



# SOLINEAR

specialist architectural facade engineers

**Project:** Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Amersham, Bucks. **Architects:** Space & Place  
**Products:** Medera Vertical Fins – Siberian Larch **Client:** Buckinghamshire Council

**Introduction:** By late 2018 designs had been completed by architecture studio, Safe & Place, and the planning application was submitted to Chiltern District Council for a new leisure and community facility for Chiltern District. It would replace the old, outdated and uneconomical facilities that already occupied the King George V Road site whilst retaining the historic barns. The plan for Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Amersham would include a gym, a spa, an 8-lane 25 metre swimming pool, a diving / teaching pool, a children's splash pad area, a four-badminton court sports hall, squash courts, a climbing wall, library, café area and community centre.

Chiltern District Council's Deputy Leader Cllr Mike Stannard, Cabinet Member for Support Services, said at the time: "The planning application being submitted is an exciting milestone. The application was approved by the council in July 2019. Demolishing, clearing and building began in late 2019 on the state-of-the-art leisure, sports and community building.

**Task:** Solinear was delighted to be chosen for this prestigious project and the team once again looked forward to working with long-time collaborator, BAM Construction, whom Solinear had supported at tender stage, ultimately winning the contract. As the Medera™ range was compliant with the architect's specification and project requirements, Solinear's contribution would involve manufacturing a Medera™ timber solar shading vertical fin system to enhance the façade of the new Chiltern Lifestyle Centre whilst also providing much needed brise soleil protection for the occupants of the building.

**Action:** Solinear's versatile Medera™ range allows for the timber species, profile, finish, and fixing detail to be tailored to suit specific project requirements and in the case of this particular project, allowing the design to overcome challenges encountered when achieving the required non-combustibility rating. Prior to manufacturing the feature fins, it became evident that the original timber species specified would need to be reconsidered to meet the demands of this particular project. Solinear's thorough investigation established which timber species could be used for this project, while accommodating the required fire treatment and UV inhibitor treatments, without reacting with the timber.

It was decided that Siberian Larch would be a viable alternative with its symbiosis to the Brunnea UV inhibitor and Euroclass B fire treatment.

As with every project, all materials used are subjected to rigorous inspection and where timber is concerned any faults and weaknesses could be disastrous for a project. Therefore, the inspection process had to be extensive to ensure the timber fins would perform long-term in the fixing arrangement which they are installed.

The lengthy lead time for the timber species being used on this project offered Solinear the opportunity to turnaround the required machining/manufacturing elements, allowing installation works to be completed within the programme.

Before Solinear was able to proceed with installing the fins other issues had to be addressed; During the installation of Solinear's 1st fix brackets back to the structural SFS (steel framing system), it was discovered that some areas of the SFS had been installed in the wrong location and Solinear needed to coordinate installation of 1st fix brackets back to SFS, as well as considering the installation of 1st fix brackets in to curtain walling by others. Essentially, Solinear had to coordinate Medera™ fin support brackets allowing for the two different interface details. Additionally, installation only allowed for a +/-5mm margin for error. With these considerations, Solinear circumvented the problem by developing a two-part bracket permitting the spigot to be offset from the line of the SFS, thus enabling a degree of adjustment once installed. Installation was completed over the course of three months by two of Solinear's highly skilled installers.

**Result:** Solinear was delighted, once again, to work with BAM Construction and is proud to have been part of Chiltern Lifestyle Centre highlighting not only the phenomenal work carried out by Solinear, but everyone involved in the project.

Solinear's consummate professionalism, expertise, attention to detail and flexibility was unmistakable, especially throughout this project. - It reinforced Solinear's reputation as an innovator overcoming a variety of issues that it presented the Solinear team with – negotiating challenges with ingenuity and resourcefulness.

The resulting Medera™ vertical fin system creates a striking feature of the façade and befits the warm tones of the building's exterior.

As Chiltern District Council merged with other district councils to form the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council in early March 2020, the project was handed over to Buckinghamshire Council in December 2021 and has proved to be a popular and vital asset for the area.