

Autumn 2023

IMPROVE

IT'S TIME TO BRING YOUR DREAMS TO LIFE

► Welcome Autumn

Gardens, Dining
and Shading

► WINDOWS AND DOORS
Something to Suit any
Style Property

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Christina Shaw
Editorial Director



Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Improve Magazine!

Every year we are blessed with the yield of our neighbour's fruit trees. Apples and plums, freshly picked or often from the ground, as they are now starting to fall. Straight to the stew pot, to make the most delicious pie. All whilst looking out of the window to see the golden leaves dropping to the ground. To me, this is Autumn.

The nights are drawing in, whilst the days are fresher and bright. Although we are saying goodbye to Summer, the Autumn months remind me of cosier evenings and the inevitable countdown to Chris....the 'C' word!

So cosy on up and read this season's edition of Improve Magazine. We're talking Autumn gardens, dining and shading.

All material windows and doors are covered, with something to suit any style of property. Plenty of property consumer advice along with information on careers within industry. And don't miss our experts guide to using wallpaper in the bathroom.

Enjoy your Autumn!

Enjoy this issue as always.

Christina

GET IN TOUCH

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/429069328299234>





Timeless Timber Windows & Doors

Enhance the character of your property with beautifully bespoke and timeless timber windows. Traditional designs that deliver the highest standards and exceptional performance will fill your home with more natural light. Enjoy unobstructed views of the outdoors with a window that's truly unique.

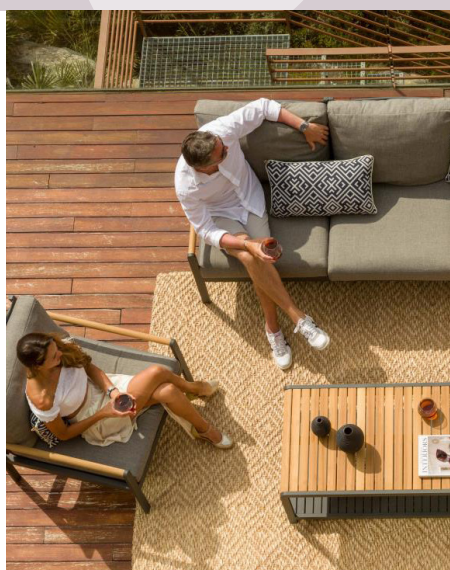
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Autumn Gardens, Dining & Shading



Upgrading your decking & fencing not only secures and weatherproofs your outside space, it also looks great, an instant style upgrade. Looking to maintain a luxury cabana lifestyle, long into the Autumn months? Look no further! When buying a shading product its crucial to get the correct size, but you also need to make your shading more than just a measurement.



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The following section covers...

- *Creating a safe outdoor space*
- *New dimension spa experience*
- *Making shading more than just a measurement*
- *New Teak garden furniture - transforming outdoor spaces*

Creating a safe outdoor space

with decking and fencing by Liniar

Liniar Approved fabricator-installer New View Windows & Conservatories SW Ltd has been supplying Liniar products for over 10 years. Based in Saltash and proud of its Cornish heritage and in-house manufacturing, the company has gained a reputation for premium quality craftsmanship.

Initially focusing on windows, doors and conservatories, New View later opened a trade counter selling Liniar's roofline range including matching fascias and soffits.

The business has more recently expanded into offering decking and fencing, thanks to the ease of supply from Liniar for its first ever outdoor project. Using a made-to-order pre-fabricated decking kit from Liniar, New View was able to supply long-standing customer Weatherproof Systems with everything needed for the renovation of a charming, natural stone home in Callington.

Weatherproof Systems owner Terry Luscombe tells us, "I was approached by a homeowner whose elderly parents had recently moved in with her. She wanted to replace existing timber decking, as it got quite slippery when wet, posing a risk to her parents who would be susceptible to serious injury if they fell."

He continues, "I was aware PVCu and composite decking was available with a slip-resistant finish and requires much less maintenance than wooden deckboards. Also, with a range of colours and styles on offer I knew we'd be able to find an option in keeping with the property's quaint style, making PVCu a perfect solution."

"I gathered several decking samples, one of which was Liniar's SwitchBoard from New View. When I showed them to the customer, she quickly singled out SwitchBoard for its quality, and decided that's what she wanted for her home."





Terry continues, "The project also required fencing, balustrades and gating to create a safety barrier between the decked area's two levels which had the potential to be a trip hazard.

"When I approached New View about supplying the decking, I discovered that Linar has a fully matching fencing and balustrade range which meant we could get perfect colour consistency across the project's various elements."

The Weatherproof team pride themselves on delivering excellent customer service, and during the project Terry and colleague Scott made sure to secure the construction area, removing hazardous obstacles and making it as safe as possible for the home's elderly occupants whenever leaving the site unattended - something their customer greatly appreciated.

She contacted Terry during the installation to offer positive feedback saying, "It's looking great, I have to say, and Scott has been lovely - he's made sure the area outside mum's door is nice and safe."

With the installation complete, the home now has a gorgeous looking, highly functional outdoor space occupants can enjoy together, and most importantly, it's much safer than the old timber decking area that's been replaced.

Weatherproof leaves behind not just a fantastic deck, but an extremely satisfied customer who says, "The work your company does is great and I'd always recommend you to anyone. Thanks for keeping me informed throughout the job too."





Liniair's British-manufactured decking and fencing are highly versatile and perfect for enhancing a home's outdoor spaces. To find out more about the full outdoor range visit <https://www.liniair.co.uk/outdoor-range/>





NEW DIMENSION & SPA EXPERIENCE

Caribbean
Blinds' Outdoor
Living Pod™

In June 2023, external shading company Caribbean Blinds delivered a highly effective and stylish outdoor shading solution in the form of 4 luxury louvered cabanas at Pennyhill Park Hotel & Spa in Surrey, resulting in the ultimate 'spa garden' experience for guests to enjoy – all year round.



THE CLIENT

Set over 120 acres of beautiful Surrey woodland, Pennyhill Park is a 19th century country house presenting guests with the opportunity to indulge in the best, be at their best and realise their potential. With 124 luxurious bedrooms and suites, an award-winning Michelin-starred restaurant and over 45,000 sq/ft of exceptional spa facilities offering 20 spa experiences, Pennyhill Park is Surrey's most luxurious hotel and spa retreat.

THE BRIEF

The client required a premium space set within the luxurious spa grounds where guests could fully switch off from the world and experience the ultimate alfresco spa day. By incorporating the concept "a little bit extra" when creating the beautiful new spa garden at Pennyhill Park, it was concluded that a key part of the design would consist of 4 cabanas which would provide guests with a private 'pad' for the day.

THE FINISHED RESULT

Our 'Deluxe' Outdoor Living Pod™ was selected by the project designer due to its flexibility – in particular the ability to incorporate additional uprights and a wall to the rear and part side where the padded bench, loungers, fridge and coffee machine are all incorporated. Each module, which measures 5m x 4m, provides ample space for the facilities within.

Designed to feel like a luxury hotel room that has been brought into the great outdoors, guests can enjoy a luxurious and private setting whilst soaking up the sun and enjoying all the spa facilities, including the copper roll-top spa bath.

The motorised rotating louvered roofs allow guests to play with light and shade to create the perfect ambience beneath the structure from sunrise to sunset, whilst the optional integrated screens on the open sides can be deployed as required to provide privacy, whilst also offering protection from the low sun and light breezes.

Close collaboration with the interior designer and facilities manager throughout ensured a smooth process, including the provision of fully detailed CAD drawings for a seamless incorporation of the structures into the overall scheme, which was particularly important for the positioning of foundations and services. From drawing and design sign-off through to installation was 12 weeks, with installation taking just 4 days to complete.

Graham Copeman, General Manager at Pennyhill Park, commented: "Our cabanas give guests the opportunity to indulge in the best, feel at their best and relax in style. The 'Deluxe' Outdoor Living Pod™ provides privacy and shade from above and on all sides with remote control blinds, whilst being beautifully adaptable, allowing us to build around the space to create the perfect indulgent haven. Our vision was to bring the luxury of a hotel room to the great outdoors, which Caribbean Blinds seamlessly helped us achieve."

THE OUTDOOR LIVING POD™ EXPLAINED...

Ingeniously designed for those who want to live life outdoors, the innovative rotating louvered roof offers an open-air alfresco feel when left fully open, and ensures a completely water, wind and even snow-tight roof when closed. Optional windproof screens, ambient LED perimeter lighting and instant infra-red heaters mean a cosy and pleasant environment can be achieved all year round. Built for durability and longevity, the low-maintenance Outdoor Living Pod™ is constructed from super-strong, corrosion-resistant, powder coated aluminium and adapts to any outdoor lounging or dining space.

Client: Exclusive Collection Hotels

Project: Pennyhill Park

Architect: SparcStudio

Main Contractor: N/A

Products: The Caribbean Blinds Deluxe Outdoor Living Pod™



www.cbsolarshading.co.uk

Make your shading more than just a measurement

When you buy a shading product, it's crucial it's the correct size for the area of glazing that needs to be covered.



In other words, it needs to fit. In that sense, the blind or shutter is personalised for the space it is going to cover. One size does not fit all.

And for many homeowners, the size of their shading will be as close as they come to customising the product they've chosen.

But with so many colours, fabrics and additional elements available for

shading products, and blinds especially, it doesn't have to be!

After size, perhaps the most obvious next step when it comes to personalising a blind is the colour of the fabric or slats. With wooden Venetian blinds you can have the slats painted to a specific RAL colour and the ladder tapes, if you fancy them, come in different colours and designs too.





Image: Decora



Image: Decora



Image: Decora

Like wooden Venetian blinds, shutters boast the option of custom colours in addition to an extensive range of standard finishes.

Beyond that, headboxes, side channels, bottom bars and brackets can all be powder-coated in specific colours, while many soft furnishing fabrics can be stiffened and used to make roller blinds.

High quality large format digital printers also mean it is possible to have a roller blind which displays any design, colour or image.

Roller blinds also offer the option to add finishes to the bottom of fabric in the

way of shapes, braids, pulls and more.

The various options available when motorising your shading brings personalisation to a new level.

Linking them to timers and sensors means they will close or open automatically at certain times, or to suit weather conditions, so you can maximise the energy saving qualities of your shading products.

Crucially, personalising with motorisation means the shading product complementing your glazing is inherently child safe as the need for window blind cords or chains is eliminated.



Image: Louvolite



Image: New House Textiles

Ask your local BBSA member for more information about how you can personalise your blinds.

For more information on how blinds, shutters and awnings can help buildings remain cool in the summer and warm in the winter visit www.bbsa.org.uk/blinds-make-better or contact your local BBSA member.





LifestyleGarden®'s new teak collections transform outdoor spaces

As trend experts forecast a move towards natural shades and materials, soft shapes and an even greater focus on sustainability, leading furniture brand, LifestyleGarden®'s stunning new FSCTM teak lines make a welcome addition to any outdoor or indoor space.

This season saw the exciting launch of a host of exquisite new FSCTM teak furniture pieces from LifestyleGarden®, including showstopping tables and entire new collections boasting warm teak touches.

The nation hasn't lost its love of wooden furniture, and teak has long proved a timeless favourite thanks to its beautiful texture, honey tones, and all-important durability. With current and future décor trends favouring a more natural aesthetic, complete with organic shapes, softer edges, and earthy shades, LifestyleGarden®'s FSCTM teak products strike the perfect balance between style and substance. Yes, these are elegant design-led pieces of furniture but made from superior wood that offers fantastic weather resistant properties. Far from 'fast furniture', LifestyleGarden®'s teak ranges are built to last and look outstanding while doing it.





MIX AND MATCH

As the desire for outdoor spaces that blend seamlessly with interior styles continues to grow, LifestyleGarden®'s new collections come into their own, making a true style statement indoors or out. The Jade Oval table is one of eight brand-new FSCTM teak tables available to mix and match with any of LifestyleGarden®'s existing collections. The chic table, with its soft, clean lines and striking geometric patterned top, will elevate any space and dining experience. Jade is also available as a bistro table and smaller square version, still showcasing those graceful curved edges.

Trend experts suggest that many Brits now hanker after a Mediterranean lifestyle and look, making rustic teak a glorious addition to any outdoor space, particularly when paired with the soft shades and rattan weave effect of Bermuda Light.

SLEEK STYLES

Meanwhile, sleek grey and matt black styles are still very much en vogue but are now warmed up by rich wood tones, as seen in the Amber collection, with luxurious sofa sets and armchairs elevated by tactile circular armrests in stunning solid teak. Those soft cylindrical shapes are echoed in the curved edges of teak tabletops for relaxed entertaining or formal dining. Enjoy the beauty of the Amber collection with sofa and chair coffee sets, 6 and 8 seater dining arrangements or take outdoor entertaining to the next level with the exquisite outdoor kitchen, which marries dark grey aluminium with premium teak slats.

Topaz sofa set, wosh 8888, ALU MGR, TEA FSC (45) The Topaz collection makes entertaining a pleasure, matching contemporary design and comfort perfectly with

the natural beauty of wood atop chic grey aluminium frames. The luxurious XL daybed pairs sumptuous Olefin cushions with an elegant teak side tabletop, providing a convenient place for drinks. Team this piece with sofas and a striking teak coffee table for a spectacular corner unit that will transform any patio or terrace. Topaz is available in a variety of configurations, from sofas and casual corner sets to 8-seater dining solutions – providing incredible versatility.

LOW MAINTENANCE LUXURY

Teak offers a huge number of benefits compared to other wooden furniture on the market, including superior durability, weather resistance, and is also incredibly low maintenance. The abundance of natural oils in teak helps prevent any damage that would be caused by moisture, whilst also resisting rot, decay and fungus. This beautiful hardwood has excellent insulation properties, meaning it doesn't get too hot in the scorching summer weather but also retains its heat during winter.

Teak is known for its rich golden-brown appearance but also ages beautifully and is highly prized for the silver-grey patina it gains over time if left untreated, giving furniture a classic aged appearance. After two years, the silver-grey colour becomes a much darker grey/green colour. If that's not your style and you yearn for the golden hues, you can easily restore the original shade by using our Eco Safe Wood Cleaner, which brightens and brings back the wood's original colour. This can then be retained simply by using a suitable sealer.



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

With a climate crisis looming and consumers seeking to make more responsible purchasing decisions, there is naturally a greater appetite for more sustainable materials across. One of the most sought-after wood species in the world, teak offers a more sustainable solution to other hardwoods on the market.

LifestyleGarden® only uses teak from FSCTM-certified sources, including timber that is grown in responsibly managed plantations or that has been recycled from components and structures. Originating from barns, houses, railway sleepers and other constructions, this recycled wood is brushed, cleaned and repaired to give it a beautiful rustic appearance.

Another bonus is that teak can then be recycled at the end of furniture's life – even better news for the planet!

To see more of LifestyleGarden®'s impressive portfolio, visit www.lifestylegarden.co.uk.

LifestyleGarden®
Sustainable outdoor living



ENJOY AN INDIAN SUMMER WITH
EAST LONDON PARASOL COMPANY

Elevate your stylish outdoor oasis



That Summer heatwave we've all been patiently waiting for is finally here, and it's better late than never! And while the prospect of an Indian Summer never looked so good, try adding a bold and beautiful pop of colour with a beautiful parasol from East London Parasol Company; it's guaranteed to make for the perfect sunshine staple to zhuzh up your stylish outdoor oasis.

That Summer heatwave we've all been patiently waiting for is finally here, and it's better late than never! And while the prospect of an Indian Summer never looked so good, try adding a bold and beautiful pop of colour with a beautiful parasol from East London Parasol Company; it's guaranteed to make for the perfect sunshine staple to zhuzh up your stylish outdoor oasis.

Never have garden trends been of more importance than now, and as the emphasis on turning your outdoor spaces into year-round havens

has been the main focus for 2023. Available in the deepest hues of pink, purple, aquamarine and terracotta among others, East London Parasol Company's gorgeous parasols are perfect for shading your dining alfresco, creating your own garden party soiree or holiday vibe, or simply to accessorize an afternoon lounging with a good book. Ornament your garden, terrace or patio and create a beautiful space in which to enjoy as Indian Summer.

*Prices from £399

www.eastlondonparasols.com



All Material Windows & Doors – Something to suit any style property



Fancy designing your own windows & doors, from the comfort of your own home? Well now you can! Check out our home visualiser in this section. There is a growing demand for popular colours. The Residence Collection has studied consumers colour preferences and habits, to determine the most popular choice this season.



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The following section covers...

- *Home visualiser, design your own windows & doors*
- *Colour trends, the popular choice for the season*
- *Beautiful aluminium windows & doors, including large space patio's and internal screening*
- *The Homeowners Choice? Check out the bi-fold door builder*
- *Simply beautiful timber windows and doors*

NEW! Design your own windows and doors and have ADVANCE 70 in your home!

When you are looking to upgrade your existing windows and doors, it can be very difficult to envisage how they may look in your home.



Certain designs, colours and combinations may not entirely compliment the style, period or location of your home. Modern PVCu windows and doors now offer more designs, colours and options than ever before, providing you with a multitude of choices. As the homeowner, how do you know if a particular design or colour will compliment the style of your home?

One of the UK's leading PVCu windows and door profile system company's, Selecta Systems, have recently launched a website entirely focused on the homeowners needs. www.advance70.co.uk provides a wealth of information and guidance regarding the Birmingham based extruders window and doors solutions. The aptly named, ADVANCE 70 in the home website provides visitors with information on the qualities of the company's flagship and industry leading window and door solution, the ADVANCE 70 Window and Door System.

What is really exciting, are the two new features that provide you, as a homeowner, with the tools to not only find your approved local installer, but also provides you with the facility to design your own windows and doors. The innovative window and door designing software solution demonstrates it's true value to you, the homeowner, when you upload images of your home and start using the home visualiser function!





DESIGNING YOUR OWN WINDOWS AND DOORS

The Window and Door Designer and Home Visualiser has the complete range of Selecta window and door solutions, from casement, flush sash and tilt and turn windows through to residential, French, patio and EASi-FOLD doors. It also includes a range of composite doors, so you have a varied range of products, styles and configurations to choose from to improve your home.

The whole design and enquiry process is purposely kept simple. As a homeowner, you can select a number of window and door configurations and styles, choose the internal and external colour, the hardware colour and other glazing options like Georgian bar or leaded glass. The real beauty of the designer is that you can take photos of your home, upload them in to the home visualiser and drop your newly designed windows and doors on to your home to envisage how they would look!

There are 17 colour options, covering woodgrain effects through to your on-trend modern shades and your more traditional colours. Have a heritage or traditional styled property? Then flush sash windows with a woodgrain effect or traditional colour shade will replicate timber alternatives, with subtle colours like Cream, Agate Grey and Chartwell Green proving extremely popular. Flush sash windows also work extremely well with more modern and contemporary styled homes, with darker shades like Anthracite and Slate

Grey, as well as Ulti-Matt Black adding a classy finish. Even in the ever-changing world of colour trends, the simplicity of white windows and doors certainly ticks the box for many a home across the country!

With grey windows and doors continuing to dominate the market, it is a colour that doesn't necessarily work with every style of property and brick colour. The benefit of being able to design your windows and doors, uploading photos of your home and using the home visualiser, is that you can change the colour and style of the windows and doors until you create a design and colour that compliments your home.

When you consider that you are investing a large sum of money when upgrading your windows and doors, it's only right that you are able to visualise how they will fit in to the make-up of your home. It's also worth remembering the right combination and colour of your windows and doors can add kerb appeal and increase value, but get it wrong and it can have an adverse affect!

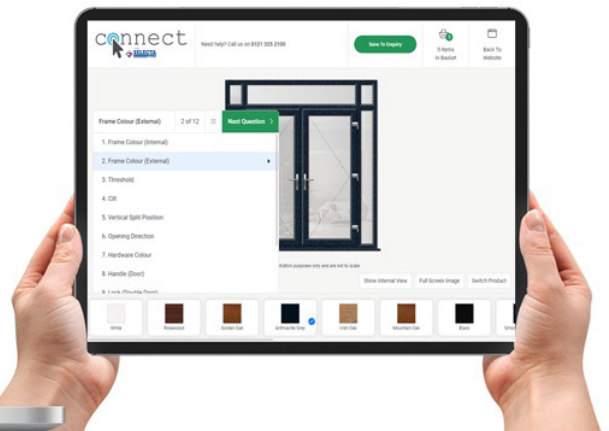
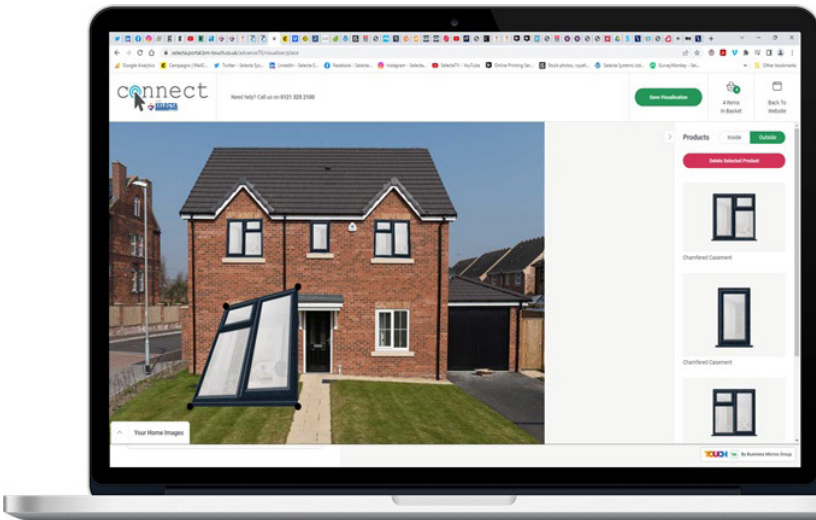
The designer also works for all types of buildings, where you require windows and doors. Upgrade your holiday home, garden room, log cabin, summer house, man-cave or boat, by designing your required windows and doors and uploading an image of your build to visualise how they would look. Selecta have a number of window and door specialist partners that provide window and solutions within these areas.



SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN FOR QUOTATION

Once you are happy with your newly designed windows and doors, you can submit it as an enquiry direct to Selecta. A copy of your design will be emailed to yourself, with the internal team at Selecta assigning your design enquiry to your local approved fabricator / installer. With well over 250 approved fabricators / installers located across the UK, Selecta will only share your enquiry with one local supply partner. They will contact you to either quote and / or arrange a more detailed survey to determine your more specific requirements and options available to you.

You can in-turn utilise the Find a Fabricator / Installer feature upon the ADVANCE 70 in the home website to locate as many approved fabricator / installers as you wish, contacting at your will, using your PDF design as a template for your enquiry. This provides you with total control over the number of quotes you wish to receive to further your enquiry.



VIDEO LINK



Upgrade your windows and doors and make your home more secure, thermally efficient and elegant. Head over to **www.advance70.co.uk** now and start designing!

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Facebook

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Twitter

https://twitter.com/ADVANCE_70

Secure • Thermally Efficient • Elegant

Windows & Doors

with ADVANCE 70 in the home



QUALITY WINDOWS & DOORS

The **ADVANCE 70 Window and Door System** is one of the UK's leading window and door profile systems. Designed to **make your home more secure, thermally efficient and elegant.**

START DESIGNING



Design your own windows and doors with our fantastic window and door designer and home visualiser. Choose your window and door style, colour, configuration and glazing options



HOME VISUALISER

Upload images of your home and you can drop **your newly designed windows and doors** on to your home **to visualise how they will look!**

FIND YOUR LOCAL APPROVED INSTALLER AT

www.advance70.co.uk



/advance_70



/advance70inthehome



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The charm and character of h e r i t a g e w i n d o w s

When it comes to preserving the charm and character of heritage homes or adding authentic aesthetics to modern properties, every detail counts.

The windows, in particular, play a crucial role in maintaining the architectural integrity of these properties and Mercury's Alitherm 47 Heritage Windows offer a seamless blend of energy-efficiency technology and timeless appeal, making them the perfect choice for refurbishment projects and heritage buildings.





Here at Mercury, we understand that every property is unique, which is why we offer a range of styles that cater for both traditional and heritage preferences. Whether you want to preserve the vintage charm of your home or add a touch of timeless glamour, our Heritage 47 Windows has got you covered.



A PERFECT CHOICE FOR HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Heritage and listed properties hold a special place in our history, boasting unique architectural features that reflect the past. Often, the windows in these properties are a defining characteristic, with their slimline steel or timber frames and distinctive design. Replacing these windows can be daunting, as it requires striking a balance between preserving the heritage importance of your home and improving energy efficiency. This is where Mercury's Alitherm Heritage 47 Aluminium Windows shine.

The Alitherm Heritage 47 Collection has been designed with heritage buildings in mind, offering a solution that seamlessly merges modern thermal performance with the aesthetics of traditional steel windows.

Manufactured from high-quality aluminium, these windows incorporate innovative polyamide thermal break technology and advanced glazing systems to ensure your home remains well-insulated and energy efficient.

In the past, replacing steel windows with modern alternatives often meant sacrificing energy efficiency for aesthetics. However, with the Alitherm Heritage 47 range, you can have both. These windows help reduce heat loss and energy consumption, ensuring your home remains comfortable and environmentally responsible.

RESILIENT TO THE ELEMENTS

Like all buildings, heritage properties face constant exposure to the elements, which over time can take a toll on the windows. Mercury's Alitherm Heritage 47 windows are manufactured to withstand the harshest weather conditions, ensuring longevity and durability.

MEETING PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

For projects involving heritage or listed buildings, adhering to planning constraints is paramount. In many cases, planning authorities require that original steel/wooden windows are replaced with solutions that maintain the property's historical appearance. Alitherm Heritage 47 windows have been purposely designed to sympathetically replicate the windows of yesterday ensuring your stay in compliance with planning regulations. And for peace of mind, our in-house team of experts are on hand to help guide you through the process.

WHEN TOMORROW MEETS TODAY

Whilst the timeless appeal of our Heritage 47 aluminium windows appeals to older properties, they still work perfectly in modern homes too where traditional aesthetics are required. Homeowners value the visual appeal of these windows whilst enjoying improved insulation and energy savings.



PERSONALISED OPTIONS

Our Heritage 47 windows are available in a wide range of colour options. From heritage hues to metallic and dual-colour options, there is a perfect shade to suit your taste and architectural character of your home.



A SPECIALIST MANUFACTURER AND INSTALLER

When you choose Mercury Specialist Frames to manufacture and fit your aluminium heritage window products, you will be choosing a company with a reassuring reputation for quality at every level. We have been manufacturing and fitting heritage windows and doors for over two decades, so you can be sure you are working with the experts.



To kick start your home renovation or new build project, contact the Mercury team today.

01452 383344

sales@mercuryspecialistframes.co.uk

www.mercuryglazing.co.uk

VIDEO LINK



Beautiful Windows start with Mercury



Our Alitherm Heritage 47 Aluminium Windows deliver **energy-efficient technology** to your project without compromising on the aesthetics of your original windows.

Engineered specifically to replace existing steel and Crittall windows, our Heritage aluminium windows offer a durable and visually appealing refurbishment solution.

- Options in Heritage and Art Deco styles.
- Polyamide thermal break provides enhanced thermal performance.
- Traditional heritage styling for sensitive refurbishment projects.

- Security tested to PAS24:2016.
- Direct replacement for steel 'Crittall' windows.
- Fixed windows, tilt & turns or casement window options available.
- Single or dual colour options with marine quality powder coating as standards.

To kick start your replacement window journey contact the Mercury team today



Mercury
GLAZING SUPPLIES LTD

T: 01452 383 344

E: sales@mercuryspecialistframes.co.uk

www.mercuryglazing.co.uk

Mercury Glazing Supplies Ltd Unit E1, Goodridge Business Park, Goodridge Avenue, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 5EB

THE RESIDENCE COLLECTION REVEALS g r o w i n g d e m a n d FOR POPULAR COLOURS TRENDS

Every season brings all new, fresh interior styles and colour palettes.

Experts from premium window and door designer, The Residence Collection, has studied consumers' colour preferences and habits to determine the most popular window and door colours for this season.



Despite bold colours being anticipated to take over at the beginning of the year, data from buyer habits is showing a comeback of neutrals and greens, with earthy, warm tones reminiscent of nature and the natural world taking centre stage.

Data from The Residence Collection shows the most popular colours homeowners have chosen for the windows and doors in their homes.

These included:

- **Painswick**
A modest grey green bringing a softness to homes.
- **Chalk White**
A truly universal finish with a harmonious simplicity for all colour schemes.
- **Grained White**
With a look of traditional white painted timber, this colour is versatile for all homes.
- **Clotted Cream**
A pretty, traditional colour that brings a gentle warmth to the home.
- **Vintage Cream**
A classic, creamy neutral with an understated warmth is a ideal alternative to traditional white windows.
- **Sage**
Subtle enough to be neutral and bold enough set an aromatic, calming mood in the home.



NEUTRALS

The Residence Collection Coastal and Element colour collections have the most popular neutral shades including Vintage Cream, Chalk White, Sage and Grained White.

The colours reflect a peaceful atmosphere and make a really snug and inviting space. These colours are perfect for when natural light enters the room through the window, brightening the space and evoking indoor-outdoor living. The beauty of neutral colours is their versatility; from wall colours to furniture and decorative items, this style is simple to incorporate into homes.



“The colours reflect a peaceful atmosphere and make a really snug and inviting space.”

GREENS

Green has been a popular interior shade in recent years, and it isn't going away anytime soon. These colours are a great base for many homes and lend themselves to popular interior styles such as japandi or biophilic homes. The biophilic colour scheme is simple and clean with an emphasis on the use of neutral and nature-inspired tones for your window treatments, drapes, and furnishings.

Recently buyers prefer colours such as Painswick and Sage, ideal for subtle highlights around the home. Sage green inspiration totalled over 30K searches last week with many Brits looking to redecorate their homes to fit current trends such as the biophilic trend with popular colours like sage green.

The top selling colour Painswick is a lovely grey-green with a grained texture, named after the famous wool town in the Cotswold Hills, with honour to Downton Abbey's traditional era! The colour adds a gentle accent to any room.


The Residence Collection, offers three window collections, R2, R7, and R9. All the windows are available in a range of 26 colourways, from authentic wooden finishes like English Oak to classics such as Grained White and modern finishes like Eclectic Grey.

The beauty of the collection is that customers can choose different finishes for the interior and exterior of their homes, and each window designed is made bespoke for each and every customer. This means homeowners have complete flexibility when it comes to window design and choosing windows for different interior trends and stylings.

Commenting, Jo Trotman, Marketing Manager at The Residence Collection says: “Colour trends are forever changing but recently people are looking for non-traditional neutrals including texture whites and green shades. In terms of trends this summer we will likely see an increase in environmentally conscious decor, with a strong emphasis on indoor-outdoor living.

“At The Residence Collection, we have all the colours homeowners need to make their own style and aesthetic come to life when wanting to update and make modifications to a property, whether it's to meet current trends or not. There are endless combinations of colours and features to add to your home with the help of our expertise.”

You can explore all our colour choices online at <https://www.residencecollection.co.uk/colours/>



Elevate your home's elegance

Your home is more than just a place to live; it's a reflection of your style and personality. Making the right choices when it comes to your home's design not only enhances its aesthetics but also adds value to your property. Capital Windows, a trusted name in home improvements offers a range of premium-quality aluminium windows, doors and internal screening solutions to transform your home into a sanctuary of elegance whilst improving its thermal efficiency too.



DESIGNER ENTRANCE DOORS: THE GATEWAY TO ELEGANCE

The first impression is often the most lasting one, and your home's entrance is where it all begins. Our Designer Entrance Doors are not just doors; they are statements of sophistication and luxury. Crafted with precision and designed with impeccable taste, these doors are a blend of style and substance.

Exquisite Design

Capital Windows offers a wide range of Designer Aluminium Entrance Doors that cater to all architectural styles, from contemporary to classic. Whether you prefer sleek and modern lines or intricate traditional designs, there's a door for you.

Durability

These doors are engineered to withstand the harshest weather conditions while maintaining their elegance. Each door is manufactured from high-grade aluminium, which offers superior durability, making them a wise investment for your home.

Security

Your safety is paramount, which is why our Designer Entrance Doors feature state-of-the-art locking mechanisms and security enhancements, providing the ultimate in safety and security, protecting you and your home.

Personalisation

Capital Windows understands that every homeowner has unique preferences. Our doors are bespoke manufactured and can be personalised to suit your tastes, from the choice of colour, accessories and even the security feature you would like on your door. The choice is yours.





ALUMINIUM HERITAGE WINDOWS: A TOUCH OF TIMELESS BEAUTY

For those who appreciate the timeless beauty of heritage architecture, our Aluminium Heritage Windows are the perfect combination of timeless appeal and modern technology, delivering the best of both worlds.

Designed to mimic the elegance appeal of heritage windows, our Aluminium Heritage Windows are available in various traditional style options, adding a touch of sophistication to any home.

Energy Efficiency

Despite their classic appearance, these windows incorporate modern thermal insulation technology, ensuring your home remains comfortable all year round while helping to reduce energy bills.

Low Maintenance

Say goodbye to the constant upkeep associated with traditional steel or wooden windows. Aluminium Heritage Windows require minimal maintenance and are resistant to rot and decay.

Sustainability

Capital Windows is committed to best sustainability practices. Our aluminium frames are eco-friendly, 100% recyclable, and energy-efficient, contributing to a greener environment.

INTERNAL SCREENING SYSTEM: PRIVACY WITH STYLE

Your home's interior should be a sanctuary of comfort and privacy. Our Internal Screening System offers a stylish solution to control light and privacy within your home.

Versatile

The system allows you to adjust natural light and privacy levels and its sleek and elegant lines perfectly complement our aluminium windows and doors for seamless aesthetics

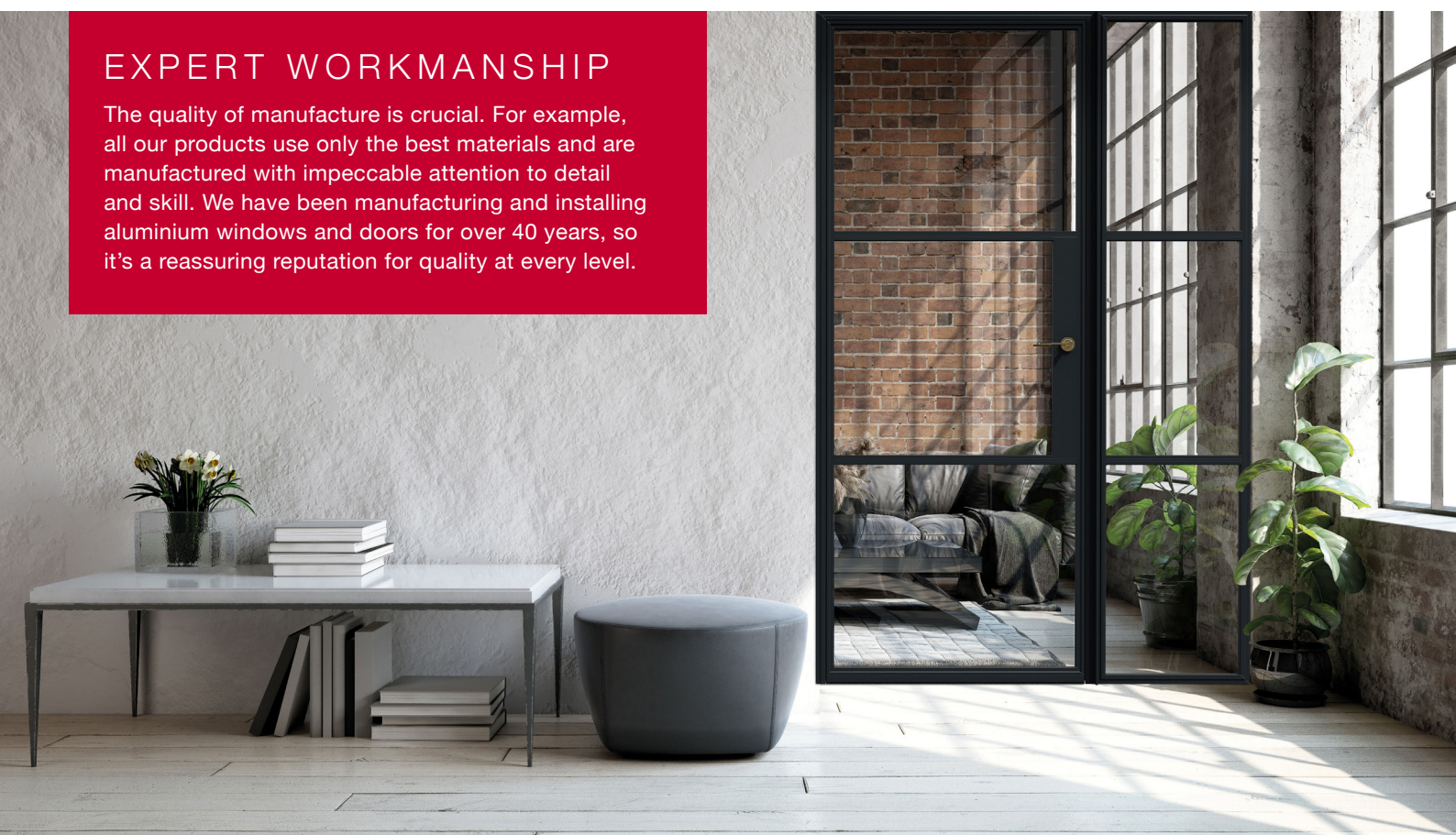
Design Options

Our Internal Screening system can be used to divide or delineate residential spaces of any shape and size, while at the same time providing an effective acoustic barrier. The internal system has sliding or hinged door options, with a range of widths, glazing, hinges and furniture choices. The system can be configured to suit any design theme, from traditional to minimalist and contemporary to industrial.



EXPERT WORKMANSHIP

The quality of manufacture is crucial. For example, all our products use only the best materials and are manufactured with impeccable attention to detail and skill. We have been manufacturing and installing aluminium windows and doors for over 40 years, so it's a reassuring reputation for quality at every level.



If you want to elevate your home to the next level of sophistication, contact the Capital Windows team today.

Telephone: **01895 271 061** | Email: **enquiries@capitalwindows.co.uk**

www.capitalwindows.co.uk

Planning New Windows & Doors for the Future

The Future Homes Standard will require new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency; it will be introduced by 2025.

The updates to both Part L and Part F in particular, have great significance to homeowners, when looking to purchase new window and doors, whether in a new build property, a new conservatory or extension and for replacement windows. These regulations apply to all materials, whether you choose to have PVCu, steel, aluminium, timber or hybrid products.



If you are looking to build a new home, a new extension or have your windows or doors replaced, you need to be aware of these new regulations. The release of these documents form part of the government's Future Homes strategy, which aims to reduce carbon emissions from new homes.

However, many parts of the new building regulations also refer to existing dwellings, so it is imperative to choose a supplier who is competent and compliant with the new regulations. Ensure you always obtain a Completion Certificate for any extension work, replacement windows & doors and for works around the home.

SO, LET'S START WITH DOCUMENT L

Approved Document L sets a new U-Value/ WER limits, which requires the majority of replacement windows and doors to be more energy efficient, which will keep people warm by ensuring less heat escapes your home.

Installing double or triple glazing might cost you more initially but energy efficient windows will save you money in the long term, plus you'll get other benefits such as reduced external noise and better protection from the outside elements. Building regs approval is required for replacement windows and doors and must comply with the new Approved Document L. External windows are classed as 'controlled fittings' in the Building Regulations and need to meet certain standards when being installed or replaced. You won't need to apply for building control approval if your windows are fitted by an installer registered with a Competent Person Scheme. Once the job is done they can issue you a certificate of compliance with the building regs.



WHAT IS A U-VALUE?

The energy performance of a window or door is measured by its U value. In simple terms, if it's colder outside than inside, the U value is a measurement of how quickly the heat from the inside leaks through the window. The U value is measured in W/m^2K , which indicates how much heat transfers across the window through $1 m^2$ when there is a temperature difference of 1 degree centigrade between inside and outside. The lower the U value, the better the insulation of your window/ door unit.

The changes to Part L is an initial reduction in maximum U-Values for windows in new build homes from 1.4 to 1.2 W/m^2K , moving towards a more radical target of 0.8 W/m^2K for new build over the next five years. In existing homes, a reduction from 1.6 to 1.4 W/m^2K in windows and from 1.8 to 1.4 W/m^2K for doors.



WER – WINDOW ENERGY RATINGS

Similar to the rainbow labels found on quality household appliances, white goods and lightbulbs, windows that contain the WER rainbow label show they've been independently verified by experts for thermal efficiency.

When choosing your new windows and doors, look for the best thermal efficiency as well as aesthetics.



AT THE SCHÄRPE END OF INNOVATION

Dutemänn are at the forefront of any upgrades, whether it's for a new build property, extension or refurbishment.

When it comes to insulation, you're covered. Dutemänn have launched a brand new suite of aluminium windows, called Schärpe, that will consist of a flush casement, fully reversible and tilt and turn options, built around a 90mm system and with a triple glazing option, in order to deliver on the expected U values of 0.8.

Dutemänn's existing range of bi-fold, sliding and entrance door range, are also being given an overhaul, giving you a complete, 'whole house' package of Future Homes compliant, aluminium windows and doors.

And while it is widely anticipated that the Future Homes Standard will only apply to the new build sector initially, it is expected that it is only a matter of time before the stricter U values trickle down into the residential market.

While the new regulations are not expected to be applied for another two years, there is already a growing demand for more energy efficient products.

Then there's the cost of living, with homeowners now prepared to invest for the long term in better performing windows and doors.

Schärpe will be available very soon with Dutemänn currently working on final in-house testing.

If you're looking for an exceptionally high quality, Future Homes ready product offer, then Schärpe will meet all of your requirements.

Dutemänn can put you in touch with an approved installer near you.

Find out more about our innovative SCHÄRPE collection today!

Dutemänn UK Limited Unit R3 Northfleet Industrial Estate Lower Road Northfleet DA11 9SN

T **01322 771 213** | E **sales@dutemann.co.uk** | W **www.dutemann.co.uk**

PLANNING NEW WINDOWS & DOORS



The **NEW** Ultra
Energy Efficient
SCHÄRPE
Aluminium Window



- ✓ Flush Casement
- ✓ Tilt and Turn
- ✓ Fully Reversible

- Hit Part L New Build requirements with a double-glazed window without having to go to triple glazing
- Patented thermal break, fabricated to Future Homes Standard

Find out more about our innovative **SCHÄRPE** collection today!

DUTEMÄNN
inspiring spaces

Dutemann UK Limited Unit R3 Northfleet Industrial Estate Lower Road Northfleet DA11 9SN
T 01322 771 213 E sales@dutemann.co.uk
www.dutemann.co.uk

stunning... RENOVATION

Freefoam are delighted to showcase the installation of Fortex Cladding on a stunning renovation project in the heart of rural Shropshire.

The homeowners used the Weatherboard product in subtle Misty Grey on a major home refurbishment including the rear upper elevation and utility extension. Cladding was used alongside more traditional materials of brick and render, with the mix of pale colours and textures creating a fresh new England style to the property, whilst staying in keeping with the rural surroundings.



Follow the journey
of this renovation at
[#shropshirehome.](#)



WE INTERVIEWED THE HOMEOWNER TO FIND OUT MORE...

Describe your refurbishment project.

We bought the property to renovate and knew it was a great opportunity for us to create our own home in an established village. We added an orangery to the rear, re-built the dormer and roof and built a new master bedroom over the old garage area, with a utility/boot room to the side of the property.

Why did you decide that cladding was a good option for your home?

Cladding was key to my vision. I wanted to create a sort of new England style, but in keeping with the rural surroundings. We designed the house with a mix of brick, render and cladding which combined we feel gave a lovely mix of materials, colours and textures.

What attracted you to the Freefoam cladding in particular?

The idea of very low maintenance cladding was a huge draw, but also the realistic wood print and colour combination was the winning factor. We did consider real wood and looked into concrete based products but when weighing up the options we felt this was the best match to the scheme.

How did you decide on the best colour for your home?

Freefoam sent us free samples. I had different colour options, but wanted to match to the windows and doors. The Misty Grey cladding we picked actually colour matched to the same RAL code of the other elements.

Are you pleased with how the cladding has worked on your home?

We love the effect of the cladding. We have many positive comments, about the whole transformation. Neighbours think the style and colour is really in keeping and we have recommended it many times on Instagram.

Would you recommended Freefoam cladding to other homeowners?

100%, from the install to the upkeep, to the range of colours and styles available we would definitely recommend Freefoam cladding.



FORTEX CLADDING

Fortex PVC Cladding is a range of innovative exterior cladding products that provides the benefits of low maintenance.

The range features an attractive embossed wood effect finish in a choice of three styles, Double Shiplap, Weatherboard and Shadow Gap.

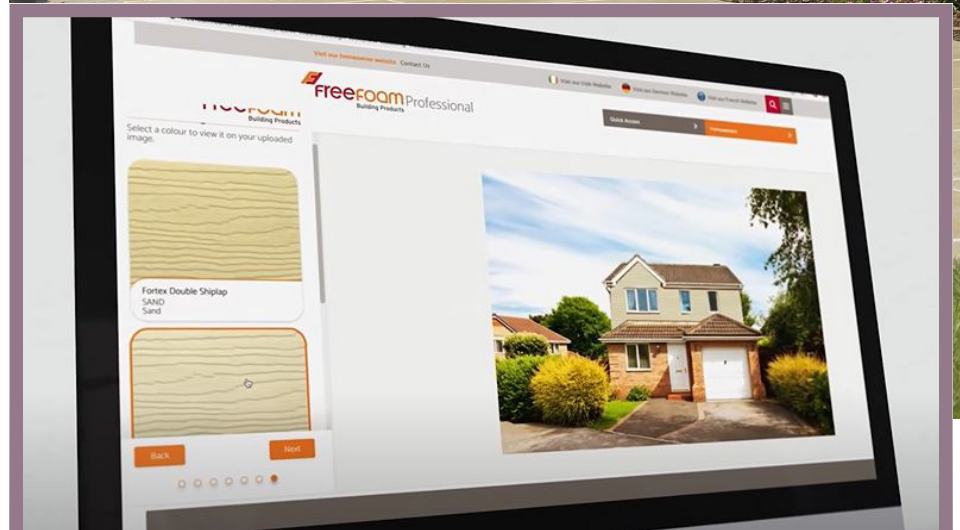
Available in a wide range of twelve subtle contemporary colours including soft shades of Pale Gold, Pale Blue and Sage Green to more dramatic tones of Anthracite Grey and Argyl Brown, all of which will complement other exterior elements such as windows and doors.

Superior durability

The Fortex® cladding range is manufactured as a long-term decorative cladding solution, designed to withstand many different weather conditions.

Light to handle, easy to install

Fortex® exterior wall cladding panels are designed to make storing, handling and fitting quick and easy. The Fortex system comes with a range of PVC fitting accessories, all colour matched to achieve a professional finish.



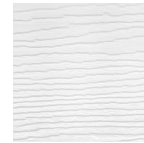
TOP TIP

Use Freefoam's online **VISUALISER** to see how cladding will look on your home!

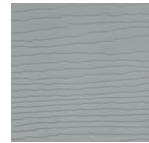


COLOUR RANGE

A beautiful range of subtle contemporary colours



White



Storm
Grey



Slate
Grey



Anthracite
Grey



Misty
Grey



Colonial
Blue



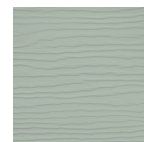
Pale
Blue



Cappuccino



Argyl
Brown



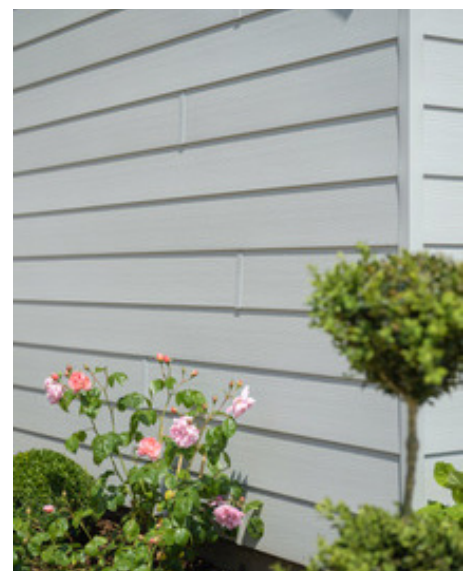
Sage
Green



Sand



Pale
Gold



 **freefoam**
Building Products

FORTEX®

Bring natural light into your home and transform your living space

Flooding a home with natural light has proven to make us feel more relaxed and improve our health and wellbeing. Not only does it transform your living space, natural light makes your home more attractive to potential buyers. In today's society there is a wealth of choice when it comes to new windows and doors. There is one thing for certain, whether you are extending your home or building from scratch, The Bi-Fold Network has a product range to meet your needs.





GET YOUR HOME YEAR ROUND READY WITH BEAUTIFUL BI-FOLDING & PATIO DOORS

Bi-Folding doors are a contemporary update for any home due to the fact that they can extend the feeling of outdoor living and provide an uninterrupted view of the garden. It's a great way to bring more light into your home!

Available in a range of opening configurations to suit any application, Visofold doors can be folded internally or externally and with the opening at the side (so the sashes all fold one way), at one end (to create a single entrance door) or in the middle (to give the option of a double door).

Visofold's flexibility makes it the ideal choice for projects where large, uninterrupted openings are required, with the system providing maximum light and space to give unimpeded views. The highly-versatile, easy-to-operate system is the perfect option for even the largest project, capable of opening up an entire wall, yet presenting a contemporary, elegant glazed façade when closed.

Sliding doors also provide maximum light and afford the most unobstructed views of any system when closed and with a wide range of systems and options, you can select and tailor a door system to exactly meet your own specific requirements.

With a choice of frame sizes, sliding formats whether two, three or four pane systems, together with a choice of high-quality hardware and a wide range of colour options, the slim lines of these elegant doors make them the perfect solution for any home.



ADDING KERB APPEAL – ADDING VALUE TO YOUR HOME

The handsome range of entrance doors, available from The Bifold Network, will impress your guests and keep out both the elements and unwelcome intruders. Alitherm doors are designed for use as open out or open in, single or double doors, internally or externally beaded with side-light and low threshold options.

Elegant, yet strong and durable Alitherm doors enhance the beauty of your home, keep in the warmth and let in more light because of the slim sightlines. Peace of mind is ensured by the enhanced security provided by a multi-point locking system.

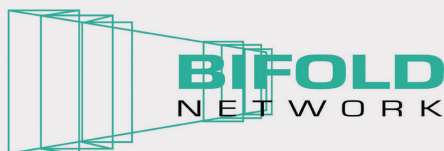


CONTEMPORARY, MODERN OR TRADITIONAL PROPERTY? NEW WINDOWS IN A RANGE OF STYLES

Alitherm Heritage provides the ideal solution for heritage applications such as listed building renovations and large scale replica-refurbishment projects where planning constraints are to be considered.

The Alitherm Heritage window is designed to be built as a series of horizontal modules which can be stacked using horizontal couplers to form a multi-part window featuring a specially design drip bar between modules.

Bifold Network is one of the UK's leading trade suppliers of Smarts aluminium bi-folding, patio, entrance doors and windows. The team at Bifold Network will help you from start to finish with your project, supplying products and fitting teams, throughout the UK.



**Contact us today to find a local installer
or call us for a friendly, no obligation chat.**

www.bifoldnetwork.com

Email us to find your local installer:
info@bifoldnetwork.com

If you would like further help please
call our friendly staff on **0114 231 3133**

Homeowners CHOICE

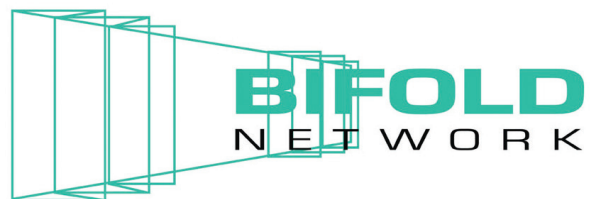


WE OFFER A FREE, NO OBLIGATION
CONSULTATION & QUOTE SERVICE

We offer a wealth of choice when it comes to your new windows and doors. Building from scratch? Renovating? New Extension?
- The Bi-Fold Network has a product range to meet your needs

Our Product Range:

- Bifold Doors
- Windows & Entrance Doors
- Lantern Roofs
- Heritage Windows & Doors
- Patio Doors
- Conservatories & Orangeries
- Garden Rooms



We have a local installer near you! Email us: info@bifoldnetwork.com

To find out more simply email or give us a call on **0114 231 3133**

www.bifoldnetwork.com

Designer Doors start with Mercury



Our Aluminium Designer Door range offers **the ideal blend of style, security and performance**. With a choice of high-quality door styles, the range is suitable for all property styles delivering **a perfect entrance every time**.

Each Designer Door is manufactured from two sheets of Polyester Powder Coated (1.5mm thick) aluminium with a machined/inlaid design or feature mouldings to suit individual requirements and bonded to the internal framework.

Guarantees:

- 10-year manufacture guarantee.
- 25-year paint guarantee (Qualicoat specification).
- 5-year guarantee on glass units.
- 12-month guarantee on door hardware.

Looking for the best in entrance doors? Contact the Mercury team today.



Mercury
GLAZING SUPPLIES LTD

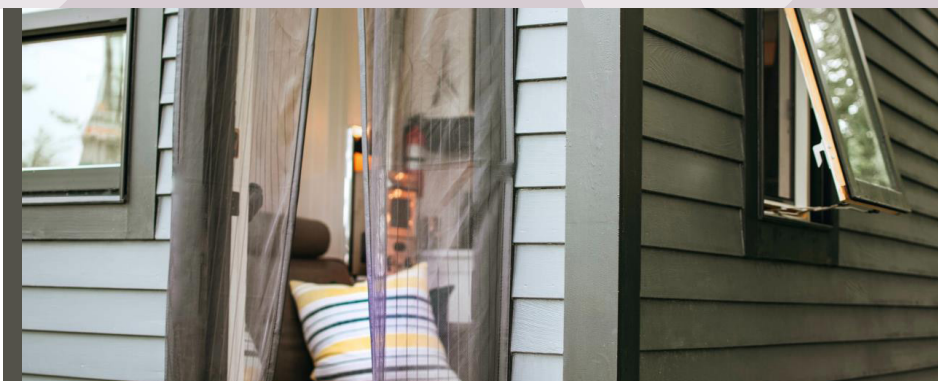
T: 01452 383 344

E: sales@mercuryspecialistframes.co.uk

www.mercuryglazing.co.uk

Mercury Glazing Supplies Ltd Unit E1, Goodridge Business Park, Goodridge Avenue, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 5EB

Consumer Advice & Fenestration Careers



With the average age for buying property rising, new Google analysis shows families are now creating self contained homes in their gardens, to accommodate their families and children. We take a look into the many routes to helping you get a career within the fenestration industry.



Click here
to go back to
contents

The following section covers...

- *Revealed - The renovation projects that won't add value to your home*
- *With over 200 industry relevant qualifications, why not speak to the GQA and see how they can support you to be better qualified?*



Fenestration, Glass and Glazing 50 CAREERS IN ONE DAY

Having announced its intention to launch a series of bespoke industry careers fairs in 2024, Building Our Skills - Making Fenestration, Glass and Glazing a Career of Choice has garnered backing from an impressive array of industry supporters.



CAREERS IN ONE DAY

Launch partners for the initiative include many household names including Rehau, Schuco, FENSA, GQA Qualifications, Liniar, CNC Recycling, CORGI Fenestration and VEKA among many others. The aim of these fairs is to engage directly with the education sector and show school children aged 14 upwards the vast array of career opportunities that the sector can offer. In fact Building Our Skills is aiming to showcase 50 careers at each of its fairs.

Two pilot events are to be held in March 2024 as a part of National Careers Week in South Yorkshire at the Oakwell Stadium, home of Barnsley FC, and in Manchester at the Etihad Stadium, home of Manchester City Football Club. Building Our Skills is working in conjunction with the local authorities in South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester to bring these events to fruition.

Advocates include Lyndsey Morgan and Helen Brown, Department for Works & Pensions 'Support for Schools (S4S)' Schools Advisers in South Yorkshire, who agree that the introduction of bespoke careers fairs co-ordinated by Building Our Skills is a great idea.

They say: "Having met with Building Our Skills at an industry exhibition earlier this year, the organisation helped to open our eyes to the breadth of career opportunities offered by the Fenestration, Glass and Glazing industry. People tend to associate the industry only with manufacturing and installation, but really there are so many more career pathways in the industry, from marketing, IT and customer services through to finance, sales,



If you are a parent and would like more information about the Fenestration, Glass and Glazing industry, and to understand the career pathways that it offers please email us sayhello@buildingourskills.co.uk.



social media and much more. Building Our Skills' idea is to introduce a series of bespoke careers fairs so that youngsters can find out more about what the industry is all about and hopefully be inspired to join it. In our roles we're aiming to assist young people in choosing the right career path for them, and in so doing bring them into closer contact with real-life companies and industries so that they can make informed choices. This means that our aims are aligned with those of Building Our Skills, and we are delighted to be involved with these events."

Mark Handley, Building Our Skills' Partnerships Manager adds: "Our aim is to show the industry to over 1,000 school children and their teachers over the course of the two events. If the two pilots are successful, these will become annual events enabling us to keep in touch with those who attend as they get closer to thinking about their careers. It is our intention to expand the number of events into other areas of the country where we are working with other local education authorities".

If you are a teacher in Greater Manchester or South Yorkshire, or any other area of the country and would like to know more about the industry and our programme of careers events please email us sayhello@buildingourskills.co.uk.

For more information about the work of Building Our Skills please visit www.buildingourskills.co.uk.

Women in industry

Jodie Bradley, GQA, Awards and Systems Controller

AT WORK...

How did you get into this industry?

I was made redundant from my previous job, so I signed up with a recruitment agency that got me an interview with GQA.

Please give a brief resume of your career to date.

I left school and went to college to complete a Business Administration course. Part of my course was to go on a placement that the college secured for me; I completed this and was then offered a job full time doing day to day administration and reception work. I then moved into the sales department which involved meeting with people face to face giving information on private courses in Gas, Plumbing, Electrics and Solar Qualifications.

The company got taken over and the staff were made redundant as the roles were based in the South of the country. Not long after my redundancy I got a job at GQA, and I have been here for the last 12 years.

Do you believe your speciality (finance, sales, management, marketing etc.) is transferable to any industry?

Yes, I believe that my knowledge and experience using and controlling a bespoke database could be used within other industries.

Have you a career path mapped out or is it more about opportunism?

My career is all about opportunity. I am eager to learn and happy to take on new challenges. I don't like to do same day to day activities, I like challenges that push me to reach my potential.

Looking ahead, where would you like to be in a) 5 years' time and b) 10 years' time?

Who knows where I will be in 5 – 10 years' time? I would like to have been given opportunities within that time to better myself within my job and learn more about the industry, but the main thing is that I am as happy and content with life, as I am right now.

Amongst many high profile projects the team at GQA have worked on - The Shard





"My career is all about opportunity. I am eager to learn and happy to take on new challenges. I don't like to do same day to day activities, I like challenges that push me to reach my potential."

AT REST...

Away from work, what is your focus?

My main focus away from work is my two children and my fiancé. Working full time with two children can be difficult so in the evening and weekends I make sure we have as much "family time" as we can.

AT PLAY...

Do you achieve the work/ life balance you would like to?

It's definitely hard finding the "right balance," but I believe once routines are in place it's easy to find the correct balance between both.

If money and leisure time were no object, what would you really like to do for yourself or your family?

If money was no object I would pack up my entire family and move to Australia to give my children a chance at life in a country that seems like it would be an amazing place to grow up, and to provide the widest range of opportunities for them in their own careers and later life.



Raising Standards through bespoke **ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

Close collaboration with Bohle, the components manufacturer and supplier, showcases the benefits of GQA's 'Accredited Training' service, while helping the company to raise standards in UV bonded glass technologies and practices.

GQA is the fenestration industry's leading awarding and qualifications-writing organisation. Its Accredited Training service is aimed at employers in the industry who want to have their in-house training endorsed and gives them the opportunity to deliver training that focuses on candidates' particular needs specific to their role with the employer.

When Bohle wished to develop an optional unit on UV glass bonding as part of a pre-existing Level 2 and 3 NVQ Diploma in Glass Processing, the company turned to GQA's specialist service to put it in place. This optional unit is now helping Bohle to shape accredited training in UV glass bonding offered by the company today.

Amanda Carr is Bohle's UV Bonding UK Technical Specialist and is a qualified trainer and assessor in adult learning. She explains: "Working with GQA hasn't just resulted in a qualification tailored perfectly to our customers' and partners' needs, it's really given us the opportunity to promote the benefits of UV bonded glass technologies as a whole. Offering accredited training with a specific standard against which learners can be measured is ideal. This approach is helping to raise standards in this part of the fenestration industry, and needless to say it's a very positive thing for Bohle to be associated with.

"I really appreciate the impartial support we've received from GQA to help maintain and improve industry standards. It's great that we have such a comfortable relationship with the organisation that results in a productive, open dialogue. Insights from GQA on how we can develop and improve our training offering are invaluable. We're looking at more ways we can work with the organisation to support our customers further through

accredited training. In particular, the area of glass handling is a focus, and we're also assisting the GGF to achieve standardisation of approach where possible."

Commenting on its Accredited Training service, GQA's Dan Brown says: "Using our Accredited Training service means that employers can develop their own training to suit their employees or their customers' needs with the



Dan Brown GQA

GQA stamp of approval to show the quality of the training delivered. The GQA-branded certificate we offer is an important tool and highlights the third party endorsement we bring. We can also help to develop specific courses in the consultation phase of our collaboration."

In addition to its Accredited Training service, GQA also offers one in 'Bespoke Qualification'. Together, the two specialist services are helping the fenestration industry to develop training solutions tailored to the specific needs of employers and their staff. The two initiatives mean that employers can create and accredit in-house developed training courses and learning programmes in addition to utilising existing qualifications.

GQA's Bespoke Qualification service is aimed at employers who wish to be able to offer those staff and customers undertaking very specific roles the opportunity to work towards gaining a qualification where one does not already exist. The service is perfect for niche specialist areas, which do not lend themselves to meeting the required content of a standard regulated qualification.

GQA has close to 200 qualifications covering a broad variety of sectors. The fenestration industry, just like any other, needs training solutions tailored to its specific needs. The organisation's services are helping to facilitate this and are contributing to raising standards and assisting in shaping careers.

More information about GQA's Accredited Training Programme can be requested from dan.brown@gqaqualifications.com.



Working with the MOD to create new opportunities...

GQA Qualifications has long recognised that re-introducing service personnel into mainstream commerce has an important role to play in helping to bridge skills gap for all sectors of industry. The awarding and qualifications-writing body for 16 sectors is therefore pleased to announce that it has now received the bronze award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), having also signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

Dan Brown, Strategic Relationships Manager of GQA explains what this means both for service personnel and for employers: "This award recognises GQA's commitment to defence personnel. Our signing of the Armed Forces Covenant further demonstrates our intention to support the Armed Forces community. This includes both serving and ex-military staff. For those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces, we can offer a stepping-stone into employment or help to further careers through our accredited courses or qualifications. For employers needing to fill job vacancies we would urge them to consider the Armed Forces community as an excellent source of potential recruits.

"We are actively collaborating with organisations who encourage and facilitate recruitment of military and ex-military personnel. One such is FrontFoot, a specialist charity who help place the armed forces community into new roles whilst supporting them with transition advice and support. Engaging with FrontFoot to bring military service personnel into the sectors which GQA support through accredited training and qualifications is the latest in a growing list of key strategic partnerships we are forming to help alleviate the skills gap."

Tim O'Keefe, the Founder of FrontFoot says: "Everyone recognises the value that service personnel bring to the world of employment. We have very high hopes that this relationship with GQA will help those looking to add to their workforce right now. For us, working hand in glove with service personnel, it is an ideal opportunity to introduce them to a great industry, where we know there are long-term and ongoing opportunities for career development.

"We are keen to work with industry and to bring new blood to it. We know that service personnel bring great attributes to the workplace, and we are really looking forward to making an impact which will benefit all parties. A part of our commitment is to ensure that all the personnel we recruit undergo practical training to give them the best start in their new careers, and to give those employers who engage them the best value for their investment."

If you would like to know more about the collaboration between GQA and Frontfoot, and have questions on how you can get involved and support the military community, you can email Dan at dan.brown@gqaqualifications.com.



Away from the industry...

We would like to say a massive 'Well Done' to Mick Clayton, our CEO, and to all those who took part in the recent @AutoRaise Rally. Driving 100s of miles in cars painted by apprentices in the automotive industry the team completed the challenge in three days during the hottest part of the month in September. What's more they were in fancy dress, and Mick and his team were dressed as characters from the film Back to the Future....shame their car was a Beetle and not a DeLorean!

They raised a massive £6353 for the UK vehicle repair industry which they'll use to help young people into a range of technical apprenticeships. If you haven't donated yet and would like to, it's not too late, just visit...

<https://donorbox.org/gemini-accident-repair-centres-autoraise-rally-2023>



REVEALED

The renovation projects that won't add value to your home

With the average age for buying a property rising, new analysis of Google search data shows that families are turning to creative solutions to accommodate adult children living at home for longer, with many opting to incorporate separate self-contained homes in their gardens.

The analysis, which was conducted by Origin, the UK's leading supplier of aluminium windows and doors, found that searches for planning permission for 'annexes' rose by 43% in the past year, whilst queries about 'summer houses' and 'sheds' have also spiked.

However, experts have warned that these types of renovations are unlikely to add any value to a property. With the average granny annexe costing roughly £90,000, this could be an expensive mistake.

Jonathan Rolande, Property Expert and Professional Property Buyer commented: "Families wanting to give their adult children independence by investing in renovations such as self-contained annexes or sheds should only do so for the added lifestyle value, not the financial. Having a separate self-contained building on a property won't necessarily add value to a home as it won't appeal to the majority of buyers



in the long term. Renovations like this should be likened to a swimming pool. Have one because it enhances your family's current living situation, not because it will add value."

Victoria Brocklesby, COO and Co-founder at Origin, explains: "Whilst it's important that properties work for families and their lifestyle, families should invest their money in the right places. Instead of opting for self-contained buildings at the bottom of gardens, or on driveways, homeowners who want to see ROI on their building work should opt for an extension that is attached to the existing property. This will mean the space can be repurposed by future buyers, or even to meet your own evolving needs, more easily.

"At Origin, we help families create versatile spaces that will serve them now, and in the future. With mortgage rates remaining high, families need to invest their money where they will see the best returns in both lifestyle and financial value."

Visit the Origin [website](#) for more advice on **how to build an extension**.



www.gqaqualifications.com



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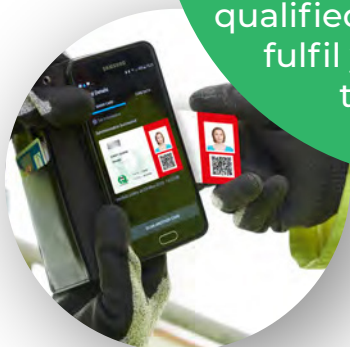


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Mick Clayton
GQA CEO



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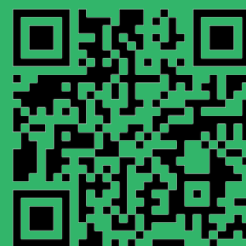
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Interiors



Kitchen space continues to be guided by a calm nature colour palette and is being embraced by consumers across their kitchen fittings and fixings. When it comes to interior design, the bathroom is often overlooked. However, with the right choice of bathroom wallpaper, you can transform this functional room. We also take a look at elevating your bedroom, with beautiful bespoke headboards.



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contents

The following section covers...

- *Elevate your everyday with Althia Colour*
- *Experts Guide to Bathroom Wallpaper*
- *Welcoming the Cosy Autumn Season By Lydia*

elevate your everyday with

ALTHIA COLOURS

Capture the most sought-after kitchen trends with Althia Colours, the latest single lever tap range by Abode. Available in four modern colours, Althia Colours presents Mediterranean-style Terracotta, neutral Nude, Nordic-style Scandi Grey and Matt White.

Dan Biddle, Product Manager at Abode says, "The kitchen space continues to be guided by the calm of nature and this year's colour palette is embracing a confident use of colour across the fixtures and fittings. Stand out shades emerging this year are offering a new take on warm neutrals and earth-tone paint colours and it is these variations, which are creating a strong style identity and giving new life to the kitchen mixer tap.

We are therefore extremely excited to personify the UK wash zone with the launch of Althia Colours, our latest range of contemporary shades designed for one of our signature and bestselling kitchen tap families, Althia.

Now available in four modern paint colours, the new Althia Colours are designed to capture the latest interior trends and present a Mediterranean-style Terracotta, neutral Nude, Nordic-style Scandi Grey and Matt White, dubbed the fastest emerging tap colour inspired by the Scandinavian design trend.





The new Althia Colours extend the Althia Finish Library from 6 to 10 options, meaning you can now choose between a range of colours and metals across a mix of single lever, monobloc and pull-out designs from the Althia Tap Family by Abode.

Exclusively available for Althia single lever mixer taps, the new Althia Colours help to highlight the beautifully contoured spout and slim lever handle, which offers a subtle blend of square and round forms in one design. The ideal choice for a large kitchen or compact utility room, the new Althia Colours are expertly handcrafted from quality raw materials and feature an innovative control valve and anti-splash spout to ensure stylish durability and allow for optimum usage with minimal water waste!



For further information, please contact Abode:
t: 01226 283 434 | e: info@abodedesigns.co.uk

www.abodedesigns.co.uk

Designed with copper tailpipes for greater stability and flow when fixing to the mains supply, the Althia Tap Family is highly versatile and now, is proud to offer four different style collections:

- 1 NEW Althia Colours (Single Lever) Nude, Matt White, Terracotta and Scandi Grey
- 2 Althia Metals (Single Lever) Chrome, Brushed Nickel, Brushed Brass, Urban Copper, Graphite and Matt Black
- 3 Althia Monoblocs (Dual Lever) Chrome and Brushed Nickel
- 4 Althia Pull Outs (Single Lever with Spray) Chrome and Brushed Nickel

By definition, the 2023 contemporary kitchen is founded on top-tier originality with this year's hero products including taps with real wood handles, and monobloc designs in fine painted finishes. Being able to beautifully coordinate the hardware with the furniture, materials and other finishing touches like the door handles and light switches are a huge design asset when innovating with colour.

Personalisation through colour is therefore increasingly important as homeowners want to create a distinctive décor, which reflects their personal style without compromising on utility and performance. By capturing the latest style trends with the release of four new tap colours, we want to inspire our customers to shape the kitchen space with a complementary or contrasting colour that embodies their own personal style and home décor."

EXPERT'S GUIDE TO Bathroom Wallpaper

When it comes to interior design, the bathroom is often overlooked as a space for creativity and self-expression. However, with the right choice of bathroom wallpaper, you can transform this functional room into a stylish oasis that reflects your personality and enhances your daily routines.

James Mellan-Matulewicz, Creative Director at wallpaper brand **Bobbi Beck**, shares his expert tips for choosing and applying bathroom wallpaper, so you can achieve a stunning and practical result.

THE BENEFITS OF BATHROOM WALLPAPER

Bathroom wallpaper has come a long way from its humble beginnings. Modern advancements in materials and printing technology have made it a viable option for a space often characterised by humidity and temperature fluctuations. Some of the benefits of using wallpaper in your bathroom include:

- **Style Versatility:** Wallpaper offers an extensive range of colours, patterns, and textures, allowing you to create a truly unique and personalised look for your bathroom. Whether you're aiming for a serene spa-like atmosphere or a bold and vibrant statement, there's a wallpaper design to match your vision.
- **Durability:** High-quality bathroom wallpapers are designed to withstand the conditions present in a bathroom, including moisture and heat. Most wallpapers can be used in a bathroom, if covered with a decorator's varnish after it's installed. This creates an invisible waterproof layer across the seams and surface of the wallpaper.
- **Easy to Update:** If you ever decide to change the look of your bathroom, removing and replacing wallpaper is generally simpler and less time-consuming than repainting, remodelling or replacing bulky bathroom items like sinks and baths.
- **Aesthetic Impact:** The right choice of wallpaper can completely transform the ambiance of your bathroom, making it feel larger, cosier, or more luxurious.



CHOOSING THE PERFECT WALLPAPER

Before you dive into the world of bathroom wallpaper, consider these key factors to ensure you make the right choice:

- **Material:** Opt for vinyl, vinyl-coated, or non-woven wallpapers that are specifically designed to withstand moisture and humidity. These materials are more resistant to water and can be wiped down without damaging the design.
- **Pattern and Colour:** Think about the overall style you want to achieve. Light and pastel colours can make a small bathroom appear larger, while bold patterns can add drama and personality. Consider the existing colour scheme and fixtures in your bathroom when selecting a wallpaper.
- **Texture:** Textured wallpapers can add depth and tactile interest to your bathroom. However, be cautious with highly textured options, as they may trap moisture and be more challenging to clean.
- **Scale of the Pattern:** The scale of the pattern should be proportional to the size of your bathroom. In a small space, opt for smaller patterns, while larger bathrooms can accommodate bolder designs.
- **Maintenance:** Choose a wallpaper that is labelled as washable or scrubbable. Bathrooms can accumulate dirt and moisture, so having a wallpaper that is easy to clean will ensure its longevity. Again, applying a decorator's varnish afterwards can turn a non-washable wallpaper into a washable one.



Bathroom wallpaper is a fantastic way to infuse style, personality, and sophistication into an often overlooked space. By carefully considering materials, patterns, and maintenance, you can create a bathroom that is both visually stunning and practical. Remember, the key to successful bathroom wallpaper is choosing the right materials and ensuring proper installation and maintenance. With the right approach, your bathroom can become a true reflection of your design sensibilities and a delightful retreat for both you and your guests.

APPLICATION AND MAINTENANCE

Proper application and maintenance are essential to getting the most out of your bathroom wallpaper. Some things to consider are:

- **Preparation:** Ensure your walls are clean, dry, and smooth before applying wallpaper. Repair any imperfections and consider applying a primer to create a smooth surface.
- **Professional Installation:** While DIY installation is possible, hiring a professional wallpaper installer is recommended, especially if you're new to wallpapering. Proper installation will ensure a seamless and long-lasting result. Bathrooms are often the trickiest room to decorate because there's often lots of obstacles and little room to manoeuvre.
- **Sealing Edges:** Apply a waterproof sealant around the edges of the wallpaper to prevent moisture from seeping underneath.
- **Regular Cleaning:** To maintain the beauty of your bathroom wallpaper, regularly clean it using a soft, damp cloth or sponge. Avoid abrasive cleaners that could damage the design. You should only do this if the wallpaper is sold as washable or you've applied a varnish over the top after install.
- **Ventilation:** Proper ventilation is crucial to reducing humidity levels in your bathroom. Use exhaust fans and open windows when possible to prevent excessive moisture buildup.

Welcoming the Cosy Autumn Season with ByLydia

Beautiful bespoke handmade headboards to elevate your bedroom

Cosy season is almost upon us, and what better way to start gearing up for it than with a beautiful new headboard to elevate your bedroom, creating the ideal space in which to while away those slow mornings, coffee in one hand, book in the other. ByLydia's beautiful bespoke handmade Wave Headboard makes for the perfect choice for your serene oasis of calm this autumn.

These striped sensations are made in 10 perfect colourways from Racing Green and Rose Pink to Marshmallow Peach and Sunshine Yellow each are finished with plain linen piping. Bedtime will always be the most welcome time of the day with ByLydia.

Lydia is the Founder & Creative Director of ByLydia, and once designed by Lydia, each item of furniture is Lovingly made by her dedicated team of highly skilled craftsmen who have been

making furniture for some of the UK's top interior designers for many years. Each piece is made in England in under 6 weeks, using quality materials, all of which are responsibly sourced.

Whilst born and raised in Derbyshire from a manufacturing background, a move to London at 17 ignited Lydia's passion for interiors and has steadily grown ever since - a career of 12 years and counting as an Interior Designer & Stylist, Lydia found herself making all

the pieces that she couldn't find on the shelf. In the industry it was frustrating to see so many items being made abroad and with long lead times and of low quality... and so, ByLydia was born.

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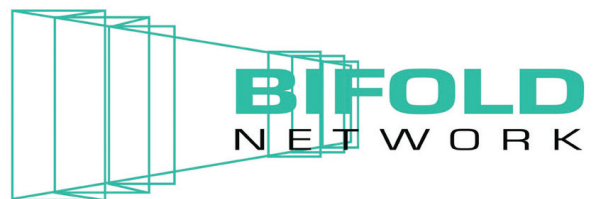


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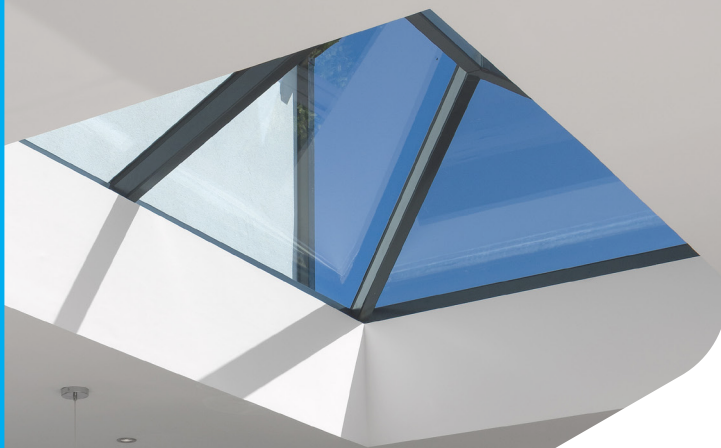
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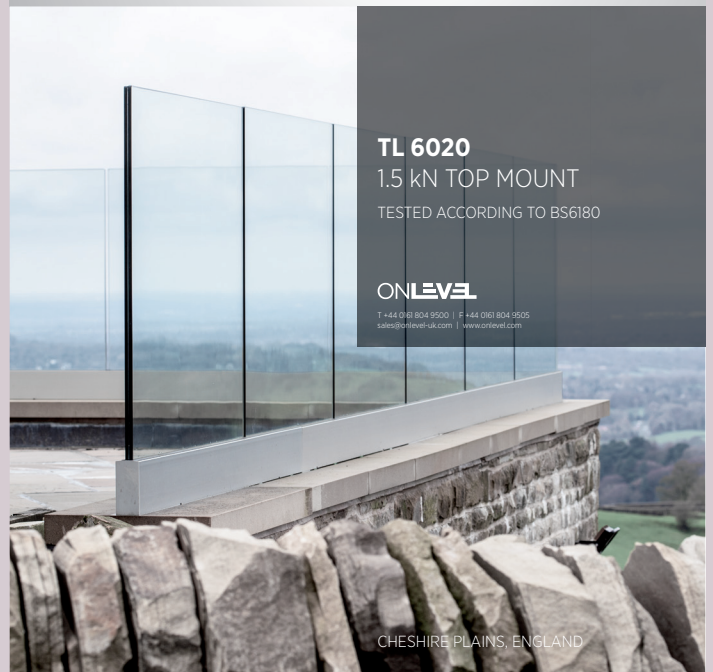
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