

RUSSWOOD

selected sustainable timber
FLOORING • CLADDING • DECKING

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Profile

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

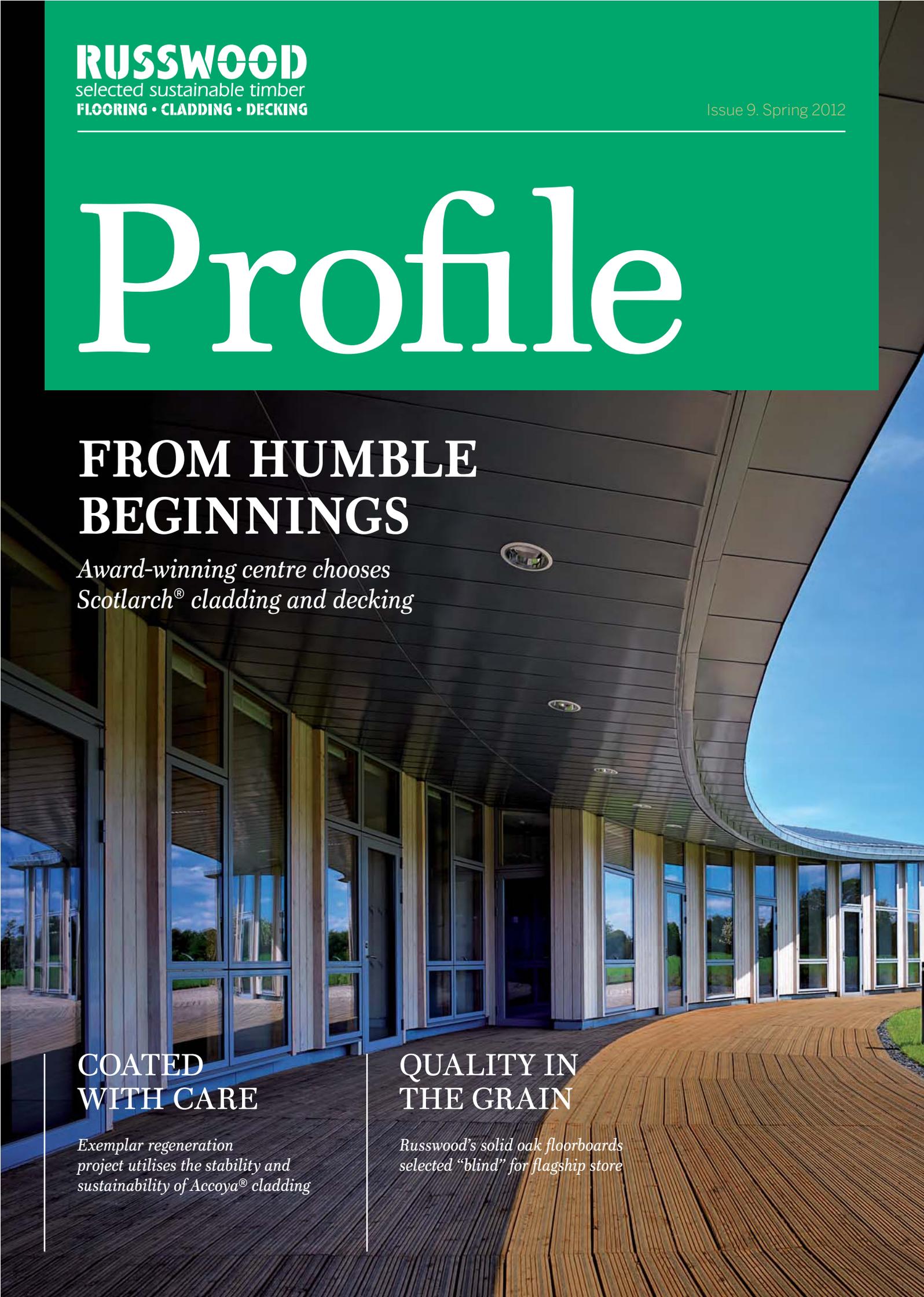
*Award-winning centre chooses
Scotlarch® cladding and decking*

COATED WITH CARE

*Exemplar regeneration
project utilises the stability and
sustainability of Accoya® cladding*

QUALITY IN THE GRAIN

*Russwood's solid oak floorboards
selected "blind" for flagship store*





ABOVE: THE MULTI-HUES OF COATED ACCOYA® CLADDING AT HYVOT LOAN, EDINBURGH.

COATED WITH CARE

The Hyvot Loan Neighbourhood Regeneration project is one of the largest regeneration initiatives in Edinburgh. It has seen the build of 340 new homes, replacing outdated 1960s social housing through a staged programme of demolition and re-build. Dunedin Canmore Housing Association, in conjunction with Edinburgh City Council, invested millions in creating a sustainable development, employing green building technologies such as solar panels, sedum roofs, heat recovery systems and communal heating to ensure that the finished project proved to be a true investment in the future.

To achieve this exemplar regeneration, Assist Architects – an award-winning practice combining over 30 years experience in sustainable design, social housing and community regeneration – were appointed to bring the vision to reality. Split into six phases, the latest phase of development was the provision of supported housing for the area's elderly tenants, creating 58 sheltered flats around a hub of communal facilities. Assist were required to create a development that would become an

EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON THE VISUAL ASPECT OF THE SHELTERED HOUSING, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING

exemplar for mainstream housing, with high design standards for space and quality. With an emphasis being placed on the visual aspect of the sheltered housing, in order to promote happiness and wellbeing and steer away from the “institutionalised” feel common in many sheltered housing complexes, the choice of external finish needed to be an attractive, easily maintained, sustainable material.

Pre-coated Accoya® timber cladding proved to have the qualities required to fit this remit. The extremely stable nature of this modified wood ensures the coating maintains its appearance for longer, translating into minimum upkeep and reducing the whole life cost of the cladding. The wood is sourced from FSC-certified forests, and undergoes an environmentally-friendly acetylation process resulting

in Class 1 durability – environmental credentials that contribute to the cladding exceeding the current Scottish Building Standards Agency sustainability criteria.

The colours chosen for the development are bright and cheery, and the 150mm channel siding profile results in a very clean and contemporary style. Euan Whitmore, the lead architect on the project, researched Accoya® thoroughly – coming to Russwood through our CPD (Continuing Professional Development) service. He states: “Russwood have proved invaluable to the timber aspect of this development. Their product knowledge and advice – given at all stages from design to fit – have been tremendously helpful”. The development itself has received recognition by making the shortlist for the 2011 Scottish Home Awards and the national Sustainable Housing Awards, plus the thanks of its elderly tenants. Russwood has gained a satisfied client keen to use Accoya® again. Win all round we say!

PART OF A GREATER WHOLE

West Lothian Council's new Bathgate Partnership Centre is definitive proof that style and substance are achievable within the same building. The project, which evolved out of the desire to consolidate the council's services and community facilities in a central location, now encompasses all public services on the ground floor with open plan office spaces on the upper level.

The civic complex, built by Ogilvie Construction to a stunning design by BDP, provides a "modern, attractive, practical and flexible" space, which can also boast of an 'A' rated Energy Performance

Certificate. Various sustainable design features, including a sedum roof, contribute towards this rating – as does the prolific use of 100% recyclable materials throughout the construction.

The upper level of the building is clad in brass, complementing the Caithness stone used on the ground floor exterior. At the rear of the building the stone gives way to the softer effect of timber cladding overlooking the garden area and south-facing orchard. A timber decked area optimises access to the garden and enables a more versatile use of the external space.



DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT STYLE AND SUBSTANCE ARE ACHIEVABLE WITHIN THE SAME BUILDING

To ensure the safety of those using this external area, the FSC-certified Garapa decking was fitted with Russwood's Gripdeck, an exceptionally long-lasting solution which provides a highly slip resistant finish. Garapa is an extremely durable hardwood, which is perfect for public areas, with the beautiful appearance of the wood changing over time as it weathers to a silvery grey.

For the timber cladding Architect Select Grade PEFC-certified Western Red Cedar was chosen, a virtually knot free wood which will also weather to the same attractive colour as the Garapa deck. BDP's architect Ian McMillan states: "Russwood were able to offer a high quality and sustainable timber with excellent technical advice. We used the timber at ground level onto the landscaped pear tree orchard which gave a very warm and tactile feeling to the area which the public spaces open out onto."

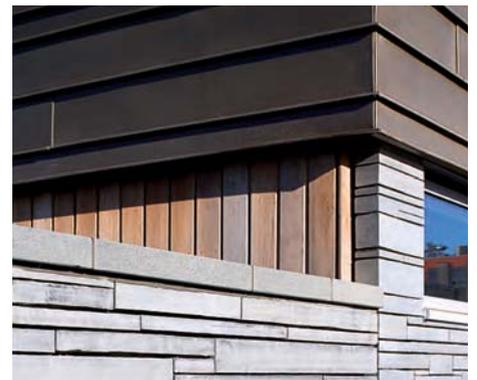
With such thought put into the design, the Bathgate Partnership Centre stands to become the hub of the community, with beauty and functionality encouraging enjoyment of the space for years to come.



ABOVE RIGHT: WESTERN RED CEDAR CLADDING ALONGSIDE GARAPA DECKING AT BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE.

ABOVE: THE WELCOMING OUTDOOR SPACE AT THE REAR GARDEN AREA.

RIGHT: WRC COMPLEMENTS BRASS CLADDING AND CAITHNESS STONE.







THE LONG LENGTHS OF COATED SCOTLARCH® COMPLEMENT THE SINUOUS CURVES OF THE LINBURN CENTRE.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

With an illustrious history of rehabilitation and care for visually impaired service men and women spanning nearly a century, the Scottish War Blinded charity has continuously evolved to meet the needs of its service users. Set up during WWI in a house in Edinburgh, the charity moved to Linburn Estate before the end of WWII to accommodate ever increasing demands. Over time, with the emphasis changing to a focus on independent living for a wider range of clients, the idea of a new centre built to encompass an extended range of facilities was born.

Page\Park architects in Glasgow won the honour of designing a building that would do just that. Asked to create an “iconic” facility of exceptional architectural quality, the inspiration for the design was found in a hand-carved Chinese dragon displayed in the original centre to symbolise the support received over many years from Hong Kong. Innovative details tailored for the needs of the visually impaired service users, including design elements such as an abundance of light, contrasting textures and ultra-low thresholds, are incorporated into the 750m² internal space.

The exterior of the building is fringed with a timber deck, varying in width to provide both access to the garden from the light-filled workshops and, in areas where the roof dips to a generous overhang, a sheltered veranda for the residents. Short lengths of Russwood's Scotlarch® Gripdeck form an attractive design curving alongside the sinuous outline of the timber clad building and ensuring the safe passage of the clientele. Rather unusually, the deck uses the heartwood

FOR US, GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO ENSURE THE PRODUCTS DO THE PROJECT JUSTICE IS A PLEASURE

of Scottish Larch, which provides natural durability and weathers alongside the anti-slip insert to a uniform silvery grey. These beautiful hues of natural wood complement the subtle finish of the timber cladding.

This attention to detail within Page\Park's design is also apparent on the cream-stained Scotlarch® cladding on the exterior of the centre. Divergence from the industry standard thickness of board, from 20 to 25mm, ensures the grade delivers the maximum performance benefits, and continuous lengths sourced to match the variable heights of the building create the appearance of a seamless skin of timber, with no mid-board joins marring the flow. These deviations from the norm demonstrate



ABOVE: SCOTLARCH® CLADDING AND DECKING AT THE LINBURN CENTRE.

the architects' understanding of working with timber as a resource, and the results are visually outstanding. Jamie Hamilton, the project architect from Page\Park commented; “We were keen to use Scottish timber and promote local suppliers. We have used Russwood before, and have always received a high quality of material from them.”

For us, going the extra mile to ensure the products do the project justice is a pleasure. Having received an Accessibility Award alongside RIBA architecture and RIAS chapter design awards, it is apparent that the Linburn Centre provides both functionality and beauty with no compromise on either, and will take the charity and clients into their second century with aplomb.

QUALITY IN THE GRAIN

One does not have to be a connoisseur of whisky to know that the aromatic spirit is synonymous with the land of the Celts. Described as the “water of life” or “uisge beatha” in the Scots native tongue, whispers of its presence are to be found all through the land... from the peaty waters of the burns and lochs, to the distinctive pyramid chimneys of the kilns, reminders of the “Spirit of Scotland” are never far from reach. This is especially true when visiting one of the many towns and villages that exist in or around the Whisky Trail. Whisky (shops) Galore!

It is fortuitous then, that The Drinkmonger in Pitlochry was born from the expertise and passion behind Royal Mile Whiskies and The Cigar Box in Edinburgh, Keir Sword. A Keeper of the Quaich, founder of the Whisky Fringe and co-founder and judge of the Scottish Field Whisky Challenge, Keir’s enthusiasm for all things malt has long been recognised and lauded by whisky-philés. This depth and breadth of knowledge is evident

THE INCLUSION OF FINE WINES AND CIGARS MEANT THAT AREAS WITHIN THE DRINKMONGER NEEDED TO BE DEFINED AS INDIVIDUAL, BUT WITHIN A CERTAIN STYLE

whilst perusing the range of products on display in the store, and is underpinned throughout the enterprise. The staff undergo apprenticeships at Royal Mile Whiskies to ensure their knowledge matches the stock on offer, and enjoy regular “blind” tastings to keep their nose and taste buds fresh, with the blind aspect ensuring that it is always about the innate quality of the liquor and not the packaging!

It was this “blind tasting” principle that stood Russwood in good stead when it came to the refurbishing of this whisky emporium. The inclusion of fine wines



and cigars meant that areas within The Drinkmonger needed to be defined as individual, but within a certain style. Contagious of Edinburgh designed the interior using timber, reflecting the common theme of wood used in the storage and creation of wine, whisky and cigars. Using different styles of floor boards for each of the sections was a subtle but effective way of differentiating each, and required Keir to exercise his eye for quality in a “blind” sample selection. D M Cameron, the Pitlochry-based contractor, provided a choice of samples. From these Keir selected a clean and contemporary grade ebony oak floorboard, painstakingly hand-oiled to achieve the richness of colour required, to be used in the main whisky shop, and a more rustic grade Chateau antique brown oak board for the wine niche. He stated “I was handed a selection to choose from without knowing where the boards came from, but the depth of colour and the quality of the Russwood samples stood out from the rest.” With the flagship store in Pitlochry swiftly followed by another in Edinburgh, and plans to expand into a small chain, Russwood can truly say we got in on the shop floor!



ABOVE AND LEFT: HAND-OILED EBONY OAK FLOORBOARDS IN THE DRINKMONGER, PITLOCHRY.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

When Wendy and Don Matheson bought Boath House in Nairn during the early 90s, it was with full awareness of the momentous task ahead of them. Boath was so much more than a Georgian mansion in need of renovation; it was a Grade A listed building on Historic Scotland's 'endangered list', with a crumbling Victorian walled garden attached. Having once been lauded as "the most beautiful Regency House in Scotland" it was built around 1830 by Archibald Simpson of Aberdeen – considered to be one of the most forward-thinking architects of his time.

The restoration took Wendy and Don six years of meticulous refurbishment, and for the initial phase of development they enlisted the aid of Aberdeen architect Raymond Simpson. Wendy and Don then worked tirelessly on the design and restoration, with their attention to detail and devotion to the project returning Boath to the original splendour of its earlier incarnation. The original walled

kitchen garden has also been fully restored, thanks to The Garden History Society in Scotland's knowledge and Wendy's passion for garden design.



ABOVE: THE ORANGERIE, ROOM 8 AT BOATH HOUSE.

Whilst maintaining a lot of the existing architectural features of the house, the redesign from crumbling family home into successful country house hotel has seen a few changes of use in the rooms. What started life as the kitchen in the servants' basement quarters is now one of the hotel's premier rooms: The Orangerie Room 8. The room provides direct access to the stunning gardens and parkland and, whilst losing the existing bread ovens, the beautiful vaulted ceilings remain to complement such luxury details as Villeroy & Boch fittings and a freestanding roll top slipper bath. Wendy and Don chose to place Russwood's Character B solid oak floorboards underfoot, and state: 'Boath House has used Russwood's oak flooring in one of the newly refurbished suites. We bought the natural unfinished and hand-oiled it – it looks superb and after nearly four years of use it is gaining in character each year. We are so pleased with their products we are using them in a future development at Boath'.

Praise indeed! With their labour of love now entering the latest phase, and a veritable plethora of awards for their country house hotel and restaurant, we can be justifiably proud that our service meets their demand for quality.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

At Russwood we have long appreciated and cultivated the symbiotic relationship we have with architects. Our understanding and knowledge of timber translates naturally into a valuable resource to architects needing information or advice. In turn, when an architect creates a truly beautiful building from timber, the understanding that "wood is good" is communicated on a far greater scale than one small voice shouting the same message in a saturated and often confusing market.

When we were approached by the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment at Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University requesting sponsorship for the Live Build Studio, it seemed an excellent opportunity to invest in the architects of the future. As a "hands on" student project, the aim of which is the promotion and understanding of Scottish timber, how could we say no? It is a perfect project for us to support; an investment in timber as well as architecture.

Coupled with a recent visit from Dundee University's own student-led design and build, the Macro Micro Studio, during which our "expertise allowed (them) to make some informed decisions about (their) project, from the timber species to the fixing details" it seems that, despite the current concerns regarding our economy, the future of architecture is alive and kicking!

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