



Lorna and Gavin Gall's new home on the banks of the River Clyde has large sliding or bi-fold Schüco doors on every floor providing river views and filling the house with natural light.

Lorna Gall says: "We came across the plot while dog walking and fell in love with the view. Building our own house enabled us to design it to fit our requirements perfectly as a family, and it's turned out even better than I had hoped."

The Galls engaged Stewart Moore, director of Bankhead Developments, to manage the construction of the house. When it came to choosing windows and doors, the couple were keen to go with Moore's recommendation.

Moore says: "I always recommend Schüco for its high quality and precision German engineering. Doors and windows are a big investment for the client, so it makes sense to choose products that are going to last a lifetime. It also means, at the end of the project, I can hand over the house to the client without worrying about having to go back and fix problems further down the line."

In addition to the sliding and bi-fold doors on the back of the house, the windows on the front of the house are also Schüco.

The Galls visited the Scottish Bifold Doors' showroom in East Kilbride to see the Schüco products and were immediately sold on the quality.

Colin Philip, director of Scottish Bifold Doors says: "Schüco is often specified by architects so we get clients coming to the showroom to see the products. Although Schüco may be towards the more expensive end of the scale, once people try out the products, they're usually happy to pay a little extra to secure better quality."

"We've been in business for almost 30 years and work only with the best, most reliable products. When we decided to expand into aluminium, we felt that Schüco was the brand that best fitted our company ethos, and that has proven to be the case."

For the Gall's project, Schüco was specified for all the glazing in the house.

"The biggest challenge was installing the heavy sliding doors on the top floor. However, there was machinery in place to lift them and once they were up at the top of the building it was fine," says Philip.

In addition to the sliding and bi-fold doors, the front of the house has Schüco tilt/turn windows, and fixed windows around the front door.

Moore says: "The combination of the slim aluminium profile with the best hinges and running gear make the Schüco aluminium window a really good window."

For the Gall family their new house has proved life changing.

Lorna Gall says: "My favourite thing about the house is having so much glass. We spend so much more time together as a family now because we have this amazing space with so much natural light. It's actually changed our lives." □

www.schueco.com/uk



Sheerline has launched a new range of bi-fold doors, which extends its range of Sheerline Prestige aluminium windows and doors

The company is claiming that its Sheerline Prestige bi-fold combines style, security, innovation and sustainability and pushes performance boundaries with Sheerline's Thermlock technology giving U values of 1.4 W/m²K double glazed and 1.0 W/m²K triple glazed. Thermlock employs closed cell multi-chambered cores to give greater thermal performance compared to polyamide thermal breaks.

With four different threshold options, including one with an integrated sill and all featuring fully weather-sealed rebates, it offers up to seven pane configurations. With both inward and outward opening options, the bifold has a maximum height of 2.6m and a maximum width of 6.5m.

Hardware based on tried and tested designs is supplied by VBH, with a custom-made Winkhaus Thunderbolt lock. It includes one-piece keeps and an integral finger-pull passive door for configurations that feature French door style sashes. The new bi-fold also comes with the option of an Ultion 1* Plus 2* lock and handle combination and a folding Ultion key that protects the frames from damage. There are 10-year mechanical operation guarantees on all hardware.

According to Garnales the one-piece stainless-steel track with integral drainage allows for controlled, reliable rolling, as well as being easier to fit and cut. Tri-material Garnalex gaskets feature low friction coatings ensuring smooth operation.

The ancillaries used on the bi-fold doors are the same as those used on standard Sheerline Prestige window and door systems. The company says that its standard patented corner cleat construction enables fabricators to adjust the mitre as required.

Roger Hartshorn, Garnalex CEO, says: "Aluminium is the ideal material for bi-fold doors as it is inherently strong

and looks fantastic. Our technical experts injected innovation at every level, and because we started from a clean slate we avoided legacy design restrictions. For example, the bi-fold door suites perfectly with the Sheerline Prestige range so the same clean balanced sightlines run right through from windows and doors to the bi-fold. The result is a beautiful bi-fold for beautiful whole-house installations. It's only when you see these lines matching

up that you realise nothing else in the market can do that. Homeowners love that, even if they don't appreciate why until you point it out. That's why we say it's a trailblazer.

"We listened to our fabricator partners and then we designed a bi-fold to exceed their expectations and wow installers and homeowners. And because we make every major part here in Britain, our carbon footprint is reduced compared with aluminium systems that are imported from the other side of the world. Again, because we supply our standard range of colours from stock, and bespoke colours are made on site, the Prestige bi-fold is available in our standard range of 12 stocked colours within five working days, with bespoke colours in just 10 working days. That's also pretty remarkable for aluminium." □



Rogar Hartshorn

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