



The looking glass

A GLIMPSE THROUGH THE WINDOW AT PENINSULA

NEWSLETTER / SPRING

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Inside this edition

- 2-3 40th Birthday Celebrations
- 4 Continuous Professional Development
- 5 Showroom
- 6-7 Case Study
- 8-9 New Products
- 10 Structural Insulated Panels
- 11 Staff News / Tribute to Joti

| SEE INSIDE

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Peninsula Celebrates 40th Anniversary

A pivotal moment in 2024 for Peninsula was the company celebrating its 40th anniversary, which was marked with a growth in staff numbers with the recruitment of two new installation teams, the unveiling of a £150,000 Grand Designs-like showroom extension and a charity celebration.

The company, which was the first PVC manufacturer and installer of windows and conservatories in North Wales, was founded in 1984 by the late Barrie Grayson in Pwllheli. An infinite perfectionist and a stickler for quality, Barrie selected only the finest materials with the highest specification which to this day remains one of Peninsula's core USPs. As the business grew, Barrie opened a second factory in Anglesey and then relocated the whole business and showroom to its current site in Gaerwen to cope with the growing demand.

In 1995 his son, Ken joined the business, taking over as Chairman in 2013. Since then the company has seen significant growth fuelled by the decision to cease manufacturing in order to specialise in high-end glazing products.

The modern showroom extension not only showcases Peninsula's extensive range of products, but also provides customers with the inspiration to visualise the enhancement options available for their own home. TV design guru, Mandy Watkins from Space Like This in Menai Bridge worked with Peninsula to theme every room and officially opened the showroom at the charity celebration in the summer.

The event celebrated Peninsula's 40th anniversary and included a raffle with prizes donated by local companies and business associates, and a charity auction with estate agent Dafydd Hardy overseeing proceedings while also providing much humorous banter to increase the bidding. Over £8,000 was raised which was donated to St David's Hospice and the UK's first female-only charity ultra marathon, the She Ultra which raises money for women's cancer charities.





Ken comments;

"My Dad was a big charity fundraiser raising thousands of pounds for good causes over the years so while the event celebrated our 40th it was also a nod to him, and he would have been very proud of what we have achieved.

"It also marked our next chapter for the company as the investment we have made in the showroom extension is about futureproofing the company. Our aim is to continue on the path we're on, diversifying with more niche high end products while still offering a wide variety of products from all our partners to suit every budget and every style."



Peninsula's Continuous Professional Development

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is obligatory for all RIBA Chartered Members and as part of our continuing commitment to ensure architects stay up to date with the latest innovations in the industry, we were delighted to host a number of leading North Wales RIBA architects for CPD sessions in partnership with Solarlux and Internorm, two of the world's leading manufacturers of doors and windows, bifolds and both fully insulated and non insulated glass structures.

The certificated CPD presentations focus on improving their knowledge and skills with the latest insights in timber, aluminium and glazing technology as well as hands-on experience with cutting-edge products like Solarlux's stunning glass solutions and Internorm's energy-efficient windows and doors.



MATTHEW JONES ARCHITECTS

Matthew Jones Architects (MJA) in Deganwy was one of the first firms to join us. Their use of CAD technology and the latest design technology software known as BIM (Building Information Modelling) enables them to show clients their proposed extensions in such finite detail that it resembles real-life photographs, which empowers its clients to visualise the design before construction begins while offering them the opportunity to

explore alternatives in order to make informed decisions.

Commenting on the session, Matthew Jones said: "Peninsula's CPD sessions were extremely informative and provided invaluable understanding on the new technologies coming onto the market which enhance insulation and thermal performance and extend product lifespan in our harsh marine environment. It was an opportunity for us to refresh our existing knowledge and with an honest appraisal on the pros and cons it has ensured we are extremely

knowledgeable and able to specify the right product to meet our client's expectations. We're looking forward to the next one, which is focusing on passivhaus construction standards."

As well as the session with Matthew Jones Architects, Peninsula has also run sessions for Dobson Owen Architects in Pwllheli and Dewis Architecture in Llanfairpwll and Chester, with many more planned for 2025!

If you would like to know more about the upcoming CPD's, please email dylan@peninsulawindows.co.uk

Our Showroom

We have also renovated the upstairs window and door showroom to inspire our customers and help make the choosing of new windows and doors much easier.

The showroom has an impressive selection of premium glazing solutions from leading suppliers providing our customers with the option to see, touch and experience the quality and craftsmanship firsthand.

From ultra-slim sightlines to high-security locking systems, Passivhaus-standard insulation and bespoke finishes; architects, self-builders and homeowners will find the perfect solution to suit their vision and budget with expert advice from our team to guide you through the best options for your project.



Case Study

Merseyside

In early 2024, we received a new enquiry from a family in Merseyside who wanted to have the front of their home remodelled and the rear existing conservatory replaced with a contemporary extension which would also incorporate a new kitchen.

The red-brick house was built in the 90s and although the customer had obtained Planning Permission for demolishing and rebuilding it, they were keen to know whether making substantial renovations instead would provide them with the aesthetics and layout they required. In researching options, they looked at Solarlux's Wintergardens, a thermally insulated glazed roof structure which can extend a living space without the need for an internal door and on contacting the company Peninsula was recommended.



Chris Smith, one of Peninsula's design consultants visited the family to discuss their proposal and offer advice on solutions to reflect their aspirations. The brief was to remodel the front of the home and provide a modern entrance with wow factor, while at the rear of the house they wanted maximum glass to create a seamless indoor-outdoor living transition. The family shared the designs for the re-build and outlined the key features they particularly liked which Peninsula were able to incorporate within their designs.



The project required intricate engineering work, and Peninsula drew up the blueprints and worked with the family on obtaining revised Planning Permission.

The rear of the house was the first phase of the project. Peninsula opened up the existing kitchen wall by 5m and added a complete steel structure which cantilevered with the existing roof. Solarlux's Warm Roof was built on top of the steel frame and Solarlux's Cero II Sliding Doors were fitted. The ultra-slim profiled Cero system removes the conventional frame bulk at the top and sides of the doors so it's made of 98% glass providing a huge 98% daylight transparency, and with an open corner design the doors open away from each other to leave the corner entirely open to create a seamless expanse of space.

The second phase of the project was the front of the house which again had the brief to use as much glass as possible. A massive 6 metre steel gable which stood 1m taller than the existing house was constructed on Anglesey and transported to Merseyside. The existing front entrance was demolished and the new steel gable was lifted by a crane on to the front of the house and bolted into the wall. Internorm's AT 540 Aluminium entrance door with fingerprint door lock was then fitted with Solarlux's High Line gable frame above and the frame was then cladded with EQUITONE fibre cement panels. Peninsula also demolished the old boot room to open up the hallway creating a spacious and elegant entrance and installed a high-tech LED lighting system.



BEFORE

The third and final phase was replacing all the existing windows throughout the house with slim aluminium framed windows to provide more light into every room.

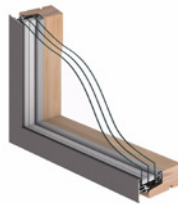
The detailed and comprehensive plan for this project required Peninsula to work closely with the family's plumber and kitchen installer to coordinate work schedules and the entire project including the installation of the new kitchen was completed in six months.

New Products

We're delighted to have introduced a number of significant brands to our product portfolio which capitalise on the latest trend for slimmer frames allowing more natural light to flood living spaces, and as many reach Passivehaus Standard, they offer world-leading energy efficiency and thermal performance:

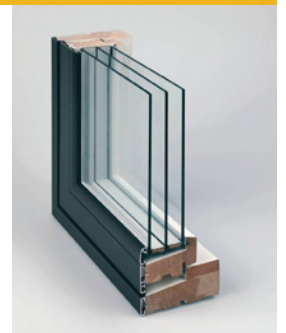
VELFAC

In Summer 2024 we were selected by VELFAC, a sister company of VELUX, to be its North Wales installer. Founded in Denmark over 50 years ago, VELFAC is part of VKR Holdings, an international group recognised for supplying high quality composite windows and doors which combine low maintenance external aluminium with natural internal timber. Renowned for their contemporary style, impressive durability, excellent insulation, and secure and sustainable design, the slim frames maximise natural light, and uniform sightlines give every unit an identical external appearance.



Rationel

Founded in Denmark over 60 years ago, Rationel is one of Europe's leading window and door brands with a reputation for quality and innovation. Part of the VKR group, it offers a range of windows and doors with timber frames or timber frames with aluminium cladding.



The AURA and AURAPLUS range is the ideal window and door for modern and contemporary homes, while the FORMA and FORMAPLUS windows and doors are designed to complement traditional British architecture with both offering excellent insulation, durability and in a style to match your existing home or planned extension.

Solarlux



As part of our new showroom, we now have Solarlux's cornerless Ecoline bi-fold and Cero sliding systems on display.

The aluminium Eco-line bi-fold redefines seamless living with its cornerless configuration allowing for completely unrestricted views and effortless indoor-outdoor flow with its one-hand operation. The award-winning and patented technology boasts an incredibly slim framed sightline of only 99mm allowing for maximum glass with high-performance thermal insulation which is Passivhaus certified. The modular system allows folding, titling, turn-and-tilt and fixed elements to be combined in a single frame as well as many design options including folding either inwards or outwards and to either the left or right.

The ultra-slim profiled Cero sliding doors open up rooms with expansive glazing delivering breathtaking floor-to-ceiling glass with almost invisible top and bottom framing ranging between 15mm to 34mm and a vertical frame of only 2mm. The individual glass panels can reach up to 6 metres in height and make up a total area of 15m² allowing a room to be flooded with light while providing high thermal and security performance. The frames can be flush-fitted for a seamless transition for indoor/outdoor living and there are various corner options including an open corner design as featured in our case study on page 6 and 7.

If you are considering a premium glazing solution that enhances space, light and connection with nature, the VELFAC, Rational and Solarlux ranges can be seen at our showroom, together with glass samples, a range of accessories and frame colour swatches, along with expert advice from our sales team who are all specialist-trained advisors.



SIP

Structural Insulated Panels



Benefits of a SIP Extension:

- Superior Insulation: Keeps your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer
- Faster Build Time: Quicker to assemble, meaning less disruption to your routine
- Energy Efficiency: Reduces heat loss and saves on energy bills
- Design Flexibility: Adaptable to fit any architectural style
- Sustainable Solution: Environmentally friendly with reduced carbon footprint

Benefits of a Warm Roof:

- Adds another layer of insulation for maximum comfort
- Lower heating costs
- Sleek, modern design



In September, we transformed a home on Anglesey with a SIP (Structural Insulated Panels) Extension featuring a warm roof for that perfect balance of energy efficiency and comfort.

SIPs are a high-performance building system for residential and light commercial construction consisting of an insulating foam core sandwiched between two structural facings which are manufactured under factory controlled conditions resulting in a building system that is extremely strong, energy-efficient and cost-effective.

SIPs can be fabricated to fit nearly any building design so if you are thinking of upgrading your home, give us a call and let us help make your dream space a reality.



Chris Hough, Technical Surveyor

Chris joined Peninsula in April 2018 and has recently been promoted to Technical Surveyor and manager of our installation team. Chris has been in the industry for over 25 years, with 11 of those years as a surveyor. A qualified glazing surveyor, Chris has extensive knowledge of all our home improvement systems and surveys every project, taking the measurements and producing the CAD designs for our customers. He also oversees everything operational within the company.



Chris Hough



Andrew McIntosh

Gareth Pickstock, Head Installer and Trainer

Gareth has been with the company for 12 years and has worked himself up through the installation team to be appointed Head Installer so he oversees the installation team of 11 fitters and 2 builders. As Peninsula's specialist installer with in-depth experience of installing all the company's products, he visits every project at the start, carries out inspections during installation as well as conducting a final inspection for quality control. Gareth also undertakes all in-house product training.



Chris Bach



Gareth Pickstock

Andrew McIntosh "Tosh", Fitter

Tosh joined Peninsula in late 2023 as an experienced fitter with over 20 years experience. Tosh has also worked for an Anglesey building firm and enjoys keeping those skills going along with installing our range of products.

Chris Bach, Stores & Fleet Manager

A qualified and experienced vehicle mechanic, Chris joined us in September 2023 to manage our fleet of vehicles as well as the maintenance of all tools and machines and ensure the Stores are kept tidy and well stocked. As part of his role, Chris is also responsible for our recycling which involves stripping PVC off old frames to be made into pellets; glass into hardcore; timber for firewood and aluminium which is smelted.

Tribute to Joti

In May 2023 we lost a much loved ex-colleague. Mark Paranjotti "Joti", aged 57, had been a valuable member of our sales team for many years and despite moving on to a different career path, he was still thought of as part of the Peninsula crew.

Ken said; "Joti was one of life's good guys. He was a very good friend, a good sales person and the life and soul of the party. Even after retiring, Joti was always invited to our parties as a party wasn't a party without him, and his antics at them are legendary and will always be remembered!"

A plaque that honours Joti has been installed at Peninsula as a long-lasting tribute to commemorate his life and the impact he had on everyone.



Joti with his wife Anne



Joti's commemorative plaque

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