

Opening A Window On Fabricator's Doors

The larger traditional window fabricators have nearly all embraced the profitable prospect of supplying doors. Here we look at just a few of the new ranges coming available from a fabricator near you.



Frame Fast Monza Composite Door in Anthracite Grey

Trade fabricator, Frame Fast UK, has expanded its composite door collection to feature a range of traditional and contemporary styles – offering more choice and great quality to their customers.

“We understand what our customers are looking for,” says Nigel Leivers, a director at Frame Fast. “That’s why we have created an exclusive range of composite doors that not only offer more styles and colour options but has great quality and high performance benefits.”

Frame Fast’s new composite door collection features a choice of 30 traditional and contemporary door styles, including realistic woodgrain finishes. Customers can choose from more than 30 popular colour options, along with a choice of glazing and hardware to match the door designs.

The complete collection is manufactured from a rigid polymer subframe, a thermally-insulated high density core and a high impact Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) skin that creates a warm and secure entrance door. The doors are manufactured at Frame Fast’s factory in derby. [i](#)

What Happened To The E? Framexpress has a habit of dropping the letter E, so it no surprise the company has gone for Nxt-Gen composite Doors.

“Stuart Green, a director at the company says: “Nxt-Gen have been designed to not only offer great-looking, great performing composite doors but also to reduce waste and improve manufacturing efficiency.

“This means fewer off-cuts and a quicker manufacturing process

in the factory, so installers can get composite doors even faster.”

Basics

Green continues: “In terms of design, Nxt-Gen takes it back to basics. The doors have a classic, real wood finish. We understand that the majority of homeowners aren’t interested in choosing a bright pink or electric blue door. They want an entrance door that does what it says on the tin – great design, lots of glass options and a high-quality finish.”

There are six different doors styles available in the Nxt-Gen collection, to suit both traditional and modern properties. And they come in the six most popular colour choices – black, white, blue, green, red, Distinction Chartwell and Distinction Anthracite.

A flush-fitting glazing system is available in a full range of designs for homeowners to personalise their entrance door.

Distinction Doors

Nxt-Gen doors have the high-insulation you would expect from a Distinction Doors foam core. They are also fitted with multi-point locking systems and high-security cylinders for top-notch security. Plus, there’s the extra option to upgrade Nxt-Gen composite doors to Secured by Design specification. [i](#) ▶



Framexpress Nxt-gen Elegance Door in RAL 3003

Doors & Security



Tradesmith's S-500 door in porch 6 panes

► In Like A Hurricane – Tradesmith Launches Spitfire Doors

As part of a continuing push to expand its choice of specialist doors, Tradesmith has added the full range of Spitfire doors.

"We have a lot of homeowners in the South-East whose homes have increased greatly in value over the last 20 years," says Tradesmith MD Mark Hutchinson. "And installers are looking to offer them the high-end, high-quality, in-demand products and brands that add more value to their homes.

"They'll love Spitfire Doors. The range includes aluminium and timber-fusion that create an unforgettable first impression. Technical specification options include a digital peephole, plus reliable and totally secure fingerprint and

codepad entry options."

All Spitfire doors feature German engineered precision locking systems, as standard, to PAS24.

Showing off

Hutchinson continues: "This year we've added some brilliant brands, including Deceuninck, Residence Collection, Solidor and Masterframe to our core VEKA Halo and Warmcore offer. Customers can get technical and project advice and see all of these brands, including the new Spitfire doors in our recently completed two-storey conservatory and heritage showrooms and our dedicated door showroom at our factory in East Sussex."

Into Infinity And Beyond

Astraseal, the trade and commercial fabricator has strengthened its comprehensive door range with the launch of Infinity, a brand new collection of contemporary composite doors.

Combining five on-trend, solid and glazed door styles, the new Infinity door collection provides installers with a high-performance solution.

In addition to an authentic woodgrain finish, the contempo-



Another from Astraseal

rary collection offers linear and diagonal etched detailing, along with an array of glass options.

Colour and hardware

Each door is available in any RAL colour with dual-colour options also available.

To finish off Infinity, homeowners can choose from a full range of hardware options including popular long-pull handles and key wind-up locking to match.

Infinity doesn't compromise on performance with excellent thermal efficiency, security and weatherproofing. Colin Stanley, Operations Director at Astraseal, said: "It's no secret that composite doors are one of the most popular products on the market today. They continue to lead the way thanks to their desirability, performance and customisation. "We launched Infinity to make sure our trade partners are in the best possible position to answer this demand. Now they have a full range of premium, contemporary composite doors which can be customised in a whole multitude of ways."

Heritage

The new Infinity collection is designed to partner with Tilbrook, Astraseal's latest heritage style composite door. Launched last year, Tilbrook delivers the traditional aesthetics of timber with modern performance characteristics.

Much like Infinity, Tilbrook is manufactured using a hard-wearing GRP skin and features an extensive range of design options. **f**



Astraseal's range of contemporary composite doors

What's New In Bi-Folds



To watch the video, visit Senior's website.

Following on from the positive feedback received from its network of trade fabricators and installers, aluminium fenestration systems manufacturer Senior Architectural Systems' latest case study video features testimonials for its Ali Fold aluminium from two domestic customers.

Ms Ms Sexton and Mr Hillard from Leeds, West Yorkshire have joined the dozens of domestic customers up and down the country who have chosen to ask for Ali and benefit from the addition of an Ali Fold folding sliding aluminium door in their homes.

As part of the couple's renovation of their kitchen and living space, they appointed Alphamet Aluminium to undertake the installation of the new doors.

The attractive appearance of the sleek aluminium doors was a major selling point, enhanced by the choice of colour finishes available via Senior's in-house powder coating facility. The customers were also thrilled with the way the Ali Fold doors have trans-

formed their home, bathing the interior with light and providing uninterrupted views of their garden that can be enjoyed both day and night.

Praised

The practical advantages of the robust Ali Fold aluminium door system were also praised by the couple who have been impressed by how easy it is to use and in particular, by the flexibility of opening one or multiple door leaves to provide the desired level of access. The homeowners also praised how effective the doors are at retaining heat and contributing to a cosy interior. [f](#)

Aspire To Something Better In Lift & Slide Handles

VBH's new suite of handles and finger pulls - Aspire - is suitable for aluminium, timber and PVC-U lift & slide doors. It is part of VBH's greenteQ range.

Aspire is available in a wide choice of finishes, including polished or brushed stainless steel,

PVD gold, satin chrome, window grey, black, anthracite grey and white. The Aspire handle is ideal for operating heavy doors, ensuring they can be opened and locked with minimal effort as the door is lifted from its resting position into slide mode. Its 250mm lever provides plenty of leverage to drive the mechanism - lift & slide sashes can be up to 3335mm wide and weigh up to 400Kg depending on the gear used. A strong spring gives positive location in the 'closed' and 'slide' positions to further aid smooth operation.

Resurgence

Gary Gleeson, Marketing Manager at VBH says the decision to introduce Aspire is down to the resurgence of lift & slide doors: "The technology available now results in a smooth sliding action and the ability to produce very large and heavy sashes for this type of installation. "Wall to wall, floor to ceiling lift & slide doors are super trendy - the stuff of Grand Designs. Clean lines and big glazed spans deliver a major wow factor to any room. Their popularity is growing, they are reliable and are easy to operate...especially with stylish greenteQ Aspire handles on even the heaviest door." [f](#)



Aspire - a new range of handles and finger pulls suitable for lift & slide doors from VBH.

Getting Access to Access Control

Access control is a critical element of building security. It is vital in so many ways, not only from an anti-intruder or theft perspective but also in terms of health and safety, writes Rob Sands, Technical Director at Videx Security.

In almost every building – whether that’s an office block, a school, a hospital or a shopping centre – many people enter, exit and move around the premises. It is crucial therefore that access into and around buildings, where people are granted or denied entry to certain zones at different times, is managed effectively. What’s also imperative is how a building’s access control management system can work alongside other safety and security measures, such as CCTV systems and smart alarms. Every building is different and presents its own challenges. It is therefore important to find a flexible access control system which can be adapted to that particular building to meet a customer’s requirements.

Scalable

For example, the Videx Portal Plus range is used in many applications across the private and public sector and is scalable from simple one entrance systems through to multiple entrances with local or remote management facilities. The main reason why it’s a preferred choice for installers and end users cross-sector is because of the flexibility and customisation it provides. As a networkable access control system that supports prox-



imity, keypads and bio access readers, it also looks the part too and all key, fob, card or fingerprint readers are fully integrated into the management software to simplify the adding and editing of users.

The system is fully scalable from a single entrance through to large installation with multiple controlled entrance points and multiple operators using the software either locally or remotely.

Bespoke systems

Because of its flexibility, it can create a bespoke access control system which many organisations and businesses are now looking for. The Portal Plus range has continued to develop over recent years based on what customers are asking for – they want a complete system that’s tailored to their specific entry needs, that can integrate seamlessly with other systems they have in place to provide a sophisticated security solution. For example, Portal Plus can be integrated with Milestone’s XProtect platform or other third party systems using the SDK (Software Development Kit) available. Milestone is a provider of video surveillance management systems which allows video capture of those entering and exiting the building and control of the Portal Plus system from within the video management software. This makes installation easier and more cost

Why integration and flexibility are key to access control management.

effective and, for the end user, it provides a better and more comprehensive security system, including CCTV and access control management in one seamless provision that the user has complete control over. It’s done by a plugin which enables users to view live video of controlled doors and respond to access control requests at the push of a button – granting or denying access and opening and closing doors, for instance.

Live

By integrating both technologies the user can view and observe live access control events and data and capture camera footage from an access control event. What’s more, Portal Plus secured doors can also be viewed alongside relevant video and access requests both in real time and during investigations and users can print access control reports including images from camera events, times, doors and card holders. It’s an innovative integration, that also provides a bespoke experience and service for users.

Understand your client

Systems are constantly being developed so it’s important to keep abreast of the latest offerings. Ultimately, the best advice I can give in choosing the right system is that you need to first understand the client’s needs and any specifications they’ve requested. An out-of-box solution isn’t always available or indeed the most appropriate choice, therefore it’s always best to talk to the manufacturer or the installer who will be able to listen to your requirements. Using their knowledge of access control systems, they can then help you find the one that best suits your requirements and, critically, meets the client’s needs. **i**

I Can't Believe It's Not Ali



Vista has launched a new composite door range that looks and feels a lot like aluminium.

Vista, the panel and composite door manufacturer, has launched not one but two, new ranges of composite doors that look and feel a lot like aluminium.

The new Contemporary Collections are part of Vista's existing XtremeDoor range but will have their own stand-alone brochure. The main difference is the use of the new Links door blank which has been cleverly etched to replicate the aesthetics of aluminium with a rough cast finish. The doors are branded Inox and Urban.

Glazing systems

The Inox door uses finely grained 316 grade stainless steel glazing frames which, add a European flair. The Urban door, meanwhile, is glazed using a brand new contemporary chamfered cassette system with a colour-matched finish to the door and the same rough cast aluminium feel. Both doors can be combined with a selection of modern decorative glass options.

Something new

Haydon Statham, Vista's National Sales Manager, said: "We are excited about our new Collections, as these modern, contemporary doors will provide our existing customers with a great product to add to their regular range. I've seen nothing like this before and the composite door market has been crying out for some innovation. "Combined with our stainless steel hardware, including long bar pull handles and striking glass designs, the Inox and Urban doors look absolutely fantastic. "The moment our new Contemporary Collection brochure drops on customers desks we are expecting demand for them to go through the roof as they are perfect for the modern homeowner looking for something different." 

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