

selfbuilder & homemaker

June/July 2011

FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE:

Bathrooms, Showers & Wetrooms
Insulation (Including Thermal & Acoustic)
Kitchens & Appliances
Pools & Spas
Timber & Joinery

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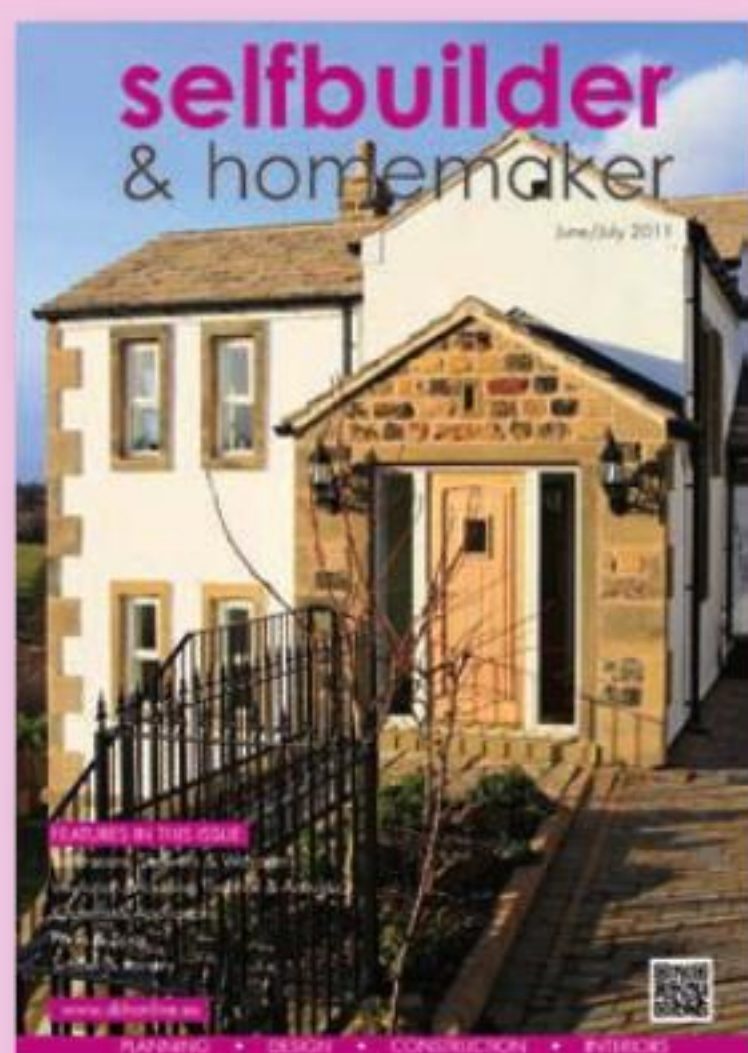
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news

renovate or relocate? that is the question...

If you are struggling to accommodate a growing family or desperate to live in a house that matches your lifestyle, the answer may be closer to home than you think. A home is the single biggest investment you will ever make. If you love your current home, the neighbourhood and local amenities, why not make the most of the space you already have available?

The majority of people move for practical reasons: they may need more space; the flow is awkward in the house; it has a poor layout; there is a lack of storage; or the building doesn't suit their needs anymore.

The good news is that the majority of reasons for moving can be addressed with clever design. More homeowners now choose to increase the value of their home without the stress and expense of moving house. Put stamp duty fees into a loft conversion, conservatory, extension or basement conversion instead – giving your existing home some care and attention can be much more rewarding and satisfying than moving.

Architect Your Home is a home design service specifically created to meet this demand. Hugo and Jude Tugman founded Architect Your Home after their experience of private home renovation projects made them realise that the traditional architects' working methods

did not always measure up to the needs of the individual homeowner. The company works with local architects up and down the country to help them deliver expert and accessible advice.

Architect Your Home starts with an initial visit, which is there to transform homeowners thoughts into creative and workable design solutions. The architect discusses what the customer wants to achieve – and how. They will sketch out design solutions to meet the needs of the customer and often offer something that hadn't been dreamt of before, a completely different way of looking at the existing space and how to use it. The initial visit will also unearth what will and won't work in practical terms and what would give the space that wow factor. The hand drawn sketches take imagination a step closer to reality. The initial visit is the real starting point of your project.

If you're still undecided about moving, ask yourself the following questions: Do you still enjoy your home despite its minor flaws? Is there room to expand and enlarge the floor space? If the answers are yes, stay put in the property you love and make it the home of your dreams.

Enq. 101

balcony systems creates complex curves in 'picture-perfect' studio

Balcony Systems created a complex combination of curves in three axes, to fulfil the architect's demanding design for a photography enthusiast's home office and studio in rural Yorkshire.

Installed by Balcony's sister company VBS, the curved fixed windows and three pane sliding curved patio doors complement the curves of the circular building, built by contractors William Anelay Ltd. of York.

Featuring one fixed and two sliding panels, the doors when fully open provide a three metre-wide direct access to the garden. Their brown powder-coated frames replicate a bronze anodised finish to match the diamond-shaped pre-oxidised copper roof, supported by Borrowdale slate walls.

Wildblood MacDonald Architects specified the unique design with its sloping angular roof intersecting a curved face, for their client who wanted space and light to pursue his hobby. The stunning result is a 'picture-perfect' solution combining light-enhancing aesthetics with practical access and taking advantage of expansive coun-



tryside views.

Balcony Systems' managing director, Effi Wolff, personally took on the challenge of designing and producing such 'non-standard' and highly-unusual shapes, saying: "From a technical perspective, we were initially unsure whether we could achieve this as curving the aluminium frames required a combination of curves in three different axes.

"After much liaison with the VBS design team to confirm details, such as measurements and shapes, we achieved our ultimate goal. This was certainly no regular piece of aluminium joinery or glass bending!"

Enq. 102

shapps joins forces with self build industry

Grant Shapps, housing minister, has welcomed a new action plan for the self build industry that he says could be the turning point that takes it to the masses.

In a visit to Ashley Vale in Bristol, one of the country's biggest community self build sites, Mr. Shapps said that for too long obstacles have led to the UK having one of the lowest proportions of new homes built by selfbuilders in Europe, and welcomed a report by the self build industry on how it can become a mainstream housing option.

Earlier this year, Mr. Shapps asked the National Self Build Association (NaSBA) and other industry experts to work with his officials to prepare an action plan to boost the number of selfbuilders across the country, and address the common barriers aspiring selfbuilders face.

They have now presented their findings on tackling the main challenges holding the self build industry back: the availability of land and finance; lack of support from industry for new selfbuilders; and the impact of regulation. The report sets out 15 proposals for action to help selfbuilders, including that:

- More land be made available for selfbuilders. It calls for government to ask councils to gauge the demand for self build in their area and account for this in their planning strategies
- New implementation models, which include making serviced plots available to selfbuilders, be actively promoted across the industry and the public sector
- Lenders be encouraged to offer more finance products for those building their own home
- Revolving funds should be made available to support group self build schemes, which Mr. Shapps has pledged to give serious consideration to
- Over burdensome regulations hampering the growth of the sector be removed or simplified, and calls for government to introduce more proportionate planning rules for small developments

- The self build industry itself needs to provide clearer independent information to would be selfbuilders. A new online self build 'portal' is proposed to be set up to enable more people to get a project underway.

Mr. Shapps said that significant work had been put into producing the report and thanked all those involved, and that he will consider any proposed action for government carefully; prioritising those that could have the biggest and quickest impact on the growth of the sector.

He said that key to opening up the industry to more people, was improving access to the self build concept, so he challenged the industry to get behind the proposed self build 'portal' and announced that he will be meeting with some of the country's biggest retailers to discuss with them options for bringing self build to the high street.

Seeing first hand how building your own home not only puts a roof over people's heads, but also can develop their skills and lead to greater integration in society, he met ex-service personnel who have recently begun their own self build projects after returning from combat. He said that all communities could benefit from self build projects and will give serious consideration to how government can support proposals for suitable revolving fund facilities to be made available for group self build projects.

Mr. Shapps said: "Selfbuilders deliver affordable, greener and more innovatively designed homes, and make a big contribution to the number of new homes built in this country. But there is still significant opportunity for growth in the sector, which can only be opened up if government and industry work together."

"[The] report is the culmination of months of hard work by the industry, and sets out extensive proposals for action on how we can relinquish the industry of its tag as being just for the rich and privileged, and bring the opportunity of self building to the masses."

setting new standards in energy efficient windows



By Susan Lambeth,
senior product manager,
Saint-Gobain Glass UK Limited

At first thought, many people assume that all double glazed windows are automatically energy efficient. They are compared to single glazed units, but product development advances have led to many options, and in this era of cold winters and rapidly rising energy bills, it pays to choose wisely.

With around 35 per cent of all domestic heat loss escaping through windows and doors, choosing the right combination of window components can make a huge difference to your home's ability to retain heat and contribute to significant cost savings year on year. Although each component contributes, it is the choice of glass that can make the biggest difference.

Energy efficient glass has been around for a number of years, but recent innovations in technology mean that the best performing products now not only reduce heat loss, but can passively warm your home and therefore further reduce

energy consumption. At the forefront of these innovations is Saint-Gobain Glass, whose Planitherm window glass is independently rated as the most energy efficient available. Advanced coating technology captures energy from natural daylight and also retains more radiated heat within the room. So it costs less to heat a home to the desired temperature. Compared to single glazing the savings can be as much as 28 per cent.

Part L of the current Building Regulations recently introduced a Window Energy Rating (WER) scheme as a benchmark, requiring replacement windows to reach at least a C rating. However, with modern energy saving glass, and the right combination of window frame components, it is easily possible to achieve an A rating where total energy gains actually exceed total energy losses, without adding significant cost. Installing the most energy efficient windows will not only save money on energy bills, but will enhance the home's Energy Performance Certificate and is likely to increase its future resale value.

Energy saving glass is widely available from most window companies (you can search for a Planitherm installer at planitherm.com) and can be used in window frames of any material, so it pays to do a little window shopping and to get specialist advice. Ask to see the WER certificate for the windows you are considering and ensure you are being supplied a modern, energy efficient glass.

two centuries of manufacturing

Crown Paints has clocked up a major milestone with the celebration of 200 years of manufacturing from its Hull plant.

Vernon Kinrade, Crown Paints' specification sector support manager, said: "It is a considerable achievement to operate for

two centuries in manufacturing. As a result of this longevity, specifiers benefit from the supply of quality, UK produced paints, which carry more than 200 years' experience in every can."

Enq. 103



a new tv programme for the selfbuilder

There's a plethora of property programmes on TV; Grand Designs, Location Location Location, Homes Under the Hammer, Escape to the Country, to name but a few, so is there really a need for another?

[Viewers] receive very practical advice on things like health and safety and the right products but we also cover the personal side – David Hutchinson

The producers of Selfbuilder TV certainly believe so and have created both a unique programme format and way of delivering it to its audience, which brings a fresh approach to property programmes and is targeted at those who are serious about building their own home rather than the people who simply dream about it.

How is Selfbuilder TV different?

The programme is designed around a magazine style format and features diverse reports from the world of self building. True to its name, it reports on the latest developments and products through the eyes of selfbuilders who have first hand experience of the topics discussed.

Executive producer, David Hutchinson, comments, "Viewers trust the genuine experience of other selfbuilders and have a huge appetite to hear their stories. They receive very practical advice on things like health and safety and the right products but we also cover the personal side. A recent story told how one couple overcame joint redundancy half way through their build to realise their dream and a new start in life."

He continued, "Other recent features have covered the political dimension, keeping self-

builders abreast of changes in the planning laws and building regulations as well as following new self build legislation through Parliament."

The programme is uniquely funded by a mixture of sponsorship and advertising, and is broadcast on what is commonly known as a 'micro channel' on Sky channel 166 and Freesat channel 402. These channels allow programmes to be broadcast that just wouldn't be made by the major networks. David Hutchinson again: "We aim to get around 10-20,000 selfbuilder viewers to each programme and this size audience is just too small to be of interest to the major channels. Grand Designs for example regularly receives audiences of 8 million and the vast majority of those viewers would never be interested in our programme as it's just too focused on the practicalities of building your own home." All programmes are available on demand through the website at selfbuilder.tv

Trusted partners answer questions

Through the website's Trusted Partners scheme, acknowledged industry experts answer questions posed by viewers and this is proving to be a very popular way of obtaining independ-



JANE FARNHAM

ent information, which people find difficult sourcing elsewhere. It is being rolled out at the moment and will cover heat pumps, solar PV, gas boilers, oil boilers, timber framed homes, as well as other building styles. As it grows more experts will be added.

The team

Jane Farnham presents the programme. Jane recently presented BBC1's daytime property show Wreck or Ready where she offers potential home buyers a choice of a readymade home or a wreck of a house that needs some serious work.

She also worked on BBC1's science programme X-periMENTAL with many other appearances on ITV1 & 2, CH5, Sky & QVC.

With a bubbly and lively presentation style, she has a wealth of experience in the television, exhibition and property industries.

Mike Rowbottom and Simon Garrett are lead reporters, both having been in the industry for over 30 years, and are seasoned ITV news professionals with many awards under their belts.

Rochelle Ferguson is at the start of her broadcast career and is tipped as a future high flyer. She has a masters degree in English, speaks 5 languages and has just finished studying for her journalist qualifications.

Bob Harris is the expert builder. Bob has been Master Builder of the Year on two occasions and has a deep and passionate belief in designing homes that are healthy. Bob was a senior lecturer in building design at Kingston University and is now active in helping selfbuilders design and project manage their builds.



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Mike Smith is the 'Eco' expert. Mike has a huge experience in the renewables industry and his speciality is heat pumps where he has been involved with many hundreds of installations over the years.

Special offers

One of the unique features about Selfbuilder TV are the special offers the programme negotiates with suppliers. Recently, Build Center and Jeld-Wen, one of the UK's biggest manufacturers



SIMON GARRETT

Selfbuilder resources

The programme visits different venues and resources available to selfbuilders. The first few programmes highlighted the National Self Build and Renovation Centre in Swindon with later visits to the Innovation Park at the Building Research Establishment in Watford, The Building Centre in Central London, and Smartlife in Cambridge.

David Hutchinson ended by saying, "As the programme matures the hope is to bring Selfbuilder TV into the centre of the self building

As the programme matures, the hope is to bring Selfbuilder TV into the centre of the self building community with forums and blogs, and to challenge traditional self build thinking

– David Hutchinson

of timber frame doors and windows, teamed up with Selfbuilder TV to offer a 50 per cent discount on all their timber frame windows. The response to the offer has been huge and is still available on the website and lasts for up to six months.

Other offers include rainwater harvesting, rendering, wood cladding, and solar thermal collectors to name a few, all still available on the website.

As the series continues, it's planned that there will be an increase in the number of offers available to viewers and website visitors.

community with forums and blogs, and to challenge traditional self build thinking by bringing forward the latest ideas, technologies and innovations to inspire selfbuilders during their build."

SELFUILDER TV IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON SKY CHANNEL 166 AND FREESAT CHANNEL 402 AT 9PM ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON SKY CHANNEL 189 AT 10PM AND ON DEMAND FROM THE SELFUILDER.TV WEBSITE. IF YOU HAVE A PROJECT OR PRODUCT YOU WOULD LIKE COVERED ON THE PROGRAMME, CALL 01253 841551.



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built from a bungalow

An Abingdon couple's nightmare bungalow project was, literally, going to kill them... but they turned it into a dream home

Written by Mark Williams

Brigid and Hardy Sundaram bought their bungalow in Abingdon intending to extend it, but wound up building a new house.

The couple spotted the 1930s property on the internet, touted for sale a second time because the original sale had fallen through. It

was far from ideal – a vacant possession, which needed a full interior renovation – but with the couple's dream of heading towards a more self-sufficient lifestyle, its large garden ticked a major box.

It was only after moving in and spending six

weeks solid on the decorating that they realised what they'd bought. The bungalow didn't have cavity walls and was cold and damp. Within the year, and with a young family, they'd decided something had to change and that 'something' rapidly began to look like a brand-new house.

"We quickly changed our minds about extending it, and also decided we wanted a more 'passive' house – one with much less impact on the environment. We quickly realised that a new 'flat-pack' home was the way to go," said Brigid.

With the idea of replacing the bungalow with a two-storey house, planning permission was always a potential pitfall: "The key issue was not to have too tall a house," continued Brigid. "But we began by talking to both our neighbours about our plans, to make sure they had no concerns."

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Dr and Mrs H Sundaram, Abingdon

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Having gained their approval Hardy and Brigid set out to find and plan their dream home. After much searching they discovered that the German home builder Meisterstueck Haus had just established themselves in the UK and would offer a quote for the fixed shell cost and honour it for 12 months.

"We wanted a south-facing pitched roof to gather solar energy," said Brigid. "We had thought to use a gas boiler for the underfloor heating and to heat the water in the house when the solar thermal panel isn't kicking in."

"We did the sums, however, and realised that when considering the cost of reinstating gas pipework, gas meter, the extra pipework inside the house, as well as the gas standing charge,

sticking to electricity was the financially viable option. So we decided on an air source heat pump."

The eventual specification included two solar heat panels, linked into the house's hot water system, and a heat recovery system in the roofspace, which also supplements the air-source heat pump installed on the north wall. To meet with the couple's green agenda they also specified rainwater harvesting, plumbed to feed the loos and the washing machine.

"Getting planning proved completely straightforward," said Brigid. "We took all the planners' advice and I think, in the end, they were pleased that they'd have an eco-friendly house in the parish."

BUILDING BEDROOMS INTO THE ROOFSpace WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE BUILDING AT AN APPROPRIATE HEIGHT, ALONGSIDE BUNGALOWS IN THE STREET



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THE OPERATIONAL END OF THE RAINWATER RECYCLING AND AIR-SOURCE HEATING IS TUCKED AWAY IN THE UTILITY ROOM

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Everbuild Building Products



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Enq. 109

UPSTAIRS ACCESS IS VIA A CENTRAL, OPEN-TREAD STAIRCASE, LIT BY THE WINDOW



PURPLE LED LIGHTING STRIPS ILLUMINATE THE STAIRCASE AT NIGHT AND A NATTY PENDANT MAKES USE OF THE LANDING'S HEIGHT



The house ended its days scattered all over the county and beyond

– Brigid Sunderam

THE INNER GLASS DOOR HELPS LIGHT FLOOD INTO THE HALLWAY AND CREATES A USEFUL CLOAKROOM

As the time approached for the build, Brigid gave up her part-time job to handle the trades for the first fix and beyond, the family moved to temporary rented accommodation, and Brigid engaged a demolition company to clear away the old bungalow. It was important to the Sundarams that as much of it as possible would be recycled.

"The house ended its days scattered all over the county and beyond, being reduced to hardcore, tiles re-used and wood recycled and, thankfully, nothing put into landfill," says Brigid.

But during the demolition the couple got a big shock: "Within two days of greeting the demolition guys the site was barely recognisable," said Brigid. "The front of the house had gone and we were looking into what was a bedroom.

"Then they discovered that the ceiling and floor was riddled with woodworm; it looked like a teabag and crumbled in an instant! So much for the survey we had before we moved in; the demolition wasn't a moment too soon."

With the bungalow gone the couple went to Germany for the final contractual discussion with Meisterstueck, which Brigid says was very thorough: "The UK company representative took us to the site of their factory, in Hameln, otherwise known as Hamelin in English.

"We felt at ease as we discussed the prepara-



tions for the meeting that was going to take place the next day and rounded the day off with a delicious meal and a room in a cosy hotel provided by the company.

"The next morning we settled in for the long day of discussing details. We started with the structure of the building, ensuring things like the windows and doors were in the right places, and that they opened the way we wanted. We had to consider where the duct work was required for the air source heat pump and then the mechanical heat recovery ventilation.

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The large, open-plan kitchen and living room area is bright and airy

"We went on to discuss sanitary ware, taps and showers. The panels and walls are all cut with laser precision, and pre-installed conduit for the heating and mains services. The 'sanitary blocks' located in the wall panels are the reason that the sanitary ware has to be organised precisely. The taps and outflow of a basin, for example, would be attached to these and have to align in the completed house, so depth of floor-tiles and wall tiles need to be considered too."

Back at the bungalow mains supplies were located and isolated and work began installing the trench footings, which had to accommodate not only the usual mains services and waste out-flow but the roof drainage into the rainwater harvesting tank beneath ground, and the plumbing, which would get the rainwater back to the house's loos: "We took on a local builder to install the foundations and he made a superb job of it. The tolerances were very tight, but Meisterstueck inspected them and were very pleased with the accuracy."

"The build was incredibly quick. There were only four builders on site but, two days after they arrived they handed me the keys – the house was watertight. The heat pump and solar thermal panels were installed by a local firm then the plumbing and electrics completed, the

underfloor heating installed and screeded, and the ceilings plasterboarded and skimmed.

"The build to first fix was completed within less than three weeks and the floors laid and cured within six weeks. In fact, 11 weeks after the walls went up we moved in," said Brigid.

When Selfbuilder & Homemaker visited in Spring Brigid was looking forward to getting the garden landscaped but the house already had the look of a family living space. The large, open-plan kitchen and living room area is bright and airy, the central, open-tread staircase with its attendant window gave a similar feeling of space, and the house felt cosy... and very, very quiet.

"The building is triple-glazed and the level of insulation ensures little noise comes in," said Brigid. "We are very pleased with the house on the whole. We were surprised by how difficult it was to find a plumber who understood rainwater harvesting systems. We have a 3,500-litre underground tank, which is fed via mechanical filters by an electric pump. If the supply runs low the system is plumbed so mains water tops up the tank."

The Sundarams have discovered their electricity bill looks to be matching that of the bungalow, although, of course, there is no gas bill: "We now have a 3kWp photovoltaic system,



which should mean we are cost-neutral for electricity," she added. The couple have had a small log-burning stove installed in the living area, with a flue and air intake, but it's as much for ornament as practicality.

Choosing a stove that could be fitted was a protracted process, admits Brigid, made tricky partly by the fact that, due to the airtight nature of the house, it has to have an inlet flue as well as a chimney flue. The eventual choice ticked both boxes and on a cold day will provide both heat and a focal point for the main living area.

Looking back, the Sundarams have few regrets. They say they would advise anyone else buying heat recovery systems to specify a high-efficiency unit because the additional cost is not high. They also suggest as big a rainwater tank as you can install. They advise anyone going into self build – even at this almost turn-key level – to set aside a 1.5 per cent contingency to pay for surprise bills and, if that doesn't get spent, use it to upgrade the kitchen for example.

If you want to follow the full history of the Sundaram's self build visit Brigid Sundaram's blog at <http://blog-my-ecobuild.blogspot.com>

project costs

Cost of land: £470,000

Overall cost of project: £126,000

Value of property now: £700,000

What was the high point of the project?

Having the dream of the house become real, and seeing it go up in two days! Seeing the house come together as we fitted it out... but the best highlight must have been moving in.

The low point was: Having to ask the first screeding company to leave the site when they did a poor job. Also, the first security alarm company were not able to put the sander box in the required position because their ladder wasn't long enough; they couldn't get a longer ladder because they said their van was too small!

Contacts

- Architect: Martin W. Seeger, Sigmaringendorf, Germany
- Main contractor: Meisterstueck www.meisterstueck.com

- Electrician and MCS Installer for solar thermal and heat pump: Alternative Energy UK www.altenergyuk.com
- Alarm system: Chris Lewis Fire & Security www.chrislewisfs.co.uk
- Low energy lighting and design: Efficient Light www.efficientlight.co.uk
- Kitchen units: Pineland Kitchens www.pineland.co.uk
- Wood-burning stove: Manor House Stoves www.manor-house-stoves.co.uk
- Heat pump supplier: Space Air www.spacealtherma.com
- Low-flow taps/showers etc.: Green Building Store www.greenbuildingstore.co.uk
- Eco-friendly paints: The Old House store www.oldhousestore.co.uk
- Plumbing & UFH: A1 Ltd www.a1ltd.co.uk
- Demolition: DJ Giles www.djgiles.co.uk

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01606 41292

THE CURVED FLINT WALL ADDS ANOTHER DIMENSION TO THE BUILDING



futuristic low energy house

stage five – counting down to completion

Since the last update on the Crescent House the build has moved on with great gusto. Jake White, managing director of Ecotecture Ltd., takes us through the latest developments that have occurred since the last site visit.

The completion of the flint wall has really extenuated the curves of the building particularly to the road side. Since back filling the land up to the ICF concrete structure the building no longer stands out within its setting, appearing less harsh, settling down into the outstanding natural beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The southern and eastern sides of the building have now been rendered with the first coat. The

contractors manufacturing the aluminium box section are at the moment rolling the aluminium to produce a really smooth curve. The use of aluminium allows designers to integrate numerous functions into one profile; in this instance where the segments meet there is going to be very little variation in the overall format.

Flooring

Other developments include the new screed which has been laid on the ground floor.

Previously the ground floor had a rough concrete finish; this has now been finished with a fine cement screed with the inclusion of a synthetic

polymer resin allowing for expansion without cracking. The next stage will be to polish the screed and to apply a lacquer to produce a semi reflective surface. This process gives the flooring a light greyish shine, producing a high depth of reflectant; this will assist in bringing light into the belly of the buildings reflecting light onto the ceilings and walls. This will also work extremely well with the LED lighting scheme because the energy efficient lighting includes sculptural light fittings, which will create an outstanding visual impact.

The project is really moving on now and the client is really keen to move in, so the deadline for completion is set for mid to late September.



LOUNGE – DINING ROOM WITH THE NEW SCREED



FIRST COAT OF RENDER APPLIED TO THE EXTERIOR

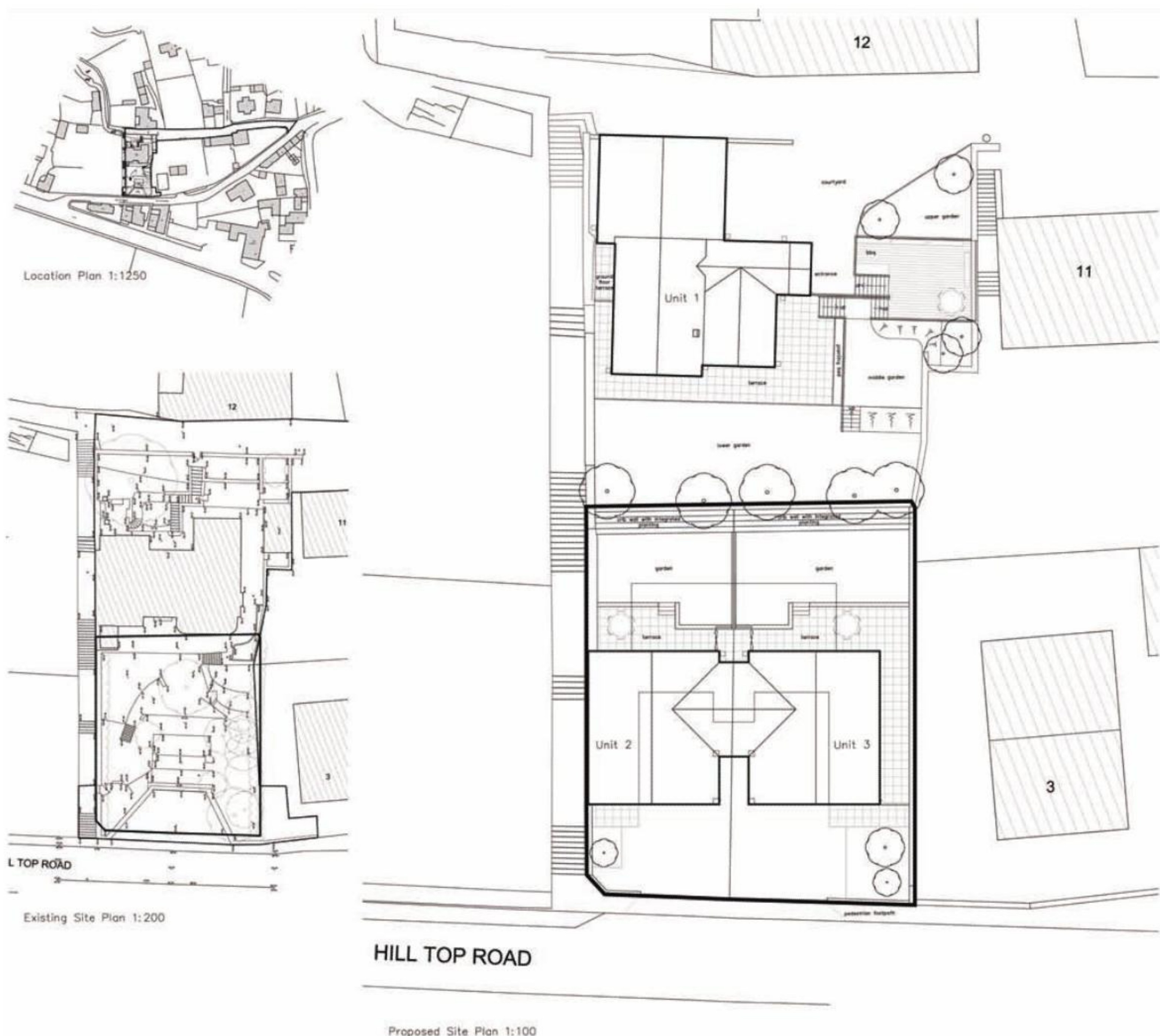
Enq. 111



RETAINING WALLS SET INTO THE HILLSIDE
ACCOMMODATE THE STEEP THREE-STOREY
STRUCTURE AND KEEP THE ROOFLINE AS LOW
AS POSSIBLE



A TRADITIONAL KITCHEN WITH GRANITE
WORKTOPS INCLUDES TILED FLOORS, INTEGRATED
APPLIANCES – AND FANTASTIC VIEWS!



a family affair

Instead of building a spacious home for themselves and their two grown-up children, Martin and Christine Smith decided to take a more radical approach to family living

Written by Heather Dixon

Martin Smith trusted his wife Christine's judgement implicitly when she bought a house near Wakefield while he was 3,000 miles away in Kuwait.

Although Martin had never seen the dormer-bungalow in the pretty conservation village of Newmillerdam, he could tell from Christine's description, including the property's 22ft long bay window and steep terraced garden, that it was in a striking location, close to a country park and lake.

"We had sold the house we had in a nearby village and were chasing another property near York, which fell through," said Martin. "I had to return to Kuwait due to work commitments, so Christine stayed back in the UK to look for an alternative. She had always wanted to live in Newmillerdam and this was too good an opportunity to miss."

Unable to move straight into the property, which cost them £105,000 in 1988, Christine and Martin decided to let it while they were over-

seas, eventually returning to live there in 1990.

It had clearly suffered the effects of being rented for so long. The building itself was 'tired' and the garden overgrown, but Christine and Martin, a chartered civil engineer who is a director of Maidwell Associates, had visions of turning it into a spacious family home for themselves, their children Victoria and Mark, and Christine's parents.

When they started to discuss options with an architect, however, their plans soon changed.

...continued on page 21

Premdor



With an increasing number of UK PEFC chain of custody certificates being issued and a rapidly increasing market demand for PEFC certified timber and timber products, all of Premdor's veneered doors are now available manufactured with PEFC chain of custody certification, thereby ensuring the doors are manufactured from guaranteed sustainable raw material sources. The ranges include finishes and styles for every application with over sixteen veneer finishes including Innova inlaid wood panel designs, the ever popular Veneer Plus 3.5mm solid core range and the factory lacquered standard veneer collection.

Tel: 0844 209 0008 www.premdor.com

Enq. 112

Weyerhaeuser UK



Builders merchant, Buildbase, has become the first national chain to stock Lyptus® Decking, the fully certified and sustainable hardwood product brought to market by Weyerhaeuser UK import partner, Woodlink UK. Lyptus® Decking is immediately available and is the only hardwood product supplied as a stock item throughout its branch network. Catapulted into the global spotlight following its use on the gold-medal award winning 'A Monaco Garden' at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Lyptus® Decking has fast become a sought after hardwood decking product based on its strong environmental credentials and striking aesthetics. Buildbase has made the product available to purchase online.

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Simpson Strong-Tie

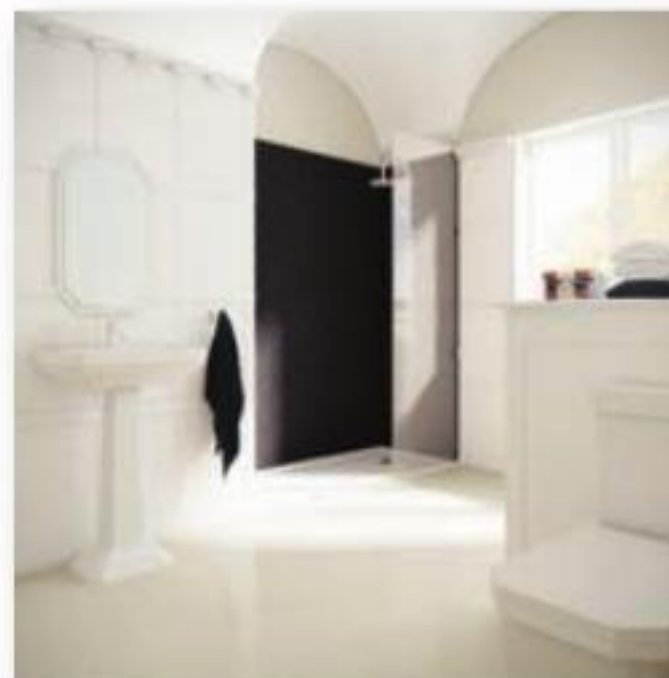


Simpson Strong-Tie has launched a new range of stainless steel fixings – a unique collection of cladding installation solutions, featuring premium quality screws and nails, to join its extensive list of products. Suitable for use with all types of decking, cladding (timber and fiber cement) and even barn construction and marine installations, the screws feature unique point designs and thread profiles to make driving easier, whilst the nail heads have been designed to refract light to ensure that they blend with wood materials. The range is supported by new packaging and a brochure, which also features the new Angle Bracket Connector (ABC), enabling vertical battens to be fixed directly to the supporting structure.

The range is supported by new packaging and a brochure, which also features the new Angle Bracket Connector (ABC), enabling vertical battens to be fixed directly to the supporting structure.

Enq. 114

Mermaid Panels



Mermaid Panels has launched a new website featuring a virtual design studio to showcase its pioneering new range of glass and laminate panels. The virtual design studio enables customers to visualise how their bathrooms might appear online at the click of a mouse. Simon Howie, chairman of Mermaid Panels, said: "Our extensive new range offers customers a selection of 50 different colours in glass and over 40 different laminate designs. [...] Our new design studio will help

our customers choose the wall panel design that best suits their bathroom and hopefully get a sense of what it will look like in situ. This should help encourage customers to experiment with bolder styles."

Enq. 115



KC Sips Solutions offer SIPS eco panels easi-wall and easi-roof system nationwide

We offer a complete service from design to completion to self-builders and developers for extensions and new builds

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- 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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Website **www.kcsipssolutions.com**

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CHRISTINE'S EYE FOR INTERIORS AND MARTIN'S PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS HAVE RESULTED IN A HOME WHICH IS STYLISH AND CONTEMPORARY. FRENCH DOORS AND WINDOWS ALONG TWO SIDES DRAW MAXIMUM LIGHT INTO THE MAIN BEDROOM

Rather than spend a lot of money remodelling the bungalow, it made more sense to raze it to the ground and start again

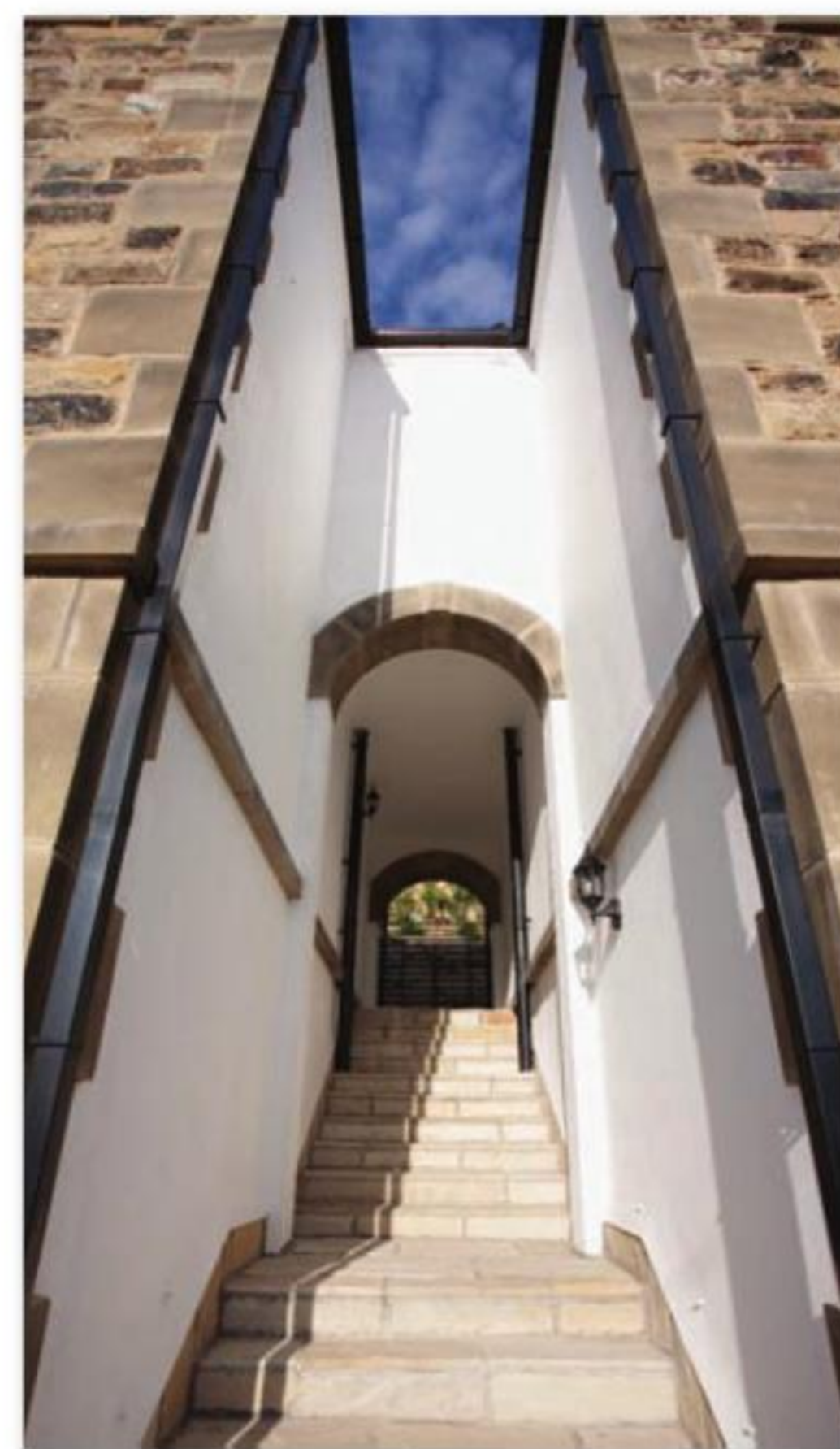
Rather than spend a lot of money remodelling the bungalow, it made more sense to raze it to the ground and start again. Instead of building one large house they would build three: one for themselves and one each for Victoria and Mark.

Nobody anticipated the length of time it would take to obtain planning permission to demolish and rebuild.

For four years they worked with the architect and Wakefield District Council planning department to reach a design, materials and access plan that met the strict criteria of building in a conservation area.

"It is a particularly sensitive site as there is a Grade II listed building at the top of the slope and we were not allowed to block the view of this with the new build," said Martin. "We spent a lot of time researching every last detail, which ultimately paid dividends. One of the big issues was access. Our construction techniques required road closures so we liaised with the Highways and Environmental departments, and we also paid for a full topographical survey of the site to demonstrate how the finished property would sit in the context of the surroundings. Because of the complexity of the site and potential drainage problems, I made a computer model of the site so I could picture it in 3D."

Martin's intention was to put the project out to tender to a main contractor, but issues with a structural engineer he hired led to a major re-think at the eleventh hour.



THE DEVELOPMENT COMPRISES THREE DISTINCT PROPERTIES WHICH ARE LINKED BY STRIKING ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES, INCLUDING MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE ARCHES, WHITE PAINTED WALLS AND STEEP STEPS

...continued on page 23

Glow-worm



a fully integrated heating system – which is both straightforward to install, and easy for homeowners to use. Homeowners interact with the system using the intuitive and easy to use Climapro2 RF handheld controller.

Glow-worm are introducing a brand new range of advanced air to water heat pump systems that are designed for quick and straightforward installation and offer high performance central heating and domestic hot water. Utilising next generation system technology the new 7, 12 and 14kW systems join the popular Clearly Heat Pumps 5kW model to create the brand new Clearly Heat Pumps range. Glow-worm's Clearly Heat Pumps range offers not just a single unit, but

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Plumb Center



efficiency A-rated condensing boiler householders will benefit from lower energy bills at a time when fuel costs are rocketing and registered installers will benefit from increased numbers of installations."

Homeowners taking advantage of the extension of the Scottish Government's boiler scrappage scheme will get a total of £450 off their new A-rated appliance when they buy any Worcester Bosch boiler from Plumb Center. "The extension of the scrappage scheme to replace inefficient boilers in Scotland will be of huge benefit to both homeowners and installers and we want to do all we can to make it as affordable as possible," said Alan Stevenson, trading director, Plumb Center. "By installing a high effi-

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Megaman UK

A new range of LED Mini Classic "Golf Ball" style light bulbs, from low energy lighting manufacturer Megaman UK Limited, are specifically designed for use in chandeliers and other multi-bulb light fittings. However, while each looks like and emits the light equivalent to a 25 Watt traditional incandescent light bulb, each consumes only 5 Watts of electricity. So when used in a five lamp chandelier or similar multi-bulb fitting, the power consumed would be just 25 Watts instead of 125 Watts, a saving of 80 per cent.

As an added bonus, the new bulbs also have a rated life expectancy of around 30,000 hours, which is over twenty times that expected from a traditional light bulb.

They are compact enough to fit almost any light fitting or chandelier, measuring just 45mm (1.8 in) diameter by about 80mm (3.2 in) overall depending on the type of base; bayonet (B22) or small screw (E14). The frosted glass of each bulb ensures that balanced all-round illumination is obtained immediately after switching on.

Megaman LED Mini Classic bulbs are available through a number of lighting and electrical wholesalers, as well as Internet suppliers.

Tel: 0845 408 4625 www.megamanuk.com

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"I sat down and looked at the structural engineer's drawings in more detail and realised I would be better off project managing it myself," said Martin. "I redesigned the structure, created a better scheme and came up with a cost, which was 35 per cent less expensive than the one he had suggested. I approached it as though I was doing the job for a client. I had a full cost plan drawn up, then revised it to make further savings. That set the parameters for the overall budget."

Martin's clearly defined breakdown included demolition, basement/retaining walls, ground-works and timber frame, followed by construction to roof height, roof structure and internal fittings. He treated all three houses as one project, creating one main five-bedroom house and two three-bedroom houses which, although subtly linked together by walkways, are all detached.

"Although this was our first self build I have been in construction management for 25 years and the principles are the same," said Martin. "The difference was in the attention to detail because this was personal and we would be living with the results."

It took four years to finally get planning permission, but by then Martin knew exactly how each stage of the build would unfold.

With plans and work schedules in place the family moved into rented accommodation in a neighbouring village so demolition could begin.

Two and a half thousand tons of rock were removed from the sloping site before a 100



THE THREE-IN-ONE DEVELOPMENT IS BUILT INTO A STEEP HILLSIDE AND OVERLOOKS FABULOUS VIEWS ACROSS A VALLEY

ton crane lowered pre-cast concrete sections for the retaining walls into position, creating the basement and first floor slab as a complete unit. All three properties are created from custom-built timber frames and Thermonex insulated wall panels, clad in reclaimed stone. Martin initially thought the cladding and internal fit-out could be done in tandem, but the cladding had to be completed before the window frames, stone sills and heads could be made to fit the extra-thick walls.

Martin worked hard to create an energy-efficient home, using the best insulation,

THE STONE FRONTAGE OF THE THREE-STOREY PROPERTIES COMPLEMENTS THE RURAL SETTING BUT THE DEVELOPMENT COULDN'T BLOCK THE VIEW FROM A PERIOD HOUSE FURTHER UP THE HILL



...continued on page 24



I really enjoyed the element of finding suppliers, particularly crafts people who lived locally

– Martin Smith

minimising air leakage paths and installing a Worcester Bosch Green heating system to retain as much heat as possible, resulting in an Energy Efficient 'B' rated property. The roof is also insulated well beyond minimum spec and finished in manmade Bradstone Old Quarry tiles for a natural look.

Construction of the three-home design began in winter 2007 and was finally completed last year to a total cost of £650,000, working out at around £1,368 per sq m. However, the unexpectedly long planning time and the three-year build meant that circumstances had dramatically changed by the time Christine and Martin were ready to move in.

Victoria and Mark have both moved away to pursue careers and have decided to sell their homes for £360,000 each, while

Christine's mum has moved into a home, leaving Martin and Christine rattling around in their five-bedroom property, now worth £550,000.

"We decided that the best way forward was to sell all three and find somewhere else to live," said Martin. "It's certainly whetted our appetite to build again. I really enjoyed the element of finding suppliers, particularly crafts people who lived locally, and seeing all those years of planning finally coming together. My advice to anyone thinking of building their own home is to plan everything down to the finest detail, work out where you can make savings, and then stick rigidly to budget, stage by stage. It's so easy to over spend, but meticulous planning in the beginning pays huge dividends down the line."



TWO AREAS OF OPEN PLAN LIVING ARE DEFINED BY DIFFERENT FLOOR FINISHES. THE DOORS AND WINDOWS WERE SUPPLIED BY A LOCAL COMPANY AS PART OF MARTIN'S BUILD PHILOSOPHY OF EMPLOYING REGIONAL TRADES PEOPLE WHERE POSSIBLE

project costs

Cost of property: £105,000

Overall cost of project: £650,000

Value of property now:

Main house £550,000 and two smaller homes £360,000 each

What was the high point of the project?

Finding good quality crafts people who worked locally and seeing everything fall into place at the end of the project.

The low point was: Trying to get planning permission to demolish the bungalow and rebuild on the site.

Contacts

- Construction management:
Maidwell Associates
- Planning & architectural services:
Spawforth Associates
www.spawforths.co.uk
The team involved with the project have now set up on their own at DMS Architecture
www.dmsarchitecture.co.uk
- Basement design & installation:
Thermonex
www.thermonex.co.uk
- Custom timber frame design & build:
Almond and Coates
- Roofing: John Watts Roofing
- Reclaimed & new stone features:
Traditional Stone & Supplies
www.traditionalstonesupplies.co.uk
- Precast 'L' shaped concrete retaining wall panels: Tarmac Building Products
www.tarmacbuildingproducts.co.uk
- Permacrib gravity retaining wall:
Phi Group
www.phigroup.co.uk
- Doors & windows: Premdor
www.premdor.co.uk
- Plumbing, heating design & installation:
Gasfast
www.gasfast.org
- Electrics: Complete Electrical
- Hand made solid oak balustrade:
Dave Dalby Woodturning
www.stairpartsuk.co.uk
- Hill Top House (5-bed detached) marketed through Dacre Son & Hartley
www.dacres.co.uk
- Rosebank & Mill View (3-bed link detached) marketed through Holdroyd Miller
www.holdroydmiller.co.uk



WOOD FLOORS AND WHITE WALLS WERE CHOSEN FOR EASY MAINTENANCE

editor's focus

1

EFFICIENT LIGHT

Efficient Light has been helping clients, builders and architects specify LED and low energy lighting solutions for over 7 years now, so they have heard all the questions there are on energy efficient lighting. As a company they are particularly well suited to helping with 'off plan' enquiries and projects. Their aim is to help you reduce costs and, with access to over 10,000 lighting products, they can save you many hours of product research in the process.

Enq. 121



2

COLORCOAT URBAN®

Colorcoat Urban's beautiful, contemporary roofing not only looks fantastic but is also built to last. The system provides true peace of mind with a 40 year weatherproof guarantee. Colorcoat Urban® offers a solution for aspirational and understated design at an affordable price. The quick fit, hassle free alternative to traditional methods of roofing comes with the security of BBA certification and is protected by Tata Steel. Choose from the carefully selected matt colour range to achieve the perfect finish for your home.

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3

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS UK

As prices rise and access to fossil fuel resources becomes ever more difficult, energy production is no longer an issue concerning just environmental campaigners, but it is having a direct impact on us all. There is a major change occurring in the UK energy market and the way we supply electricity to our homes and businesses will never be the same again. The use of solar energy for heating is nothing new and solar electric panels have been around for many decades. Alternative Systems UK are providing the future of electric supply for your property with the benefit of generating profit from your investment.

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4

CURTAIN BOUNCER

A new device, the Curtain Bouncer, is set to put the bounce back into shower time and solve one of life's more irritating little mysteries – why do shower curtains cause bathroom misery by sticking to the skin? It happens because water from the shower head creates a low pressure vortex that draws the curtain inwards. It causes frustration and irritation in around 3 million UK bathrooms every day! The easy-to-fit Curtain Bouncer eases the irritation by simply 'bouncing' the curtain away from you while you shower. Curtain Bouncer's inventor Guy Rackham says: "If you've ever had your shower spoilt by unwanted attention from a clingy curtain, you'll know how irritating it can be. Fuss-free and affordable, Curtain Bouncer will help you reclaim your shower space."

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6

TRUE NORTH LOG HOMES

Since the 1980's the company's vision has always been to provide the most efficient log home packages in the industry. They are now the first log home manufacturer to produce a finished product in Ontario, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Continued development places them as the most technologically advanced log home manufacturer in the world. The award winning plan book gives an insight into just some of the creations or clients can opt for a custom design. Selfbuilders are welcome or UK based build teams can assist.

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5

SELECTA SOLAR

Since the introduction of the government 'Feed in Tariff' in April 2010, solar PV has in many ways been the 'star pupil' and many businesses are taking the opportunity to invest in renewable energy, whether that is by setting up an installation team or having systems installed on their premises. Birmingham based Selecta Solar Ltd can provide all your solar PV requirements, from solar PV modules to full solar PV installation kits. The Solar PV installation kits comprise of solar PV monocrystalline modules, inverter, roof mounting system, Ofgem approved meter, isolators, cables and connectors. Kits are available for domestic and commercial installations. Selecta Solar and sister company Selecta Systems Ltd have a vast amount of experience distributing and servicing the home improvement market over the last 30 years. A £1 million investment on a 300kW+ solar PV system at their Birmingham site further enhances their confidence in their products and services.

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...continued on page 36

TATA STEEL



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2013

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GRUNDFOS 

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top tips for a stunning focal point

The Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialists Association (KBBSA) is the body, similar to that of ABTA, which sets the standard for professionalism in the home improvement industry. Here the KBBSA gives helpful advice when choosing a freestanding bath



LAUFEN – ALESSI ONE FREESTANDING BATH



BETTE – SILHOUETTE BATH

In the past choosing a freestanding bath was a task reserved only for those with a large bathroom and a healthy bank balance, but not any longer. Nowadays, modern material technology means that a wide range of designs and sizes are now available allowing many more people the opportunity to incorporate a freestanding bath into their dream bathroom design.

The Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialists Association (KBBSA) offers the following tips for anyone who has decided on a freestanding bath:

1 With space no longer an issue, freestanding baths can be built into one wall or even into a corner, which makes them an option for a modest bathroom or even an en-suite.

Modern material technology means that a wide range of designs and sizes are now available

2 Traditional freestanding baths were made from cast iron, which is a very heavy material, making the bath difficult to fit, however, modern freestanding baths are made from acrylic, which is both lighter and warmer.

3 Acrylic baths also retain the water temperature for longer than cast iron and any size or shape bath can be designed and manufactured, which has led to a wide range being currently available in both traditional and contemporary styles. Acrylic baths can be moulded from a single sheet of acrylic and then reinforced for strength and rigidity. The acrylic will vary in thickness, typically 4mm, 5mm or 8mm. A better option is a double-skinned acrylic freestanding bath, which is stronger than a normal acrylic bath and lighter than cast iron. Acrylic also offers a wide range of colour options, allowing the more individual option of colour co-ordinating a bath to match a bathroom. Another important advantage is that with acrylic the design is not limited. Any size or shape bath can be designed and manufactured and this has led to a wide range of designs, both traditional and contemporary.

4 Traditional freestanding baths, such as the slipper-style bath of Victorian times is one option for a period home. This style of bath offers the option of different feet and taps so that you can make it the perfect fit for your bathroom.

...continued on page 30

5 Another traditional option is the boat style bath which has a wonderfully elegant to-the-floor design, creating a real wow factor in the bathroom.

6 For an ultra cool, contemporary bathroom you could choose a much more angular shaped bath, or a modern style slipper bath that has the same shaped tub but can be a to-the-floor model.

7 Some freestanding baths are even available with wooden cradles, which add a quirky twist and provide shelving space for candles, toiletries or towels.

8 A freestanding bath can create a stunning focal point if placed in the centre of a bathroom, so if you are lucky enough to have a large bathroom then you should opt for a large freestanding bath in the centre of the room.

9 You also need to consider what you want from your bath. There are now freestanding baths available that can give you the spa experience whilst bathing.

Finally, the details make a big difference to an interior. Don't scrimp and make sure you choose the right feet and taps to finish off your fantastic new bath properly.



Enq. 130

NOOVALIS' CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON A FREESTANDING BATH, FROM LAINGS BATHROOMS

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www.nationalplastics.co.uk

Enq. 131

MX Group



MX Group has launched a fresh new website that brings its huge range of shower trays, electric showers and accessories to life, at the click of a button. MX is not only a leading manufacturer of shower trays with more than 100 sizes of tray in six main product types, and not only produces the widest range of shower accessories in the UK, but also ensures that these comply with all relevant British Standards and wherever applicable uses WRAS approved materials. The

ever growing selection of MX Electric Showers are all BEAB approved and come complete with a full service backup.

Tel: 01684 29 33 11 www.mx-group.com

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Roman



Roman have added a new 'L' shaped panel kit to their range, for use with wet-room panels. Designed so you can create your own walk-in enclosure space without the need to purchase a separate bespoke shower tray, the adjustable foot is compatible for use with a variety of tray styles including low and high level trays. The panel foot can simply be 'adjusted' at point of installation to the correct size to suit your tray. The 200mm wide 'L' shaped panel guides water back into the showering area for greater water integrity. It features frameless 8mm thick toughened safety glass, a discrete fully capped-off aluminium section and a chromed brass foot.

Tel: 0845 050 7611 www.roman-showers.com

Enq. 133

Fermacell



Fermacell Powerpanel H₂O is the complete solution to wet room applications, including bathrooms, kitchens, hospitals, hotels, laundries, leisure centres and swimming pools. Historically, the wrong materials used in wet room applications can result in mould growth and tile loss. With no clear British Standards for internal waterproofing, Fermacell Powerpanel H₂O boards exceed the varying international standards for waterproofing. H₂O boards can also be used for semi-exposed external applications such as soffits. In wall construction tests the product provides high acoustic and fire performance – exceeding those achieved by other similar products, whilst still remaining competitively priced.

Enq. 134

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Enq. 135



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Enq. 137

noun



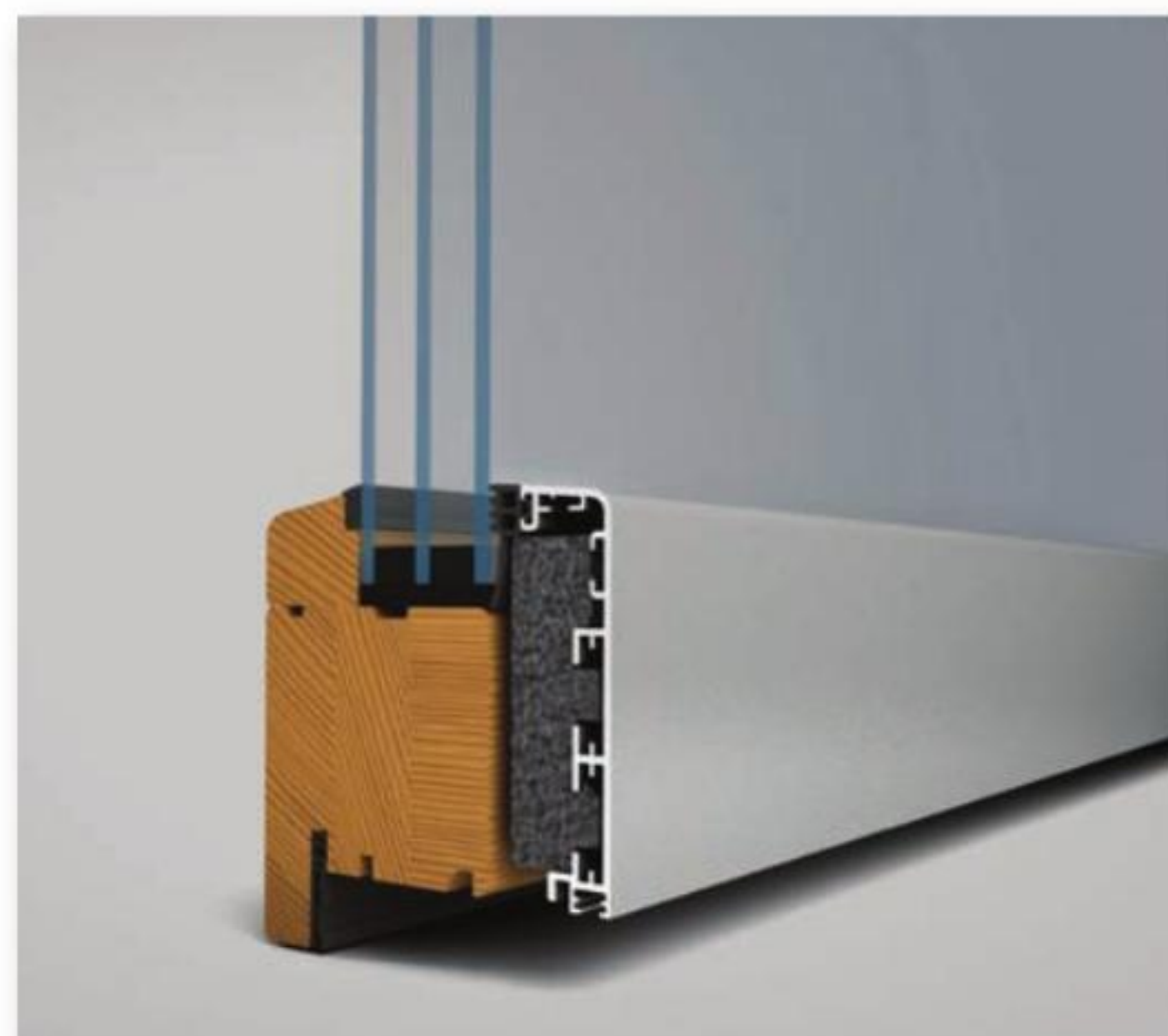
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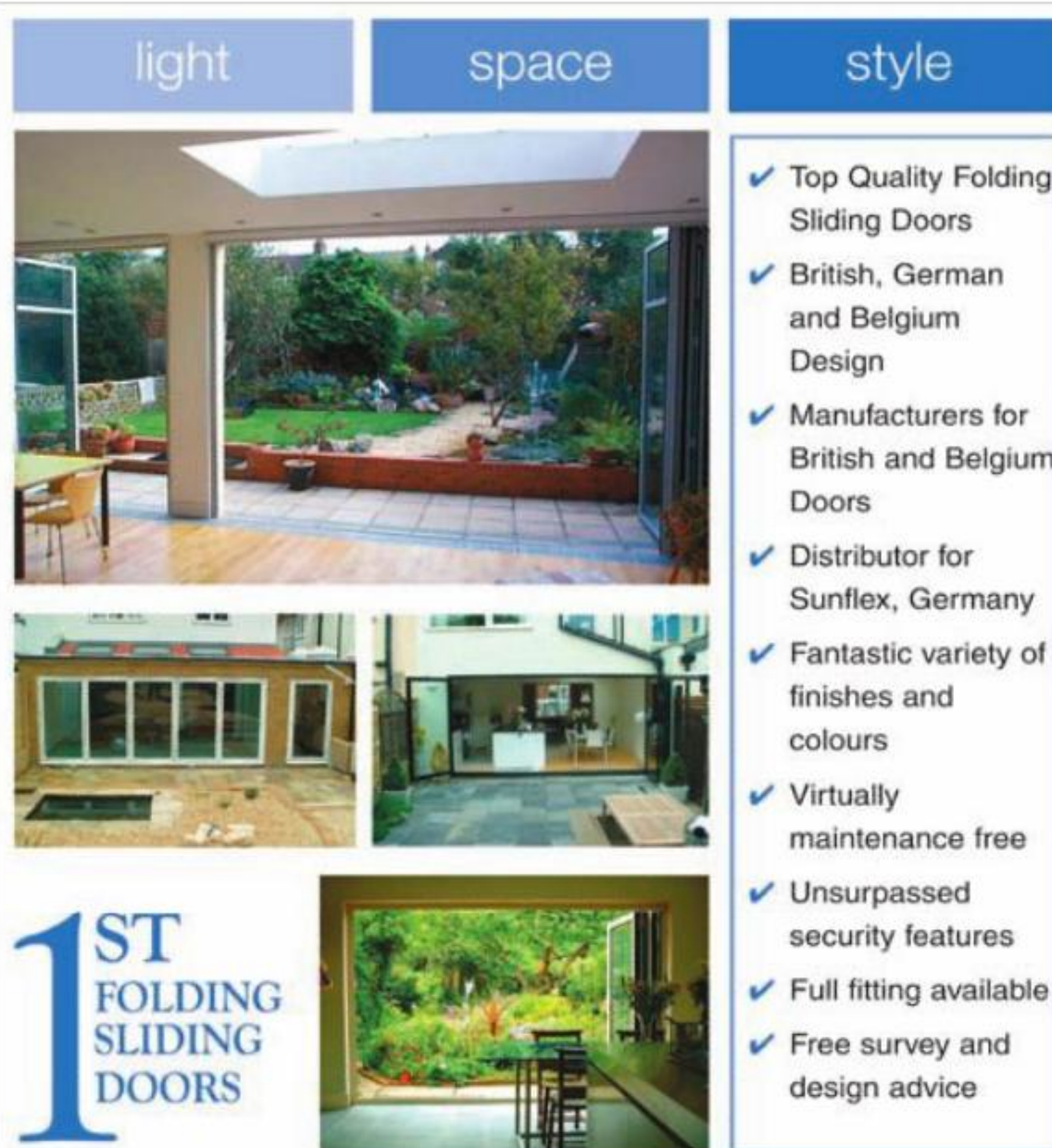
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Enq. 138



Eng. 139



Enq. 140



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Enq. 143

Garador



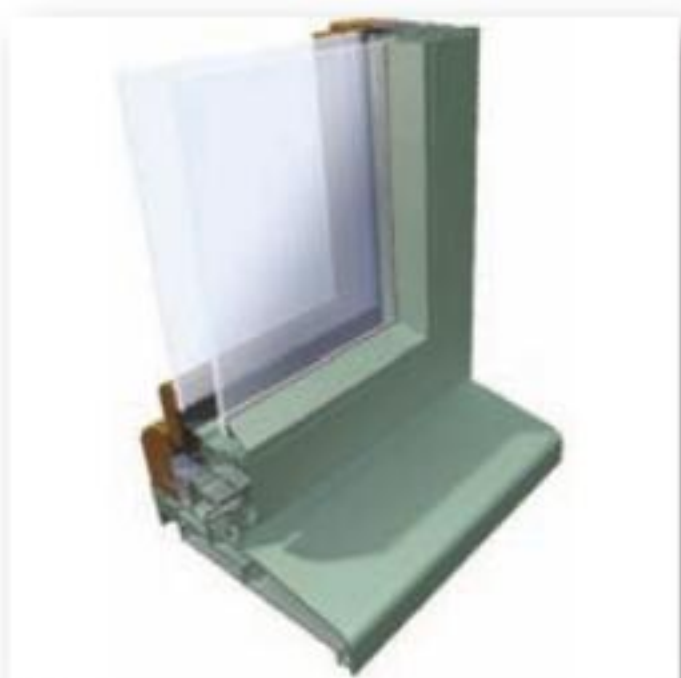
Garador's insulated roller garage door, GaraRoll, is designed to provide a stylish automatic garage door even when space is limited. Simon Hipgrave, Garador's managing director, said: "Sectional doors have always been popular with our customers, however, if overhead space is restricted inside the garage, [...] With the GaraRoll the customer does not have to compromise on practicality, quality or style as everything is tucked away in a neat box on the front wall of their garage. But like a sectional door the GaraRoll lifts vertically and therefore needs no extra space in front of the garage so cars can be parked right up to the door."

sectional door the GaraRoll lifts vertically and therefore needs no extra space in front of the garage so cars can be parked right up to the door."

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Enq. 144

Ultraframe



Ultraframe has developed a new composite window and door system which has been specifically designed to provide elegant and slim profiles that are able to maximise natural light, as well as offer excellent life time value. Ultraframe's range of composite windows and doors are made from predominately aluminium, providing strength and durability where it's needed most, around the locks and hinges. The solution features durable powder-coated coloured aluminium

externally and glorious ash hardwood inside. The ash hardwood is available in a range of three natural finishes which can be primed so the end-user can choose their own finishing colour.

Enq. 145



Roto

Building designers wishing to make the most of impressive scenery or landscape views can now take advantage of Roto's Patio Life sliding door system. This unique hardware suite enables very large glass sizes, filling rooms with natural light whilst at the same time making remarkably easy work of sliding large, heavy door sashes. Patio Life is the next step on from a 'lift and slide' system. The Roto product negates the need for the 'lift' element with its mechanism that moves the gaskets in order to make the seal. The result is doors that slide with remarkable ease, even when at the maximum of 400kg. Sashes containing glazed units over 3 metres wide are possible. The threshold offers excellent thermal insulation, resulting in U-values low enough for the system to be specified in passive house projects. Roto has also introduced a new low-profile threshold to comply with Part M of the Building Regulations. Another unique advantage is ventilation with full security: the vent mode allows airflow when the sash is fully closed and locked. Roto offers compliance with the latest EN standards for corrosion protection and a 10 year warranty.

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Enq. 147

editor's focus



8

WHITEWATERS

Whitewaters offer a nationwide design and build service for swimming pools, spas and other wet leisure facilities. Their multi-disciplinary team of engineers thrive on unusual and challenging projects and offer a level of design, detail and finishing that is at home in the most opulent of properties. They believe in a flexible approach to the process, which allows their clients to undertake elements of the work themselves where required. They are proud of the reputation that they have gained for outstanding customer service.

Enq. 148



7

GRANT WESTFIELD LTD

multiPanel shower panels by Grant Westfield Ltd are changing the way people think about bathrooms. While we all love the look of tiles, not many of us enjoy spending weekends cleaning unsightly mould from the grout lines. Now you can have the best of both worlds; use multiPanel in wet areas for a more practical solution, and if desired tile round the rest of the room. With 30 colours to choose from, matching tiles to multiPanel is no problem and can produce stunning results. Grant Westfield's multiPanel collection also consists of tile effect panels, a waterproof floating vinyl floor, a PVC ceiling system, and just to add a bit of bling, a concealed audio system!

Enq. 149



9

HYDROPATH

Designed specifically for pools and spa owners, Hydropath Technology is a green, unique and patented water treatment device. No other product can make the claim of treating water like their AquaKlear and SpaKlear range. It uses no chemicals, works on all pipes, is easy to install and saves energy resulting in major cost savings. Once fitted, the effect on automatic dosing systems can be seen within 30 minutes, with a saving of over 66 per cent of chlorine in the following hours of operation. The main advantage of the technology is the cost savings associated with backwashing of the filters. You will also notice a difference when leaving the pool: there will be no damaging effects on swimwear and the smell of chlorine is virtually eliminated, making the pool side a desirable place to be.

Enq. 150

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Enq. 151

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Enq. 155

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Enq. 156

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Enq. 157

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Enq. 158



how to install decking

Cyril Williams of Woodlink UK, main UK importer and distributor of the sustainable Lyptus hardwood decking range, hosts a question and answer session on the key considerations when installing decking products

While the flexibility of decking is widely documented the key to ensuring a quality installation lies in detailed planning, as decking design will ultimately dictate the necessary sub-frame and associated structures. However, when it comes to the detail of the installation the following are all key points of which to be aware.

Q What should I consider as part of the planning application?

A With a retrospective installation, or if the decking was not included as part of the original plans, one of the main considerations is the size of the deck in proportion to the house and garden. This is because new planning rules now apply in England to the size of decks, in relation to the property or garden, which legislate that the decking cannot cover more than 50 per cent of the garden.

Planning permission is also specifically required where a deck platform is more than 300mm (1ft) off the ground. However, best practice is to prepare the design and then cross check against planning regulations to confirm whether it requires consent.

Q How do I know what type of sub-frame to use?

A The type of sub-frame will be determined by where the deck will be installed. A patio style deck, which is a raft construction, is most common and installed on a garden area that drains well. For sloping sites or multi-tier applications an elevated deck (post and beam) would be used.

Q Which direction should I lay the joists?

A The direction you wish to lay the deck boards will establish joist direction, whether parallel, chevron, herringbone, checkboard or quadrant. An important point to note is that laying deck boards in checkboard and quadrant can hinder drainage and will require more regular maintenance.



CHECKING LEVEL ON JOISTS

...continued on page 41

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Enq. 159

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Q How do I create a free draining structure?

A As part of planning the deck should be designed with a free draining structure. For adequate run off decks should be laid on a slight gradient, at least 1 in 100. Grooved decking should be laid down the fall to enable water run off and ensure the groove ends can drain freely i.e. pack out fascia if required.

Q What gap should I leave between deck boards?

A Deck boards should be surface dry and laid with no less than a 6mm gap between boards to allow for seasonal shrinkage or

swelling. When installing hardwood decking you should allow 8mm gaps as the product is kiln dried hardwood and requires room for expansion in the wetter seasons.

Q Why is it advisable to loose-lay components before securing them?

A The longer the components, particularly deck boards, are left to become surface dry the less the effects of shrinkage will be apparent after fixing them. The timber can also be cut and sanded more easily when dry. If the boards are allowed to fully dry out prior to fitting, the gap between boards should be increased by 2-3mm to allow subsequent expansion in the wetter seasons.

Q What type of fixings should I use?

A For the very best results stainless steel screws should be used at 2½ times the thickness of the deck board. To avoid splitting it is advisable to pre-drill pilot holes near the end of the boards.

Q Where can I obtain more detailed guidance?

A The Timber Decking Association is an excellent source of information.

Enq. 160

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Enq. 162

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Enq. 163

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Enq. 166

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NCC Streetscape

The traditional stone paving to Main Street and its surrounding areas in the Bellshill Town Centre redevelopment, included Porphyry Granite Setts, Caithness Stone and Grey Granite edging blocks. These have all been expertly laid by civil engineer's RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd. of Glasgow, using the unique vdw 850 Paving Jointing Mortar from NCC Streetscape. The consultants for North Lanarkshire Council specified the option of using the vdw 850 Paving Jointing Mortar because it can accommodate all of the different levels of loadings required, including those in the heavy vehicle turning area outside of St. Andrews Church. RJ McLeod made a complete evaluation of the materials, labour, plant and weather delay limitations and costs for the project, which showed that the vdw 850 Jointing Mortar was by far the best option; particularly as it can be applied and cures in wet weather conditions and at low temperatures.

Tel: 01257 266696 www.nccstreetscape.co.uk

Enq. 168

Polypipe Building Products



When the old cast iron guttering on Steve Parson's house became detached from the fascia boards, he knew that the house needed surgery! He was impressed by the latest Elegance uPVC cast iron look alike system from Polypipe. The Elegance Ogee Notched looked just right for the property providing a secure fit and countered the problem of gutters becoming dislodged from their retaining clips during warm weather due to heat expansion, making leaky joints a thing of the past. These

benefits, in addition to the lightweight construction of the new guttering system, makes handling, assembly and installation as simple as possible.

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Enq. 169

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Enq. 170



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Enq. 171



NCC Streetscape

RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd is the civil engineering contractor for the Bellshill Town Centre; Phase 4; redevelopment for North Lanarkshire Council and they have completed the jointing of the traditional Granite Sett paving to the roads using the unique vdw 850 Paving Jointing Mortar from NCC Streetscape. The Porphyry Granite Sett Paving had to be securely grouted and able to maintain its appearance for many years, despite regular use of mechanical street cleaning machines. RJ McLeod selected vdw 850 following a detailed evaluation of the whole operation, including the costs of the materials, labour, plant and the weather. This advanced paving jointing mortar can be applied quickly even in wet and rainy weather or at low temperatures, thereby allowing the tight programme to continue without delays due to the Scottish weather from autumn and into the winter.

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Enq. 172

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Enq. 173

Electrorad



Electrorad are the sole UK importers of two electric heating systems; Aeroflow® and Digi-Line. Aeroflow® is a German manufactured radiator with elements encased within fireclay heat plates. The fireclay provides a storage capability but also heats up very quickly and so is able to respond to thermostatic control requirements. Each radiator has an integral digital thermostat and seven day timing system. Digi-Line is a Swedish manufactured thermal fluid filled radiator. Designed

to look just like a central heating radiator and available in single panel and double panel models.

Tel: 0844 479 0055 www.electrorad.co.uk

Enq. 174

Salamander Engineering



Salamander Engineering has addressed the potential problem caused by the huge quantity of condensate that is making its way into drains and soak aways around the country from high efficiency condensing boilers. A condensing boiler from an average household will produce approximately 800 litres of acid per year. Salamander's 'Condensafe '+' unit is a unique and innovative in-line unit, designed to be mounted between the boiler condensate outlet and the drain. It contains a

special medium that will effectively neutralise acidic waste from condensing boilers before allowing the now harmless waste to be discharged to the drains.

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Enq. 175

Mitsubishi Electric



Mr. Warren Green's 26-year-old bungalow in Oakley Green, near Windsor in Berkshire, has four bedrooms and two bathrooms and is home to Warren, his two sons and his mother and father, so keeping fuel bills to a minimum is a priority. Now, with the installation of a 16-panel array from Mitsubishi Electric, the household will benefit from an anticipated 2,000 kWh of power generation a year, helping reduce the home's consumption and earn an income from the Government's Feed-in Tariff scheme.

The 14kW Ecodan supplies all the hot water and heating to the home, powering 20 radiators throughout the bungalow. The heat pump replaced the previous oil-fired boiler and has now cut the Green's fuel bills in half.

Enq. 176

Stelrad Radiators



Stelrad Radiators has launched its new Caliente designer radiator range – 15 different models that are ideal for adding that little extra 'pizazz' to any home. The Caliente, which is Spanish for 'heat', is a stylish tubular design and is available in horizontal, vertical, single and double tube versions. Stelrad's Lorraine Hawes, said: "We've added a lot of stylish models over the last year or so to give architects, designers, specifiers and installers the opportunity to develop the wow factor in the homes

they design or work in, whilst guaranteeing performance at a realistic price with a product that is delivered to order, not manufactured to order!"

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Enq. 177

The All New Dataterm IHC Can Knock 25% off your heating bill!



The all new Dataterm IHC can now control up to 4 heating zones and hot water all from 1 handy control pad allowing you to be in total control of your heating and how much it costs you. So if central heating is a burden to your budget enquire about Dataterm today, after all it is the control that **can pay for itself in as little as 2 years** and its good for the planet too! Suitable for all heating systems, it simply replaces existing time clocks and thermostats allowing greater flexibility and control. Features include illuminated display, optimum start / stop, close temperature control and an **average 25% savings in fuel spend per annum... Active Boost is a unique heating extender allowing the heating to stay on for up to 3 hours without you having to worry about switching off!** Dataterm is recognised by the Energy Saving Trust in recognition of its ability to save fuel and help the planet.

warmworld.co.uk +44 (0) 117 949 8800



Enq. 178

Total Home Environment



'Treetops', a highly insulated property that will feature in the new BBC series To Build or not to Build, has been specified with Total Home Environment's Premium and Vanvex systems for heat recovery ventilation, space heating and domestic hot water. The 400m² house is a modern, Danish design with an unconventional steel frame, reinforced concrete floors and steel studwork with an aluminium roof. The decision to install the high quality Premium system was made as the

highly insulated property required very little heating. Total Home Environment's Premium range combines heat recovery ventilation with heat pump technology to harness energy more efficiently from outgoing air.

Enq. 179

Grundfos Pumps



Pressure boosting just got better with the arrival of the new Grundfos Home Booster. The unit is the same quality and standard as the previous model, however now has the added benefit of containing the new CM pump, the latest in horizontal multi-stage design. It features a new motor design, shaft seal and method locking impellers. Not only does this mean increased reliability and serviceability, it also means quieter operation. The high quality stainless steel pump delivers high efficiency, sustained performance, long working life and quiet operation. The pump is on/off controlled by the Grundfos PM2 which has indicators for pressure, pump status and fault, and a reset button.

Enq. 180

wood burning stoves, even more environmentally friendly

the outworking of the new document L

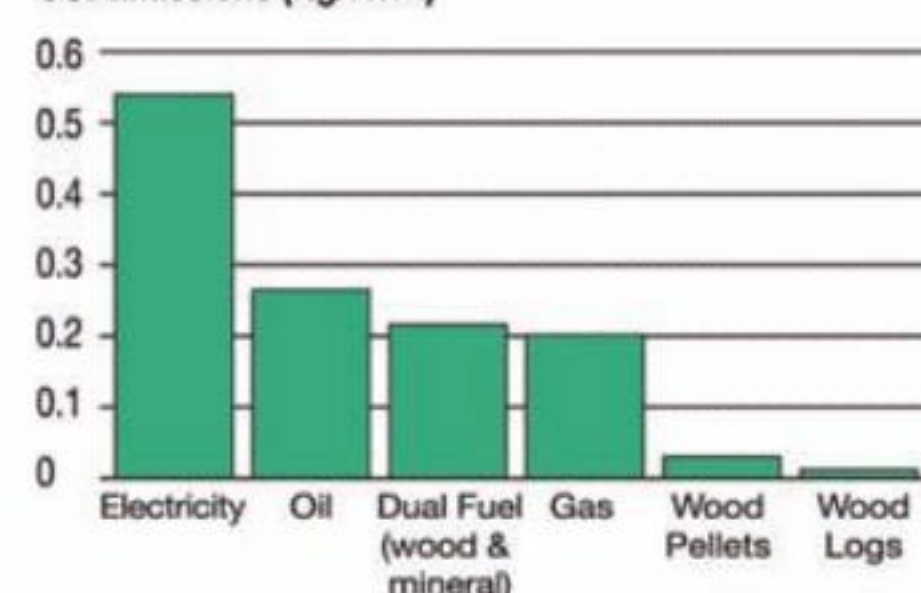


A real fire is an essential part of most people's dream house. With the focus on energy efficiency and low carbon homes, a wood burning stove can help fulfil this dream and make a significant contribution to energy efficiency and lower CO₂ emissions.

The new Document L, which came into effect in October 2010 in England and Wales, increases the role a wood burning stove can play in the overall heating of a house. A wood burning stove can be used as primary heating and be responsible for up to 100 per cent of the house heating.

The new SAP 2009, which will apply initially to new homes, caters for the specification of more than one source of primary heating. A typical example could be two primary heating systems consisting of a condensing boiler, heat pump or pellet boiler, with a linked stove system responsible for heating the living rooms. This will allow a wood burning stove to provide a significant contribution to the renewable energy sources of the house, while providing house owners with the aesthetic feel they want their

CO₂ Emissions (Kg/KWh)



house to have.

Burning wood in an efficient stove is the key to achieving the carbon savings. Wood is one of the most environmentally friendly fuels that can be used. It is a renewable energy and virtually carbon neutral. The carbon factor for wood has been significantly reduced in the new SAP2009 to 0.007kg of carbon per Kwatt. Gas, for example emits 25 times more carbon than burning wood in an efficient stove.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE USE OF WOOD BURNING STOVES CAN BE FOUND AT THE STOVE ALLIANCE WEBSITE WWW.STOVEALLIANCE.COM

Enq. 181

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Enq. 182

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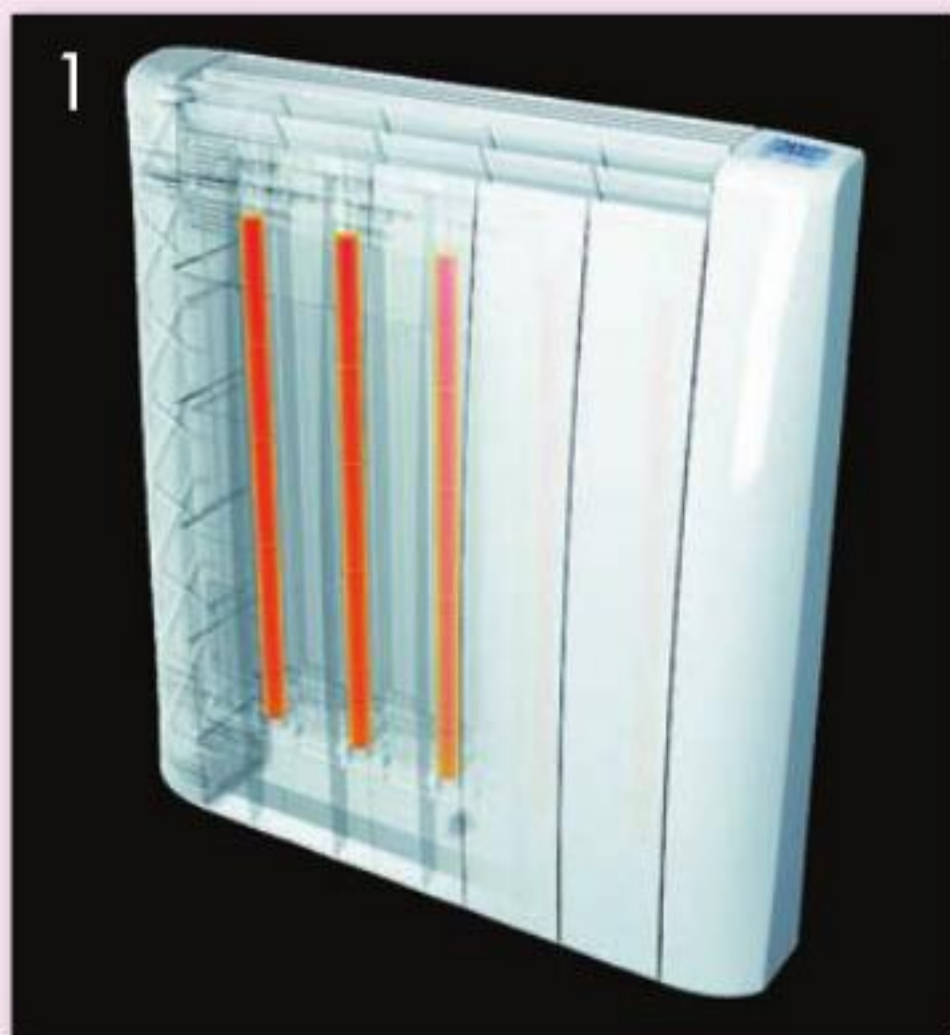
APPLICATIONS

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Enq. 183



1 Distributed by **Dealec**, Onice Aluminium Electric Radiators combine state-of-the-art heating technology with high pressure aluminium die casting for energy saving heating. The patented technology involves the insertion of special electrical elements into the pressure die casting of each radiator. This means that the element becomes the nucleus and an integral part of the radiator, ensuring a long, trouble-free life with no internal liquids or oils to cause leakage. Sophisticated controls automatically adjust the number of electrical elements required to provide the heat requested.

Enq. 184



2 **Door Fittings UK** offer one of the widest ranges of high quality ironmongery and specialise in the sale of handcrafted, british made door furniture and window fittings, to both trade and private builds and refurbishments. With an easy-to-use website, you can browse the full range of different types of products they sell, including:

- Door handles
- Door knobs
- Door knockers
- Letterplates
- Pull handles
- Finger plates
- Hinges
- Thumb latches
- Bolts and hooks
- Window furniture
- Locks

Enq. 185

3 Bodpave®85 from **Fiberweb**, the next generation in porous, ecofriendly, cellular ground reinforcement paving grids, is a strong, interlocking and 100 per cent recycled plastic solution for grass reinforcement, ground stabilisation and gravel retention. It is ideal for regularly trafficked surfaces (pedestrian and vehicles). The pavers can be installed with either a grass or gravel filled surface. These permeable pavers are manufactured in the UK from UV stabilised 100 per cent recycled HDPE and are chemically inert and nontoxic with high load-bearing performance (up to 400 t/m²).

Enq. 186

Door Fittings UK

Designer Door Furniture Online



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Enq. 187



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Enq. 188

4 Devi Electroheat Ltd., who has been synonymous with electric underfloor heating systems for over 20 years, has changed its name to **Gaia Climate Solutions Ltd.** The name change has been announced following the successful management buyout of the company from Danfoss. The change in name also reflects the increased portfolio of products and services that are now on offer from the team at Gaia. Gaia has an in-house screed and insulation division giving the customer peace of mind that their floor solution is compatible and installed to the high standards expected.

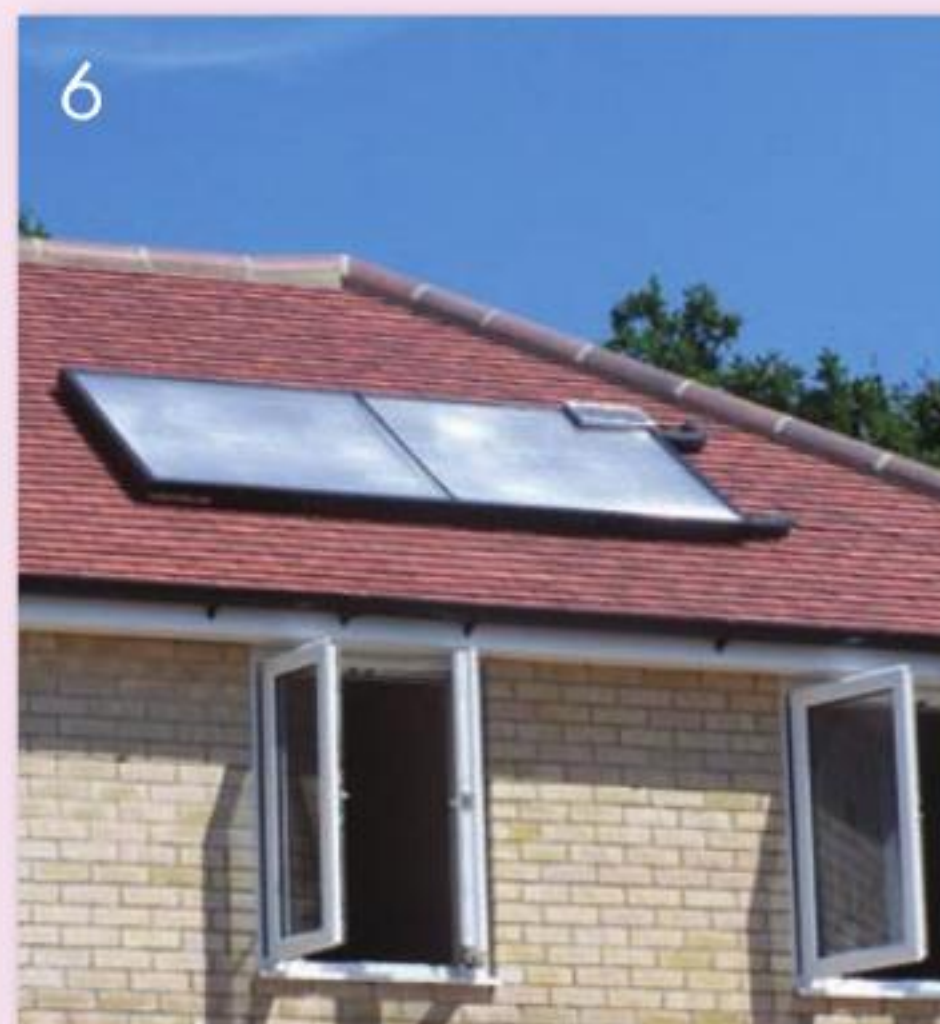
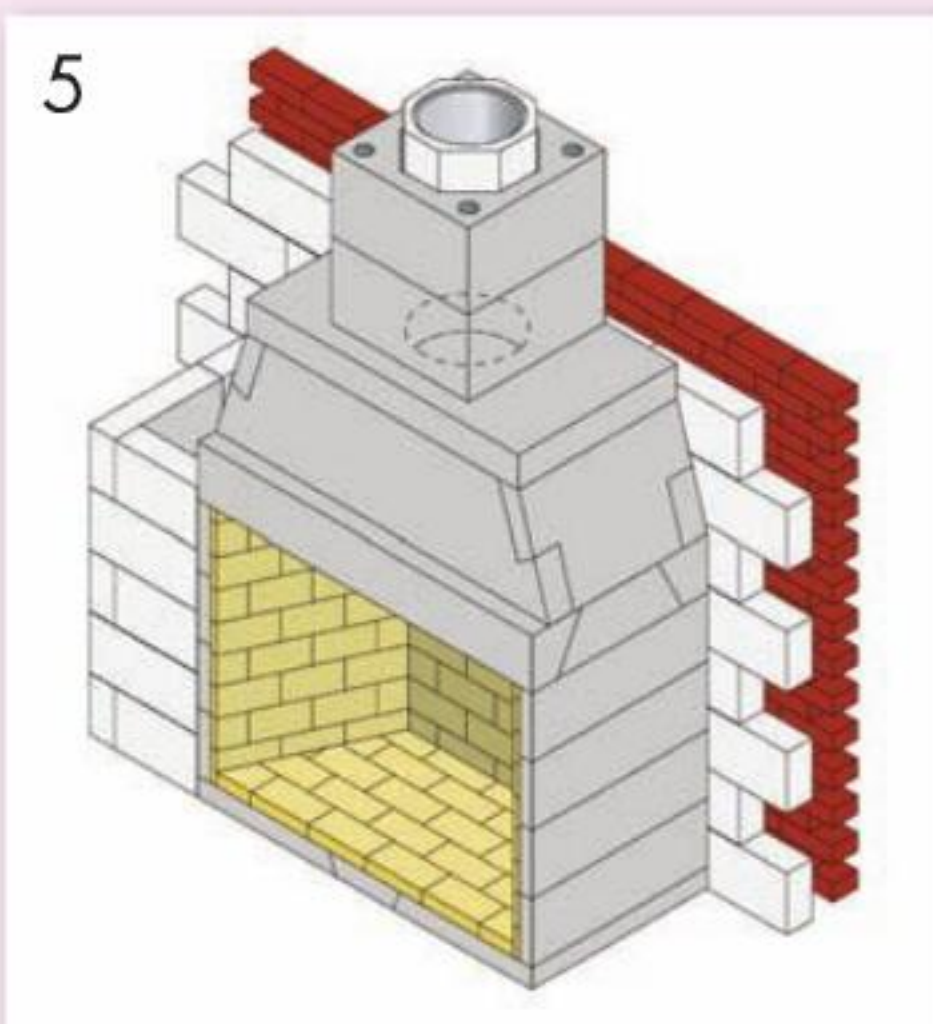
Enq. 189

6 **Solartwin Ltd** manufactures and supplies zero carbon, solar water heating systems and grid-tied solar electric (PV) systems, to trade and domestic customers. In the thermal systems, the pump and solar controller are powered by a small solar electric panel, which eliminates all parasitic mains electrical loads. The panel is very quick to install, usually taking less than a day, due to its simplicity. Another significant advantage is that all the pipework is silicone based, meaning the panel can freeze safely. Therefore, no glycol or drain-down is needed and maintenance is minimal.

Enq. 191

5 **Schiedel Isokern** has released the new range of Magnum Firechests that have been designed to maximise the burning efficiency of wood in an open fire. The specially shaped fire chamber facilitates the efficient burning of wood logs to give efficiencies ranging from 42 per cent to 45 per cent. The efficiencies are tested to EN13229. The Firechests are also fitted with a damper, which can be used to close off the chimney when not in use. This has the effect of reducing the ventilation rate of the chimney in the SAP calculation by 50 per cent, significantly reducing heat loss.

Enq. 190



...continued on page 51

BE > THINK > INNOVATE >

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Introducing the **NEW** range of lifting stations that are better for being **Grundfos**



MODERN COMFORT
BY GRUNDFOS

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grundfos.com/moderncomfort

GRUNDFOS

Enq. 192

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Enq. 193

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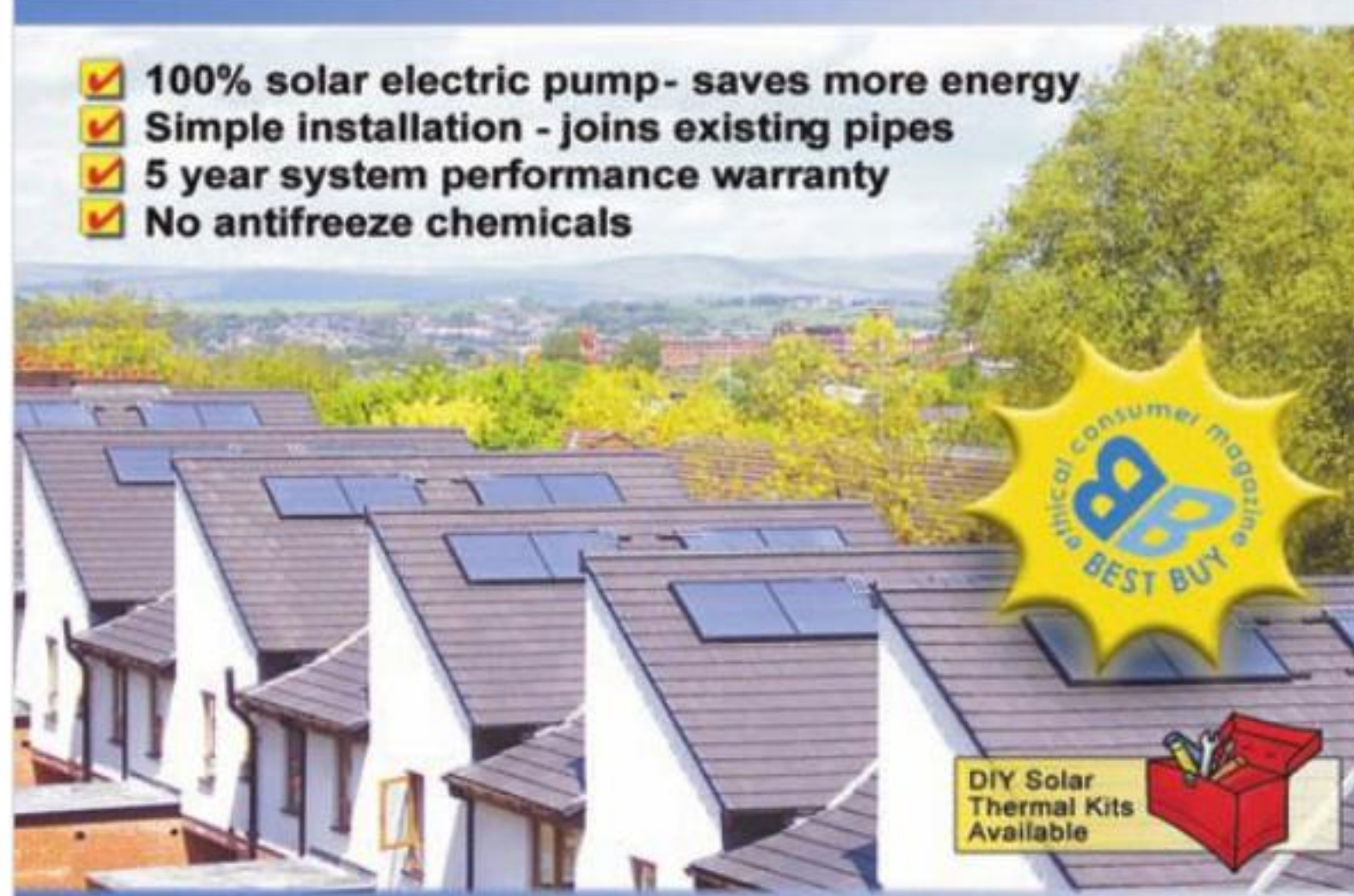
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Enq. 194

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Enq. 195

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Enq. 196

7 **SureSet**, one of the UK's leading suppliers of resin bound paving, has launched a completely new surfacing product that will both improve the look of pot plants and reduce their need for maintenance.

By applying the product on top of the soil layer in a pot or plant container, PermaPlant™ delivers an attractive, durable and low-maintenance finish.

The product is fast and easy to apply and is completely safe for the plant.

PermaPlant™ delivers an elegant, cost effective & original solution suitable for everyone.

Enq. 197

8 The **Lumen** Conservation Rooflight has been especially designed and crafted to replicate a traditional Victorian design which is unobtrusive and sympathetic to the external architecture of the building. The Lumen conservation style provides the fine lines of steel and incorporates a genuine glazing bar. The range offers a high specification of glazing by incorporating Pilkington Activ – the world's first self cleaning glass. Available in a range of standard or bespoke sizes Lumen Rooflights will compliment both traditional and contemporary projects.

Enq. 198



9 **Westwind Oak Buildings** have spent over twenty years specialising in the design and construction of beautiful green oak frame buildings. Their highly skilled craftsmen combine time-honoured oak framing techniques with modern design and construction methods. Their projects range from complete house frames to extensions, summer rooms, swimming pool enclosures, all kinds of outbuildings and commercial buildings. The Westwind team is passionately committed to designing and building environmentally friendly, unique and beautiful buildings.

Enq. 199



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Enq. 200




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Enq. 201



INTERNAL ROOF AND WALLS - TYN Y DDOL RUTHIN



RIGG END FARM - WITH SPRAYING IN PROGRESS

counting the cost

The importance of installing correct insulation,
by BASF Polyurethanes U.K. Ltd.

In an economic downturn more people are looking to build their own home or customise their existing properties. The selfbuild market has been growing steadily over the last 30 years with up to 20,000 homes being built each year. The UK currently delivers about 12 per cent of its housing stock via selfbuilders, but in many European countries more than half of all homes are built this way.

The growth in this sector brings with it careful considerations in terms of not only the initial cost, but the future maintenance, especially energy costs. A significant proportion of heat loss in a typical home is lost due to air leakage, poor insulation, leaky ducts, inefficient windows and doors, inefficient home appliances, etc. With fuel prices going through the pain barrier and, in poorly insulated homes, up to 60 per cent heat disappearing through the walls and roof, and 15 per cent through the floor, there has never been a better time to plug the gaps and lock out the cold.

Insulation is the most single important element for energy efficiency and a key element in

reducing energy bills. With this growth in self-build and renovation projects it is important to ensure insulation of the whole building envelope (exterior walls, ceiling/roof, floor, foundations) with the maximum amount and right type of

Insulation is the most single important element for energy efficiency and a key element in reducing energy bills

insulation material. In new build properties the air tightness and insulation required should be included at the design stage if you are to benefit from future energy savings.

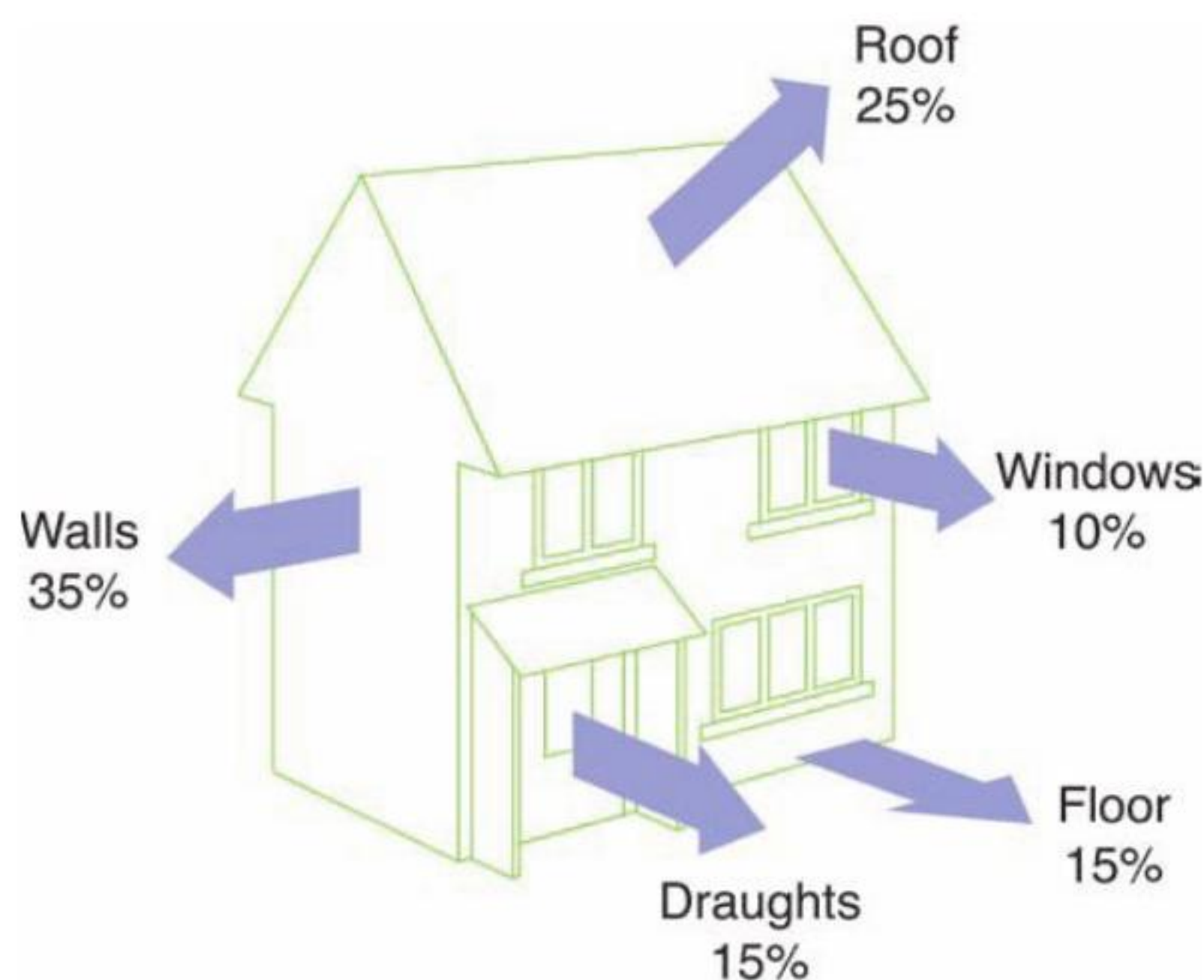


DIAGRAM SHOWING WHERE ENERGY CAN ESCAPE THROUGH AIR GAPS

According to the National Insulation Association there are several reasons why it is important to install the correct insulation. Firstly, un-insulated walls and roofs are letting as much as 60 per cent of a home's heat escape, which equates to a lot of wasted energy and increased emissions. Installing insulation can produce savings of around £375 a year on heating bills and reduce emissions by around two tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Secondly, by installing cavity wall insulation, savings of around £115 a year on heating bills can be made; polyurethane insulation also reduces emissions by more than 1,000kg CO₂ per year. Added to this, loft insulation can make savings of around £150 a year on heating bills and reduce emissions up to 1,530kg CO₂ each year with spray foam insulation depending on the size of property and fuel type. By installing draught proofing around doors and windows savings of around £25 a year can be achieved on heating bills, reducing emissions by around 130kg of CO₂ each year.

According to the National Self Build Association (NASBA) selfbuild homes are greener and they state that an extra 25,000 self build homes would save around 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. The recent government budget is in favour of sustainable development and low carbon projects. This is demonstrated through the installation of spray foam insulation which can, along with other implemented measures, reduce carbon emissions. This supports the government's "Green Deal" currently making its way through the House of Commons in the Energy Bill, where home owners will be able to access funding to make a variety of energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

CO₂ emissions reduced by 75 per cent at the Green House Project

The recently opened Green House Project, based in Huntingdonshire District Council, has proven that carbon emissions can be reduced by 75 per cent through easily affordable improvements. The two refurbished 1970s houses in St Ives and St Neots are now open to the public in order to demonstrate how affordable, energy efficient homes can be achieved.

The project concentrated on using a variety of insulation techniques to provide a reduced carbon footprint for the district across both properties, coupled with homes brought up to a higher level of environmental performance, with exciting results.

Following the BRE tests and assessments the St Ives property improved the SAP score from 48 to 83 and improved the EPC rating from E to B. The initial assessment of CO₂ emissions was 5,900kg p.a., which reduced to 1,500kg p.a. following the improvements which resulted in an estimated reduction in energy bills of £633 per year.

At the St Neots house the SAP score improved from 46 to 85 and EPC rating from E to B, with a similar reduction in CO₂ emissions from 5,200kg p.a. to 1,300kg p.a. resulting in reduced energy bills of £478 per year.

As part of the Climate Change Act to reduce carbon emissions within the current housing stock by 2050, the Green House project shows how simple, easily affordable improvements can be made to existing properties to work towards and meet these challenges head on.

Enq. 202

Superglass



The first ever rolls of mineral wool insulation to fully fill cavity walls in houses have been launched by Superglass. Superwall Roll 36, so named because of its lambda performance of 36 (0.036W/mK), is truly unique to the market – due to the width of its two production lines, Superglass is the only UK manufacturer capable of producing it in three 455mm widths in one roll. The pioneering product is expected to prove popular for a myriad of reasons, not least its cost-effectiveness. It is BBA approved and possesses excellent green credentials. Manufactured almost entirely (84 per cent) from recycled glass bottles, it is CFC and HCFC free, has zero ODP and GWP, and is BRE Green Guide rated to A+.

Enq. 203

Granite Transformations



New from Granite Transformations are three innovative Trend Prestige designs, the only agglomerate or engineered stone products in the world to feature a veining pattern running through the surface.

Also new are two new Trend Q metallic tones, made with material normally used in computer chips, and three additions to the best-selling Trend R Italian granite range, reflecting this season's fashionable earthen and desert tones.

As with all Granite Transformations' products, these eight new designs are covered by a lifetime warranty.

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

Enq. 204



Icynene

Soft foam is one of the fastest growing insulation materials in the world today. Icynene's water blown insulation gives off no harmful emissions, offers dramatic energy savings, enables better indoor air quality and affords reductions in CO₂ emissions. In a recent project, owner Les Ansell commented, "Having installed Icynene, the building now holds the heat at a constant temperature regardless of weather conditions. If the wind blows it has no effect on performance. The building is warm, draft free and comfortable, and installing Icynene has resulted into substantially lower fuel bills." Founded in 1986, Icynene is one of the largest suppliers of soft foam insulation material in North America and has participated in over 300,000 health, environmental and energy efficient building projects across the world. Applied as a liquid, Icynene expands to 100 times its volume in seconds to fill every crack and crevice while remaining flexible so that the integrity of the building envelope seal remains intact over time. Icynene is also extremely popular with designers as it enables them to explore geometry and space without compromising performance.

Tel: 01380 730 668 www.icynene.com

Enq. 205



how are white goods changing and what's next?

Comments by: Silvia Del Vitto, Whirlpool European project leader of Green Generation and Greenkitchen™ 2.0

The world is changing and at a very fast pace. Every day we make greater strides to protect our planet; laws are passed and new environmental ideas come to market.

White good manufacturers have been very proactive and have focused on research under the ecological heading for years.

Today the focus is on developing high performance appliances that help conserve the earth's resources and allow homeowners to use energy more efficiently. It is important to continually strive to create products that consume fewer resources and use materials that minimise the impact on the planet, from development

to disposal. In our homes energy and resource efficiency is about using smarter appliances and a multi-pronged approach including innovative technology, such as electronic controls that do all the thinking for us, as well as ourselves making fundamental changes in our everyday actions to improve our carbon footprint.

Appliances demonstrate how vital innovation is to sustainable development and offer resource-saving opportunities for the consumer. However, it is important to realise that the vast majority of impact occurs during the usage phase of a product's life – generally 10 to 20 times higher than during its production, distribution and disposal life

cycle phases combined.

Recent studies show that if all old and inefficient appliances within the EU (appliances 10 years or older) were simply replaced, CO₂ emissions would immediately be reduced by about 20 million tonnes. Investing in the best energy and resource saving appliances will not only contribute to saving the planet by reducing your carbon footprint, but will result in tangible financial savings over the long term.

Dish washing has been revolutionised with clever electronic control technology developed to ensure that every wash is as economical as possible. Technology simply takes the agony out



In our homes energy & resource efficiency is about using smarter appliances

of having to think about which programme to select. With just one touch new technology senses the level of dirt and sets the most appropriate programme, temperature and time for the load. Throughout the wash the intelligent sensors monitor the soil levels, adapt the temperature and wash until perfectly clean – the dishwasher knows what to do in every situation! Even more incredible is that using this system will return up to 50 per cent savings on water, energy and time.

Washing machines offer outstanding eco performance with some models managing resources according to the size of each load and providing savings of up to 30 per cent on water, energy and time, with enormous capacities extending up to 9kg, which means you are able to wash more, less often.

However, we know that many of us add too much detergent to our laundry load, wasting



money (it is the most expensive part of the wash) and overloading our water systems with unused detergent. The latest washing machines incorporate a patented automatic detergent dosing recommendation system that tells you the correct amount of detergent for every wash automatically. This is a huge step forward and will deliver tangible financial savings for the future.

Some ovens adapt the cooking process and cooking time accordingly to achieve A-energy class performance and expert results. Powerful convection systems, which eliminate the need for pre-heating, saving up to 20 per cent energy. New 67 litre ovens offer more cooking space for cooking on multiple shelves promoting time and energy savings.

Maximising food freshness with the minimum of waste using as little energy as possible is essential for a refrigeration appliance. A+ energy rated refrigeration is achieved with intelligent electronic controls and cooling systems.

Food quality goes far beyond controlling and maintaining the appropriate temperature. Relative humidity plays a significant role. Too little humidity causes a drying affect, while too much promotes mould and bacteria growth. New Fresh Control technology guarantees perfectly humidified refrigeration throughout the whole cabinet for extended storage life! It keeps food as fresh as the day it was bought and keeps up to four times longer. The new technology not only senses, adapts and controls any temperature changes, it restores the fridge to the perfect temperature five times faster than a conventional fridge.

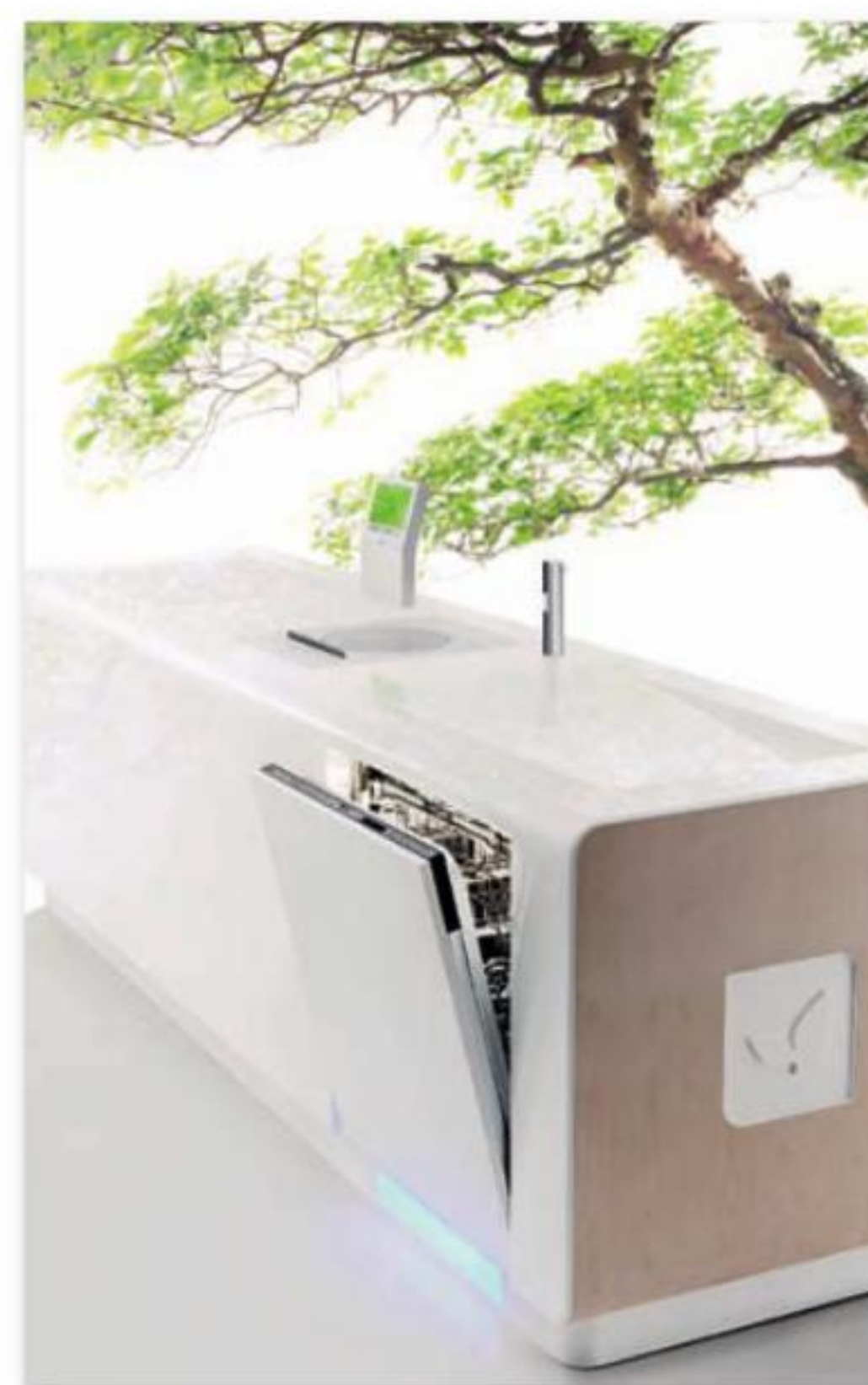
The future is nearly here

The future lies in an integrated eco-system obtained by combining single appliances in a synergetic way to save water, heat and electricity. From the outside the appliances look very normal, but behind the fascia is eco-system technology that differentiates it. Through an integrated use of appliances with the latest technology, the use of heat and water is optimised to increase energy efficiency up to 70 per cent.



The goal of global emission reduction and significant energy, water and money saving can be accelerated through integrating smart, energy efficient appliances on a smart electricity grid. Smart appliances shift the paradigm for appliances from being passive devices that drive emissions associated with electricity generation to active parts of the electricity infrastructure, which can be drawn upon for energy storage and optimisation of the grid to its greenest energy generation sources.

The future is with smart appliances that interact with the electricity grid and automatically adapt their consumption to energy peaks and demands. The challenge lies in developing smart grid-ready appliances that will respond to signals from the grid during peak demand periods and instantaneously reduce or stop their electricity consumption by momentarily adapting their operating cycle without loss of performance.



Enq. 206

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Enq. 207

Arcus Pools & Enclosures



Arcus Pools & Enclosures first introduced the "roof in a box" concept: a complete kit in standard sizes, which has revolutionised the enclosure market in England. Then they introduced a large range of styles that are custom made; including lean-to, ultra-low profile and various walk in styles. Larger walk around enclosures, either telescopic without rails or dome shaped with lift up sides, complete the most comprehensive selection available in the UK. Now they offer the Cabrio

Complete Pool & Enclose Package; this is everything required to build an all-weather pool from only £12,500!

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Enq. 208

Duravit



Duravit has thought about how to enable the sauna to assume its rightful position in the bathing and living area. The result is an innovative sauna concept – Inipi. Thanks to its ingenious layout, the cabin is so compact that it fits easily into the bathroom and living area and still offers sauna users plenty of space. The fully glazed front not only gives Inipi an unusual transparency but also an exceptionally stylish look and there is no feeling of being closed in.

All the desired sauna functions, such as temperature, air humidity, vaporisation, coloured light and sound, can be individually adjusted via the handy and comfortable manual control, or via an operating module concealed behind a flap on the outside of the sauna.

Enq. 209



for your life
for a lifetime



You want to enjoy the health benefits of a swimming pool. But you can't really justify the time and trouble that maintaining a full size pool demands.

The Swimspa by Spa De La Mare is an all year round swimming machine and hydrotherapy massage spa in one, for indoor or outdoor use. Built to exacting standards in the Channel Islands, it is the ultimate low maintenance solution for busy people. Prices start from a refreshing £17,500.

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Enq. 210

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Enq. 211



taking the plunge

By SPATA (Swimming Pool and Allied Trade Association)

You may have decided that it has come to that time in your life when you would like to have your own swimming pool to add that extra bit of luxury to your home.

The choice of the type of pool is key

In-ground pools are preferred by most people who want to have a swimming pool, as you can build in-ground pools deeper, larger and in many more different sizes than above ground pools, so there are more options for your project. However, if you choose to install an above ground pool there are still many options for you to consider in terms of shape, size and materials including wood or metal.

With the right skills, building your own pool may be more attainable than you would think, and if you do a lot of the work yourself it can easily be half the cost of hiring a contractor to build one. However, you must ensure that you

Building your own pool may be more attainable than you would think

consult a pool professional to make sure there are no obvious errors in what you are intending to do, and if you have to pay for that advice, then it may save you money in the long run.

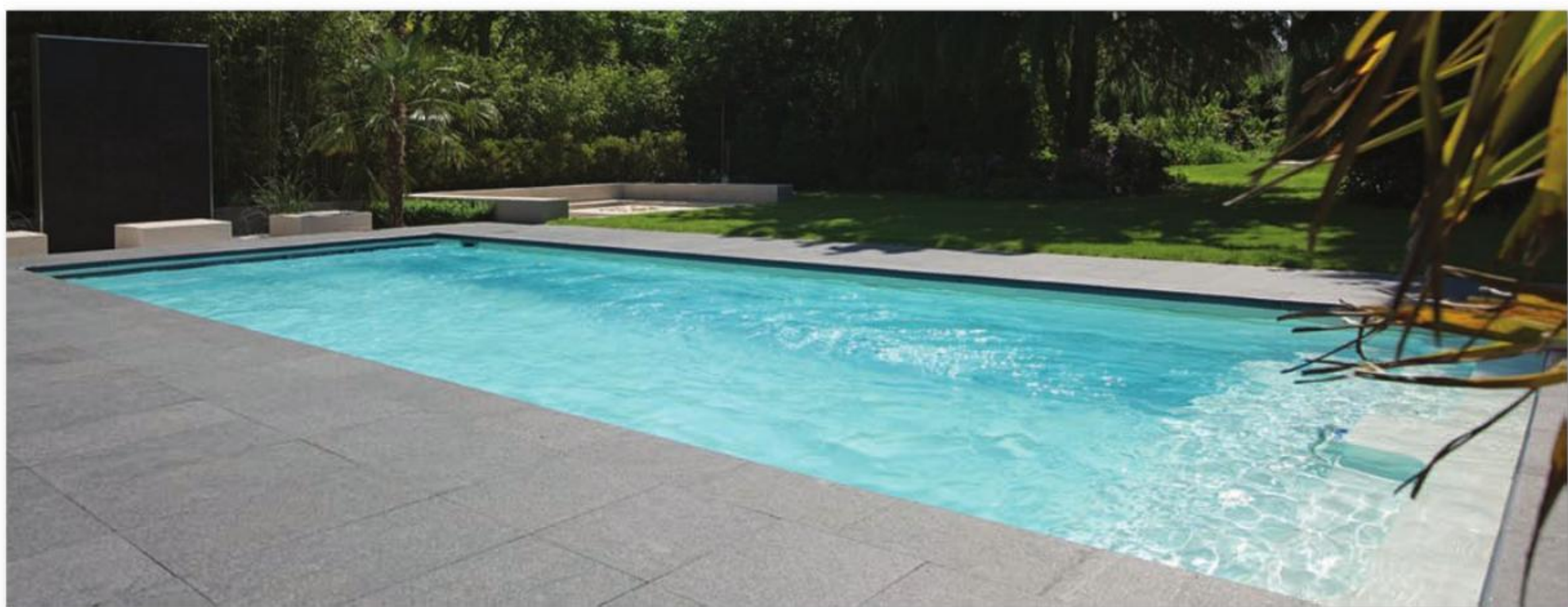
The key issues are planning, design and installation

Most pools won't need planning permission unless there is a Conservation Area, but it's

always worth a quick call to your local planning authority to make sure there are no local rules which apply to your property or to the area, for peace of mind.

Having checked if planning is required this should determine whether it's a sensible and practical solution to selfbuild. You'll need to look carefully at access to the site you have in mind. You'll have to see how practical it is for gaining entry to your garden with plant equipment and for the disposal or removal of soil. By working out the volume of soil that you will be excavating you can then clarify where this soil can be relocated to as part of the overall landscaping, or if it is to go off site in which case there will be an additional cost for disposal. Be very careful about assessing the area that the dug soil will cover, as it will be much larger than the compacted area that it was dug from!

You need to decide exactly where the pool is



...continued on page 59

Hanson Struchtherm



Hanson Struchtherm has just published a new, colour brochure on its external wall insulation and render ranges, suitable for the new build market.

The new brochure acts as a useful reference and features its range of new build external wall insulation and render systems.

Available in a wide variety of colours, textures and finishes, Struchtherm's solutions offer an effective method of creating smart, modern, thermally efficient façades for all types of new build projects. To download the new brochure, please visit the website.

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Kytun



Kytun, the manufacturer of PVC and aluminium Dry Verge Systems and flashings, has increased the range of colours available in the popular Kytun C08 PVC Linear Dry Verge System. Brown, white and black colours are now available in 5.0m lengths adding to the range of black and blue/black 3.05m lengths, suitable for flat and low profile roof tiles. The popularity of Kytun's linear aluminium slate dry verge systems is also increasing, particularly in areas exposed to high winds, across

the UK, along with the company's ability to bespoke manufacture aluminium flashings to order.

Tel: 01684 293702 www.kytun.com

Enq. 213

InStar UK



Industry veteran Insta-Stik Professional Roofing Adhesive has been launched in a new 750ml size to meet rising demand and help roofers cut costs. The new, highly portable adhesive pack, manufactured by Dow Building Solutions and distributed by InStar UK, will be available alongside the existing Insta-Stik Professional Roofing Adhesive 13.5kg (10.4 litres) kit. "This new handy size Insta-Stik is set to revolutionize the fixing of roof insulation boards in terms of cost per square metre and speed of application compared to the larger pack, resulting in a win-win situation for roofer and roof owner alike," said InStar MD, Nick Mills. "In these times of rising prices, it's not often these days that contractors hear such good news!"

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Freefoam



Freefoam is helping property owners, selfbuilders and specifiers say 'yes' to colour. Colin St John, UK general manager, explains: "We recognised the growing importance of colour, but we wanted to break down the barriers. Our patented Colormax™ technology allows us to offer a range of ten colours with built-in colourfastness straight from stock. All our coloured products are backed by a unique ten year guarantee that no one else offers. With dramatically improved availabil-

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going to be orientated in relation to any adjoining buildings, walls and garden features. Other factors will include wind, shade and overall views of the pool from the house and possibly your neighbour's property. You will need to determine if there is proper access to electrics, water and heat sources such as gas or oil, as these may be very expensive to have to bring on to site.

Finally, the ground conditions are important to consider: will you be dealing with heavy clay? Is there a high water table that you might need to have a method of pumping away water during the build phase? If you are satisfied that the project passes the first tests of being practical for your property, then the second stage is the design and budget: what can you afford and how much will you do yourself? Pool builders report that the majority of projects never get started because home owners fail to get a clear overview of the full cost of a pool from start to finish, as well as the upcoming maintenance cost.

Generalising about the cost of building your own in ground swimming pool can be difficult, as there may be regional variations, but if you start at about £20,000 this is likely to include the deck, heat source and supporting heating and filtering equipment. Make sure that your budget is as large as possible to buy good quality equipment that will not let you down. Ideally, you will want to have a pool cover and again you should discuss this requirement with your pool supplier.

The average cost for a contractor to build a vinyl liner pool for you is in the region of £30,000 to £40,000 for a basic outdoor pool. The choice of size, what sort of pool you build and what extras and what you add to the pool in terms of safety equipment, pool covers or fencing clearly make any budgeting a detailed and important task.

The design of your pool now takes centre stage

The shape you decide on will have a direct effect on your costs. Professional pool builders believe that keeping it simple doesn't mean you lose out when it comes to how glamorous the finished pool will look. Vinyl liner pools are the easiest and least expensive pools to build and require less overall skill than concrete pool construction. Freeform shapes will always have an appeal, the traditional rectangular shape is still the most



sought after shape, but talk to a pool professional to make sure the shape you want is achievable.

There is only a short period of time in the year where the sun can heat the pool. A swimming pool heater will extend the period of use. There are some different types of heaters for you to choose from. Some run off electricity, which can

backwash, which is used to clean the filter. Regarding the filter you have three possible choices: the most used filter is sand, then there are cartridge filters, and filters using diatomaceous earth. A filtration system helps to remove small particles from the water. This is important to prevent algae and bacteria from prospering in your swimming pool.

The installation of the pool is all about the practical solution of digging a large hole and ensuring the base of the pool is level.

The second big task will be the fitting of the drainage components. This is one of the most important tasks as it needs to be absolutely level, if not then the walls of your pool, which will be built on top of the base, will not be level. At this stage the use of a contractor will take away the one task you should be happy to delegate: the concrete and walls structure. There are companies who appreciate that the selfbuild option wants to reduce costs and take away most of the installation costs. The basic pool structure including rods and concrete is such a skilled job there's no disgrace in sub contracting this element.

What you will be left with is a shell which you can adapt, add lining, plumbing and decking to and personalise to your own levels of luxury and expense.

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The shape you decide on will have a direct effect on your costs

be quite expensive, however, there are a number of other potential heat sources including renewable technologies such as heat pumps, in addition to the more traditional methods such as oil and gas.

You will need a water circulation and filtering system. These units consist of a pump and a filter. The pump is used to circulate the water, press the water through the filter, empty the pool and to





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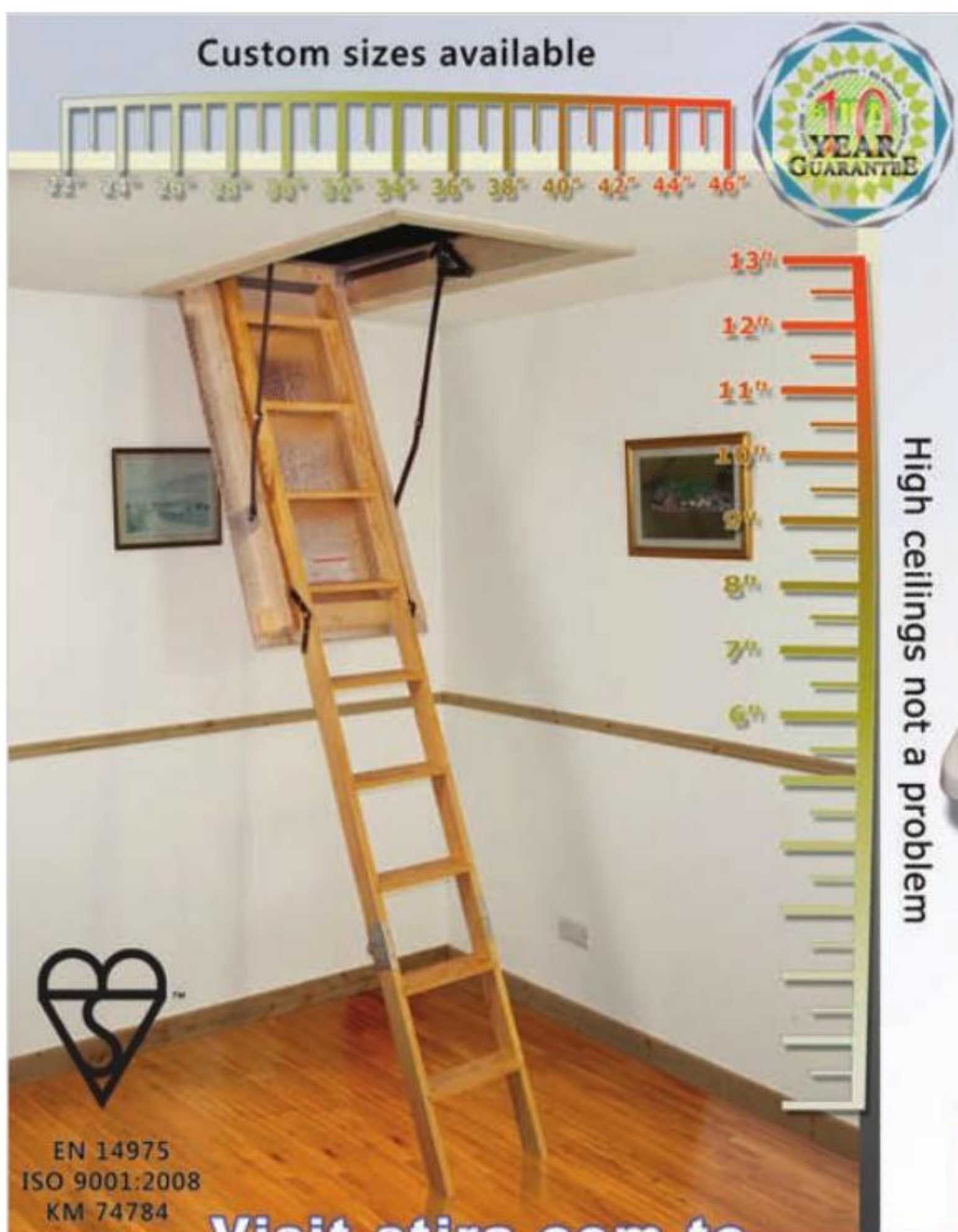


Aico

Aico Ltd. has launched a new range of quality, cost effective lithium battery powered Carbon Monoxide alarms. Designed with sealed in lithium batteries, the unit has been designed to overcome the problems of battery removal by the homeowner. The alarms are a completely new design – smaller, slimmer and sleeker – which is sure to suit all residential environments. The test button has also been redesigned and is now larger to make testing the alarm easier than ever before, thereby encouraging regular testing by the homeowner. The new alarms benefit from the proven CO sensor used across all Aico alarms, which is pre-calibrated and tested in CO gas to ensure accuracy.

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technical approval. They integrate well with flooring products like Steicoweatherdek, Steicoprotectadek and Steicoultralam LVL.

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Enq. 222

Burlington



Burlington has revolutionised the look of its stone sample presentation packaging. Echoing the opulent quality of what is a quintessentially British stone that is native to the English Lake District, the new signature stone packaging has been designed to house a sample of each of Burlington's sumptuous and highly-tactile six natural stone colours and two limestones. The sample packaging and its contents serve to give recipients an immediate appreciation of the quality and tactility of Burlington and its natural stone colour palette. Alongside the 100mm x 100mm honed finish samples, the presentation packaging also houses a 10-page concertina brochure that provides a greater insight into Burlington Stone.

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Oakmasters



The Grill-House is the ultimate solution to those un-predictable showers that threaten barbecue plans. Designed with al fresco dining in mind, these luxury garden buildings marry all the freedoms of an open air barbecue, with the warmth and certainty of indoor dining. The Grill-House is available in three sizes, for up to fourteen diners. Its solid timber frame is easy to construct and sold in kit form with large, removable windows that let in a warm breeze in the summer and

sunlight and scenery in the winter. Seat your guests around the central grill and blacksmith's steel chimney piece, which cleverly draws the smoke straight upwards and out of the roof.

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Kidde Fyrnetics



Kidde Fyrnetics has launched its second generation, new Slick® range of inter-connectable hard-wired smoke and heat alarms for housing with extra features and accessories including wireless inter-connect capability. Slick® is still the only range of fast-fit rechargeable smoke and heat alarms guaranteed for 10 years. And all Slick® alarms are BSi Kitemarked to reinforce the consistent quality provided by the world's largest manufacturer. Now, the second generation new Slick® includes the latest technology and extra features making it the cost-saving alternative for housing today. Brand new to the range is the Slick® Wireless Alarm Base accessory, enabling new Slick® smoke or heat alarms to be interconnected wirelessly where required.

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UK Timber Frame Association

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designed for the future

Rob Clarke, managing director from Lodgico, advises on the benefits of building a flat pack home

Everywhere you look there seems to be an ever increasing interest in environmentally sustainable homes. We are all more conscious of our carbon footprint and the emissions we release into the atmosphere. Perhaps this is why there is a growing interest in flat pack log homes. Could these be the ideal solution for green living in an economy where first time buying is becoming an unobtainable target?

Flat pack houses are becoming one of the fastest growing products in the housing market, and there are many reasons why. The three main advantages of flat-pack homes are that the systems are very affordable, they are relatively easy to put together, and they are fast to build. Not only that, but as all of the components are pre-made in the factory, the standard of manufacture is usually very high.

Wood stores free solar energy maintaining a pleasant interior temperature

Rising numbers of eco-conscious house hunters are also encouraging the industry into these uncharted waters, particularly with the added pressure of meeting the government's target for new homes to be zero carbon from 2016. The definition of zero carbon currently used is contained in level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, a national standard



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THE MASSIVE WOOD WALLS MAINTAIN A PLEASANT TEMPERATURE WITHIN THE HOUSE

produced by the Building Research Establishment. This is one of the most stringent regimes in the world demanding that all emissions from the home and any activities that take place within it have a net zero carbon impact over the course of a year.

The economic benefits with flat pack homes are clear: it takes only a few hours to erect the shell of one of these homes so labour charges are kept to an absolute minimum. There are substantial environmental benefits, not least the fact that the construction process produces little waste.

By using the sustainable material of raw wood, energy sources are spared rather than exploited. Very little energy is required in wood production: the drying process uses heat from an eco friendly waste recycling plant which does not require the use of fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Solid timber is also naturally waterproof

and regulates the humidity of the air in the home, helping to generate an atmosphere that is purer and fresher, so it comes as no surprise to hear that this type of accommodation is strongly recommended for those suffering from asthma or respiratory problems.

Compared to lighter construction materials wood stores free solar energy, especially in spring and autumn when the sun is low on the horizon. It warms up the log walls and this warmth is slowly released during the night through the walls of the house, saving on heating bills. In summer it works the other way as the eaves and porch canopies protect the house from the heat of the overhead sun and the coolness of the summer nights is stored in the massive wood walls which then maintain the interior temperature at a pleasant level even on the hottest days.

A FLAT PACK TIMBER FRAME HOME CAN BE MANUFACTURED TO YOUR EXACT SPECIFICATION



Flat pack homes implement a building and construction system similar to timber frame making them quick, easy and affordable to build. The factory fabricated frames form the floor, external walls, roof and ceilings in one piece. This makes construction on site extremely quick and also ensures great accuracy as each frame is made in the same jig so all the sizes will be the same.

The frames are erected upright on the foundation and fixed to a sole plate using special metal connectors; the frames are then braced together using timber stability bracing. A structural sterling board sheet is nailed to the outside of the building all the way around to further strengthen the structure and this is then wrapped in a moisture barrier to protect it. Counter battens are nailed to the outside and the customers' choice of external cladding can then be applied.

Timber flat pack design reduces construction costs

When this is complete the building can be roofed in, external doors and windows fitted, and first fix plumbing and electrics installed. The next task is to insulate the floor and lay the chipboard flooring, insulate the walls and ceilings and fix the plasterboard. The internal walls are then constructed, insulated and plaster boarded, and the whole building is skimmed ready for decoration. After decoration, the internal doors are fitted along with the skirting and architraves, plumbing and electrical installation is completed, kitchens and bathrooms finished, final decoration carried out and floor coverings laid.

Building a home using a timber flat pack design reduces construction costs and the time it takes to build is considerably less than that of a conventional new build. Once the land has been acquired for the property, the price is also considerably less than buying a conventional home. Not only that, but building a timber home means reducing running costs due to the natural ability to utilise free energy provided by the sun.

The popular vision of a self-built home is one oozing with flamboyant design and unique eccentricity with a price tag as high as its ceiling. Now there are homes with striking architectural finesse available to those with more limited means thanks to the arrival of the self-build kit home.

Flat pack timber frame homes, and log homes, can be made to your exact specifications, which is one of the other enticing and exciting elements of having a timber home. Being offered the opportunity to have a bespoke and unique home, incorporating personal requirements such as en-suite bedrooms, a large kitchen, a snug or a bathroom with breathtaking views is a massive selling point.

There is no reason why a flat pack home couldn't be your ideal home for the future.

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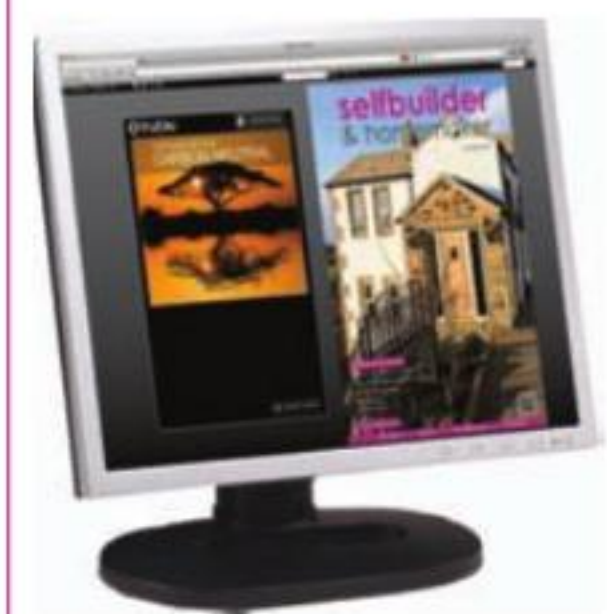
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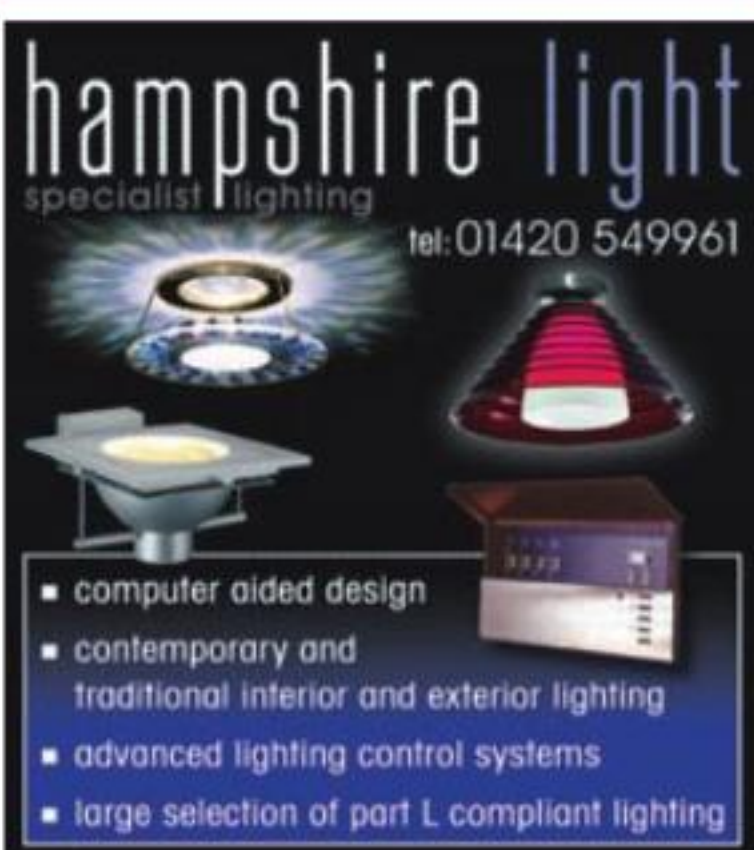
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