

# Kitchen Maker

Issue 54

Online



**STONE  
FLOORS**



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T14  
T29

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The T14 is our compact spindle moulder with all the premium features of a MARTIN machine. Take for instance, its state-of-the-art yet easy-to-use control system which opens up all networking possibilities to you. And then there is also its uniquely precise and robust machine construction. Added together, these two features will give you the best possible value for money.

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# FLOORING TRENDS IN THE KITCHEN

STONE  
FLOORS

WHEN it comes to renovating, extending, or perhaps building an entirely new kitchen, there are so many decisions to be made and different things to consider!

It is easy to feel overwhelmed with all the options and choices but, as far as the flooring is concerned, it may be useful to shed some light on the various trends, which are currently being witnessed when it comes to flooring, with 10 kitchen flooring trends for 2023 that are set to stay.

## NATURAL STONE KITCHEN FLOORING

### 1. Large flagstone flooring trend.

The first trend we are seeing for 2023 has to be large flagstone tiles. For centuries, estates and country homes have used flagstone flooring. Thanks to their hard-wearing characteristics and classic appearance that have stood the test of time.

Now, more than ever, people are wanting to create this timeless look in their kitchens by choosing large format flagstones.

Most commonly, the “free length” or “random length” tile size is opted for, by which the widths are fixed (usually 500mm, or

600mm) and then lengths are a random selection ranging upwards to 1,000mm.

This free length flagstone has the ability to work in kitchens of all sizes and provides maximum focus on the beauty of each tile.

### 2. Dijon limestone.

Dijon is a neutral toned limestone tile that complements an array of colour schemes with its soft beige and light grey hues.

The minerals, fossils and calcite veining evident in this limestone tile make it a forgiving and classic choice for both interior and exterior applications.

Dijon limestone is also available in a variety of finishes and tile sizes – the most popular finishes being “tumbled”, “brushed” and “seasoned”.

### 3. Buff sandstone tiles.

A big kitchen flooring trend for 2023 is buff sandstone tiles – offering the ultimate neutral with soft pale wash tones and a unique texture.



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Like limestone, Sandstone is a hard-wearing and practical option which is ideal for kitchen tiles. The texture also provides a good grip underfoot.

Buff coloured tiles complement the much-loved modern country look and also work with an array of different paint colours.

#### **4. Grey limestone kitchen tiles.**

Grey is a colour that has come and gone throughout the years – whilst warmer tones are also popular options, there is something so classic about a grey limestone tile.

Whether it's a soft pale grey, or a rich grey with variation from tile to tile, the beauty of limestone is that no two tiles are ever the same. For this reason, a grey limestone adds depth and character to any kitchen space.

Farrow grey limestone is a contemporary classic tile, featuring beautiful tonal variations from dove grey through to soft anthracite.

The oxidation of iron offers warm copper hues, creating a timeless charm.

This grey neutral toned natural stone lends itself to both modern and country projects alike, whilst the mineral and fossil detail make it a forgiving choice for both interior and exterior applications.

Clermont Gris is a beautiful grey tumbled limestone tile that features subtle tonal variations throughout.

The varying grey hues within this stone blend effortlessly, with a slight warmth and a country charm.

This grey neutral toned natural stone complements an array of colour schemes, whilst its aged-tumbled finish and natural fossil

appearances offer unique texture and detail within each limestone tile creating an aged, lived-in appearance.

#### **STONE LOOK KITCHEN FLOOR TILES**

##### **5. Tumbled effect porcelain trend.**

There is a rising popularity in stone look kitchen floor tiles and an important trend for 2023 kitchen floor tiles is tumbled effect porcelain.

Together with the character and variation from tile to tile, this soft tumbling effect lends itself beautifully to both rustic and modern country-style kitchens.

Many of the tumbled edge porcelains out there are hard to distinguish from a natural limestone!

##### **6. Beige kitchen flooring tiles.**

Beige is back! Whilst for many years grey seemed to be the only kitchen flooring tile everyone wanted; we have witnessed a shift towards warmer tones, with the beige trend set to stay!

The beauty of beige stone effect porcelain is the variety of prints and tones on the market – from industrial-rustic beige stone tiles to a creamy beige country kitchen floor, there is something for everyone in the stone effect porcelain tile industry.

##### **7. Large format porcelain.**

With state-of-the-art machinery advancements, large format porcelain is becoming an on-trend and popular tile size to choose.

A large format tile works in open plan kitchens and helps to minimise grout lines and maximise the focus on each individual tile.

Another consideration is whether you lay the tiles widthways



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or lengthways from the point you stand (from a doorway, or viewpoint).

For narrow spaces, widthways will make the space appear wider. For shorter spaces, lengthways will make a kitchen appear longer. Your eyes will naturally follow the line of the tiles!

### **WOOD EFFECT KITCHEN FLOORING**

#### **8. Oak wood-look kitchen tiles.**

Wood effect porcelain flooring is a more practical choice to solid wood floor and the prints and tones available certainly do mimic the appearance of real wood!

Oak wood-look kitchen tiles offer an authenticity and warmth just as real oak does, working beautifully with oak beams – an ever-popular feature to have whether it be in a new build, or an original element of character properties.

Wood porcelain ticks all the boxes for a neutral oak wood-look porcelain. Unlike real wood, wood effect porcelain is also suitable for underfloor heating.

Underfloor heating is an increasingly popular asset to have in the home – providing warmth from the floor up!

#### **9. Herringbone and chevron tile trends.**

Two kitchen floor trends for 2023 have to be herringbone and chevron tile formats!

Whether it is a smaller parquet wood tile, or a larger wood effect tile, these alternative laying patterns add something a little different to a kitchen.

The key distinction between herringbone and chevron is that herringbone tiles meet at a 90-degree angle for an effective zigzag look, whereas the chevron format meets neatly together at one point. Traditionally, parquet kitchen flooring is laid in a herringbone format.

### **10. Whitewashed and coastal wood-like tiles.**

If you wish to create a light and airy feel to your home, then the whitewashed and coastal kitchen floor trend is for you!

The soft neutral tones in wood effect tiles help to create a calm and inviting kitchen space with a coastal feel.

It is possible to use lovely driftwood effect kitchen floor tiles that fit the style perfectly. The distressed look of these wood effect tiles also provides a forgiving surface for everyday busy homes.

So, there we have it! Our top 10 kitchen flooring trends for 2023 that hopefully inspire and help you on the journey to finding your perfect stone kitchen floor.

There are plenty of different floor options currently trending that will offer you a beautiful, but enduring floor, that will stand the test of time.

Quorn Stone - founded in 1995 by Ramon Fernandez, began its trading life as an importer and restorer of hand-made, Spanish terracotta tiles, moving into a curated collection of limestone, marble and porcelain flooring and wall tiles in a range of exquisite finishes.

The company remains a family-run enterprise and is now owned by brother-and-sister directors, Josh and Isabel Fernandez.

Their father's talent, craftsmanship and pursuit of perfection have resulted in the company's reputation as a business built on a respect for the highest-quality stoneware, spanning two generations.

Want to find out more? Visit [WWW.MYSTONEFLOOR.COM](http://WWW.MYSTONEFLOOR.COM)



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# KITCHEN DESIGNERS LEAP INTO THE FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING WITH MICROVELLUM'S LATEST SOFTWARE

FOR more than 20 years, the CAD/CAM/CIM technology specialists at Microvellum have been dedicated to improving efficiencies and expanding capabilities for woodworkers utilising their highly customisable, AutoCAD-based software.

The open architecture platform has been developed to optimise the workflows between estimators, designers, drafters, engineers and production teams, reducing redundancies and maximising efficiencies for wood product manufacturing.

Both 2D and 3D architectural drawings created with the system include embedded production data, allowing for the seamless creation of manufacturing reports and programs for automated machinery.

Typical users of Microvellum's software include companies producing residential cabinetry including kitchens.

When asked about how Microvellum had impacted on their business, representatives from Unitech Oxon - a family run kitchen furniture manufacturer based in Banbury, a very favourable reply was that...

"Implementing Microvellum was a game changer. Not only did it help us provide more flexible options for our customers, but it also helped move us into the future of manufacturing where

everything is centralised and connected. We can make changes to any product and with the click of a button, our production team has the updated CNC code, drawings and reports."

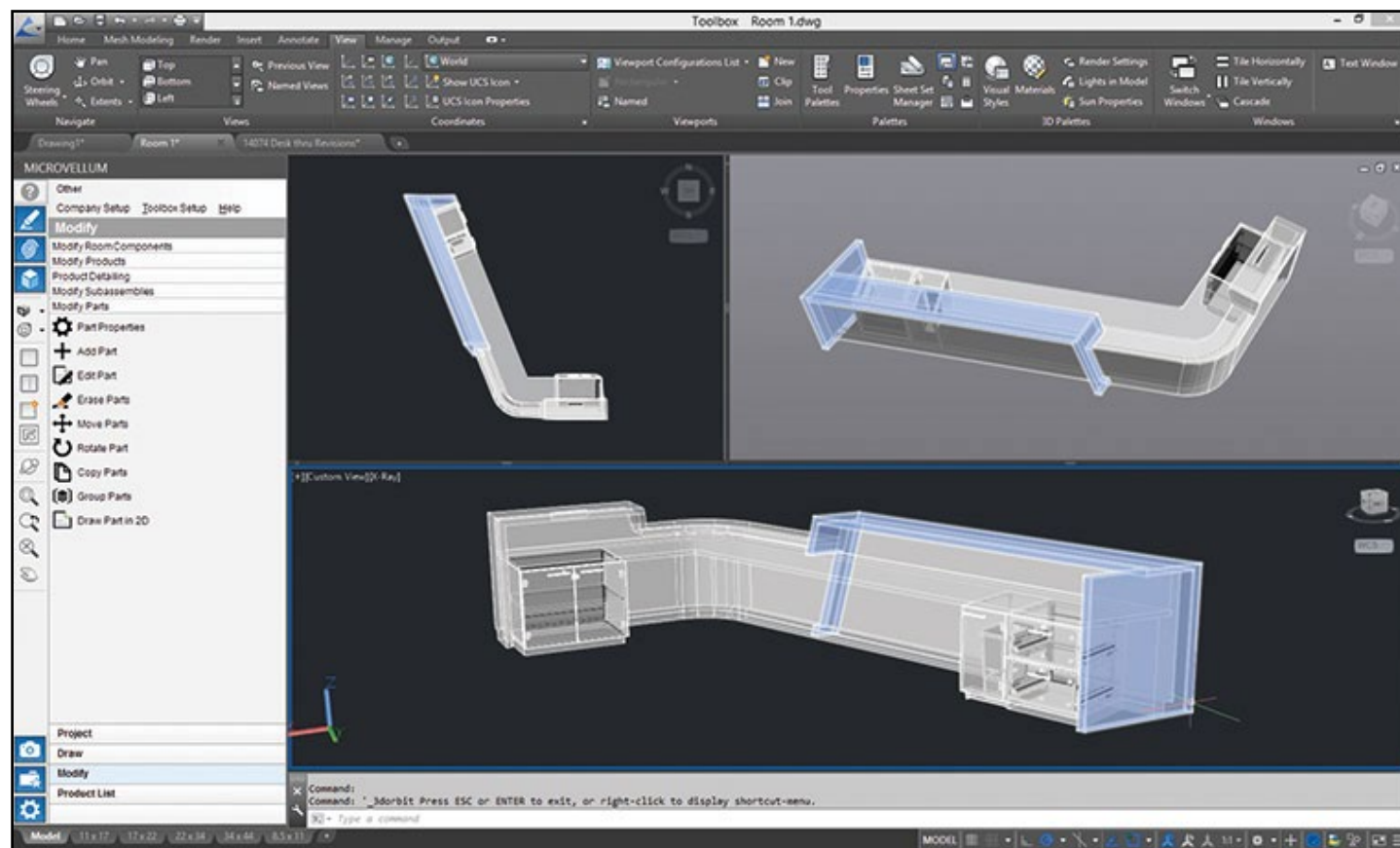
The Microvellum team is comprised of individuals with deep roots in the woodworking industry - many of whom are former end-users of the software. They are dedicated to equipping people with the tools and knowledge to streamline the way they work.

Microvellum is headquartered in Oregon, USA and is proud to currently boast over 6,000 users worldwide with the majority located in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

The company's expansion into the UK market with support, service and sales teams began in the spring of 2020 and continues to be a primary target for the company's growth plan.

'As an end-user of the software for over 15 years, I have experienced the transformational impact of Microvellum. If you're looking for new ways to maximise your efficiencies and grow, you need to consider what a Microvellum solution can do for your business,' concludes UK account manager at Microvellum Daniel Mesecke.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.microvellum.com](http://www.microvellum.com)



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## CAD+T WELCOMES A NEW GENERATION

AFTER more than 30 years, the founder and chief executive officer of the international CAD/CAM and ERP software company, CAD+T Consulting, Anton Schwarz, is stepping down from his post.

The move, will see the current chief technical officer, Thomas Schwarz, and international sales director, Martina Schwarz, reprise the role and continue to carry the business forward.

Anton Schwarz founded CAD+T in 1990 and, in the same year, launched the company's first ever AutoCAD-based design software.

Success followed with the company growing its bespoke software and consultancy offering to the furniture design and

manufacturing industry.

Within 10 years, the company had over 1000 clients worldwide. Today, the company has subsidiaries across the world, including in the UK, UAE, East Asia and Australia and employs over 80 members of staff.

It is renowned for supplying complete software solutions and offers over 60 software applications based on AutoCAD and Autodesk Inventor for batch-size-one production and serial production.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.cadt-solutions.com](http://www.cadt-solutions.com)

Martina and Thomas (left) with Rosemarie and Anton Schwarz.



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# OSTERMANN INFORMS ON THE CORRECT BONDING OF QUALITY EDGINGS

EDGING specialist, Ostermann, supplies a high quality selection of hot-melt adhesives for mechanical edging processing.

## How do customers go about finding the right product?

Here, the Ostermann experts inform on important basics and provide useful tips ...

Filled EVA adhesive is a "classic" in furniture making and interior design. It is distinguished by its easy handling, a fine bond line and a lower tendency for stringing.

With unfilled EVA hot-melt adhesive, joints become thinner; you need less glue, but higher feed speeds.

In order to find the right hot-melt adhesive, use the filter function in the Ostermann online shop.

In this way, you can quickly narrow down the type of adhesive, colour, filler, manufacturer, feed speed of your machine, or the type of container and reach the best product for your individual requirements.

## Waterproof? Choose PUR!

PUR adhesives are suited for rather difficult bonding tasks, for example in kitchen furniture. The chemical cross-linking

induces particularly high heat and water resistance. Moreover, the adhesive's bonding strength and the chemical resistance of the joint are higher than with EVA adhesives. Glue consumption is lower and you can achieve a very thin joint, equalling a visually flawless bond line.

If the machine is perfectly adjusted, you can even achieve the often sought "invisible bond line" with PUR.

## No fear of PUR

Many processors have considered changing to PUR for a while, but the need to clean their edge-banding machine after an application of PUR adhesive makes them hesitate.

There is a video tutorial on this exact topic on the Ostermann website [www.ostermann.eu](http://www.ostermann.eu). It shows in detail the necessary steps to change from EVA to PUR hot-melt adhesive and back.

PUR hot-melt adhesives from Ostermann's own brand, Redocol, are particularly attractive; there is a large selection of high quality products at economical prices.

In addition, Ostermann supplies matching products to clean the edge-banding machine. They are blue- or red-coloured for better identification and available from different manufacturers and in different pack sizes.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.ostermann.eu/en\\_GB/page/basic-knowledge-hotmelt-adhesives](http://www.ostermann.eu/en_GB/page/basic-knowledge-hotmelt-adhesives)



For furniture which is not exposed to great heat or moisture, you can usually apply classic EVA hot-melt adhesive

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EDGE-BANDING SOLUTIONS

EVA or PUR? There is a wide choice of hot-melt adhesives for edge-banding machines. Ostermann stands not only for diversity, but also for the best advice.



If you need resistance to heat and water, PUR hot melt adhesive is the product of choice

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# EGGER'S DISTINCTIVE DESIGN-LED WORKTOPS

THE Egger Worktops Collection offers a versatile range of detailed, tactile and durable laminate worktops in a range of thicknesses, such as the example depicted opposite.

The sophisticated simplicity of the collection enables the creation of a look that is virtually indistinguishable from solid wood and stone, but has the hard-wearing, hygienic and easy-to-care-for benefits of laminate.

The collection includes 16mm, 25mm and 38mm square-edged and 38mm post-formed worktops.

From walnut and oak to concrete and marble, there is a finish to suit every kitchen.

Interested parties can download Egger's new app to preview the decors in room sets and in 3D.

The 38mm square-edge worktops create the look of real wood and have been carefully chosen from the popular Feelwood range,

with texture and design aligned. Meanwhile, the 38mm post-formed worktops range boasts desirable decors in a variety of classic and contemporary finishes, while the 25mm square-edged worktops recreate the smooth and sleek touch of stone and slate materials.

The elegant and stylish 16mm square-edged worktops create many design possibilities.

Two installation kits, EggerSeal waterproof sealant and adhesive, as well as additional accessories, are available to purchase alongside a worktop.

If these accessories are used in conjunction with the Egger fitting guide, the worktop is guaranteed for 10 years.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.egger.com/worktops](http://www.egger.com/worktops)

# IDS EXTENDS ITS WEBSITE TO INCLUDE MINERVA AND MAIA PREMIUM SOLID SURFACE WORKTOPS

IDS has extended its website to include the addition of the Minerva and Maia ranges of premium solid surface worktops by Sylmar.

Website customers can log in to their trade account at any time to place their orders, track their status and manage their account.

In addition to the Minerva and Maia ranges, customers can also purchase surfacing solutions from IDS's expansive range, including flooring, worktops, wall panelling, high-pressure laminate, solid surface and decorative panels, as well as sinks and taps.

Minerva and Maia solid surface worktops offer a high-performance surface material with extensive design and

fabrication flexibility. Within the Minerva worktop range there is a choice of 18 designs in a variety of sizes, along with matching upstands, breakfast bars, splashbacks and pre-fabricated sink modules.

Maia offers 15 worktop designs in several sizes and thicknesses alongside breakfast bars, island units and sink modules.

Both ranges are hand finished and ready for easy installation without specialist fabrication and carry a 10-year guarantee.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.idsurfaces.co.uk](http://www.idsurfaces.co.uk)



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Egger Worktops

KITCHEN  
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# HAFELE ADVISES ON WAYS TO SAVE TIME WHEN WORKING ON SITE

WHETHER driven by the surge in home improvements, a workforce shortage, or simply a desire to improve their profitability, most kitchen fitters are looking for ways to save time and work more efficiently on site.

Here brand & communications manager at Häfele UK, Natasha Hickling shares advice on how they can work smarter to save time and improve their efficiency.

Fortunately, the need for speed, whilst maintaining quality, is something which is well understood at Häfele.

Häfele has developed a wide range of products and services to help tradespeople work with ease and speed and, at the same time, maintain their solid reputation.

## Fewer tools. More speed

At Häfele the focus is on making furniture construction as tool-free as possible.

One example of this is Ixconnect CC 8/5/30 - a claw connector for wooden drawers that can be used without dowels.

As it has an innovative claw, it compacts the chips in the front panels of wooden drawers for quick fixing of panels and sides over 12mm.

When combined with a rear panel connector (Ixconnect RPC D 5/24) that clamps the rear panel with the side walls, Ixconnect CC 8/5/30 reduces the number of drill holes needed, dramatically cutting down assembly time and giving complete precision.

It's also entirely concealed once in place. Whilst it is a simple piece of hardware, products such as Ixconnect make a big difference. In fact, it halves the number of holes required and can reduce assembly time by up to 70 per cent.

## Speed versus efficiency

Innovative time-saving products are just one way that manufacturers can help kitchen furniture manufacturers maximise their workload.

In recent years, "Häfele to Order" has been extended. This is a bespoke service, which allows users to specify products to exact size, quantity and finish. Joiners and kitchen fitters can now use Häfele to Order for bespoke timber drawers.



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Crafting beautiful, hand-made bespoke timber drawers takes skill, care, attention and time. Through the service, customers can order hand-made, solid timber drawers personalised to their individual needs and complete with full dovetail joints, in up to a two-week turnaround.

The Häfele bespoke timber drawer service is completely made to order, with the result that customers can tailor their requirements against a long list of design and personalisation options.

## Let there be light

A similar approach can also be taken to lighting. Loox by Häfele has been developed specifically for the furniture industry. A simple, modular plug and play system, it can be easily incorporated it into designs to create that all important wow

factor wherever it is used.

As well as being easy to fit, Häfele also offers a free-of-charge Lighting Design Service.

Simply complete an online form with basic information and upload a floor plan and the Häfele team of lighting consultants will return a tailored specification.

Usefully, the Lighting Design Service can also be paired with Häfele to Order, making Loox probably the easiest furniture lighting range install in the UK market.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.hafele.co.uk](http://www.hafele.co.uk)



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# NEWLY FORMED EFFICIENT WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS

FURNITURE  
FITTINGS

FOR the past year, the team at Formed has been working on a plan to make warehouse operations even more efficient and environmentally friendly, with some initiatives already implemented.

Formed is your dependable partner for cabinet hardware, furniture components and consumables serving the kitchen furniture industry with innovation, supply solutions and dedicated people who understand customer needs.

The plan includes a reduction of general waste bin collections each week, along with the amount of cardboard waste collections.

The full fleet of diesel warehouse vehicles has been replaced by fully electric models.

There are also plans in place to fully remove the use of plastic from the warehouse and to introduce more environmentally friendly packaging.

'One of my first objectives was to reduce our cardboard waste collection to zero. In order to achieve this, the company invested in a cardboard baler, so all waste is compressed and baled and now goes to other companies who recycle it for their own use,' says warehouse operations manager, Adam Kowalewski (pictured right), who is heading up the project.

It is estimated that four and a half million tonnes of waste wood are generated every year in the UK.

This comes from different sources, including the processing of crates, pallets, boxes and cable reels. A large proportion comes from the estimated 56 million pallets in the UK that are broken, or which simply cannot be re-used.

According to statistics from the Wood Recyclers Association, there has been a year-on-year rise in how much waste wood is recycled, or reprocessed.

Waste wood is often turned into new products, such as recycled wooden flooring, or garden decking.

Other uses vary, but the most common are animal bedding, feedstock for panel boards and, more recently, there has been a significant rise in the amount of waste wood that is converted into biomass feedstocks that are burned for energy.

Inspired by this, Adam Kowalewski discovered a new and unique way of removing and recycling the wood generated onsite.

'Forest School in Lincolnshire is re-using the waste wood and broken pallets to create outdoor play equipment for use in all sorts of activities for children,' says Adam.

'This is a new partnership between Formed and Forest School. They will collect all the broken pallets and wood waste from us regularly, free of charge,' he adds.

Designed to develop confidence and self-esteem through experiences in a natural setting, Forest School is a child-centred learning process that offers a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking.

'This is a great initiative for the company to support, whilst also allowing us to exceed our target to significantly reducing waste materials on-site,' explains Adam.

Arriving in the UK from Scandinavia back in 1993, Forest School takes place in a woodland, or other natural environment, which supports the development of a life-long relationship between the learner and the natural world.



Want to find out more? Visit [www.formed-uk.com](http://www.formed-uk.com)

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