



COULSON

BUILDING GROUP

We build. We manage. We care.

Coulson Joinery Ltd.

William James House, Cowley Road, Cambridge CB4 0WX

Paul McKenna (Joinery Manager)

Tel: **(01223) 423 800**

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Joinery










Est. 1884

Excellence in wood

Here at Coulson, wood runs deep. We were founded by a talented young carpenter in the 1880s. Our craftsmen have contributed to some of the most iconic buildings in Cambridge. A hundred and thirty years on, joinery is still vital to what we do. We own one of the most modern and well equipped workshops in the East of England – which means we can tackle almost anything you bring our way, from standard windows and doors to complex, custom-made fittings and furniture. And that workshop is built into the heart of our construction business – which means that we retain full quality control of your project from start to finish. Come with an idea or a drawing and our friendly, expert designers will work with you to draft and hone it. We will craft, machine and finish it, using a team of passionate, time-served joiners and some of the most cutting-edge technology in the industry. Choose from a supply-only service or complete on-site installation, fully guaranteed. Exceptional quality, market leading value. Whatever your joinery needs, we can help you bring them to life.

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World class technology

“ State-of-the-art equipment allows for intricate design. ”

Our pitch to customers is simple: if you want it, we can make it. As a key cog in a multi-million-pound construction business, our joinery has helped to raise shopping centres and cathedral refectories. We've produced everything from elliptical staircases and acoustic ceilings to louvered panels and walkways. But that's only part of our capability. We cover every inch of the joinery trade, from intricate restorations and science laboratories to bespoke doors, windows and furniture: no project too grand or small. Part of the reason we can do this is scale. Where so many other building firms have lost their in-house joinery departments, we have invested heavily in ours. Operating from a 13,000 square foot workshop in Cambridge, our mill is stocked with some of the best machines in the business. We have our own CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine centre, thicknesser, edgebander and dimension saw. Many of our latest machines are made by the Austrian firm Format-4, globally renowned for their quality. These investments have allowed us to automate many processes that would otherwise swallow up time – increasing efficiency so we can offer you better value. They are also exceptionally precise: our new Profil 45 spindle moulder offers super-fine adjustment, accurate to a tenth of a millimetre.

“ We have invested heavily in our in-house machinery ”

Graham Watts,
Managing Director, Coulson Building Group



Photo key:

1. A kappa x-motion table panel saw gives us fine degrees and ultra-smooth processing.

2. One of our latest purchases, the Perfect 710 allows us to keep our edge-banding in-house.

3. Drawings are sent directly from the office to our Profit H08 machining centre for precision cutting.

4. Rapid, glass-smooth planing and profiling with Weinig's classic Profimat 22 moulder

5. Perfect veneering and laminating results start with our Interwood hydraulic press with heated platens.



Dedicated craftsmen

“ There are no semi-skilled people in our workshop. We’re all time-served joiners who are highly skilled and passionate about the work we produce. ”

Paul McKenna,
Joinery Manager.

Cutting-edge technology is only part of the story.

Bespoke joinery ultimately comes down to skilled and motivated people, and we can staff your project with some of the very best in the business. It's one of the things we have built our reputation on over the past century. Rather than subcontracting out, we prefer to train up and employ our own people. As a family-run firm since Edwardian times, you might say that's in our DNA. But we believe it's also the best way to ensure the highest standards, passing key skills down the generations and keeping us accountable on every project. It's also why we remain so committed to apprenticeships. Our 16-strong team includes six bench joiners, three wood machinists and a dedicated on-site fixer, and most of us started as Coulson trainees. Our longest serving staff member began his working life here in the 1960s. Our youngest is currently learning his trade as an apprentice joiner. Collectively, we have more than 430 years of joinery experience, and we believe it shows in the quality of our work. Our people tend to stay with us, which means we can provide you with continuity and long-term support both during and after delivery.

“With every job, we're aiming to finish to a standard that we would be happy with in our own homes. We take pride in getting things right. It's what we're about.”

Jonathan Nix,
Joiner and Apprentice CAD Designer.



Photo key:

1. It's hard to underestimate the importance of experience. Our hard-working team comes steeped in trade knowledge, from a CAD drafter who started as a joiner five decades ago to our newest apprentices. *"We like to bring through our own – bright, passionate people who understand the high quality of work that's expected from every Coulson job,"* says Joinery Manager Paul McKenna.
2. Every piece is tested for flaws: a nearly completed casement sash window gets a quality check from Bench Joiner Steve.
3. It's all in the calibre of the joint: Bench Joiner Russell applies the finishing touches to a door tenon.

Design that puts you in control



Getting started on your project is easy with Coulson Joinery. Contact us for a quick, no-obligation quote; we will happily carry out an on-site survey if needed. You will then sit down with our team of industry tested designers. Bespoke joinery is all about flexibility. While some customers come to us with detailed architectural drawings, others bring samples, sketches – even rough ideas in their heads. Each of our drafters started their careers in our joinery, so they understand the practicalities of turning great concepts into fully functioning products. Whatever the project, they will work closely with you to ensure it's feasible and conformed to building regulations, and that it offers the best possible value for money. We use the latest CAD (computer aided design) software to produce machine-ready technical drawings for each piece. This is where we really drill down on the design, working through each detail to the millimetre. Years of experience across every job imaginable means we now also have a large library of ready-made CAD templates to draw on. These can help spark inspiration, or simply give you a better sense of the possibilities.

“ Each of our drafters started their careers in our workshop ”

An exceptional Finish

“ We can maintain quality at every stage of the process ”

The modern joinery experience doesn't end in the workshop. Increasingly, our clients want to know that we can offer the complete service, from design right through to installation. And we can. Our in-house spray booth is a one-stop shop for the perfect finish. We can prime, lacquer and stain to your requirements, and apply fire retardant coatings where required by building regulations. We can also offer traditional brush finishing, and a colour matching service for paints; simply note the RAL or BS reference and leave the rest to us. One of the beauties of being a fully-comprehensive joinery is that we can maintain quality at every stage of the process. For installation, this means you can expect the same pride and attention to detail as you find in our manufacturing. We take a rigorous, right-first-time approach to our work, which means fewer snags, increased efficiency and total peace of mind when it comes to fitting – for us as well as for you. Our quality control systems are backed up by accreditation to some of the industry's most exacting standards, including ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. And we are proud members of the British Woodworking Federation, the leading trade association for the sector.

Right: Finishing is one of our core services here at Coulson Joinery. From polyurethane to acid-cured lacquers, clear or pigmented; from priming and paint-spraying to protective wood coatings: it's all covered in our dedicated in-house spray shop.



Quality timber

Responsibly sourced

Quality joinery starts with quality wood. In our line of work, it's absolutely essential: last year alone we purchased around half a million pounds' worth of raw timber for our joinery products. We keep a working stock of finest quality softwoods on site – generally fir, pine or redwood – alongside a small back catalogue of hardwoods. The rest comes from our network of trusted local and national suppliers. From European softwoods such as larch and douglas fir to the full range of American and tropical hardwoods (ash, cherry, sapele, meranti...) and man-made products, we work hard to ensure you get exactly the right material for the job – and we can usually source it within 24 to 48 hours. Every single piece has to meet our stringent quality standards. Flaws in timber often only come to light when they are being worked; if wood reaches the joinery stage in poor condition, we simply reject it. As lifelong wood lovers, we're equally passionate about where our timber comes from. Our key suppliers are committed to using source-verified timber from sustainable forests. We're proud to play our part in making the industry greener.

Photo key:

1. Know your source: our suppliers work hard to promote sustainable forestry.
2. From tropical meranti to European walnut (below): we only use the highest quality materials.



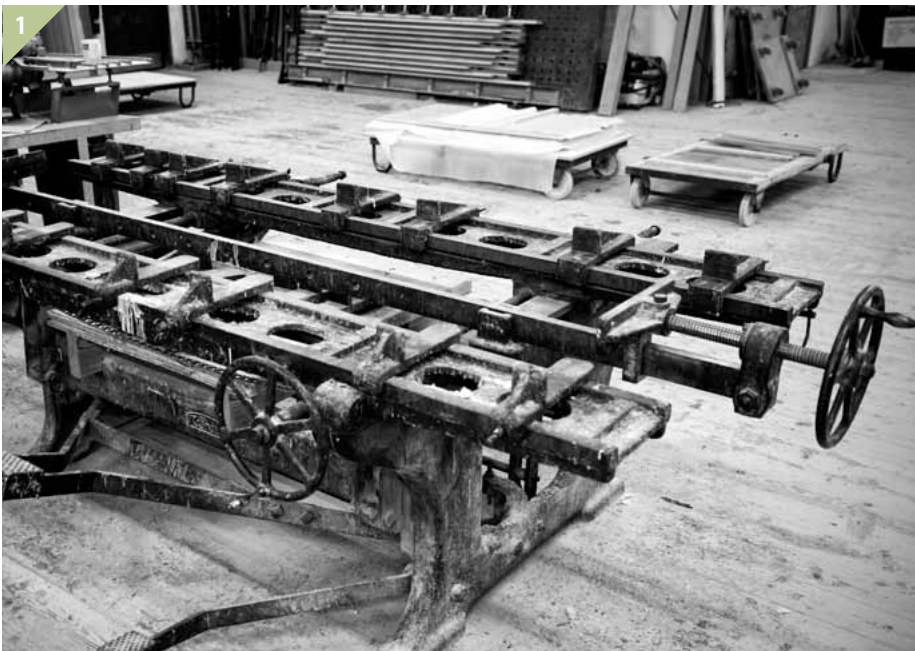
A business with deep roots

Sustainability isn't just a matter of ecology. It's about having an eye for the longer term. A strong sense of heritage. A confident vision for the future. These are things that have always been part of Coulson Joinery, because our history goes back a long way. We started life in 1884, under the stewardship of a 21-year-old Cambridge carpenter called Herbert Charles Coulson – a man who built his reputation, literally, out of wood. By the early 1900s, the firm had grown to include a dedicated mill, two builders' depots and a timber yard. Not to mention a stable and a hayloft for the company horses. Within decades Coulson had become a trusted fixture of the city, a position it retains today. Times change, but quality craftsmanship never goes out of date. Some of the old-time joinery skills still apply all these years later – and some of the old-time technologies, too. We believe our ancient, Sager and Co overhand planner has been here since Herbert's days. It still has pride of place in our workshop and is used on a daily basis. A symbol, we like to think, of past and future, and a commitment to quality that passes down the generations.



Photo key:

1. **
2. **
3. **





Every angle covered

Sliding sash or casement windows?

Primed flush or panelled and veneered doors? Joinery is a broad discipline with myriad possibilities. Coulson Joinery makes things simple by bringing everything under one roof. If it involves wood, we make it. We can design, manufacture and install anything, to any size and scale – from single windows and doors to fitted kitchens, shop fittings and prestige refurbishments to conservatories, major renovations and small, general repairs, and all to the highest possible standard. But being a one-stop-shop for joinery also means we can offer you the very best advice in the business. Which materials would best suit your plans? How could you tweak the designs to ensure better value – without compromising your vision? We believe in honesty and integrity at the point of sale, investing a lot of time in our customers at the pre-contract stage. Talking through the options, finding the right solution, then applying the same quality of care and attention through the build, to give you total peace of mind. It's an approach that has built our reputation as one of the finest joineries in the industry. Why not contact us for a no-obligation quote? We would love to hear from you.



- ✓ Restoration
- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ Renovations
- ✓ Kitchens
- ✓ Bespoke Furniture
- ✓ Doors & Windows
- ✓ Office & Retail Fit-Outs
- ✓ Conservatories
- ✓ Screens & Panelling
- ✓ Reception Desks
- ✓ Signage
- ✓ Staircases



Laboratories

Laboratories have become a major focus of our business in recent years. There's a simple reason for that: research facilities often require precision design and installation rather than one-size-fits-all joinery, and that's a key Coulson strength. We will work with you from the ground up to find the best bespoke package. That might mean custom-designing anything from fume cupboards to specialist weight-bearing benches and anti-vibration tables, alongside the standard cabinets and peninsular benches. Bespoke also means bespoke; where some companies limit the customisations available, we happily source any preferred colour or finish. Our classic units are made from high quality, melamine-faced fibreboard. We will supply and fit sink units and taps, and we liaise with service suppliers – water, gas, electrics – at every stage to ensure a perfect fit. Adaptability and accuracy are critical in laboratory creation, qualities that have seen us contracted to many prestigious clients, including Cambridge University's departments of Chemistry, Plant Sciences and Pathology, the Perse School, Addenbrokes Hospital and the Cancer Research [] in London.

“Coulson Joinery has been manufacturing and supplying a variety of joinery to Platonoff & Harris Ltd for over 20 years, from doorsets and windows to staircases and general joinery. We are very pleased with their workmanship and intend to continue our working relationship with them.”

Brian Fearn,
Managing Director, Platonoff & Harris



Photo key:

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Restoration

“ Coulson Joinery performed very well on a short programme. Communication was excellent, and the overall quality of service very satisfactory. We would have no hesitation in recommending them for future work.

Nigel Mills,
Managing Director, Millcam Construction

“ **When St Mary’s church, Westry, was devastated by fire in 2010, we were tasked with helping to bring the building back to its former glory.** It was a complex job that required great structural care, not least for the internal roof work. We hand-built the nave supports in our workshop using premium quality English Oak and the church reopened, to great acclaim, in 2014. Clients come to us for heritage projects because they know we have the character to deliver first class results. Restoration is sensitive, painstaking work but we relish it, from one-off windows and doors to full-scale listed refurbishments. One of our most recent projects was the new archive at the 13th century School of Pythagoras in St John’s College, one of the oldest buildings in Cambridge. We created the interior doors, staircases, windows and wall panelling. We also custom-built the display cabinets for the exhibition space. Pop round the corner and you will see another prominent example of our recent work at Magdalene College. After decades of weathering, the beautiful 16th century gates were in need of reappraisal. We removed them temporarily to our workshop and crafted matching mouldings to repair the damage. It’s the sort of work we have become renowned for: uncompromising attention to detail, a passion for traditional craftsmanship.



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Major works

Large commercial developments aren't suited to every company. They frequently require an extensive volume of quality joinery, delivered at speed and to tight schedules. Our scale and expertise give us the capability to do that. We understand the importance of careful programming, to deliver on our promises and to adjust, if necessary, when delays occur to other links in the contracting chain. That's why we have been entrusted with some of the biggest projects in the south of England, like the £100 million Arc shopping centre in Bury St Edmunds. Based on the site of an old cattle market, our role involved creating the complex, curved louver panels and feature trusses that overlook the flagship central square. We opened up a second workshop to maintain the flow of joinery through the project. You will also see our hand in the award-winning refectory at Norwich Cathedral, described by RIBA as one of the best examples of architecture in the East of England. We supplied everything from the structural columns and finger props to the beautiful, oversailing roof in European and English Oak. It was a suite of work that brought us a prestigious Gold Wood Award. We have worked on stately homes, prestige London apartments and university colleges. We recently oversaw all the fittings and furniture for a 120-room refit of student accommodation at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

“ The workmanship was fantastic throughout, a real achievement in itself. ”

Wood Awards judges,
on the Norwich Cathedral Visitors' Centre

Photo key:

1. **
2. **

