

**Editor** John Roper  
**Tel:** 07967 666794  
**Email:** [john.roper@profinder.eu](mailto:john.roper@profinder.eu)  
**Production assistant:**  
Jocasta Roper

**Associate editor** Brian Shillibeer

**Advertisement sales**  
Steve Anthony  
**Tel:** 07967 585475  
**Email:** [steve.anthony@profinder.eu](mailto:steve.anthony@profinder.eu)

Roy Winters  
**Tel:** 07900 168871  
**Email:** [roy.winters@profinder.eu](mailto:roy.winters@profinder.eu)

**Advertisement production**  
**Email:** [john.roper@profinder.eu](mailto:john.roper@profinder.eu)

**Admin:**  
The Studio, Hillside Avenue,  
Elstree & Borehamwood, WD6 1HQ  
**Tel:** 07807 374932  
[cathryn.ellis@profinder.eu](mailto:cathryn.ellis@profinder.eu)

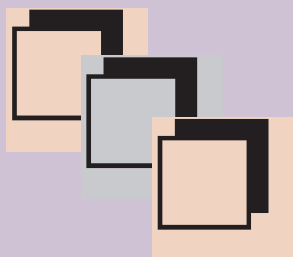
The Fabricator is published in the UK by Profinder Media Ltd.

*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*

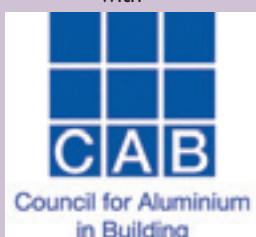
**The Fabricator Vol 22 No 2**  
**ISSN: 1752-2145**

[www.thefabricator.pro](http://www.thefabricator.pro)

**Copyright © 2026 Profinder Media Ltd**



In association  
with



# THE FABRICATOR

## Comment

Just to update you *The Fabricator* is 22 years old this year. Actually, it has been around a lot longer than that. We can trace its roots back to the magazine *Flat Glass International* which was launched in 1982 to support the new Glassex exhibition. (I joined as deputy editor a year later, in 1983.)

As the glass trade changed and all but disappeared everything was about the embryonic replacement window – initially aluminium and then PVC-U, the era of White Gold\*. So we rebranded as *FGI* and later as *Fabrication and Glazing Industries*.

In the mid-nineties, now 30 years ago, we launched our sister publication *The Installer* so, eventually it seemed logical to rebrand again as *The Fabricator*.

Why the history? Well it seemed time to take a look at our design. You will find that this edition looks a bit different. As we increasingly publish on digital platforms it means that we have more flexibility. You can read *The Fabricator* on our news website [www.thefabricator.pro](http://www.thefabricator.pro) or via our twice weekly newsletters. The Fabricator is also published on our home website: [www.profinder.eu](http://www.profinder.eu). From here you can also download the magazine as a PDF, as a whole magazine or individual articles. We have also re-sectioned the magazine into subjects – hardware, machinery, glass & glazing and so forth.

So far, so self indulgent. Now what about the industry? After what, I think, was a pretty flat year it seemed reasonable to expect things to pick-up sharply in 2026. I don't think we have seen that as yet and construction in general is still pretty flat. Although I did read that the sector overall had a better end to 2025 than everyone thought. The problem, of course, is that, that's a statistic. If we have to be told it is OK I don't think anyone will have really felt it.

As we still haven't solved the employment problems. Never mind skill sets, does anyone actually want to work? On page 28, Ian Latimer, managing director of Emmegi, tells the tale of two new, young recruits to a fabrication company. On their first day, one didn't turn up at all and the other walked out mid-morning.

There is still unemployment out there, so I ask again: does anyone actually want to work?

It may be that society is still suffering from 'lock-down syndrome'. You may remember that after we were allowed to go out again, a lot of people didn't. People it seemed had enjoyed not having to answer to a boss. It was comfortable at home. Who wants the stress of a commute? According to the office for national statistics, the number of people actually working from home amounts to 14% of the workforce with up to 49% at times if you count 'hybrid' workers who spend part of the time working at home. (See page 37 to read about the effect on health and safety.)

Of course, a fabricator – a machine operator, can't work from home and, again according to Ian Latimer, companies are looking to machinery to replace individual workers. The fact that jobs are disappearing and the probability that they just won't be needed, doesn't seem to have filtered down to the new recruits.

Oh, and if you think that degree in media studies is going to protect you – let's talk about AI!

\*With acknowledgement to Damon Beasley creator of the TV series of that name.

*John Roper*

The Fabricator 2026