

Architectural Ironmongery Journal

AUTUMN 2025



INSIDE

- Integrity in specification
- Education as standard
- Bloomsbury project





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GAI

Updates Projects Standards Events

Digest



SDS London brings GEO architectural hardware to the UK

SDS London is now the UK distributor of the GEO range of architectural hardware.

GEO is a unified collection of door, window, sliding and bathroom fittings that draws on geometric forms to deliver a timeless design language.

The range of architectural products is based on an original design by renowned British architect, John Pawson CBE. Pawson has spent over 30 years making rigorously simple architecture that speaks of the fundamentals but is also modest in character.

His body of work spans a broad range of scales and typologies, from private

houses, sacred commissions, galleries, museums, hotels, ballet sets, yacht interiors and a bridge across a lake. His method is to approach buildings and design commissions in precisely the same manner, on the basis that 'it's all architecture'.

Inspired by classical and modernist architecture, the GEO collection reinterprets the enduring 'stadium' shape in three-dimensional form across the range, creating a consistent and instantly recognisable identity.

GEO balances aesthetics with performance, offering high-quality products engineered in stainless steel to meet the demands of both commercial and residential environments. The system spans everything from lever handles and pull handles to mechanical hardware and signage, providing architects and designers with a complete specification solution.

"We're excited to bring the GEO range to the UK market," says Simon Ayers, managing director of SDS London. "Its clean, modernist approach complements contemporary interiors, giving specifiers confidence in design continuity and performance across entire projects."

The GEO Home and Commercial collections are available now through SDS London's trade counter, showroom, and online at www.sdslondon.co.uk.

ABOVE: The geometric forms of the GEO range

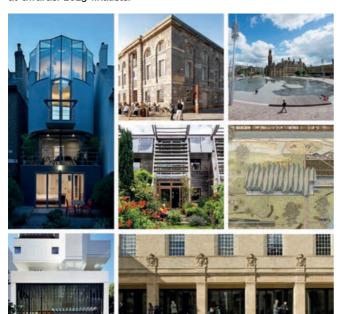
Buildings that serve purpose line up for architecture award

Architecture Today has announced the finalists of its 2025 Architecture Today Awards. Thirty projects have been named in nine categories: education; healthcare; individual house; infrastructure & public realm; mixed use; religion, arts & culture; residential development; workplace, and international, as well as five projects in the student prize category. Among the finalists are Queens University Belfast, Bradford City Park, Bethlem Museum of the Mind, Bloomberg's offices, and Salters Hall.

The Architecture Today Awards recognise buildings that stand the test of time; projects that have proven their worth through years of use, adaptation, and continued relevance. Last year's winners included The Royal Academy of Music, Sulis Hospital Bath, Gloucester Services, Oxo Tower Wharf and The National Theatre Future NT in London.

The finalists selected by the AT Awards Committee will present to the jury on 17 September at The Building Society, with the winners being announced at the Space House in London on 13 November at the 2025 Awards Party.

View the finalists at: https://architecturetoday.co.uk/ at-awards/2025-finalists/



RIGHT: Spitfire (top) and Siskin

LUXURY HARDWARE ON SHOW AT **DECOREX**

The UK's interior design show **Decorex returns** to Olympia 12-15 October, Interior designers, buyers and specifiers will gather for product launches. demonstrations and a talks programme. Over 280 brands will showcase their newest products including leading luxury hardware names. Last year's ironmongers included Armac Martin. Corston Architectural Detail. **Croft Architectural** Hardware, Frank Allart, Hendel & Hendel, Turnstyle Designs, and Samuel Heath & Sons.

Buy tickets at decorex.com

LEFT: Some of the projects making the final line up at AT Awards



G Johns & Sons offers new collection

G Johns & Sons, a leader in premium door hardware and ironmongery, has launched a new collection of lever-on-rose door handles. These sleek, modern designs are ideal for contemporary interiors and come in a variety of ranges - from the industrialinspired Spitfire collection to the understated elegance of Siskin.

The Spitfire range delivers both durability and impact, engineered with a fire-rated, sprung mechanism and a low-profile rose. Choose from knurled, hex, bamboo, reeded, or diamond textures, with finishes including matt black, antique brass, satin brass, dark bronze, and more. PVD options are also available for finishes for long-lasting wear.

The Hurricane Collection is a minimalist design with detailed finish options, featuring reeded, diamond-knurled, and plain levers. This range is available in various finishes: antique brass, satin brass, dark bronze PVD, and polished nickel.

Perfect for minimalist interiors, the Siskin range features a plain barrel lever and subtle bulb stem, is made from solid brass, and is offered in high-end finishes like matt black, antique brass, satin nickel, and polished nickel PVD.

The Kingstone Collection with a distinct diamond-cut knurled texture, offers both grip and visual appeal. Made from solid brass for long-lasting performance, it is available in a selection of PVD finishes, including antique brass, matt black, satin nickel, and polished nickel.

www.gjohns.co.uk





Integrity with product information standards is best practice for any manufacturer and the GAI's alignment with the CCPI is leading by example for members

The GAI has become a Trade Associate

member of the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI). This strategic partnership reflects its commitment to elevating product information standards and promoting a culture of clarity, accuracy, and integrity across the construction sector. The CCPI is rapidly becoming a key benchmark for product information best practice, backed by government, regulators, and industry leaders. Its focus is on ensuring product claims are clear, accurate, accessible, up-to-date, and unambiguous — principles that are

vital for safety, compliance, and trust.

This direction is strongly supported by the Construction Products Reform Green Paper, which consistently underscores the importance of transparent and reliable product information as critical to the change required across the industry.

GAI's decision to join the CCPI reflects serious trends in the sector:

- The growing momentum for change across the supply chain
- Rising demand from clients, specifiers, and regulators for assessed product claims.
- Lessons from the Grenfell tragedy and the need to restore trust.
- A commitment to support our members in meeting the highest standards.

"This is more than a badge – it's a step towards industry-wide improvement," said Douglas Masterson, technical & training director. "By aligning with the CCPI, we're encouraging members to not only meet compliance expectations but lead by example."



"This is more than a badge – it's a step towards industry-wide improvement" Amanda Long, chief executive of CPI Ltd, the not-for-profit independently-run organisation set-up to manage the CCPI said, 'I warmly welcome GAI to the CCPI Trade Associate community we are building who are supporting the transformation of the industry to a place where product information and marketing is clear, accessible, up-to-date, accurate and unambiguous.'

Because the CCPI assessment process does not exist elsewhere in the construction sector in assessments for manufacturers and their product information, it means that manufacturers who meet the criteria are demonstrating to users and specifiers that they are committed to continually improving their product information. It gives users and specifiers more confidence that they are working with manufacturers with integrity whose product information carries the unique CCPI Assessed Mark.

The CCPI has two separate Codes – one for manufacturers and the other for merchants & distributors. For manufacturers there are eleven Clauses of the CCPI which cover a wide range of matters from responsibility for product information, to clarity of performance claims made, general information and competency.

The CCPI will provide:

- Independent third-party assessment underpinned by its Leadership and Culture and Management Systems assessment as well as on-going Registration with the requirement to continuously improve product information and respond to any issues raised regarding registered product information.
- Participating companies will benefit fundamentally from organising their systems and processes in relation to product information and improving their marketing practices – supporting



"I warmly welcome GAI to the CCPI Trade Associate community we are building who are supporting the transformation of the industry"

compliance with anticipated new regulatory requirements and helping to give specifiers, clients and more confidence regarding the information provided on the construction products they select.

- A focus on culture, leadership and ethics, CCPI will support an environment for healthy challenge within organisations helping to generate product information and marketing practices that meet the standards of the CCPI and that are continuously improved.
- As the Building Safety Regulator and National Regulator for Construction Products (NRCP) get established, CCPI is an effective way for companies to show that they are conforming with the CCPI and, through their on-going Registration with the Code, committed to continuous improvement of their product information. ◆

"This is the architecture of accountability"

Hannah Mansell reflects on fire door specification as strategic; it's where design meets consequence

The future belongs to those who specify

with foresight, not familiarity, and in the evolving fire door market, we are no longer choosing components, we're defining futures.

A new era has arrived, where design decisions are intrinsically strategic and the language of specification is becoming a dialect of accountability. For architects and specifiers, this shift presents not just regulatory urgency, but a generational opportunity: to create buildings and organisations that stand for safety, sustainability, and enduring integrity.

The Building Safety Act, PAS 2000, and the Green Paper reforms have sharpened the contours of risk. This is not a warning, it's a call to leadership. Technical due diligence is no longer optional. Marketing gloss won't suffice. Every fire door selected, every product



integrated, must withstand not just fire, but deep due diligence and scrutiny.

But here lies the beauty of the moment: that specification is not a limitation; it's a gift and a launch pad. Compliance, far from stifling design, can elevate it. Thoughtful collaboration with technical specialists from the outset unlocks creative freedom rooted in assurance. Designs that last begin with decisions that are verified, validated, and futureproofed.

We must ask more of our projects and our partners. Are we building environments that protect, inspire, and endure? Do our selections reflect not just aesthetic ambition, but technical intelligence and ethical foresight? Architects and decision-makers are widening their lens. Specification is not just about cost or catalogue; it's a declaration of organisational intent. Bring your technical advisors in early. Challenge your supply chain. Ensure the integrity and due diligence behind every aesthetic. This is where legacy begins.

This is the architecture of accountability, where safety is not static, but strategic. Where the art of specification and the craft of design becomes the blueprint for legacy, not measured in doors, locks, or facades, but in the communities they protect and the futures they enable.

The seven pillars of architecture have always been about designing places for people, spaces that nurture connection, dignity and safety. In this new era,

"To choose products with integrity is to shape environments that endure. Let this be the start of a new specification culture"

specification is not a technical footnote. It is the start of that story where 'to specify wisely is to build with intent'. To choose products with integrity is to shape environments that endure. And to lead with technical intelligence is to honour the true purpose of good design: creating spaces that serve, protect, and inspire generations to come.

Let this be the start of a new specification culture. One defined not by minimum compliance, but by courageous clarity. •

Hannah Mansell is principal technical

consultant for Adoorability and facilitator of UK fire door think tank.







The Bloomsbury set

Collaboration and early engagement was the key to success on a London project for 3V Architectural Hardware. **AIJ** reports



"The traditional approach of bringing

manufacturers and specialists in during later project phases simply doesn't work in today's regulatory environment." This statement from Liam Bond at Pace Interiors encapsulates the innovative approach taken by the interiors suppliers on a recent reimagined mixed use building in central London.

Situated in the heart of Bloomsbury, Vernon Sicilian House and 21 Southampton Row are a collection of mixed use, Grade Il listed commercial buildings originally constructed between 1905-1910.

The ground floor sections have been adapted to become a high-end retail



ABOVE: The project's historic facade

space, and the floors above refurbished to create bright, modern office units in a prime city location. This successful venture is in large part due to the collaborative efforts displayed by the parties involved: Hale Brown architects, 3V Architectural Hardware, fit-out specialists Pace Interiors and bespoke timber fire door manufacturer Forza Doors. Working collaboratively from the start is what delivers results, say the parties.

3V says its involvement in any project typically begins in the pre-tender design phase, working directly with architects, to "avoid the most persistent challenges posttender of aligning all stakeholders efficiently".



"In modern construction engaging stakeholders from the outset is no longer opional: it's critical to achieving exceptional results." **ROBERT TAYLOR**

The three suppliers established a collaborative framework from the outset, enabling a fully integrated specification process that balanced architectural intent with manufacturing capabilities, regulatory compliance, and installation logistics. This was carried through from post-tender stages to final installation.

In an industry increasingly pressured by coordination and specification complexity, this early-stage collaboration delivered tangible results that set the project apart:

- Clear and consistent understanding of architectural requirements
- Significant time savings
- Improved cost efficiency
- Robust compliance with fire and building regulations
- High levels of client satisfaction "By working closely with Pace and Forza from the very beginning, we ensured that

every detail - from specification through to installation – was carefully considered and aligned.," says Robert Taylor, specification sales at 3V. "Design changes were proactively managed, with downstream effects identified and addressed before they could impact delivery," says the ironmonger. This integrated approach ensured that architectural intent, manufacturing feasibility, compliance requirements, and site logistics were aligned-minimising the disconnects that often arise later in the process."

Liam Bond at Pace Interiors agrees. "Fire door packages require integrated thinking from day one - the door, frame, ironmongery, and installation methodology must all comply and work together seamlessly."

This collaborative approach saved our client both time and money. We avoided the usual cycle of amendments and achieved first-time compliance across all installations."

Jim White at Forza doors agrees. "When we're involved from the design stage, we can ensure our doors are specified correctly for the exact performance requirements

ABOVE AND BELOW: Flat black matte ironmongery was used to marry function and aesthetics **OPPOSITE:** The versatile reception area



and aesthetic vision. This eliminates the costly redesigns and delays that occur when manufacturing realities clash with late-stage specification changes."

History reimagined

The architecture of Vernon House, Sicilian House, and 21 Southampton Row form a striking streetscape: it was London's first pupose-built pedestrian street and the Grade II buildings boast detailed wooden shopfronts and ornate stonework.

But the interiors lacked the same character so HBA revitalised the buildings to provide 50,000sq ft of Grade 'A' office space along with a new 'clubhouse' facility for the whole estate. The enlarged and reconfigured reception offers a multipurpose, flexible space that can be used for events and presentations, as well as providing a variety of touchdown and informal meeting spaces.

Ironmongery brief

The ironmongery brief was carefully tailored to meet both the functional and aesthetic requirements of this office fit-out. Properly chosen and installed ironmongery ensured the smooth operation of doors throughout the space, while also enhancing fire and security requirements and aligning with the overall interior design. This project blends original heritage architecture with contemporary design. Flat matte black ironmongery was carefully selected to unify old and new, reflecting the architectural vision. The 3017 pull handle features a sleek, minimalist design offering a modern and sophisticated aesthetic and bespoke push plates also have fully radiused detailing and integrated fire signage.

As 3V says: "Bloomsbury Quarter exemplifies what's possible when collaboration begins early. In modern construction engaging stakeholders from the outset is no longer optional: it's critical to achieving exceptional results."



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AIJ pays tribute to iconic Danish architect and designer Knud Holscher who died earlier this year

Knud Helmuth Holscher (6 May 1930-27 June 2025), the Danish architect and industrial designer, died this year at the age of 93 leaving an enduring legacy which has been described as "defined by elegant simplicity, human-centred usability, and uncompromising material integrity".

Born in Rødby, Holscher trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, graduating in the mid-1950s., Holscher began his career at the studio of Arne Jacobsen, where he oversaw the design and construction of St. Catherine's College

at Oxford University from 1962-64. After returning to Denmark, he partnered in Krohn & Hartvig Rasmussen (later KHR Architects - one of Denmark's largest architectural firms - from 1968 to 1995 where, with Svend Axelsson, he spearheaded major commissions like the Odense University campus and Copenhagen Airport's terminals B and Domestic Passenger Wing. Following his tenure there, he established his own practice, Knud Holscher Design, which encompassed a diverse range of design disciplines. >

ABOVE: Holscher at his home

His legacy has been described as "defined by elegant simplicity, human-centred usability and uncompromising material integrity".



Yet it was as an industrial designer that Holscher achieved global acclaim. His product designs – ranging from lighting for Flos and Erco to toilet seats, writing instruments and baby strollers – embodied the Scandinavian design ethos: crisp, clear, simple and light, always functional first. Holscher insisted that "design should not be defined; it formulates itself in the creative process".

Holscher was part of architectural hardware pioneers, d line from the beginning, conceiving its first coordinated line of hardware in 1971 as 'modest design that is designed to last'.

He designed a series of award-winning, minimalist products for d line, starting with the iconic U and L levers, whose characteristic bend would influence the entire product range.

Throughout his career, he amassed over 60 prestigious awards – including British Design Awards in 1965 and 1966, and the Royal Danish Academy's C. F. Hansen Medal in 1993. In 2001, he received the Dreyer Honorary Award.

Having established Knud Holscher Design in Copenhagen in 1995, Holscher has since worked with a team that includes his architect son, Rasmus, and that designs everything from buildings like Copenhagen's Kastrup Airport, to future-proof hardware for d line.

Beyond achievements and recognition, Holscher's design philosophy remained consistent: serve the individual user in the context of public life. Whether crafting a door handle or planning a university campus, his focus was on intuitive practicality aligned with poetic restraint.



ABOVE: Odense University
TOP LEFT: Iconic d line hardware
BELOW: Holscher's home

Holscher was part of d line from the beginning conceiving its first line of hardware in 1971 as "modest design that is designed to last"

His personal home in Holte, Denmark – a minimalist brick house with clean lines and interiors lovingly curated – stands as a testament to his aesthetic values: design that is unobtrusive yet deeply engaging.

Knud Holscher's influence extends far beyond his physical works; he shaped a way of thinking about design – one anchored in simplicity, purpose, and empathy – which will doubtless continue to inspire designers and architects around the world.



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Security Martyn's Law has changed how we specify for safety and security in public spaces in the UK. Douglas Masterson reports on the impact for architectural ironmongers

On the evening of 22 May 2017, an

improvised explosive device was detonated in the foyer of Manchester Arena as crowds left a pop concert. Tragically, 22 people were killed and hundreds more injured. This event reshaped how the UK thinks about security in public spaces. It highlighted the consequences of vulnerabilities in venue security and the devastating impact of a lack of preparedness. A subsequent public inquiry examined the circumstances of the attack in detail and made a series of recommendations to improve preparedness and protective security, many of which directly informed the development of new UK legislation.

Among the many legacies of that night is Martyn's Law - formally the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 - named after Martyn Hett, one of the 22 victims. The law aims to embed a culture of preparedness and proportionate protective security measures in venues and public spaces across the UK. For those in the security and built environment industries, particularly architectural ironmongers and hardware specialists, the legislation brings both new responsibilities and opportunities to contribute directly to public safety.

Martyn's Law emerged from the campaigning of Figen Murray (Martyn's mother), who argued that many public venues were ill-prepared for terrorist incidents. Her efforts, supported by survivors and security experts, persuaded the UK Government to introduce legislation designed to raise baseline security standards across the country.

The key principle underpinning this law is proportionality: requirements will vary according to the size of a venue and



"For architectural ironmongers the legislation brings both new responsibilities and opportunities to contribute to safety"

the type of activities taking place. For example, a small community hall should not be expected to implement the same level of security as a football stadium, but both should demonstrate some level of preparedness and resilience against attack.

Buildings and venues in scope

Martyn's Law applies primarily to publicly accessible buildings and venues above certain capacity thresholds. The Act categorises premises according to size, use, and risk profile. Examples of in-scope buildings include:

- Entertainment and leisure venues: theatres, concert halls, cinemas, nightclubs, arenas, and stadiums.
- Retail and hospitality: shopping centres, large retail stores, pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels, and conference centres.
- Public and community buildings: town halls, libraries, community centres, and places of worship.

- Education establishments: schools, colleges, and universities, depending on size and public access.
- Health and transport hubs: hospitals, railway stations, and airports.
- Outdoor events: festivals, fairgrounds, and temporary structures with controlled entry points.
- Generally, private dwellings, small businesses, and workplaces not open to the public will be out of scope.
- Capacity-based tiering in relation to the building or project will ensure proportionate requirements in relation to security:
- Standard Tier (200-799 capacity): Premises in this tier will be required to undertake basic but essential steps to improve preparedness. These focus on simple, low-cost activities designed to reduce harm and save lives in the event of an attack—such as locking doors, closing shutters, and identifying safe routes to cover. There is no requirement to implement physical security measures at this level.

● Enhanced Tier (800+ capacity):

Larger venues and those considered higher risk will face more stringent obligations. They will need to conduct detailed risk assessments, implement robust security measures (procedural and physical), and demonstrate compliance through regulatory inspections.

In both tiers, the emphasis is on proportionate, practical measures rather than unnecessary bureaucracy. Compliance will, however, be enforceable, with penalties for failure.

Although Martyn's Law received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025, it is not yet in force. The Government has deliberately built in an >

GAI

"For ironmongery professionals the next two years should be viewed as a time of preparation and positioning. An opportunity to educate clients, refine products and build awareness."



implementation period of at least 24 months to give both regulators and industry time to prepare. The earliest realistic date for the law to take effect will be April 2027.

During this transitional phase the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will establish its role as the regulator responsible for overseeing compliance. Venue operators, building owners, and managers will need to review existing security arrangements and start aligning them with the proportional requirements of the Act.

Impact on ironmongery

For architectural ironmongery professionals, the next two years should be viewed as a time of preparation and positioning. Ironmongers, consultants, and manufacturers have an opportunity to educate clients, refine product specifications, and build awareness of compliant solutions before enforcement begins. Practical steps include:

Guidance: Begin conversations with clients about their venues' size, function, and likely classification (Standard or Enhanced Tier).

Product Readiness: Review ranges of locks, panic hardware, and access control systems to ensure certification and compliance with both safety and security standards.

Training: Ensure teams are trained to advise competently on balancing egress, accessibility, and security.

Partnerships: Build stronger links with architects, security consultants, and venue operators to become trusted advisors.

Martyn's Law will inevitably shape how ironmongery is specified in both new build and retrofit projects. Security considerations will now carry greater weight alongside fire safety, accessibility, and aesthetics. Specifiers will increasingly need to:

- Select certified and tested products that demonstrate resilience against forced entry while meeting fire, escape, and accessibility requirements.
- Consider access control and flow

management. For enhanced-tier venues, controlling access is central to deterrence and response. Ironmongers will play a significant role as locking devices, panic hardware, and access systems must balance emergency egress with security.

- Focus on the importance of compartmentalisation as part of security strategies, ensuring doors and barriers both guide evacuation and create safe refuge areas.
- Specify door hardware carefully in respect of emergency egress. Martyn's Law does not exist in isolation—it must align with fire safety, building regulations, and accessibility. For example:
- Panic devices must allow rapid evacuation while resisting forced entry, and comply with standards such as BS EN 1125 (panic escape), BS EN 179 (emergency escape), and BS EN 13637 (electrically controlled exit systems).
- Integration with alarms and security systems will be crucial, ensuring that in a hostile incident, doors behave as intended to aid evacuation or lockdown.

 Ironmongery professionals should also:
- Prioritise third-party certification. With accountability already strengthened post-Grenfell, Martyn's Law will increase demand for certified, traceable, tested products.
 Suppliers must provide documentation to clients that may be required during inspections.
- Assist with operational preparedness and training. The law is not only about physical measures—people and processes matter. Advising on intuitive hardware, supporting training, and ensuring usability under stress are all vital.
- Advise on retrofit and legacy buildings. Many affected venues will be existing rather than new. Retrofitting hardware that balances proportionality, compliance, and heritage constraints will be key. This may include:
- Upgrading mechanical locks to electronic access systems where appropriate.

- Adding controlled exit devices that delay attackers without impeding life safety (noting these must be tested to BS EN 13637 and approved by Building Control)
- Reconciling heritage considerations with modern security needs.

Finally, working closely with facilities managers (FMs) will be essential. FMs will be on the front line of implementing Martyn's Law, ensuring safety, resilience, and compliance within the built environment. They will look to trusted suppliers for practical, compliant solutions

Get educated

Education environments illustrate how Martyn's Law will be applied. Schools and colleges often accommodate large numbers of people across multiple buildings, with open access during the day but tighter security required at other times. Under Martyn's Law:

- Risk assessments must consider arrival/ departure peaks, visitor access, and afterhours community use.
- Access control hardware such as electronic locks, secure entry points, and access control systems will be increasingly important.
- Emergency egress must remain straightforward for pupils and staff, while lockdown capability may also be required during hostile incidents.
- Staff training will be critical, ensuring teachers and administrators know

"While Martyn's Law poses compliance challenges it also represents an opportunity to demonstrate leadership"



- no earlier than April 2027, giving the industry time to prepare.
- Ensure staff are fully trained and competent to advise clients on this massively important subject matter.
- Keep up to date with all relevant guidance from Trade Associations such as GAI on issues such as security and escape.
- Prioritise third-party certified hardware tested to the appropriate standards.

- and access systems form part of a wider security solution.
- Support training and drills by recommending user-friendly, reliable solutions.
- Review current projects and sites to anticipate whether they fall into the Standard or Enhanced Tier.
- Use this implementation period to position your business as a trusted advisor in security and compliance.

how to operate door systems and respond in a crisis.

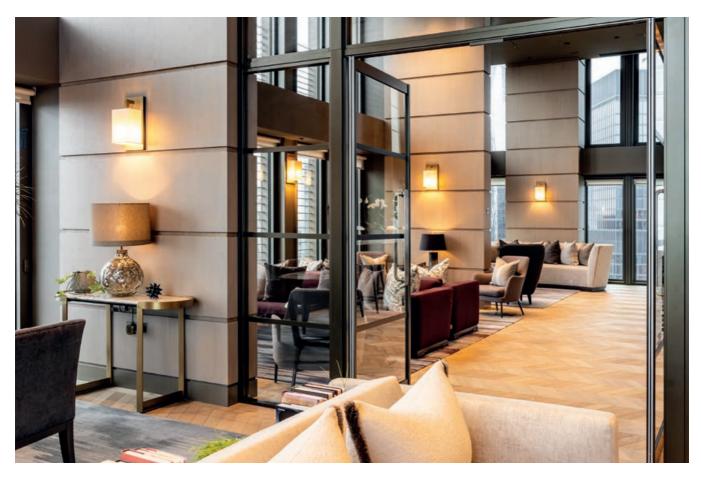
 For ironmongery professionals, this presents an opportunity to specify and supply tested solutions that balance everyday usability with enhanced security readiness.

Opportunity to lead

While Martyn's Law poses compliance challenges, it also represents an opportunity for the architectural ironmongery industry to demonstrate leadership. By engaging early with clients, architects, and security consultants, ironmongers can position themselves as trusted advisors in achieving compliance. They can highlight the role of hardware in wider security solutions and innovate in product design to meet demand for secure, user-friendly solutions. The law will raise public awareness of physical security, making it easier for professionals to explain why investment in quality hardware is essential rather than optional.

Martyn's Law is a landmark piece of legislation that will reshape how public venues approach security. For the architectural ironmongery and security industries, it signals a shift towards more integrated, accountable, and proportionate risk management. The challenge is to balance accessibility, life safety, and hostile threat resilience in addition to other key factors such as fire. For those who specify, supply, and maintain door hardware and access systems, this is both a responsibility and an opportunity: a chance to play a direct role in creating safer public spaces and honouring the legacy of Martyn Hett and all those affected by the Manchester Arena attack.

A Technical Briefing on this topic is available on www.gai.org.uk/knowledge. An online quiz based on this feature is available on the GAI Learning Hub. Completion of this quiz is worth one CPD point towards Registered Professional status. learninghub.gai.org.uk/ totara/dashboard/index.php



Hidden gems

Architect and designer **Jonathan Yeung** on how hinges shape spatial experience

Juhani Pallasmaa famously stated,

"The door handle is the handshake of the building." The hardware of a door – its movable parts – directly shapes how we engage with architecture, influencing our sensory and spatial awareness. Rather than focusing solely on the materiality, finishes, or stylistic variations of knobs and handles, the emphasis lies in how different types

of hardware impact spatial flow and user experience. By examining hinges, tracks, and pivots, designers can better understand the nuanced ways in which these elements contribute to an architectural narrative.

The selection of door hardware is not always as flexible as one might assume – certain hinges or track systems may be unsuitable for specific spatial conditions,

and environmental factors such as humidity can affect natural materials like wood.

Small yet critical, these components play a defining role in shaping the perception and function of architectural spaces.

Side hinges are among the most commonly used door hardware, as swing doors are typically assumed to operate with this mechanism. They primarily fall into two categories: exposed butt hinges and concealed side hinges. One key limitation of side hinges is the requirement for a door frame, regardless of the intended aesthetic. In rare cases where side hinges are installed without a frame, the wall opening must be precisely prepared, and the material must be substantial enough to anchor the hinges and support the door.

Butt hinges are widely used due to their ease of installation, adjustability, and maintenance. Typically mounted face-toface on both the door frame and the side profile of the door, they require minimal preparation and can be replaced or adjusted with little effort. Their practicality makes them a standard choice for many applications. In some cases, specially finished butt hinges with refined details can serve as an elegant design solution, particularly for larger doors. However, on smaller doors, their visibility on the pull-side may be visually distracting.

Concealed side hinges, produced by various brands, function similarly and have gained popularity as installation tools and market demand have matured. As the name suggests, these hinges are embedded within both the door and frame, remaining completely hidden when the door is closed. However, they do become visible when the door is open. This means they are best suited for doors that remain closed most of the time, as their primary advantage is creating a clean, uninterrupted surface.

Concealed hinges enable the design of flush swing doors, allowing for minimalistic detailing that emphasises the architectural opening. However, they are more challenging to install and service, as they require precisely shaped cutouts in both the door and frame. Once installed, swapping them for a different hinge type is difficult, as the custom recesses limit compatibility. The thickness and core material of the door must also be carefully calibrated to ensure proper structural support. Despite these complexities, the results can be striking - concealed hinges allow doors to integrate seamlessly into their surroundings, enhancing the overall spatial composition.

Pivotal role

Pivot hinges are most commonly encountered in commercial glass doors, especially those without a mullion frame, as they rely on top (ceiling and/or wall) and bottom (floor) anchoring. However, beyond



ABOVE & BELOW: Concealed hinges like Tectus from SIMONSWERK allow for a minimalist aesthetic

By examining hinges, tracks, and pivots, designers can better understand the nuanced ways in which these elements contribute to an architecture narrative



their traditional application in glass doors, pivot hinges are gaining popularity for their versatility and ability to create a seamless, unobstructed opening. Unlike side hinges, which restrict movement to one edge of the door, pivot hinges can be placed anywhere along the door's width even at its centre - allowing designers to experiment with balance, proportion, and the creation of strikingly large doors.

Despite their aesthetic and functional advantages, pivot hinges require a more complex installation and demand careful planning early in the design process. Similar to concealed side hinges, pivot hinges require precise cutouts - but instead of fitting into a door frame, they must be embedded into the floor slab and ceiling structure or strategically positioned within a dropped ceiling.

Despite these challenges, pivot hinges remain highly desirable in high-end projects. Their ability to create a seamless aesthetic - regardless of whether the door is open or closed - enhances their appeal, allowing doors to blend into the architecture with an almost sculptural presence. By integrating the pivot mechanism within the structure, these doors behave like living machines, embodying a fusion of precision engineering and architectural elegance. Jonathan Yeung is designer (architecture and interior), founding partner of YY Projects. He is also a lecturer at the University of Hong Kong and the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong. This is an abridged version of an article that first appeared in Archdaily.

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



Training has never been needed more

than it is currently. Changes to legislation, standards, product compliance and industry demands has made competence mandatory and knowledge essential. Add to this the fact that today's workforce no longer views training as a perk but as a prerequisite means education is now essential to attracting, retaining and empowering talent as well as ensuring businesses stay competitive in a fast-changing world.

Consort Architectural Hardware recognises this. "Architectural ironmongery is on the cusp of rapid transformation, with evolving regulations, product compliance, sustainability standards and digital innovations signalling a need for ongoing professional development," says director, Daniel May. "In what could be a fast-paced period for our sector, employers must not only look to support staff but actively

champion continued learning and structured development pathways.

"The expectation for greater industry knowledge is clearly growing and with that more job seekers are placing value in education as part of their roles, demanding clear internal strategies that help to ensure employees feel empowered and supported in their learning," he adds.

"At Consort, we value this approach and actively enrol staff into the GAI programme

for example, as well as running internal education workshops for groups and individuals, management courses and professional training in association with DOIT/DHI. These qualifications, alongside the GAI membership, provide access to a wider community and learning resources, allowing our teams to stay ahead whilst the industry develops as one. The question is no longer whether to invest in professional development, it's how to make it a core

"In a fast-paced period for our sector, employers must not only look to support staff but actively champion continued learning and structured development pathways."

DANIEL MAY, CONSORT ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE

"With increasing regulation and the need for verified competence, qualifications like those from the GAI are becoming essential."

SAMANTHA THATCHER, SDS LONDON

part of our company culture as we improve our service promise."

It's part of the corporate values at SDS too. "At SDS London, we've seen first-hand how crucial training has become, not just for compliance, but for customer trust and business growth," says Samantha Thatcher sales & marketing manager. "With increasing regulation and the need for verified competence, qualifications like those from the GAI are becoming essential. For us, training is embedded in our company culture, from onboarding and CPD to career development plans for every sales member.

"As an employee-owned business, we believe our people are our greatest asset, and investing in their knowledge benefits everyone: the team, the customer, and the wider industry. We're seeing a new generation of employees who expect structured learning and clear progression, and we're proud to be building a workplace where both are available and encouraged."

Joanne Milne-Rowe, the managing director of Codelocks UK, says the GAI is crucial when it comes to meeting its training needs. "When recruiting, we expect candidates to be proactively asking about training and career progression. And we reciprocate, investing in on-the-job training supplied by external experts, ensuring everyone has the right skills. This is where the GAI has been invaluable. We have four GAI diploma holders in our UK business, and we encourage all new starters into the foundation courses because they provide a level of detail we could never cover ourselves."

When Hoppe is looking for new recruits it actively seeks keen learners. "Education

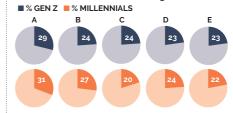
is key to our business and one we value strongly," says managing director Ged Ryan. "It makes us credible and allows customers to trust us. We want everyone who interacts with our teams to feel confident that they're dealing with competent individuals that have an in-depth understanding of architectural ironmongery.

"Our recruitment process is designed to identify individuals with a deep technical knowledge and strong communication skills, both essential when recommending ironmongery products. We look for experience and qualifications relevant to the job as well as expertise in building regulations and fire safety standards. We also want someone committed to learning so they can provide the best customer service. We make a huge investment in training to make sure staff are multiskilled, including helping staff achieve the widely respected qualifications from the GAI and continuously updating their knowledge via CPD."

Training is not a perk

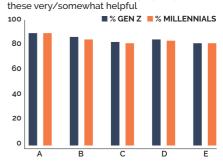
Today's job seekers expect their employers to offer training opportunities. According to research from Deloitte, Gen Z and Millennials are aligned on what they value most in career progression. According to the consultant's 2025 Gen Z and Millennial Survey, skills, team management and industry-specific knowledge are most important to this group of employees. And to develop these skills and capabilities they want mentorship and guidance (86% of Gen Zs and 84% of millennials), on-the-job learning and practical experience (89%). Gen Zs and Millennials believe their employers should support their

Top ways in which employers can support Gen Z and millennial learning needs



- A. Create dedicated, in-house, learning programs and a lot of time to focus on them B. Offer financial compensation for external learning opportunities
- C. Provide 1:1 membership opportunities
- D. Provide access to learning
- platforms and subscriptions
- E. Facilitate peer learning and knowledge sharing

Most helpful tools for career growth Percentage of respondents saying they find



- A. On the job, learning and practical experience B. Mentorship and guidance from experienced colleagues
- C. Feedback and performance reviews
- D. Peer learning and collaboration
- E. Formal training programs

learning needs by: creating in-house learning programs; allotting time to conduct learning without interfering with workloads; offering financial compensation for external learning; providing 1:1 mentorship; and offering access to learning platforms and subscriptions.

Investing in education and training is no longer optional for employers, but essential. Today's Gen Z and Millennial workforce expects opportunities to grow to come as standard in their work, not a perk.

Employers who embed learning into workplace culture not only attract and retain talent but also future-proof their business against constant change.

SOURCE

GAI

GAI TALK

Rachael Bliss GAI chief executive

The introduction of Martyn's Law is a defining moment for our industry.



For many outside our sector, the role of architectural ironmongery in life safety often goes unseen. But we know that the way a door opens in an emergency, the reliability of a panic device, or the performance of an access control system can quite literally save lives. Martyn's Law makes that responsibility crystal clear — and places it firmly on the agenda.

This is not just another layer of compliance. It's about culture, trust, and preparedness. And while that might feel daunting, it also gives our industry an incredible opportunity to show the value we bring.

I've been inspired to see how many of you are already stepping up to that challenge. From engaging early in complex projects, to embedding training into your businesses, to sharing knowledge across our hubs — the momentum is building. You're proving that ironmongery is not just about products, it's about people and the places where they come together.

And you won't face these changes alone. At the GAI, we are here to help you prepare, adapt, and thrive. Whether through technical guidance, education programmes, or connecting you with peers and experts, our role is to make sure you have the knowledge, confidence, and support you need to lead through change.

Together, we can raise the profile of our profession, reinforce our reputation for integrity, and most importantly, play our part in making public spaces safer for everyone.

See page 16 for an in-depth feature on Martyn's Law.

GAI Community...



New guidance strengthens fire door hardware compliance

The GAI and the Door & Hardware
Federation (DHF) have announced
the publication of the Ironmongery
Manufacturers' Guidance Document. It is an
industry-led, best practice guide supporting
manufacturers in providing clear, consistent
and comprehensive product information for
fire door hardware placed on the market in
Great Britain.

Developed over more than a year through collaboration between GAI, DHF and the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), the guide addresses a crucial area of fire safety and compliance.

The document has been designed to help manufacturers, distributors and own-brand suppliers of ironmongery products understand their obligations and provide the essential information needed to support safe product selection, installation and maintenance.

Duncan Johnson, deputy director, construction products regulation at OPSS, commented: "I welcome engagement with OPSS from both the GAI and the DHF aimed at supporting businesses in understanding and meeting regulatory requirements. Businesses must comply with the regulations that apply to them, and industry-led initiatives such as this best practice guide can help them achieve this in a practical and effective way."

The guidance outlines what manufacturers should provide for ironmongery components used on fire-resisting door systems – particularly timber fire doors. This includes marking and labelling, installation instructions,

supporting test evidence, third-party certification, care and maintenance information, and intumescent protection details where required.

One of the key features of the document is its classification of hardware into three categories according to the level of door material removal required. This ensures that the higher the potential impact on a fire door's performance, the more comprehensive the supporting information and test evidence provided must be

Douglas Masterson, GAI technical and training director, said: "This publication has been carefully designed to help manufacturers meet both their legal responsibilities and the expectations of those specifying and installing fire door hardware. By setting out clear, practical recommendations, this document will help to improve product safety, regulatory compliance and ultimately, life safety."

Michael Skelding, DHF general manager & secretary, added: "This collaborative guide strengthens the industry's ability to consistently deliver safe, compliant fire door solutions. It

recognises the complexity of fire door assemblies and the critical role that well-specified, properly installed and maintained hardware plays in ensuring fire and life safety."

The Ironmongery Manufacturers' Guidance Document is available to download now from the GAI website.

"This publication has been designed to help manufacturers meet their legal responsibilities and the expectations of those specifying and installing fire door hardware. It will improve safety." **DOUGLAS MASTERSON**





Invest in Your Future: GAI Education Prospectus 2025/26

The GAI has launched its new Education Prospectus 2025/26, showcasing the full range of industry-recognised training and qualifications available for the coming year.

From entry-level courses through to advanced programmes, the GAI Education Programme provides structured learning designed to support every stage of your professional development.

Internationally recognised as the benchmark for competence in architectural ironmongery, these courses help professionals build specialist expertise, gain formal qualifications, and progress their careers.

Enrolment is open until Friday 19 December 2025. Download the new prospectus from the GAI website to discover the right course for your career journey.

www.gai.org.uk/GAI/Learning

LEFT: The new guide is a best practice guide supporting manufacturers in providing clear, consistent and comprehensive product information



ABOVE: Award winners will be announced at a ceremony in London

Deadline Approaches for Al Specification Awards 2026

Time is running out to enter the AI Specification Awards 2026, with nominations closing on 31 October 2025.

The GAI is urging architects, specifiers, contractors, clients and their architectural ironmongery partners to submit entries before the deadline. The biennial awards – sponsored by ASSA ABLOY – celebrate the very best in architectural ironmongery across the UK and internationally.

The 2026 awards comprise 10 categories:

- Commercial and Retail (Allegion)
- Public, Health and Education (Access2)
- Residential (Frank Allart)
- Hospitality (Forza Doors)
- International (dormakaba)
- NEW Small Project (Codelocks)
- NEW Sustainability (Zoo Hardware)
- Product Design and Innovation Mechanical
- Product Design and Innovation Electronic (ADSA)

 Winner of Winners – chosen by the judges from the seven project categories (GEZE UK)

Two new categories reflect the industry's evolving priorities. The Sustainability Award, sponsored by Zoo Hardware, highlights projects that make exceptional contributions to environmental standards and best practice, while the Small Project category, sponsored by Codelocks, celebrates specifications demonstrating ironmongery expertise on a budget of £25,000 or less.

Who can enter?

To be eligible, projects or products must have been completed or released to market between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2025. Nominations can be made by GAI members, or for any project involving a GAI Registered Professional.



Entries will be assessed by an expert judging panel of architects, designers, specifiers and manufacturers. Judges will examine the scope of works, suitability and compliance of the ironmongery, its contribution to aesthetics, functionality and durability, as well as how it enhances building safety, security and accessibility. The winners will be announced at a prestigious ceremony in London in May 2026. Don't miss the deadline: submit your entries by 31 October 2025 at

www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards



The biennial awards celebrate the very best in architectural ironmongery across the UK and internationally

Community Hub ambassadors take on new roles

GAI Community Hubs continue to thrive thanks to the dedication of members who volunteer their time and expertise. The GAI has announced two new appointments that strengthen the network's leadership.

Michelle Saunders of Codelocks, already serving as North Central Community Hub ambassador, will now also take on the role of community hub vice chair, supporting the national network

Joe Chambers of Carlisle Brass joins as the new North and Borders Community Hub ambassador, leading events and initiatives across his region.

BELOW: Joe Chambers and Michelle Saunders new hub ambassadors

These roles are vital in ensuring GAI members can connect, share knowledge and benefit from engaging in wellorganised Hub events. The GAI thanks Michelle and Joe for their commitment and enthusiasm in helping grow the community.

These roles are vital in ensuring GAI members can connect, share knowledge and benefit from Hub events





New RIBA-Approved CPD on Intumescent Air Transfer Grilles

The GAI has partnered with Lorient to launch a new RIBA-approved CPD: The Design & Specification of Intumescent Air Transfer Grilles.

The training provides architects, specifiers and construction professionals with essential knowledge on the critical role of air transfer grilles in fire and smoke protection. Topics include regulations, test standards, product specification, installation and maintenance. Alongside the CPD, a new Specifiers Guide is also available for free from the GAI Knowledge Base.

Douglas Masterson, GAI Technical and Training Director, said: "By working with Lorient, we are combining expertise to provide professionals with the knowledge they need to specify air transfer grilles correctly. Achieving RIBA approval further reinforces its value."

The CPD is available to book now. To arrange a session, contact cpd@lorientuk.com or technical@gai.org.uk.

"By working with Lorient, we are combining expertise to provide professionals with the knowledge they need to specify air transfer grilles correctly" **DOUGLAS MASTERSON**

II GAI

GAI AGM & Summer Party 2025: A Celebration at The Gherkin



ABOVE: President Steve Bewick addresses members



ABOVE: The event was held at 30 St Mary Axe better known as The Gherkin

Members, volunteers and partners gathered at The Gherkin, London this summer for the annual GAI AGM & Summer Party 2025.

Highlights included the inauguration of Steve Bewick as the Guild's new President, and the presentation of the prestigious GAI Fellowship Award to Joanne Milne-Rowe in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the industry.

The event was a celebration of community, professionalism and progress – the values at the heart of the Guild.

Special thanks go to event sponsors dormakaba and GEZE UK for their generous support in making the occasion a success.



Book Now: GAI Education Awards 2025

Tickets are now on sale for the GAI Education Awards 2025, taking place on Thursday 20 November at London's Grand Connaught Rooms.

Now in its 45th year, the Education Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of learners across the 2024/25 GAI education programme. The event will see qualifications presented to students, alongside prizes recognising the very best academic performances.

This flagship occasion brings the industry together for an afternoon of recognition, networking and celebration.

Tickets are available until 31 October – book early to secure your place at one of the highlights of the architectural ironmongery calendar.

ABOVE: Rachael Bliss at the 2024 event **BELOW:** The Grand Connaught Rooms



SPECIFICATION AVVARDS 2026

Celebrating the best in architectural ironmongery specification

Organised by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, the biennial Al 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 2023 and 30 September 2025.
- Submitted to the GAI for judging by Friday 31 October 2025.

The winners will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony in May 2026



The Al Specification Awards consist of the following award categories:

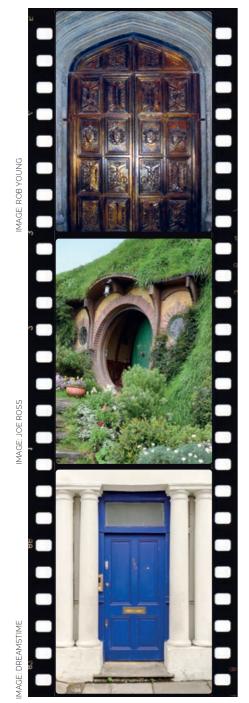
- Commercial and Retail Sponsored by Allegion
- Public, Health and Education
 Sponsored by Access2
- Residential Sponsored by Frank Allan
- Hospitality Sponsored by Forza Doors
- International Sponsored by darmakaba
- NEW Small Project Award Sponsored by Codelocks
- NEW Sustainability Award Sponsored by Zoo Hardware
- Product Design and Innovation -Mechanical
- Product Design and Innovation -Electronic - Sponsored by ADSA
- Winner of Winners Award Sponsored by GEZE UK

ENTRY DEADLINE - FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2025

www.gai.org.uk/specificationawards

MAIN SPONSOR

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TOP: The Great Hall, Hogwarts, Harry Potter fanchise MIDDLE: Bilbo Baggins's home, The Hobbit, BOTTOM: The front door of Hugh Grant's character's home in the film Notting Hill.

Screen doors

Entrances taking the limelight in movies

Doors in cinema are rarely just functional

set pieces. A single door can become an emblem of a film's themes and linger in the audience's memory long after the credits roll. Here are some of the most iconic doors in movie history and why they matter.

The Shining: "Here's Johnny!"

Few doors in film have suffered a fate as famous as the bathroom door in Stanley Kubrick's The Shining. As Jack Nicholson's unravelling Jack Torrance hacks through the wood with an axe, Shelley Duvall's terrified Wendy cowers on the other side. The jagged hole Nicholson leans through to deliver his improvised line "Here's Johnny!" has become etched in popular culture. The door here isn't just a barrier—it's the last fragile defence between a woman and the madness closing in on her.

• Monsters, Inc.: portals to imagination
Pixar turned doors into pure magic. In
Monsters, Inc., the factory's endless
conveyor belts of brightly coloured bedroom
doors aren't just entryways—they're portals
to other worlds. Each door is a key to a
child's imagination, making them both
wondrous and dangerous. The sequence
where Sulley and Boo leap from door to
door across the vast warehouse captures the
thrill of possibility and the childlike
sense that a door can lead anywhere.

• The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring: Speak, friend, and enter J.R.R. Tolkien's world-building shines through in the Doors of Durin at Moria. Carved with Elvish script and illuminated in moonlight,

this grand entrance poses a riddle that requires wisdom rather than brute force. The door symbolises both ancient history and the peril of entering the mines, becoming a moment of quiet awe before the chaos of battle. For many fans, its design is as iconic as the One Ring itself.

• The Wizard of Oz: stepping into colour Sometimes a door is a literal threshold between worlds. When Dorothy pushes open the farmhouse door after the tornado, sepia Kansas gives way to the dazzling Technicolor of Oz. That single transition transformed not just the film's story but cinema history itself. The door here marks a crossing from the ordinary into the extraordinary, a moment that audiences in 1939 would never forget.

● Titanic: The door that sparked debate
James Cameron's Titanic may be
remembered for its sweeping romance
and tragic scale, but one humble door has
inspired decades of argument. After the
ship sinks, Rose clings to a floating wooden
panel white Jack slips beneath the icy
water. Could the door have supported them
both? Mythbusters even tested the theory.
Regardless, the door has become shorthand
for sacrifice, love, and one of cinema's most
enduring 'what ifs'.

From horror to fantasy to animation, doors in movies are never just props. They're metaphors for transition, transformation, or tension. Whether slammed shut, swung wide, or left slightly ajar, a door on screen invites audiences to wonder what lies beyond.

OTHER FILMS WHERE DOORS HAD A STARRING ROLE

- ◆ The Truman Show ◆ Notting Hill ◆ Ghostbusters ◆ Panic Room ◆ Harry Potter series ◆ Being John Malkovich
- ◆ Coraline ◆ The Matrix ◆ The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe ◆ Alice in Wonderland ◆ Blue Velvet ◆ Poltergeist

GAI Education Programme

Whether you're taking your first steps in the industry or advancing into specialised technical roles, the GAI Education programme provides a structured pathway to professional excellence. Our comprehensive portfolio of online and hybrid qualifications supports every stage of your career.



Foundation in Hardware – an introductory online qualification for anyone beginning their career in, or working alongside, the architectural ironmongery sector.

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) – a two-stage self-led online course providing a thorough understanding of products, standards and industry best practice.

GAI Diploma in Scheduling (DipGAI) – the qualification for professionals involved in architectural ironmongery scheduling, estimating and technical support.

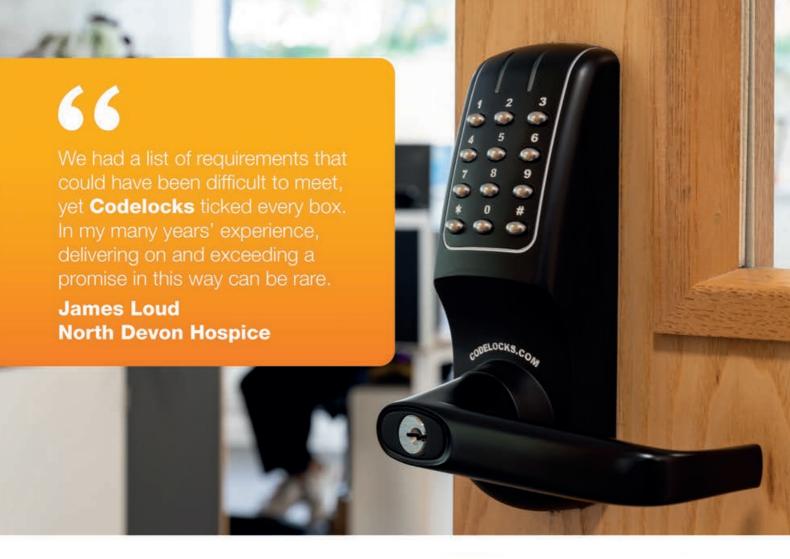
GAI Diploma in Door Systems (DipDS) – educating on all aspects of the architectural ironmongery industry with emphasis on the door.

GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control (DipAC) – designed to educate on all areas of the access control market and its impact on the architectural ironmongery industry.

GAI Certificate in Standards & Regulations (CertSRA) – an ongoing training programme to educate on all of the standards relevant to the architectural ironmongery industry.

Download your copy of the new prospectus at www.gai.org.uk

Guild of Architectural Ironmongers



smarter access for everyone

From doors to lockers to integrated digital solutions, Codelocks products deliver convenience and control in a wide variety of applications.

Discover how Codelocks solutions can help you!











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