

Kommunicate

The newsletter from Komfort Workspace



Project Focus
Evelyn Grace Academy

Komfort's Confluence
Reaches new heights

Komfort's on the move
Head Office moves to Horsham

Love the space you're in.

From strength to strength



I am delighted to introduce the first edition of Kommunicate – a newsletter designed to keep your finger on the pulse of developments at Komfort – new product initiatives, case studies and topical issues at the heart of our industry.

We have been planning Kommunicate for many months and ironically the first edition coincides with a very significant event – the change of ownership of Komfort Workspace. In fact we need to go back 18 months to take stock of the changes that have led to the enviable position we enjoy today.

Fast Rewind

2010 was a challenging year as we experienced the continued contraction of the core commercial markets and in particular the office sector where we have seen a reduction in market size of more than 40% over the past 3 years. Against this backdrop the Komfort business has been restructured, reducing staff numbers significantly and relocating production facilities for both Doors and Partition products.

Despite these difficult times, we have continued to work towards building a stronger business with one eye on the future. Komfort has now begun to rebuild recruiting across various departments nationally. Strengthening the team remains a priority as we look to grow sales and improve the overall customer experience.

Fast Forward

As most of you will now be aware summer 2011 has seen the sale of Komfort Workspace by SIG Plc along with Leaderflush Shapland, Tufwell Glass (formerly known as SIG Glazing Services) and Cubicle Systems all operating under the umbrella of SIG Interiors Manufacturing Division.

The sale of SIG Interiors Manufacturing Division to Laidlaw supported by Rutland Partners, represents a new start for the Komfort business supported by a strong financial backer and an industry leading partner in Laidlaw. As a result of the acquisition the interests of Laidlaw and what were the SIG Interiors Manufacturing businesses will now all operate under the heading of Laidlaw Interiors Group.

This is a positive move for the Komfort business. Rutland have a successful track record of investing in businesses like Komfort and have ambitious plans to take the whole business forward.

This acquisition creates the leading supplier into the UK commercial interiors market for doorsets, ironmongery and partition systems. The group will have combined revenues of approximately £130 million and a market leading position in all three product sectors. John Jefferies, CEO of Laidlaw Interiors Group commented “supported by Rutland Partners we will now invest in all the businesses within the new Laidlaw Interiors Group in order to increase market share and capitalise fully on their market leading positions”.

These are exciting times for Komfort as we now settle into our new head office in Horsham, the future is looking very positive with a number of new products and services already in the pipe line and ready to be launched.

I am sure you will find this newsletter both interesting and informative and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Mick O'Callaghan
Managing Director



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Get Kommunicate

If you don't already receive Komfort's quarterly newsletter, email marketing@komfort.com with your name, job title, organisation and contact address and we will send you the next issue of Kommunicate.

Komfortably moved

Double Glazed Polar Vision with full height timber doors has been used for the boardroom



Horsham Head Office

Komfort Workspace has relocated its Head Office to Horsham, West Sussex. Located in the Broadlands Business Campus in the heart of the Gatwick Diamond, these state of the art offices are set in 23 acres of landscaped semi-wooded parkland offering an inspirational environment in which to work.

Occupying over 10,000 sq feet on the first floor in the Ashurst building, the office space has been fitted out with Komfort's latest office partitioning systems and incorporates a product showcase area featuring an array of recently launched and to be launched products.

The move has resulted in the Head Office teams being united for the first time at one location and on one floor. Mick O'Callaghan, Komfort's Managing Director says: "the move represents a great opportunity for us to become increasingly outward focused following what has been a significant restructuring of the business across all departments. The office relocation will act as a springboard for our progressive future plans and our drive to underline our leadership position in the market".

The Sales Counter and distribution functions will continue to operate from the existing site at Whittle Way in Crawley. ●





Crawley Sales Counter gets a facelift!

Following the relocation of the Komfort Head Office to new prestigious offices in Horsham we have consolidated our Logistics and Trade Counter functions at units 9 & 10 in Whittle Way, Crawley. As part of the consolidation we have provided the team with an improved working environment and established a larger and more effective Sales Counter/Collection point.

The changes are designed to ensure we continue to offer our customers an effective delivery and collection service with access to the whole Komfort product offer in a more customer friendly environment. Customer service and a fast turnaround ensure customers are not delayed when pushing to meet ever increasing project deadlines. The new sales counter means customers can now collect products from 7.30am through to 17.30pm Monday to Friday and 07.30 - 12.00 on a Saturday. ●

For more information

If you would like more information or to place an order please call **01293 577 890** or email: dave.fiveash@komfort.com.

Komfort's Dublin showroom

Our Dublin office has moved to a new location. The new office is located at 35 Leeson Close, Dublin 2 and is located in Dublin's 'architecture land'.

Dublin 2 encompasses most of the city centre south of the River Liffey and covers known areas such as Merrion Square, Temple Bar, Grafton Street and Leeson Street. The area includes many notable buildings and tourist attractions including The National Gallery of Ireland.

The office in Leeson Close, which in Irish is Sráid Liosain, was originally known as Suesey Street, renamed in 1728 after the Leasons, a family of local brewers who branched into property development and subsequently became Earls of Milltown. ●

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort's moves, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com



Evelyn Grace Academy

Komfort's PolarTec system was selected for the schools drive for excellence.

Design for life: the 10,747m² building built to change the lives of the local community



Stop Press...Evelyn Grace Academy won the Stirling Prize 2011

“Excellence, Endeavour and Self Discipline”

Excellence, Endeavour and Self Discipline. These three principles are used to shape the students within EGA's walls. And arguably the principle architect Zaha Hadid applied to the design of her first school. Hadid, is one of the pre-eminent architectural superstars in the world. Last year she won British architecture's highest honour, the Stirling Prize, for the MAXXI art gallery in Rome, and her London-based office is working on projects across the globe. Her next London project, and second project in the UK was the Aquatics Centre for the 2012 London Olympics.

Hadid was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1950 and moved to study at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. It was in 1980 that she established her London based practice and went on to win many competitions worldwide for her groundbreaking designs.

In 2004 Hadid became the first female recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize and in 2008 she ranked 69th on the Forbes list of “Worlds Most Powerful Women”.

Brixton's first ever secondary school was designed by Hadid, to be open light, and to minimise any potential problematic zones. The school has been designed in such a way as to prevent any possible hiding places.

The new Academy originally opened on a temporary site in 2008 and moved to its new location in Shakespeare Road, Brixton in September 2010. On one side of the railway that lies near to the Evelyn Grace Academy is leafy Dulwich Village. On the other side however, are a number of notorious estates. The London Borough of Lambeth has one of the highest crime rates in Europe and hits all six categories that are used to measure social deprivation.

“Every pupil in the school however, is expected to achieve a minimum of five A*-C grades at GCSE level by 2013”

Governor and hedge fund manager for the school, David Gorton, chose to contribute £2million of his own money towards the £38million school. Gorton chose architect Hadid because he knew her work would make a striking visual statement.

EGA is one of eight academies in Britain that is sponsored by ARK Schools. ARK (Absolute Return for Kids) is a charity that was founded ten years ago by the French financier Arpad Busson to raise the bar for children living in the most disadvantaged communities. ARK works with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and local authorities to create new schools that offer exceptional opportunities to local children in inner cities.

“The environment is spatially reassuring and acts to engage the students actively”

The overall design has enabled the school to be divided into two wings and maintains the educational principle of smaller schools, as four schools are run within the academy. The design has created natural segregation patterns that all sit within functional spaces. Each school has its own identity and houses 270 pupils with the upper schools housing 330 pupils. The subdivided school ensures a more intimate teaching approach which influences the schools core values of excellence, endeavour and self-discipline.



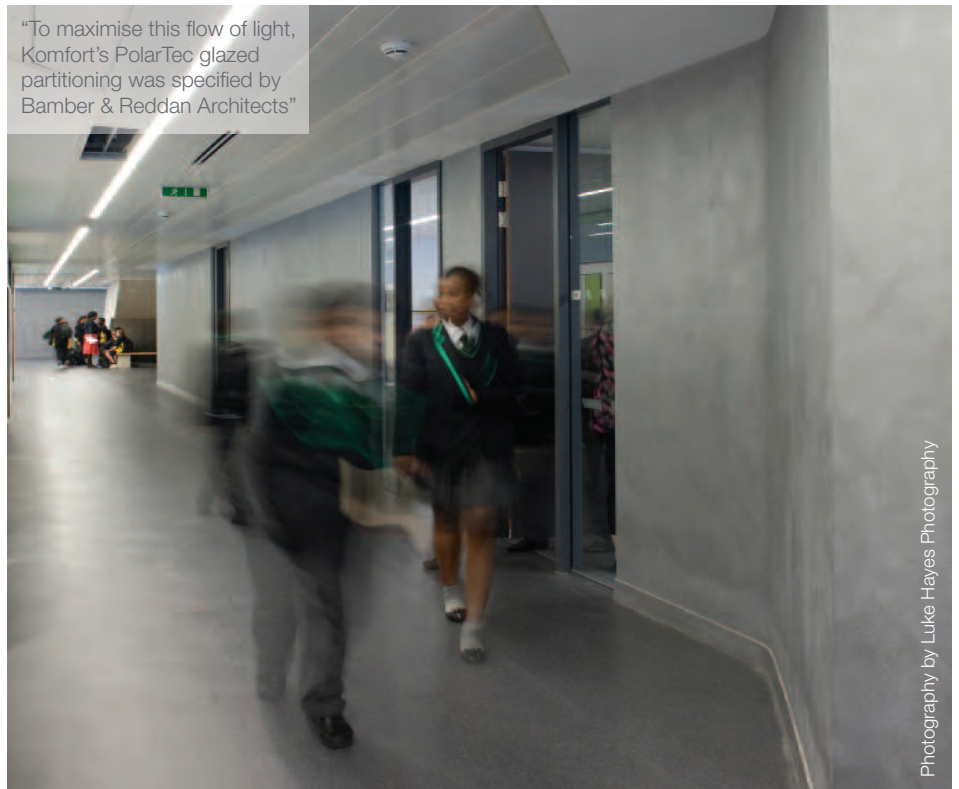
Overall Project Architect:
Zaha Hadid Architects
Interior Architect:
Bamber & Reddan Architects
Project Manager:
Capita Symonds
Main Contractor:
Mace Plus
Interiors Contractor:
Stortford Interiors UK Ltd

Large spaces have been designed in such a way to maximise natural light and ventilation. This type of learning environment is spatially reassuring and therefore acts to actively engage the students. The communal zones that are shared by all four schools were designed to encourage communication and eradicate any problematic areas that may require supervision. The academy cost far less than a museum to build per square metre but significantly more than an average office building.

“Komfort’s PolarTec glazed partitioning was specified by Bamber & Reddan Architects”

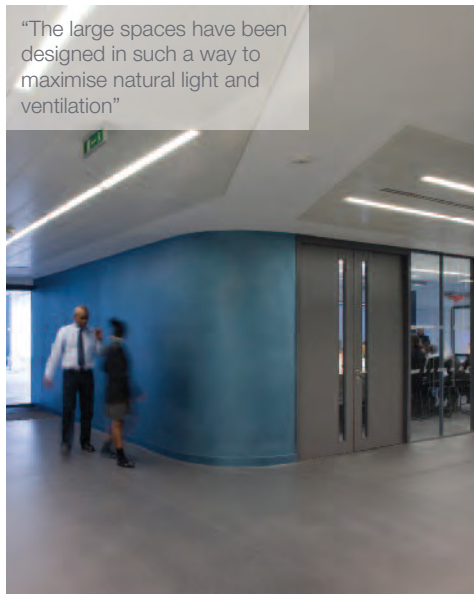
To allow for generous levels of natural lighting and ventilation the classrooms were constructed on either side of broad central corridors.

To maximise this flow of light, Komfort’s PolarTec glazed partitioning was specified by Bamber & Reddan Architects. Its excellent sound insulation, acoustic properties and crowd pressure credentials were considerations in the selection.



“To maximise this flow of light, Komfort’s PolarTec glazed partitioning was specified by Bamber & Reddan Architects”

Photography by Luke Hayes Photography



“The large spaces have been designed in such a way to maximise natural light and ventilation”



The flexibility of PolarTec allowed for the partitioning to produce angles at ceiling height which replicated the geometric shapes of the building’s exterior. Komfort also supplied full height solid doors with vision panels.

Not only is the architecture state of the art, but the schools ethos is contemporary and refreshing. The Evelyn Grace Academy is the latest in our ever increasing portfolio of academies and other educational facilities where our partitioning and, in particular, PolarTec has been specified. ●

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort’s partitioning systems, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com



Product Portfolio

An infinite variety of grain and patterns

“Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing that we see too late the one that is open”

Alexander Graham Bell.

The door range is produced with experience and craftsmanship and the most efficient production techniques. Substantial investment in manufacturing machinery ensures that the largest fast track projects can be handled effectively without compromise on quality.

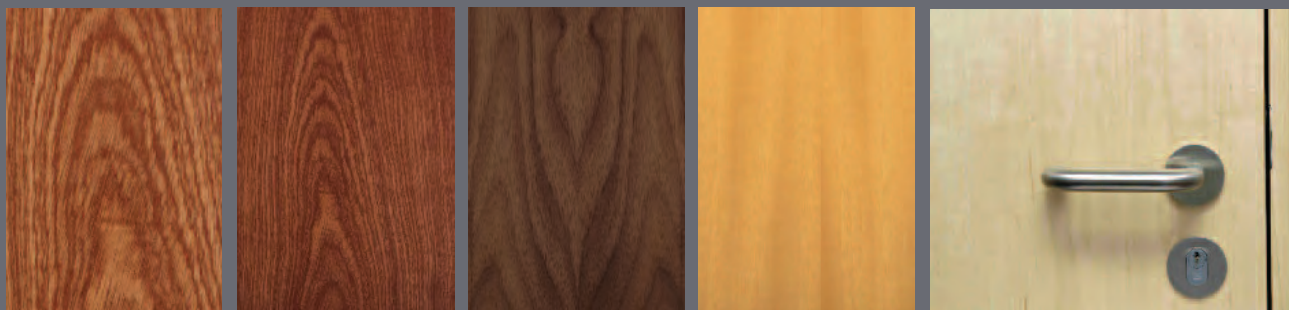
Virtually unlimited decorative styles and moods can be captured with veneered doors. An infinite variety of grain and figure pattern, colour and texture can create the most beautiful and distinguished environments.

Glass and laminate doors complete the portfolio.

The intricate art of applying veneer has been practised since the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs. Since then production methods may have changed but veneer is still widely sought after as a design material.

“unlimited decorative styles”

Cutting methods can produce different visual effects, from the multi patterned grain marking of a rotary cut, to the series of stripes created when applying quarter cut veneers. ●



An unprecedented range of products

All Komfort doors can be non fire rated, or fire rated for 30 minutes (FD30) and 60 minutes (FD60).

In keeping with Komfort’s commitment to rigorous product testing and compliance with health and safety, all doors are manufactured to BS EN 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort’s Doors please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com

Training Manager awarded MBE



Brian Pike of Komfort Workspace receives first MBE for the construction industry sector.

Brian Pike, Komfort's Training Manager was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Honours Birthday List. Brian was nominated for his MBE by the AIS, Association of Interior Specialists for his involvement over the last 21 years with the Partitioning Interiors Association (PIA) and now the AIS. Brian has served on various committees for both Associations including training committees, technical committees, CITB NVQ Industry Working Group and City & Guilds NVQ Working Group.

The British honours system is one of the oldest in the world. It has evolved over 650 years as a recognition of merit, gallantry and service.

An MBE is the Most Excellent order of the British Empire. The award is an order of chivalry that was established by King George V in 1917 to fill the gaps in the British Honours System. The honour is awarded by the King or Queen for a particular achievement and to people from all walks of life and society who have made a real difference to their community.

Honours lists are published twice a year; New Year and mid-June on the date of The Queen's official birthday. Brian Pike was awarded his Order for services to the construction industry. During the last twenty five years Brian's knowledge of UK and European building regulations has enabled him to detail technical developments within construction that has saved lives. Demountable partitions with enhanced structural, fire and acoustic performance characteristics have been developed that will increase escape time should a commercial building catch fire.

Brian's Order was also in recognition of the huge amount of time he has volunteered to make improvements in the construction industry and he is recognised as an ambassador for the commercial interiors industry.

Brian was stunned with the award; 'this is the first MBE for our sector of the construction industry so this is an incredible honour that I will always hold very dear'. ●



Komfort's national Training Academy is well under way



One of the Academy's training bays

Coming soon! Komfort Workspace Training Academy

Komfort Workspace has always been at the forefront of Technical Research and Design within the interior fit out market, our technical team are amongst the very best in the country with a combined value of some 140 years experience.

Taking this valuable asset one step further Komfort have developed a National Training Academy, to offer training in both classroom based and practical environments. The range of subjects will cover all Komfort Workspace's partitioning systems including our new expandable door frames, bi-panel systems and newly developed pre-cast plaster mouldings for the dry wall industry. In addition to this, the classroom based modules address many important facets of our industry from market awareness, the estimating and procurement fields, to fire, acoustic and structural certification requirements and guidance for compliance with British Standards and building regulations, concluding with actual build experience. The training content has been written and further developed by Brian Pike, a nationally recognised professional in his field, recently awarded an MBE for his services to the construction industry.

The purpose built Academy is based in Crawley, West Sussex and features a state of

the art classroom with interactive white board and projection facilities able to accommodate large groups of people at any one time, a private meeting room with a flat screen and laptop for smaller groups all in a bright, vibrant and air conditioned environment.

The practical training area consists of two purpose built training areas, emulating a typical office space with suspended ceilings and raised access floors. Within this area are further Visual Display facilities so that classroom based training modules can be followed up in the practical area, thus reinforcing the whole learning experience.

All training will be recorded and monitored and delegates receive certification as confirmation of their attendance and their investment in excellence.

Komfort Workspace will be developing their training offer further in the very near future to enable delegates to obtain modules towards their NVQ accreditation. ●

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort's Training Academy, please call **01403 390 390** or send your enquiries to training.academy@komfort.com



Product Portfolio

Stop Press... RIBA approved CPD Seminar and NBS Plus Clauses now available

Confluence Seamless Abutment Technology...

Confluence from Komfort is a new patented solution for gypsum wall endings.

Confluence is the perfect transition solution providing a precision interface between gypsum and glass walls.

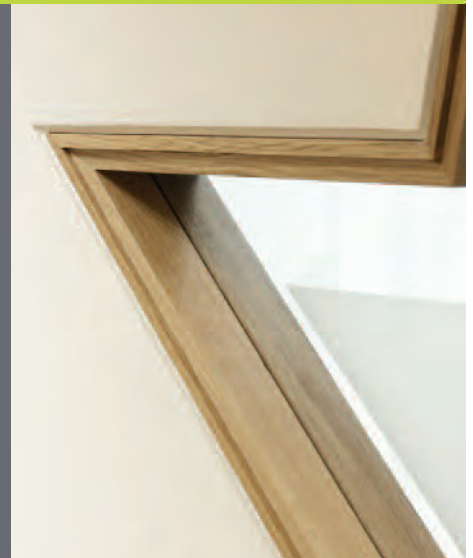
The crisp interface would be virtually impossible to create using traditional drywall trims. The patented profiles are seamless and eliminate the need for complicated and visually intrusive detailing. Confluence creates the perfect finish that many designers strive for.

“100% Natural”

Confluence is a pre-cast solid component that is 100% natural, made up of 85% Gypsum, 5% Glass, 5% Water and 5% Wooden Laths. Confluence abutments are a multitude of sections to fit 75, 100 and 125mm wall thickness.

The versatility is best demonstrated by the universal mid wall pocket that suits both ceilings and partitions.

One of the key features of Confluence is the speed of fixing as exceptional features can be created more efficiently, compared with traditional methods. ●



Now you see it... now you don't...

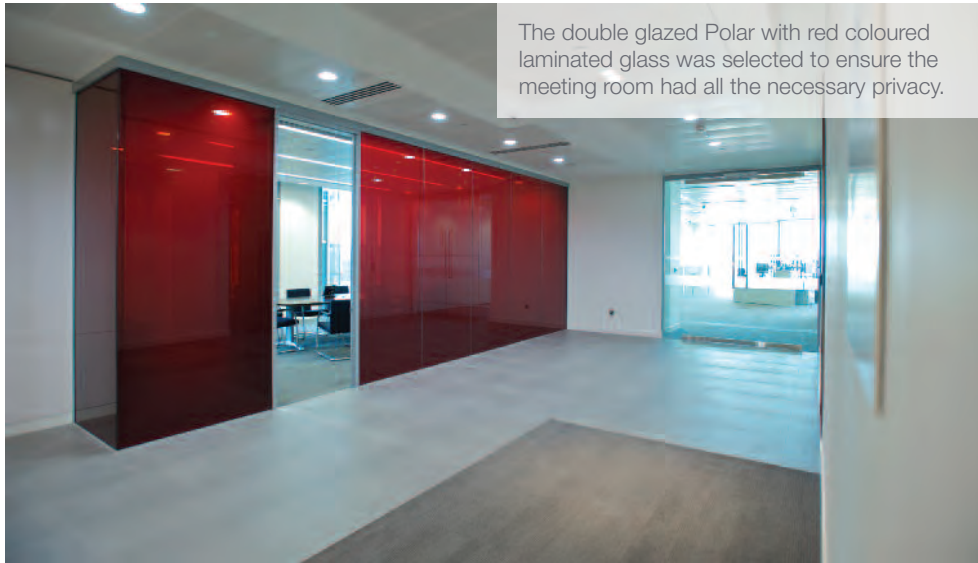
Technical spec at a glance:

- DIMENSIONS:** Upto 3000mm high
- FIRE RATINGS:** Upto 30/30
- ACOUSTICS:** Upto 46dB (Rw)
- STRUCTURE:** Contact our technical department
- DEFLECTION HEAD (+/-):** N/A
- WEIGHT:** Per m2 (kg): Solid up to 38.21, Glazed up to 55.33 (double glazed)
- BLINDS:** Yes – with double glazing
- MANIFESTATION:** Yes

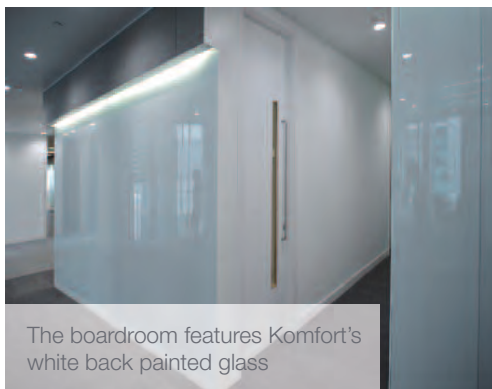
For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort's Confluence system, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com

Floating partitions



The double glazed Polar with red coloured laminated glass was selected to ensure the meeting room had all the necessary privacy.



The boardroom features Komfort's white back painted glass



MF Global signed to take 105,000 sq ft at Wafic Said's 5 Churchill Place in Canary Wharf, and in April this year the fit-out was complete.

MF Global's office space covers the ground and first to fourth floors. Architects MCM were selected to design the interior of the area, having specialised in interior design in commercial and public sector projects including Marks & Spencer and Barclays.

MCM has worked hard to ensure their business is conducted in a sustainable manner, and also advise their clients on the sustainable initiatives that are available through the design process. The UK economic climate now favours refurbishments as a cost-effective way of creating office space. Komfort's Ls90 was selected for the executive meeting rooms and VC suites as it has been engineered to accommodate future change, whether it is relocating an individual or entire suite of offices, for its acoustic performance and aesthetics.

With sustainability such an important issue, Ls90 has been designed for disassembly enabling components to be recovered from site at the end of their useful life and entered into the relevant industry's recycling programme.

Ls90 is the reusable bi-panel partition system for sustainable buildings. This bi-panel characteristic facilitates speed of build with quality-controlled factory prepared elements. Modules are interchangeable from glass to solid without disturbance to adjacent components. Its hung panel design, with recessed base and head incorporating $\pm 25\text{mm}$ deflection, creates a true floating panel effect with no visible framing on solid elements. Ls90's unique door frame, junctions and flush panel-to-panel elements enhance this minimal aesthetic.

"Ls90 is a partitioning system with impressive performance qualities, yet maintains the flexibility to allow specifiers to achieve innovative design"

For the bulk of the offices the architect chose a combination of single and double glazed Polar complete with two part deflection heads.

The most striking aspect of this project was the architect's clever use of colour on the deflection head detail and the glass combinations. The two parts of the deflection head were powder

coated white to match the ceiling colour and silver for the section that housed the glass. This created the impression of the partition floating below the ceiling and also minimising the aesthetic impact of the head channels.

The architect used individual coloured laminated glass on each floor to clearly differentiate each floor at a glance. The coloured glass creates a striking and vibrant working environment. The colours react differently to the lighting levels both natural and artificial, providing a constantly changing environment throughout the day. The use of coloured glass further enhances the privacy levels within the offices.

The standard of the quality of the partitioning and coloured glass is a real triumph for MCM Architects and Komfort. ●

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort's products, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com

Overall Project Architect: MCM Architects
Principle Contractor: Swift Refurbishments



Product Portfolio

Komfort KM³ Ingenious & Versatile

KM³ Storagewall divides space, provides high volume storage and is totally flexible. Its relocatability and optimisation of floor space endorses KM³ efficiency, cost-effectiveness and impressive storage capacity.

Not only does KM³ integrate with our partitioning ranges, it also divides offices by doubling as the partition wall. Occasionally it may be necessary to change the layout of an office to accommodate new working practice or changes in staffing levels. With KM³ this is a simple task.

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort's KM³ system, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com

The back panels are designed to be completely interchangeable with the doors and, if required, KM³ may be demounted and relocated to another area.

“Saves 30% space”

One of the most important benefits of KM³ is financial. With today's high rental costs, most organisations are seeking to optimise the use of floor space. KM³ provides an excellent solution to this dilemma by saving up to 30% of the space required. To enhance this saving further, tambour fronts are an excellent choice as they eradicate the open door footprint. KM³'s relocatability may also entitle the end-user to tax benefits. ●



KM³ provides space & flexibility

Technical spec at a glance:

PANEL FINISHES: Vinyl (back panels), MFC, Veneer and Steel Faced

TRIM FINISHES: Radius Edge Profile, Colourframe and Veneered

DOOR FINISHES: Veneer, Laminate or PVCu, MFC and Glass

FIRE PERFORMANCE: N/A

SOUND PERFORMANCE: Solid with tested cavity infill

SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION:

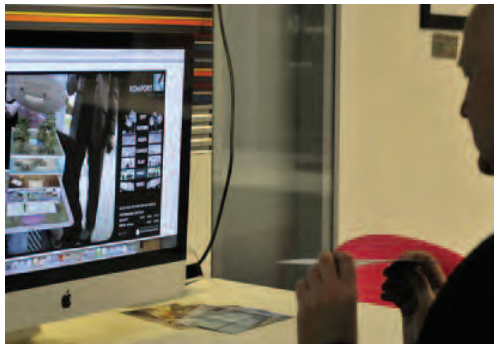
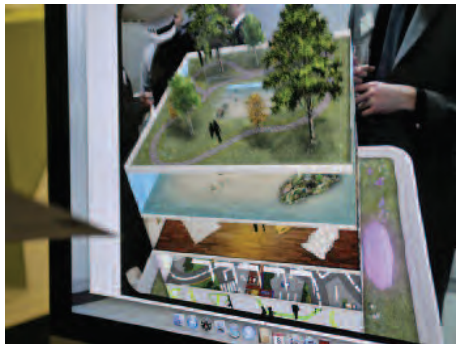
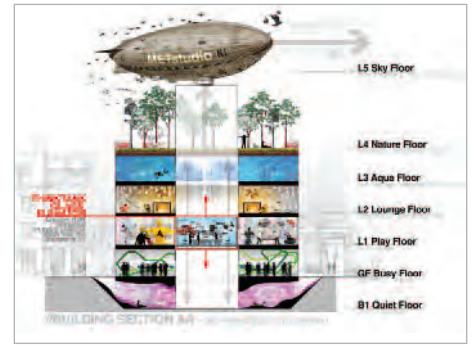
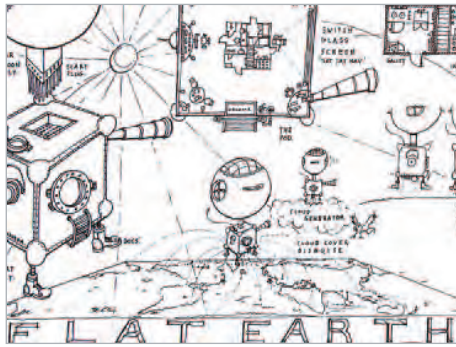
Nominal Thickness = 450mm,

Nominal Width = 1.2m max double

bay, Maximum Height = 3.25m

Augmented reality

How AR can help the architecture and design industry



120 entrance packs were requested, 40 entries were submitted, 14 entries were shortlisted, 380 invites were sent out and it all boiled down to Komfort's Augmented Reality (AR) Award Ceremony on Friday 8th April.

The competition was to design an area as your perfect workspace. This could have been anything from a loft space in the city or a rural idyll. We all have our own ideas.

The event was held at Komfort's London showroom in Bonhill Street and kicked off with canapés and a champagne reception.

Once everyone who had submitted an entry was through the door, along with Komfort's top clients and many important architects, everyone was able to view the shortlisted entries in their gallery like fashion, suspended from the ceiling.

The judges had a tough time as

"the standard of creativity was excellent and it was difficult to separate the top three"

stated Colin Watson of BCFA. Peter Karn of MET Studio snapped up first place with 'Gravitate'. Peter Karn's entry had a real ambience factor. The workspace allows you to travel between floors, spaces and environment according to your mood, i.e. L1 is the play floor and L4 is the Nature Floor.

As a designer, Peter felt that "every day people sit at the same desk looking at the same

space which can be very uninspiring" so it was important to come up with a design that "users can move through and work in the ambience that suits them at a specific time". There was also a surprise second place prize for Robert Eyles and his entry 'Time Capsule'.

'Augmented Reality is a term for a live, direct view of a physical, real-world environment'

The prize giving was followed by a speech from Justin Haylock; Komfort's Augmented Reality specialist who highlighted the importance of AR within the Architecture and Design industry.

AR cards were issued and once held up in front of the iMac's webcam's, the users could see the winning entry in its AR state.

Augmented Reality is a term for a live direct view of a physical, real-world environment. The elements of this view are augmented, or enhanced using a computer generated input; a webcam for example.

Drawings are created, and then formed into a marker, almost like a barcode, and when using hardware the marker turns into a 3D impression in real time.

Floor plans can be designed, and then markers positioned to create a real time depiction of the concept. This can be moved and rotated, casting shadows and representing real space, in essence the most spatially aware 3D model.

"Architecture, both internal and external, is one of the many professions that can benefit and grow with the development of virtual reality technologies"

A fantastic spread of food and drink was available throughout the night, and the quirky 'mini fish and chips' catered for everyone's needs.

The evening was a great success for Komfort and everyone who attended was able to mingle and network with key contacts, suppliers, architects and designers.

The award ceremony highlighted the importance of Augmented Reality in relation to Architecture and Design. Architecture, both internal and external, is one of the many professions that can benefit and grow with the development of virtual reality technologies.

A large scale image of the winning entry has been mounted in Komfort's London showroom. ●

To view the Peter Karn's winning aentry in AR please visit www.komfortcompetition.co.uk.

For more information

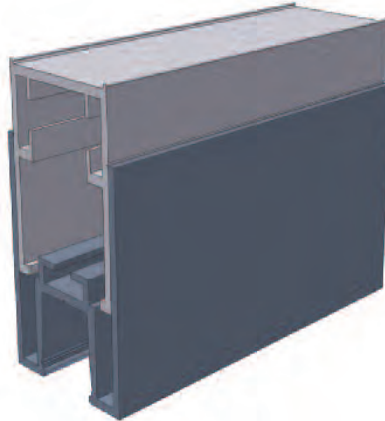
For more information please contact marketing@komfort.com or call 01403 390 300.

Polar developments - Coming soon

Polar Deflection Heads

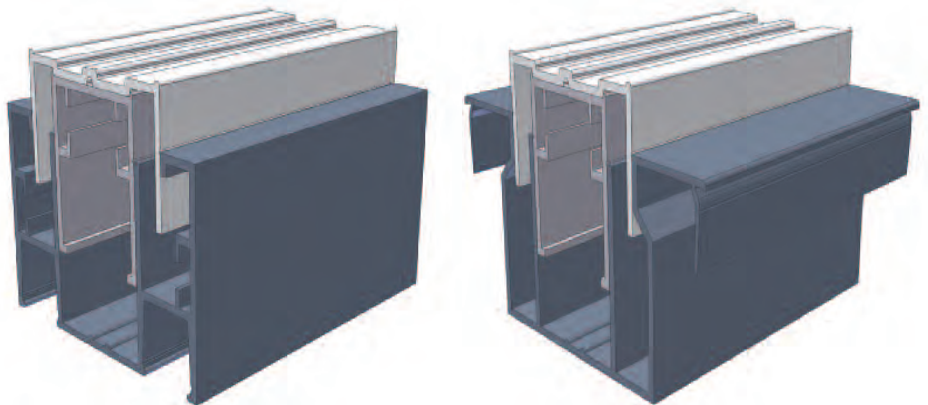
Two Part

- Single Glazed only
- Independent of Solid Walls
- Minimum Aesthetic lines
- Suite of standard designs utilising parts across range
- ± 15, 25, 42mm deflections
- Will accommodate up to 12.8mm glass as standard
- Dry gasket for relocatability
- Full height doors
- Cleated for build quality



Three Part

- Single & Double Glazed
- Solid and glazed walls common head channel
- 50mm stud double boarded upto 52dB
- 75mm stud single boarded upto 42dB
- 70mm stud single boarded upto 47dB
- Solid can be 1 or 3 part dependant on budget
- Cleated for build quality
- Full Height doors
- Dry gaskets
- ± 15, 25, 42mm deflections
- Confluence compatible (3 part)
- Single and double glazed
- 30/30 Fire rated

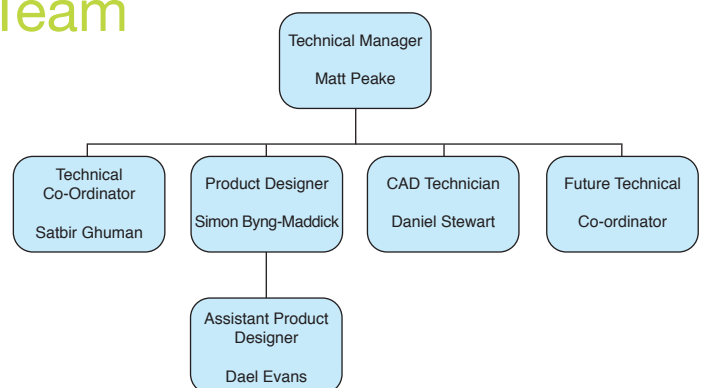


Newly expanded Technical Team

The role of the Technical Department is not only to provide technical support for our sales and contracting teams but also to pioneer new and innovative market relevant products and tools.

Following a review of the Technical Department and the function it performs for the business and the resource available, the diagram to the right demonstrates the structure of the department going forward and the names of the individuals within the department.

The roles performed by each member of the team shown, whilst not exhaustive, should enable you to direct your enquiries to the correct individual. ●



For more information
Please contact technical@komfort.com

Look out for >

KomFacts

KomFacts is the latest addition to the updates from the Technical Department for your convenience.

Issued on a bi-monthly basis, inserts will be sent to owners of the KomFact folder. These can be inserted into one of six categories.

KomFacts will cover all areas of the Komfort product range from acoustic properties to fire ratings. The A5 binder will also explain Komfort's certification system in depth, as well as the structural performance of all products, together with any added benefits.

Watch out for KomFacts, coming your way soon. ●



Request a copy

To request a copy send your name, address and phone number to marketing@komfort.com

Polar enhancements

Surveyors Boot Camp

We have already seen the benefit of the boot camp with instances of miss measures reducing significantly saving both time and money and improving the overall client experience.

The surveyor's boot camp has proven to be a great success with all surveyors and project managers now issued with a standard surveying tool kit including a detailed manual covering all systems and applications. The surveyors manual will continue to be developed as new partitioning systems are introduced ensuring the benefits gained from adopting standard methods of surveying are continuously developed. ●



New Enhanced Komfort Laminated Glass

(6.4, 6.8 & 7.5mm)

Komfort is pleased to announce with immediate effect that there will be an enhancement to the composition of the 6.4, 6.8 and 7.5mm clear laminated glass that we supply.

To date these glass thicknesses have comprised two layers of 3mm clear float glass laminated together with the relevant interlayer to achieve the overall thickness. The new laminated glass will now comprise two layers of Pilkingtons Optiwhite E and the same interlayers.

This is good news because the product has the characteristic of a clearer appearance desired by specifiers and occupiers alike that has hitherto only been available at a premium. Komfort are pleased to offer this product at the same price as the old float based product.

All of the mechanical and acoustic properties of the new laminated product remain unchanged from the previous glass. There are enhanced light and solar transmittance properties over the standard product and the U value remains the same.

Q. What does this mean in practice?

A. The Optiwhite or low iron glass comes into its own when you have multiple glazed runs in parallel. The characteristic 'green tint' inherent in float glass means that looking through a number of runs soon results in a loss of visibility. This effect is minimised when Optiwhite is used due to its greater clarity.

Q. Will it match my existing glass?

A. The vast majority of single and double glazed partition installations when viewed perpendicular to the run will be indistinguishable from the old product. Where multiple offices in parallel are installed to match existing layouts you will notice that the transparency is enhanced.

Q. What are the benefits?

A. When offices are installed around the perimeter of a building the light transference into the inner offices will be improved, thereby improving the working environment.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your local Komfort expert who will be delighted to discuss your requirements.●

For more information

If you would like more information about Komfort's Glass, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com



SwitchGlass Plus

Komfort's new SwitchGlass Plus is a groundbreaking product that enables instant and precise privacy control of glass at the flick of a switch.

The high quality bespoke 11.8mm laminated glass changes from opaque to transparent when a low electrical current is applied to the liquid crystal interlayer encapsulated between two 5mm glass sheets. This visual change takes place in less than a second and allows domestic or commercial property owners a choice from crystal clear vision or complete privacy whenever necessary. Komfort's SwitchGlass Plus can be used for internal partitioning and for doors in office buildings where privacy control is important.

For more information

If you would like more information on Komfort's SwitchGlass system, please visit www.komfort.com or send your enquiries to marketing@komfort.com

Architects and designers can use this product to create minimalistic interiors without the need for blinds. Dramatic design statements can be created for reception areas or locations where a high impact impression is needed. In areas such as hospitals, SwitchGlass Plus can enhance hygiene measures and expel the need for curtains or blinds. With no height restrictions the versatility of this product is endless.

SwitchGlass Plus can also be used as a High Definition rear or front projection screen making it ideal in the boardroom environment.

SwitchGlass Plus joins Komfort's already successful face applied SwitchGlass. ●



Technical spec at a glance:

FILM CONSTRUCTION:

PET film containing LCD

FILM THICKNESS:

574µ (construction)

OPACITY LEVEL (HAZE):

5% when power is ON

ASTM D 1003

90% when the power is OFF

LUMINOUS TRANSMITTANCE:

76% when power is ON

ASTM D 1003

48% when power is OFF

SOLAR FACTOR:

around 64 % in both ON/OFF

K VALUE (W/M²)

5.6 – 5.8 in both ON/OFF

LIGHT REFLEXION:

19% when power is ON

18% when power is OFF

VIEWING ANGLE:

When in opaque state, can be used as a projection screen with a viewing angle of 160°

New to the Komfort mix

Komfort is a proud sponsor of the 2011 Mixology Summer Ball

The prestigious Mix Interiors awards are given to the ground breakers and boundary pushers of the commercial interiors sector recognising the most influential people and companies.

Komfort sponsored the Small or Medium Commercial Interiors Project of the Year award.

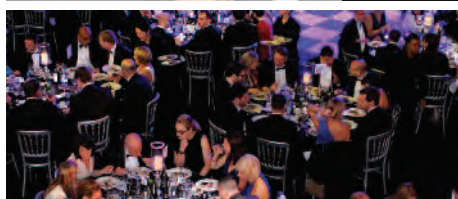
The award was for projects of less than 100,000 sq ft and recognises the highest standards of architecture and design which support an organisation's business objectives.

Mix's independent panel of judges assessed the design on the basis of improved productivity, supports HR attraction and retention strategies, rationalises real estate, is environmentally friendly and ultimately makes a beneficial impact on the bottom line.

The summer ball and award ceremony was held on the 8th June in Old Billingsgate and the Komfort sponsored award went to The Interiors Group for their project Stone Harbor. The project was in association with Interni Design Studio. ●



Komfort's Commercial Director Clive Perry presents award



For more information

For more information about sponsorship or any other events, please contact **Komfort's Marketing Department** on 01403 390 300 or email marketing@komfort.com.



Komfort's Architects Forum

Architects Forum

The first ever Komfort Architects Forum took place in the London Showroom in Bonhill Street in early June.

Ten of Komfort's top architects were invited to the meeting, including clients from Bisset Adams, B & R Architects, LOM Architecture and Design and BDG Work Futures.

The event was designed to gather opinions from key architects on new product development ideas, their perception of Komfort, what they thought of future marketing campaigns and to develop the relationships between Komfort and our architects.

Discussion points for participants covered topics such as deflection heads, Komfort's Ls90, Komfort's Confluence and Komfort's Workwall.

Following the meeting, participants moved to Gordon Ramsay's private dining room in The Savoy Hotel.

The Architects Forum was a great success and the quality of the feedback was extremely encouraging. ●

The AIS President's Lunch

The AIS, Association of Interior Specialists recently held its annual President's Lunch in the Dorchester Hotel in London.

The AIS President's Lunch was attended by some 470 members and guests include captains of the construction industry and senior members of the architectural and interior design community. The event provides the Association with the opportunity to raise its profile and present its message to the industry.

Komfort was the Gold Sponsor of the event and had two tables. Twenty five people in total represented Komfort at the event, 15 members of staff and contractors and architects.

The winners of the 2011 Contractors Awards were presented by guest speaker Terry Alderton and Cyril Reddan, Managing Director at B+R Architects. ●

Maximising space

How Ls90 can help you

When it comes to selecting partitioning systems for your commercial space, the final decision will usually come down to two factors, flexibility and cost. Flexibility is vital in any commercial space to ensure the area can keep up with the ever changing demands of the business. Also in this current climate, cost is at the forefront of every business mind.

A case in 1958 involving shipping agents in Hull set the precedent for the tax benefits that businesses enjoy today for relocatable partitioning. John Good & Sons had a decision overturned at the Court of Appeal having originally been denied any tax relief for its expenditure on partitioning. The original inspectors view was that the partitioning was part of their building and therefore did not qualify for any tax allowances. The shipping agents however argued that they had specifically asked the architects to ensure that the interior of their new offices was flexible enough to allow for alteration in their ever changing business environment. As a result, the partitioning selected consisted of hardboard inserted into metal ribs screwed into the floor and ceilings. So the partitioning was relatively easy to relocate.

It was concluded that the partitioning intended to be relocatable to meet the needs of an ever changing environment and tax allowances were therefore due. The court's conclusion for this appeal is the basis for today's allowances. Changes in the 2007 budget meant that business owners should be even more receptive to relocatable partitioning than ever before.

Having established that the expenditure is allowable, the new annual investment allowance (AIA) introduced with the Finance Act 2008 comes into play. The AIA provides 100% relief on the first £100,000 worth of qualifying expenditure after 6 April 2010 and thus increases the amount of relief immediately available to business owners.

Any qualifying expenditure above £100,000 then attracts a 20% writing down allowance (WDA). It should be noted that the annual investment allowance is 100% of the first £100,000 expenditure on all plant in a given accounting period and that a group of companies will only receive one allowance of £100,000 across the group. All the same, it is an allowance worth having.

If the partitions are not movable they are considered to be part of the building and no tax relief is available. The availability of the

100% annual allowance and 20% writing down allowance means that 91% of expenditure will attract tax relief after the first six years. The writing down allowances will continue in future years on the ever decreasing annual balances.

As well as the added tax benefits, a huge advantage of any demountable wall system is its flexibility. When changes need to be made to any space, it's far less expensive to move demountable walls than to tear down and rebuild drywall offices. Komfort's Ls90 system is the reusable bi-panel partition system for sustainable buildings.

This bi-panel characteristic facilitates speed of build with quality-controlled factory prepared elements. Modules are interchangeable from glass to solid without disturbance to adjacent components. Demountable wall construction will save three to four weeks on a schedule.

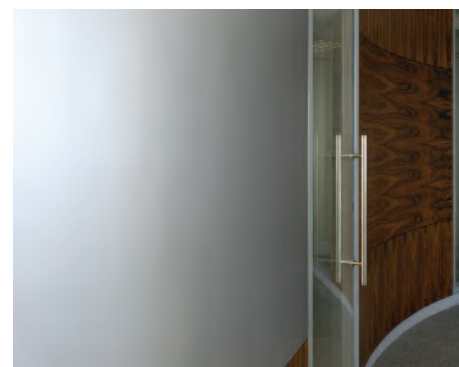
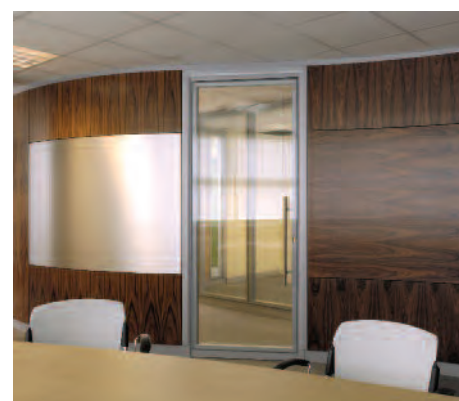
A third major benefit from movable partitioning is in its relocation costs. In comparison to the use of drylining, any added cost from movable partitioning will be offset in any first move. Firstly, unlike drywall, which requires taping, joint treatment and the application of paint or wall-covering, movable partitions are pre-finished. Therefore movable partitions can be relocated very quickly.

With sustainability such an important issue, Ls90 has been designed for disassembly enabling components to be recovered from site at the end of their useful life and entered into the relevant industry's recycling programme. There is little waste in comparison to tearing down drylining walls.

Ls90 has been engineered to accommodate future change, whether it is relocating an individual or entire suite of offices, to simply upgrading a boardroom for improved acoustic performance. It is a partitioning system, which has impressive performance qualities, yet maintains the flexibility to allow specifiers to achieve innovative design.

Demountable wall systems allow for design options that blend in effectively with the open office environment. Ls90's hung panel design, with recessed base and head incorporating ± 25mm deflection, creates a true floating panel effect with no visible framing on solid elements. Ls90's unique doorframe, junctions and flush panel-to-panel elements enhance this minimal aesthetic.

New office plan terms such as "flex space" have now become part of office culture. Now, more than ever, there is a demand to use construction products that allow the construction to fit the design needs as opposed to limiting the design to try to fit the process. ●



Demountable partitions in brief

Up to 70% faster installation and reconfiguration times

Movable walls are 100% reusable

Minimal waste in comparison to tearing down drylining and rebuilding it

A much higher tax benefit due to an accelerated depreciation schedule

Variety of door, panel and glass options for acoustical and visual privacy

Sliding door options reduce footprint, maximise space utilisation

Demountable partitioning means that any space can be redesigned and rebuilt three to four weeks quicker in comparison to traditional building techniques

Key contacts

Accounts

Komfort's Accounts Department will assist you with any accounting issues including payments and invoices.

If you have any accounts queries, please contact the Accounts Department.

email: accounts@komfort.com

Estimating

Komfort's estimating Department price up all tender enquiries.

If you have any estimating queries, please contact the Estimating Department.

email: estimating@komfort.com

Technical

The Technical Department develops and designs all new products, as well as product testing and certification.

If you have any technical queries, please contact the Technical Department.

email: technical@komfort.com

Customer Services

The Customer Services Department has been introduced to help solve any issues you may have with Komfort's products or services.

If you have any customer service queries, please contact the Customer Services Department.

email: tech-help@komfort.com

Marketing

Komfort's Marketing Department handles all media issues including advertising, PR and brochure requests.

If you have any marketing queries, please contact the Marketing Department.

email: marketing@komfort.com

General

For all other queries, please email: **enquiries@komfort.com** or **general@komfort.com**



Technical Helpline

Komfort has a long standing commitment to the provision of technical expertise within our staff base both in-house and on site across the UK, providing solutions and guidance across all sectors of the Specialist Interior Fit Out market.

From the research and development of new and exciting products through to fully tested and certified partition systems, we have the technical knowledge and skills to assist and complement your operation in order that together, we can continue to push and explore the infinite possibilities and opportunities of the future.

Taking this initiative one step further, Komfort Workspace has introduced a new Technical Helpline in addition to our existing Technical Departments. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding any technical aspect of our products you can rest assured that we are here to help you.

Our Helpline staff are knowledgeable and helpful, with full access to our Technical libraries, solutions, research data and experience.

If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the Komfort service, please call our dedicated helpline on **01403 390 390** or email **tech-help@komfort.com**. ●

Love the space you're in.



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Scan the QR code to automatically download Komfort's Head Office contact details direct to your smart device. To download a QR scanner visit the relevant app store to correspond with your device.

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