longer needing to be stored on a computer, or portable hard drive and cloud server storage has had the same impact on access control. Data is no longer stored on-site with no bulky and expensive hardware. Gone too is the need to maintain, and upgrade this infrastructure. With no need for physical servers, controllers are plug-and-play: all you need is internet access. Access privileges are easily managed and updates automatically downloaded and installed constantly. No fear of failure of system, not limited by size as it's easily scalable and you link easily with other security solutions. (See APIs above).

### Rage against the machine?

Not surprisingly where the real revolution in smart buildings lies is with artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). We now have systems that can analyse vast amounts of data, identify patterns, predict potential threats and optimise access policies rapidly.

AI can identify unusual behaviour patterns, like multiple unauthorised access attempts or suspicious activity, and flag them to security teams. When paired with CCTV systems for visual verification, AI can improve accuracy. With this technology, people can be correctly identified, even in low light, or with their faces partially covered. As AI and ML continue to advance, their integration into access control systems will become even more sophisticated. ♦

**An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI Learning Hub. Completion of the quiz is worth one CPD point towards Registered Professional Status. [learninghub.gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php](https://learninghub.gai.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php)**

**The Specifiers Guide to Access Control and The Specifiers Guide to the Internet of Things are available at [gai.org.uk/specifier](https://gai.org.uk/specifier)**

## SMART ACCESS TECH AT A GLANCE

The technologies shaping the way we interact with buildings and some examples.

### AI-Powered Access Control

- Alcatraz AI Rock – Uses facial authentication and AI-driven anomaly detection to allow or deny access without requiring physical contact.
- Hikvision MinMoe – A touchless access system that combines facial recognition with temperature screening (useful for workplaces and healthcare facilities).

### Biometric Access Systems

- IDEMIA MorphoWave – A contactless fingerprint scanner that works with a simple hand wave, already in use at high-security corporate offices.
- Apple Wallet Key Integration – Many hotels now allow guests to use their iPhones/Apple Watches as digital room keys via biometrics.

### Mobile & Cloud-Based Access

- SALTO KS (Keys as a Service) – A cloud-based smart lock system used in co-working spaces and residential buildings, allowing remote management and mobile access.
- Latch Smart Locks – Common in smart apartments, enabling residents to unlock doors via an app and grant access remotely.

### IoT-Enabled Smart Locks & Sensors

- Schlage Encode Plus – A Wi-Fi-enabled smart deadbolt that works with Apple Home Key, allowing tap-to-enter access via Apple devices.
- Kisi – An IoT-based access system that lets businesses manage access remotely and track door usage in real time.

### Blockchain for Access Logs

- HYPR Decentralised Authentication – Uses blockchain-like technology to eliminate centralised password databases, enhancing security for corporate access systems.
- Telos Blockchain Smart Locks – Being tested in smart rental properties to ensure secure, tamper-proof access control records.

### 5G & Edge Computing in Access Control

- Verkada Access Control – Uses edge-based AI to process entry requests faster and integrate with security cameras in smart buildings.
- Johnson Controls OpenBlue – A building management platform that leverages 5G and AI for real-time security monitoring and predictive access control.



## Fire Safety Compliance meets Flawlessly Finished Architectural Door Controls

No matter the project, you can trust that Boss door controls deliver safety, compliance, and robust functionality, with the highest quality of finish. Available in every RAL colour, plated steel, or bespoke finish Boss mechanical, electro-magnetic and automated swing door controls offer a diverse range of finishes to match all designs and functional requirements, while meeting fire safety standards.

Robust Functionality with the Highest-Quality Design & Finish

[bosssdoorcontrols.com](http://bosssdoorcontrols.com)

Tel: +44(0)1506 467477



ALLEGION



## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT | CPD

Brought to you by CIOB

### Take CM's latest CPDs

- Sustainable roofing
- How to manage ethical employment practices
- Improving design and building efficiencies
- Managing highways surface water
- Avoiding common roof defects
- Managing occupational health risks in archaeology
- Automated, mastless machine control
- Roof glazing – more than glass
- How to deliver cleaner power to construction sites
- Mechanical ventilation's role in improving indoor air quality
- Solar PV in pitched roofing applications
- Managing biodiversity on construction sites
- Head protection in construction
- Timber and the circular economy
- Drainage pumps – construction, climate change and consultancy

Keep up to date with the latest Construction Management CPDs in our dedicated online channel:

► [constructionmanagement.co.uk/cpd-modules](http://constructionmanagement.co.uk/cpd-modules) ◀



# Back to the future

Bringing a listed building back to life as a luxury hotel saw Häfele work closely with the architect to deliver hardware that blended heritage with contemporary needs. **AIJ** reports

**A range of Häfele architectural ironmongery** has been used in the transformation of 15 Old Bailey into Hyde London City, a new £34.3 million lifestyle hotel.

The building was originally built in 1874 as the 'Spiers & Pond' hotel and converted to office use in the late 20th Century. The Grade II listing means Hyde London City blends heritage with bohemian elegance. Studio Moren acted as architects and interior designers on this conversion, bringing the

building back to its original use as a hotel.

The transformation now offers 111 guestrooms, each showcasing deep Victorian palettes, velvet furnishings and bold, nature-inspired wallpapers. The hotel also features two food and beverage options including Leydi a modern Turkish restaurant and Black Lacquer, an intimate cocktail bar with a décor inspired by Tokyo's vinyl culture.

Studio Moren sought to reintroduce Victorian features like corning, high skirting

and timber flooring which had been lost when the building was used for offices, while blending modern elements expected by today's discerning traveller. The project also included the construction of a new extension over the existing light well, adding 21 guestrooms.

The team drew upon its experience across previous high-profile projects, including Park Hyatt London River Thames; 1 Hotel Mayfair; the refurbishment of Grade





**“The team brought ideas and expertise to the project and it was a true collaboration of ideas. We shared the vision.”**

**ED MURRAY**

Ed listed London Marriott Hotel County Hall, and projects further afield including Rome’s Hyatt Regency and luxury resort properties in Portugal.

#### **Heritage hardware**

Häfele’s involvement in the landmark project began at the outset, supporting Studio Moren with creating a mock-up room. From concept to completion, Häfele’s projects team, led by Gordon Turner, provided regular site visits and bespoke, solution-driven support, helping to achieve the project’s overall blend of rich history and contemporary, luxury hospitality.

Across the project, Häfele hardware has been used as both an architectural feature and to provide subtle practicalities while allowing authentic historical features to shine. For the former, antique brass solid bar levers in a Westminster design have

been combined with antique brass bar pull handles in a nod to the site’s Victorian charm. Conversely, guest rooms feature concealed door closers, while concealed electromagnetic closers and Powermatic door closers were specified in corridor doors and arched head doors for practicality and function.

The Häfele projects team also worked closely with Studio Moren to specify bespoke solutions to maximise historic features. Within ensuite bathrooms, concealed hinges were specified so that high skirting boards could be mounted up to the door and blend seamlessly with the rest of the room.

Häfele recommended a combination of restored original hardware and new elements for the existing external doors, such as antique brass panic hardware and 1500mm solid brass bolts to secure tall doors. The manufacturer also provided a bespoke auto operator solution for the site’s door leaves. At just 550mm wide, the doors required a customised approach as typically, products are designed for widths of at least 800mm. Häfele also incorporated battery-powered accessible touch pads into the design to avoid damage to the building’s historic façade.



**ABOVE LEFT:** Hyde London City external facade  
**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Leydi, the hotel restaurant  
**ABOVE:** Häfele specified antique brass hardware  
**BELOW LEFT:** Concealed hinges in bathrooms

“Häfele’s support was invaluable throughout the transformation of Hyde London City,” said Ed Murray from Studio Moren. “The team brought ideas and expertise to the project and it was a true collaboration of ideas. We shared the vision and the team helped us make it a reality.”

Commenting on the project, Paul Smith, head of specification sales for Häfele UK, said: “Hyde London City is a spectacular hotel, and we’re honoured to be part of bringing this building back to its Victorian splendour. The project is also our second time working with Studio Moren in recent months, which is a testament to our team’s ability to provide a combination of expert specification, understanding of the architectural vision and bespoke service. We look forward to supporting the practice again on future projects.” ♦

# Locking in sustainability

Operational and embodied carbon was a core value to ECO MEP in the fit-out of its new office building. Part of the solution included specifying products from CES.



**Due to rapid growth, ECO MEP – experts** in mechanical, electrical and plumbing services – required a new headquarters to accommodate its team. It purchased a new build industrial unit with the intention of fitting it out as an exemplar workplace, to demonstrate to its clients what it does day-to-day: create lean, sustainable environments.

This meant modelling and planning the most sustainable solutions for infrastructure in the office but also to provide comfort for its team and visitors.

Aside from energy consuming products, the selection of building materials, and all necessary products for the fit out, focused on reducing the embodied carbon created through each products'

sourcing, manufacturing and its transportation emissions.

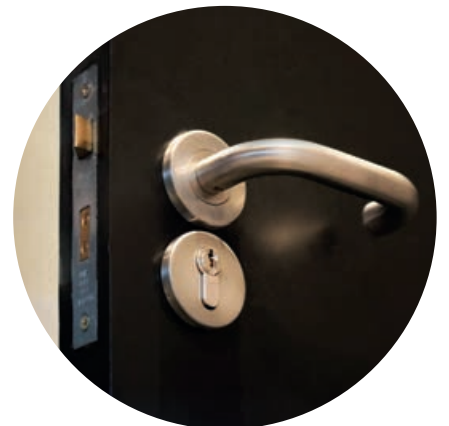
A two-storey unit set within Henwood Industrial Park in Ashford, Kent was purchased as a shell and in less than six months, a building was delivered that is carbon negative in operation and that a Building Control Officer has described as 'next level' in terms of energy efficient design.

For the ECO MEP team who work there, it's not just about how the building performs, but also how it looks, and what it provides them in terms of their comfort and enjoyment of the workplace. The premises is immaculately finished and fitted out with a hi spec meeting room, impressive facilities and breakout areas.

This whole project's ethos has been about acknowledging the need for optimising energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. The client is driven by minimising the building's carbon output in operation, as well as giving great importance to the carbon cost of the construction phase, and completing an overall Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to support its decision making in material and product choice.

ECO MEP selected ironmongery manufactured in brass with a zinc-based alloy, for door handles, hinges, and locks, prioritising sustainability, but also, durability and enhanced performance.

This material choice provided the strength and corrosion resistance of brass, while the addition of zinc improved durability and cost-effectiveness. ▶



**ABOVE:** Ironmongery included zinc-based durable handles and CES locking system  
**TOP LEFT:** Inside the new ECO MEP offices



# SERIOUS ABOUT STARTING YOUR JOURNEY IN ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY?

## PROVE IT

The GAI Foundation in Hardware is an essential introductory qualification for anyone beginning their career in, or working alongside, the architectural ironmongery sector.

Teaching the basics of architectural ironmongery and access control, this flexible online course is ideal as an induction course for those just starting out in the architectural ironmongery sector. It is also tailor-made for those who aren't involved in the detail of hardware in their day-to-day job but want to gain a basic understanding of the industry.

The course covers all the basics of hardware, fire and escape doors, and access control in an affordable and convenient learning package:

- Online learning based around 12 modules
- Learn at your own pace, with a full six months to complete the course
- Self-assessment tests and examination
- A printed certificate and access to higher-level GAI qualifications on successful completion.

START YOUR JOURNEY IN  
ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY AT  
[WWW.GAI.ORG.UK/FOUNDATION](http://WWW.GAI.ORG.UK/FOUNDATION)

### FIND OUT MORE

The Foundation in Hardware is part of the GAI's comprehensive education programme for the architectural ironmongery and related sectors. Explore the full programme at

[www.gai.org.uk/learning](http://www.gai.org.uk/learning)



Guild of  
Architectural  
Ironmongers





## “Our products improve security levels whilst delivering on the sustainability standards the brief dictated”

**DAN RISING**

Brass and zinc are both highly recyclable, making them an environmentally responsible choice. The alloy's natural antimicrobial properties also contribute to a healthier indoor environment, particularly in high-touch areas such as door handles. By selecting brass with a zinc-based alloy, the client has achieved a functional, environmentally conscious, and visually striking solution, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable and high-quality workplace design.

ECO MEP sourced all materials and building products locally wherever possible and when it came to door hardware selection, it was conscious that a lot of ironmongery is sourced in the Far East.

CES was identified as a direct manufacturer of locking systems in Europe, and therefore provided the lowest embodied carbon emissions associated with door hardware product transportation, for a project in the UK.

To allow it to calculate the overall carbon cost of the upgrade and fit out project, the ECO MEP required CES to supply the specified products' 'project-use specific' lifecycle scenario; from sourcing of raw material, through manufacturing, including any finishing, assembly and taking into account the necessary transportation to the project site, where the product only then starts its 'operational life'.

Once CES's project-specific carbon cost of the locking system satisfied the client, it was then able to address the security and access control brief. The building plans included CCTV and electronic access control. The mechanical locking system was specified to add an extra level of security, through a structured master key hierarchy, allowing 'management only' access to certain areas of the building.

As well as carbon cost, the quality and durability of locks and keys were a priority, due to lifecycle costs, but also the security provided by a lengthy patent against key duplication.

These objectives directed ECO MEP to CES's PXM6 system, which holds a patent protecting it from unauthorised key duplication until 2038.

Dan Rising RegAI, regional sales manager of CES UK said: "Our products



**ABOVE:** The new ECO MEP premises  
**TOP LEFT:** CES provided lifecycle information about its products  
**BELOW:** ECO MEP's state-of-art HVAC

work with the electronic access system as a mechanical override, and to improve the superior security levels created in this exceptional facility, whilst delivering on the exacting sustainability standards that the brief dictated."

This project highlights the importance of raw material selection and its transportation costs in low-carbon building design. ECO MEP minimised embodied carbon while ensuring durability and security through its choices showcasing how to select environmentally responsible products. ◆



# TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Through our website Knowledge Base, the GAI supports member companies with a wealth of technical information and advice.



## 1. Technical Briefings

Regular briefings on relevant industry topics. Everything from BIM to BS and EN standards to UKCA Marking are covered.

## 2. GAI Guides to Standards

A library of more than 20 guides to the most relevant British and European standards which impact the ironmongery industry.

## 3. Quarterly Technical Review

Published four times a year to provide the proposed timetable for changes, amendments or revisions to BS and EN standards, as well as keeping members informed on any new relevant publications or consultations.

## 4. GAI Specifier's Guides

A complete set of guides relating to ironmongery and access control product for the construction industry. These are aimed at assisting all who are involved in the specification process from the architect, architectural technician, interior designer, M&E consultant right through to the specifying architectural ironmonger. Topics covered include ironmongery in a post-pandemic world, the internet of things, accessibility, access control and ironmongery for fire and escape doors.

## 5. BIM Product Data Templates (PDTs)

A series of 34 templates which are available for GAI members to populate with product information to create Product Data Sheets – this will assist with having your product ranges “BIM ready”.

## 6. RIBA Approved CPDs

The GAI now has ten CPD presentations which have been approved by RIBA and are all available to GAI member companies for their architects and specifiers. These cover a broad spectrum of topics from accessibility right through to internet of things. As these have been approved by RIBA they are all worth double points to RIBA members.



## GAI TALK

**Rachael Bliss**

GAI chief executive



As we approach the end of the Guild's 2024/25 year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as part of the GAI community. The commitment of our members enables us to invest in the future of our industry, and as we head into subscription renewals, I encourage you to stay with us – because 2025 is set to be transformational.

In the coming year, the GAI will be making significant investments in our education offering, member products, and services. Change is coming, not just for GAI but for the wider industry, and we are determined to ensure our members remain at the forefront of this evolution.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the opening of the new Warringtonfire test facilities – an impressive expansion that provides a larger, more advanced space for crucial fire testing. Whilst there I listened to a thought-provoking speech by Paul Morrell – the UK Government's first Chief Construction Adviser and author of the Morrell Day independent review of the Construction Product Testing Regime – who challenged us to consider how our industry can learn from others, such as aviation, in dealing with post-event research and investigation. He also raised an intriguing question: will artificial intelligence ever replace traditional fire test evidence? While I suspect that won't happen in the near future, AI – or artificial evidence – may well have a role to play in supporting fire testing methodologies.

Not only is innovation the focus of this issue of the AIJ, but it is also at the heart of what we are doing at GAI. We are committed to evolving with the industry, ensuring our members have access to the very best tools, knowledge, and opportunities.

# GAI Community...

## Summer welcome for new GAI President

The Guild's next President will officially take up the role at a GAI Summer event on Tuesday 15 July.

The event, which will also feature the GAI's Annual General Meeting, will see current President – GEZE UK managing director Kaz Spiewakowski – hand over the reins to Steve Bewick, chief commercial officer at dormakaba (pictured below). The ceremony will mark the start of his two-year

term of office. Philip Goldberg, managing director at Em-B Solutions, will be appointed vice-president.

As well as marking the start of the new presidency, the summer event will provide GAI members with an excellent opportunity to network and hear the latest updates on key Guild and industry issues. Event and booking details will be communicated via the usual membership channels.





## Book now for GAI Education Awards 2025

The GAI Education Awards return to the elegant Grand Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden, London for the 2025 event on Thursday 20 November.

This prestigious annual event honours outstanding students and rising stars from across our industry, offering a unique opportunity for celebration, inspiration and networking.

Booking opens on 7th April, so be sure to secure your ticket early as spaces are limited. [www.gai.org.uk/educationawards](http://www.gai.org.uk/educationawards)

LEFT: GAI Education Awards will be at London's Grand Connaught Rooms

# GAI welcomes UK Government Grenfell response

The GAI has welcomed the UK Government's full response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's final report.

In its response, the Government accepted the findings of the report and set out its plans to act on all 58 recommendations, driving 'a sweeping transformation' to improve building and fire safety standards. It followed an announcement the previous week that responsibility for fire safety would be moving from the Home Office to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Raynor said: "The Grenfell Tower tragedy claimed 72 innocent lives in a disaster that should never have happened. The final report exposed in stark and devastating detail the shocking industry behaviour and wider failures that led to the fire, and the deep injustices endured by the bereaved, survivors, and residents.

"We are acting on all of the Inquiry's findings, and today set out our full response, detailing the tough action we are taking to drive change and reform the system to ensure no community will ever have to face a tragedy like Grenfell ever again."



SIMON DAWSON

**"We are detailing the tough action we are taking to drive change and reform the system"**

**ANGELA RAYNOR**

**Reforms set out include:**

- A new single construction regulator to ensure those responsible for building safety are held to account.

- A legal duty of candour compelling public authorities to disclose the truth and holding those responsible for failures to account.
- Stronger, clearer, and enforceable legal rights for residents.
- Empowering social housing residents to challenge landlords.

Of particular focus for the architectural ironmongery industry will be reforms for tougher oversight of those involved in testing and certifying, manufacturing and using construction products.

A construction products green paper has been published for consultation, including proposals for changes to the licensing of Conformity Assessment Bodies; mandatory data reporting; reforms to create clearer accountability for manufacturers and distributors; establishing a Construction Library; expanding the national regulator's surveillance powers; and improving the regulatory framework for products.

Welcoming the response, the GAI reconfirmed its commitment to working with Government, regulatory bodies and industry to ensure the fullest possible response to the lessons learned from this tragedy.



## Conrad Sandler (1937–2025): A legacy of leadership, innovation, and friendship



**ABOVE:** Conrad Sandler pictured centre with David Whitworth (left) and Keith Moss (right) in 2005

The architectural ironmongery industry has lost one of its most influential and well-loved figures with the passing of Conrad Sandler. A founding member of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI), a former GAI President, and a recipient of the prestigious GAI Medal in 2014, Conrad's contributions to the industry were immense and enduring. He was a pioneer, a mentor, and a larger-than-life character who left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Conrad's career in ironmongery began in the early 1970s at his father's business on Hackney Road, London. Even in those early days, he had an unmistakable presence – his charm, confidence, and keen business acumen set him apart. From those foundations, he built a remarkable career, progressing from ironmongery

sales to international leadership. He played a significant role in the success of Dorma Door Closers, overseeing English-speaking markets for the Dorma Group.

Beyond traditional ironmongery, Conrad was an innovator. He recognised the potential of the emerging access control market and took a leading role in its development through Warshaw Security. His ability to adapt and drive new technologies forward showcased his entrepreneurial spirit and deep understanding of the industry's evolution.

But Conrad was more than just a businessman. He was a natural leader, a guiding presence, and a mentor to many. He had an uncanny ability to inspire those around him, always ready with advice, encouragement, and support.

"Conrad had a certain something that made it a pleasure to be in his company,"

recalled Peter Gardner, a longtime industry peer and friend. "I first met him in the early 70s when he was working at his father's company, and over the years, we shared countless industry events, each one filled with laughter, great stories, and often a drink or two."

Conrad's contributions to the GAI were profound. As a founding member, he helped shape the organisation's direction and purpose. He was instrumental in the formation of the 'In My Day' club (IMD), a closely-knit group of leading figures in architectural ironmongery, where industry veterans could share experiences and camaraderie. His involvement with the GAI was recognised with the awarding of the GAI Medal in 2014, a testament to his dedication and influence.

Those who knew Conrad will also remember his infectious sense of fun. He never took himself too seriously and brought humour to every occasion – with many moments reflecting his warm, mischievous nature and his love for bringing joy to those around him.

Conrad was a legend in the ironmongery world, a key figure in shaping the industry, and a friend to so many. While he will be sorely missed, his legacy of leadership, innovation, and laughter will live on in the memories of all who knew him.

**"Conrad was a legend in the ironmongery world, a key figure in shaping the industry, and a friend to so many"**

**PETER GARDNER**

## Hub in Focus: North Central welcomes new ambassador

Michelle Saunders of Codelocks has taken over as the ambassador for GAI North Central Hub. She tells AIJ about her plans.

### Q: Tell us about the Hub.

The North Central Community Hub is a dedicated network for professionals in the architectural ironmongery industry. Covering the M62 corridor and beyond, it provides a unique space for individuals to connect, share knowledge, and support professional growth – things that just can't be properly achieved through online interactions alone.

Our mission is to unite architectural ironmongers, suppliers, and specifiers in a welcoming, face-to-face environment. Through our events and initiatives, we facilitate the exchange of best practices, keep members informed of industry trends, and drive innovation.

### Q: Who attends your events, and what happens there?

Our events attract a broad spectrum of professionals, including architectural ironmongers, manufacturers, distributors, architects, and specifiers. Essentially, anyone involved with the GAI in the supply, specification, or installation of architectural ironmongery is welcome. We even offer 'visitor passes' for the ironmongery curious outside of our direct network!

Attendees can expect expert-led discussions, training sessions, and networking opportunities. We cover topics ranging from industry updates to best practice, upcoming regulations, and Guild news. Product evenings are always hugely popular. We always place a focus on fostering knowledge-sharing between seasoned professionals and those newer to the field. And let's not forget the social aspect – our events are known for their hospitality!

### Q: What's next for the Hub and its members?

We are committed to continuous growth and increasing the value we offer to our members. Future plans include:

- Expanding our event offerings with new and existing CPD content covering sustainability, digital integration, innovative products, factory visits, and fire safety.
- Broadening our reach by encouraging participation from professionals at all career levels and using platforms like LinkedIn to enhance engagement.
- Strengthening partnerships with manufacturers, suppliers, and industry bodies, with additional 'Product Focus Events' planned.
- Establishing mentorship programmes to connect newcomers with experienced professionals who can share their expertise.
- Starting a programme of social events, including charity fundraisers and quizzes, to strengthen our community bonds.



## Get ready for the GAI/RIBA Specification Awards 2026

The countdown has begun for the GAI/RIBA AI Specification Awards 2026, with industry professionals being encouraged to start considering their entries.

Renowned as a benchmark for excellence in the specification of architectural ironmongery and product innovation, these biennial awards celebrate outstanding achievements across a diverse range of sectors. This year, as well as categories covering public and commercial, hospitality, health and education, residential, and international projects, there are plans to introduce additional focus on sustainable projects and products in response to the industry-wide push towards energy efficient solutions and the circular economy.

The Specification Awards provide a prestigious platform for architects, specifiers, building contractors, clients, and their architectural ironmongery partners to showcase projects and products that excel in innovation, functionality, compliance, and aesthetic excellence.

Nominations will open in early summer and close on 1 December. Project and products either completed or released on to the market between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2025 will be eligible, and nominations can be made by GAI members, RIBA members, or for any project in which a GAI Registered Professional was involved.



# Going for gold

GAI Education Gold Award winners share their thoughts on their achievement



ABOVE: Roy Buckingham and Lisa Douras, Gold Winners at GAI Education Awards

**Roy Buckingham DipGAI RegAI regional specification development manager at Abloy UK, Gold winner for GAI Certificate in Standards & Regulations (CertSRA)**

### How do you feel about winning Gold?

I was really pleased and surprised to have won. However, I guess this reflects the passion I have for ensuring correct specification of hardware and the work put in to ensure I maintain my knowledge, to be relevant and up to date.

### Why did you study for the CertSRA?

As a trusted advisor I want to ensure my knowledge is maintained and relevant to ultimately prove my competence to industry peers.

### What advice would you give to anyone thinking of taking the same step?

The GAI training is an excellent way of gaining knowledge and not only proving competence, but also ensuring risk is diminished for the individual and the company they work for, as well as the customers they work with: a win-win for all.

**Lisa Douras DipGAI marketing manager, SIMONSWERK, the top student in the GAI Diploma in Scheduling**

### How do you feel about winning Gold?

I was absolutely thrilled! I was a little shocked at first; I didn't expect it at all. It was such an amazing feeling to celebrate the win with my colleagues at SIMONSWERK. Their support throughout the past three years has been incredible,

and sharing that moment with them made it even more special.

### Why did you study for the Diploma?

I wanted to broaden my knowledge, particularly from a marketing perspective. In my role, I mainly focus on the hinges, and while that's an important part of the door, I don't get to dive into the other areas of the industry. I wanted a deeper understanding of the entire process so I could enhance my role within marketing. For me, this was a great opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.

### What advice would you give to anyone thinking of taking the same step?

It's a great way to deepen your knowledge and grow professionally. You've got to be ready to put in the work, especially in the third year – it definitely takes time and dedication. But you'll feel an incredible sense of achievement once it's all done. My biggest piece of advice would be to reach out to colleagues and industry connections. Everyone I reached out to was more than happy to help and share their knowledge. You'll learn so much, not just from the course, but from the people around you as well.

## New HQ for Guild

**The GAI is moving its headquarters to a new facility in the heart of England. The move will see the Guild relocate to Tamworth in Staffordshire.**

GAI chief executive Rachael Bliss said: "As well as bringing us closer to the historic heartland of the UK's architectural ironmongery industry, this move will deliver significant benefits to the Guild and our members. With excellent transport links and a central location, the new

**premises also offer much better and more flexible facilities for us to deliver the Guild's growing range of training, technical and membership services."**

Once the move is completed, the GAI's new address will be: **Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, Elizabeth Bradford Business Centre, 5 Colehill, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7HA. Phone and other contact details will remain the same, and can be viewed at [www.gai.org.uk/contactus](http://www.gai.org.uk/contactus)**

FREE DOWNLOAD

# Architectural Ironmongery Specifier Resource Book

Your guide to the **projects, companies** and **professionals** setting the standard in contemporary architectural ironmongery.



This free 78-page guide from the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) is an unmissable source of information and reference.

Explore best practice in architectural ironmongery with the winning entries from the **RIBA/GAI Specification Awards**. Read updates on professional competence, skills and industry standards. And find the very best companies and **Registered Professionals** to support your project with a complete **GAI member directory**.

Just one of the free resources available on the GAI website for architects, designers and specifiers throughout the construction sector.

Get your copy today at [www.gai.org.uk/SPECIFIER](http://www.gai.org.uk/SPECIFIER)

 Guild of  
Architectural  
Ironmongers



# Knocking on heaven's door

The entrances to the Milan Duomo are more than mere doors. The intricacy of craftsmanship makes them works of art



## When you approach the Duomo in Milan

you are presented with doors that are not just entryways but masterpieces of storytelling and devotion, blending Milan's religious, artistic, and cultural history.

The five doors of the Milan Duomo are famous for their intricate beauty, especially the main central door, which is a stunning example of Gothic and Renaissance craftsmanship. Made over decades - between 1896 and 1965 - each of the five bronze doors is carved with characters that depict Bible stories and Milan history.

The Main Door, finished in 1906, was made by the sculptor Ludovico Pogliaghi based on the measurements of the neo-gothic portal in the façade design by Brentano in 1888, adapted to the preserved Pellegrini cornice. The theme represented is the Joy and Sorrow of the Virgin Mary. In

The doors are famous for their intricate beauty. Each is carved with characters depicting Bible stories and Milan history



ABOVE AND RIGHT: The Main Door to the Milan Duomo

the left wing the panels contain the painful episodes of the Virgin and in the right wing the panels contain the episodes of the joys of the Virgin. The frame is decorated with floral motifs and angels.

The Left Door (Northwest, by Arrigo Minerbi, 1948) shows scenes from St. Ambrose's life (Milan's patron saint); while the Right Door (Northeast, by Giannino Castiglioni, 1950) is dedicated to the sacraments of the Church. The Far-Left Door (Southwest, by Franco Lombardi, 1965) depicts stories from the history of Milan and the carvings in the Far-Right Door (Southeast, by Luciano Minguzzi, 1965) show the struggles of Milanese Christians.

The ironmongery on the doors is as intricate and impressive as the bronze panels themselves. The massive bronze doors require strong internal iron frameworks to support their weight and withstand movement over time. The iron hinges, bars, and internal bracing ensure stability. Given the massive weight of the bronze doors, the hinges are likely pintle-style or strap hinges reinforced within the stone door frame.

Some of the doors feature elaborate iron door knockers, often in the shape of mythical creatures or religious symbols. Gothic-style scrollwork and filigree can be found on some of the hinges and locking mechanisms. ◆

# **CIOB** People

Construction's new people  
development resource



Expert opinions, career case studies, practical guides and events across a range of people development topics

Women in Construction  
Mental Health  
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion  
Apprenticeships  
Social Value  
Wellbeing  
Learning & Training  
Employee Engagement  
HR Tech  
Maternity & Paternity  
Leadership  
Flexible Working  
Tomorrow's Leaders

[www.ciobpeople.com](http://www.ciobpeople.com)



# DO NOT DISTURB

Take control of access on our new  
**CL5000 DND Electronic Lock**

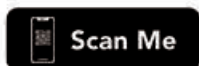


Privacy and access control are more important than ever in meeting rooms, consulting rooms and private spaces. With our new CL5000 DND electronic lock, part of the CL5000 range, you can enhance both while providing your users peace of mind.

Do Not Disturb provides privacy, allowing users to use facilities without the worry of unexpected interruptions or awkward encounters. This new lock is designed to boost user confidence and comfort, creating a seamless and stress-free experience in any shared space.

- ✓ Controlled privacy
- ✓ Boost user confidence and comfort
- ✓ Seamless and stress-free experience
- ✓ No interruptions or unwanted access
- ✓ Suitable for meeting rooms, consulting rooms and private spaces

**Controlled access and peace of mind, at your fingertips!**



codelocks.com  
sales@codelocks.com  
01635 239 645

  
**CODELOCKS**  
control + convenience

© 2025 CodeLocks International Ltd. Registered in England & Wales. All Rights Reserved.  
The CodeLocks Control + Convenience logo and NetCode® are registered trademarks of CodeLocks Ltd., registered in the United Kingdom, United States and other countries and regions.

