

Burning desire

At Amersham's new Sky House Design Centre you'll find some of the most exciting and innovative home design brands. From flooring to fabrics, worktops to windows - a whole range of top quality products and suppliers under one roof, ideal for gathering ideas and inspiration...

The Exhibitors at Sky House Design Centre cover many aspects of internal design and renovation, from behind the scenes electronics to art and kitchens, fire pits, landscape design and much more. The companies have been chosen to offer both contemporary and modern interior design solutions and provide exemplary customer service and satisfaction.

One such firm, Exterior Solutions, is a design led company specialising in premium wall and floor coverings and in particular, burnt timber cladding and decking.

Their showroom space at Sky House Design Centre showcases some most exciting products, including the Shou Sugi Ban Burnt Timber Cladding, Caesar Ceramic Tiles and the UK's largest selection of Hardwood Decking.

Shou Sugi Ban Burnt Timber Cladding, a favourite of discerning designers and architects, is exclusive to Exterior Solutions. The specialist bespoke floor and wall coverings for internal and external cladding, furniture and art, are manufactured locally in Amersham using a traditional Japanese process of burning timber faces to create a beautiful and durable timber finish. The result is a unique and textured decking or wall cladding material, available in a range of different timbers and finishes, rustic or contemporary, to suit the design required.

Worby Ken House (pic bottom right) by Chris Dyson Architects used 'Cedar Brushed Flatsawn Dark' - *Kumai Yakisugi* and this particular 'profile' was chosen to show off some of the stainless steel fixings with a larger shadow gap than usual, to create an open texture.

Each Shou Sugi Ban finish is achieved using a combination of burning, hand brushing, wire brushing, distressing and wood staining - all done in Buckinghamshire using FSC and PEFC timbers.

The traditional techniques used offer uniqueness to each individual project. Many finishes and textures can be provided for interior and exterior projects, from the traditional highly burnt fragile looking, to more sleek and contemporary finishes.

Shou Sugi Ban is tailor-made to order and the company is flexible on timber size,



House 19, Old Amersham, designed by Jestico + Whiles



profile and finish, which are all key points to be specified. In nine years of manufacturing Shou Sugi Ban not one project has been duplicated, each slightly varies, creating a truly unique finish.

Exterior Solutions recently worked with Jestico + Whiles Architects on the RIBA South award-winning carbon zero home 'House 19'. Modified Timber Enhanced Grain or *Hijo ni mirikiteki na*, made using a combination of distressing and EB based glue by hand was used for it's specific texture with hidden fixings and a mix of three widths to again create a completely unique finish to the vertical cladding.

Jestico + Whiles wanted to reflect an element of Shou Sugi Ban inside and so also used it to clad the staircase, along with untreated pieces of cedar to offer a contrast that still accentuates the raw nature of timber.

Exterior Solutions own innovation - #brutalcolourism, mixes their natural and stunning Shou Sugi Ban with architectural concrete design.

Search the web for brutalcolourism or follow #brutalcolourism for more information.

There is a collection of projects you can see on Pinterest and Instagram that are updated daily @luxurymaterials. If you'd like to see

Shou Sugi Ban in the flesh it is on display at the Sky House Design Centre where Exterior Solutions offer full CPD services that can be based on a current project.

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Make an appointment now to visit the Sky House Design Centre: Mon-Fri, 9am to 5:30pm; Sat, 9am to 4pm.
Please contact Sky House to book your appointment.
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Rear and roof extension to Victorian home in Kenworthy Road, Hackney by Chris Dyson Architects

