

TOMORROW'S®
TILE & STONE
SPRING 26



VISION DISPLAY
& interiors Ltd

MODE

Freestanding Modular Display System

- Boutique-style tile display
- Versatile coordinated solutions
- Sleek black modern & Warm birch finish



sale
Make a statement with MODE
solution
story

Colours & Materials Available in:



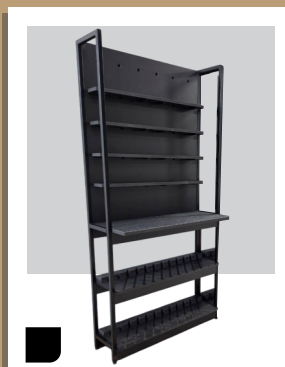
01227 832265



sales@visiondisplay.co.uk



www.visiondisplay.co.uk



Contemporary Black



Lacquered Birch Ply

The Right Manufacturer Matters

VipaBoard

Essential for Tiling

Made in the UK.
Trusted by the Trade



Built in Britain,
Trusted Worldwide



Reliable performance
with full traceability



Faster, More
Reliable Delivery



More Flexibility
in Ordering



Clearer Communication,
Stronger Partnerships



PCS High
Performance
Construction
Products

Hemfield Court, Makerfield Way,
Ince, Wigan, WN2 2PR, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1942 820131 Web: www.pcsboard.com



UK
CA

CE

NHBC

COVER STORY

- 10 **FULLY VERSA-TILE**
Vision Display showcases its MODe Free Standing Modular Display System, which allows showrooms to create a bespoke boutique look at a competitive price.

REGULARS

- 4 **WHAT'S NEW?**
The latest news updates and products launches from the forefront of the tile and stone industry.
- 12 **STAR INSTALLATION: ELITE PERFORMANCE**
London-based contractor Stone & Ceramic completes a world-class wellness destination project with Mapei.

FEATURES

- 14 **GROUNDLED HERITAGE**
Protecting terracotta in a traditionally constructed cottage requires expertise. Mark Atkins talks through a recent project where an LTP system was used to seal, enhance and preserve handmade tiles in a lime-based floor build.

SUSTAINABILITY

- 16 **A CLASS ACT**
Faveker's tailor-made tiled façade brings personality and energy efficiency to a new secondary school in Spain.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

- 20 **RAPID HEAT**
Mapei explains how contractors can achieve a fast fit and ensure long-term energy savings with Mapeheat system.

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

- 24 **WATERTIGHT BY DESIGN**
A residential wetroom renovation showcases how Schlüter Systems' integrated waterproofing, drainage and finishing solutions deliver a discreet, high-performance bathroom.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- 28 **TACKLING THE TILING SKILLS SHORTAGE**
Protiler Tools teams up with Leeds College of Building and South & City College Birmingham, to inspire the next generation of skilled tradespeople and increase apprenticeship sign-ups.

Hello and welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of Tomorrow's Tile & Stone.

Innovation, craftsmanship and technical excellence take centre stage in this issue. From standout commercial installations to heritage-led residential projects, we explore how today's contractors and manufacturers are combining performance with precision across every sector.

Our Star Installation spotlights a stunning London spa project where Stone & Ceramic used a Mapei system to deliver a state-of-the-art sustainable installation. Leading our features section, Mark Atkins examines the careful protection of handmade terracotta tiles within a traditionally constructed Chilterns cottage, showcasing how an LTP system preserved both character and breathability.

Sustainability is also firmly in focus. Spanish manufacturer Faveker demonstrates how a tailor-made tiled façade can enhance both aesthetics and energy efficiency in an educational setting. Meanwhile, in our Underfloor Heating focus, Mapei explains how its Mapeheat system enables rapid installation and long-term savings.

In Kitchens & Bathrooms, Ca' Pietra's Creative Director Hamish Smith discusses how textile-inspired surfaces are replacing plain white tiles and bringing warmth and character to the home.

Finally, we find out how Palace Chemicals has strengthened its long-standing commitment to industry education with the launch of a dedicated Skills Hub, providing hands-on training, CPD support and best-practice guidance for tiling and flooring professionals.

I hope you enjoy the issue.



Sarah Robinson, Editor



Find us on X @TomorrowsTS



CEO: Mark Hanson (mark@opusbm.co.uk)
Production Director: Hannah Wilkinson (hannah@opusbm.co.uk)
Advertising Executive: Alex Lawrence (alex@opusbm.co.uk)
Editor: Sarah Robinson (sarah@opusbm.co.uk)
Designer: Daniel Etheridge (daniel@opusbm.co.uk)
Designer: Hao Nguyen (hao@opusbm.co.uk)

E: info@opusbusinessmedia.co.uk
T: 01625 426054

www.tomorrowstileandstone.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No: 06786728, Opus Business Media Ltd, Zurich House, Hulley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2SF, ISSN: 2398 – 354X

This publication is copyright Opus Business Media Ltd and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form in whole or in part without the prior written permission of Opus Business Media Ltd. While every care has been taken during the preparation of this magazine, Opus Business Media Ltd cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information herein or for any consequence arising from it. The publisher does not necessarily agree with the views and opinions expressed by contributors.



KERAKOLL PUBLISHES ITS 2024 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Kerakoll Group invested in projects involving the environment and the community in 2024, with a focus on technologies with a positive impact, the circular economy, and solutions that respect the local area across the world.

Being a business today means taking care of the present and building value for the future.

With its 2024 Sustainability Report, Kerakoll explains the progress made using a mix of vision, precise targetting and concrete actions. A journey that takes shape through daily actions and manifests itself as concrete plans that

involve every corporate function and create a lasting positive impact.

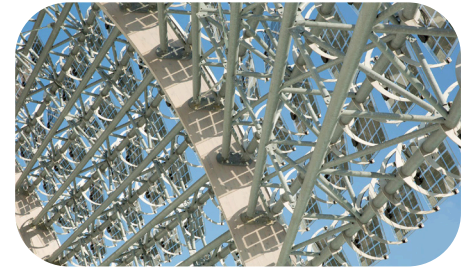
The report is not only a reporting tool, but also a compass: a document that enables the company to be transparent about its progress, reflect on critical issues and outline a roadmap that evolves through listening, measurement and continuous improvement.

Fabio Sghedoni, Executive Vice President of Kerakoll Group, said: "We believe that companies have a broader responsibility that goes beyond generating profit: to preserve the present and build a future in which development, innovation and

respect for people and the planet can coexist in harmony."

The 2024 Sustainability Report can be downloaded **here**.

kerakollgroup.com



PREMTOOL LAUNCHES NEW ADHESIVES AND PRIMERS RANGE DESIGNED FOR MODERN TILING CHALLENGES

PREMTOOL, known as The Tiler's Brand, has introduced a new range of tile adhesives and primers engineered to meet the demands of modern tiling, simplify product choice and improve on-site efficiency.

As tile formats continue to grow and substrate conditions become more varied, installers are under greater pressure to use products that deliver reliable grab, consistent workability and long-term performance. The new PREMTOOL range has been developed specifically to address these challenges, offering a complete system to support reliable installations across a wide variety of tiling applications including large format, natural stone and porcelain tiles and increasingly complex substrates.

With increasing pressure on time, budgets and installation standards, PREMTOOL's approach aims to make adhesive selection more straightforward while maintaining the performance expected on modern projects. Each product has been developed with workability and consistency in mind, helping installers achieve dependable results day after day at extremely competitive prices.

From preparation through to fixing, the PREMTOOL adhesives and primers have been designed to work as a cohesive system. The primers help create stable, well-prepared backgrounds, while the adhesives offer

fixing modern tile materials that demand higher levels of precision and control.

Eddy Hyde, Head of Marketing at Pro Tiler Tools said: "Tiling has changed significantly in recent years, particularly with the rise of large format tiles and more demanding substrates. The aim with this launch was to create a system that reflects how tilers actually work on site. By developing adhesives and primers that are designed to perform together, we've been able to simplify product choice while maintaining the high standards required for professional installations."

The adhesives are formulated to deliver strong grab and predictable open times, supporting accurate placement and reducing the risk of installation issues. They are also suitable for use in a wide range of areas, including general wall and floor installations,

wet rooms, communal or domestic showers with trays, swimming pools, electric underfloor heating, piped water underfloor heating and conservatories.

The exclusive availability of PREMTOOL at Pro Tiler Tools and CTD, ensures the wide product range is supported by specialist trade knowledge and nationwide availability at affordable prices, giving installers confidence both at the trade counter and on site.

With a clear focus on modern tiling requirements and installer performance, the new PREMTOOL adhesives and primers range offers a practical solution for today's professional tiler.

www.protilertools.co.uk/brands/premtool



ARDEX GROUP WINS PRESTIGIOUS BASA AWARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

ARDEX Group is proud to announce its success at the BASA Showcase 2025, where the company won the Best Sustainability Initiative.

The BASA Showcase, organised by the British Adhesives & Sealants Association, celebrates excellence and innovation across the industry.

The award recognises ARDEX Group's Building Tomorrow programme, which commits the company to achieving full Carbon Neutrality by 2045, and Carbon Neutrality for Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030.

This ambitious strategy includes initiatives such as: replacing finite raw materials with circular solutions, reducing CO2 emissions across operations, promoting diversity, equality, and ethical business practices and prioritising local sourcing.

Earlier this year, ARDEX Group also received a Gold Certificate from the Achilles Carbon Reduction Programme, marking five consecutive years of CO2 reduction at its UK plants.

This BASA accolade follows another sustainability win at the Tile Association Awards 2025, making it the company's second major sustainability award this year.

In addition to the sustainability award, ARDEX Group was shortlisted in the Innovation category for its BAL Micromax Grout-Effect Sealant, and, as a manufacturer shortlisted for multiple awards, was also shortlisted in the Best Manufacturer category.

David Hackett, Managing Director at ARDEX UK and Building Adhesives, said: "Winning this award is a testament to our team's unwavering commitment to sustainability and innovation."

"Our Building Tomorrow programme is not just a pledge – it's a roadmap to creating a greener, more responsible future for our industry. We are proud of what we've achieved so far and excited about the journey ahead."

<https://ardex.co.uk>

BEST SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

WINNER



NATURAL STONE AWARDS 2026 – ENTRY OPENS

Stone Federation Great Britain has announced that entry for the Natural Stone Awards 2026 is now open.

The Natural Stone Awards is a biennial event set up by Stone Federation and has established itself as the most prestigious awards event in the natural stone industry calendar. The Awards celebrate and recognise the excellence of design in natural stone projects from across the industry. Each year the Awards see work from throughout the British Isles entered across the various categories.

The Awards provide a chance for the industry to showcase the wide range

of applications possible with natural stone and to demonstrate that it is the ideal building material, providing architects, designers and clients with a sustainable, durable and attractive end product.

Entries can be made by anyone involved in the project including the architect, main contractor, stone contractor, stone supplier, client or building owner. The 2026 Awards see the introduction of a number of new categories, including Structural Stone and Reuse & Retrofit which will open the Awards to an even wider section of the industry.

Stone Federation's Chief Executive Jane Buxey commented: "We are encouraging all those involved in the natural stone industry to enter their projects into the

Natural Stone Awards 2026. This is a great opportunity to gain widespread recognition for your practice or company and products or services that you provide."

HOW TO ENTER

Projects can be entered digitally. To download the Natural Stone Awards entry form, click [here](#).

THE CATEGORIES

The Natural Stone Awards are split into 13 categories, each celebrating and showcasing a different aspect of the natural stone industry.

- External Stone Cladding (Precast/ Rainscreen/Traditional Handset)
- New Build Structural Stone, Loadbearing & Hybrid
- Reuse & Retrofit
- Repair & Restoration (Historic/ Ecclesiastical)
- Stone Conservation
- Interiors (Residential)
- Interiors (Commercial)
- Hard Landscape (Residential)
- Hard Landscape (Commercial/ Public Realm)

<https://naturalstoneawards.co.uk>
www.stonefed.org.uk



CRL STONE INTRODUCES INTRIGUING TAJ MAHAL TO POPULAR QUARTZ COLLECTION

Featuring warm, rich, earthy tones, Taj Mahal is an intriguing Quartz surface that radiates natural beauty. Aptly named after one of the Seven Wonders of the World, it embraces the trend for nature-inspired interiors to bring balance to darker colour schemes and intrigue to paler palettes.

Packed with charm and character, Taj Mahal is perfect for kitchens and bathrooms and will make an impressive style statement in every interior. From islands, work surfaces and splashbacks to furniture, floors and walls, Taj Mahal brings functional beauty to any residential or commercial setting.

Like all the finishes within CRL Stone's bestselling Quartz collection, Taj Mahal is an infinitely versatile, non-porous surface that is stain-, scratch- and heat resistant. Ideal for busy households, it is durable and strong and also benefits from being incredibly easy to keep clean as well as ultra-hygienic.

Part of CRL Stone's Silica Free Collection, Taj Mahal has a shiny, polished finish and is available in slabs measuring 1600mm x 3200mm and thicknesses of 20mm or 30mm.

For more details, call CRL Stone on 01706 863600, or visit the website below.

www.crlstone.co.uk



LCB WIN DOUBLE AT BUILDING THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION AWARDS 2025

Leeds College of Building (LCB) is celebrating after taking home two awards at the Building the Future Construction Awards in Birmingham.

The college won both the Best Further Education Provider Supporting Careers in Construction award and the Best Higher Education Provider Supporting Careers in Construction award.

Celebrated annually, the Building the Future Construction Awards recognise those who advance skills, leadership, innovation, and inclusivity within the built environment.

The awards were held at Edgbaston Stadium and were hosted by actor and presenter Colson Smith and CEO of the OM Group, Damini Sharma.

Commenting on the double win, LCB Principal & CEO Nikki Davis said: "We are absolutely delighted to take home awards in both further and higher education. It is recognition of all the amazing work our staff do that contributes to student success.

"Over the last few years, our higher education provision has grown

massively, so to be acknowledged by the Building the Future Construction Awards is fantastic.

"Across all levels of construction education, we offer fantastic progression routes into industry, and these awards are testament to that."

LCB was described by the awards panel as an organisation that exemplifies how specialist institutions can transform construction education, stating: "Their combination of teaching excellence, diversity, sustainability, and digital

innovation make it a powerhouse for construction training – and a vital bridge between education and industry."

Leeds College of Building (LCB) is the only further education college in the UK dedicated to construction and the built environment. The college was established in the 1960s and is split across two campuses, both based in Leeds city centre

www.lcb.ac.uk



KERAKOLL SYSTEM PERFECT FOR POOL REFURBISHMENT

When John Reed, from JR Tiling, was commissioned by Kingham Cooper Interiors to retile a swimming pool in Buckinghamshire, he turned to Kerakoll as he already used the brand, and knew that they had a large range of waterproofing products. What's more he trusted the company to come out, assess the project, and then write the specification. John commented: "It just made everything a lot more simple than if I was doing it myself and at least I knew nothing could go wrong."

The job involved applying waterproofing and mosaic tiles over already existing sound tiles with no cracks observed. However the tiles on the pool surround overhung the pool and the client wanted the new mosaics flush with the edge, so the first step was to build the wall out with Vipa construction board supplied by Kerakoll.

This was then waterproofed with Aquastop 120 tape on the corners and intersections, and a layer of Aquastop Nanoflex. This chlorine resistant membrane uses nanotechnology to make it completely water repellent, whilst retaining elasticity and high chemical stability. Aquastop AR1 reinforcing mesh was pressed into the Aquastop Nanoflex while it was still fresh, and once dry another layer of Aquastop Nanoflex was applied. All pool lights, pipes and other openings into the pool were sealed with Aquastop Nanosil, which was specifically developed for use in swimming pools.

The next step was to fix the mosaics using H40 Gel. This provides excellent workability and ensures a strong bond between the tiles and substrate optimising the installation process. The joints were filled with Fugalite Color and corners with Silicone Color in a shade matching the tiles. Fugalite Color is perfect for use in pools with little or no deterioration after simulated exposure equal to 20 years to chlorine, UV radiation and mechanical cleaning.

Tiling was also carried out on the pool surrounds and in the changing room where the floors were also waterproofed in the same way as the pool and tiled with H40 Gel, Fugalite Color and Silicone Color.

Elsewhere in the property, 900mm x 900mm wood-effect porcelain tiles were laid using Kerakoll Setaflex Semi-Rapid adhesive and Fugabella Color grout.

All tiles and Kerakoll tiling products were supplied by the Ceramic Tile Company in High Wycombe.

More details on the systems and products can be obtained from the Kerakoll team, who will also be delighted to answer any questions and offer technical advice on particular projects.

www.kerakoll.com





WHERE MATERIALS SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DESIGN

The Stone & Surfaces Show 2026 takes place at Excel London from 12 -14 May. Here, we shine a spotlight on what's in store.

In 2026, the materials you specify will define the spaces you create. The Stone & Surfaces Show 2026 is the destination where architects, designers, and specifiers come to discover the finishes, textures, and innovations that will shape projects for years to come.

Taking place at Excel London and running alongside Futurebuild and UK Construction Week, the show brings together more than 600 exhibitors and 25,000 built environment professionals under one roof. It is not just a trade show. It is an immersive experience designed to inspire, inform, and connect the entire architecture and design community.

WHY ATTEND THE STONE & SURFACES SHOW?

Whether you are sourcing materials for a live project, researching sustainable alternatives, or looking to stay ahead of emerging design trends, this is where ideas turn into specifications.

THE MATERIALS LAB: EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU SPECIFY

Specification is about more than aesthetics. It is about durability, performance, texture, and finish.

The Materials Lab gives you the opportunity to get hands-on with natural stone, engineered surfaces, and innovative finishes. Feel the textures. Compare durability. Understand how materials perform in real-world applications. It is specification brought to life.

SURFACES CINEMA: A FESTIVAL OF MATERIAL CREATIVITY

Design is visual, emotional, and experiential. Surfaces Cinema showcases the creative potential of materials through film, photography, and live presentations. With a festival-style atmosphere complete with red carpet moments, ushers, and even popcorn, this is where surfaces become storytelling tools.



ARCHITECTS THEATRE: INSIGHT FROM INDUSTRY LEADERS

Stay ahead of the curve with thought-provoking content from leading voices in architecture and design.

Explore topics including:

- AI in design
- Circular surfaces and sustainable material innovation
- Ethical sourcing and responsible specification
- Real-world case studies and interactive sessions
- Gain practical insights you can apply directly to your projects.

WOMEN IN STONE AND SURFACES: CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP AND TALENT

This dedicated space highlights and supports women across the industry, connecting established leaders with emerging talent. It is a place to build meaningful networks, share experiences, and champion greater representation within the sector.

CONTENT STAGES AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

With more than 700 expert speakers delivering over 250 hours of CPD content, the show provides deep insights into materials, sustainability, compliance, and future trends.

At the same time, you will be surrounded by professionals actively specifying materials and delivering live projects,

creating valuable opportunities for collaboration and business growth.

THE SCALE OF OPPORTUNITY

The Stone & Surfaces Show 2026 brings together:

- 600+ exhibitors showcasing natural stone, engineered surfaces, tools, and advanced technologies
- 25,000+ built environment professionals ready to connect and collaborate
- 700+ expert speakers delivering 250+ hours of CPD content

Running alongside Futurebuild and UK Construction Week, the co-location offers access to an even broader construction and design audience, making it one of the most influential gatherings of the year.

MORE THAN A TRADE SHOW

This is not a traditional exhibition where you simply walk the aisles. It is a hands-on, immersive environment where you can see, touch, and interact with the materials and ideas shaping architecture and design in 2026.

If materials matter to your projects, The Stone & Surfaces Show 2026 belongs in your calendar.

www.stoneandsurfacesshow.com

FULLY VERSA-TILE

Vision Display introduces its new MODe Free Standing Modular Display System, which allows showrooms to create a bespoke boutique look and feel at a competitive price.

Vision Display was initially set up 25 years ago to service the tile industry with quality display systems, and soon became the UK market leaders in the tile display market. Since then, the company has successfully expanded its range of display products into the bathroom, flooring and trade-related industries and is renowned as the 'go-to' company for displays across a wide range of surface products.

Based in Kent, Vision has successfully honed the business to allow them to provide everything from a one-off display unit to large batches of distributor stands and complete showroom fit outs.

Vision's business model has been developed into a comprehensive, all-encompassing service which includes providing display systems, printed point of sale, product sampling, labelling, and distribution as well as physical installation where required.

A recent new addition to the company's display catalogue is the fabulous new MODe Free Standing Modular Display System, a unique and versatile display system designed to show a range of smaller tile products on any available wall space in tile or bathroom showrooms.

Vision designed MODe in response to customer demand for a readily available boutique-style tile display system for tile and bathroom showrooms and at a cost point that is competitive when compared to similar bespoke-made displays, which would normally require the services of expensive joinery or shopfitting manufacturers.

There are currently five different MODe setups, all designed around the same framework which allows for easy interchangeability as required, making it the ultimate flexible display solution.

The current offer includes two different finishes: black for a contemporary feel and lacquered birch ply, which gives a more opulent, natural appearance. These can, of course, be mixed and matched as required.

The range is designed around a modular tube framework which can incorporate many different components including:



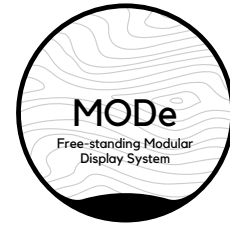
- The hugely successful 'Vertical Array' method which displays the tiles vertically and on an angle for easy viewing and selection by the customer.
- Sample drawer units which include slotted inserts to stabilise the samples in use.
- The back panels are provided with pre-drilled holes to carry simple wooden pegs which can be used to support the shelves or small hanging sample cards alike.
- Full and half-width shelves.
- Hanging cards for small samples, ideal for 10 x 10cm tiles.

All individual display components can be inter-changed between the units as required, providing future-proof flexibility as tile display needs change over time. Each unit is 100cm wide making them simple to include when planning showroom space and, as they are free-standing, installation is a breeze.

Also available is an extended sample layout top, which is pre-fitted with a special 'soft touch' surface that provides a sound deadened, non-slip surface for the customer to lay tiles on while comparing options.

As always, part of the Vision service offered includes making full use of the Vision design team who can generate fully dimensioned showroom layout plans and high-resolution 3D colour visuals to aid customers who want to see how things look in real time.

www.visiondisplay.co.uk

**NEW**

MODE

Freestanding Modular Display System

The MODE display system is made up of 5 separate MOD's.
Each MOD is built with certain components tailored to your product requirements!

Pegboard Layout for Visual Purposes Only



MOD3

Pegboard

The backboard allows for simple wooden pegs to be inserted, which can be used to support the shelves or small hanging sample cards.

Vertical Array

A system that displays tiles vertically and on an angle for easy viewing.
(Can be applied to full display stand)

Shelves

Available in full and half width varieties.

Tabletop

With a special soft top material applied so customers can view loose samples.

Drawers

Sample drawers which can include slotted inserts to stabilise the samples in use.



MOD5

Colours & Materials Available in:

Lacquered Birch Ply



Contemporary Black

**01227 832265****sales@visiondisplay.co.uk****www.visiondisplay.co.uk***More Info Scan Here!*

Visit our Website for more information about each MOD display unit!



ELITE PERFORMANCE

London-based contractor Stone & Ceramic completes a world-class wellness destination project with Mapei.

Stone & Ceramic has completed a stunning spa project, using a Mapei system, at a new ARMA wellness destination in south-west London. Featuring porcelain and ceramic floor and wall tiles, the installation spans the top-tier venue. The Mapei specification included EMICODE: EC1 Plus-certified surface preparation products and adhesive, which promoted a safe, sustainable installation.

Located in Polygon House in Clapham, the ARMA destination blends fitness, wellness and work. It includes Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu dojos, state-of-the-art gym areas, spa and recovery zones and a co-working space. The Stone & Ceramic installation spans the spa, gym, sauna and spa ice bath, as well as changing areas and entrance lobbies.

"THE MAPEI SPECIFICATION INCLUDED EMICODE: EC1 PLUS-CERTIFIED SURFACE PREPARATION PRODUCTS AND ADHESIVE, WHICH PROMOTED A SAFE, SUSTAINABLE INSTALLATION. "

Three Mapei floor products were used to prepare surfaces ahead of the tile install. They included: Mapei Ultraplan Eco 3210 – an ultra-fast self-levelling compound used throughout the entrance lobby; Mapei Topcem hydraulic binder for fast-track screeds throughout changing areas – including for the formation of falls into drains to changing areas and showers – and Mapei Ultratop Industrial ultra-quick hardening cementitious grey-toned wearing screed to create a high-performance surface within the gym weights area. The specification also included waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane, Mapeguard WP 200, which was applied within wet areas before tiling.

Mapei Keraquick Easy S1 rapid-setting, flexible cementitious adhesive was used to install all Stone & Ceramic floor and wall tiles. Designs included 1200 x 600mm and 450 x 50 mm brick-effect porcelain floor tiles and 240 x 60mm glazed ceramic wall tiles.

www.mapei.co.uk







GROUND HERITAGE

An LTP system has been used to protect new terracotta tiles in a traditional build. Director Mark Atkins talks us through the project.

Terracotta has proved itself to be a timeless tile. Whilst it took a bit of a back-seat to bright limestones, marbles and wood-effects for a time, the enduring trend for natural, rustic materials has reignited its popularity. Evolving in look, the latest designs include geometric patterns, motifs and elongated rectangles, in pale blush, peach and coral tones, through to ruddy brown. But, traditional handmade terracotta tiles, both new and vintage, remain a firm favourite in all styles of property.

The installation of new terracotta is generally fairly straight forward, provided that the subfloor is sound and that tiles are correctly protected using a traditional or synthetic system. However, more challenging projects demand expertise, particularly installations within older properties constructed using traditional building methods. We were delighted to be involved in one such project within a rural cottage in the Chilterns, with Walter Croft from Victorian Tile Services. Walter is a third-generation tiler with 30 years of experience restoring and installing original Victorian tiles and high-quality reproductions.

THE COTTAGE

Dating back to the 1860s, the cottage is a two-storey property constructed of brick and flint. The family that owned the property are believed to have connections to statesman and former prime minister Benjamin Disraeli.

Walter Croft was contacted by the owner through a heritage magazine; he had previously approached various companies regarding damp proofing the floor and walls. Because the walls are largely constructed using flint, a damp proof course injection system wasn't deemed effective or desirable, so the owner opted for a lime screeded floor, with a piped underfloor heating system (to comfortably heat the downstairs bathroom,

hallway, utility, kitchen and lounge) and a 9-inch x 9-inch handmade terracotta tile throughout.

The tile installation spanned approximately 60m². Walter used Adhere Cal Lime adhesive and grout, comprising natural hydraulic lime (NHL), aggregates and additives. A wide joint allowed the minimal amount of damp to breathe through the grout line and this solved the issue of not having a damp-proof membrane.

Once the tiles were fixed, Walter applied two coats of LTP Boiled Linseed Oil to the surface of the terracotta, allowing 24-hours between coats. Once cured, two further coats of LTP spirit-based Mattstone were applied to the surface of the tile. Finally, a generous amount of LTP Clear Wax was applied with a soft cloth and, twenty minutes later, buffed with a machine, with corners buffed by hand.

"My client was really happy with the overall effect and didn't expect such a dramatic enhancement once the beeswax was polished in. It transformed from a matt brown to the appearance of a glossy conker, whilst retaining grip underfoot. The LTP system was easy to apply and I'm delighted with the end result – and with the level of protection afforded in this very unique property," Walter explained.

www.ltp-online.co.uk

www.victoriantileservices.co.uk



SAVING YOU MONEY, TIME AND MATERIALS

JUST THE FACTS

LOWEST
SYSTEM COST

**40%
LOWER
COST**

FASTEST
INSTALLATION

**70%
TIME
SAVING**

LOWEST
MATERIAL WEIGHT

**70%
LESS
MATERIAL
WEIGHT**

ONLY 4 BAGS
PER 30m²

**NO MAT
OR ADDITIONAL
ADHESIVE
REQUIRED**

See Technical Data Sheet for full details.

AF Max

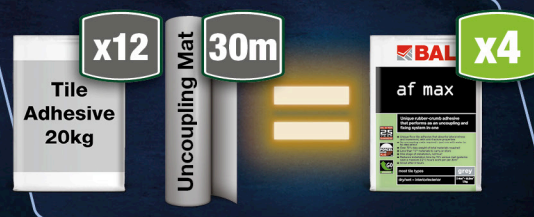


**removing the need
for uncoupling mats**

**Removing the need
for uncoupling mats
on problematic floors.**

BAL AF Max anti-fracture technology absorbs lateral stress movement from the floor protecting tiles from failures.

**No other products
needed –
just mix and fix!**



Let's get to it.

bal-adhesives.com



@BALtiling



A CLASS ACT

Faveker's tailor-made tiled façade brings personality and energy efficiency to the new Muskiz Secondary School, in Vizcaya, Spain.

The new building of Muskiz Secondary School, designed by BAT Architecture studio, has become a leading symbol of sustainable architecture for education centres. Designed in accordance with Passivhaus criteria and built using cross-laminated timber (CLT), the project combines innovation and comfort with environmental care.

In this approach, Faveker's tailor-designed tiled ventilated façade, based on its GA16 system, plays a key role. This precise, luminous tiled skin boosts the building's energy efficiency and infuses it with unique architectural personality.

ARCHITECTURE FOR WELLBEING

The project for Muskiz Secondary School is founded on one clear idea: to create a flexible, efficient building able to adapt to new learning methods. Its architecture revolves around two longitudinal volumes, connected by a central circulation area, presided over by a large open staircase. This layout fosters movement and interaction while also taking advantage of crossed ventilation and the natural light.

With a gross surface area of 4,191m², the building combines natural materials with cutting-edge technology. The CLT timber structure reduces the carbon footprint and ensures thermal and acoustic comfort. In turn, Faveker's extruded tile façade acts as a visual and technical filter, protecting and regulating the building envelope and lending it a certain rhythm.



A TAILOR-DESIGNED TILED FAÇADE

The outer skin of the building has been made using Faveker's GA16 ventilated façade system, although in this case it has been taken one step further. In collaboration with the technical team of BAT Architecture, Faveker developed a special extruded tile adapted to the language of the project: a customised tile model that transforms the façade into a vibrant, tactile surface.

The new GA16 MUSKIZ tile model has all the technical properties of the GA16 system – lightness, resistance, a tongue-and-grooved design to protect the cavity, and a concealed mechanical anchorage system (FTS 502B) – with the addition of a wavy shape that boosts its architectural appeal.



The vertical slats combine to form a vibrant changing surface with gentle curves that channel the natural light and cast shadows, which vary depending on the orientation and time of day, giving the façade depth and movement.

The luminous, neutral colour of the tiles multiplies the natural light, boosting the sensation of comfort, and reinforcing the whole façade's restful, balanced appearance.

Aside from its visual appearance, the façade also acts as a climatic skin, regulating the temperature, protecting the cavity from damp, and improving the building's energy performance, helping to comply with strict Passivhaus standards.

INTEGRATED INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The project for Muskiz Secondary School demonstrates that technology and architectural sensitivity can go hand in hand. BAT Architecture has integrated wooden prefabrication with Lean processes and direct collaboration with industrial manufacturers in order to optimise deadlines, quality and sustainability.

In this context, Faveker's extruded tiles are not only a response to technical requirements, but also to symbolic ones. They help bring to life the idea of warm, long-lasting, responsible architecture. The final outcome is an education centre that conveys a sense of tranquillity, clarity and wellbeing: a place where tiles, wood and natural light harmoniously converge.

<https://faveker.com/en>



SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY COVERED WITH MAPEI ZERO LINE SYSTEMS.

Mapei's Zero Line now includes multiple product systems for safe and sustainable tile installations, with CO₂ fully offset in the entire life cycle. Best-selling fix-grout-seal combinations include Ultralite S1 Flex Zero, Ultracolor Plus and Mapesil AC Zero, which each feature very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus certified formulations.

Lightweight and deformable adhesive, Ultralite S1 Flex Zero combines easy application with high performance and very high yield. The one-component low-dust adhesive is easy to apply by trowel and has an extended open time and no vertical slip. High back-buttering capacities make it ideal for large format tiles, limiting the formation of voids. The adhesive can be used to install tiles onto interior and exterior surfaces, including facades and heated screeds.

The second Zero Line product – Mapei UltraColor Plus – is an anti-efflorescence, quick-setting and drying cementitious grout that can be used for grouting joints up to 20mm in width. Water-repellent DropEffect and mould-resistant BioBlock make the formulation ideal for use in wet areas and anti-efflorescence properties ensure a uniform finish. UltraColor Plus is offered in 40 colours, including neutrals, earth tones and vibrant shades.

Mapesil AC Zero completes the trio. Packaged in a recyclable cartridge, Mapesil AC Zero is a pure, mould-resistant acetic

silicone sealant that creates flexible, waterproof seals between glass, ceramic and anodised aluminium. The sealant is impermeable to water and gases, resistant to high temperatures and it features BioBlock technology which accommodates movement of up to 25%. The thixotropic paste is easy to apply vertically and horizontally and is also offered in 40 shades which can be colour-matched to UltraColor Plus grout.

www.mapei.co.uk



ARDEX UK AND BAL ACHIEVE GOLD STATUS FOR CO₂ REDUCTIONS

ARDEX UK and Building Adhesives Ltd – part of the ARDEX Group UK – have announced they have both achieved Gold Certification for five years of continuous CO₂ reduction and have retained their ISO 14064-1 certifications for Green House Gas reductions.

Both companies have retained their certification following successful external audits and peer reviews.

The certifications, issued by Achilles' Carbon Reduce (powered by Toitū) scheme and verified to ISO 14064-1:2018 standards, recognise the ongoing commitment of both organisations to measuring, managing, and actively reducing their carbon emissions.

Both businesses continue to make significant progress toward delivering the ARDEX Group's Building Tomorrow sustainability strategy and remain firmly on track to achieve carbon neutrality across Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030.

Both BAL and ARDEX have demonstrated significant emission reductions over a rolling five-year reporting period.

BAL has delivered a 16% reduction in Category 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emissions, meanwhile ARDEX UK has achieved an even greater reduction of 21% across the same categories.

These reductions highlight the effectiveness of the companies' Carbon Neutral Roadmap initiatives, including ongoing investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy, carbon-conscious procurement, active emissions monitoring, and improved operational practices across UK facilities.

Paul Vickers, UK Procurement Manager & Member of the ARDEX Group Sustainability Corporate Unit, said: "Achieving Gold Certification for five consecutive years of CO₂ reductions is a testament to the commitment and collaboration of our teams across the UK. Both ARDEX UK and BAL have made sustainability a core priority – integrating carbon reduction into daily decision-making, long-term capital planning, and our wider organisational culture.

"We are delighted to see such strong, measurable progress and remain fully focused on delivering our 2030 commitment to carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

"This milestone reinforces that we are on the right path, and we will continue to build on these achievements with transparency, innovation, and responsibility."

<https://ardex.co.uk>
www.bal-adhesives.com



wedi has you covered

Empowering builders. Evolving bathrooms.

Since 1983.



Free to Attend
Sign up Today!



wedi EXPERTS

Lunch & Refreshments on Us

✉ technical@wedi.co.uk

☎ 0161 864 2336

Unyielding. Unstoppable.
wedi 610

Hydro-reactive for relentless durability.
Faster. Cleaner. Smarter.



RAPID HEAT

Mapei explains how contractors can achieve a fast fit and ensure long-term energy savings with Mapeheat system.

Designed for commercial and residential applications, Mapei's underfloor heating system – Mapeheat – provides a rapid-fit solution and energy-saving benefits. Its thin profile and waterproof construction make it suitable for new builds, renovations and remodelling projects, with floor finishes including ceramic, porcelain and natural stone tiles, wood and laminate flooring, LVT's and sheet vinyl.

The Mapeheat system includes three components: Mapeheat Membrane Maxi, Mapeheat Cable and Mapeheat Mesh which are used in conjunction with three thermostat options: Mapeheat Thermo Basic, Mapeheat Thermo Touch and Mapeheat Thermo Connect.

Mapeheat Membrane Maxi is a lightweight uncoupling, crack-isolation and waterproof membrane. Suitable for multiple sized cables – from 2mm to 5.5mm – the thin format profile helps prevent transmission of in-plane substrate cracks up to 3mm. Heating cables are easy to install and minimal roll memory helps to promote a rapid, flat and secure installation. When installing with ceramic tiles, the use of a minimum class C2 EN 12004 adhesive is recommended.

Mapeheat Cable is a free-form, twin coil floor heating cable which provides comfortable radiant heat. It's offered in 11 sizes, from 14.5m-175m, which can accommodate areas from just 1.2m² to 28m². Benefits include a zero electromagnetic

field cable design and ultra-thin cold-lead splice for easy fitting into the Mapeheat membrane.

Mapeheat Mesh – the self-adhering, pre-wired floor heating mesh – is compatible with all subfloor types. It measures just 4.5mm thick and is offered in two different wattages, dependant on the floor finish selected. Easy to roll out and cut, the system can be configured to fit any room size. Whilst it's recommended for use with a self-levelling compound, the mesh can also be bedded directly into a polymer-modified flexible tile adhesive, if required. Mapeheat Mesh's heating cable is attached to the self-adhesive mesh layer by three mesh bands; these help to maintain consistent spacing of the cable and allow easy removal for installation in tight spaces.

The Mapeheat thermostat options includes Mapeheat Thermo Basic – a seven-day programmable floor heating thermostat that's easy to install and programme; Mapeheat Thermo Touch – a seven-day programmable touch-screen floor heating thermostat with a contemporary design and Thermo Connect – a programmable, Wi-Fi-enabled floor heating thermostat that's compatible with popular smart home technologies such as Amazon Alexa devices and Google Assistant virtual personal assistant. Each thermostat offers a variety of energy saving functions, including economic weekly timer mode, calculation of start-up to reach a desired temperature and an open window function which cuts the heating when it feels a sudden drop of temperature, such as when a window or door has been opened for ventilation purposes.

For a one-stop shop, Mapei offers the complete warranty solution including Mapeheat underfloor heating, screed, levelling compound, adhesive and grout, alongside expert technical knowledge and support.

www.mapei.co.uk





MORE FOOTSTEPS LESS FOOTPRINT

TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS, WE'RE REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT
AND MAKING OUR SUPPLY CHAIN MORE SUSTAINABLE FOR THE PLANET



legislation.gov.uk
Waste Regulations 2011 - England and Wales
and The Environmental Protection Act



ZERO WASTE
GOING TO LANDFILL



+44 (0) 151 486 6101
@ sales@palacechemicals.co.uk
www.palacechemicals.co.uk



THE PROFESSIONALS' CHOICE
HIGH PERFORMANCE PRODUCTS FOR THE TILING & FLOORING INDUSTRY



WHICH IS BEST?

The experts at ThermoSphere provide a straightforward guide to choosing between electric and wet underfloor heating systems.

Thinking about underfloor heating? It's a smart way to eliminate cold floors and enjoy consistent, comfortable warmth. Before you start, you'll need to decide between electric and wet (hydronic) underfloor heating.

Neither system is automatically better – the right choice depends on your space, budget and how you'll use it. Let's look at how each works and when one may be more suitable than the other.

INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

Wet systems tend to be best suited to heating big spaces and large renovations where floor levels can be planned in advance. The pipes require a certain floor depth and are typically embedded in screed, meaning they are easier to install before flooring is laid.

Electric systems are ideal for new builds, retrofits and smaller spaces or single-room projects. They require minimal floor build-up and can be fitted directly beneath tiles, stone or other finishes. This makes them a popular choice for bathrooms,





kitchens and extensions, creating easy and efficient heating with minimal disruption.

INSTALLATION AND RUNNING COST CONSIDERATIONS

Installation cost: The upfront cost of electric systems tends to be lower than wet systems when you factor in piping, manifolds, boiler upgrades, etc. Take a look at these underfloor heating blogs for some rough cost estimates, but it is always best to talk to an expert about your exact job.

Running costs: Wet systems paired with a gas boiler (which often has lower cost per unit energy) can represent better value for large, continuously heated areas. Although wet systems are cheaper due to energy prices, electric is 100% efficient at point of use, saving on wasted heating and energy.

MAINTENANCE AND LONGEVITY

Wet systems are durable and can provide reliable heating for many years. However, they include several components such as pumps, valves and a heat source. These may need occasional servicing to maintain efficiency. Issues like air or sludge build-up in the pipes can affect performance, though these are typically straightforward to resolve with regular maintenance.

Electric systems are simpler in design, with no moving parts and minimal maintenance requirements. Once installed and tested, they can offer consistent and quiet operation over the long term. While they don't require annual servicing, it's still good practice to periodically check controls and electrical connections to ensure safe and efficient performance.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Sustainability plays an increasing role in heating decisions. Wet systems connected to a heat pump can achieve impressive energy efficiency, while electric underfloor heating becomes more sustainable as the UK's grid continues to decarbonise. When paired with renewable electricity sources, such as solar panels, electric heating can be a genuinely low-carbon solution.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. The decision depends on:

- The size and type of the area you are heating.
- How the space will be used.
- Your budget, both upfront and running costs.
- The constraints of floor height, retrofit vs new build and existing heating system.

In summary, underfloor heating is a smart upgrade for floor-level warmth and comfort. Go with wet if you have a large area, will be heating all day and the floor build up allows pipe installation. Go with electric if you're working on a smaller or retrofit space, want faster heat-up times and a simpler install with minimal maintenance.

Whichever you choose, you'll eliminate cold floors, and that makes every step feel better.

<https://www.thermosphere.com>

WATERTIGHT BY DESIGN

A residential wetroom renovation showcases how Schlüter Systems' integrated waterproofing, drainage and finishing solutions deliver a sleek, high-performance bathroom.

Products from Schlüter Systems' comprehensive portfolio, including trims, waterproofing, underfloor heating and shower drainage systems, have been used in a residential renovation and extension project. This included the refurbishment of the residence's 4.8m x 2.7m master en-suite.

Enlisting the services of Quell Bathrooms, the client set out the fundamentals of what he wanted – bath, shower and double basin with storage. He then gave free rein to Quell's MD Vincent Pope to come up with a few ideas from which the final design was selected. The resulting wetroom featured a number of different Schlüter-Systems products in order to ensure a sound finish for the client's considerable investment.

An integrated linear drain wetroom kit, Schlüter-KERDI-LINE-WRKL, was used to provide guaranteed waterproofing and drainage for the bathroom. It comprised a waterproofing and sealing kit, shower boards, drainage channel and support with a tile support grate.

The waterproofing and sealing kit contained Schlüter-KERDI waterproofing membrane, plus Schlüter-KERDI-KEBA sealing band, Schlüter-KERDI-KERECK pre-formed corner pieces and Schlüter-KERDI-COLL sealing adhesive. The KERDI membrane from the kit was used to waterproof the back wall and around the shower wall. The rest of the room utilised Schlüter-KERDI-BOARD waterproof backerboard in 10mm thickness. All joints and junctions were sealed with the aforementioned set of sealing products. The 800mm linear drainage channel was installed in an intermediate location, sloped to from both sides using the Schlüter-KERDI-SHOWER-L and Schlüter-KERDI-SHOWER-LS pre-sloped shower boards. The drain was designed to be tiled to in-line with the rest of the floor – in this case with wood-effect tiles – resulting in a discreet solution.

"Since we started using Schlüter's wetroom kits three years ago, we've had none of the problems we would get previously", said Vincent. "We wouldn't deviate from Schlüter as the company offers a comprehensive and trustworthy solution to prepping a wetroom."

The timber floors of the project had already been insulated, so Vincent installed the original Schlüter-DITRA-HEAT-E electric underfloor heating system. "It's great that you can use this system throughout the whole of a room, including the shower area. Often this isn't an option," he said. "In refurbishment work, it's always a struggle to keep floor build-ups low; with the Schlüter-DITRA-HEAT-E system, all build-up is contained within the height of the membrane so there are no unexpected surprises".

Vincent used chrome-plated brass finishing profiles, Schlüter-QUADEC-MC, to provide finishing against the wood-effect wall tiles. He also used the matching Schlüter-QUADEC-MC/EV corner pieces to finish the corners of the one-metre-high shower wall. "Schlüter trims give a great finish for tile edges and neatly cover the edge of tile. In addition, the corner pieces provide a good-looking finish that avoids sharp edges which is important as we were finishing a low wall that could be a source of injury if finished with mitring," he concluded.

Schlüter-JOLLY-AC in a Matte Brilliant White (MBW) finish was used to finish edges in wall areas where 1000mm x 330mm ceramic tiles were installed, including around window reveals. Three quarters of the edges of Quell's custom-built niches for the project were also edged with the MBW trims, with QUADEC-MC to the inside edge of each as part of a wood-effect feature shower wall.

www.schluter.co.uk



MAPEI ALWAYS ABOVE THE STANDARD EXPECTED

COMING
SOON



Mapei is preparing to introduce the next step forward in installation performance. Designed to support precision, reliability and a more sustainable approach, this upcoming innovation reflects our ongoing commitment to smarter solutions for the built environment. More details will be revealed soon.

MAPEI. BUILDING EXPERTISE.



Silk Screen Lantau Bamboo Smoke Green & Victorian Style Finchley Forest Green

MATERIAL MATTERS

Hamish Smith, Creative Director at Ca' Pietra, discusses how textile-inspired surfaces are bringing warmth and character to kitchen and bathroom design.

The plain white tile has had its day. Now, we are seeing walls and floors dressed in the kind of pattern, movement and tactility once reserved for fabric. From the suggestion of hand-loomed linen to the softened geometry of embroidery, textile-inspired tiles are quietly transforming how we layer texture at home.

At Ca' Pietra, we've always been drawn to surfaces with a sense of soul, and these tiles deliver exactly that. They capture the painterly rhythm of a repeat, the faded softness of a hand-dyed print, the perfectly imperfect detail that hints



Studio Nonna's Kitchen Sorrento Azzuro Ceramic

at a human hand behind the design. It's less about copying cloth and more about distilling its essence into something enduring. The result is a surface that tempers sharp edges, adds visual movement, and brings an easy familiarity to any room, whether that is a pared-back bathroom or a kitchen rich in colour.

Textiles carry stories, the well-worn runner in a hallway, the linen laid out every summer, the pattern you remember from your grandmother's table. When you translate those stories into tile, you keep the warmth and nostalgia, but gain the durability and practicality that means they can live anywhere in the home. They look like they've always been part of the space, which is a rare and special quality.

What I love most is how textile-inspired tiles can completely change the feeling of a room. They soften hard edges, add movement to a plain wall, and bring in that hit of character that makes a home feel layered and lived-in. It is a look that works just as well in a minimalist bathroom as it does in a colour-drenched kitchen.

AVENTURAS – IN COLLABORATION WITH TEXTILE DESIGNER ZOE GLENCROSS

A meeting of fabric and tile in the most effortless way. Four of Zoe's signature prints are reimagined in porcelain, each one carrying that relaxed, sketchbook-meets-textile spirit she's known for. The patterns feel as if they've travelled; sun-bleached, storied, and ready to bring a touch of far-flung charm to the home.

ASSISI

Lightly raised and quietly rustic, Assisi has the softness of woven cloth captured in stone. Gentle tones and subtle patterns offer a sense of heritage without tipping into nostalgia, making it an easy choice for spaces that call for warmth and texture.

STUDIO NONNA

All the charm of a much-loved tablecloth, reworked for the walls or floor. Studio Nonna layers its repeat pattern with the brightness of Mediterranean lemon groves, the kind of tile that instantly makes a kitchen feel generous, welcoming and full of life.

FOLLY

Loose, fluid and joyfully unpolished, Folly captures the freedom of a watercolour wash. It has the character of a hand-dyed napkin or a paint-splattered drop cloth, bringing an easy, artistic energy to bathrooms, kitchens and beyond.

SILK SCREEN

Crisp, graphic and beautifully precise, Silk Screen takes its cue from traditional printmaking. Blocks of earthy greens, browns and deep crimson create a look that's bold yet grounded, perfect for those who want pattern with presence.

If you are after tiles with a bit of texture, a bit of story, and a whole lot of style, textile-inspired is where it is at. Soft furnishings are great, but tiled ones? Even better.

www.capietra.com



Silk Screen Ceramic Willow Cottage Tobacco



Folly Porcelain Lake Matt

TACKLING THE TILING SKILLS SHORTAGE

Teaming up with Leeds College of Building and South & City College Birmingham, Northamptonshire-based Pro Tiler Tools aims to inspire the next generation of skilled tradespeople whilst supporting a national drive to increase apprenticeship sign-ups.

The UK tiling industry is facing a deepening skills shortage, with an estimated 38,000 registered tilers currently working nationwide, down by around 30% since 2010, according to industry figures. With an ageing workforce and falling enrolment on college tiling courses, the trade could face long-term decline without significant intervention.

Pro Tiler Tools, part of the Topps Group, is proud to be part of the new education partnership designed to boost the number of qualified tilers in the UK and believes this strategic collaboration marks an important step toward rebuilding a pipeline of talent that is crucial for the continued growth and quality of tiling in both domestic and commercial projects.

Sam Bucknall, Director at Pro Tiler Tools, explains: "We're seeing a serious disconnect between demand and supply in the tiling trade. The number of skilled tilers isn't keeping pace with the industry. That's why we feel a responsibility to support apprenticeship pathways and inspire the next generation of tilers. Our college collaboration is about investing in people and equipping them with the skills, tools, and confidence they need to build lasting careers."

The construction industry as a whole has felt the impact of a widening skills gap, but in tiling specifically, the shortage of trained professionals is reaching critical levels. Employers are struggling to find qualified tilers, and younger generations often remain unaware of the rewarding career opportunities the trade offers.

"The partnership between the Topps Group and Leeds College of Building is a great example of industry and training providers working together to address the national skills shortage," says Alan Heard, Wall & Floor Tiling Lecturer at Leeds College of Building. "The support from Pro Tiler Tools has been very strong, from tile tool donations enabling us to create more challenging workshop projects for apprentices, to raising awareness amongst employers. We're hoping to increase the size of apprentice provision and we're expecting the ongoing support and awareness raising activities should have a positive effect."

Rob Smith, Head of Partnership and Skills at Leeds College of Building, adds: "From an employers' point of view, it has never been easier to take on an apprentice. Full support is provided by the college who guide employers through the onboarding process, ensuring all funding is in place, incentive payments are made available, and employers are supported to obtain any available grant funding. The government also pays 100% of the course costs and removes employer's National Insurance contributions for their apprentice."

Pro Tiler Tools' commitment to tackling the skills shortage goes beyond apprenticeships and the company is passionate about training and supporting the industry more broadly.

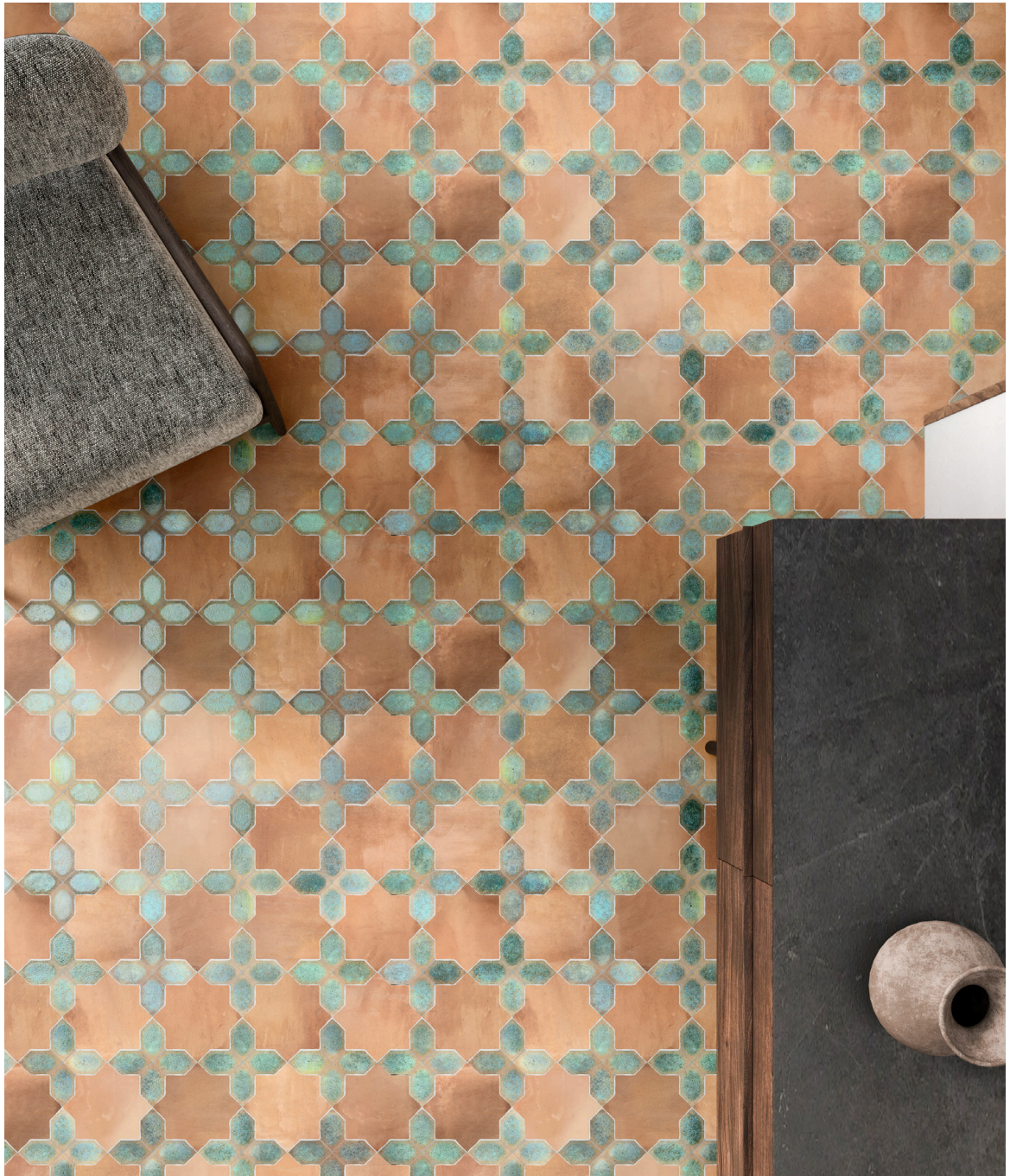


Working closely with their suppliers to facilitate training days across the country, they help ensure professionals at all levels have access to the latest techniques, tools, and trends.

John Shaw, Head of Learning & Development at Topps Group, comments: "Tiling is one of the most technically demanding finishing trades in construction, yet it's one of the least promoted to young people. We're seeing fewer learners coming through at the same time as older tilers retire and that gap is widening every year. This isn't just about filling vacancies, it's about protecting a skilled trade, raising standards and giving young people access to stable, well-paid careers that don't require university debt. A good tiler will never be out of work but if young people never hear about tiling as a career option, the industry simply can't replace the skilled workers we're losing."

To find out more about the new apprenticeship initiative, or to register your interest in taking on your own apprentice, call 01604 859800 or visit the website below.

www.protilertools.co.uk/apprenticeships



Experts in exclusive Tailor-Made Tile Collections

Choose without limits between unique geometric shapes, a variety of formats, a full range of colors, volumes, reliefs, different finishes, intense glazes, and exceptional graphics.

RAISING STANDARDS

Palace Chemicals strengthens its long-standing commitment to industry education with the launch of a dedicated Skills Hub, providing hands-on training, CPD support and best-practice guidance for tiling and flooring professionals.

Palace Chemicals, independent manufacturer of tiling, building, construction and DIY products since 1978, has opened its new Skills Hub at its factory and head office in Liverpool. The facility is now running its first training sessions, together with industry partners such as Tilers Community and a range of major brands from the tiling sector who are generously donating their time and product to the project.

Palace believes it is important to extend its commitment to training for its customers, its own staff and the wider tiling and flooring sector at this time when some of the established routes to training are becoming more difficult to access. As a brand leader, the company believes that suppliers need to step up in the present situation and create their own bespoke programmes, along with the necessary facilities to enable them to deliver training to the tile and stone sector.

The resources now available from the new Skills Hub have been developed both internally and by working alongside multiple industry partners. In this way, the company continues to deliver educational courses which promote best practice in the industry for both new and experienced trade professionals, as it has done for many years in various formats. Having the new Skills Hub facility enables the company to focus its resources and deliver the most up-to-date training possible to ensure the project is carried out to the correct installation and standards requirements.

Palace views its Skills Hub as a resource not just for demonstrating Palace products and providing training in their correct use, but as a centre of excellence for the entire industry. Customers who visit the facility have the opportunity to learn from a team who are able to draw on



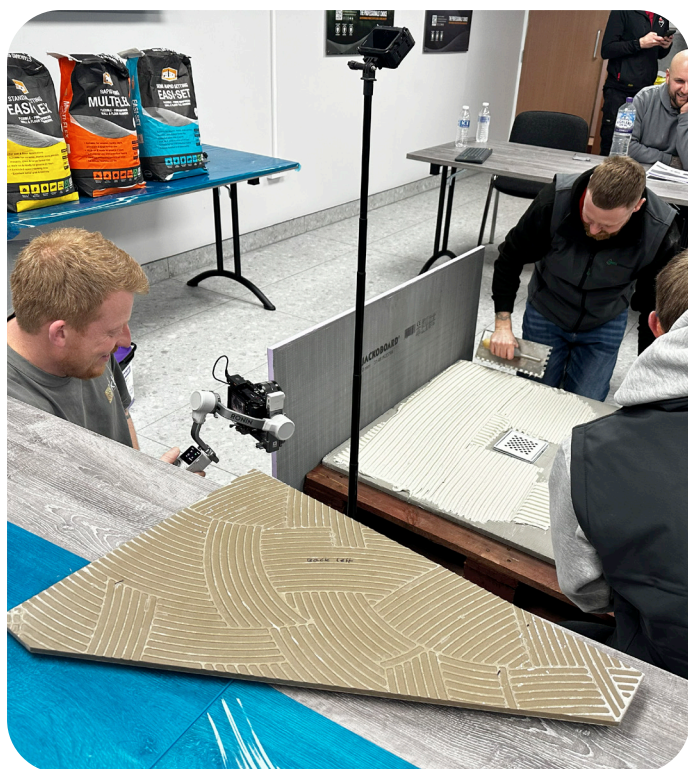
the 45+ years of hands-on experience which exists within the business.

In today's market one of the most important areas is that of legislation and British Standards. A good example is the changes included in the most recent update to Part 3 of BS 5385 Codes of Practice, the British Standards for wall and floor tiling. The latest edition integrates and updates content from previous Standards, reflecting recent advances in flooring materials and techniques, as well as reference to the previous 2018 update, which effectively outlawed the use of plywood as a backerboard for wall tiling. It stated that bespoke tile backer boards are the best substrate for wall tiling, as they offer a dimensionally stable wall background and increased weight limits for tiling.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) presentations prepared by manufacturers are also an important source of information and basis for training. Developed for architects, specifiers and large contractors, these presentations provide important information for customers in the tiling sector, especially those who need to keep their CPD qualifications up to date. Palace now has two RIBA-approved CPD presentations available. One is on the 'Successful Specification of Wall and Floor Tiling and How to Avoid Common Failures', while the other covers the topic of 'Large Format Tiling'.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Palace Chemicals CPD presentations or the training activities offered at the Skills Hub should contact the company directly.

<https://palacechemicals.co.uk>



Keracem Eco

Switch to a screed you can rely on.

Certified



Top results, available now for fast efficient installation.

- Internal and external application
- Foot traffic ≈ 8 hours
- Rapid drying, ready to receive coverings from 24 hours
- Low thickness – install from as thin as 20 mm

Order now for delivery to stockists in 48 hours

Kerakoll UK Ltd,
Tomlinson Road, Leyland PR25 2DY United Kingdom
T: 01772 456 31 info@kerakoll.co.uk kerakoll.com



Find your
nearest stockist

kerakoll

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED RATES

Recruitment £15.00
Marketplace £15.00
(scc = single column centimetre)

CONTACT

Clare Gapp
Tel: +44 (0)1959 570524
Email: clare@opusbm.co.uk

SURFACE PREPARATION



The One-Stop-Shop for all your
Surface Preparation Requirements
from 5 to 50,000m²



www.ppcgroup.co.uk | +44 (0)1522 561 460 | sales@ppcgroup.co.uk

CERAMIC TILES

**WE ARE THE
UK'S ONLY
LARGE-SCALE
MANUFACTURER
OF CERAMIC
WALL TILES.**

We've been designing and making ceramic tiles since 1901, from the Potteries' heartland of Stoke-on-Trent, supported by our complementary sourced porcelain collections. With thousands of quality products available in the UK for next day delivery, we provide the ultimate tiling solution.

+44 (0)1782 575 575
info@johnson-tiles.com
www.johnson-tiles.com

f t i p in y
JOHNSON • TILES
MADE IN THE UK SINCE 1901

SOFTWARE

**Measure
Square™**
FloorLink
loud

- > Measure
- > Plan
- > Estimate
- > Quote
- > Purchase Orders
- > Work Orders
- > Invoices
- > Installation Calendar
- > Sales Calendar
- > Retail
- > Commercial
- > Mobile
- > Reporting



TOOLS DESIGNED FOR FLOORING PEOPLE

www.measuresquare.co.uk

Phone 07403 295 592
Email: nigel@measuresquare.co.uk

WALL & FLOOR TILING SOLUTIONS

THE PROFESSIONALS' CHOICE
HIGH PERFORMANCE PRODUCTS FOR THE TILING & FLOORING INDUSTRY



+44 (0) 151 486 6101
sales@palacechemicals.co.uk
www.palacechemicals.co.uk

DISPLAYS



**Designers & Manufacturers of
Tile, Bathroom & Flooring Displays**



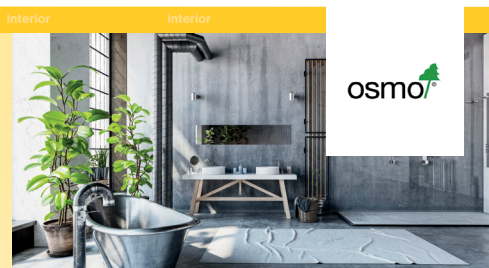
From Individual displays to entire showrooms!
We Design. We Manufacture. Your Vision.

Check out our extensive range on our website below.

01227 832265 | sales@visiondisplay.co.uk | www.visiondisplay.co.uk

CONCRETE OILS

**GIVE INTERIOR
CONCRETE THE
SEAL OF
APPROVAL**



osmo

COVERAGE
UP TO 50M²/L

FINISHES
SATIN



WWW.OSMOUK.COM

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG

Web: www.wedi.net Email: technical@wedi.co.uk

Become a member of our
global team of



WALK THE TALK
Here at wedi, weDO!

SCAN, APPLY & ATTEND FOC

wedi Systems (UK) Ltd Tel: 0161 864 2336

TOMORROW'S®

TILE &
STONE

ADVERTISE TODAY

For full details on classified advertising, please
contact Opus Business Media on 01625 426054
or email: clare@opusbm.co.uk for a cost-
effective quote.



Look out for our next issue...

- Adhesives & Grouts
- Outdoor Tiles
- Retail & Hospitality
- Bespoke Projects



To feature in the next issue of Tomorrow's Tile & Stone, please contact *Sarah Robinson* sarah@opusbm.co.uk. For more information on advertising please contact *Alex Lawrence* alex@opusbm.co.uk.

www.tomorrowstileandstone.co.uk



01625 426054 | info@opusbm.co.uk