

FILON®

roofscape

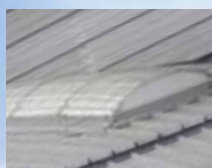
Your regular update from the leader in GRP building products

NEW
products
Inside

Daylight

light

Winning ways with an abundant natural resource



Daylight – a sustainable resource for healthier internal environments

More innovative new products and applications

FILON receives nomination for Constructing Excellence Awards

New Fixsafe Training Scheme is a life saver

Welcome to **roofscape**



*Here we go again!.. once more I have the pleasing task of editing another issue of **Roofscape**. When we first started producing **Roofscape** it was very much a 'suck it and see' concept. Today, nearly four years later it's going from strength to strength and from the great feedback we get, it has proved to be a very successful and popular way for us to keep you up to date with our latest news and innovations. Over the last few issues, we've highlighted the diversity of our range, with features on new products, including flat roofing, cladding, over-roofing, GRP sheets for passively safe road signs and more... In this issue, we're focussing attention on innovation in one of our core business areas: rooflights. In recent years we have introduced many important advances in rooflight design, from our Supasafe non-fragile in-plane rooflights to factory assembled insulating rooflights (FAIRS) and more recently our Finesse polycarbonate rooflight system. Our new Fixsafe system is also revolutionising rooflight and roof sheet refurbishment, by eliminating the need for operatives to access fragile roof areas. I'm proud of the fact that at **FILON**, we never rest on our laurels. We constantly strive to bring new, more effective, safer products to the marketplace. You'll see further evidence in this issue, with our new Fastlock system. As I've said before, at **FILON**, we don't just talk about it. We do it! Enjoy the read...*

David Hathaway F.I.o.R.
Director of Sales, **FILON** Products

In this issue:

DAYLIGHT – A SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FOR HEALTHIER INTERNAL ENVIRONMENTS	P3
FASTLOCK – THE VERSATILE NEW CANOPY SYSTEM	P4
ROOFLIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS!	P5
NEW LIGHT 'N' SHADE – AN OPEN & SHUT CASE	P5
FILON GETS LEADING POLITICIAN'S VOTE!	P6
MONARCH F ROOFLIGHTS FOR CURVED ROOF	P6
FILON ROOFLIGHTS MEET DIVERSE REQUIREMENTS ON FACTORY ROOF	P6
THUMBS UP FOR FIXSAFE FROM ANOTHER LEADING CONTRACTOR	P7
GRP CLADDING FOR HARSH ENVIRONMENTS	P8
OVER-ROOFING – THE REFURB PROBLEM SOLVER WINS AGAIN	P8
THE 2010 ROOFING TECHNOLOGY AND SAFETY SHOW	P8

FILON's GRP recycling nominated for top award

FILON Products' GRP recycling initiative has received a nomination for the forthcoming Constructing Excellence Awards which are to be held on April 30th 2010 at the ICC venue in the centre of Birmingham.

Ron Allen, **FILON**'s Managing Director, said: "We are particularly pleased about this recognition, as we've been working on a viable solution for recycling GRP for a number of years. Many people in the industry believed that the hardness and abrasiveness of GRP meant that a cost-effective recycling solution was impossible – but we persevered and proved them wrong!"

FILON's recycling plant has been operational for over a year now, recycling waste from production which would otherwise have gone to landfill. The fine powder produced by the plant is utilised in the manufacture of **FILON** products.

Almost one hundred percent of **FILON**'s GRP production waste can be recycled, as any contaminated waste that cannot

be processed for manufacturing can be reduced to small chunks that can be used as fill or encapsulated in cement to provide a very resilient concrete mix.

"Our next initiative will be to offer a recycling service for GRP material at the end of its working lifecycle", said Mr. Allen. He continued: "This will further reduce pressure on landfill and should prove a relatively cost-effective source of raw material".

FILON's recycling initiative is one of only three nominees in the Sustainability category of the awards, so Mr. Allen and his team have high hopes of gaining the award. He concluded: "To have received the nomination is a great recognition of our contribution to sustainability, but to get the award would be the icing on the cake". ♦



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Daylight – a sustainable natural resource for healthier internal environments

A recently published article by David Hathaway F.I.o.R., Director of Sales at Filon Products Ltd provides food for thought for today's designers...

The Sun is believed to be about 4.57 billion years old. Current thinking is that the Sun is becoming more luminous and that its surface temperature is slowly rising. The expected increase in solar temperature is such that in about a billion years, the surface of the Earth will become too hot for liquid water to exist, ending life as we know it.

Thankfully, until then we have a reliable, completely free and sustainable source of light and heat. In these times of rising energy costs and shortages of natural resources, the Sun offers us a solution and the use of daylighting in our built environments has become even more desirable.

Daylight has influenced building design since the beginning of architectural history. Fully developed solar architecture and urban planning methods were first employed by the Greeks and Chinese who oriented their buildings toward the south to provide light and warmth.

We can also see the influence of the Sun as a lighting and heating source in early English architecture. Traditional Devon Longhouses were built to face the Sun with windows only on the South facing elevation and no windows at all on the North elevation. This allowed maximum

lighting into the house and the solar gain that was achieved was kept in the building due to its Cobb wall construction and thatched roof. With no windows on the North elevation, the cold winds were kept out, eliminating a lot of draughts and thereby achieving pretty good living conditions for the period.

The appearance of rooflighting is a relatively recent occurrence in our architectural history. Yet flip the pages of any architectural journal or view any city or urban area from above today and it will quickly become apparent that lighting from above is now an important aspect of our architectural legacy. Most modern public, commercial and industrial buildings feature roof lighting and domestic roofscapes are often peppered with rooflights. This was not always the case. With the development of durable light transmitting materials, rooflighting has gone from non-existence to ubiquity in the span of about 300 years in Britain and throughout Europe

Architecture that is Sun orientated, that is tailored to the local climate and environment, can produce well-lit spaces that stay in a comfortable temperature range. By combining the use of daylight with artificial lighting, practical solutions can be achieved, with significant savings in energy.

The use of natural light also offers physiological and psychological benefits compared to artificial lighting. Recent articles in the national daily press confirm this. One noted that elderly nursing home residents who were exposed to about nine hours of daylight saw their rate of mental decline slow at a rate comparable with those using prescribed drugs. It is estimated that Dementia affects 750,000

people in Britain alone and that this is expected to double in the next 40 years.

Another report states that millions of office workers see as little sunshine as coal miners and that the majority of deskbound employees spend less than an hour a day in sunlight. This lack of sunshine has left 66 per cent feeling depressed and 80 per cent feeling unmotivated.

A similar effect has been reported in schools and colleges, where there is a clear correlation between classrooms with good natural light and improved student performance. Potentially dramatic gains in productivity could be achieved by simply creating buildings with higher levels of natural light.

Daylight is good for retail business, too. Research into retail environments suggests that in many situations, sales tend to be better in naturally lit locations; colours are more vivid and true, making goods appear attractive and encouraging customers to spend more time in these areas. A number of the UK's leading retail organisations include large areas of rooflights in specifications for all new build projects to ensure a high percentage of evenly distributed natural light within the interior.

In conclusion, designers should be encouraged to use daylight, a free and natural source of energy and light, to its utmost benefit - not only to conserve dwindling energy resources, but also to provide the benefits of natural light to all of us who spend significant time indoors.

For the most up to date information on daylighting and for technical information visit www.filon.co.uk. ♦



FILON practices what it preaches: rooflights in the FILON factory provide a pleasant and healthy working environment



FILON rooflights bring natural light into London's Business Design Centre

“there is a clear correlation between high levels of natural light and improved performance in the workplace”

Versatile Fastlock polycarbonate canopy system

FILON's new Fastlock canopy glazing system is available now, to meet a wide variety of application requirements.

Manufactured from hardwearing injection moulded single-skin polycarbonate, Fastlock panels simply click together to span any width. The flexibility of the panels also allows curved structures to be easily fabricated, with curved radii down to 1.5m.

A simple fixing system allows quick and easy installation and also has long-term benefits in terms of durability. Installations are capable of withstanding wind speeds in excess of 120kph".

Fastlock panels were used to provide an attractive pool-side canopy for swimmers at a community swimming pool in Devon.

In this application, transparent and white Fastlock panels have been curved over a Douglas Fir and Larch 'Blau Shelter' framework supplied by Timber Design. They were fixed using an innovative

invisible fixing system that removes the need for screws and holes, thereby preventing leaks.

The exceptional UV protection offered by Fastlock was another important consideration – as well as the ability to mix white and clear panels without jointing strips. This enhanced the visual appearance of the structure and provided a choice of shaded and un-shaded areas by the poolside.

Cameron Scott of Timber Design Ltd, who worked on the site with members of the community to install the structure, said: "We specified the Fastlock panels due to their aesthetics, efficiency of installation and ability to curve." He continued: "We needed a clear line of sight from the kiosk and upper level to the pool for safety. This meant that the roof had to start quite high up but we were keen to avoid having a correspondingly high roof ridge. By opting for a curved roof, we were able to keep the ridge height low but it was Fastlock that made the curved roof possible."

At Willesborough School in Kent, Ross Gandon of Orchard Priory Ltd. selected Fastlock Panels for their wide span capability, ease of installation and versatile aesthetics. The special coloured sheets used on this project gave the play area a warm glow as well as creating an exciting environment. The entire canopy installation took just one week to complete, with the Fastlock panels being installed in just a day and a half.

Fastlock panels are manufactured from UV protected polycarbonate, giving excellent protection against weathering for long service life. The hard wearing surfaces are designed to withstand rain, hail storms and heavy snowfall without being damaged.

The flexibility of Fastlock's interlocking panel system makes it suitable for an extremely wide range of applications, including unusual or unconventional structures. ♦



Canopy at Willesborough School, Kent, by Orchard Priory Ltd.



Vehicle shelter, Austria



Fastlock panels are mounted to Timber Design's Blau Shelter structure to form the canopy at Chudleigh's Community Swimming Pool, Devon

Kent school gets rooflights for Christmas

Towards the end of 2009, FILON Products was approached by Chris Cachrimanis of Cristo Cladding Ltd with regards to supplying large 4m span barrel vault rooflights for a school in Kent.

Chris had seen information on FILON's rooflights in a previous issue of Roofscape and thought that the system would be ideal for the project.

A key factor was the requirement to complete the installation within a very tight time frame. Cristo Cladding needed to have the rooflights installed, ready for the final waterproofing work to be carried out during the Christmas break, to avoid any disruption to

the school term.

David Hathaway of FILON Products presented details of the system to Chris Cachrimanis, after which the order was placed.

The rooflights were delivered to site on time and the installation was carried out on schedule, to the client's satisfaction.

Installation operatives from Cristo Cladding commented that the system was well made and very simple to install. All in all a great performance from FILON and Cristo Cladding to give everybody involved in the project a very happy Christmas!

For further information, please visit www.cristocladding.co.uk/ ♦



New Light 'n' Shade: an open and shut case!

Light n Shade is an innovative new opening and closing louvred roof system designed to provide natural light and ventilation with the louvres open, or shade and weather protection with them closed.

Supplied by FILON Products working in partnership with Gilkicker Limited, the system is manufactured from either polycarbonate or powder coated aluminium.

The louvres can be adjusted from 0° (the fully closed position) to 90° (the fully open position) by a simple hand held mechanism or by electric motor with or without rain or sun sensors, controlling the level of sunlight-shading and ventilation.

When the louvres are completely closed they form an interlocking profile that provides protection from sun, rain and wind.

Aluminium support beams are pre-assembled with the opening/closing mechanism already fitted while the polycarbonate or aluminium louvres are simple to fit on site to provide the weather protective outer surface

The polycarbonate louvres are available in a variety of colours while the powder coated aluminium louvres are available in any standard RAL colour.

For further information, please visit www.gilkicker.org.uk ♦



Michael Fabricant (right) inspects GRP rooflights at the FILON factory with Ron Allen, FILON's Managing Director.

FILON gets leading politician's vote!

Michael Fabricant, prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Conservatives for Lichfield in Staffordshire, recently took time out from his busy schedule to visit FILON's Burntwood factory.

FILON employs over fifty people in Michael's constituency and the company plays an active role in the midlands business community.

Following a tour of the factory, including the manufacturing line as well as FILON's revolutionary GRP recycling plant, Michael commented that the company's recent initiatives and innovations are a good example of 'private enterprise at its best'.

He was also shown FILON's ingenious Fixsafe system which is saving lives amongst Britain's roofing operatives by allowing roof sheets to be replaced without accessing fragile roof areas.

Ron Allen, FILON's Managing Director, said: "We're delighted that Michael has shown such an interest in the company. Coming from an engineering background, he was very interested in our operations here and we had some very constructive discussions regarding support for the UK's manufacturing industries.

The factory tour and meeting were also attended by Simon Storer, Commercial and External Affairs Director of the CPA (Construction Products Association) and Chris Pearce, immediate past Chairman of NARM (the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers). ♦

Monarch F rooflights for curved roof

FILON's Monarch F barrel vault rooflights were the ideal solution for a curved standing seam roof structure on a new build project in Worcestershire.

Monarch F rooflights feature highly robust and temperature-resistant GRP glazing elements. They can accommodate curved roofs with greater than 25m radius.

Like other FILON GRP rooflights, they provide excellent light diffusion characteristics to give even light distribution with minimal glare or shadows.

Monarch F rooflights are available in four different widths up to 1200mm and can be specified with a 'Supasafe' GRP top sheet to provide full compliance with CDM regulations. ♦



FILON rooflights meet diverse requirements on factory roof

FILON's triple skin in-plane GRP rooflights were installed on this Staffordshire factory to meet stringent requirements in the specification.

The first factor was the quality of light inside the building. FILON GRP rooflights provide even, diffused light that's ideal for working environments.

The specification also called for the

outer glazing skin to be supplied in FILON's high strength 'Supasafe' sheeting, to ensure compliance with CDM regulations.

Compliance with current Part L Building Regulations was achieved using triple skin construction units.

FILON GRP rooflights are available in over 900 different profiles to allow direct replacement of virtually any existing rooflight. The unique

formulation of FILON's GRP sheet incorporates special light diffusing additives which scatter light passing through. This is particularly important when specifying chequer board or strip rooflighting to ensure effective light distribution with reduced glare and shadows. ♦



Thumbs-up for Fixsafe from another leading contractor

Following a safety seminar presented by David Hathaway of FILON Products at a N.F.R.C. (National Federation of Roofing Contractors) Health & Safety Group meeting, FILON was contacted by Ralph Bennett of Health & Safety Management Ltd. with regards to a contract that one of his clients was carrying out in Yorkshire.

The project involved removing a number of chimneys as well as replacing rooflights.

Having attended the FILON seminar, Mr. Bennett advised Chris Hopkins, Managing Director of Ploughcroft Roofing, to contact FILON Products to look into the company's Fixsafe system.

Ploughcroft Roofing is renowned for the quality of its workmanship and excellent Health & Safety record. The company has its own training facility where seminars are presented on many aspects of roofing, including Health and Safety. This being the case, Mr. Hopkins was keen to contact FILON Products to learn more about Fixsafe.

Following initial contact between the two companies, a team from

FILON visited the site, and presented proposals detailing the safe installation of the new rooflights and roofing sheets, using Fixsafe. This innovative installation system enables the work to be carried out entirely from underneath the roof, with no need for operatives to access dangerous fragile roof areas.

In the first phase of the contract, an extremely large cherry picker was used externally, to cut the chimneys down to size prior to removal from the underside of the roof. The apertures left in the roof following removal of the chimneys were covered using FILON GRP roof sheets, installed from beneath, using the Fixsafe system. It became evident that this not only improved safety but also made significant time and cost savings compared to conventional installation methods.

With this first phase of the work being carried out so successfully, it was then decided to replace the remainder of the rooflights, in total over 200, using the Fixsafe system. With over 15 rooflights being safely replaced per day from the underside by four men, the project was completed within the timescale and well within budget.

Chris Hopkins commented: "The Fixsafe system is a real life saver, as well as being very cost-effective. It gave me great pleasure that my operatives were able to work safely without having to risk working at height over fragile roofs. *I was so pleased with the system that we are now setting up our own training sessions for other companies*, to take on board this innovative system which will contribute greatly to saving lives in our industry."

Les Williams, FILON's Research and Development Manager, summed up: "I'm really pleased to see that the system is being so well received. It's proving to be a genuinely practical way for roofing contractors to protect their workforces from the risks associated with working at height on fragile roofs. The fact that Fixsafe makes installation quicker and easier as well as safer, means that as the word gets round, even the less scrupulous contractors out there will never be tempted to cut corners on safety."

For information on Ploughcroft Roofing's training programs, visit ploughcroft-roofing-training.co.uk ♦



"By allowing roof sheet replacement entirely from below, Fixsafe makes installation quicker and easier as well as safer"

V-Flow DF dry-fix valley troughs

FILON has been producing GRP (Glass Reinforced Polyester) products for over 50 years and was involved in the initial designs as well as producing the first GRP valley gutters for the UK market using the pultrusion method in the 1980s.

FILON valley troughs are produced for a number of UK and European companies and are sold via selected distributors.

FILON's V-Flow DF valley troughs incorporate a percentage of recycled GRP which has been ground down to a powder for use in this process. FILON's innovative re-cycling plant for GRP (the first in the UK) puts FILON in the lead in recycling and re-use of GRP waste.

It is envisaged that in the very near future all FILON GRP products will

be able to be returned at end of life for recycling.

The initial V-Flow design was introduced in the 1990's but traditional methods prevailed for a number of years. More recently, the industry has endorsed dry-fix systems across a range of different materials that have been developed to eliminate the problems associated with the use of cement mortar.

The V-Flow DF valley trough range can be used with tiles and slate roof materials and allows for even the deepest tile profile to be used.

FILON V-Flow DF valley troughs have a minimum life expectancy of 20 years. Many FILON GRP products which use the same technology as the V-Flow range achieve working lifespans in excess of 30 years or more. ♦



Over-roofing: the refurb problem solver wins again!

This over-roofing project on a small distribution unit in Bristol, showed the versatility of the FILON system.

The building was over-roofed without affecting the adjoining property – whilst the occupants carried out their day to day business.

FILON over-roofing was chosen due to its light weight, durability and its ability to incorporate insulation.

FILON's unique patented profix spacers allow for either fibreglass

quilt (up to 100mm thick) or Kontrol Multi-foil insulation to be incorporated. Kontrol's new Multi-foils now give a Class 0 fire rating and allow the building owners to fully comply with the current Part L Regulations in relation to thermal transmissions.

FILON is able to match nearly all old asbestos profiles that have been used in the past and the over-roofing system encapsulates the existing roof structure, thereby avoiding the need to replace the old roof – with all the associated costs and environmental issues that roof replacement raises. ♦

Join us at the 2010 Roofing Technology and Safety Show

At the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire on the 17th June 2010

Long established Hertfordshire based roofing contractor, Letchworth Roofing is bringing together an impressive list of suppliers for an event that should appeal to a broad range of visitors, Contributors to the show include Sarnafil, Radmat Building Products, Kingspan Insulated Panels, FILON Products, Ampteam, and Rockwool.

The format for the day will be based around a series of CPD seminars focusing mainly on the refurbishment market, but also offering advice on new products, services and solutions including environmental and green issues, photovoltaic surfaces, insulation and living roofs.

Seminars will also discuss health and safety issues when working at height – as well as how refurbishment projects and extensions will be governed in the future.

Further details of this event can be obtained from Jane Watson on 01462 755751 or jane.watson@letchworthroofing.co.uk



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