

# Smarts, combined

**The ‘smart homes’ of the future will of course be fitted with super-efficient windows and doors, but the really clever bit is how the comfort levels of these homes will be controlled. As high performing as new cutting edge materials and components are, what’s really impressive – and what is going to make the biggest impact in the windows industry – is how the different components integrate together and how they are controlled. Smartphones are the real enabler here, as they allow all the different elements of the smart home to be controlled from one device**

In smart homes, the integration of different components happens on a much more detailed level at a much earlier stage in the design process. ‘Digital twins’ of buildings will be created in virtual reality in special labs, where architects and specifiers will be able to see how a building and its different components work together for maximum performance. This will affect every manufacturer and installer in construction – including windows specialists – who will need to work with a new breed of system integrators, ensuring that all the elements of the smart home work together – and can be controlled from a single device.

At Swisspacer’s recent Fenestra-Vision symposium in Salzburg, Andreas Bittis, product manager at Saint-Gobain Building Glass, explained how smart solutions rely heavily on the communication between components,

to heat and light.

So, it is vital for installers to inform homeowners what effect different products will have on the energy efficiency of the whole building. Swisspacer’s free phone app Caluwin lets users calculate U-values and WER ratings to show homeowners what the cost of heating the building is likely to be. Ensuring installers have an app like this



**SWISSPACER: Top right – John Cooper, commercial director  
Left, inset – Andreas Geith, managing director/ Centre – panel discussion during Fenestra-Vision**

disciplines, and users. “For example,” he said, “an intelligent radio-frequency identification (RFID) chip makes it possible to seamlessly document the lifecycle of a window – from production, user behaviour and maintenance, and all the way to disposal.”

As far as the buyer of a smart home is concerned, all this will be largely invisible. They will simply live in a house that is economical to run, with comfort levels that can be adjusted using a single app on their phone. As symposium keynote speaker Dr Richard Keill, chairman of the board of Roto Frank AG said: “If it takes 17 different apps to operate a single window, that is clearly too many. Everything needs to be integrated in a single system.”

Plenty of innovations over the past 20 years have made windows and doors more energy efficient but, in general, people buying a new-build house don’t want to know how efficient the windows are – only how comfortable the building as a whole is to live in and how much it will cost

means they can demonstrate the effect of different window components and how they work together for better thermal performance.

For fabricators willing to embrace the digital revolution, there could be huge rewards. The experts at the Fenestra-Vision symposium agreed that smart buildings will likely be controlled via the building envelope, giving facade and window specialists a vital role in the new world order.

John Cooper, commercial director, Swisspacer says: “Smart homes will soon be the norm – and developers will be looking for specialist fabricators with the best performing windows that can be integrated seamlessly into the digital whole. Fabricators who embrace the technology and disciplines of smart home construction will be in the best position to profit from the next revolution in construction. Will you be one of them?” □

# Logical for logistics

Lisec, manufacturer of equipment and machinery for flat glass processing, claims to have revolutionised logistical handling of insulating glass units. Its new system, comprising a gantry crane facility (UTS-B) and a mobile unit buffer (MEB-B) improves quality, saves time, resources and money according to Lisec.

The automatic gantry crane (UTS-B), is arranged downstream of a Lisec sealing machine; it is particularly suitable for unstacking newly sealed insulating glass units with fixed or flexible spacer systems with particular advantages for thermoplastic spacers. The unit buffers are specifically designed to allow the thermoplastic spacers to cure directly at the buffer.

As the glass units are sent out in the direction of the line they are rotated from horizontal to upright position before being sorted into the mobile buffer system (MEB-B). The buffer allows manual or automatic unloading, curing and transporting of IGUs obviating the need for re-sorting, according to Lisec.

The individual transport racks can be coded for each customer. The new Lisec delivery tracking simplifies logistical handling, provides transparency and saves time in the logistics process.

The entire modular system can be adapted to the customer's space requirements and is compatible with almost all current Lisec lines. □

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



**Morley Glass & Glazing is getting into the ring with a new sponsorship opportunity, with the integral blind manufacturer pledging its support to up and coming boxer, Terry Broadbent, as he attempts to make a name for himself in the world of professional boxing.**

**Having previously taken a break from the sport to focus on his contract cleaning company servicing companies in and around Leeds, Broadbent made the decision this year to give his all to the sport he loves, selling his part in the business in order to devote himself to boxing full time. In a show of support a number of the companies he previously worked with in his cleaning business, including Morley Glass & Glazing, have come together to sponsor him as he aims to achieve his ultimate goal of boxing for a world title.**

**Ian Short, managing director at Morley Glass & Glazing, says: "Having been based in Leeds for almost 20 years, supporting a variety of local sports and community clubs is a large part of our proactive corporate social responsibility programme. Having known Terry for a number of years now his passion for the sport is clear and it's a privilege to be able to help him follow his dream. We're looking forward to seeing big things from him in the future." □**

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



# Building for the future

Welsh aluminium fabricator Dudley's Aluminium has secured a major contract to support the construction of a new student accommodation building in Cardiff's Capital Quarter.

Dudley's secured the £1m contract with ISG plc, and will install Kawneer capped curtain walling, windows and doors for the accommodation rooms as well as state-of-the-art automatic doors for the entrances.

The announcement of the Capital Quarter student accommodation is an exciting development for the area as it is estimated that Cardiff requires 15,000 extra student accommodation rooms. The development is well located for students at all South Wales universities, as well as Cardiff Central train station and its 'tooth' design will give it a strong identity and potential to become a well-known Cardiff landmark.

Dudley's will begin work on the project early 2018 with the completion date estimated for November 2018.

Speaking about the new project, Colin Shorney, managing director of Dudley's says: "We are thrilled to have secured the new Cardiff Capital Quarter student accommodation contract and to be working with ISG plc again.

"We have worked with ISG on a number of projects, including the new BBC Cymru Wales headquarters, so we are happy to be working with them on the construction of the new student accommodation. The project is sure to be an exciting one that will bring a great energy and opportunities to the Cardiff area and the student population, and we are delighted to be part of the project."

In addition to the Capital Quarter student accommodation, Dudley's has secured a number of high-profile contracts in Cardiff during the last 12 months,



including the new BBC Cymru Wales HQ, which it began working on earlier this year and another £1m project – Bayscape – in Cardiff Marina.

Dudley's reputation for quality has been recognised with several industry-related accreditations. The company is CHAS and Achilles accredited, Constructionline registered and certified to manufacture "Secured by Design" products. □

[www.dudleys.uk.com](http://www.dudleys.uk.com)

**Schueco UK has announced that it has achieved CORGI Fenestration Registration – the first UK aluminium systems provider to do so.**

**Chris Mayne, CEO of CORGI Fenestration says:**

**"Fenestration registration is recognition of a company's commitment to high standards of trust, reliability, expertise and quality. By attaining registration, Schueco UK has been recognised by us as a UK leader in glazing company management and customer service and as an organisation committed to maximising professional development within its workforce.**

**"It was Schueco's commitment to training as well as its reputation for the best engineered systems available in the UK that made the company a prime target for CORGI Fenestration. We think CORGI and Schueco are a perfect fit."**

**The whole supply chain can achieve CORGI Fenestration Registration – from system houses, fabricators and component and IGU manufacturers through to installers and repair & maintenance services. The scheme covers both the commercial and domestic building sectors. □**



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

# Healing grounds



**B**uilt in 1875, the Barnes Hospital is a Grade II-listed building. It was closed in 1999 and left to deteriorate. It is receiving a new lease of life as developer Henley Homes creates the Barnes village around it.

Alongside the 38 homes that are being constructed within the Victorian building, Henley is building a further 117 two- and four-bedroom townhouses in the hospital grounds. The challenge was to find windows for the new-build houses that would complement the character of the hospital's originals, while providing the best insulation and acoustic performance.

The original specification called for an aluminium and timber profile for the new houses. However, in consultation with the local conservation officer, it

was decided to use Eurocell's Modus flush sash casement window in anthracite grey. As well as satisfying the aesthetic requirements, these offered a more cost-effective solution while delivering better performance than the original specification.

Henley Homes' construction director Aaron Usmani says: "We looked at several issues when selecting the windows, including initial cost, thermal performance and ongoing maintenance requirements for our customers.

"Featuring a 75mm six-chamber profile system, the Modus range delivers the optimum energy efficiency performance and can achieve a U-value as low as 0.7 from a standard system using triple-glazed units." □

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

**Deceuninck's Heritage flush sash has won the New Product of the Year category at this year's G-Awards.**

**Rob McGlennon, managing director of Deceuninck UK says: "We quickly identified the need for a strong product for the growing heritage sector and worked hard to design a product that suits every need in this field.**

**"The beauty of our flush sash isn't limited to the heritage sector, it looks just as stunning in a modern town house property, as it does in a traditional cottage.**

**"In addition to designing the best-looking product for this sector, we have also been able to offer our customers the benefit of 26 colours from stock with matching trims, cills and ancillaries – all from stock. We have of course had to invest a significant amount of money to allow us to offer this amount of product from stock, but we did it because we knew how far ahead this investment would put our customers. It means they can order colour as easily as they can order white." □**

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

