# selfbuilder & homemaker



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A Marlow couple's ambitions for their ordinary brick home by the Thames were complicated by flood risk, the planners and a desire to build sustainably, so they decided to start all over again... Words and pictures: Mark Williams.

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Written by Heather Dixon. Photography by Cloud 9.

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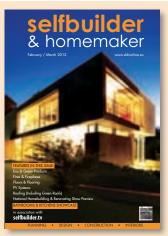
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Annual Subscription costs just £48 for 12 issues, including post and packing. Phone 01435 863500 for details. Individual copies of the publication are available at  $\pounds 5.50$  each inc p & p.

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# advice

# trustmark puts the spring into your home

Now that spring is upon us, it's time to take care of home improvements and DIY projects that we've put off all winter. Harsh winter weather has a way of leaving its mark on homes and the cold and rain or snow can leave considerable damage. TrustMark, the government endorsed quality mark for tradesmen, is advising homeowners to deal with any post-winter repairs sooner rather than later and to only use reputable and honest tradesmen to do the property repair work.

Stuart Carter, head of PR & marketing at TrustMark says: "It is vital that homeowners do their best to minimise the potential damage from the harsh weather and ensure that if things do go wrong, they hire legitimate tradesmen to carry out any repair work. Dealing with problems at an early stage can ward off the need for more extensive and expensive repairs in the future."

Below is a list of TrustMark's top tips on how to Spring proof your home:

- · Check your roof and guttering as the winter may have taken its toll on your roof, causing slipped or cracked and broken tiles. If water in your gutters is not running freely it can overflow and cause serious damp problems.
- External painting and maintenance: smarten up the exterior of your home by repainting any weather-weary walls, but check that they don't have any cracks in them. Painting will also protect your home from damp and a lick of paint will transform window frames.



- Check the plumbing as the winter months may have caused pipes and plumbing to have suffered frost damage, particularly if they haven't been lagged. Other common plumbing problems such as blocked drains, leaks or dripping taps may not seem immediately pressing, but it's best to get them repaired as soon as possible to avoid further damage.
- Sort out your boiler and insulation by making your home more energy and cost efficient. Cut down your heating bills by switching your boiler to summer mode and installing proper heating controls. Loft insulation will also keep your home cool in summer as well as warm in winter.
- Get your garden into good shape by mending any damaged fencing, sheds or greenhouses and clear the garden of debris. Remove any moss or algae that may have formed on garden paths or driveways and repaint or stain outdoor furniture to protect it from further weather damage.

# news

# building tradition through innovation

The UK mortgage market has yet to show any significant signs of recovery, with further contraction predicted in 2012 to £127 billion. However, the self build sector has been hailed as the 'one to watch' and is expected to be one of the best performers in the next five years, according to the Datamonitor report.

As well as doubling in size, the self build finance sector is also predicted to take share from the overall mortgage market, potentially representing over 1 per cent of the UK residential mortgage market: the UK's biggest house builder, selfbuilders, is going to get

This is why WB Timber Innovations has been launched by renowned timber products supplier Wyckham Blackwell as they believe there is scope for a new sector in the construction market to combine project management, design, supply and installation of complete timber frame and SIPS 'whole house' systems.

"Our customers are looking for an integrated approach to deliver the whole house," comments David Himmons. "We start our involvement at planning stage and typically we work with the architect and the client throughout the whole process," adds

The use of timber in construction has many obvious benefits; aesthetics, design, flexibility, environmental and cost, to name but a few. When you combine timber with some clever engineering the possibilities are endless.

Richard Evans explains in more detail: "Most timber frame companies are only interested in just the frame and similarly other component manufacturers in their own element. This is why we are unique – offering integration of all timber products along with specialist consultants – we really can offer the 'one stop shop'."

# national self build & renovation centre to restructure as cic

The National Self Build and Renovation Centre (NSBRC) has announced plans to restructure as a Community Interest Company.

Community Interest Companies (CICs) are limited companies, with special additional features, created for the use of people who want to conduct a business or other activity for community benefit, and not purely for private advantage.

The NSBRC is a unique, permanent exhibition centre providing a year round facility for prospective self builders and renovators to view the latest products and developments from providers in the trade village and learn from interactive displays.

David Murphy, general manager of the NSBRC, speaking at a recent Partner Conference hosted at the centre said: "This change to the fundamental structure of the centre shows our commitment to offer a truly independent marketplace for everyone involved in self build and renovation. We will continue to offer a unique, worthwhile and valuable visitor experience for self builders, renovators and home improvers, Industry and trade professionals, conference delegates and students. Restructuring the centre will offer a profitable and positive investment for our partners and sponsors and allow the industry to shape and participate in how the NSBRC develops as an independent force.

# news

# online property portal launches into the market

Two entrepreneurs have launched an online property portal to help individuals save thousands of pounds when buying or selling a house.

The online portal, www.housetrade.co.uk, enables individuals to sell their house privately, avoiding excessive estate agency fees and putting them in control of negotiations and viewings.

Shaun Coulthwaite, managing director and close friend Neil Arkwright, operations director of Housetrade, recently set up the online business initially focusing on Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire. The pair have continued to work on other projects whilst setting up the business in order to invest in its development and to expand into other geographical areas.

Housetrade gives buyers and sellers the opportunity to talk directly, without an estate agent taking a large percentage of the transaction of the value. It provides a step by step guide to selling your house privately, as well as looking at other routes to market including partexchanges and auctions.

The start up company is currently inviting home owners to advertise their property on the site for free. This offer is open to the first 100 people who register to sell a property through the website. After this period sellers will be able to advertise a property from as little as a £99 fixed fee with no commission upon sale for a standard three months classified advertisement. Alternatively, other sale types such as part-exchange and online auctions require no up front entrance fees and a £499 fixed fee is due upon sale.

Coulthwaite says: "Over the last few years, individuals have had to look for new ways of reducing their expenditure and we hope to instrument much needed cost savings in the property market."

Housetrade has teamed up with a range of specialist providers needed for buying and selling a house. By bringing all the required services under one banner, Housetrade.co.uk provides all the tools for selling a house from start to completion.





# rising above the river

A Marlow couple's ambitions for their ordinary brick home by the Thames were complicated by flood risk, the planners and a desire to build sustainably, so they decided to start all over again...

Words and pictures: Mark Williams



AT THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY, THE RAISED PATIO LEADS DOWN TO A MODEST SWIMMING POOL



Neil and Stephanie Jackson loved the location of their three bedroom riverside property, but having bought it with the intention of extending and renovating it things didn't quite go to plan.

The obvious option had been to extend and improve the house – which by Neil's admission was of average quality and dull – but the couple then saw the opportunity for a complete rebuild, which would get them the space they required and take their lifestyle in the 'green' direction Stephanie wanted. But there was one other reason.

The home stood just inches above the flood level of the Thames, environmental assessment suggesting the flood risk was 1/100 years. Raising the foundations just 50 cm would

reduce that risk to 1/1,000 years and potentially ensure that they stayed high and dry when other homes around them would be propping sandbags against the door.

Selecting the style of build eventually came down to environmental credentials and, despite the luxury of choice, the Jackson's eventually settled on Baufritz, which they felt offered the right mix of sustainable build materials, flexibility and the expertise to keep the carbon footprint as low as possible.

"From the start, we decided we wanted a contemporary look," said Neil, who was well aware of the sensitivity of planning in the area and that some planners might expect a new build to try and match other period properties



STEPHANIE & NEIL JACKSON

# LUXURY FOR LIFE

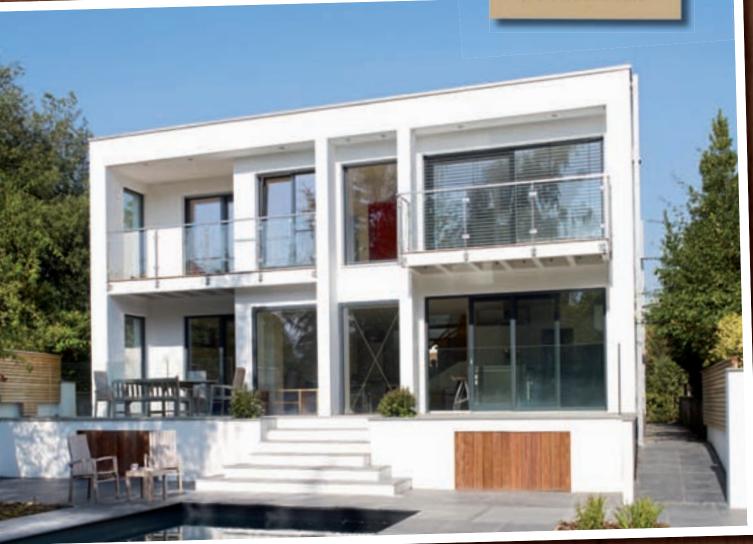
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nearby. "But we didn't want the appearance to be superficial."

So the Jacksons approached Baufritz's Cambridge office and presented them with a 'wish list' of important aspects for the new home: "Baufritz quickly sent us some examples of home styles they thought we'd like," said Neil.

The fairly cubic design they chose ticked most of the boxes: "We liked the simplicity of the look and its clean lines. Inside, the openplan design suits our lifestyle. We had planned to raise the foundations so, because we were constrained by overall height, the flat



THE NATURAL WOOD FLOORS CONTINUE TO THE LANDING, WHERE GLASS ALLOWS LIGHT TO FLOOD THE STAIRWELL

roof was a necessity."

Then, almost inevitably, the Jacksons hit planning hassles. The first problem was that, although consents for a 50 per cent increase in the house footprint existed for extending the old house, the regulation stipulated that a new build would have to be no more than 10 per cent bigger. Neil faced up to the planners with the argument that he could tack on a 50 per cent extension then, quite legally, pull the whole house down and build what he wanted in the first place. Eventually he won the argument partly on the flood plain issue and partly on the basis of the building's sustainability, but then hit another hurdle.

"After we won permission at the Development Control Panel (DCP) the planning department, who had always been opposed to the build, added conditions that we would have to reach sustainable building code CSH 6. They clearly did not understand that this is almost a theoretical level, which means you have to generate all your own energy. It even scores for aspects like the size of your bath!" said Neil.

"We had to go back to the DCP. Eventually, the council brought in a CSH expert who explained to them what it meant and he almost won the argument for us."

Baufritz produced a 3D 'walkthrough' visualisation of the house and then the Jacksons went to Germany to finalise the specification in April 2010. They could not have chosen a worse week. Although everything went well at



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The lorry drivers were amazingly skilful and Baufritz sent a letter to all the neighbours, with a bottle of wine, to apologise for the disruption

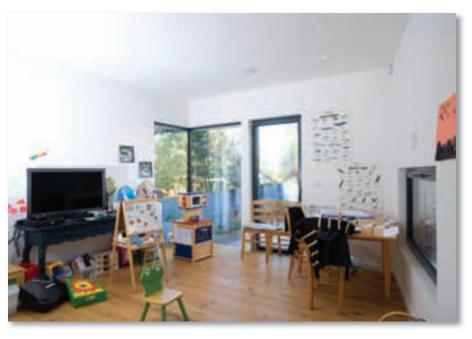
- Neil Jackson

Baufritz, the couple had left their children for the first time since they were born, and were keen to get back on schedule. Then a volcano erupted in Iceland.

"The airports closed so we had to find another way home. Eventually, Baufritz brought us back to the UK in a builder's van which, in any case, belonged to the UK office," said Stephanie.

. After a delay to wait for a slot at the factory, Baufritz announced their house would be ready to leave the factory in early August 2010. So the groundworker called the gas company to have the house disconnected ready for the demolition: "They told us it would take eight weeks!" said Neil. "It was a setback but it was comical when they finally arrived. In all, they sent six crews for the one disconnection - one crew just to put up the signs, one to dig the hole, another to turn off the gas, and so on."

By this time, the Jacksons were in a rented house nearby but supervising the groundworks. A local company, DG Site Preparations, came in to manage what were complex underpinnings.



NEIL AND STEPHANIE'S TWO CHILDREN NOT ONLY HAVE THEIR BEDROOMS BUT A LOVELY PLAYROOM

Because of the riverside location, the site required 31 pilings to be sunk. The site also needed a hole to accommodate the tanked basement, which would house all the heating, rainwater recycling and other systems: "DG's director, Danny Galvin, and his company did a fantastic job for us," says Neil.

The basement build was by the widely experienced Glatthaar, and went in during July. Then at the end of August, right on schedule, the house left the factory on 11 trucks. The location of the site down a narrow cul-de-sac was bound to cause some disruption, including asking the neighbours to park at the road entrance during the erection of the SIPs (structural insulated panels): "They were fantastic. The lorry drivers were amazingly skilful and Baufritz sent a letter to all the neighbours, with a bottle of wine, to apologise for the disruption. Then the neighbours all came to watch the

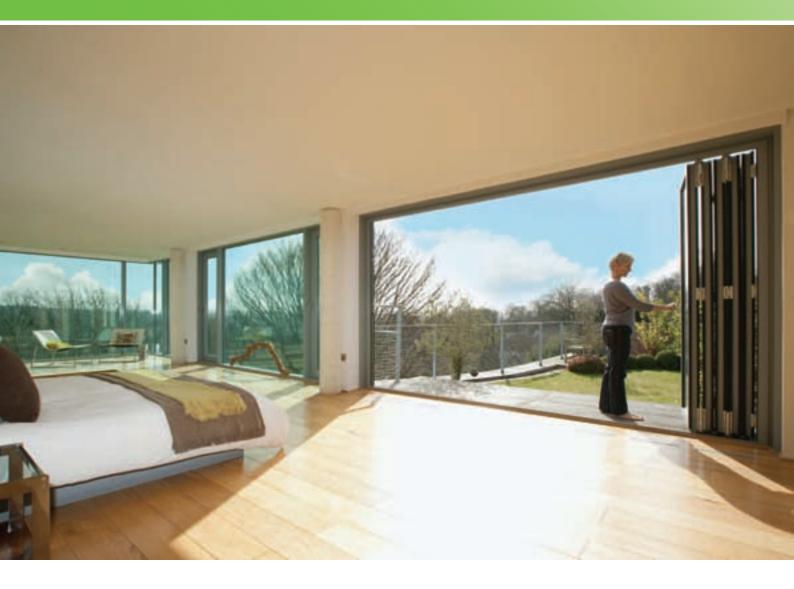


THE HUGELY SPACIOUS KITCHEN, WITH ITS ISLAND HOB AND OVEN LEAD, THROUGH TO THE UTILITY ROOM



THE GORGEOUS BULTHAUP KITCHEN IS BUILT FROM ETHICALLY-SOURCED MATERIALS

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THE MASTER BEDROOM, WHICH LOOKS SOUTH, HAS ITS OWN BALCONY AND SUMPTUOUS EN-SUITE BATHROOM

house go up," said Neil.

Baufritz' engineers worked from first light to ten every night and, two days in, the house was watertight: "The kids were able to go in and

The Jacksons have

nothing but praise

mens' attention to

detail, working

six-day weeks to

for the Baufritz trades-

painstaking standards

pick their bedrooms," says Stephanie. The fit took 18 weeks and was monitored by Baufritz on a Gantt chart, which ensured all the tradesmen arrived at the right time. There was a further hassle when the gas company said it would be six weeks to reconnect the gas, at a time when heating was needed to dry the underfloor heating screed, but this was resolved by bringing in standalone heaters. The Jacksons have

nothing but praise for the Baufritz tradesmens' attention to detail, working six-day weeks to painstaking standards.

The landscaping in the front and back garden

included a new wall, patios, driveway and a small swimming pool, together with flower borders and a raised-bed vegetable garden. The original landscaper they had engaged

proved to be well short of acceptable, so the work was completed by themselves, along with the help of Susie Clark Garden Design (who created all of the concept plans) and Mulberry Tree Gardens.

The outcome of all the months of hard work and heartache is a superb contemporary home. The ground floor is an open-plan design with a large entrance lobby, which gives into the living area at the

south-facing rear of the house including the kitchen and dining space, with extensive windows and access to a timbered patio with a

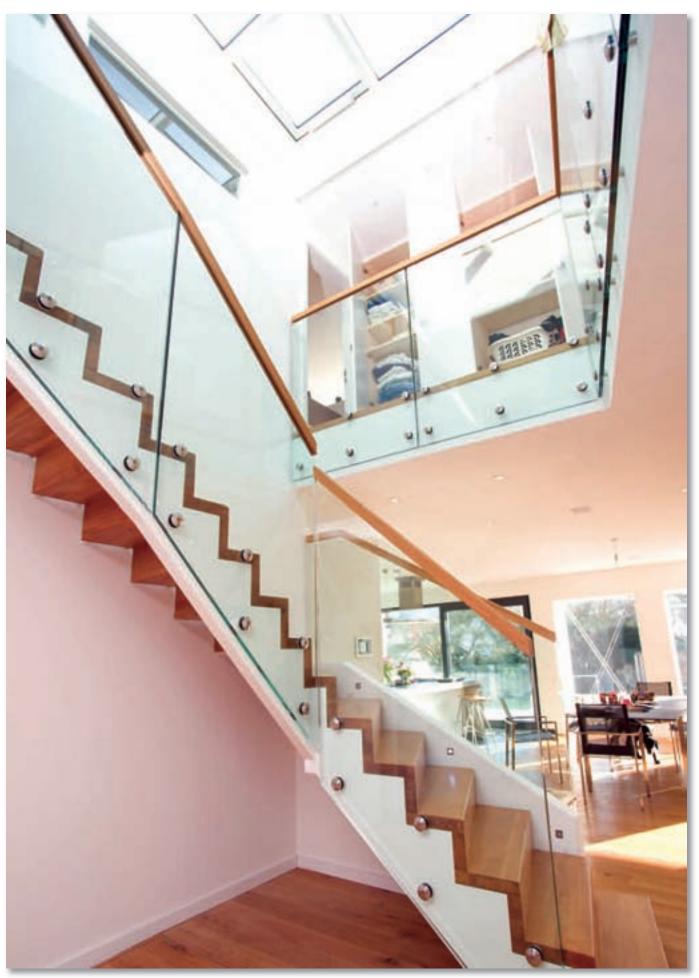
The wide entrance lobby also accesses a family TV room and playroom at the front. The TV room has sliding glass screens to separate it from the lobby and provide some soundproofing when this family home is buzzing with activity. A trapdoor on gas struts gives access to the basement.

The staircase is a major feature of the home, leading up to the first floor gallery. Rooflights flood the area with daylight to give an impression of spaciousness. On the first floor, the Jacksons have the potential for five bedrooms, two en suite. The master bedroom faces the back garden, and incorporates a dressing area with built-in wardrobes. The en-suite bathroom is large, having a bath and an attractive, slatetiled interior wall hiding a walk-in shower.

The other two rear bedrooms are the chil-







SUPER-EFFICIENT INSULATION COMBINES WITH GLASS TO ENSURE THE JACKSONS' HOME IS BRIGHT BUT CHEAP TO RUN





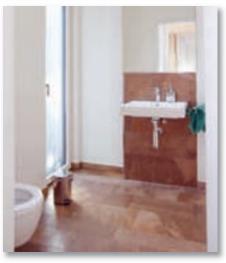
drens', adjacent to a family bathroom. The front bedrooms are currently used as a guest room and a study for Stephanie and Neil – who both work from home some of the time. One has an en-suite shower room. Throughout, the house has wooden flooring.

The effect is stunning, with a bright, spacious feel, but the use of unusual angles makes the Jacksons' home unpredictable, with some spaces such as the hallway 'opening out' as you enter and avoiding the feeling of pinch points where multiple doors let into the space.

The kitchen is a triumph. It's a bespoke design from German company bulthaup, supplied and fitted through Kitchen Architecture of Oxford. Established in 1949 during the bauhaus movement, bulthaup focuses strongly on sustainablyand ethically-sourced materials. Past customers include Heston Blumenthal. It's in a parallel layout, with workspace under wall cupboards and a vast island that offers 'breakfast bar' dining but also houses the hob, with a stylish extractor over. It's a real focal point for family life.

Ensuring the house has minimal carbon emissions was a core objective from the start. This begins with the SIPs, which Baufritz constructs from sustainable, non-polluting materials. The home is extremely airtight and well insulated, making best use of the underfloor heating installed throughout, but the Jacksons have also added almost 4 kW/h of photovoltaic panels and solar water panels on the roof. The groundworks included installation of a rainwater tank, which supplies the loos and washing machine. Even the swimming pool heating is via an airsource heat pump in the garden, and an electrically powered solar insulated pool cover ensures less of the pool heat is wasted overnight. Additionally, the entire house is lit by LEDs, which was a challenge ably met by a specialist low-energy light supplier.

In the living area, the Jacksons opted for a



A DOWNSTAIRS LOO HAS A GARDEN DOOR, PERFECT FOR DAYS WHEN THE FAMILY IS ENJOYING THE POOL AND THE SUN

contemporary wood burner, but Neil says a test run of this efficient heating proved it to be heating overkill; it's a lovely focal point but the house doesn't require it to stay warm. Of course, the Jacksons still have a gas boiler, but Neil's estimates that it would hardly be needed proved correct: "It broke down not long after we moved in but it was three days before we noticed," he says.

From the large driveway, the Jacksons' home looks oddly comfortable, even alongside the large Victorian properties and 1950s brick. It's a large house but has surprisingly low impact, both environmentally and visually. It meshes well with Marlow's middle-class image – a matter of accomplished understatement - but the toys in the garden and the childrens' drawings on the windows underline the fact that this is not an artistic or architectural statement but a supremely practical family home.

# project costs

Cost of land: £740,000 Value of property now: Priceless, as it's our home!

# What was the high point of the project?

Gaining planning permission... twice! The demolition, the basement being installed and the building being watertight within two days.

# The low point was:

Being let down by the unrealistic planning conditions after bel-ieving we had consent; our problems with the landscaper and the farcical work of the gas company.

### Contacts

• Architect – Alexander Kolbe, Design Venture

### www.designventure.co.uk

• Main contractor, low-flow taps/showers, eco-friendly paints, plumbing & UfH - Baufritz

# www.baufritz.co.uk

• Electrician and MCS installer lain Gordon, GES Digital

# www.gesdigital.com

 Alarm system – GES Digital www.gesdigital.com

• Low energy lighting & design -Paul Daly, ESL (Energy Saving Lighting

# www.energysl.co.uk

 Kitchen units -Kitchen Architecture, Oxford

## www.kitchenarchitecture.co.uk

• Demolition - Danny Galvin, DG Site **Preparations** 

# www.dgsp.co.uk

 Solar Panels – Freesource Energy www.freesource.co.uk

# editor's focus

# SWISH BUILDING PRODUCTS

Swish building Products now offers a market leading 30 year guarantee on its white cellular PVC roofline profiles as well as the company's pioneering low carbon rainwater system when used together on any installation. The installation must be registered by a Swish Approved installer or commercial contractor on the Swish website. The Swish rainwater system was among those products shortlisted in the Best Recycled Product category at the Sustainable Housing Awards 2010.

Enq. 107

# 2

# WESTCLIFFE JOINERS

Westcliffe Joiners is a leading curved staircase manufacturer in England. They have been steadily growing and satisfying their clients with their exquisite bespoke curved staircases for many years. They are one of the last remaining staircase companies in England to still manufacture curved staircases using traditional methods including continuous string and wreathed hand rails, and their speciality is manufacturing custom built curved staircases.

Eng. 108



# 3

### G M MOORE & ASSOCIATES

G M Moore & Associates is a design and planning consultancy with over 25 years of experience. They provide site appraisals; details of planning requirements and design potential; submit planning, listed building and conservation area applications; plus planning appeals and Local Authority negotiations. G M Moore & Associates provide you with the information to make an informed choice before or after you purchase your property. Projects are tailored to the client's requirements.

Enq. 109









-5

# RYBURNE WINDOWS

Since their first H&R show in 2010, Ryburne Windows have completed a number of projects involving Autentica and have now added the Monorail Patio door to their stable of bespoke premium quality products. On display at the NEC will be a giant 4m x 2m patio in just two panels, allowing maximum light and the best view to be seen through a glazed area. Also their Baroc composite door, Autentica window system and the latest R9 flush casement from Ecclectic Systems makes an appearance.

Enq. 111

## SHAWS BESPOKE JOINERY LLP For over 30 years Shaws has offered the finest bespoke joinery services for clients throughout the UK. Always on hand, they are privileged to partner you in giving your cherished home a look all of its own... and one that will add character as well as beauty. From individually designed conservatories and tastefully tailored replacement windows, to stylish doors and elegant porches, their aim is always the same: to create a product of which they themselves would be proud. They supply or fit made-tomeasure solid quality hardwood and softwood joinery incorporating modern technology in traditional joinery.

Enq. 112

# POLYROOF

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Enq. 110

16

# When is a bi-fold door not a bi-fold door?



# A. When it's a folding sliding door

(When it has more than two panels)

Why do so called Specialist bi-fold companies sell doors with more than two panels?

Q If you have three shoes is it still a pair?

Bi-fold door (noun) An interior door (a door that closes off rooms within a building)

Meronyms (parts of "bi-fold door"): flexible joint; hinge (a joint that holds two parts together so that one can swing relative to the other)

bifold /bi'fold/ (adjective) 1. Twofold

bi /bī-/ or sometimes before a vowel (prefix) Two, twice, double



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OVER THE YEARS THE PROPERTY HAS GROWN TO AROUND SIX TIMES ITS ORIGINAL SIZE. STARTING LIFE AS A SMALLHOLDER'S COTTAGE WITH IUST TWO ROOMS AND GRADUALLY EVOLVING INTO THE FOUR-BEDROOM HOUSE IT IS TODAY

# pinder's paradise

For years Tim and Deb Josse had driven past a tiny cottage with big potential, never dreaming that one day it would be theirs... Written by Heather Dixon. Photography by Cloud 9.

Where better to live

than overlooking

a beautiful nature

reserve, complete

with lakes, islands

and big Yorkshire

skies?

When Tim Josse gets home after a hard day at work he likes to 'pull up the draw bridge' and enjoy some peace and quiet.

So where better to live than overlooking a beautiful nature reserve, complete with lakes,

islands and big Yorkshire skies? It was certainly the location, rather than the house, that convinced Tim and his wife Deb to buy a tiny two-bedroom cottage - complete with sagging roof, peeling render and dated décor - as part of their strategy to downsize

"We were rattling around in our last house and were looking for somewhere a bit smaller," said Tim. "We had driven past this place for 20 years to and from our

way to work and often commented about its location and potential. We always felt we could do something with it and turn it into something special. When it came up for sale we went to see it and discovered that my sister used to babysit for the owner's children!"

Tim was so enthused by the potential in the property that he showed it to a friend, who was a designer and architect, and was told that if they didn't buy it, his friend would.

"He ended up drawing up the plans and project managing the

build for us," said Tim.

The property is believed to have started life as a 16th century pinder's cottage - a single room probably no more than 15ft square over an animal barn – and was last extended in the Seventies. Tim wanted to preserve the original stone building and extend it further to more than double the size of the property, virtually creating a 'wrap-around' house that would incor-

porate the original cottage.

"We wanted to maximise on the fabulous views," said Tim. "It was the landscape - overlooking the lakes of a nature reserve – that sold it to us. Where else would we find a house in a location like this?













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**GARDENS** 

ENERG)

RENOVATION SELF BUILD IN



Their plans were passed by Leeds City Council and Tim, who is managing director of an IT company, and Deb - an office manager lived in their previous home, 15 miles away, while the building work was done. Fortunately they had just sold a business and had the cash to buy the property outright, paying a £5,000deposit to secure it.

There was no way we could live in the cottage while the work was being done because we were taking it right back to basics," said Tim. "Fortunately we were able to live in our previous house for the first nine months of the build, then we moved into our apartment in Leeds for the last 12 weeks when the project over-ran."

The first step was to take the cottage - originally built in three-feet thick stone with straw filling - back to a shell, strip out the dated interior fittings and throw them into skips, and remove the 35-year-old render from the breeze



block extension.

The cottage sits on a low hillside, so when the foundations were prepared for the new extension the builders created retaining walls at the same time, digging into the hillside on the north-facing side of the property to create a secure wall that would prevent any possibility of landslip.

"It is effectively an upside-down house with most of the living area laid out like a bungalow on the top floor, with a double garage underneath built into the hillside," said Tim. "All the main living areas overlook the nature reserve so it's very peaceful and secluded."

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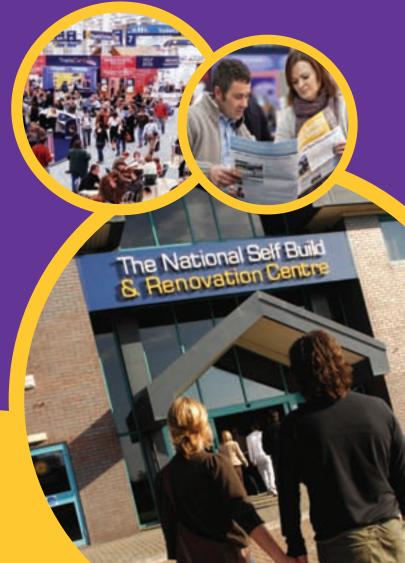
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THE OPEN PLAN LIVING AREA – WHICH INCLUDES KITCHEN, SITTING AND DINING ROOMS MEASURES 20FT X 40FT AND ENJOYS SPECTACULAR BALCONY VIEWS ACROSS THE NATURE RESERVE

The biggest challenge was to combine the old and new stone so that it was difficult to tell where the old cottage ended and the new section began. Tim managed to source the stone from the same quarry that supplied the original stone and had the old stone re-pointed and cleaned. Four key stones from the original building still remain.

By the time the builders had finished, the original cottage was so neatly incorporated into the new build that it is difficult to 'see the join'.

> The biggest challenge was to combine the old and new stone so that it was difficult to tell where the old cottage ended and the new section began

The second major project was the roof. When Tim and Deb bought the cottage its roof was sagging and it was clearly more cost effective to replace the whole roof than try to patch between old and new.

Nothing of the original roof could be salvaged, so Tim chose flat pantiles that would cover the original and new parts of the house. He added a copula over the flat-roof entrance porch to draw maximum light into the north-facing side of the property.

The roof space was insulated to double the standard thickness and the internal walls fitted with insulated plasterboard ready for first and second fixing.



SMITH BROTHERS OF YORK SUPPLIED AND FITTED THE UNITS IN THE SPACIOUS 20FT SQ KITCHEN



THE MAIN BEDROOM OVERLOOKS THE RSPB FAIRBURN INGS NATURE RESERVE SO TIM MADE SURE THE WINDOWS WERE LARGE AND WIDE

THE NATURAL STONE FIRE SURROUND AND WOOD FLOORS REFLECT THE RURAL LOCATION OF THE HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF A NATURE RESERVE



# project costs

**Cost of land:** £271,000

Overall cost of project: £180,000 Value of property now: £525,000

# What was the high point of the project?

"Moving in and realising it had surpassed all our expectations. When I think what it was like before and during the build, it's amazing to see the transformation."

The low point was: "The kitchen floor used to slope by two inches from corner to corner and had to be levelled. I took my young son to see the house just after the screed had been laid and he ran right across the wet concrete. I had to level it all out again before it dried. My shoes got ruined!"

- Architect Easdale Lane Partnership
- Builders J&C Smith Builders
- Bathrooms & kitchen Smith Bros (York) www.smithbrothersyork.com
- Fitted furniture Harval Fitted Furniture www.harval.co.uk
- CCTV DI Byers

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- Floor Carpenters of York
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- Alarms Hi-Tech Alarms
- www.hi-techalarms.co.uk
- Ceramics Caesar Ceramics www.caesars-ceramics.co.uk

New made-to-measure PVC windows were installed and oak floors laid throughout the main living area on the first floor.

"Ås we went along we made one or two changes to the rebuild," said Tim. "I particularly wanted a larger en-suite bathroom, for example, so we had to go back to planning to

push the gable wall out slightly. You have to be prepared to compromise, but because we are not overlooked these small changes were pretty straight forward."

The project was originally budgeted at around £170,000 but Tim's changes and upgrades, including the solid oak floor instead of laminate and their choice of high quality kitchen and bathroom fittings, added a further £30,000 to the final cost.

The original ninemonth time scale also extended to a year, but

that was partly due to the evolving build. 'It was worth it to get what we wanted,' said Tim. 'If we had made too many compromises we would have regretted it later."

Tim and Deb finally moved into the new

house in March 2006, furnishing the property in a contemporary style and breathing new life into a house that has literally grown over the centuries. With its three bedrooms, home office, 20ft x 40ft open plan living area and 20ft square kitchen, it's almost four times its original size and the perfect family home for

someone who, like Tim, enjoys his moments of tranquillity. But a recent medical scare has made Tim and Deb rethink their lifestyle and they are reluctantly planning to sell the house so they can move into the centre

of Leeds.

"We love the peace and quiet here," said Tim. "The location is fabulous, but we have reached the point where we are ready for a complete change and plan to buy another apartment right in the city centre. It will

be a big wrench to leave after putting so much time and energy into this place, but hopefully the next people to live here will enjoy its unique location as much as we have done. It's not every day you can wake up in the morning to views like these."

compromise - Tim Josse

As we went along

we made one or

two changes to

the rebuild [...]

You have to be

prepared to





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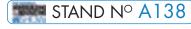
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STAND Nº B144

Enq. 116









# inspiring selfbuilders for 21 years

This year, Britain's biggest self build and renovation event, The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, is celebrating 21 years of inspiring generations of home owners to build their dream home. In its long history the show has helped hundreds of aspiring selfbuilders and renovators to achieve their vision and in March, the show expects to welcome its millionth visitor through the doors.

Whether you're planning a renovation or embarking on a self build journey, The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show provides the widest range of groundbreaking, different and exciting solutions under one roof, no matter what stage your project is at!

For four days, from 29th March - 1st April, the show returns to the NEC, Birmingham, bringing more self build and renovation ideas, DIY advice and interior inspiration to make every aspect of your home perfect. The show is brimming with great ideas and innovative techniques from over 450 specialist exhibitors who are offering an unrivalled range of products, practical workshops and hands on demonstrations all under one roof!

For the first time, the show features a dedicated Eco Home Zone with its very own Eco Home Theatre providing visitors access to specialists in sustainable energy solutions. With rising energy prices, visitors can use this opportunity to explore ways to keep their energy bills low by adopting different energy solutions. In addition, the show is increasing the amount of in-depth seminar and master class theatres to

four (including the Eco Home Theatre where eco home experts, including Tim Pullen will be presenting several seminars), providing the widest and most detailed range of advice and expertise to be found in the UK.

One of the newest construction options – full size structurally insulated panels (SIPs) - will be on display for visitors to examine first hand and discuss with experts whether the structure is right for their self build. Don't miss out on live demonstrations at the Carpenter Oak Traditional Skills Showcase where you will learn a variety of skills including dry walling, lime rendering, thatching and many more.

If you're happy to get your hands dirty, visit the 'Try it Yourself' area, which will provide free interactive training sessions on skills such as tiling, bricklaying and plastering.

To transform your garden this spring, visit the Landscaping Zone, created by Buildbase for an insight into how to make the most of your outdoor space. Whether you're planning to grow your own vegetables in the city or create a family friendly entertaining space, this zone will continue to provide you with all the latest, new ideas that you're looking for.

Make sure you stop by 'The Advice Centre' stand where the Homebuilding & Renovating magazine experts will be joined by leading professional bodies to help guide your project



from start to finish. Take this opportunity to bring your drawings along for a one to one consultation where you will receive useful tips to enhance your project.

For visitors requiring more specialist advice, there are 48 free Masterclass programmes to address your specific problems and issues. Presented by leading exhibitors, these classes offer a great opportunity to talk one-on-one with principal companies in the industry. Topics include smart homes, finance, construction systems, renewable energy, basements, build costs, heating, design, renovating, roofing and DIY.

Experts will be on hand to give guidance with your project in every field including design, finance, renewables, sustainability, restoration and legal issues.

# THE FACTS

#### When:

29<sup>th</sup> March: 10.00 - 17.00 30<sup>th</sup> March: 10.00 - 17.00 31<sup>st</sup> March: 10.00 - 17.00 1<sup>st</sup> April: 10.00 - 17.00

Where: NEC, Birmingham

For more information and tickets visit **www.homebuildingshow.co.uk** or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 1375 Tickets are £10 in advance or £15 on the door (children under 16 go free)

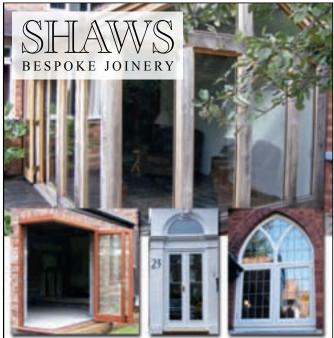


To be in with a chance to win one of 25 pairs of tickets to The Homebuilding & Renovating Show, simply answer the following question:

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Enq. 120

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Enq. 121



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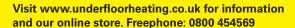
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Enq. 123

## **Northcot Brick**



Northcot Brick, one of the UK's foremost independent brick manufacturers, is showing its unique range of traditional bench moulded handmade sand faced bricks on stand H110 at the Homebuilding and Renovating Show. Made from finest Cotswold clay, the range is hand-thrown and coal fired using traditional methods to create the subtle variations of colour and texture and the individual beauty that characterises hand made bricks. Produced in many different degrees of weathering,

their instant aged look makes them ideal for restoration work and for creating beautiful features that add value to self build homes. Custom made bricks and colour matching is available on request.

STAND Nº H110 Enq. 124

### Zehnder



The Swiss designed ComfoBox Apart energy centre has been specifically created for flats and apartments. It has the ability to provide heating, cooling, heat recovery ventilation and hot water in one unit while preserving valuable living space with its compact footprint. This sophisticated, yet uncomplicated multifunctional unit cleverly incorporates a highly efficient heat recovery ventilation unit (recovering up to 90 per cent of heat), with a ground source heat pump and hot water storage tank.

Suitable for integration with underfloor and solar heating systems, it is a year round solution for today's modern air tight homes and makes a valuable contribution to reducing carbon emissions.

Enq. 125



bathrooms & kitchens showcase

Traditional shaker style and hand made from solid wood, the Suffolk from **Kit Stone** is perfectly suited to the more contemporary clean lined living space. Each cabinet comes as a solid interlocking frame and is therefore easy to install. Traditional carpentry techniques have been used to create a sturdy frame, together with state of the art technology, from dimmable lighting with concealed glass shelving to soft close magnetic door catches. The Suffolk is available in a choice of 28 heritage colours and with a choice of handles to make the kitchen truly individual.

Enq. 127

It isn't easy deciding on a new kitchen. It's such an important decision, the 'heart' of the home, and you want it to be right. The problem is there are so many options and choices. Ultra-modern might look good now, but will it date? Fancy mechanisms seem attractive, but will they fall apart in a few months or so? **Pineland** uses only solid wood. All drawers are made using dovetail joints. All carcasses are made with mortise and tenon joints. Re-painting every 3-5 years makes the kitchen as good as new. Their kitchens are expected to last 20+ years.

Enq. 128



Hypocaust have now expanded their range of underfloor heating kits to provide simple and cost effective solutions to selfbuilders. With simple pricing and a quick quotation process, their systems are ideal for selfbuilders looking to install themselves. With honest pricing strategies Hypocaust ensures that they offer the best value for money whilst maintaining high quality components sourced direct from European manufacturers. With systems costing up to 60 per cent less than other leading brands, the heat really is on. Contact Hypocaust today for a quotation.

Enq. 129



...continued on page 32





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Enq. 133

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The products are also priced so that they are feasible to use throughout a project. See their full exciting product range online.

Enq. 132

The PJH Group has added a stunning new free-standing, painted furniture range to its Moods Bathrooms Collection, designed exclusively for PJH to satisfy the rising demand for design-led, high quality bathroom furniture solutions. The new Painted Collection joins the PJH Group's growing bathroom furniture range, offering a stylish alternative to the fitted and modular ranges already available. A solid design, the Painted Collection is manufactured to exacting standards, fusing fine craftsmanship with a close attention to detail.

around £288 including VAT.

A compact sit on dish basin, ideal

for cloakrooms and en-suites, has been launched by Alape. Manufactured in glassed steel, a material that is unique to Alape, the SB.K300.GS basin's concise dimensions of just 300mm in diameter ensure that it would grace the smallest of spaces. It is available in white, and a white easy-care option will keep germs and bacteria at bay. The latest dish basin is also perfect for installation with one of Alape's customised counter tops (pictured), which are designed to offer discreet storage space. The SB.K300.GS basin retails from

Enq. 134

# **Granite Transformations**



Rise Hall mansion to help transform more bathrooms, bringing the total number of installations to eight. The emerald green bathroom serving the Tepilo Suite features Dream Green recycled glass and the backlit bath panel presents a truly eyecatching, bejewelled appearance. The Millenium bridal suite, with its refined Palm Desert quartz panelling on the boxed-in bath, whimsical 'thunderbox' and twin wash stations, is notable for its subtle colourways and restrained elegance. Other

Granite Transformations highlights include a dramatic Black Star shower room in the Stable Wing.

Tel: 0800 822 3410 www.granitetransformations.co.uk

# **Betta Living**



Betta Living has launched seven new 'Best of British' kitchen designs.

2012 marks the Queen's Diamond lubilee so what better time to celebrate the best of British. With this in mind, Betta Living – national fitted kitchen and bedroom retailer – has launched a collection of classic British kitchen looks.

The collection includes seven brand new designs, in varying finishes, and covers the hottest trends in kitchen

design – from classic shaker through to cutting edge high gloss. The new range is available from Betta Living stores and through its in-home design consultation service across the UK

Eng. 136







With the demand for fully co-ordinated wall and floor combinations increasing, and following the successful launches of a number of wall tile ranges during 2010, British Ceramic Tile is pleased to announce that a selection of in-house manufactured floor tiles are also now in production. The new floor tiles offer a collection of versatile, hard-wearing, design-led options and are available in 333x333mm. They can be used in a range of both contract and retail environments, from kitchens and reception areas to bathrooms and conservatories. Sheila Elliott, creative director for British Ceramic Tile comments, "The new floor tiles provide total co-ordination with some of our most popular wall tile ranges and also work well as standalone solutions. Floor tiles are being widely used throughout the home and this latest collection has been designed with that in mind. They provide a selection of practical and stylish design options for use in a variety of environments." The latest additions have a stronger body, improved glazes and increased PEI ratings compared to the previous in-house manufactured products. To co-ordinate with the recently launched Dorchester collection, there will be a new Travertine, Onyx white, Calacatta and Carrara in a gloss finish. The Brighton White (shown left) and Willow Light floors both have linear effects complementing their corresponding wall tiles, and offering two new popular white options.

Tel: 0845 504 8925 www.britishceramictile.com

The new CAFF20 freestanding, sideby-side fridge freezer has been designed to maximise storage space. This makes it first choice for bigger families and those who truly enjoy entertaining. This model from Caple is available in brushed silver metallic doors with a grey cabinet for a stylish addition to your kitchen and comes complete with an A energy rating. This fridge freezer offers a whole host of features, which includes wave lighting to help lengthen the storage time for your fresh foods. This innovative internal lighting produces a similar spectrum to the sun, therefore allowing food to continue to photosynthesise.

Enq. 138

Frontline is delighted to introduce the latest addition to its impressive port-folio of own-brand products. The Aguaceramica Italia Collection is a new range of stylish sanitaryware exclusive to Frontline Bathrooms. The new Aquaceramica Italia range is manufactured in Italy; it is sleek and stylish, designed to add a hint of class and European inspiration to any bathroom. With strong square edges, the Aliseo Suite (pictured) has obvious masculine appeal, ideal for a simple statement bathroom with style. Frontline products are widely available through a comprehensive network of merchants and bathroom showrooms.

Eng. 139



With water saving increasingly front of mind, Methven UK is expanding the Deva Contemporary Collection of tapware with the addition of the Lace and Adore mono basin mixers with Enviro-Klick™ These stylish and worthy additions to any modern bathroom - Lace with its ergonomic looped handle and Adore with its sleek, flat lever handle - can help reduce water wastage with their clever flow reduction technology. Enviro-Klick™ technology can achieve a substantial reduction in water consumption. From the off position, the lever handle is moved to the 'reduced flow' mode, which delivers 80 per cent less water.







...continued on page 34



# **British Ceramic Tile**

British Ceramic Tile has launched phase two of its website www.british ceramictile.com to further enhance the online experience for both business customers and consumers alike. The site, which won The Tile Association Award in 2010 for Best Website of the Year, now includes a product search facility providing customers with the opportunity to filter their tile selection by colour, finish, size and use as well as collection name. The company has also introduced an 'inspiration' gallery to enable visitors to browse through a wide-range of lifestyle images for ideas and inspiration whether for the home or commercial projects, as well as a stockist search, which helps consumers locate their nearest retailer or DIY multiple by simply entering a postcode. British Ceramic Tile's chief executive, Tony Taylor, says: "Although the company website already offers a sound mix of company information, as well as video content and a company blog, we wanted to add some new elements that increased the usability of the site and widened its appeal to consumers as well as the trade. As our product portfolio increases, we'll continue to develop the site to make it a one-stop shop for tile inspiration and advice."

Enq. 141



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the heat is on





Sleek and contemporary, the new Brompton Natural Oak Kitchen from Ellis Furniture brings warmth to the heart of the home with its smooth, lustrous finish, and when teamed with an impactful glass splashback in a sizzling orange and Inspire Gloss Black units, the result is a stylish, on trend kitchen space. With 'Tangerine Tango' dubbed the colour for 2012 by the Pantone Colour Institute, this winning kitchen combination is sure to make a stunning statement. The addition of sleek CDA appliances, a postformed worktop in Welsh slate, and chrome bar handles creates an immensely practical space.

Enq. 144



Aqata has issued its Complete Collection 2012 brochure. Brimming with stunning shower enclosures, showers and accessories, the 208 page brochure provides inspiration along with comprehensive product information and prices, to make choosing the perfect shower solution a simple and enjoyable process. The brochure incorporates Aqata's complete product portfolio including products launched during the last year. The compact brochure format includes all the necessary details to make life as easy as possible.

Enq. 143

Clear, unadorned and architectural, the Kiora kitchen sink is a welcome addition to **Duravit's** range of ceramic kitchen sinks and has exactly what it takes to become a classic. For the first time in a long and successful partnership, Sieger Design is venturing into the kitchen sector for Duravit. Kiora is available as a surfacemounted sink or inset into the worktop. Kiora is also particularly flexible: either a large internal bowl or an additional small waste bowl offer lots of space for all kinds of kitchen chores whether large or small.

Enq. 145



# **JELD-WEN**



Rembrand Timber, Scotland's largest construction store, has launched a new luxury collection of internal and external doors called Advance-line by JELD-WEN. Available exclusively through Rembrand Timber, the new Advance-line collection features stunning American white oak veneer doors, which are designed to add character and style to the home. Jeff Low, director of Rembrand Timber, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer this inspiring collection of doors and doorsets

throughout our 16 stores. Despite these still being tough times for consumers, we believe there is strong demand for this type of high quality, luxury oak joinery product, as people are recognising how it enhances the home."

Eng. 147

# **Medite Tricoya**



AMS Joinery of Maidstone has been working on a Victorian town house in Notting Hill, London, which has undergone a full refurbishment to bring the property back to its former glory. As the new home of a London property developer, the owner had specific designs in mind intended to retain as much of the property's period feel as possible. One of AMS Joinery's tasks was to manufacture and install a large No. 10 Downing Street-style front door to the newly renovated property; a job

for which the stability and durability of new Medite Tricoya MDF, the ground-breaking new panel product from a joint development agreement with Medite Europe & Accsys Technologies.

# Garador



Garador has put style back into front doors with its upgraded range of high quality, fully insulated Frontguard doors.

The doors, which are already proving to be popular with consumers, not only look stunning, but they are quality engineered and manufactured from top quality materials.

The FrontGuard range is available in both steel and aluminium with panel designs in both classic and modern

styles, appealing to all tastes. They are also available with a choice of either timber or aluminium frames

Tel: 01935 443722 www.garador.co.uk

**Videx Security** 

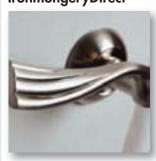


The new Videx Kristallo range of audio and video apartment units for door entry systems shows many advanced features including functional touch sensitive controls. With a contemporary and elegant design, Kristallo units will complement modern interior designs and lifestyles. Available in either black or white, with a crystal smooth surface finish, compact flush and low profile surface mounting versions are available. The Kristallo range includes eight models - four audio and four video

apartment units - designed for use in conjunction with the versatile Videx VX2200 digital door entry system. This allows the Kristallo to be used on any size system.

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# IronmongeryDirect



The UK's largest online and mail order supplier of ironmongery products to the trade has launched three new ranges of door hardware, from luxury to cost effective, exclusively from Ironmongery Direct and available in its latest catalogue. Guaranteed to bring a luxurious look to any interior is the elegant detailing of the Elan lever handle designer range. Ideal for high quality domestic and office projects, the sleek designs offer a premium finish to interior doors. Be it minimalist or homely, customers

will find a look to suit any style. For a stylish and contemporary option at great value, the Morello range includes modern and traditional levers in a variety of finishes suitable for commercial through to domestic projects.

JB Kind



JB Kind's new 'Calypso' range is a light and refreshing choice of contemporary white primed shaker panel doors.

From 1st March until 30th June 2012, JB Kind will be offering the 'Calypso -Montserrat' door at the fantastic price of £57.00 ex vat. An amazing 40 per cent off the list price £95.00! A beautiful four pane'l shaker style door constructed with a solid core and faced with MDF.

A matching glazed partner, as well as FD30 fire door option is also available.

Tel: 01283 554197 www.jbkind.com

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# Simpson Strong-Tie



Simpson Strong-Tie has unveiled its new 2012 catalogue, which gives customers a complete guide of its range of structural connectors for timber and masonry construction. This eagerly-awaited catalogue, which is available as a hard copy, CD-Rom or as a download from the Simpson Strong-Tie website, details full descriptions of each product along with technical information and load capacities. As well as featuring long established products, this industry bible also details

new product ranges, including the I-Bean hold support (IHS), safety fast lite (SFLHI) and a range of connectors for use with structurally insulated panels. There are also even more products with European Technical Approval (ETA).

Enq. 155

# **Fermacell**



Fermacell's innovative dry lining board is a high performance multi-purpose gypsum fibre board that is an alternative to plaster board and has the versatility to provide outstanding results for a wide range of projects. Fermacell's unique manufacturing technique produces board of quality, flexibility and strength. Made from 94 per cent recycled materials, Fermacell provides a sustainable solution for walls, ceilings and floors. The dry lining board is just one of a number of products within the

Fermacell range, which also includes Fermacell Flooring Systems that provide a dry alternative to conventional wet screed systems and the Fermacell Powerpanel H<sub>2</sub>O board for commercial and domestic shower and wet areas.

Enq. 156

# space

# style













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Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 7JZ

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# Solarlux

Solarlux's contemporary Wintergardens can be added to virtually any part of the house creating an exciting living area.

A thermally insulated glass roof and folding glass doors allow the light to fill the room.

The doors can be folded back to open up the room to the outside, creating a seamless transition between the house and the garden or patio and also adding the 'wow' factor.

Choose from a range of styles to create your own unique design to suite your lifestyle.

Tel: 01707 339970 www.solarlux.co.uk



# No other manufacturer measures up to Origin

Bi-fold doors come in all shapes and sizes - but none are quite as impressive as Origin's made-to-measure door systems. Just look at what comes as standard:

- Superb quality with a 20-year guarantee
- Thermally efficient to exceed British Building Regulations and keep your energy bills low
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- Total security with a unique 8 point locking system
- Low maintenance with high grade aluminium frames
- · British made with showrooms nationwide
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Find out more about the ideal bi-fold doors for your home.

Simply call 0845 450 6662 or visit www.origin-global.com for specifications and guide prices.









# Vicaima



Matching real veneered doors has often proved expensive in the past, with little choice but to use bespoke services or to opt for man made alternatives. However, things are now set to change, with the introduction of the Straight Line (SL) range of doors from Vicaima. SL is manufactured using an advanced technique that maintains a consistent and straight line grain configuration on real veneer. The new Vicaima SL range offers a choice of eight species. Doors can be

supplied in horizontal or vertical grain direction, with additional cross directional designs blending one of more different SL Veneers for a truly outstanding feature.

# **Lightworks Stained Glass**



Lightworks Stained Glass, Clitheroe based designers of beautiful stained glass, recently came across the creative work of American Liturgical Illustrator and designer Mathew Alderman. Inspired by the work of Mathew, Daniel Burke, owner and founder of Lightworks Stained Glass, contacted the artist to ask if he would be interested in turning his cartoons into stained glass. Excited at the prospect of seeing one of his original pieces of work transformed into stained

glass the artist immediately gave permission for Lightworks to begin work on a panel sample. The result is stunning; the illustration is entitled 'St. Cecillia of Rome' and is one of Mathew's original illustrations.

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# Enq. 160

# Safedoors



Safedoors' latest range of low maintenance PVC-U composite doors is now available from The Window Store, offering a convenient solution for easy updates and repair work. The White Range of 'fit and forget' PVC-U composite doors, offers a value for money solution. Available at all The Window Store branches, the latest range from Safedoors is supplied in a choice of five made to measure doorsets with a smooth white PVC-faced skin. Each door comes complete with gold han-

dles and letterplate, plus a full multipoint locking system. Glazed doors are supplied with minster glass as standard. The doors are also supplied with PVC edge trims for an improved aesthetic appearance.

Sunfold Systems



Exhibiting at this year's Ecobuild exhibition, Sunfold Systems will be showing how its products will help towards creating a sustainable home. The show will give visitors the opportunity to see a selection of Sunfold Systems' doors and windows (on stand N958), and not only discuss with its team of experts their specific requirements, but also the opportunity to test the doors and windows themselves to experience the quality first hand. Each year Sunfold provides a broad array of product

examples on its exhibition stand and this year is no different. As well as its signature thermally broken aluminium and composite bi-folding doors, visitors will also be able to see examples of internal door sets.

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> COME AND SEE US AT THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING SHOW (STAND D147)

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# Delivering Tomorrow's Energy Efficiency... today

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- Reduced wall thickness
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# a sustainable future

Back in December 2008, Kevin and Kim purchased Sugar Loaf Farm. The property needed upgrading, and in early 2009 they turned their attention to how best to improve it. "We started a long journey, with the aim to make things better from an aesthetic, environmental and social perspective" says Kevin. "Our own understanding of the issues has provided a good foundation, but throughout the process we have had considerable input from experts in sustainable and low environmental impact building."

The remodelled and extended farmhouse will provide some 6,000 sq ft of family accommodation, and although a single dwelling, it will effectively be divided into three units, all with their own separate access. Kevin and his wife will occupy part of the house, their daughter Sophie, her husband and two daughters the largest share, and their youngest son Ben will also have his own accommodation.

Kevin believes everything they have achieved is consistent with a common sense approach to the role of the built environment. High on this agenda is the need for us all to reduce our impact on the environment, especially that of the existing housing stock, and for families to take greater responsibility for each other within local communities.

Kevin prefers the term sustainable to eco or green, emphasising the need for durability

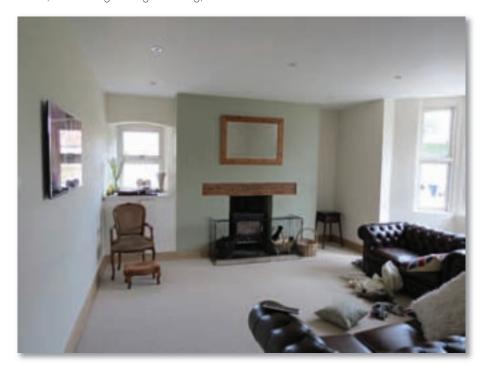
After gaining planning permission the project got underway immediately. Working within a limited budget, Kevin chose a building notice approach as opposed to detailed specification and building regulation drawings.

"We were confident in our ability to manage the contract as a family, based on our understanding of building and materials, and that construction is basically a simple process that need not be as complicated as portrayed in Grand Design type programmes! In hindsight, we could have made life easier for ourselves if we had decided on the materials and construction methods in conjunction with the design. This only serves to underline the importance of product and system knowledge across all sectors of the construction industry.

"We wanted to use materials that were of low environmental impact and to create a healthy, breathable home to live in and one that required minimal energy. We benchmarked our performance requirements against the Passivhaus standard, and our number one source for advice and guidance was Ecomerchant.

"Our approach being 'fabric first,' all of the new build element has been built using a monolithic walling system in conjunction with fibre board external insulation and a mix of lime render and timber cladding systems. The external wall has a design u value of 0.14.

This type of construction provides a flexible





...continued on page 43





# Remmers

With the increasing demands for the safe disposal of packaging, Remmers continue to lead the way in innovative packaging solutions by reducing the impact on the environment when it comes to disposal. The task - how can we make mixing resins and hardeners 'fool proof'?

The solution is brilliantly simple – deliver the products in a multi-chamber bag. With this new bag mixing errors are now impossible. The components are packaged in the current mixing ratio in a single plastic bag separated by a plastic clip which, when removed; the two components in the closed bag can be safely and cleanly mixed by kneading. It takes less than 60 seconds.

After mixing, the contents of the bag are cleanly squeezed out through a screw-on nozzle just by rolling up the bag. You do not need any tools for mixing and contact with skin is avoided. That not only reduces packaging waste but also any health risks.

Enq. 170





Sustainable building materials from foundation to ridge

> **SUNPIPES | WINDOWS & DOORS | BUILDING MATERIALS | RENEWABLES & ENERGY | INSULATION | DRAINAGE & WATER |** LANDSCAPING | PAINTS & INTERIORS |

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system that is incredibly fast to build with; our builders likened it to building with lego! The storey and half extension to the front elevation probably only took the equivalent of one man working for three days full time to build. This breatheable construction system with its thermal mass offers a simple route to good long lasting air tightness. In the continent this form of construction is known as Ziegel, and is proven over hundreds of years and many thousands of buildings.

"The roof structures copied the existing A beams from the original farmhouse and this approach made it straightforward to install 35mm fibre board externally and 250mm of insulation within 150mm and 100mm rafters and intelligent membrane, providing a U value of 0.15. The traditional approach to the roof structure has enabled the property to benefit from a host of vaulted ceilings, providing additional light and space.

"Existing slates have been re-used on the house (front elevation) together with table stones keeping the traditional styling. Slates have been used on all the new build roofs together with roof lights and sun tubes.

"The fabric first approach and the use of natural materials had brought its own challenges, with many products being used by the contractor for the first time. This has made parts of the build process much more labour intensive and increased costs, but also made us realise that the extra effort has been expended working with the right materials doing the best things. The old saying 'a stitch in time saves nine' is brought to mind.

Choosing the contractor and deciding on the best methodology for the construction process is a key decision. Kevin and Kim chose a local general builder that they'd known for over 20 years. The small firm took on board most of the first fix elements; groundworks and foundations, construction of the shell, first fix carpentry, roof timbers, slating and lead work.

This approach reduced the number of sub contractors used on the project and enabled greater flexibility in production as well as making site management and co-ordination much simpler.

Kevin, Kim, their daughter Sophia and son Ben have taken shared responsibility for project management, with high levels of trust also placed in the contractors and suppliers.

Wherever possible, local firms have been used. A traditional timber garage has been con-



structed by an artisan craftsman, using locally sourced and grown larch. The kitchens, door linings, internal doors, skirting and architrave are all being supplied and manufactured from a local company.

The project has also included under floor heating, wood burners, solar thermal and solar PV panels. During the summer the solar PV panels will produce all the hot water required for the house. Rain water harvesting will be in the most basic form from a number of water butts.

This amazing renovation project has given Kevin and his family an energy saving eco home for the future. Kevin believes totally' that if you get the building fabric right, everything else follows'.

Some compromises have been made largely due to the amount of the original farmhouse that has been retained. The remodelling and extending of the Georgian farmhouse has created a fabulous home for three generations of the family.

# Eco products used within the project

- Thermoplan monolithic clay walling system
- Ecomerchant Steico Flex natural insulations – Steico Universal wood fibre boards and lime render system
- ProClimba breatheable intelligent membranes
- Natural stone
- Redwood cedar cladding
- Ecomerchant high performance joinery, double and triple glazed
- I Joists
- Natural roofing slates
- Underfloor heating Nu Heat
- Hand made kitchens The Saturday Shop, Frome, Somerset
- Oak skirting/architrave and internal doors.

# Illustrious Homes



To help meet the demand, Illustrious Homes has set up a new division — EcoHomes — specialising in new build and renovation projects to cut energy costs through using efficient materials, state of the art smart technology and innovative techniques. The new EcoHomes division aims to reduce the carbon footprint of all their projects allowing clients to benefit from increased savings on energy costs. With a simple approach of: consume less, by ensuring less energy is required

to heat and light a property; and retain more heat within the property, Illustrious Homes can offer cost effective energy saving building solutions.

Tel: 0208 242 4366 www.illustrioushomes.co.uk

Enq. 173

# **Ancon Building Products**



Ancon Building Products is showcasing its range at Ecobuild. Stand number N1110 will address the important issue of heat loss through thermal bridging. It will feature Ancon's extensive range of low thermal conductivity cavity wall ties, which includes the unique basalt-fibre TeploTie. Also on display will be a range of thermal breaks for use at other locations where the insulated building envelope is interrupted, such as balconies and brickwork support brackets. Each Ancon

product being exhibited is an innovative, yet cost-effective and practical means of improving the thermal performance of a structure.

Tel: 0114 275 5224 www.ancon.co.uk

Enq. 175

# Long Rake Spar



Long Rake Spar has re-launched their pebble dashing aggregate range to develop an iron free selection of decorative finishes. Dashing aggregates are used to protect the external fabric of both new and refurbished buildings while providing a wide variety of maintenance free, visually attractive finishes. Long Rake Spar has developed three product ranges of dashing aggregates to reflect traditional, contemporary or exclusive styles: Heritage, Renaissance and Venetian. The ranges are all sup-

plied in highly attractive labelled and bar-coded extra strong pre-pack bags. The pre-pack bags ensure extended shelf life of the product.

Tel: 01629 630133 www.longrakespar.co.uk

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# **DMMP**



DMMP Limited, which imports 'forgetable' recycled Poly-Wood garden furniture, was thrilled that this year a seaside family favourite took the decision to use its products in a new venue. Attracted by the idea that Poly-Wood furniture can be used, enjoyed and not worried about as it's maintenance free, Butlins loved the range when it was suggested for a large decking area at the holiday resort's 400-cover Sun & Moon Public House at their Skegness site. The Poly-Wood range is

created from recycled plastic bottles and, unlike wooden furniture, the comfortable range needs no treating, maintenance or painting, plus the colour does not fade.

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# **Daikin Europe NV**



Daikin Europe NV has launched a new range of wall mounted residential air conditioning units that meet the demanding requirements of modern bedrooms. Designated FTXS-K/CTXS-K, the new heat pump units blend unobtrusively with all forms of interior décor. Sleek and curved yet functionally designed with a high quality finish in attractive matt crystal white, the units' almost unnoticeable operational noise levels down to just 19dBA ensure low bedroom noise levels. At the low end

of the range a '15' class model accommodates the current trend towards smaller sized bedrooms and better insulation.

Tel: 0845 6419 300 www.daikin.eu

Enq. 174

# DRU



DRU is a Dutch company that is famous for producing high end, contemporary gas fires, electric fires and wood stoves. It was the first company to develop the balanced flue system, enabling gas fires to be installed without a chimney. Its latest innovation is PowerVent®, a flue system that overcomes all gas fire installation limitations. It is now possible to install a fire in the middle of a room, in a bedroom, kitchen, loft conversion or basement. PowerVent® is the special ingredient

that allows home owners to realise their vision when choosing a gas fire. It is now possible to acquire a spectacular, contemporary fire with a realistic flame picture that can be enjoyed wherever you want.

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# Wilo



Wilo's Stratos PICO and Wilo-Smart A small circulators are proving to be the stars of the Wilo range, ideal for the selfbuild marketplace. The Wilo Stratos-PICO — the most energy efficient small pump you can buy, offering up to 90 per cent energy savings over a standard pump — and the new Wilo-Smart A energy saving pump, offering up to 80 per cent energy savings over a standard pump have captured the imagination, especially as low efficiency, uncontrolled pumps will be

banned in the EU from the end of 2012. Both of Wilo's super stars are 'A' rated small circulators with five year 'A label warranties'.

Tel: 01283 523000 www.wilo.co.uk

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# Jøtul



Jøtul has teamed up with designer Bård Eker and his company Eker Design (responsible for the world famous supercar Konigsegg) to create something totally new in fireplace design. Jøtul Cube is based on a concept that gives considerable freedom in the choice of materials for your wood burning stove. You can now combine lava stone, glass and aluminium to create a real focal point in any room. Sleek and elegant there is also a choice of either a large wood compartment or smaller

log holder and companion set as optional extras. The Cube has endless choices; you can also change your mind even after a few years changing the appearance of your fireplace in line with other interior décor changes.

# CLEARVIEW STOVES

Britain's leading manufacturer of clean burning wood stoves

The complete solution for homebuilders & renovators

Clearview Stoves have been designing and manufacturing stoves for the last 25 years. They are solely produced in the UK and considered by many, to be the finest in the world.

There are eight stoves in our range with various style options and all available in a choice of seven colours.

These highly efficient multi fuel smoke control stoves produce emissions so low they can be used for burning wood in smokeless zones. Remarkably easy to light and producing five times more heat from the same fuel as an open fire, they can burn for long periods unattended, and so efficiently that frequent cleaning is unnecessary. They are a joy to use and it's is not unusual to hear from their many users, it's the best thing they ever bought for their home.

Our installation and product knowledge is unequalled in the industry and its backed up by the most extensive stock of flue components and accessories.













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# burning issues

Matt Beckenham, marketing manager at Stovax, offers helpful advice when choosing the right stove or fire for your self build.

It's a delightful focal point that provides a functional necessity for your house. It's a source of indulgent pleasure that can also help fulfil a building's eco remit. It can make a room look like a million dollars but it doesn't cost the earth. It's the stove or fire you choose for your new home.

Choosing the right model will be one of the most important decisions you make when planning your self build, so it's worth investing plenty of time and effort to ensure you select the option that works best for you.



There are various criteria that need to be thought about and which one of them tops the list will vary from person to person. So here's an overview of the main considerations to be investigated when buying a fire or stove; it's then up to you to decide which area takes priority.

Remember, with a self-build you do have one immediate advantage: all the construction work can be planned efficiently and cost-effectively at the start of your project, unlike those people who have bought existing homes and then have to face possible limitations – and increased costs – over how they can incorporate a stove or fire.

# How will you use the heat from your stove?

In other words: what function do you want your stove or fire to play in your new house? Do you want it to provide warmth for just one area? Or do you want it to supply heat for radiators in other parts of the building or maybe help to power a hot water system?

Many homeowners spend most of their waking hours in their homes in just one or two rooms, and a stove or a fire can provide all the zonal heating they need for those areas. If you want a stand-alone heating appliance to work

in this way, try working out the level of BTUs (British thermal units) you'd need for the space concerned and then pick a stove or fire that can deliver the right amount of heat.

If you want your appliance to provide warmth elsewhere in your house, or to generate heat for a domestic hot water system, then an integrated boiler stove would be the best choice. An example would have a "sleeve" or "jacket" fitted to the back of a stove. Cold water would flow into the jacket and be warmed by the heat from the stove and then flow out to a hot water supply or to radiators.

The boiler stove can also 'link up' to supplement other heating systems, for instance solar panels. This form of stove arrangement is proving increasingly popular with self build enthusiasts; the solar panels providing energy when it's bright and sunny, the wood stove taking over heating and hot water duties when it's cold and cloudy. Using wood and solar power vastly reduces a building's carbon footprint and also reduces a homeowner's reliance on the big energy companies.

# What fuel do you want to use?

Each fuel for a stove or fire has its advantages. Wood is regarded as carbon neutral and cheap; multifuel appliances give you the benefit of a range of solid fuels; gas is plentiful, clean and, despite recent price hikes, still economical; electricity allows for fires that are simple to install. Wood may win on environmental considerations, but gas and electricity can be switched on and switched off, so no time and energy are wasted as the appliance heats up or burns down.

You have to consider how important the cost of the fuel is to you, its availability, its convenience and its environmental impact. If you like the sound of wood, do you have space to keep it?



Chopped wood should ideally be stored for two years and have a moisture content of less than 20 per cent before it is burnt. An outdoor area that could provide a flow of air over the wood would be the best way to do this

# What look do you want?

Do you want an open fire or a stove? Do you want it to have a timeless, modern or traditional look? Do you want it to fit neatly against a wall or to be more prominent? Indeed, do you want it to be in a hearth at all? You may prefer it to be in a corner, on a wall or even in the centre of a room.

Your new stove or fire can provide a stunning focal point for a room, and with the abundance of models available you are bound to find the style you are searching for.

# And finally...

Make sure you buy your stove or fire from a qualified retailer. They can give you the right information, install the appliance correctly and then offer any necessary after-sales help.

Finding the right model requires that you ask a number of questions and then research thoroughly to find the answers. However, it's an investment in time and effort that will pay dividends in terms of how much money you could save on your fuel bills, how much value you add to your property, and how much pleasure you, your family and your guests derive from watching a dance of flames whenever it's cold outside.





- Heat the house not just the room.
- ✓ Makes a huge saving against your gas or oil heating bills.
- ✓Burns wood logs.
- ✓One charge of 10kg of logs heats the appliance to full heat, to release that heat for 7-12 hours after.
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- ✓No ducting or water connections needed just leave your doors open to allow heat to circulate.
- ✓ Made in England, HETAS and DEFRA approved.
- ✓All colour option available.

# Landy Vent Ltd - 01527857814

sales@landyvent.co.uk www.eccostove.com

For further information, contact Julian Lloyd

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**FLUE & CHIMNEY COLLECTION FOR STOVES** 



# PRIMA SMOOTH

The **NEW** stainless steel connecting flue pipe

- Lightweight 316L Grade Stainless Steel
- Available in matt black or steel finish which can also be painted

Part of the MONIER GROUP

# **Ronacrete**



Ronacrete's RonaDeck Resin Bound Surfacing played a key part in the landscaping of a high quality home designed and built by Elegant Homes of Solihull. When they designed the hard landscaping, Elegant Homes wanted a product that would complement the high standard of materials used throughout the development and they approached Ronacrete to discuss the suitability of RonaDeck Resin Bound Surfacing for their project. The RonaDeck Resin Bound Surfacing

System was supplied as a two-component UV stable polyurethane resin to be mixed with a blend of kiln-dried decorative aggregates.

Tel: 01279 638700 www.hard-landscaping.ronacrete.co.uk

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# **Everbuild Building Products**



Everbuild Building Products Ltd have gone into a new class – world class – with the launch of their new catalogue for 2012. Everbuild's 'World Class' catalogue is A4 in size and reflects a change in direction for Everbuild, who felt that their size and presence in the market was not accurately reflected in their catalogue. The glossy, 188 page extensive catalogue is packed full of products including brand staples such as PinkGrip, Forever White, Wonder Wipes and Geo-Fix as well as some

exciting new products such as Everbuild's brand new range of premium Wood Stain's and Varnishes.

Tel: 0113 240 3456 www.everbuild.co.uk

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# The National Self Build & Renovation Centre



The government's pledge to support and grow the self build market and create more opportunities for people to build their own homes is great news for budding selfbuilders and frustrated homeowners – and if you are one of them, you can put all your building ideas and plans into action at the fifth annual National Self Build & Renovation Show in April (14th - 15th). At the show, you'll have the opportunity to meet and talk to planning, design, building and property professionals

and experts and get free one-on-one's with everyone; listen to topical and informative presentations and seminars; see and learn about the latest products, materials, and systems from over 200 suppliers in the exhibitor area.

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# **Electric Heating Company**



The SlimJim electric flow boiler is the latest development from the Electric Heating Company. It may look familiar however, the SlimJim boasts 6 stage heating, a unique high current safety cut-out and a stainless steel heat exchanger with stainless steel elements. Incorporating the same technology as the award winning Fusion electric boiler, the SlimJim can be purchased with the relevant heat pack to reduce time, expense and effort culminating in a one-stop shop for electric

flow boiler installations. It has been designed to maximise cupboard space within the home. EHC recognise that, in today's economic climate, products must be high quality, inexpensive and readily available.

Enq. 188

# **Electric Central Heating Without Pipes!**

# REVOLUTIONARY NEW





• Looks like regular central heating

\* Complies with energy efficiency requirements in building regulations part L1 & 2

No Plumbing

No Boiler

• No Pipes

- No Special Wiring
- No maintenance
- Low Capital Investment
- 100% Energy Efficient
- Easy Installation



0844 479 0055 www.electrorad.co.uk

Enq. 189



# Remarkable load hanging strength

With Fermacell Dry Lining board you can hang pictures, radiators and plasma televisions with ease. Hang 30kg from a screw or 50kg from a toggle fixing.





Superior impact



No need to skim



Moisture resistant



Sound insulating



Hanging strength

Fermacell – the real alternative to plasterboard. A multi-purpose Dry Lining board which delivers on quality, flexibility & strength.

All the properties of solid masonry with the flexibility of drywall in a construction that is often thinner, quicker and cheaper to install



Because it's better





# advice on flooring

When deciding on the flooring for your new build, we hope the following advice from specialists in their fields will act as a guide.

# Vinyl

Most of us associate vinyl with cheap lino, usually supplied on a roll. However, the fastest growing sector of the flooring market is luxury vinyl tile, and the vibrant collections from specialists who provide a striking alternative. Vinyl is amazingly versatile and is durable enough for commercial spaces, yet fun too for a child's playroom or bathroom.

The wide choice of bright colours and patterns now available bring a whole new lease of life to vinyl. If you're after a more natural look, then choose from one of the amazing copies of natural stone and wood. They look just like the real thing with none of the drawbacks of the natural product. You can choose a textured 'registered embossed' surface, which follows the contours of the grain, to ensure that only you will know that it's not the real thing.

When contemplating your new floor and drooling over some of the choices, it's easy to overlook the difference in day to day maintenance requirements from one type of floor covering to another.

Some floors will require an exhaustive main-

tenance routine to keep them looking in top condition, so while many of us will think a natural wood or stone product to be superior, the hassle of maintenance could soon leave you wishing you had chosen a more practical alternative.

Another great benefit of vinyl is the warmth underfoot, making it the perfect choice for bare feet in bathrooms. The waterproof and slip resistant nature of vinyl makes it the natural choice in any area where water might be present.

The smooth surface also provides resistance to bacteria, pollens and allergens, making vinyl the ideal choice for your kitchen and even for kids' bedrooms where dust mites can be a problem.

Cons: avoid cheaper vinyl, usually supplied on a roll, as these will be more prone to ripping and tearing. Although vinyl wood plank can look stunning and is immensely practical, avoid using it in older properties where the floor isn't entirely flat.

# Solid wooden flooring

Solid wooden floors have become an icon of contemporary design and consumers see them as conferring a stamp of luxury on any property, whether new build or refurbishment. Wooden floors are sometimes seen as "the first piece of furniture in the room." Walk into any room that has real hardwood flooring and the eye is immediately drawn to the beauty of the floor, which coupled with a well designed interior, is very impressive.

Available in an extremely wide choice of different species and natural colours, manufacturers are also increasingly offering specially developed finishes in terms of both colour and texture. Timber is a warm, stylish, but essentially neutral backdrop to whatever interior style the buyer may ultimately choose. If they subsequently change that style, the wooden floor can remain in situ and, even if it has been neglected or damaged, a simple sand and re-seal will restore it to pristine condition.

Looks aside however, real, solid hardwood floors offer considerable performance benefits in both the short and the long term. Factoryapplied finishes are available, which mean that floors can be fitted 'ready to walk on'. Fitting systems too are now quick and easy and whilst solid hardwood floors are available as structural surfaces, the easier choice for most locations is a solid board laid as an overlay floor floated over a sub-floor. Pre-finished wood has another major advantage over unfinished timber, because it will not gap unevenly. It goes down easily and is ready to use straightaway, rather than having to be laid out, acclimatised for 4-6 weeks and then fixed, sanded and sealed in situ. This represents a considerable saving in man-hours and logistical planning.

Fitting with a floating system can offer major benefits in terms of what goes underneath. Solid hardwood is a product naturally warm to the



touch and is inherently quieter underfoot than cheaper finishes. This can be further enhanced by using sound-absorbing underlays. Prefinished hardwood flooring offers another advantage too; because it is a smooth, continuous surface that cannot harbour dust or germs, it is an ideal environment for 'healthy living' or allergy conscious homeowners.

Underfloor heating is growing in popularity and whilst some solid floors are unsuitable for this type of application, there are manufacturers who produce flooring with low moisture content that is fully compatible with most underfloor heating systems including electrical and hot water systems. It is important to have this confirmed by the manufacturer's technical data, to avoid making costly mistakes.

Fashions in interiors come and go, but hardwood remains one of the most traditional and best-liked flooring materials. Modern manufacturing processes, high-tech factory seals and fitter-friendly systems make them a great choice, easy to install and easy to live with. Above all though; people just like both the look and the feel of real wooden floors!

# Luxury of marble

For a sense of luxury, marble flooring has to be the ultimate surface and has famously been used by Italian master sculptors for centuries for its beauty and elegance. Available in a rich variety of colours and with its striking and highly characteristic veining, marble can be used to create some truly spectacular effects particularly if the marble is book matched, a technique that allows the veined pattern to appear continuously.

Although a highly desirable look for a highend marble surface, book matched marble does cause waste and thus is an expensive way to use this material. Some suppliers have made interesting eco products from off-cuts of marble, thus turning waste into wonderfully interesting surfaces, though because it's very laborintensive to assemble lots of small pieces, it does not necessarily mean that such products are a cheap option.

Marble is very popular in bathrooms because it looks so hygienic and is ideal for wet areas, but its porosity makes it unpractical for kitchen countertops as it's too easily stained. Without a doubt, marble is a long-lasting and impressive surface that if treated with care will last for years and with its classic appeal will never go out of fashion.



## **Durable stone**

Stone is very durable and can be so long-lasting it could outlast the furniture you install in the kitchen! It is ideal for a kitchen or a bathroom as it's water resistant and can be combined with under floor heating, but it's also perfect in a reception room such as a hallway, living room or library because it lends a sense of grandeur to any interior and is aesthetically beautiful, often with a unique patina of age that looks better with time. In fact, you could even say that adding an antique stone floor adds a sense of history to a newer property and is the perfect complement to a period home.

As there are many types of colours and finishes, stone flags offer a lot of flexibility in any design scheme. Choose from shades of brown, black, grey, blue-grey, white, cream, beige or yellow and create either a traditional or a contemporary feel by playing with the finish (honed, antiqued, polished, brushed) or the cut (sawncut or tumbled edges) of the flags. Stone allows you to be very individualistic because the flags can be arranged in various patterns and can be laid with or without cabochons.

The downside is that stone is not a cheap option, but by going for a newly quarried stone instead of an antique one you can make a great saving and sometimes you can't even tell the difference! Freshly quarried stones, for example oolitic limestones from the Cotswolds and Lincolnshire and the sandstones from Yorkshire, range from £80 per m<sup>2</sup> to £180 per m<sup>2</sup> for the rarer stones, while reclaimed antique limestone floors are from £250 - £490 per m<sup>2</sup>.

If not sealed correctly, pale limestone tends to soil, but all good suppliers will give advice on installation and help to find tilers who will do the job correctly. Some wear and tear can actually improve the look of your stone flooring!

Contributions by:

- Mark Findlay, MD, Harvey Maria
- Steve Maltby, general manager, Junckers
- Pierre de Mont
- Limestone Gallery
- De Ferranti







**Polypipe Building Products** 



Polypipe's Elegance Ogee rainwater system – a uPVC cast iron 'lookalike' system that includes rainwater goods and a range of soil and vent products – has really taken off with installers and specifiers giving the new system the green light. While specifiers are drawn to the new system because of its quality and aesthetic benefits – it's ideal for use in refurb projects on older buildings, self build projects and in conservation areas or in areas where older style homes predominate – installers have welcomed

the ease of installation and the lightweight of the system. The full system can be seen on its own microsite and is available from merchants now.

Tel: 01709 770 000 www.polypipe.com/elegance

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# **ACO Water Management**

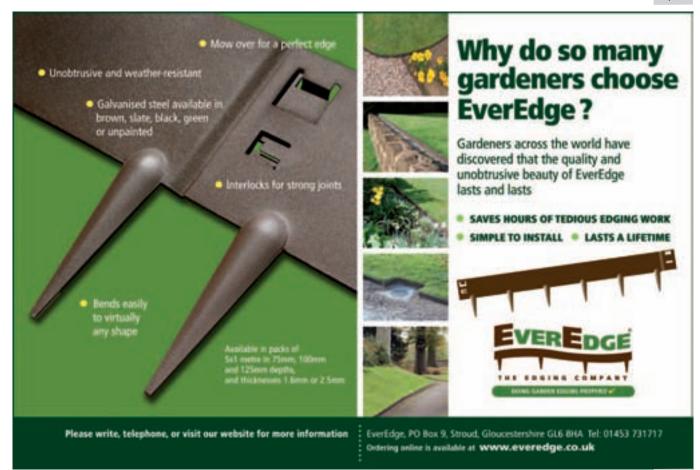


The water-saving benefits of ACO Water Management's new ACO Rain-Ceptor™ rainwater harvesting tanks have been recognised by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with their inclusion on the latest 'Water Technology List'. This approved list of products meets Defra's criteria for water efficiency and allows any business now buying a Rain-Ceptor™ tank to offset 100 per cent of the cost against taxable profit in the year of purchase. The up-front tax

relief on capital cost is designed to promote investment in technologies that promote the efficient use of water and ultimately support the environment.

Tel: 01462 816666 www.aco.co.uk

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# When it comes to choosing Aluminium Gutters & Pipes, it's as simple as

There is a large range of gutter profiles including, half round, beaded, beaded deep flow, ogee and box.

Our complimentary range of pipes are available in diameter, square and rectangular profiles with flush joint, swaged or cast collars.

ARP also offer the Mustang Seamless gutter system offering up to 30 metres in one length giving a smooth uninterrupted appearance. The only BBA approved system.

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For more information about our specification service, call today on **0116 289 4400** or email us at sales@arp-ltd.com

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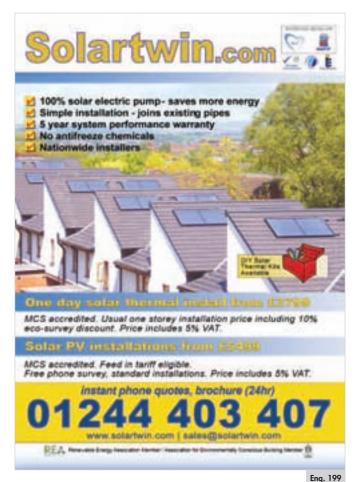
This is an advanced yet affordable pre-insulated form of construction that is becoming increasingly popular for extensions and new builds. They are unbelievably strong yet lightweight and are used in place of blockwork for walls and trusses in the roof. Computer Aided Design (CAD) technology ensures every panel is precision cut, so that they are straight and true and little to no construction waste is created. SIPS eco panels are far stronger than timber frame construction, more energy efficient, quicker to erect and provide an air tight environment making heating and cooling easier and therefore cheaper.

# Benefits & Savings of using SIPS eco panels:

- Reduced foundation costs due to lightweight construction and greater panel strengths
- Roofs offer a warm construction staying warm in winter and cool in summer, offer a clear span eaves to eaves and floor to ridge subject to head height, giving you a whole new floor area
- · All panels are suitable for any type of wall or roof finish, bricks, tile hanging, cladding, roof tiles, slate, sedum, lead or zinc
- · Faster build times and low site wastage
- Avoids cold bridging and faster erection than timber frame
- Lower fuel bills potential increased resale value, and outstanding air tightness

# **CONTACT US**

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Enq. 200

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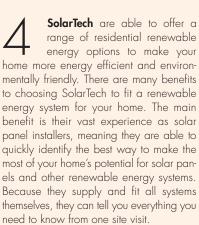
Solar Twin Ltd is a UK nationwide company that manufactures and installs solar water heating systems that use no mains electricity, and installs gridtied solar electric (PV) systems. In their thermal systems, their pump and solar controller is powered by a small solar electric panel, which eliminates all parasitic mains electrical loads. Their simple system is very quick to install, usually taking less than a day. Another significant advantage is that all the pipework is silicone based, meaning the panel can freeze safely, therefore, no glycol or draindown is needed, maintenance is minimal and customer satisfaction is excellent.

Enq. 203



Tomorrow's Energy is a company with a vast experience in all aspects of renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services, providing unbiased advice, design and installation. The company is proud of its track record on client satisfaction and providing the best value service. The company installs solar thermal, solar electric (PV), air source heat pumps, biomass boilers, heat recovery ventilation, rainwater harvesting systems, as well as innovative, super-insulated, reinforced raft foundation and super-air tight modular timber frame systems.





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solutions for your property: they can fit solar panels for free or you can pay for the installation and benefit from a fantastic investment. With the free solar option, you have the added advantage of no up front costs and you will make a considerable saving on your electricity bill, giving you the ideal opportunity to reduce your costs. If you choose to purchase the solar panels, you can take advantage of the government Feed in Tariff scheme. Lasting for the next 25 years, the Feed in Tariff scheme is tax free and index linked so the income potential is huge.

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Solar Logic design, install and commission high performance solar PV energy systems. Installing a home sundynamo energy system secures your energy supply, lowers your carbon footprint and contributes to a low carbon greener future. Having an electric power station on your roof, makes for a sound financial decision, that delivers savings you can see when your electricity bill arrives. Through the new Feed in Tariff you can begin receiving cheques in the post. Solar Logic offers an extensive selection of solar PV panels that are designed to meet your home's specific circumstances.

...continued on page 56

A recently conducted temperature benchmark test at the Photovoltaics Institut Berlin (PI) showed that **Antaris Solar** PV-panels of the type AS M 185 are outstandingly robust. Even when exposed to extreme temperatures, no negative effects on module performance or components could be detected. The Antaris Solar module is therefore ideally designed for use in hot regions and desert areas. Dr Michael Göde, CEO of the Antaris Solar Group is excited about the positive outcome: "The results show that the ongoing quality improvement of our modules pays off."

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Milford Haven Port has staked its claim in the renewables sector with the formation of a brand new joint venture with the Green Electrician Limited, installing renewable energy technology in homes and businesses across South Wales from its base in Pembrokeshire. The Green Electrician is one of the UK's most experienced and highly regarded solar PV installers. It will be able to support the start-up with its established design office, stock holding, procurement channels and training services to ensure that from the outset, the venture delivers the best and most cost effective installation service.

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Bruce Cross of **GB Sol** has announced a new low-cost distribution channel to bring the very best photovoltaic kits to installers in the UK. Bruce states: "The advantages include a fully specified set of components that are designed to work together to give the most efficient operation. The kit is delivered directly to site, allowing the installer to save on warehousing, storage and organising transportation. Installers can then expend all their energy on giving the best service to their clients, leaving solardistributor.co.uk to get the best components to site on time and on budget."









# **Absolute Solar and Wind**



One of the country's fastest growing renewable energy companies, Absolute Solar and Wind, is expanding its footprint across Scotland.

The company, which is headquartered in Glasgow, has grown significantly over the past 12 months and is about to open new premises in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.

The firm has expanded on the back of increased demand from individuals

and companies looking to take advantage of the benefits renewable energy systems offer. Founded in 2007, the company was one of the first in Scotland to receive an MCS Accreditation.

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# Advanced Ergonomic Technologies (AET)



AET has launched the Camel Solar PV Vacuum, a high efficiency evacuated-tube solar thermal collector to harvest energy from the sun for hot water and space heating applications. Using state-of-the-art technology, the PV Vacuum has been developed to absorb over 92 per cent of the sun's energy landing on the collector. This makes it one of the most efficient solar collectors on the market with a stagnation temperature of 250°C and one of the most economical ways to generate

renewable energy. The advantage of the Camel Solar PV Vacuum over other types of solar collector is that the unit's evacuated tubes enable the collector to work effectively even during the coldest winter months.



# 15 point checklist for green roof design and installation:

- 1. Check the maximum loading capacity (including live loading) of the roof. Consult a structural engineer
- 2. What is the roof pitch? Angles over ten degrees have special design considerations.
- 3. Is the waterproofing in good condition? A green roof build up won't fix leaks.
- 4. Is there safe access for installing and maintaining the roof?
- 5. Is the roof well drained? Address any problems with puddling before adding a green roof build up.
- 6. Are there suitable edgings to protect against wind uplift and help keep materials in place?
- 7. How will you lift green components onto the roof?
- 8. What depth of growing medium can the roof support?
- 9. Is the roof sunny or shaded? Windswept or sheltered?
- 10. How quickly do you want full plant coverage? Seedlings or plug plants take longer to establish than vegetation mats.
- 11. Will you need an irrigation system?
- 12. How much time do you have available for maintenance?
- 13. Which plants are best suited to questions 8-12?
- 14. Are you confident to install the green roof build up yourself or will you need a qualified contractor? I recommend getting help if you've not been involved with green roofing before.
- 15. Is this affordable? Balance the installation costs with the savings on heating etc. Remember that green roofing will at least double the life of the waterproofing and it will increase the value of the building.

# built-in biodiversity

Angela Lambert, sales and marketing co-ordinator at Enviromat, gives valuable advice to selfbuilders who are considering installing a green roof.

With government targets to reduce carbon emissions, and the news that some of our once-common populations of bird and insects are in decline, it's becoming more and more important that our homes balance the needs of the buildings' occupants with minimum impact on the environment around it.

As plots get smaller and lifestyles busier, soft landscaping such as natural lawns, hedges and flower beds is in decline, yet these are the things that wildlife depends upon for survival. So how can a selfbuilder support biodiversity without substantially increasing the cost of a building or compromising their lifestyle?

The answer is, with one of the simplest of environmental technologies: green roofing.

A green roof is an intentionally planted layer of vegetation that sits on top of a conventional roof surface and brings a wealth of benefits to the building's occupiers, to the environment and to wildlife. According to the "Green Roof Developer's Guide", a living roof can also increase the value of a property.

As an added bonus, green roofing sometimes helps to meet the needs of planners. Sheffield's head of planning, Les Sturch, has stated: "By using a green roof an applicant can provide benefits that satisfy a number of planning policy requirements at the same time; for instance sustainable drainage, reduced energy consumption, improved biodiversity and better air quality. We are increasingly expecting developments to A green roof brings a wealth of benefits to the building's occupiers, to the environment and to wildlife

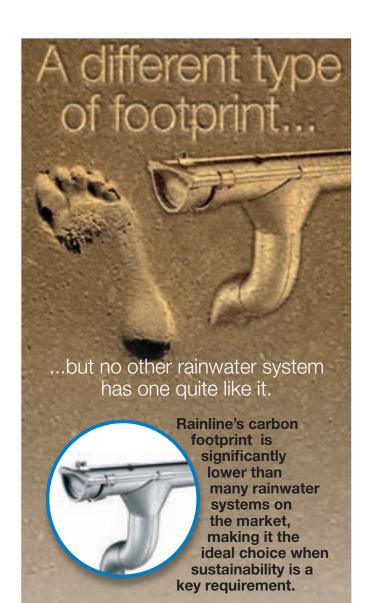
demonstrate holistic approaches to dealing with these environmental issues."

# Designing a green roof

So how does one incorporate a green roof into the design of a building, or even go about retrofitting to an existing construction?

It's not difficult, but there is more to it than just putting dirt and seeds onto the roof. Attention to structural loading, angle of pitch, aspect and exposure, waterproofing and drainage is essential, and so is careful plant selection. A successful green roof may need to meet the requirements of the local biodiversity action plan; it certainly needs to meet your needs in terms of annual maintenance requirements, appearance, speed of establishment and budget, and

...continued on page 59



Combined with high performance and competitive pricing Rainline is one of the most effective solutions for the control of rain drainage on all types of buildings.

Rainline's polyester coated galvanised steel construction offers minimal thermal movement and UV stability.

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# **Green Roof Substrates**

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Brown Roofing Substrates (BRS): A blend of reclaimed aggregates with ymposted bio-waste designed to promote egeneration of the bio-diversity of wildlife tes which have been lost to construction.

Extensive

Extensive System Substrates (ESS): A blend of lightweight, water absorbent aggregates with composted bio-waste to be used as a substrate in un-maintained rooftop environments.



# Long Rake Spar Co Ltd

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# Broaden your horizons.











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it definitely needs to thrive in the long term, which means choosing the right plants for the situation and ensuring they can be cared for.

Unless the budget is bottomless, designing a green roof sometimes involves compromise, but whatever the final planting plan, it will be well worth the effort. For example, you may have a yearning for a wild flower meadow atop an existing garden office. A wild flower meadow is the ultimate in wildlife habitat and it will insulate the building, reducing heating costs in winter and cooling costs in summer. However, a wild flower meadow needs 10-15cm depth of specialised growing medium (not topsoil!) weighing around 200Kg/m<sup>2</sup>. This may mean that the building needs reinforcing, pushing the cost of the project above budget.

Rather than abandon all hope, the compromise could be to change the planting to mainly sedums or succulents that are happy in a shallow layer of growing medium. Thus the weight of the green roof build up is reduced and so are installation costs. A typical green roof installed using sedum matting for example weighs around 60Kg/m<sup>2</sup>. There is a wealth of information on the internet for anyone wanting information about designing and installing a living green roof. The important thing is to do your homework carefully. Speak to experts, go on a training course but above all... do it! You won't regret it.

Enq. 217





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# **Gradient Flat Roofing**



The unique single-layer flat roofing solutions provided by Gradient Flat Roofing hit the airwaves when they were featured on Channel 4's Grand Designs series. A Gradient solution was specified by London architect lan Hogarth for Hole House, his own dream home project. Gradient's singlelayer solutions offer an ideal way to achieve the desired insulation and drainage performance for a flat roof. They also offer numerous other benefits including off-site manufacturing

under controlled factory conditions, easier installation, superior bonding, plus less need for skilled labour on-site. However, it was the insulation performance that particularly impressed lan.

# **Ibstock**



Dzine Magazine, the popular quarterly magazine from Ibstock, returns for 2012 with a brand new issue featuring some of the most inspirational and innovative uses of alternative cladding from some of the most awe inspiring projects from across the globe. Andrew Halstead-Smith, marketing manager at Ibstock, commented: "Our Dzine Magazine is now in its 30th year and as such, has become essential reading for [individuals] looking for new ideas and inspiration, as well as

technical support and insight into the latest thinking in brick design and technology. The latest issue is no exception; it is packed full of exciting and thought-provoking brick projects to get the creative juices flowing.

Enq. 223







# **Arch Timber Protection**



Arch Timber Protection's Keywood treated pine has been chosen by land-scape designer Alistair W Baldwin to be part of a site landscaping project on the grounds of a zero carbon house. The project uses the durable timber in decking around a swimming pond installed by Garden Style of Sheffield. Keywood is a modified softwood created by treating FSC-certified Radiata pine with a biomass-based thermosetting resin. This makes the timber more durable and usable indoors

and outdoors without the need for a coating, and its attractive light color blends with all surroundings. Product manager Denis Boissau said: "We were able to support a sustainable focus by providing the Keywood treatment."

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# Kingspan Insulation



There are many benefits to timber frame construction, but in recent months concerns about vulnerability to arson and the potential fire spread to neighbouring properties during construction have prompted the UK Timber Frame Association (UKTFA) to develop pioneering new test methods that identify suitable construction products, which can help to reduce the risks. The test methods and accompanying guidance have been endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive

the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Kingspan Thermawall TW55 and Kingspan Kooltherm K12 Framing Board are currently the only open panel insulation products listed under the UKTFA Approved Products and Systems.

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# Classic Oakwork... ...Beautifully Finished Call or go online for our free brochure Structural or Cosmetic Oakwork

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Traditional Oak Vaulted Roofs Beam Layouts for ceilings

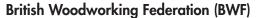
Bespoke Oak Framed Buildings

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The British Woodworking Federation (BWF) has launched an online Training Academy with its first e-learning module, giving the joinery industry and all timber users access to a flexible and modern training resource. The first training module is on Wood Waste and Resource Efficiency, aiming to help businesses make better use of their timber resources at all stages from procurement through to disposal. The module is also useful for builders merchants and other suppliers to understand the join-

ery-side issues around procurement and wood waste disposal, and how they can play their role. The Timber Resource Efficiency Partnership (TREP) has supported the BWF in producing the training materials for this module.

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# **Wolf Systems**

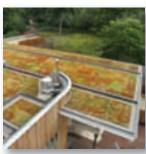


easi-joist rafters, the structural roof beams based on Wolf System's popular metal-web easi-joists, have allowed a Staffordshire architect to transform a simple modern bungalow into a desirable two-storey house. Architect, Jason Knight, director of JPK Design, chose easi-joist rafters in order to create clear wide spans within the roof and, critically, to allow the inclusion of several gables penetrating the main structure. Wolf's easi-joist rafters are essentially the same as the company's easi-joists,

except for the special end-details required at the eaves and ridge. Both products comprise softwood flanges joined together with a web comprising a lightweight galvanised steel lattice.

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# **ICB**



ICB has received a hattrick of awards from the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) to perfectly demonstrate the company's commitment to quality, safety and the environment. The prestigious accreditations, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001, were added to ICB (International Construction Bureau) Ltd existing ISO 9001 and all three ISO's were awarded to sister company ICB (Solar) Ltd, which specialises in turnkey Solar PV solutions. ISO 14001 is the inter-

nationally accepted standard for effective environmental management systems and standards. ICB continues to set the standards for quality, safety and the environment within the specialised roofing industry.

Enq. 231

# **Trussed Rafter Association**



When buying prefabricated trussed timber rafters, building contractors and consultants should be aware that members of the Trussed Rafter Association offer a service that is a cut above the rest. To join the association, manufacturers must obtain ISO 9001 accreditation, demonstrating that their production, management and logistical processes meet recognised standards of Quality Assurance. They also have to carry professional indemnity insurance cover of at least £1 million. Both

of these qualifications give the buyer peace of mind when ordering from a TRA member. A TRA member can fabricate trusses or other components using one of several sophisticated nail plate systems.

Enq. 232

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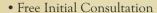
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# Flight Timber Self Build



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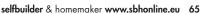
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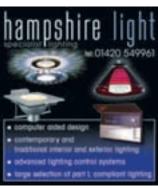
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