

Sight-worthy observation



A stunning new curtain wall facade has been installed by Aluprof customer, Britplas, at Jodrell Bank Observatory. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) organisation has set up its new global headquarters at the world famous location.

Working in conjunction with the University of Manchester the new radio telescope will utilise a collection area of almost one million square metres working within the 50 MHz to 20 GHz bandwidth and will play a major role in answering key questions in modern astrophysics and cosmology.

The curtain wall on the north elevation is structurally glazed and has a sawtooth stepped appearance whilst other elevations are finished in traditional 50mm capping. Aluprof systems used on the project were MB70 doors

and windows and SR 50N curtain walling, with Trimo Qbiss cladding. The colour specified was RAL9011 from Interpon.

The £1.2m installation was designed by architects Hassell and constructed by Sir Robert McAlpine.

Aluprof UK's head office and extensive distribution centre is located in Altrincham, Cheshire. Aluprof systems says its systems are, increasingly, being specified on a wide range of residential and commercial projects across the UK including Passivhaus projects. Systems are designed, fabricated and installed by selected, specially trained local companies, to ensure each fabricated product meets Aluprof's exacting standards. □

www.aluprof.eu

Senior Architectural Systems has donated a range of aluminium glazing systems for two new community buildings that were created as part of the BBC's recent DIY SOS Grenfell Special programme.

Presented by Nick Knowles, the two episodes were broadcast on BBC1 on Wednesday 5 and 12 September. The programme took on one of its biggest and most important challenges ever in order to help the local West London community which was affected by the fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017. Tradespeople from across the UK, including Senior's supply chain partners Soundcraft and CMS, came together to construct two new buildings in just a few weeks. As well as the new North Kensington community centre which will provide valuable facilities for the local groups and residents in the area, the teams also created a new state of the art gym for the Dale Youth Boxing Club with the project getting a helping hand from Prince William.

Senior has donated the aluminium windows, doors and curtain walling for both new buildings. Members of Senior's architectural advisory team also spent several days on site liaising with the project team to ensure the most appropriate products were used and the installation process ran smoothly. □



Room with a Viiu



Viiu (pronounced ‘view’) is a new aluminium sliding door that has slim sightlines, secure laminated glass and an unobtrusive design – according to Rod Tate sales director at Viiu.

Viiu is part of the Fitters Friend construction group and is a newly established company which began trading in June this year.

Seizing advantage

“Our aim,” says Tate, “is to take advantage of the current interest in aluminium. We think aluminium is the optimal material for doors. It allows us to create extremely slim sightlines and it can support very large glass panes. Up to 750kg for moving glass sections and 1,200kg for fixed glass. Also, as we build the outer-frame built into the façade, it gives the appearance of a wall of glass.

“A few years ago we saw a huge demand for bifold doors. Now, we’re starting to see the focus move to ultra-slim sliding doors. This system offers slim sightlines in a door that’s strong and tough enough to move heavy glass sections effortlessly.

Perfect balance

“To keep its looks, we have concealed the electric locking mechanism in the unit’s 100mm head profile. The motor can be accessed from below for maintenance or repair without the need for access panels inside the home and a patented interlock section gives perfect alignment. I think it’s that perfect balance of form and function.

Top of the class for pass

“Most importantly we believe that Viiu is the first product of its kind to pass PAS24-2016.

The PAS24-2016 process is extremely challenging. It was recently updated to stipulate the interlocks should not part by 50mm under 450kgs of force from both sides. Viiu was the first of this type of door to stand up to that level of force and it allowed no gap at all. On top of this Viiu offers U-Values of less than 1.0 W/m²k which has seen it awarded the Swiss ‘Minergie’ label.” □

www.viiu.co.uk