

A Peaceful Place - the treatment of a Scottish Larch house

In late 2014 Leona Braund contacted Sioo keen to explore the use of the SiOO:X Wood Protector and the Surface Protector to treat her new architect designed family home, located just west of Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. The main objective was to achieve long life protection for the building and a means of sustaining the natural look of the timber.



The decision was made to clad the exterior in Scottish larch, complete with a Tata seam steel roof, while carefully positioned glazing breaks up the timber to capture the views over rolling fields to the south and of Ben Wyvis to the north. The large glazed sections allow heat and light into the building which helps create a warm and bright living space.

The Scottish larch boards which were used for the build were sourced from a small, local sawmill (Cromartie Timber in Strathpeffer). The boards had a sawn finish, with a chamfered edge. In total, the quantities used were 252sqm for the house, 80sqm for the workshop/study and 50sqm of decking.

The build started in October 2014 and progressed quickly. There was a strong drive to assemble the exterior cladding, completing the protective shell and to be wind and watertight before winter set in. Work stations were set up throughout the building to treat the larch. Early starts and late finishes ensured that each board was treated in one day. The joiners worked quickly and eventually the supply of boards did not meet the demand, so the final boards were treated in situ from the scaffolding. Leona is proud to report that in the most part, she triple coated the whole house herself!

Throughout the process Leona kept in touch with Sioo for advice and support, particularly in early December as she got used to the process. She quickly appreciated how easy the treatment was to apply and completed the work by Christmas. On the 9th January 2015 the message arrived: *"Happy New Year. Scaffolding just down today planning to take pics over the weekend."* Here they are:





As the months went by the cladding began to weather, accelerated by the effect of the silica network forming in the surface substrate. This is a special attribute of the SiOO:X treatment.



By the end of June the finish was developing beautifully as the following pictures shows.



By August, the house which is aptly named Vrede, (meaning peaceful) is aging beautifully. The landscaping on site is starting to develop and the house sits so nicely on the site that one could easily be mistaken for thinking that it had been there much longer. Matt and Leona share their home with their two young daughters and they all agree it is a home that is truly enjoyed. The house has been designed to allow one South facing corner of the building to be fully opened up which results in an open plan living space that flows seamlessly out onto the SiOO:X treated deck.



For Leona and Sioo this was truly a journey together with her enthusiasm growing as a result of her seeing, touching and feeling the SiOO:X treated timber. As the summer moved into the end of August, the pictures tell the story of a lovely new home, which looks stunning in the idyllic Scottish landscape.





Leona commented:

“The journey from sourcing the product to completion has been delightful. We were drawn to SiOO:X as a product as it ultimately achieved the look we wanted for our home, with the added bonus of not having to treat it again for some time. As a point of contact the Sioo Ambassador has to be commended for his after sales care. He promptly returned calls; offered supportive words and I have no doubt that he genuinely wants his clients to be totally satisfied with the product.

The SiOO:X was easy to work with; odourless and straightforward to apply by hand. We are truly thrilled to have watched our home evolve, it is quite simply stunning and we are reassured of total protection.

I love the SiOO:X effect so much I have also treated 100m of fencing and our garden shed/office!”

It has been an enormous pleasure working with Leona and we are proud to have played a part in creating such a beautiful home.

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