

# Platforms

Orms Sustainability Group, April 2019

We have started the year as we mean to go on, attending several interesting talks and events and developing our internal research project relating to the air quality of the office.

In March we visited the 'futurebuild' event, where we learnt about a number of new products and initiatives in the industry. We were especially interested in the talks from the RIBA Sustainable Futures Group on the work they are doing to integrate sustainability fully within the RIBA plan of work.

We were also delighted to be nominated for the BREEAM champions award, and attended the awards ceremony at the Hilton London Bankside at the beginning of March. In the past year Orms' projects have received a number of BREEAM certificates, and we have another 12 projects currently in RIBA stage 4 & 5 targeting BREEAM Very Good or Excellent. Orms are advocates of retaining and enhancing existing buildings, to maximise their potential

and turn low quality environments into modern, dynamic spaces. We always seek to utilise the unique qualities of an existing structure wherever possible, rather than demolishing and starting from scratch. Our work at 160 Old Street is an example of this and we are proud that it earned a BREEAM Excellent rating of 83%, the highest BREEAM rating we have achieved as a practice.

For this issue of Platforms we have decided to focus on materials and highlight a few of the innovative products we have been using in our work. The selection of materials is a key element of building design and the choices we make can have far reaching impacts.

There are a number of questions that we continually ask ourselves before incorporating a material into a design; what is its impact on the embodied energy of a scheme? Is it the most efficient use of this resource? How does it affect the air quality of the finished spaces and the energy performance of the completed building?

## Orms Stepping Challenge

We launched a 14 day virtual walk from Kingston to Brighton. The aim was to promote wellbeing by getting everyone active, in advance of hosting the Chicken Run this June.



On March 18th, 32 of us set off on a rather ambitious 14 day walk from Kingston to Brighton, a total of 60 miles.

Luckily, we didn't actually have to walk there, but instead used the [Stridekick app](#). This handily calculated our daily progress and plotted it on a virtual map, against our team mates. Unsurprisingly a little healthy competition ensued, with Jared, Butch, John and Celia arriving within hours of each other the following Monday morning, only 7 days into the challenge. Celia ultimately finished top of the table, with a whopping 99 miles covered in the 14 days.

We unfortunately had one early disqualification, Carlos managed to get to Brighton and back within 7 days, thanks to his phone counting his cycling distance! The majority of us made slightly slower progress, with a very respectable 18 Steppers arriving in Brighton in time. The rest found a lovely little lunch spot in Burgess Hill...



Kvadrat have just released a beautiful new textile called **Re-Wool**, that we can't wait to use! Made in the UK, it is composed of 45% post-industrial recycled wool, 45% new wool and 10% nylon.

During the textile manufacturing process, fibres called 'spill' are released into the air. These are collected and spun, resulting in a dark grey yarn with flecks of colour from other textiles made that day. This recycled yarn forms the backing for the new fabric which designer Margrethe Odgaard describes as ' shimmering pearls on a recycled woollen base'.

Wool is already one of our favourite textiles. It is a renewable waste product of the agriculture industry. It contains

natural oils which resist stains and smells. High water and nitrogen content make it fire resistant. Its wiry fibres act like springs, helping it to bounce back into shape over and over again. These qualities make it ideal for furnishings. With a little care, upholstery can be kept looking fantastic for a very long time.

Also pictured above are Ace and Revive 2, both made from 100% recycled polyester, with Merit (76% post-consumer recycled polyester and 24% polyester).

### What We're Reading

- [Greta Thunberg's inspirational TED Talk](#)
- [Better Building Partnership's - Designing for performance.](#)
- [5 Things Architects Can Do Tomorrow To Limit Climate Change](#)

### Products to watch out for:

- [Adaptavate Breathaboard](#)
- [ChipIsBoard](#)
- [Panguaneta Plywood](#)



## ULEZ

Monday the 8th of April saw the introduction of the new Ultra Low Emission Zone which borders along Old Street roundabout.

Air pollution contributes to over 9,000 premature deaths in London each year, and all areas within London exceed the World Health Organization guidelines for air quality. The **ULEZ** is a part of the Mayor's plan to improve the health of Londoners and reduce exhaust emission by up to 45%.

The guidelines places responsibility onto vehicles to meet higher emission standards or pay a daily charge.

## Product Spotlight

### BOLON: Woven Vinyl Flooring

Manufactured in Ulricehamn in Sweden, where the production site uses 100% renewable energy, Bolon contains 33% recycled material and is 100% recyclable after its long lifetime of 25 years. If the flooring is installed using Bolon NoGlue tape it can be easily removed and sent back for recycling.

### MOSA: Ceramic Tiles

Mosa is the first ceramic tile company in the world to have gained Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Silver certification for nearly its entire collection. Tiles are primarily composed of clay and sand - ingredients that are abundantly present in nature. The wall tiles contain 22% pre-consumer recycled content and the floor tiles contain 21% - 25%, making Mosa tiles suitable for reuse in a circular production cycle.

### KEIM ECOTEC: Water repellent and dust suppressant for concrete.

Keim Ecotec is an invisible water repellent and dust suppressant for concrete, which helps maintain good indoor air quality and prevent staining of exposed concrete. Best of all, it is solvent free.

### Orms Sustainability group are:

Anna Fiejtek, Carlos Espejo, Colin McColl, Ellen Hickman, James Gardener, Janice Carr, Kathryn Knowles, Rachel Hoolahan, Rosie Bard, Sasha Greig, Alisha Gould & Evie Summerhayes