

Luke Parry

Shortlisted Entry

Employer: Oakwrights Bath Ltd

Location: Wiltshire

Time at company: 3 years

Type of Entry: Trainee

Age: 26

Employer Comments:

“Willingness to commit to training”

“Professional, helpful, positive”

“Projects have taken him beyond his original role”

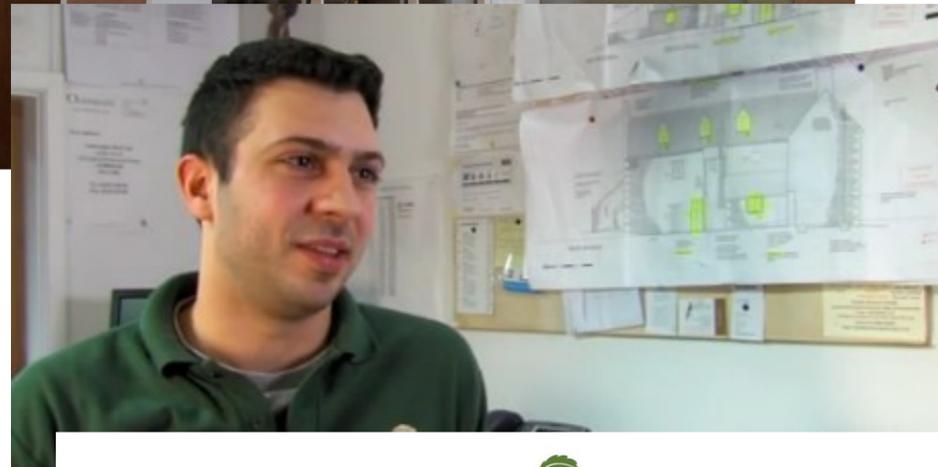
Training Provider comments:

“Not afraid to challenge received thinking”

“Proactive and enthusiastic member of the group”

“A credit to his organisation”

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Luke took on a new role at Oakwrights as Estimator, with a requirement for him to develop, understand and communicate technical aspects of joinery work to professionals and others.

Luke is now studying HNC Built Environment, but has been constantly engaged in training. He has progressed from an advanced joinery apprenticeship in a previous role, undertaken a BTEC in Construction, and then his HNC - achieving distinctions at every stage.

Luke has successfully applied his estimating skills to a large window project in Pimlico, London – a project which he duly secured from an extremely demanding client.

Luke has led company innovation, and put his hand to a number of projects beyond his scope as Estimator. Luke has led the company re-brand, and launched a strong web presence, pulling on all his project skills to deliver a quality website.

Luke also took ownership of Oakwrights' implementation of CE marking - overseeing the introduction of Factory

Production Control system, incorporating their software systems, and integrating labelling systems.

Both Luke's employer and training provider gave a shining endorsement of his work, and the judges noted the real value he provides to the organisation.



Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Award 2013

Michaella Mason

Shortlisted Entry

Employer: Boyland Joinery Ltd

Location: Dorset

Time at company: 1 year

Age: 24

Type of Entry: Apprentice

Employer Comments:

“One of our most outstanding apprentices”

“Lifted the bar in terms of quality and productivity”

“Intrinsic part of our production team”

Training Provider comments:

“Polite, focused & self motivated”

“Strong on both practical and theory course elements”

“Needs briefing just once, delivers fantastic results”

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Michaella has shown herself to be a fantastic asset to the Boyland team, with a drive to increase standards of production and to improve productivity.

Her work ethic and high quality workmanship has had a positive impact on the whole production team, increasing productivity across the board.

Boyland commended her commitment to the trade, having been recruited to the company after already self-funding - through a part-time evening job - her own Level 1 & 2 carpentry and joinery course to improve her employability.

Michaella has produced some high calibre projects, including the production of Boyland's show stands, to showcase the best quality windows they have to offer—a testament to Boyland's confidence in her workmanship.

Michaella - still an apprentice - is charged with her own complex and bespoke projects, including an external door project, which required some tricky hand-cut beading in order to fit over the glass and tight to the rebate.

Boyland have allowed Michaella to augment her skills since joining the company, and she is now competent in using CNC as well as traditional woodworking machines and hand-skills.

At college, she has been commended twice - as student of the year, and for best work-based evidence of the year. The judges commended her determination and dedication to her role.



Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Award 2013

Dariusz Krzywiecki

Shortlisted Entry

Employer: West Port Timber Windows and Doors

Location: Cumbria

Time at company: 7 years

Age: 30

Type of Entry: Trainee

Employer Comments:

“Practically applies knowledge gained”

“Committed to improvement”

“Completed some stunning work”

Training Provider comments:

“Hardworking and dedicated”

“Keen to explore new ideas and technology”

“Natural flair for carpentry & joinery”

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Dariusz started his career at West Port undertaking a Wood Occupations apprenticeship to Level 3, and has continued training and qualifications throughout his 7 years. His recent studies have included Performance Manufacturing Operations (PMO) and Business Improvement Techniques (BIT), and he has just been awarded a certificate in management by the Chartered Management Institute.



Dariusz has used his learning in the development of West Port's new window systems, including work on the arch systems, Secured by Design, and working on some of London's most prestigious projects.

In all his work, Dariusz is now successfully applying his knowledge from his PMO and BIT qualifications to incorporate continuous improvement in both his and his peers' work, including Kaizen techniques and the 5Ss, contributing to the productivity of the company as a whole.



Dariusz commitment and value to West Port has been externally recognised, claiming Apprentice of the Year prize at his college and finishing as runner-up in the hotly contested Skill Build competition.

West Port have a strong confidence in Dariusz's performance, and are looking to move him into a supervisory role in the near future, allowing him to cascade his varied learning to a team of his own. The judges commended Dariusz's unfaltering commitment to continuing development, and the clear value he provides to West Port.

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Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Award 2013

J3 Projects Ltd

Shortlisted Entry

Entry Type: Project

Project Site: Manchester Oxford Road Station, Manchester

Project Description: Station Waiting Room

J3 Projects were commissioned by Northern Rail to design, manufacture and install a new waiting room at their Manchester Oxford Road Railway Station.

The brief was to create the waiting room on the platform at the station that would look like a traditional wooden railway carriage, and be in keeping with the design of the station's main platform shelters.

In addition, they were asked to produce an open waiting shelter on a smaller platform.

The main waiting room needed to be equipped with heat and light and was to incorporate automatic doors to allow heat conservation and ease of access.

The project required the use of tongue and groove hardwood laid horizontally over a curved roof, designed to avoid leaks from exposure to the elements.

The structure was assembled on a galvanised steel frame, and glazed on all four sides, from the floor to the start of the curved roof, except where they incorporated wooden seats externally.

The smaller shelter was modelled in the same design style with a curved back and roof, glazed sides for easy vision to the platform and track, lighting in the curved roof, and carriage-style seating.

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Technical Innovation Award 2013

The John Hedgecock Memorial Award

Houghtons of York

Shortlisted Entry

Entry Type: Project

Project Site: Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, London

Project Description: Hand carving of the Diana Princess of Wales Coat of Arms

Houghtons of York were commissioned in early 2013 by the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors (one of the great twelve Livery Companies of the City of London) to produce the *Diana Princess of Wales Coat of Arms* for display within their Great Hall.

The new Coat of Arms was to complement and sit opposite the *Queen Mother's Coat of Arms* carved and hung in the hall in 1964.

With the necessary permissions granted, draft proposal drawings were initially produced for approval by the Livery Company.

With the design agreed the new coat of arms was formed in the workshop using lime wood, which was laminated and blocked out before being sawn, to form the initial basic profile. It was then hand carved by two of Houghton of York's wood carvers who were tasked to sculpt and form the detail of the lion rampant and griffin supporters, escutcheon/shield, crown and motto banner.

The Coat of Arms was to hang some 25 feet above floor level and thus the aspect and definition of the features within the Coat of Arms had to be formed with this as a major consideration.

Carving of the Lion and Griffin was carried out simultaneously by two highly-skilled carvers with regular cross-referencing to ensure that their style and detail were in harmony.

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The Coat of Arms measures approximately 1.3 m x 1.4 m x 250 mm at its greatest thickness and was to hang with no visible fixings. Within the construction it was imperative that they kept weight to a minimum and introduced reinforcement to the rear face of the Coat of Arms on certain aspects of this work.

Once fully carved the Coat of Arms was gilded and decorated with great attention to detail and colours. Reference was made to the College of Arms on certain aspects of this work.

Commissions such as these are rare and it is difficult to work from experience, as it is quite unlikely that anyone would produce two Coats of Arms of the same type within their career. This Coat of Arms has been produced with enormous skill, care and great attention to detail, with the final product being to the delight of the Livery Company.





Technical Innovation Award 2013

The John Hedgecock Memorial Award

Oakwrights Bath Ltd

Shortlisted Entry

Entry Type: Project

Project Site: The London Centre of the Self-Realization Fellowship, Chiltern Street, London

Project Description: Refurbishment throughout the Centre

This project involved the complete transformation of a building in central London, into a spiritual centre for the Self-Realization Fellowship. It included the entrance door and frame, all the internal doors, the luminettes, the Altar, lectern and harmonium stand, the literature stand, pin-boards and mirrors, radiator grilles (large and small), and the donations box.

The building comprises two distinct parts: to the right from the entrance foyer is the original part of the building, possibly Victorian. To the left of the foyer is the 1970's/1980's addition, typical of its era.

The clients wanted the modern part to echo the style of the original, and enhance the whole building decoratively, in keeping with its role as a spiritual centre.

The main technical challenge came from turning the vision of the architect and client into a joinery reality. This applied to the entire project, but in particular to the transformation of the windows.

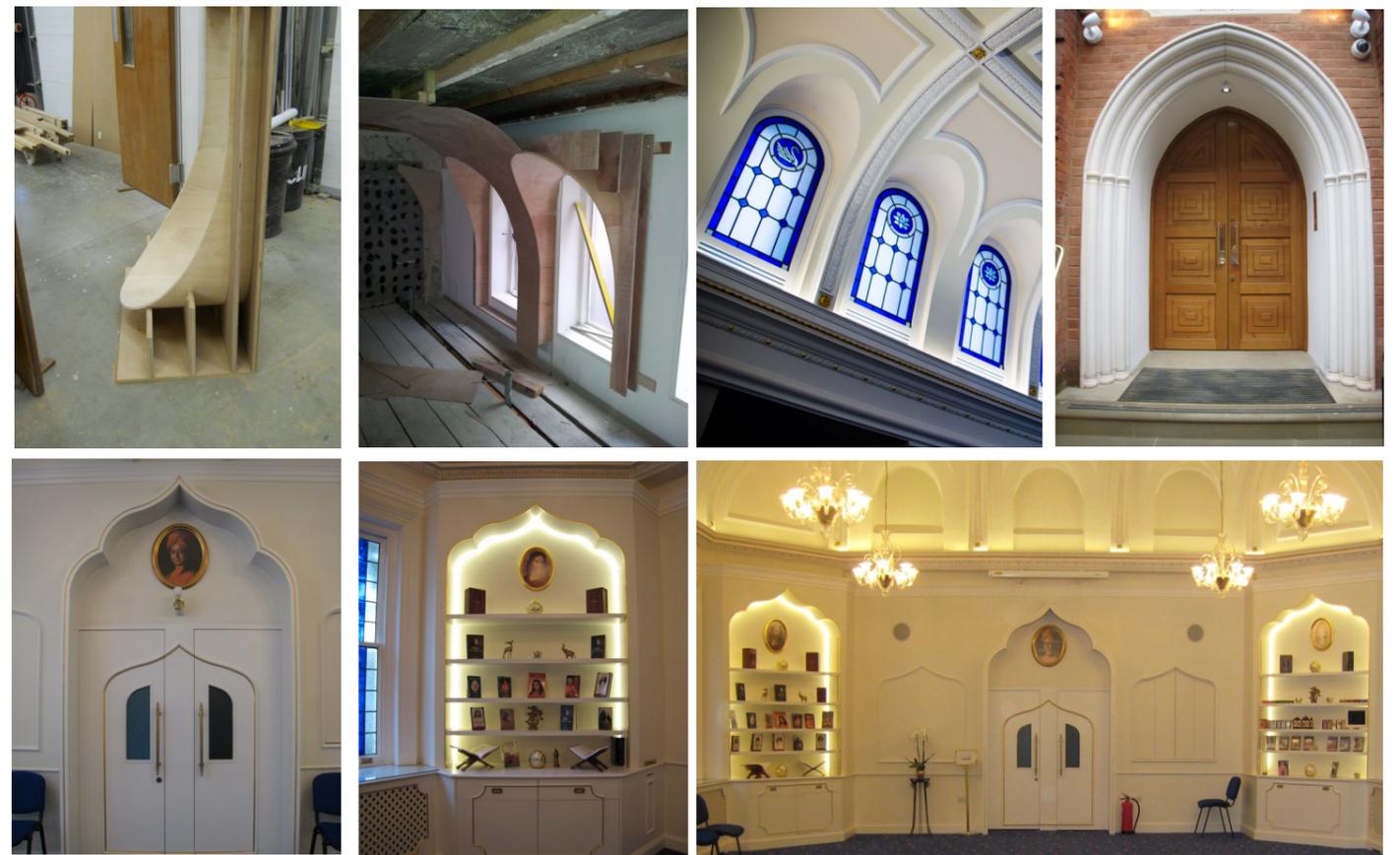
The original windows were to stay in place, and in front of them Oakwright's had to create structural arched formers, which made a recess to house the new arched frames and casements which were hinged at the bottom to allow servicing of the original concealed windows. Timber louvres were installed below the new casements to allow for ventilation.

Modern methods, products and materials were used to achieve a traditional-looking result.

Consideration for other trades involved was crucial – particularly the plasterers, whose decorative work came over the arched formers. To develop and create the shapes of the formers, linings and the windows, CAD and a CNC router were used, as well as traditional joinery skills. These were also used on the other joinery items in the project.

Throughout the building you can see ornate Ogee arch details. Complicated ring fence and cradle work was done on a spindle moulder to achieve these decorative mouldings and frames. The manufacture of the joinery was achieved within a short period to allow for other trades to complete their work in time for the opening ceremony. It was managed within the context of limited space on site, and challenges of poor physical access.

This prestigious project required a high degree of technical ability, and a very high standard of finish. This was achieved by understanding and interpreting the client's and architect's vision, and having very close liaison with them throughout the process.



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