

Editor John Roper
Tel: 07967 666794
Email: john.roper@profinder.eu
Production assistant:
Jocasta Roper

Associate editor Brian Shillibeer

Advertisement sales

Steve Anthony
Tel: 07967 585475
Email: steve.anthony@profinder.eu
Mehreen Haroon-Ali
Tel: 07932 243008
Email: mehreen.haroon@profinder.eu

Advertisement production

Email: fabricatorcopy@profinder.eu

Admin:

The Studio, Hillside Avenue,
Elstree & Borehamwood, WD6 1HQ
Tel: 07807 374932
cathryn.ellis@profinder.eu

The Fabricator is published in the UK by Profinder Media Ltd.

Opinions expressed in The Fabricator are those of the contributors and do not represent editorial policy.

The Fabricator accepts payment for colour pictures.

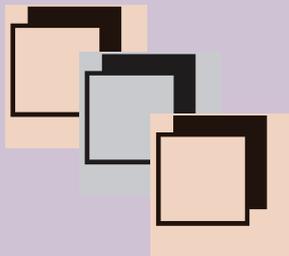
Subscription rates: UK £45; rest of EU £60; worldwide £105

The Fabricator Vol 17 No 12

ISSN: 1752-2145

www.thefabricator.pro

Copyright © 2021 Profinder Ltd.



In association
with



THE FABRICATOR

Comment

Time to wish our readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

At least this year we will have a, relatively normal season. Last year we were in, at least partial, lockdown. The prime minister told us to spend Christmas with just one person rather than the previously suggested five. By 4th January we were in total lockdown again with pubs and restaurants shut.

The greatest indicator for me is the Glassman's (and Glasswomen's) Christmas lunch. We missed it last year and for me it has, for the last 30 years or so, been the start of Christmas.

And yet – and yet: at the time of writing a new variant of the virus has turned up. Omicron sounds like an alien overlord from a fifties sci-fi B movie. But it is here and if it proves deadly we will be locked up (sorry, down) all over again. And Christmas will be cancelled all over again.

But it is the season of goodwill. So lets lay off Johnson and his conservative gang; leave them to carry on plotting to destroy the British economy, delude themselves that Brexit is a success, shout at the French, drown migrants or whatever it is they are up to today.

My wife remarked recently how much better the house across our square looks now that it has dark oak PVC windows rather than white. I told her about the difficulty with PVC-U. Its high co-efficient of expansion, the perception that all of the old wood windows that were being replaced were painted white, how it looked better than the mill-finish aluminium windows which were the original 'double glazing' before we struck 'white gold'. (An odd aside: the other day a tai chi student asked me if I had seen 'White Gold' the TV sitcom about the industry in the eighties, written by Damon Beazly who was assistant editor on Glass & Glazing Products back then. Apparently the series is enjoying a re-run on Netflix.)

In the beginning coloured profile took a long while to take off. Lead times were long and some of the paint a bit questionable. I remember at one Glassex exhibition someone launched a paint that was totally stable and couldn't be removed. He was telling us this as we sat on our stand scraping the paint off of his sample with the edge of a coin!

Technology has improved and paints now tend to be stable. Foiled profiles have also added to the options. Also, these days, system companies tend to hold stocks of coloured profile so delivery times for colour is much the same as for white. As a result, coloured PVC windows now have a big chunk of the overall market. Aluminium too, growing in popularity as a domestic replacement option, offers a big range of colours.

So here we are, far from the heady days of whitegold and heading into a somewhat uncertain future. Raw material prices are soaring, deliveries are in question and, even if you get the stock, can you find enough guys with the skills to put the windows together and install them?

So here is wishing the industry good luck in 2022. And if you are taking one – providing indeed that everything isn't cancelled – have a great holiday.

John Roper