

selfbuilder & homemaker

August/September 2011

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Drainage & Flood Control
Fires & Fireplaces Showcase
Groundworks & Sewage Treatment
Rainwater Systems
The National Home Improvement Show Preview

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When the Newby's bought an old garden on impulse, they never imagined it would eventually become one of the greenest homes in the UK. Words and pictures by Mark Williams.

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Sheet vinyl blistering and lifting away from concrete substrates, wooden flooring warping and carpets omitting foul odours from reactions with wet slabs: All are common floor failures that occur daily around the UK. The good news is that they can all be easily prevented, as Neil Sanders, technical manager of F. Ball and Co. Ltd., explains.

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Despite the emergence of look-alike rainwater products in various materials, cast iron rainwater systems still take a lot of beating for both looks and performance, remaining the first choice for traditional or listed properties and a popular choice for the discerning selfbuilder seeking the best possible external appearance for their property. Mike Rawlings of Saint-Gobain PAM UK looks at why this traditional material is still more than holding its own.

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comment

rainwater harvesting: installation advice



By Adrian Gatford, national sales manager, Kingspan Water

Rainwater harvesting sales are growing rapidly in the UK, as selfbuilders and developers seek to reduce the mains water consumption within their developments and lower risks of flooding.

Collected rainwater can be used to flush loos, wash clothes, clean vehicles or water gardens. Installing a rainwater harvesting system is relatively simple, but it requires the co-ordination of various skilled trades (including builders, plumbers and electricians) at different stages of a build. Here are some tips to ensure the system is correctly configured prior to commissioning.

Tips to ensure effective installation

- Bringing in the company supplying the system at the beginning of project planning will enable them to create a pre-designed system that includes sizing the storage tank
- Siting the tank in a garden, rather than

under a driveway, is a more cost effective and practical option, avoiding the need to protect a tank from the weight of vehicle loading

- Some manufacturers advise using pea-gravel to back-fill a tank in dry site conditions. However, a system which has been installed to reduce surface water run-off is likely to be sited on impervious soil, and this can create buoyancy issues with the tank literally lifting from the ground. The problem can be avoided by securing the tank using a concrete backfill
- Rainwater harvesting equipment brings with it new levels of Water Regulation requirements to protect the public water supply:

1. Plumbing must be correctly marked and colour-coded to ensure that pipes carrying rainwater are never used in future to satisfy drinking water requirements. Rainwater harvesting pipes are black with green stripes, while potable water pipes are blue. The pipework must also be labelled internally every 500 metres and a Type AA or AB air gap in the system is required to avoid any contamination of mains water.

2. If a system incorporates a back-up supply from the public mains through a gravity system, then your plumber must notify your Local Water Authority.

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines to avoid misconnecting outlet pipes on the tank to the pump, a situation that will render it operational, but not pumping water
- Make an early decision on the location of the control panel for easy access, especially if you have air source/ground source heat pumps or solar panels, all of which have control panels that will have to be accommodated.

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cms acoustics & danskin merge for a sound future

The merger of two acoustic solution providers, CMS Acoustic Solutions and Danskin, has created a one-stop operation for specifiers, architects and contractors to form the UK's largest dedicated acoustic product supplier, CMS Danskin Acoustics.

The merger represents the union of two complimentary businesses for the benefit of their customers. Offering nationwide coverage with three strategically located offices, operations will combine manufacturing facilities with specialised technical support. In turn this will allow

customers the peace of mind that the entire spectrum of acoustic challenges can be fulfilled.

Specialists at working to provide solutions that meet the requirements of Part E, Section 5, BB93 and other noise regulations, CMS Danskin Acoustics will offer a combined product portfolio that will be unrivalled in breadth and depth for acoustic insulation, sound absorption and reverberation for all types of applications.

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By Raymond Connor, chief executive, BuildStore

Most budding selfbuilders will have noticed the attention that the self build industry has been getting from the government recently. It all started with the Community Right to Build in the Localism Bill last year, and now the government, in conjunction with industry experts, has put together its 'action plan' for supporting and growing the UK self build market. But what's next for the industry?

Self procurement appears to have cemented its place in the new housing landscape, and with continued support from the government and industry, building your own home could become the rule, rather than the exception.

The government has become a real advocate of building your own home. As well as ticking the boxes for its Localism agenda, and delivering better quality and more energy-efficient new homes, the government also believe that the self build sector has the capacity to reach similar levels seen in other parts of Europe, where self build houses typically account for 40 per cent – 50 per cent of all new homes.

In order to grow the sector, the government is working with the industry to tackle the main challenges and barriers faced by those wishing to build their own homes: access to suitable sites and plots of land; availability of suitable funding solutions and mortgage products; impact of over-burdensome and restrictive planning policies and building regulations; and the need for dedicated support and information from industry to help more people build their homes, via an online portal.

Following six months of consultations with a number of professionals, experts, financial service providers, and other

industry suppliers, the Self Build Action Plan was published in July, and sets out 15 proposals for action to overcome the barriers and allow the sector to expand.

The Action Plan sits alongside the efforts the government is already making to reduce the burden of regulation on the house building industry. Last year, through its Localism Bill, the government has put power in the hands of communities up and down the country, enabling them to have their say on land use and give the green light to new developments through the Community Right to Reclaim Land and the Community Right to Build.

More recently, the announcement of the release £10 billion of public sector land for 100,000 new homes in May has been welcomed as a positive start to making more land available for new housing. The Housing Minister has pledged that some of the land released will be ear-marked for self build housing exclusively, or as part of larger developer-led housing schemes.

A number of councils are now looking at self build housing as a way of generating revenue from the New Homes Bonus scheme and meeting local housing need. In particular, they are looking at larger self build developments for local community groups, and in some cases, these developments will be mixed tenure. BuildStore has already been approached by a number of local authorities in England, looking for enabled self build solutions for their land.

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), currently in consultation, also holds some promise for budding selfbuilders who often come up against issues with planning for their homes. The government has slimmed down the thousands of pages of the previous planning guidance to just fifty, with an over-arching message that there will be a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Furthermore, Local Authorities are required to prepare new Local Plans on the basis of the new NPPF, and there are recommendations in the current draft that they take account of the demand and needs of self-

living with sun spaces

By Joe Wild, director, Ecomerchant Ltd

In the UK, conservatories, sun rooms and atriums are all synonymous with excess heat in summer and being far too cold in winter. But sun spaces can actually enhance the running of a building and save energy if designed and used correctly. The key factors are to design them on the south elevation for heat gain and treat them as an extra skin to the main building.

A sun space acts as a heat buffer between the main building and the outside environment. In the winter, the sun space warms up above external temperatures through solar radiation, reducing heat loss from the main building and reducing wind chill across the area of the building protected by the glazed area.

The inner wall of the sun space can absorb heat if constructed of a high mass material, such as clay or concrete blocks, with a high specific heat capacity but invariably, if the building is constructed to modern standards the insulation levels will reduce this effect, so direct absorption benefits older buildings with solid walls more than new build properties. Alternatively, the heat can be utilised through vents at high level allowing warm air into the main building, or more simply through opening doors between the sun space and main building. A solid high mass floor in a sun space can help store heat and slightly reduce the temperature variation.

The space should be treated as a dynamic element of a building and not be heated or

cooled artificially as all energy saving benefits will be lost, so dealing with over heating should be tackled by working with nature.

Obviously, high level vents in the sun space roof will vent out excessive heat, which can be operated manually or automatically. Blinds help reduce heat gain but work best externally as they prevent the heat passing into the sun space. Cooling can be improved by inserting vent pipes in the floor that run out into a garden area, for example to a shaded area where the external temperature will be lower, such as under a tree. This vent pipe will help with thermo siphoning, drawing cooler air up from the pipe into the sun space, which in turn is vented out through the roof vents. To minimise the risk of mould growth in the underground duct, specially coated pipes should be used.

These will all extend the time of year that a sun space will be comfortable to occupy, but it should be remembered that a sun space aids energy efficiency and provides a great place to grow plants, providing space for your winter salads, but should never be converted to a permanent living space.

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builders in their area, when preparing their new housing plans.

The proposals in the action plan and the wider efforts by the government to encourage and enable new housing could be a huge boost for the sector, not only helping more people get a new home in a more affordable way, but also supporting local economies and construction supply chains.

Now, with government support and the removal of some of the issues and obstacles that have historically prevented many people from building a house, more people can take advantage of a more significant, robust and supported self build sector.

The Government Action Plan can be read and downloaded at: www.buildstore.co.uk/ActionPlan

visual appearance must not become a barrier to pv

In a new market there is a temptation to install as large a system as possible. Installed systems that are out of scale with their surroundings will demotivate others in the locality from following suit.

Bruce Cross, managing director of GB Sol, an independent UK manufacturer of PV modules commented:

"The industry should seek not just satisfied individual customers but exemplars to encourage greater uptake. As the market develops people will start to appreciate that there are different types of systems at different levels of cost.

"As with any purchase for their house, the knowledgeable home owner will often choose a higher priced solution when there is a clear visual or quality difference. In future we may find

that the presence of a PV roof will increase the resale value of a property, but a 'bolt on' PV array could reduce the likelihood of a sale due to its visual appearance.

"In a maturing marketplace there is a clear differentiator in having an aesthetically pleasing integrated PV roof. This may be in the form of a 'glazed panel' system or a PV tile/slate system, but will surely be viewed as the preferred solution."

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national plastics appoints new md

National Plastics is pleased to announce the appointment of Geoff Foster as managing director.

Mr. Foster, who joined the company in 2006 as sales director, quickly progressed to group divisional director, overseeing the entire UPVC distributors operations, encompassing National Plastics, Masterglaze and National Roofing. During this time, the company has gone from strength to strength and has seen its core product range grow to adapt to the more demanding nature of the industry.

UPVC distributors t/a National Plastics, is part of the Burles Group plc, and commenting on the new position, owner David Burles said: "It gives me great pleasure to recognise Geoff's contribution to the business to date and I'm confident that under his leadership we can look forward to National Plastics continuing to

move forward."

Speaking about his new role, Mr. Foster, who has steered the company successfully through the difficult economic times that have been encountered over recent years, said: "I'm thrilled that we as a company have not only survived the challenges faced by the industry of late, but have positively flourished, and I know this is down to the hard work and dedication of the entire National Plastics team, and our excellent network of committed and experienced suppliers.

"I look forward to developing the business even more over the coming years, and in fact we have plans to expand our branch network over the coming year so as to better service both our new and existing customers, and push National Plastics as a brand synonymous with quality, affordability and availability."

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however big your project, tackle it with confidence at The National Home Improvement Show 2011

The National Home Improvement Show is returning for its third year to London's Earls Court from 30th September – 2nd October 2011. This year's show is the largest yet with a host of new and inspiring zones aimed at the serious home improver. However big your project, you'll find everything you need under one roof with the latest home improvement and interior design ideas and advice from over 300 leading companies. Soak up demonstrations on inspirational products and services and create that living space you'll be proud to call home.

The new zones at this year's show include Julia Kendell's Interiors Pavilion, which brings together those important finishing touches that complete your project and create that wow factor. The Home Entertainment & Technology Zone showcases the most up-to-date technology available for your home with the world of luxury home cinema, multi-room hi-fi, games rooms and the latest in home communications, intercom, CCTV and security, just to name a few. The Eco Home Zone inspires 'Ecological' living, delivering information on sustainable

products, how to save energy, lowering your bills and reducing carbon emissions through insulation. Find the latest innovations in kitchen and bathroom design and products at The Kitchen & Bathroom Inspiration Zone.

Due to popular demand, a second Real Homes Live! Theatre will be available for 2011 where visitors can share the passions of celebrity experts with free daily in-depth seminars on transforming your home. Experts include Michael Holmes (former presenter of 'I Own Britain's Best Home'), Julia Kendell (DIY SOS and ITV1's Daybreak), Matt James (designer and expert on ITV's Love Your Garden) and resident eco expert Charlie Luxton (DIY SOS and Build a New Life in the Country).

In addition to presenting the seminar sessions, experts will also be on hand at The Advice Centre for a drop-in clinic to answer your questions. If you have a home improvement problem or dilemma to solve then you can discuss it one-to-one. Bring along your plans and see how their ideas can improve your project.

For visitors requiring more technical advice,

Answer the following question for the opportunity to win one of 250 double tickets on offer for The National Home Improvement Show:

Where is the The National Home Improvement Show being held?

Send your answer by email to lesley@netmagmedia.eu



Specialist Masterclasses will be running daily sessions to address your specific issues, while adding space and value to your home. The show is also jam-packed with interactive stands including the Tricks of the Trade by the resident DIY Doctor with step-by-step tutorials to help you gain confidence so you can undertake basic home improvement tasks.

If you're looking to transform your Victorian wreck or turn a building into a contemporary living space then drop by the Period Property Pavilion for advice on how to sympathetically modernise a traditional property, without compromising on charm and character.

For those visitors with 'green fingers', the Landscaping & Gardens zone, sponsored by Tendercare, is the place for you. Matt James, gardening expert who has recently joined ITV's Love Your Garden, will demonstrate how to use your outdoor space whether you're an urban dweller or country resident. The four new show gardens on display include rooftop terrace, town house garden, city entertaining space and child friendly garden.

THE FACTS

When:

Friday 30th September 10:00 – 17:00
Saturday 1st October 10:00 – 17:00
Sunday 2nd October 10:00 – 17:00

Where:

Earls Court, London
For more information on the show, exhibitors, seminar schedules and tickets visit www.improveyourhomeshow.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 0802. If you're not lucky enough to win the competition, make sure you book in advance and save £4 on each ticket. Tickets are £8 if booked before 3pm on Thursday 29th September and £12 on the door.

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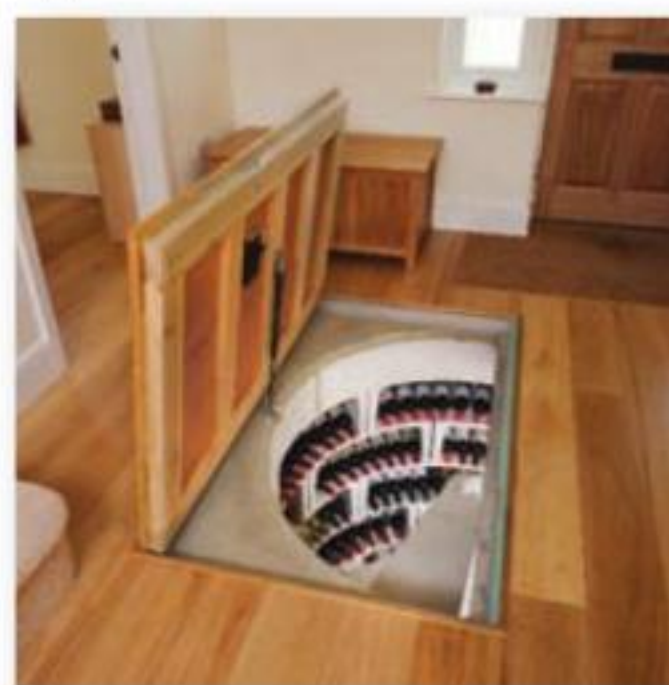
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MX Group



MX Group continues to take the shower sector by storm, with yet more impressive new offerings from its latest new product launch. MX Group has launched its impressive new Atmos range of thermostatic mixer showers into the marketplace – with most models carrying TMV2 approval. All fully thermostatically controlled and with separate flow and temperature controls, they are all suitable for high and low pressure systems. They all come with either a three or five year manufacturer's guarantee. This new range is impressive both in looks and performance and provides an excellent choice of showers for any bathroom.

Tel: 01684 293311 www.mx-group.com

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Barrettine Products



The original, authentic Peel Away range is now available exclusively through Barrettine Products Ltd and approved Trade stockists. The Peel Away paint removal system is designed for the complete removal of accumulated layers of paint with up to 32 coats of paint removed in one application. Use will not damage profiles or other surfaces where multi-layers of paint are removed. The stripping compound is formulated to turn the lead into lead hydroxide within the paste, so that it can be safely disposed of. The system will remove paint from many exterior and interior architectural surfaces. Peel Away is available in two different formulations: Peel Away 1 and Peel Away 7.

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RAK Ceramics



RAK Ceramics has introduced its new Opulence bathroom range. Featuring sleek, contemporary styling and manufactured from fine porcelain, the collection includes 'his' and 'hers' basins and consoles, bidets and toilets. All options are available in crisp white or dramatic, opulent black. Within the range, basins and consoles are available in three different sizes and in a choice of two distinct designs: a masculine square-bowl design and a more fluid, feminine version, each offered with optional surface offsets, with or without ledges. Formats include the sleek-legged console basin, full slender pedestal and half pedestal, and all products include dedicated click-clack wastes.

optional surface offsets, with or without ledges. Formats include the sleek-legged console basin, full slender pedestal and half pedestal, and all products include dedicated click-clack wastes.

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Toolstation



Headlining Toolstation's brand new Catalogue 41 is a deal that is truly fully loaded: an MK 17th Edition Dual RCD Consumer Unit at below £70.

For serious tradesmen there's a new range of SIP heavy duty power tools, the new 305 mm Sliding Compound Mitre Saw with 2400w motor and laser guidance is just £249.84.

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editor's focus

1

UK OAK DOORS

UK Oak Doors provide high quality solid oak doors at affordable prices. The range includes ledge and brace doors, Suffolk doors, Victorian doors, cottage doors, barn doors and more. Whatever your property style, be it country cottage, urban apartment, barn conversion or period town house, look no further than UK Oak Doors to totally transform your interior. Or add a 'wow' factor to the exterior with a solid oak front door. Using only high quality solid oak from PEFC certified forests; the doors are handmade using traditional methods of construction and will last beyond a lifetime. Whether you're looking for something traditional or contemporary, for the perfect finishing touch to your home, look no further than UK Oak Doors.

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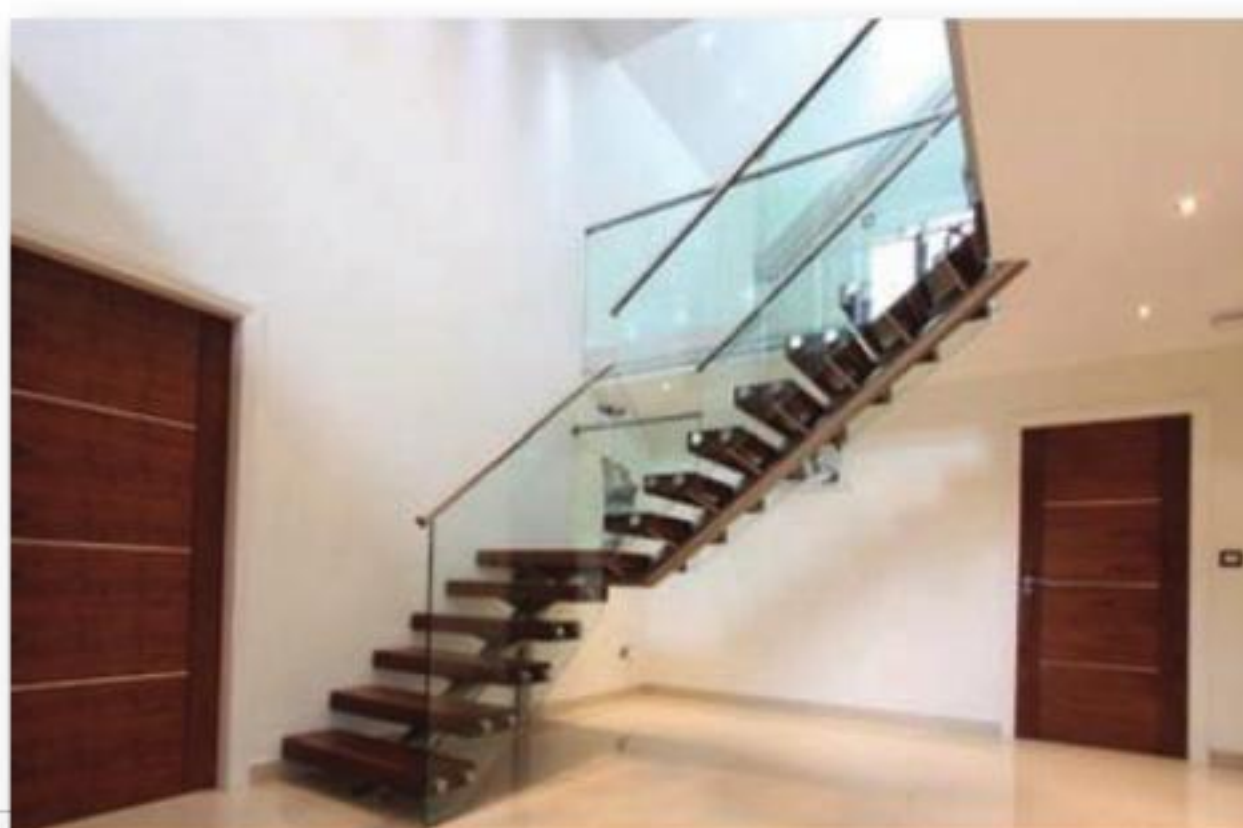
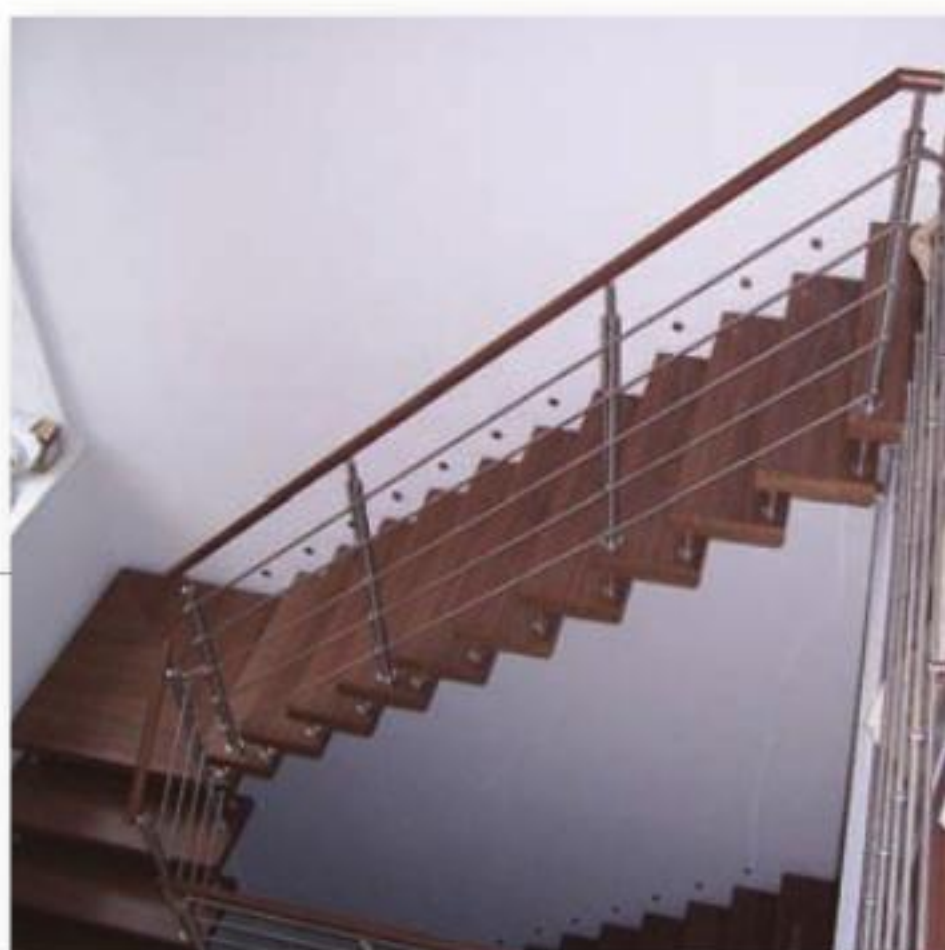


3

FIVESTARS

It is very important that staircase design keeps up with the latest trends. Fivestars aim to give customers unique contemporary staircases and balustrades. They are specialists in 'floating' open stairs that give that feeling of space and light with glass panels. See their range of exterior 'frameless' glass for perfect unobstructed views from your balcony! Stainless steel is a fantastic modern material and is used extensively in Fivestars' products, along with hardwood, marble and granite.

Enq. 125



4

BESPOKE BALUSTRADES

Bespoke Balustrades strives to exceed their customer expectations with over 25 years experience in stairs and balustrades. The staircase is often the first thing you see when you walk through the front door and should set the tone for the rest of your home. Whether it's traditional, contemporary or modern glass balustrades, blended with matching laminate or real wood staircase kits, you can create your own design. Enhance your stairs with integrated stair lighting and decorative options to give your hallway a completely new look and feel. Bespoke Balustrades design, manufacture and install all types of hardwood staircases, from straight flights, stairs with winders, to grand design staircases made by craftsman in the time honoured way.

Enq. 126

2

MAINLINE

Nothing is more frustrating than not having power where you need it. But what if you could add, remove and reposition sockets exactly where you needed them? Mainline's track based mains power system gives you that freedom. Ideal for the kitchen, home office or garage workshop, Mainline delivers power where needed without compromising on style. Available in a variety of finishes, Mainline is quicker and easier to install than traditional fixed power sockets: it's flexible power where you want it. Visit Mainline on stand 327 at the National Home Improvement Show, 30th September – 2nd October.

Enq. 124



5

HYPOCAUST

Hypocaust have now expanded their range of underfloor heating kits to provide simple and cost effective solutions to selfbuilders. With simple pricing and a quick quotation process, their systems are ideal for trade or selfbuilders looking to install themselves. With honest pricing strategies Hypocaust ensures that they offer the best value for money whilst maintaining high quality components sourced direct from European manufacturers. With systems costing up to 60 per cent less than other leading brands, the heat really is on. Contact Hypocaust today for a free no obligation quotation or to discuss available options.

Enq. 127



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down to earth

When the Newby's bought an old garden on impulse, they never imagined it would eventually become one of the greenest homes in the UK

Words and pictures: Mark Williams

'See you in a minute, dear. I'm just going to mow the roof' isn't as odd a phrase as it may seem around the Newby household.

The selfbuilders from Rutland live in a unique, turf-roofed home, which takes the notion of a passive house to a very high level. What makes the building remarkable is not only the principles that guide the architecture or the 600 tons of material from which it is built, but the fact that it was built at all.

Phil Newby and his wife Charlotte bought the land on which it stands without a thought that it would ever become their home. It was a walled Victorian kitchen garden that came up for sale and was bought purely as a recreational bolt-hole for the couple. But the more they visited, the more they loved it.

"In essence, it was impossible to build there," said Phil, the former executive director of English Nature. "It's on the shores of Rutland Water and



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WORKTOP IS BESPOKE, THE
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...continued on page 19

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THE OLD GARDENER'S BOTHY IS NOW B&B ACCOMMODATION

listed under the Ramsar Convention for wetlands, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is in open countryside. I knew getting planning permission would be very tricky."

From the start though, Phil and Charlotte had wanted a change of lifestyle and to create a home that would have minimal footprint on the land, much less the planet. They wanted to live more frugally, and the idea came from an old Victorian flower house, embedded in the garden, which had been there for more than 100 years.

"I started thinking whether we could re-learn what the Victorians had known about ground

The idea came from an old Victorian flower house, embedded in the garden

heat retention and sink a home into the ground for the same reasons. I had also just launched my company Green Ventures, and I wanted to put my money where my mouth is."

Phil's search for an architect who could realise his dream led to Dr Jerry Harrall, of SEArch: "He's an internationally acclaimed expert on earth sheltered houses," said Phil. "His designs are built on the principal of gathering heat and retaining it in a thermal mass."

"The design involves pointing the building at the sun to gather the energy and insulating it with a vast amount of insulation, so the heat gets locked into the building. It's very low-tech but very effective. The warm air rises from the glazed side and then leaves on the north side via four small windows set high at the back of the building, in much the same way as an old 'north light' factory building."

Despite the serious restrictions of building

THE CURVED WALLS HAVE A RENDERED, 'FLOATING' INSULATION LAYER



...continued on page 21

FOLDING DOORS SLIDING DOORS GLAZED ROOFS

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DAUGHTERS SASHA AND JESSICA ENTERED INTO THE SPIRIT OF THINGS DURING THE BUILD

in such an environmentally-sensitive site, the application went in. To the Newby's delight, the four-bedroomed design with its grass roof delighted the planners and, although it had to go to the county planning stage, was approved overwhelmingly. Section 106 conditions, carefully developed by Phil and negotiated with Rutland County Council, were attached to the consent.

The construction involved digging four metres into the sloping site so the north side was almost buried and the glazed front exposed. There are no foundations or footings – the floor is poured onto a thick insulating layer of polystyrene, lined with a membrane, and the steel-reinforced, curved rear wall made from concrete blocks. A huge concrete pillar sited centrally helps support the concrete roof, with the earth covering on top of insulation and another membrane.

"It's an immensely strong construction method. The roof has to support 300 tons of wet earth," said Phil. "The 'floating' fascia of the building is added so it doesn't breach the membrane. It's constructed from rendered polystyrene and held in place by a novel method – a mixture of roofing straps and, believe it or not, tent pegs, which we bought from local shops."

The passive design of the house ensures it maintains a temperature between 18 degs C and 25 degs C for most of the year, regulated by nothing more complex than opening curtains and the rear windows. But the design also has a wood-burning stove and supplementary elec-

tric underfloor heating in the bedrooms.

All the electrics are routed through plastic conduit installed before the concrete was poured. Water and wastes were also planned before the walls were built.

"Concrete pouring isn't a commonplace house building method so we used a company which constructs such things as bridge supports, who were more used to this work," said Phil. "We used cement-replacement concrete to reduce the carbon footprint. I was quite surprised how good the finish was. We'd expected to have to render



THE BATHROOM SHARES THE CURVY GRACIOUSNESS OF THE OTHER ROOMS

...continued on page 22

TUCKED INTO THE SLOPE, WITH ITS TURF ROOF, THE NEWBY'S HOME BLENDS WELL INTO THE RUTLAND COUNTRYSIDE... AND HAD TO!





the central pillar in the living area but the surface was so good, we left it as it was. It actually resembles polished sandstone, I think."

Completing its green credentials, the house has solar water panels and a solar PV array on the roof. Phil has toyed with the idea of drawing water from a well, investigated during groundworks for the building. The water, the Local Authority assures him, is of potable quality. Meanwhile, the old water pump stands testament to the well's existence just a few metres from the front door.

The entire construction took 11 months, which included some significant, unforeseen delays. But the wait for Phil, Charlotte and their daughters Sasha and Jessica has been repaid by the experience of living there. It's an incredibly quiet and peaceful house. Phil's office is within the Victorian brick-built gardener's bothy, from which he does most of his environmental consultancy work for Green Ventures. The extended

bothy now also houses a B&B (www.barnsdalewalledgarden.co.uk), run by Charlotte.

The energy consumption figures have looked impressive since the house was built, the building using just £600 electricity a year with the solar PV gathering £1,000 on the feed-in tariff scheme. Thanks to timber from the garden, the cost of feeding the wood-burning stove has been negligible.

The experience of living in the house fully lives up to the Newbys' expectations: "On hearing the house is sunk into the earth, people say to me 'Oh. It must be gloomy,'" said Charlotte. "Actually, it's the exact opposite – there's so much glazing it's the most airy and bright house I've ever lived in.

"Even on the dull, grey days of winter we rarely have to use the lights. It's at its best in summer when we can open all the glass doors and let the outside indoors. I often think it has a Mediterranean feel about it."

project costs

Cost of property: £150,000 (2002)

Overall cost of project: £170,000

Value of property now: Unknown

What was the high point of the project?

"Aside from actually moving in, the kitchen being fitted was great. The cabinets are all standard but are arranged around the curved wall. Only the worktops had to be made specially, and we were so pleased with the work done by our local contractor," said Charlotte. "The floor tiling being completed was also great; it kind of made the house feel like a home for the first time."

The low point was: "The worst was when, half way through the build, the house began to leak," said Charlotte. "It took us ten weeks to find the reason and solve the problem: it turned out to be a batch of defective membrane which had been supplied."

Contacts

- **Architect:** Dr. Jerry Harrall, SEarch
- **Kitchen:** QKS
www.qksstamford.co.uk
- **Solar water panels:** Velux
www.velux.co.uk
- **Solar PV array:**
Schott supplied through Deepings Trading Eco Building Products
www.deepingstrading.co.uk
- **Window system:** Andrew Griffiths Joinery

THE MASSIVE PILLAR IS SIMPLY CONCRETE, THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE POLISHED SANDSTONE



Your ground source heat pump questions answered

Selfbuilder TV is a programme broadcast each Wednesday on the Sky and Freesat platforms. It is highly focused on the nuts and bolts of building your own home. As a companion to the programme, the website selfbuilder.tv, creates a two-way conversation with viewers, giving expert advice and information.

Mike Smith, business development manager at Gastech in Banbury, is the programme's heat pump and solar PV specialist and hosts a question and answer session on the website.

Heat pumps are one of the most asked about technologies because so few people have in-depth experience with them. Mike started in renewables almost 10 years ago and has been involved in specifying and selling several thousand heat pumps, probably more than anyone else in the UK. So over to Mike and some recent questions asked by viewers of selfbuilder tv.

Q I am converting a barn and intend to use a GSHP with underfloor heating and PV panels. What is the best way to provide domestic hot water? Should I also use solar heating panels as well as PV? I have a large (50 sq m) south facing roof. Is it desirable to use the GSHP to supply DHW as well as heating? I will also have a HRVS system and rainwater harvesting. Any advice would be appreciated. Thanks
Bernard Huggon

A Most good quality GSHP will provide all of your heating and hot water needs. I would suggest if using a heat pump then solar PV would be the best use of roof space. If you were using an oil or LPG boiler then there could be a case for a mix of solar thermal and PV. I would say you have a good choice of products.

Q I have heating and hot water supplied by an oil boiler. My question is can I run the oil burner into a heat pump system to heat the water? I love my radiators and the radiators are really quaint. With the cost of oil, would it be worth switching? I also have an EPA approved wood fireplace in our living room.
Cheryl Giles

A Yes, this can be done by a simple controller from Kanmore (via Radiant Control). This can run a heat pump to a point where it can no longer deliver the final amount of heat required, at which point it would bring



Heat pumps are one of the most asked about technologies because so few people have in-depth experience with them

in the oil boiler to top up. The fire in the living room requires the fitting of a TRV (thermostatic radiator valve) to make sure that you only heat the room via the boiler or heat pump when the fire is not in use.

Q One of the main problems converting to a heat pump seems to be getting the heat into the house. Existing radiators may be too small so have to be replaced, maybe with fan assisted radiators. Alternatively, under floor heating looks good, but appears best with solid floors. My floors are conventional joist with boards. I see there are options here that retain the joists, some using aluminium plates to support the UFH piping. However, if I, for example, have to use boards over the aluminium plates and then top off with the flooring material, it looks as though I am effectively insulating the UFH and the water temperature in the UFH will need to be much hotter to be effective, resulting in lower heat pump efficiency. My question is: is there a floor construction design that would allow me to retain the joists and finish with a laminate flooring system suitable for UFH, and that would give me a good heat pump efficiency?

A You are correct in your analysis of radiators etc. plus the need for over sizing or using fan assisted; we use a mean flow temperature of 35 degrees when sizing radiators for maximum efficiency. Regarding under floor there are a few companies now offering an over lay system that has the pipe in preformed boards etc. Can you afford to build your floors up at all? If so, there are other methods also available. Try Heated Floors on 01753 663137 or Comfort Zone in Banbury on 01295 277881. They should be able to help. Any method using a heat pump should be specified using a flow temperature of between 35-45 degrees. Remember to mention Mike from Selfbuilder/Gas Tech.

Q What is the best manufacturer of ground source heat pumps in your opinion, there are so many to choose from? It will be a ground loop system for a new

build approx 200 sq metres underfloor heating.
James Hall

A Good choice, heat pump and under floor. I would suggest a well-known manufacturer with experience such as Worcester Bosch or Danfoss and Dimplex. Remember the ground loop specification and installation is as important as the product, as many good quality heat pumps have underperformed due to poor or under specified ground loops. Last of all do some research on the installer and get a few quotes for comparison. Under floor should be designed with a mean flow temperature of around 35-45 degrees and make sure the supplier knows it's to be used with a heat pump, not a boiler.

Q How much will it cost for an air source heat pump for a three bedroom house new build approx., as you can buy a heat pump on eBay for a few hundred pounds.
Jimmy Bremner

A I would need more details about the property to give you an accurate price or pass your details to one of the Trusted Partners, but budget for about £2,000 – £3,300 for the heat pump (quality product). Yes, lots of cheap heat pumps are available on eBay but remember, it needs to be MCS accredited as well as the installation if you are to claim any future incentives. Also, think about performance and warranty over time as I have seen too many issues over the years resulting from inferior products.

Q I am doing a conversion and thinking of installing an Ecodan 14kW, to run hot water and underfloor heating. Can I run this off a single phase electricity supply?
Jayne

A Providing you have a sufficient single phase supply and your heat load does not exceed the 14kW Ecodan unit, this should be fine, but you could even use two units if needed.

If you have any questions about heat pumps, head over to selfbuilder.tv and ask Mike!



MIKE SMITH



join·er·y |'joinəre|
noun

the wooden components of a building, such as stairs, doors, windows and conservatories, viewed collectively.



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Enq. 132

Videx Security



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

apartment units, designed for use in conjunction with the versatile Videx VX2200 digital door entry system. This allows the Kristallo to be used on any size system from a single apartment through to large communal installations.

Enq. 133

Allan Brothers



Allan Brothers, the Berwick-upon-Tweed based timber window frame manufacturer, has been awarded the sought after Secured by Design accreditation for its Dual Turn and Vertical Slide and Tilt windows. The award is recognition that the windows incorporate design standards that improve security and reduce the risk of crime. He added: "We believe we are among a select number of timber window manufacturers to offer the Vertical Slide and Tilt window with the Secured by Design

accreditation. This is, of course, in addition to the standard specification product, which Allan Brothers will continue to supply."

Tel: 01289 334 600 www.allanbrothers.co.uk

Enq. 134



Tradeplas

Internorm, one of Europe's no.1 manufacturers of energy efficient windows, has released a new entrance door to complement their vast range of windows, all available from Tradeplas.

Available in a wide range of colours and designs, this new door is capable of achieving U-Values as low as 0.84 using quadruple glazing and highly insulated aluminium panels.

All doors are manufactured by Internorm in Austria to their exacting standards and include features such as five point high security locking, aluminium flush glazing and triple gasket seals as standard.

Tradeplas are able to offer a full service from sales through to installation on all Internorm products including their nine PassivHaus certified windows including this new entrance door.

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Enq. 135

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Enq. 137



The Flyscreen Company

With the increased popularity of oversized sliding doors and windows, the development of a suitable fly screen system has been a top priority. The Flyscreen Company's Sliding Fly Screen System for panoramic Doors and Windows brings the garden into the home without the flying insects. Individual sliding panes can be made up to 2 metres wide and 2.5 metres high, without the need for mid-rails, allowing uninterrupted panoramic views. A complete system is made from one or more panes to mirror the arrangement of the doors or windows being screened. Frames can be custom painted to match door and window frames. Strong PVC coated fibreglass mesh keeps flying insects out and allows light in without restricting views. The system is designed to allow a variety of different fitting methods to suit specific door and window designs. Opening and closing the panes is easy with high quality rollers and stainless steel ball bearings, ensuring the screens glide effortlessly. Screens are custom made to precise measurements ensuring they close to create a perfect seal to keep flying insects out.

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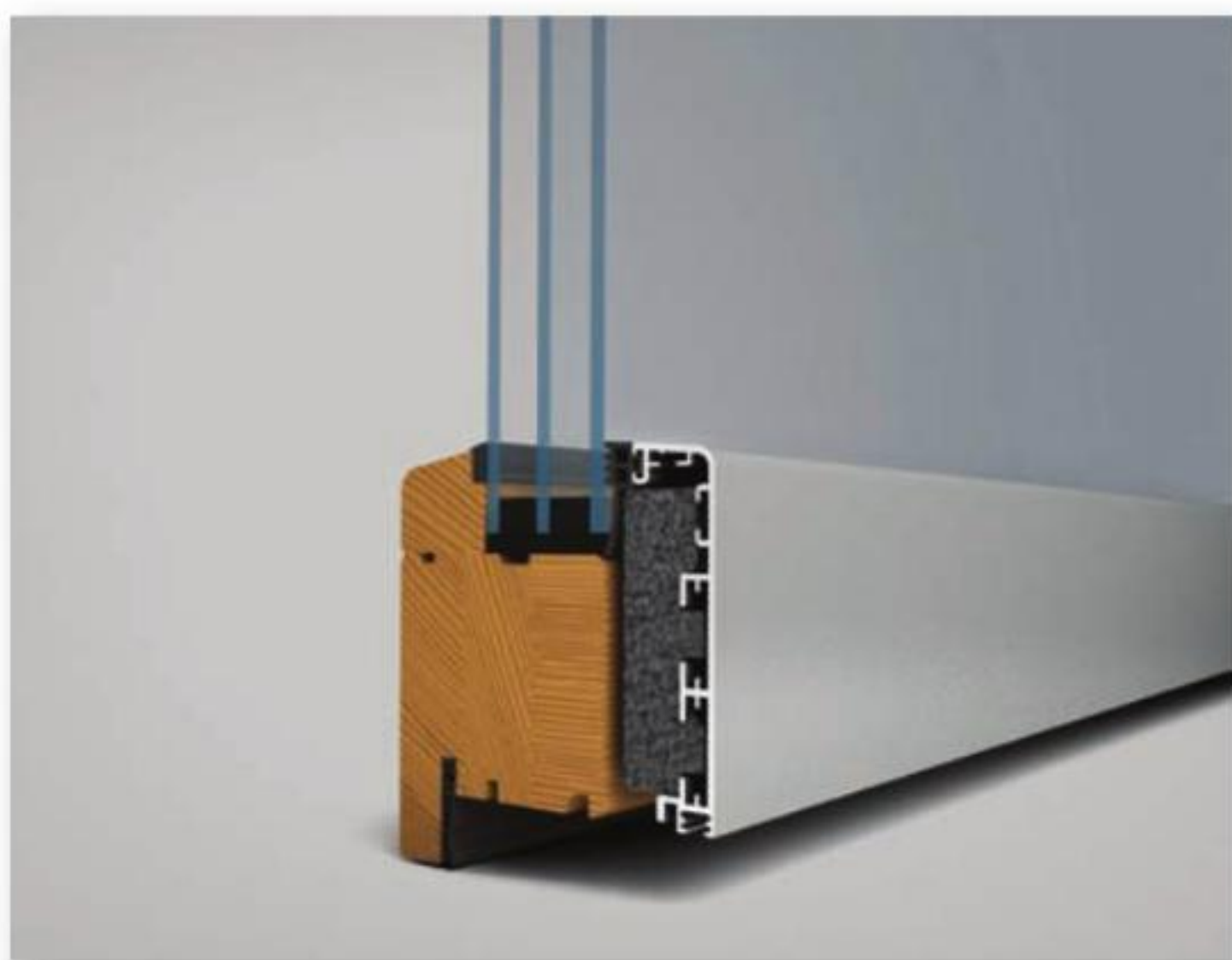


Garador

Leading garage door specialist Garador's insulated roller garage door, GaraRoll, is designed to provide a stylish automatic garage door even when space is at a premium. 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, perhaps by shelving or storage, it is not always possible to fit the mechanics of the door. However, 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, which is a big bonus for people with limited drive space."

Tel: 01935 443722 www.garador.co.uk

Enq. 141



Solarlux

The launch of a super efficient folding glass door from Solarlux, marks a significant development in the UK folding door market. Combining four core elements that enable the door to achieve a U value of 0.80Wm²K, the new SL97 wood/aluminium folding glass door is specially designed with the demands of energy saving in mind. By using wood internally and a combination of insulating material and protective aluminium externally as well as triple glazing, the SL 97 has been able to combine the advantages of four materials. Inside, the wood panels create a natural warm atmosphere and, on the outside, the fully insulated rear-ventilated aluminium facing sheets guarantee permanent protection from the elements with only minimal maintenance. Typical applications for this super efficient product are in luxurious private homes and multi-storey high-quality rented and owner-occupied flats.

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Enq. 142



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Enq. 144

A FLOOD TEST TANK CONTAINING 196,000 GALLONS OF WATER WITH HYDRAULIC WAVE MACHINE PUSHING AGAINST A 1.1M HIGH, 2.6M WIDE FLOOD DOOR AS PART OF THE BSI KITEMARK APPROVAL



flood protection – managing the risk

By Patrick Curran, technical manager for FloodWall, part of the Roseville Group who are involved in the development, testing and installation of a range of flood protection products

Our changing weather patterns mean increased incidences of flooding. Often unpredictable, these extreme conditions can overwhelm drainage systems leading to localised flash flooding. In these situations flood preventative measures incorporated into individual properties are often the homeowner's only protection against the potential devastation of flooding.

We insure our houses against fire and structural damage, believing it will never happen to us. In today's changing environment we should view protecting our homes against flooding in the same light. It is prudent that the care and energy expended in designing and constructing your new property should be extended to include appropriate flood resilience to minimise the risk of flooding.

Should your property be in a designated flood risk area, the installation of a kitemarked flood protection system will make the property both safer and more easily insured. Insurance companies realise that incorporating flood protection measures into a property is the only remedy likely to avoid the heavy costs associated with flooding.

According to the Environment Agency, the value of property and assets in England and Wales in the floodplain is currently about £230 billion. The Association of British Insurers estimates that the additional flood risk could increase by up to 12 times to £830 million per year by the 2080's. Flood protection is one way to guard against the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

If you are building in a flood risk area the first step is to complete a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) when your planning application is submitted. The selection of an appropriate system to protect your property requires a

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Enq. 145

REMOVABLE FLOOD DOOR CLIPPED ONTO A PERMANENTLY INSTALLED FRAME
PROTECTING A FRONT DOOR



REMOVABLE FLOOD DOOR BUILT INTO GARDEN WALL GATEWAY



planned approach to identify your specific requirements. Flood protection has moved on leaps and bounds from the days of the sandbag with a wide range of flood barriers, doors, air-brick covers and non-return valves now available from a number of manufacturers.

Many flood protection systems are designed to fit buildings already constructed and are not suitable for a new build, so when selecting a system here are some useful hints, tips and questions to consider:

- Ensure ease of use/deployment
- Are bespoke systems available as opposed to standard sizes?
- Can automation be built-in (i.e. non-return valves)?
- Can the system be easily incorporated into planned doorways and airbricks?
- Match physical appearance to any permanent external frame work
- Does the system present a trip hazard for people, wheelchairs or vehicle access?
- Can garages be protected?
- Could gateways in perimeter walls house a flood door?
- Are there any special storage criteria for removable doors/covers?
- What is the system life expectancy and does the manufacturer offer any warranties?
- What is the cost of the system?
- Has the system been subjected to independent testing/accreditation (BSI kitemark)
- Request photos of installed systems in similar properties from the supplier
- Can conservatories, porches, cellar doors, tumble dryer vents and external utility boxes be protected?
- Are detailed drawings available, and can additional support be provided to architects and builders, if required?

The Environment Agency constantly assess flood risk and provide a fast and targeted text alert service that is free and simple to sign up to via their website. So, let us imagine receiving a

flood alert at night. It is cold, raining (of course), the electricity has failed and you are on your own. The importance of how quickly and easily your flood protection systems can be deployed is now probably the most important factor rather than the physical appearance or initial cost. Are the flood doors easy to get to and do they require any specific tools? Are the outside air-bricks easy to find or have garden plants obscured them? A flood door that requires two people to deploy is no good if you are alone. Similarly, a door that is too heavy to lift for someone with arthritis is no good. All these factors are important to consider when selecting suitable systems for your particular building.

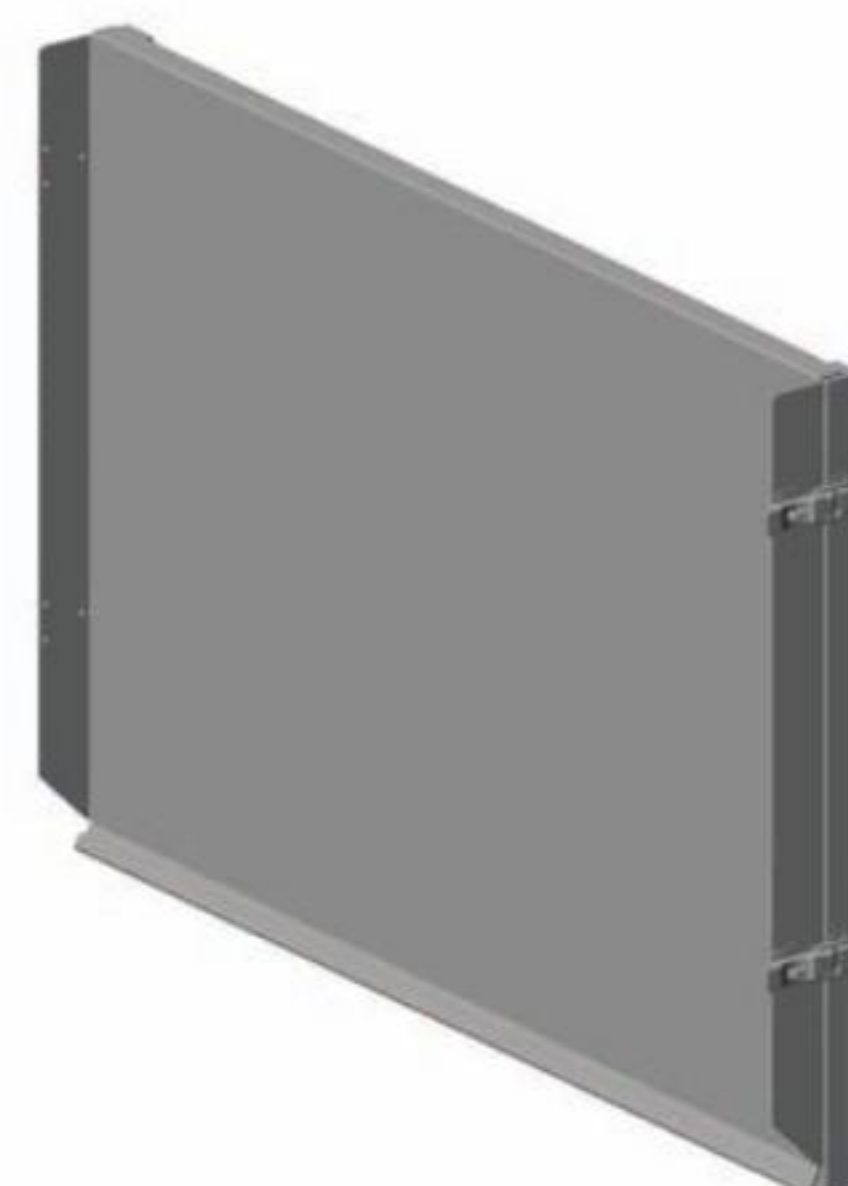
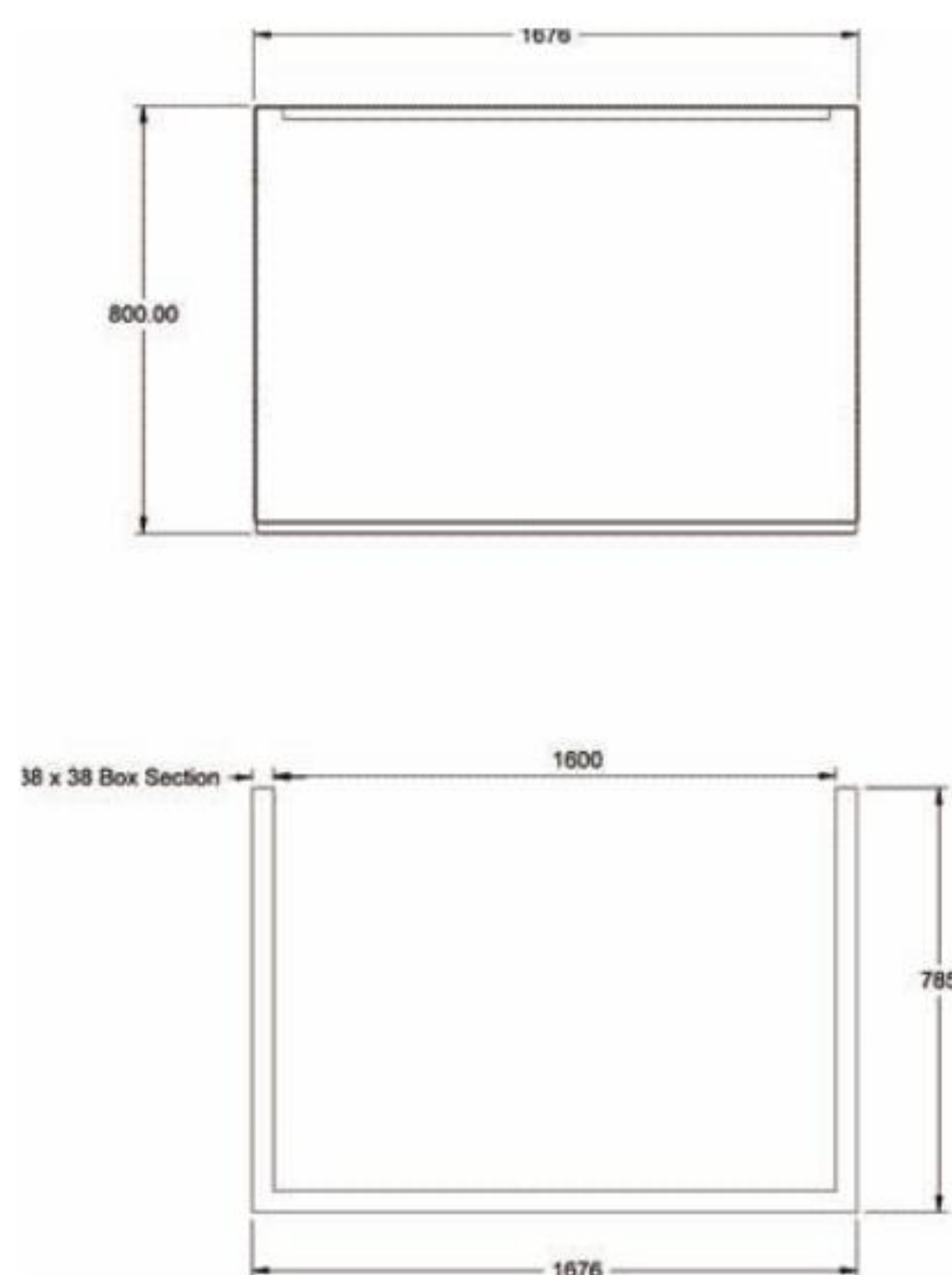
To help in the selection process, independent testing of flood protection products carried out by the British Standards Institute (BSI) awards a kitemark (BSI PAS 1188-1 (2009) to those prod-

ucts that pass a series of stringent tests including wave action and side current flow. Check with potential suppliers to ensure their products have the up to date kitemark.

Additional advice and information is available from the Environment Agencies website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk), the National Flood Forum (www.floodforum.org.uk), and the Flood Protection Association (www.floodprotectionassoc.co.uk).

As any flood victim will tell you, the experience of your home flooding and the loss of irreplaceable and treasured possessions cannot simply be measured in financial terms. The emotional and physical damage can take years from which to fully recover. Common sense tells us to manage the risk of flooding by taking the necessary flood prevention measures to protect our homes and possessions.

Enq. 146



TECHNICAL DRAWINGS OF FLOOD DOORS

Origin



Origin has become the first manufacturer to remove lead times, typically four to 12 weeks in the industry, on a selection of its Easifold door systems, which feature a unique free-glide running system. The new delivery standards, "Your lead time, not ours," are effective immediately, enabling Origin's nationwide network of approved installers to order Easifold folding sliding door systems in any configuration and from a choice of their most popular standard colours, if required. There is also a new

"Awaiting dimensions," facility that will allow orders for special colours to be placed but sizes to be confirmed at a later date.

Tel: 0845 450 6662 www.origin-global.com

Enq. 147

Wilo



Wilo's new Stratos PICO and Wilo-Smart A small circulators are proving to be the stars of the Wilo range in 2011. The Wilo Stratos-PICO, offering up to 90 per cent energy savings over a standard pump, and the new Wilo-Smart A energy saving pump, offering up to 80 per cent energy savings over a standard pump, have captured the imagination, especially as low efficiency, uncontrolled pumps will be banned in the EU from the end of 2012. Wilo has been championing

regulations for years, capable of adjusting their performance to meet the specific needs of the heating system.

Tel: 01283 523000 www.wilo.co.uk

Enq. 148



JG Speedfit

JG Speedfit's latest addition to its underfloor heating range is a Wireless Underfloor Heating pack, tailor made for a room up to 30 sq m in size. The pack, which is ideal for conservatories and extensions, is available at all JG Underfloor Heating stockists.

The easy to use heating pack comes boxed with all the necessary components to ensure time efficient installation – a quality intrinsic to all John Guest products. Ted Steadman Trenchard, iterates, "We are delighted to introduce this new room pack into the JG Underfloor Heating offering. As no wiring is required, it means the system blends very well with JG Speedfit's ethos of faster installations without compromising on reliability."

The pack includes the new JG Wireless thermostat and receiver, which increases ease of installation by completely eliminating any use of cables. The familiar Speedfit push-fit solution once again makes for fast and reliable piping connections.

Tel: 01895 449233 www.johnguest.co.uk

Enq. 149

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Enq. 150

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Enq. 151

august/september 2011

eco & green products supplement

A Hörmann automatic sectional garage door, selected by VELUX for their CarbonLight Homes in Rothwell, Kettering.
See page 43.



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Enq. 301

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Enq. 302

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Enq. 303

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Enq. 304



The new Duplexvent RK2 from **Airflow Developments** combines two zone warm air heating and ventilation with heat recovery up to 93 per cent to meet the latest Building Regulations.

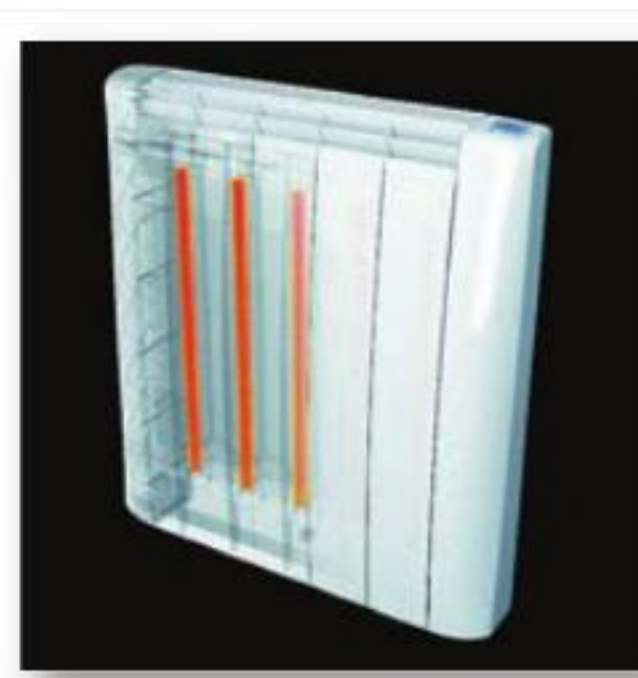
Designed for low energy dwellings and Passive houses, this high specification air handling unit provides simultaneous heating and ventilation with heat recovery in the living spaces within the dwelling and secondary extraction from wet rooms such as the kitchen, bathroom and en-suites. A unique feature of the RK3 design is the six operating modes, which enables optimum operation throughout the year for two heating season settings. A low temperature water heater module is also included to supplement the dwellings hot water system, thereby saving further energy.

Enq. 304



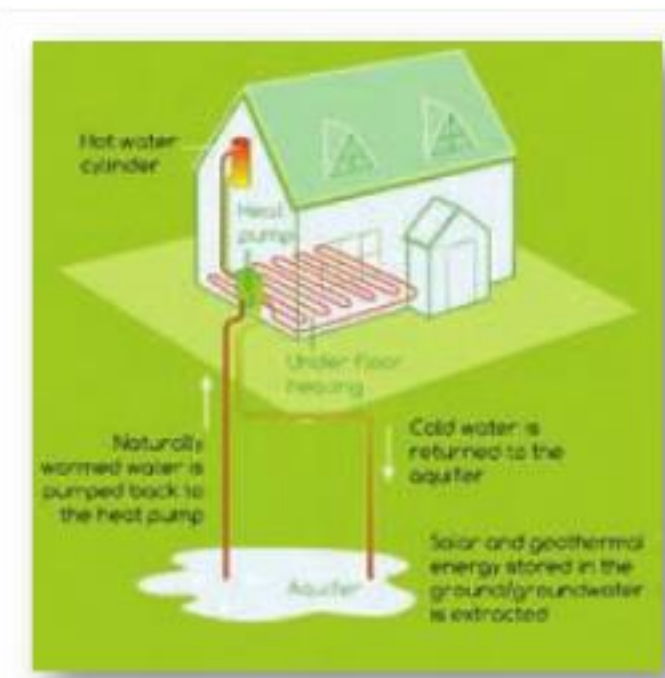
One of the easiest ways to reduce the amount of water used at home is by fitting the new flow regulator accessory from **Crosswater**, into any of the 33 basin tap collections or shower hoses to control the amount of tap water used. Taps are inexcusably water guzzling with some using over 10 litres of water per minute. Leaving a tap running while you are cleaning your teeth can waste about nine litres of water a minute (Defra). For a quick, eco-efficient bathroom update, install the latest technologically advanced flow regulator to efficiently save water and money, whilst also guaranteeing even water distribution. The unique flow regulator technology keeps the flow rate constant across the pressure. Flow regulators are used to maintain a defined flow rate regardless of pressure variations of the water supply line.

Enq. 338



ONICE electric radiators combine state-of-the-art heating technology with high pressure aluminium die casting to bring you the latest in energy saving heating. ONICE uses patented technology, which involves the insertion of special electrical elements into the pressure die casting of each radiator. This means that the elements become the nucleus and an integral part of the radiator itself, ensuring a long and trouble free life with no internal liquids or oils to cause leakage. Sophisticated controls automatically adjust the number of elements required to provide the heat requested, optimising energy resources and offering consistently reduced consumption. An inbuilt programmer allows the user to set the comfort temperature over a 24 hour or seven day period and provides for lower 'set-back' temperatures and frost protection.

Enq. 320



To harvest free geothermal heat available from depths below 1.5m a heat pump is employed to raise the temperature of the heat and deliver it into the building. To achieve this groundwater is abstracted at 10/14°C, and underfloor heating is installed, which is more efficient than radiators, and which heats the building using water at temperatures of 30°C. This means 6 kilowatts of heat is delivered at the required temperature by a heat pump using 1 kilowatt of electricity.

Earthtest Energy ensure the system is correctly integrated into the building's design and construction and that interfaces with other systems are properly managed. Correctly installed a geothermal heat pump and underfloor heating system requires no maintenance and lasts the life of the building.

Enq. 313

Electric Central Heating Without Pipes!

REVOLUTIONARY NEW *Digi Line* **THS**
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Enq. 305

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Enq. 306

Everbuild Building Products



Cemstrip is the latest innovative product to be launched by Everbuild Building Products. This environmentally friendly, bio-degradable cement remover is based on a citric acid based formula. Cemstrip can be used to remove wet and cured cement and concrete as well as mortar stains on a variety of surfaces. Importantly, as Cemstrip does not contain hydrochloric acid it can be used on most metal surfaces; so cleaning tools, cement mixers and other equipment safely is now possible. The highly concentrated formula can be diluted by up to ten times with water to suit the relevant application.

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

Enq. 307

Icynene



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. The dramatic energy savings, typically 25 per cent by simply insulating the loft, ensures Icynene leaves homes warmer, cheaper to run, draft free and more comfortable to live in. Applied as a liquid and expanding in seconds, Icynene fills every crack and crevice while remaining flexible so that the integrity of the building envelope seal remains intact over time. It enables designers and renovators to explore geometry and space without compromising performance.

Tel: 01380 730 668 www.icynene.com

Enq. 309

BASF Polyurethanes



WALLTITE® CL100 spray foam insulation from BASF Polyurethanes has been installed on the internal roof of a penthouse apartment in a new mixed development in Hove. Achieving a U-value of 0.1w/m²K was the deciding factor in meeting planning conditions, which stipulated that the property was to be designed and built to the elements outlined in the Code for Sustainable Homes. WALLTITE® provides the specifier with complete design freedom as the spray foam

adapts to the shape of the substrate providing an ideal solution for insulating difficult areas such as curved roofs.

Tel: 01773 601166 www.walltite.basf.co.uk

Enq. 308

Linair



Bi-Fold Plus, the innovative second generation PVC-U bi-fold door from Linair, is specifically designed to meet homeowners' energy efficiency requirements. Bi-Fold Plus uses much less plastic and has a greater glass area, so it has a better thermal performance than other PVC-U bi-fold doors. Bi-Fold Plus has a typical U-value of 1.4W/m²K using soft coat low E glass, argon and a warm edge spacer bar. Fabricators can easily and accurately calculate the U-Values of a specific style of Bi-Fold

Plus by simply inputting the doors specification into Linair's bespoke version of the Oracle - Build Check's online U-Value calculator.

Tel: 01332 883900 www.bi-foldplus.co.uk

Enq. 310

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Enq. 311

AUTOMATIC OFF-GRID POWER SYSTEMS RELIABLE ELECTRICITY 24/7

The Powerguard PS System operates with any auto-start generator providing power 24/7 in a controlled and efficient way. Typically the generator runs less than 8 hours per day increasing generator life, reducing fuel use and maintenance. The battery and inverter supply the power when the generator is not running.

The PS System monitors and integrates input from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar further reducing generator run-time.

CHP (Combined Heat & Power) versions are available for the highest efficiency and the lowest running cost. A PS System is the most cost effective and practical solution for off-grid applications. The PS System saves fuel and reduces pollution. The PS System is fully automatic, fully integrated, efficient and reliable.

The Powerguard PS System is the complete solution to providing off-grid power 24/7.



PS SYSTEM INSTALLATION

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Enq. 312



Electrorad supply an innovative range of electric radiators. There is no need for any pipework or plumbing, each radiator just needs a 13 amp power supply. The radiators look just like regular central heating radiators and supply the same quality of heat. There will be no maintenance or inspections required and they are supplied with an industry best warranty of 30 years. Each radiator has its own room thermostat and programming system ensuring that energy usage is always kept to a minimum and every room is exactly the temperature required. The radiators are rated 100 per cent energy efficient and are carbon zero at the point of use. Being electric this heating system is fully compatible with all micro-generation and renewable technologies and could help us to move away from traditional fossil fuel heating systems.

Enq. 305



Energy & micro-generator manager (EMMA) is a monitoring system that shows how much electricity your solar panels are producing, how much electricity you're using and can identify any surplus energy produced. EMMA will deposit the surplus energy and either store it as hot water, space heating or export it so you can benefit from the Feed-In Tariffs (FITs), meaning substantial savings on your energy bills. EMMA will help you to optimise the financial returns on your investment and will future-proof your micro-generator and your home. **BritishEco** is a MCS certified solar photovoltaic company. They specialise in the design and install of solar PV panels and other renewable energy systems. Their team of skilled PV solar installers will ensure that the unit is fitted exactly as designed.

Enq. 319



From 1st January 2013 the standalone circulator market in Europe will change. The EU Directive on energy using products (EuPs) sets strict new requirements for energy efficiency in domestic and light commercial circulator pumps. The **Grundfos** Alpha2 and Magna circulators have met the EuP demanded requirements for many years. For example the Alpha2 runs on as little as 5W, and in 2008 was the double winner of the Energy+ Award for best energy-efficient circulator. With more than one million units produced and sold since the market introduction in 2007, it has proved its reliability around the globe. The same can be said about the Grundfos Magna for commercial building applications. This reliable pump uses up to 70 per cent less energy than other standard standalone circulators.

Enq. 337



We are all aware that part L of the building regulations regarding boiler efficiency and hot water storage, calls provisions to be made to conserve fuel and power. Just 1mm of limescale in pipes can increase energy costs by 11 per cent. The HydroFLOW[™] patented family of water treatment systems, is the proven forerunner in water conditioners, the perfect alternative to chemical and magnet based applications. An energy-efficient product, **Hydropath's** patented technology binds scale into free-flowing crystals, preventing the likelihood of scale build up and ensuring a cleaner more efficient system, which is protected 24/7. Hydopath technology should be installed as standard for all applications, commercial or domestic. With over a million units in use around the world, the technology speaks for itself.

Enq. 301

earthtestenergy

reduce your heating bills by up to 85%

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Enq. 313

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REA Renewable Energy Association Member / Association for Environmentally Conscious Building Member

Enq. 314



WPL

WPL Ltd is pleased to announce that they have added the Platin tank to their range of rainwater harvesting products. This low profile, light tank is extremely easy to install and requires minimal excavation due to its shallow depth. The Platin tank can be installed above or below ground and is ideally suited to high water table (HWT) areas and rocky ground. Furthermore, it is suitable for both pedestrian and vehicle loading (version dependant) with the lid sitting flush with the ground. This latest addition to WPL's product offering is suitable for garden and home systems and comes in four sizes; 1,500l, 3,000l, 5,000l and 7,500l. The Platin replaces the Rondus as it is very easy to install and the larger tank cover allows for easier maintenance. The Platin sits within the RainRetain Premium Domestic category alongside the Carat tank, which is used in home and garden situations not in a HWT area. The Home systems use cutting edge pump and filter technology and the intelligent pump automatically switches between mains and rainwater as required. The width of the dome shaft is 800mm, allowing for simple filter installation and maintenance.

Tel: 023 9224 2600 www.wpl.co.uk

Enq. 315



James Latham

With popularity soaring, James Latham's extensive range of Moralt door blanks are now available nationwide from every one of its nine UK panel sites. Engineered specifically to comply with ever tightening building regulations, Moralt Klima thermally insulating door blanks boast a U-value of 0.89, which has won praise from the industry for helping the ideal house retain more heat than it loses. In addition, following a highly successful period of fire and acoustic testing, Moralt Firesound door blanks are proving just as popular in the market and as well as fire protection, they feature excellent sound insulation, with the Firesound 41 achieving a sound reduction performance of 41dB. Latham's product champion for doors, Steve Frommont, said: "We now have a really comprehensive range of door blanks to suit every requirement. Moralt offers significant benefits to two very different markets. [...] Where acoustics are a priority, as the name suggests, Moralt Firesound offers the perfect balance between sound and safety, whereas for those searching for exceptional insulation and who may have been set demanding energy saving targets, Moralt Klima can help to create the self-heating house of the future."

Tel: 0116 257 3415 www.lathamtimber.co.uk

Enq. 316

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

Now with Active Boost!

Wireless Option Now Available!

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.

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Enq. 317

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Enq. 318



Long Rake Spar supply three categories of green roof substrates, each containing a blend to specific proportions of recycled and lightweight aggregates with composted bio-waste products. They suit most landscaping and ecological specifications: Intensive System Substrates (ISS) – an ultra lightweight blend of highly absorbent aggregates with composted bio-waste to be used as a substrate within recreational garden-scapes; Extensive System Substrates (ESS) – a blend of lightweight, water absorbent aggregates with composted bio-waste to be used as a substrate in un-maintained rooftop environments; Brown Roofing Substrates (BRS) – a blend of reclaimed aggregates with composted bio-waste designed to promote regeneration of the biodiversity of demolition sites, which have been lost to construction.

Enq. 327



Mitsubishi Electric has extended the award winning Ecodan® range of domestic air source heat pumps with a British-built water cylinder that will help cut installation time by 70 per cent, and a self-learning new controller that speeds up commissioning and eases operation. The company is now manufacturing a stainless steel, 200 litre capacity tank at its Livingston facility. The cylinder has been designed with quality and aesthetics in mind, with the factory able to step up production when required to meet the growing demand for renewable heating. The ISO 14001/9001 certified cylinder is pre-wired and pre-plumbed, WRAS (Water Regulations Advisory Scheme) Approved, and includes a 28.1kW heat exchanger capacity, expansion vessel, filter, booster and immersion heaters, and an automatic flow switch.

Enq. 335



It is up to home and business owners alike to change their attitude towards water consumption and to start implementing water efficient measures. We live in a world where global warming, carbon footprint, climate change and the greenhouse effect are all well known phrases, but water saving is still not generating enough attention, despite the obvious energy savings that could be made by regulating our use of water. **Neoperl's** products provide a valuable contribution to climate and environmental protection by conserving water and helping to reduce the associated energy consumption in the production of hot water. Trading for over 50 years in the global market, they offer innovative solutions for drinking water. Their products shape water streams, regulate flow rates and protect water from contamination.

Enq. 303



Nu-Heat supplies a complete renewables package ensuring seamless system integration. With many years' experience in the integration of underfloor heating with heat pumps and solar panels and an increasing demand for even more energy-efficient systems, they are pleased to be able to design and supply a complete package with one source of responsibility and one point of contact. The Nu-Heat range of warm water underfloor heating, ground source, air source, and exhaust air heat pumps as well as solar thermal collectors, all integrate seamlessly to provide a heating and hot water system tailored to the individual needs of each customer. Because Nu-Heat supplies all of these technologies you can be sure they will integrate seamlessly as all of the fittings necessary for the installation are provided.

Enq. 336

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REA REA

Enq. 319

Onice

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www.onice-radiators.co.uk

Enq. 320



Heatec Radiators

After an absence of four years EV Confort is returning to the British market. EV have joined forces with Heatec Radiators, the long established manufacturer of bespoke electric radiators, to launch their new ranges of electric radiators and storage heaters in Great Britain. The storage heaters include the very popular STM-A model, which is being relaunched with its new sister the NST-A. Both include the usual quality controls for which EV are so well known. The electric radiators are new to the British market and include both slim and standard designs to fit most residential and commercial requirements. All the electric radiators are fitted with 24 hour, 7 day controls as standard. They can all be controlled by the same remote control unit as an optional extra. The products will be marketed under the joint HEATEC EV brand and will also be available to the OEM market. Peter Jolliffe, managing director of Heatec welcomed the link with EV saying: "Heatec have been seeking a partner for some time with whom to move to the next phase of our expansion and the cooperation with EV fits perfectly into our current ranges."

Tel: 0845 872 6667 www.heatecradiators.co.uk

Enq. 321

Lodgico



Lodgico Ltd has taken on a new member of staff in order to deal with the growing popularity of their quality log homes. Colin Hickford CSRT has taken on the role of contracts manager, starting on the 1st of August 2011. With experience in project management, he is responsible for the smooth running of Lodgico's building operations, which vary from traditional build to their specialised timber and log homes. Robert Clarke, managing director of Lodgico said: "We are thrilled to have Colin working with us."

2011 has been a great year, with more exciting projects coming up his experience and qualifications make Colin a great addition to the Lodgico team."

Tel: 01271 326343 www.lodgico.co.uk

Enq. 322

AZUR Solar



A major improvement on industry standard panels, the unique 2P coating gives AZUR Solar modules self-cleaning, self-healing properties that protect the modules and help achieve 15 per cent more lifetime power than standard panels.

Module degradation is also guaranteed to be less than 2 per cent over the first 20 years of the systems' lifespan helping generate more power and save even more CO₂.

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Enq. 323

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www.polyroof.co.uk

Enq. 324

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Sensible Heat offers a design advice, supply and commissioning service covering the UK and Ireland. If you are using a custom installer for your home entertainment systems, we'll work with them to deliver an integrated solution.

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CEDIA Trade Supplier

Sensible Heat are sole distributors of Honeywell Hometronic in UK and Ireland

Enq. 325



Old Manor Cottages have designed their windows and doors to replicate and replace those that have been in use for centuries in Listed and period buildings. They have the benefit of modern features and comfort. Conservation officers are now accepting double glazing in Listed properties where appropriate design and materials are helping reduce energy consumption. Windows are constructed from hardwood timber to period designs used from 1750 to the early 20th century. Narrow through glazing bars are used matching the Georgian/Victorian periods with individual double glazed panes. The Box sash range uses traditional lead balance weights and all the expected period features. Casement windows are styled using traditional profiles and flush face sashes with discrete modern features for storm protection.

Enq. 311



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

Enq. 302



Polyroof Products Ltd is a trusted name in the manufacture of quality liquid applied flat roofing systems. Their systems are installed via their national network of approved contractors and have been independently certified by the British Board of Agrément (BBA). They give their clients total peace of mind with market leading 20 year insurance-backed guarantees. Their roofing systems are ideal for a wide range of applications including flat roofs, balconies, green roofs, metal replica finishes and for use with solar panels. They also have a wide range of warm roof systems to meet the most stringent insulation demands. They provide full technical support to their clients throughout the project. With over 25 years experience at the forefront of the market, Polyroof is the number one solutions provider for selfbuilders.

Enq. 324



Off-grid homes or small businesses can now benefit from free hot water. **Powerguard** have introduced a highly efficient and cost effective combined heat and power (CHP) system for off-grid properties. Using tried and tested heat recovery technology, the system provides two different temperatures of water for use as space heating and hot water mains. Using the advanced control system to both the electrical power and water circuits (to optimise the use of energy) means that the overall efficiency of the system is more than 80 per cent. The PS CHP system can be installed to a new property or retrofitted into an existing water main. The PS CHP system is also designed to accommodate different types of renewable energy.

Enq. 312

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Enq. 326

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Enq. 327

Johnson & Starley



Johnson & Starley reports an up-surge of interest in warm air heating systems from the private residential market. Its Economaire range is being specified both for new build and refurbishment projects with a new installation in Chigwell, highlighting the practical advantages of warm air heating systems. When Mr. Glick's large bungalow was effectively rebuilt and extended during 2010-11, he took the decision to replace the existing boiler and heating system with Johnson & Starley's Economaire 65 warm air system. Mr. Glick has noticed immediate advantages of the Economaire compared to the previous gas fired boiler and radiator system.

Enq. 328

Ancon



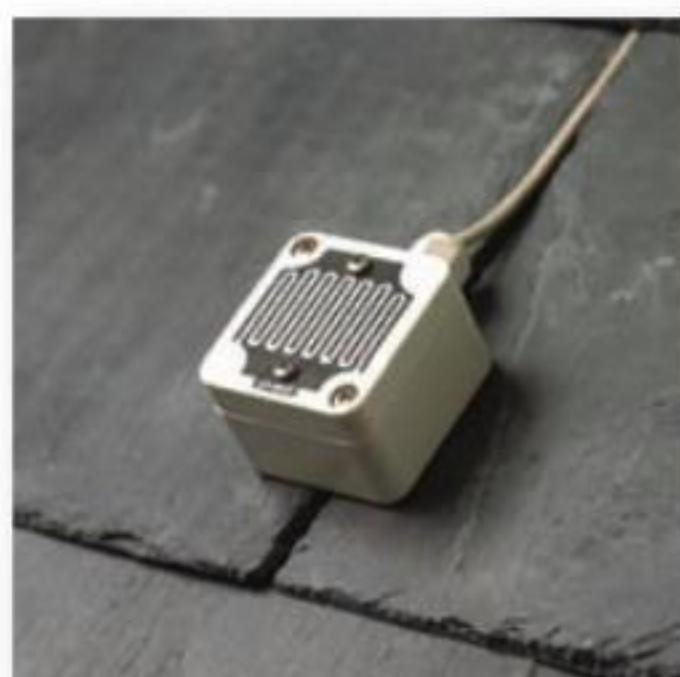
Ancon's range of low thermal conductivity wall ties minimise heat loss through thermal bridging, improving the energy efficiency of a masonry cavity wall. The use of these ties can reduce insulation depth and wall footprint. In addition to a number of stainless steel wire wall ties, the range includes the Ancon TeploTie, which is manufactured from pultruded basalt fibres set in resin. It has a thermal conductivity of just 0.7W/mK. TeploTie has been used on the UK's first zero-

carbon retrofit project to achieve level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and the UK's first certified Passivhaus to be built using masonry cavity walls.

Tel: 0114 2755 224 www.ancon.co.uk/LowConductor

Enq. 329

Fakro GB



To add the perfect finishing touch to a roof window installation, Fakro rain and wind sensors provide peace of mind that roof windows will close automatically in adverse weather conditions. The ZRD Rain Sensor has a heating element that prevents it being activated by dew and misty conditions while the ZWD Wind Sensor can be set for activation at wind strengths between 5-40km/hour. Both are only 55x50mm but are highly durable. For back-up power, a set of emergency

batteries enable window operation to continue in the event of power failure. Battery capacity is sufficient to open and close windows several times.

Tel: 0845 021 3030 www.fakro.co.uk

Enq. 330

Fermacell



Selfbuilders are becoming increasingly aware of creating the right environment within each living space and will, over the next few years, become more aware of the new health issue of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's). At the forefront of tackling the issue of VOC's is Fermacell, a market leader in gypsum fibre board, which launched 'Greenline' at Ecobuild earlier this year. Greenline offers all the performance benefits of standard Fermacell but also contains a natural additive that

absorbs potentially harmful gases (VOC's) leaching out of many of today's materials and products. These include: building materials and furnishings, paints, lacquers, cleaning compounds, glues and adhesives.

Enq. 332



Green roofs have been in existence since Viking times but it's only in the last decade or so that UK architects and builders have really begun to appreciate the value of putting plants on top of buildings.

A living green roof not only benefits biodiversity, it can save money on heating and air conditioning; reduce rainwater runoff, insulate against noise and improve the efficiency of photovoltaic cells.

Enviromat can supply advice and components for DIY green roofs and they have an installation service available.

Enq. 306



Since the introduction of the government 'Feed in Tariff' in April 2010, solar PV has in many ways been the 'star pupil'. 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.

Enq. 318

Granwax



Granwax has launched an innovative new floor finish created from a unique blend of linseed oil based resins, made from 85 per cent renewable resources. Specially designed to cause as little negative impact on the environment as possible, Granwax Nature is ideal for flooring projects that require a sensitive approach to choosing environmentally friendly products. The super flat matt finish provides the ideal look and feel to any wooden floor. The warmth, texture and colour enhance-

ments provided by Granwax Nature finish deliver aesthetic quality, as well as ethical value. With Zero VOC's and Zero Solvents Granwax Nature is not only safe to use, it provides a hard-wearing, beautiful finish.

Enq. 331

NIBE Energy Systems



The latest product from NIBE Energy Systems Ltd. is the FP215 Premium Thermal Collector, a collector that combines light weight and simple installation with a very high solar absorption rating. This new collector is equally suited for in-roof or on-roof placement and is ideal in high and low flow systems for hot water heating support and integrated energy processing systems. The NIBE FP215 has an unusually low empty weight of only 32.5 kilos. The new collector has been designed with

the installer, as well as the end user in mind, for in addition to its light weight it has a circulating handle bar making it simple and comfortable to transport.

Tel: 0845 095 1200 www.nibe.co.uk

Enq. 333



Using Honeywell's Hometronic wireless radiator controllers, available from **Sensible Heat**, means every room becomes a time and temperature zone; you can still adjust the temperature locally at the radiator, but normally you won't need to, because it is automatic. Using patented wireless technology, there's no new wiring to install; the controller is battery powered by 2 x AA cells that typically last 2 years. The controller fits onto the valve body of your existing thermostatic valve (you unscrew the old head and discard it; no plumbing changes). The controller is much more accurate than a conventional mechanical TRV, with electronic temperature control, using fuzzy logic. You can have several temperature setpoints every day for each room, and you can shut down rooms to a lower temperature when not in use

Enq. 325



Solar Twin Ltd is a UK nationwide company that manufactures and installs truly zero carbon, solar water heating systems and grid-tied solar electric (PV) systems, to the trade and domestic customers. In their thermal systems, their 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, maintenance is minimal and customer satisfaction is excellent. These panels are Solar Keymarked, and are hence approved products. They also supply DIY kits. Their solar electric PV systems are all MCS certified and eligible for Feed-in-Tariffs.

Enq. 314



Warmworld has launched the best ever Dataterm IHC; it has a stylish new look and advanced features along with wireless sensors. It is aimed at the market sector that want simple installations and less wiring, thus reducing labour time and setup. In addition, the new Dataterm IHC is even more flexible than before allowing for daily hot water programming as well as daily heating. You can even tell it when you are away so that it turns the heat off until you get back, and in summer/winter time adjusts the clock so you're always on time. The Dataterm system can reduce your fuel burn on average by 25 per cent per annum. Combine this with improved comfort levels and its all tied up, from single heating zones through the Multizone 4 giving you complete control of up to four heating zones and hot water from a single panel!

Enq. 317



The unique **Zehnder ComfoBox** delivers heating, cooling, hot water and heat recovery ventilation for a perfect indoor climate from one unit.

Its integrated ground source heat pump utilises the earth's temperature to raise/lower the internal climate depending on the season.

Swiss quality ensures that the Zehnder ComfoBox delivers a more comfortable, healthy and energy efficient environment.

As it is certified by the Micro-generation Certification Scheme (MCS) homeowners can claim upto £1,250 towards the cost through the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) launched on 1st August.

Enq. 326



Hörmann

A Hörmann automatic sectional garage door has been selected by VELUX for their CarbonLight Homes in Rothwell, Kettering. The CarbonLight Homes have been developed to show that it is possible to build energy efficient, sustainable housing that is practical, appealing and comfortable for the homeowner, while being easy and affordable for the volume housebuilders to replicate.

As the design features an integral garage, an insulating garage door was an essential item. As the only truly insulating door style, a sectional garage door was recommended. VELUX and the architect, HTA, selected suppliers and specified their products based on their unrivalled sustainability credentials, high quality and exemplary service. The top of the range Hörmann LPU40 automatic sectional door chosen for this development meets these key criteria, offers the best level of insulation available, and importantly, satisfies the need to be affordable.

The VELUX CarbonLight Homes are designed and built to the new definition of zero carbon. They will be open to the industry for the next six months before undergoing a further twelve months of performance monitoring prior to being offered for sale.

Tel: 01530 513000 www.hormann.co.uk

Enq. 334

Enq. 335

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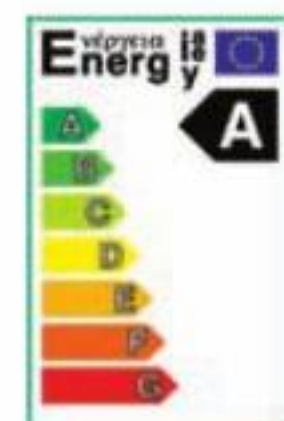
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GRUNDFOS

Enq. 337

how to fix floor tiles

by the Tile Association

Preparation

Time spent on proper preparation makes the fixing easier, quicker and ensures a better finish.

Tiling onto concrete

New concrete must be at least six weeks old and thoroughly dry before fixing floor tiles. The surface must be smooth, flat and free from dirt and grease. Uneven surfaces can be improved with levelling compound.

Tiling onto wooden floors

Existing wooden floors must be rigid, stable and capable of supporting additional load without flexing and have sufficient ventilation beneath them. There are three basic options to follow:

1. Overlay the existing timber with 15mm dry exterior grade plywood, which has been sealed along the edges and back. Fully screw down the plywood at 300mm intervals ensuring all junctions are supported by noggings or joists. Use a category C2 adhesive;
2. Overlay the existing timber with a proprietary decoupling membrane and use a category C2 adhesive;
3. Overlay the existing timber with a proprietary tile backer board and install following the manufacturers' instructions. Use a category C2 tile adhesive.

A CG2 grout is recommended with all of these methods. There are many factors to consider when deciding which method is best suited for your particular circumstances. It is important to seek professional advice.

Tiling onto hard vinyl tiles

Existing hard tiles must be free of grease, polish etc. and firmly adhered to the subfloor. The surface of the tile must be primed and allowed to dry before spreading a category 2 adhesive.

Tiling onto existing quarries, glazed and unglazed tiles

Existing tiles must be clean, grease free and firmly adhered to the subfloor. Priming may be required and a category C2 adhesive should be used. When tiling onto glazed tiles a polymer additive may be required.

Underfloor heating

Electrical under tile heating is readily available. It should be installed following the heating suppliers instructions and connected by a Part P competent electrician.

Tiles should then be fixed, adopting the solid bed method using a category C2 tile adhesive. Movement joints will be required around the perimeter of the floor and where tiling lies alongside columns, curbs and steps. In large floor areas, tiles should be divided by movement joints into bays not exceeding 25 square metres

in area.

Setting out

Planning ahead is essential for a successful project. Laying ceramic floor tiles will raise the level of the finished floor, so if possible remove all fixtures before tiling. Check the overall flatness of the floor. A levelling compound can be used to improve flatness levels.

Mark a chalk line on the floor down the centre of the room parallel to the most suitable wall (normally this is achieved by viewing the room from the doorway). Lay the tiles down this line and then work towards the wall you think is best, leaving a joint between the tiles of at least 3mm. Tile spacers can be used to achieve a uniform size joint. Avoid small cuts, as they can be difficult to cut and do not look professional.

Cutting tiles

Floor tiles are generally harder to cut than wall tiles. Modern tools make the cutting of most types of ceramic tiles simple.

Adhesives

Use normal or rapid setting adhesives conforming to BS EN 12004.

Mix the adhesive as per manufacturers' instructions and spread with the recommended notched trowel to give a ribbed adhesive bed on the surface to be tiled. Butter the back of each tile with a thin layer of adhesive immediately before bedding it firmly into the fresh ribbed adhesive bed, with a slight twisting motion to ensure a solid bed and prevent voids under the tile. Some 'solid bedding' trowels and pourable adhesives are available that allow the floor tile to be solidly bedded without the need to butter the back of the tiles.

Remove surplus adhesive from the tile surface and joints with a damp sponge or cloth. Work in small areas of about 1 square metre at a time so that tiles are fixed whilst the surface of the ribbed bed is still wet and workable.

Every so often use a spirit level or straight edge to check that the tiles fixed are flat. Remove and adjust the amount of adhesive to achieve a flat surface, but don't leave it too late or the adhesive will set. Leave adhesive to set before grouting, usually 24 hours unless using a rapid setting adhesive.

In bathrooms, special attention should be paid to sealing the gap between wall and floor base using a flexible antibacterial sealant. A category C2 adhesive should be used when fixing fully vitrified tiles such as porcelain.

Grouting

Do not begin grouting or walking on the floor tiles for at least 24 hours (unless using a rapid set adhesive) to avoid disturbing the tiles before they have bonded completely with the adhesive. Force the grout into the joints using a squeegee. Remove surplus grout from the surface with a

BEIGES AND NEUTRAL COLOURS ARE POPULAR, ESPECIALLY IN SMALL ROOMS



SPECIAL UNDER TILE HEATING SYSTEMS ARE THE LATEST MUST HAVE FOR BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS



TILES ARE GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER, PARTICULARLY FLOOR TILES



sponge and, if required, peg the joints with a rounded stick to achieve an even better finish.

When grouting tiles on a timber floor, use a water-based polymer admixture to improve flexibility.

Movement joints

Movement joints allow for movement and prevent tile damage. The recommended minimum width is 6mm, but it depends on each individual application. Movement joints are either field-applied sealant, or a prefabricated profile with anchoring legs, which are adhered beneath the tile. They are normally installed where flooring abuts wall, steps, columns etc., on large floor areas and over structural movement joints. Floors less than 2 metres between walls will not normally require movement joints except where there is under tile heating; in this case bay sizes of no greater than 25 square metres should be incorporated.

Maintenance

With proper care and attention, a correctly installed, good quality ceramic floor tile should give many years trouble-free service. Grit is the biggest enemy of any floor material and a mat adjacent to external doors is strongly recommended. Terracotta and natural stone tiles will need sealing.

Enq. 152



in it together

An interior designer taking on her own self build should have been smooth sailing but Alexa Collins hit her share of bumps along the way when building her home with her brother

Written by Laura Suter



The plot that the house sits on is what makes it special, but the house itself wasn't special

– Alexa Collins



When Alexa Collins set out to build her own home she was more experienced than most first timers. Her job as an interior designer for Alexa Collins Designs has seen her refurbish and renovate a range of homes, typically older, over the past eight years. But in taking on her own project she discovered the emotions involved in building your own home and fell into some of the pitfalls that many first time selfbuilders have fallen foul of before.

The project to build an entirely new home was not planned from the outset, although her job meant that Alexa had always been interested in building her own house. It wasn't until her mother sadly passed on and her father needed residential care that Alexa and her

brother, Simon, were presented with the option. Not wanting to let go of the family home, they had the option of doing up the property, which she admits wasn't the most attractive of buildings.

"The house was quite run down; I had been trying to patch it up around my father, who was growing increasingly ill. We realised after he moved out that it was going to cost about £350,000 to get it looking halfway decent. The plot that the house sits on is what makes it special, but the house itself wasn't special," she says.

So the duo decided to pull the whole thing down and start again, using Design and Materials Ltd for the designs. Alexa researched

COLD WEATHER DELAYED THE PROJECT, BRINGING THE SITE TO STANDSTILL FOR SIX WEEKS

...continued on page 49

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Trend GB



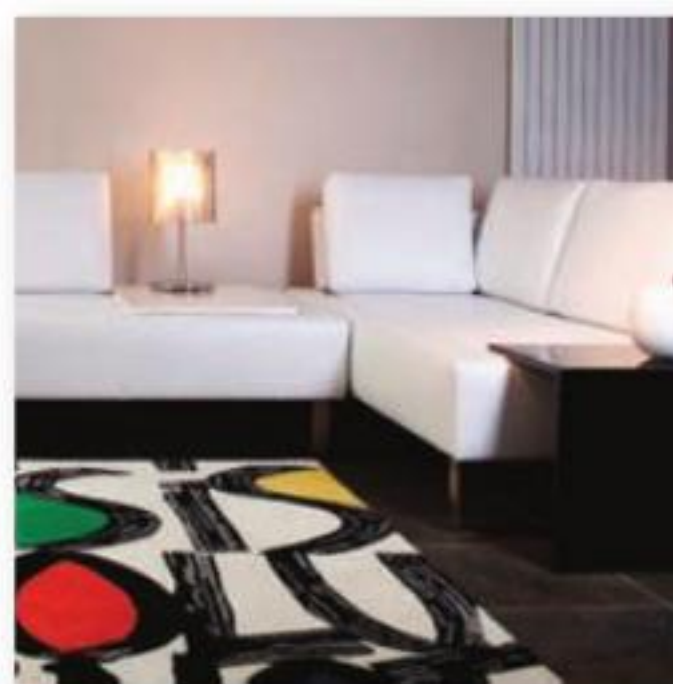
After years in the wilderness, wallpaper is back in style. Trend Wallpaper is something else again, however, because it's made from genuine Italian glass mosaic tiles. It has all the visual appeal of classic paper or silk wallcoverings and it even comes in rolls. But it's made from hardwearing, hand-cut mosaic tiles and can be laid virtually anywhere; on the walls, the ceiling, the floor, in humid surroundings like bathrooms and kitchens, even swimming pools and external façades. For

an extravagant interior, an exotic decorative effect or eye-catching splash-back feature, there is nothing like Trend Wallpaper on the market.

Tel: 01892 509690 www.trend.gb.com

Enq. 154

Muralto



Swiss designer, Rene Haas, has refreshed the iconic 'L-shape' sofa combining precise, defined lines with his trademark artistic subtlety to create Diva for his Muralto showroom in London. Finished here in white gazelle leather for clean, crisp style and comfort, Diva by Muralto is perfectly at home in classic interiors and modern, contemporary schemes. Haas's keen eye for shape and detail brings a sense of effortless cool and understated efficiency to the piece. Diva is hand-

made to order by skilled craftsmen using only the highest quality fabrics or leather. Dimensions can also be specified to suit preferred tastes and room sizes.

Enq. 155

Natural insulation

Biofib® hemp is a natural, ecological insulation made by twisting together hemp fibres. Available in the form of rolls or semirigid batts, it is mainly designed for thermal insulation of residential buildings (walls, roof structures and floors), whether newly built or under renovation.

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Enq. 156

all the companies before signing up with them and had this firm recommended by a friend. She adds that they were fantastic to work with.

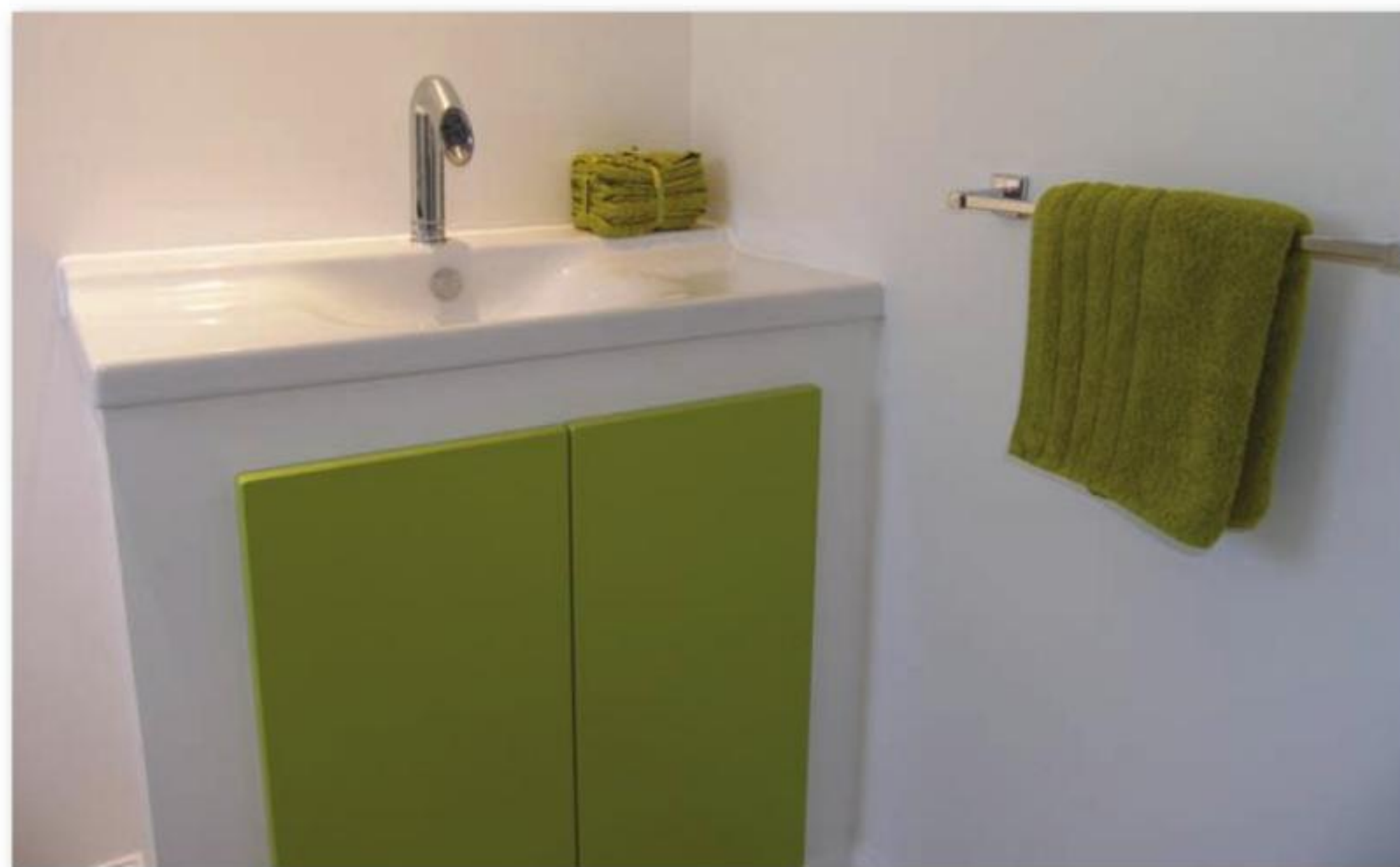
A brother and sister building a house together already has the potential to stir up emotions and family tensions, but this build was made more unusual by the fact that Simon lived in China with his ever expanding family, with a seven hour time difference making things more tricky.

Cost was a key issue of the project with Simon providing the funding, which Alexa admits made things a bit tense at times: "When the costs started to mount up later in the project he'd get annoyed at constantly having to write out more cheques for the build."

Alexa originally budgeted £125,000 for materials and another £125,000 for the builder, but says that an additional £25,000 was added to each of these. It wasn't that she forgot aspects of the build, more that the level of quality increased as the build went on.

"I don't think we realised how grand it would be; the plot changes size before your eyes throughout the build. When the previous house was knocked down the plot looks tiny, then when the foundations go in it grows again, before shrinking back when the internal walls start to go up."

She adds that certain aspects of the build had a knock on effect. For example, it was only £5,000 to have a concrete first floor, which seems reasonable to start with. However, this then means £2,000 to crane in the beams needed, and the walls can be brick and under



ALEXA CONTINUED THE COLOUR SCHEME THROUGHOUT THE BATHROOM

floor heating can be put in, which all adds up. "It's very easy to rack up costs," Alexa admits, adding: "All along I realised that I had missed out various things, like replacing damaged turf, landscaping and putting in a drive and patio, which was needed to finish the build, but ended up adding £50,000."

The situation wasn't helped by the fact that the housing market started to plummet during the build, with prices dropping in all areas on all properties in the UK. While Alexa planned to live in the property once it was finished, meaning that the value wasn't a main issue, she



HUNTING AROUND IN JUNK AND SECOND HAND SHOPS FOR FURNITURE GAVE ALEXA SOME BARGAINS



THE COMPLETED FAMILY BATHROOM

...continued on page 51

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Enq. 157

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Enq. 158

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Adrian - 079 689 15885

Enq. 159

One aspect that Alexa says that she underestimated in the build was how short delays could impact on all aspects of the build

GLASS PANNELLING ON THE MEZZANINE LEVEL CREATES A SENSE OF SPACE



LIGHTING IS USED EFFECTIVELY ALL AROUND THE HOUSE TO MAKE IT MORE HOMELY



MODERN TOUCHES MIXED WITH OLD GIVE A UNIQUE LOOK



...continued on page 52

admits that the fall back on any project is to sell it, so the drop concerned her. Also, while being lucky enough to have a brother to fund the project, Alexa needed to secure a mortgage for her half of the house once it was finished, meaning dropping property values reduced the amount she could secure against the home.

One aspect that Alexa says that she underestimated in the build was how short delays could impact on all aspects of the build. The first hitch came with a bitterly cold winter early on in the build, meaning that half a dozen bricklayers would arrive on site in the morning, decide it was too cold to mix cement and have to move on to another job. "Because of this we lost six weeks with the project just sitting there dead, which was pretty demoralising," Alexa says.

One big recurring disaster on the project came from one of the main features of the new home – floor to ceiling 3m by 2m bi-folding doors that ran between the main living space and the outside. It was only close to when the doors arrived on site that it was mentioned that a lintel was needed to support the work – meaning that the brickwork had to be recut. There was then a four week delay on delivering the doors, meaning that the site wasn't safe to leave equipment in.

When they finally arrived they didn't match the other windows already in place. "It wasn't even close, it was the wrong colour, had bad paintwork, the wrong door furniture and the wrong hinges," Alexa says. To get the right door would take another eight weeks and when it eventually arrived it had been made too big. "Someone has transposed a figure and it was 9cm too high, but because we'd had to put this lintel in there was no way of fitting it in," says Alexa, adding that it was the first time the builders on site thought that she would break down and cry.

A week later the problem was fixed and the doors were finally fitted in place. However, the snags did not end there. When the windows were unwrapped when the build was further along and the risk of the building work damaging them was out of the way, in large black marker along the top of the doors were the words "Collins" and the job number, which then had to be sanded off by a joiner.

Door disasters were a recurring theme, as the internal doors were all ordered to match, taking six weeks to come from South Africa.



However, when the 30 doors arrived, none of them matched up. A replacement set of doors had 22 that were perfect and 11 that didn't match. "It was at that point that I thought I'd never do it again," says Alexa.

"It wasn't easy doing it alone, with my brother trying to bring up his four kids, being in a different country and communication breaking down. It was hard." Another aspect that Alexa says was crucial was keeping motivation high on site, even if she wasn't feeling it herself.

Now Alexa has had time to reflect, would she do it again? "That is still a strange question, but yes I would because, I've forgotten the pain and it's fantastic. It's the most satisfying thing I have ever done. However, I've now got my dream house so I have no need to do it again."

Having been through the process, the top advice that Alexa would offer is not to guess on the budget, instead getting estimates from all tradesmen and companies dealt with to get costs ascertained early.

Small print is another key area, she says, as often many quotes from tradesmen on the same job are not comparable, as they will not all include the same work. "You need to check every aspect of the contract, as sometimes car-

pentry is included or excluded and it's the same with plastering".

But the most crucial advice is to keep up good communication with the builder on site, says Alexa. She adds that you need to communicate all the time, as without that you are dead in the water, saying that she kept up very good relations with Construct Design Associates, her building firm. "You need to be on site every day and if not, you need to call. I don't think you can do it if you both have full time jobs. At that point I think you'd need to employ a project manager."

Her final tip is to go back to the market days and adopt some good old fashioned haggling skills. People should ask for discounts as they can save hugely, Alexa adds, saying that she reduced the cost of her granite worktops by £3,000 to £2,000. "Find a good supplier and stick with them for everything and you'll find you get a good price". She used L&J Kitchens for all her kitchen work and stuck with Renaissance Bathrooms for the fixtures and fittings, describing both as fantastic. And doing a bit of haggling will certainly help with the bulging budgets many projects encounter.

The most crucial advice is to keep up good communication with the builder on site



project costs

Cost of property: Owned by family
Overall cost of project: £500,000
Value of property now: £1.1 million

What was the high point of the project?

Getting the extended family in it in time for Christmas.

The low point was: The recurrent problems with the feature doors.

Contacts

- **Design:** Alexa Collins Design
www.alexacollins.co.uk
 Design and Materials Ltd.
www.designandmaterials.uk.com
- **Building:** Ian Newman,
 Construct Design Associates Ltd.
www.constructdesignassociates.co.uk
- **Kitchen:** L&J Kitchens
www.landjkitchens.co.uk
- **Fixtures & Fittings:**
 Renaissance Bathrooms & Radiators
www.designer-radiators-online.com

USING OLDER FURNITURE MEANS THAT THE NEW BUILD HOME LOOKS LESS MODERN



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 selfbuilders 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 self-builder 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 independent information, which people find difficult sourcing elsewhere. It is being rolled out at the moment and will cover heat pumps, solar PV,



JANE FARNHAM

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 Smith is the 'Eco' expert. Mike has a



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

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 of timber frame doors and windows, teamed up



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

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.

Enq. 160



ROCHELLE FERGUSON



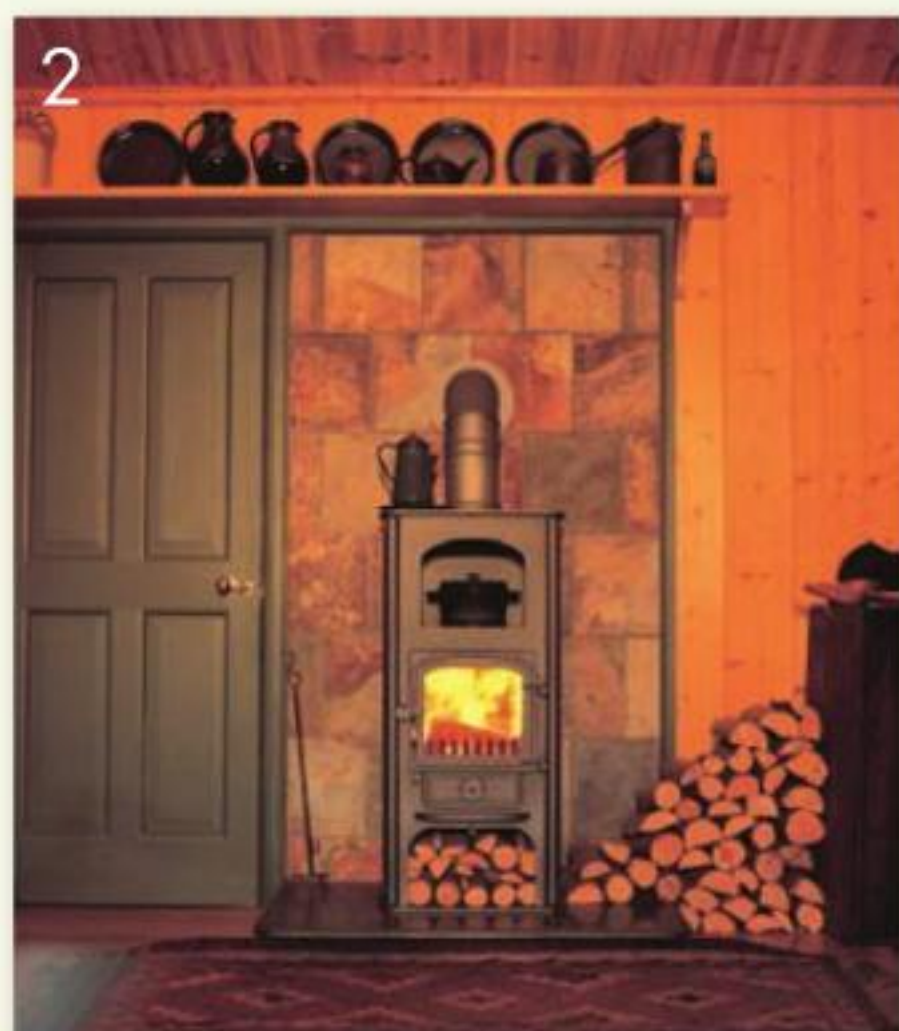
BOB HARRIS



MIKE SMITH



1 **Bespoke Fireplace Designs** think of a fireplace as a piece of furniture as well as a heating appliance, and are the sole importers of the Kal-Fire Heat Pure range of designer wood burning appliances. With its minimalistic glass lift door and a frame of only 10mm, the Heat Pure range offers a wide view of this cosy wood burning fire. This streamlined and discrete design is combined with the most up-to-date technology. When burning with the door closed, the Heat Pure appliance draws its combustion air directly from the outside. Thanks to an additional heat exchanger, high efficiency is achieved.
Enq. 161



2 A **Clearview** Pioneer Oven woodburning stove has been chosen as the heating method for the 'Prince's House'. This eco house, built at the Building Research Establishment, Watford, for the Princes Foundation for the Built Environment has recently been unveiled by the housing minister, Grant Shapps. The building doesn't rely on gadgets or hi-tech products to make it green – rather its carbon savings are built into its innovative design systems, which create a highly energy efficient thermal shell, and the Clearview stove is expected to be the only heating required.
Enq. 162

3 Emissions from the Yorkshire are so low that it easily complies with the clean air act. Independent laboratory tests show efficiencies of over 70 per cent on a whole range of fuels, including wood. All this has been achieved on the Yorkshire without using a catalyst combustor, which are very expensive to replace and can easily become damaged. **Dunsley** offer a great deal more than just boilers, they offer solutions for every heating requirement, including multi-fuel stoves and open fires. Dunsley Heat produce top quality goods, for efficient service for many years.
Enq. 163

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FIRE VULT.

Enq. 164

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and be more energy efficient...**

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Fax: 01202 861632
info@schiedel.co.uk
www.schiedel.co.uk/isokern

MONIER

Enq. 165

4 Following the success of the **Jetmaster Fires** inset stove range, which were designed specifically for the UK market with 350mm depth, internal flue connection and DEFRA approvals; Jetmaster Fires have now introduced their 4.9 kw, 18f freestanding stove, designed with simple clean lines and dimensions to fit most applications.

One of the highlights of the stove is the large viewing window allowing you to see more of the fire than ever before. With a 1" air curtain it stays clean too. Efficiency is high at 84 per cent. With clean burning technology it also easily received DEFRA approval.

Enq. 166

6 **Landy Vent's Ecco Stove** offers the ideal solution to sky high heating bills. Because it releases heat slowly through energy-efficient heating, it creates consistent warmth for your entire home. With 85.3 per cent efficiency and just 0.24 per cent carbon production, the Ecco Stove is the ultimate alternative to a traditional wood burning stove. Available in black, grey, cream, blue or red, with optional alloy or black trim, the sleek Ecco Stove is the perfect addition to any home. From the traditional to the ultra-modern, this versatile stove will complement your existing décor perfectly while offering cost effective, energy efficient heating.

Enq. 168

5 **Morso** has been a leader in quality, design and innovation, manufacturing cast iron solid fuel and gas stoves for more than 150 years.

Morso woodburning stoves fuse tradition with contemporary design, and it is this discerning ability to produce classic looking stoves that reflect modern trends that make them so popular.

The S11 range is the new range of steel stoves, which can be mixed and matched using a total of five different base and wall options. This convection stove has exceptionally low emission values and a high heating efficiency.

Enq. 167



4



5



6

Warming to the coldest climates

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Enq. 169

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ANATOMY OF A CLEARVIEW STOVE

Features that make Clearview stoves special



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Enq. 170

Brochure Line: 01588 650 123 www.clearviewstoves.com

7 Schiedel Isokern's new range of Magnum Firechests maximises 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 to 45 per cent. The Firechests are also fitted with a damper, used to close off the chimney when not in use. This has the effect of reducing the ventilation rate of the chimney, significantly reducing heat loss. Wood emits only 4 per cent of the CO₂ produced by using gas. In this way the Magnum Firechests can help to reduce the carbon emissions of a house.

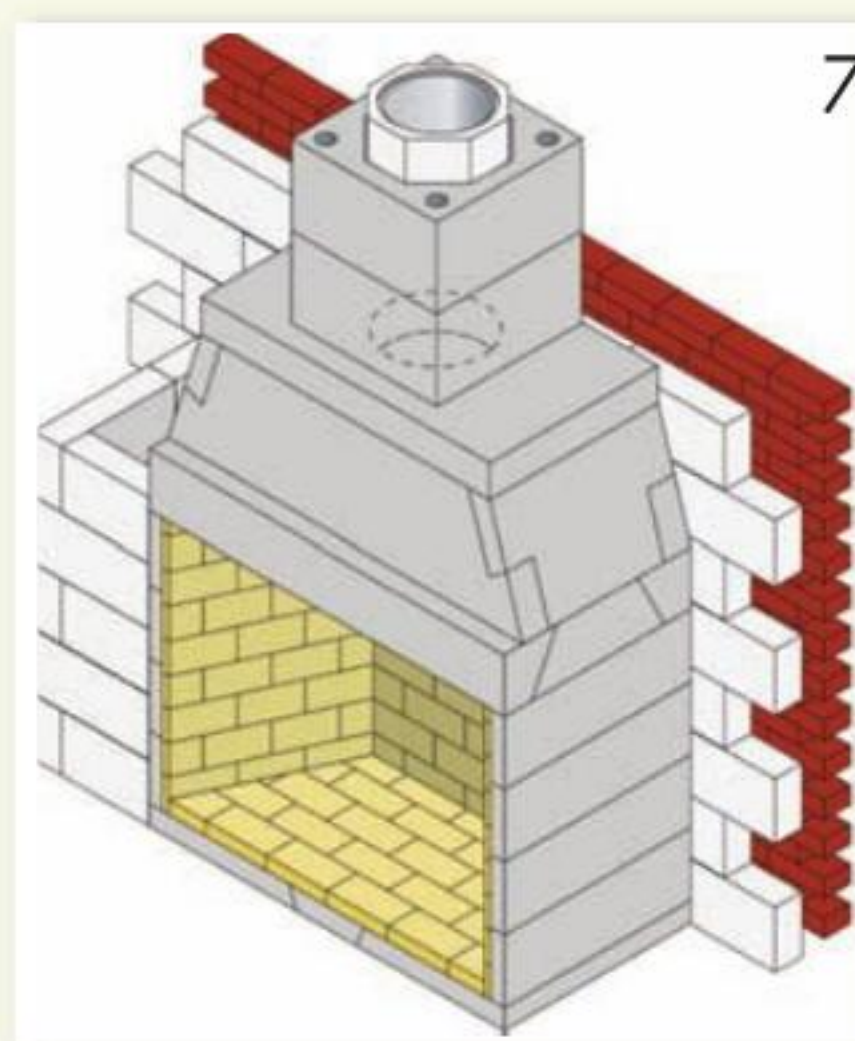
Enq. 171

8 Heating your home with efficiency and style, **Arada** has been setting new standards in excellence and craftsmanship for over 25 years. Arada are the leading manufacturer of Aarrow, Stratford and Villager stoves, which are produced at their specialist production facilities in Devon. Furthermore, Arada is the UK distributor for continental stove manufacturers, Romotop and Fondis. Contact Arada to find out more about their range of products, from traditional or modern stoves and highly efficient boiler stoves to award-winning contemporary wood burning fires.

Enq. 172

9 Warm your home this winter with a contemporary woodburning stove from **Vesta Stoves**. Their range has been developed using simple design principles, whilst including the very latest combustion technology. Each stove contains Vesta's revolutionary trademark air-blade system, which preheats the combustion air and delivers a blade of air across the glass pane. This not only helps to raise the efficiency but also ensures no soot/condensation settles on the glass. All stoves carry a two year anti-corrosion and structural no-nonsense warranty.

Enq. 173




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Enq. 174

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 **Bespoke Fireplace Designs**

Enq. 175

10



10 Eurostove's Mendip 5 multi-fuel stove is now available in a choice of new glossy enamel colours. Designed to be functional, tough and easy to use, all Mendip 5 stoves feature three air supplies, insulated chambers, 5mm steel bodies and cast iron grates, offering a highly efficient and clean heating option. Burning wood or smokeless coal; the Mendip 5 is a small but powerful stove presenting an eco-friendly approach without compromising on aesthetics. The new range is now available in Claret Red, Ivory, Blue Black and Classic Pewter.

Enq. 176

11

11 Templestone Masonry Ltd have just installed a bespoke fireplace, in partnership with Sub Zero Wolf, in their new subterranean studio. Their prospective clients now have a chance in Knightsbridge, London, to see a fine example of their work, either by themselves or by meeting Templestone's designers or architects. If clients can make it down to the workshops in Somerset, they are more than welcome. The website is ever expanding with a range of work including architectural stonework and fireplaces. Free site surveys are offered within 200 miles of their base. British quality, service and value.

Enq. 177



12



12 For the atmosphere of real flames combined with all the convenience, versatility and efficiency, the **Gazco** Electric range has the right fire for any setting. The Studio 2 Electric Verve (left), comes from a range that incorporates one of the quietest fan-assisted fires available. There are four brightness levels and the impressive flame effect can even run without heat! Gazco also produces a wide range contemporary and traditional electric stoves and also Edge fires that sit flush to a wall for the ultimate modern statement.

Enq. 178

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pedestal model fireplace model

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info@eurostove.co.uk

Enq. 179

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sales@dunsleyheat.co.uk
www.dunsleyheat.co.uk

All Dunsley stoves are manufactured in Great Britain

HETAS

Enq. 180

13 Not everyone is able to light a real coal fire when the nights draw in. The **Dimplex** Micro Fire, an electric fire cube with retro styling, will add a cosy touch to a room.

It's stylish and compact enough for small spaces and spot heating, but it's powerful enough to heat bigger rooms too. It's both smoke-free and flue-free, plus there's virtually no installation costs.

Choose from the Dimplex Micro Fire in a Red Finish or in a Black Finish.

Enq. 181

15 Modern steel designs add a further twist to the evolution of the simple wood fired chimenea, the Colorado Chimenea from **Dobbies**.

This designer model is a garden sculpture as well as patio fire, to enhance any outdoor space. Its solid steel construction gives it a contemporary look, one that will really enhance your garden. Available in two sizes, this item would require some simple assembling before use. It is suitable for all solid fuel types.

Enq. 183

14 **Katell** is a specialist in the design and manufacture of fireplaces and electric fires, which are ideal for both new build and refurbishment. Katell has now introduced a new fixing bracket system designed for the safe and secure installation of marble and stone fireplaces. The new fixing bracket system is straightforward to install and not only mechanically secures all of the fireplace components to the wall where the fireplace is being installed, it also provides a concealed fix installation where all of the brackets are hidden within the rear of the section of the fireplace. Therefore there is no remedial work required to cover exposed unsightly screw heads and brackets.

Enq. 182



13



14



15

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- *SPECIFIC CASE STUDY SHOWS THAT THE ECO STOVE CAN SAVE UP TO 70% ON YOUR GAS OR OIL BILLS.
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BUY BRITISH

Enq. 184

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as well as a made-to-measure service.

your choice of fuel - wood, multi-fuel or gas
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Enq. 185

16



The Cleanline Classic is an open convector firebox from **Flamewave Fires**, shown here with a four-sided brushed stainless steel frame.

The clever box-within-a-box construction makes the open convectors twice as efficient as ordinary open fires.

Suitable for use with wood, coal or gas and available in a wide range of sizes and styles. Flamewave Fires also offer a unique made-to-measure service.

Enq. 186

17



18



17

Whether your home is a city apartment, country mansion or period cottage, look no further than **English Fireplaces** to create a stunning focal point for your room.

Offering only the highest quality surrounds in limestone, marble, sandstone and wood, the company also stock a great range of hearths, grates and fire baskets for delivery throughout the UK.

English Fireplaces are proud to be able to offer fantastic value for money as owner Mike Johnson says, 'We work very hard to offer our customers unbeatable value. You can't buy our quality for less anywhere.'

Enq. 187

18

Nothing creates a warmer or more comfortable atmosphere in the home than the magic of an open fire. But what if you have no flue or gas supply and you don't want to spend thousands of pounds on a fireplace? **Living It Up** have found the perfect solution in the form of a new range of biofuel fireplaces. The Magma Bioethanol Fire blends style with function. It has a streamlined, uncluttered design. The Magma is constructed of a solid bold white frame with glass front.

Enq. 188

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or visit our website at www.templestone.co.uk

Enq. 189

Broseley Fires



Shropshire-based Broseley Fires has extended its acclaimed eVolution range of woodburners with the launch of its eVolution 5 stove. Available as a free standing stove with the option of an integral wood store or as an inset unit, the new eVolution 5 builds on the company's expertise in combining eco friendly features with a contemporary design and the latest in stove technology. Tristan Johnston, product development engineer at Broseley Fires, explained: "The eVolution range is already proving a huge success, meeting the demand for a greener alternative to traditional gas and oil-burning stoves and boilers that doesn't compromise on style or performance."

Enq. 190

DRU Fires



DRU Fires has launched the Global 40 for the Class 1 UK chimney. The fire can be combined with two fire surrounds; the Aura and the Eclipse.

It features an impressive log fire display with a backdrop of natural stone or Ceraglass. The fire has a conventional flue and can be installed without a flue liner.

Furthermore, it is compatible with either natural gas or LPG. Operation is by remote control, and it has a maximum heat output of 3.3 Kw.

Tel: 0161 793 8700 www.drufire.co.uk

Enq. 191

wood burning stoves – keeping down energy costs & reducing carbon



The increasing cost of fuel has already caused many homeowners to install wood burning stoves to keep down the cost of home heating. The latest announcements about gas and electricity increases have led a new wave of homeowners to look afresh at wood burning stoves.

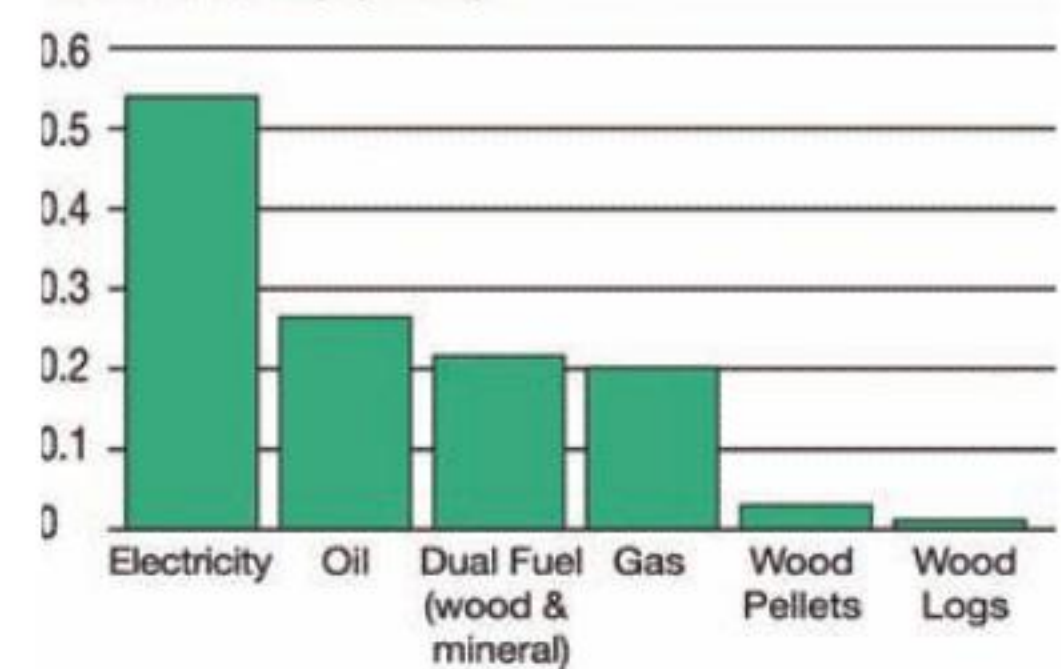
In addition, to help lower the cost of home heating, wood burning stoves can also significantly reduce the amount CO₂ produced in both existing and new houses.

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 in conjunction with a central heating boiler.

This will allow a wood burning stove to provide a significant contribution to the renewable energy sources of the house, while providing homeowners with the aesthetic feel they want their 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

CO₂ Emissions (Kg/KWh)



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 kilowatt of heat produced. Gas, for example, emits 25 times more carbon than burning wood in an efficient stove on a like for like basis.

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

Enq. 192

TR Engineering



TR Engineering have launched a stylish contemporary range of multi fuel stoves that have been welcomed as a modern offering to the stove market. Newton stoves join Trianco's strong portfolio of heating products and are stamped with the seal of quality by being manufactured on-site in Sheffield. Newton quite simply stuns, with its clean ergonomic lines and stainless finished touches. The range commands a central position in any room. Not just in it for the looks how-

ever, practicality is key and Newton supports all that is expected of a superb stove. Available in 5kW and 8kW models, Newton supplies natural heat and the cosy appearance of a real fire as well as natural ventilation.

Enq. 193

Hydro International



The Hydro Stormbloc® modular under-ground storage and infiltration system has been awarded prestigious British Board of Agrément (BBA) certification. The endorsement confirms that the cellular design of Stormbloc® meets high product performance specifications and quality manufacturing standards, backed by physical testing witnessed by the BBA and auditing of the Stormbloc® production facilities. "This long-awaited BBA award provides a mark of confidence for specifiers and

contractors that Stormbloc® is independently verified to meet the claims we make for it against a thorough performance checklist," said Alex Stephenson, Stormwater director of Hydro International.

Enq. 194

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Enq. 195



isolating subfloor moisture

Sheet vinyl blistering and lifting away from concrete substrates, wooden flooring warping and carpets omitting foul odours from reactions with wet slabs: all are common floor failures that occur daily around the UK. The good news is that they can all be easily prevented, as Neil Sanders, technical manager of F. Ball and Co. Ltd., explains

All subfloors need to be carefully examined for excess moisture, as all buildings, old and new, can be at risk

Excess moisture is a common problem in concrete subfloors. The challenge is preventing or limiting its passage to the surface where it may cause the adhesive used to secure the floor covering to de-bond, promote bacterial growth, and even risk damage to the floor covering itself. When laying a new floor covering it is vital to test the subfloor to determine whether excessive moisture levels are present and, if required, apply an effective waterproof treatment or barrier to prevent floor failure and subsequent remedial work.

Risky situation

All subfloors need to be carefully examined for excess moisture, as all buildings, old and new, can be at risk.

It has only been mandatory for new buildings to incorporate an integral damp proof membrane (DPM) at ground floor level since 1965, which means that many buildings constructed before this date are often too damp to receive a new floor covering. However, even in buildings where a DPM has been installed, there are still instances where the subfloor may still be susceptible to moisture. For example, the existing DPM may not have been properly installed or

may have been damaged by a water leak.

A particular risk for new buildings is the presence of residual construction moisture within the floor slab. A 150mm concrete subfloor, for instance, can take up to a year to dry out naturally.

Measuring moisture

Initial, indicative checks to determine whether moisture is present can be carried out using a handheld radio frequency device. It is only by measuring the relative humidity (RH) level within the subfloor that specifiers can determine whether a waterproof treatment or barrier is needed to isolate any present moisture from the floor covering.

Using a calibrated digital hygrometer is a recommended method of measuring a subfloor's RH level. A number of digital hygrometers can be used at the same time, each temporarily sealed at a number of points across the floor. The devices will provide a direct reading of the RH level within the subfloor. An accurate reading can be assumed when the device gives two matching consecutive readings over a 24-hour period. In accordance with British Standards 5325, 8203 and 8201, where the RH is

DAMP PROOF MEMBRANES ARE OFTEN PIGMENTED TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN APPLIED



above 75 per cent, the installation should not proceed until an appropriate treatment has been applied. As wood floors are particularly sensitive to moisture, any RH level over 65 per cent should be treated with a waterproof surface membrane when installing a wood floor covering.

Isolating the problem

Moisture can be effectively suppressed by applying an epoxy resin waterproof surface system, which chemically cures to prevent moisture rising through the subfloor. To aid coverage uniformity, a resin system should be selected that is pigmented, allowing the user to visually control product coverage. One and two-coat systems are available, which should be selected according to the RH level measured. Where RH levels are below 92 per cent, a one-coat epoxy resin system is usually recommended, but where the RH of a subfloor is above 92 per cent, the application of a two-coat system is required to provide maximum levels of protection.

For projects where speed of installation is essential, fast-curing additives can be used in conjunction with a resin waterproof surface membrane. In many cases, this will speed up the curing time to just 3 hours.

Another 'quick fix' solution is to install an impervious, loose lay membrane sheet directly onto the damp subfloor. This will provide a physical barrier to isolate the moisture from the floor covering. Manufactured from reinforced vinyl, an isolator membrane is quick and easy to lay over the subfloor and allows a new resilient floor covering to be bonded to its upper surface. Nodules on the underside of the isolator sheet create an airspace to allow the ventilation of water vapour out of the subfloor and into a dry wall or ventilated skirting, thereby preventing excessive moisture build up. Resilient sheet floor coverings can then be installed on top of the membrane using the recommended flooring adhesive.

An additional benefit of loose lay membrane systems is that they allow the easy removal of floor coverings, leaving the subfloor in its original condition. As such, these systems are suitable for use in listed buildings, or where a building is to be occupied on a limited tenancy. Isolator membranes are also ideal for use on contaminated floors, again providing a physical barrier to isolate the problem from the floor covering.

Assessing the subfloor for moisture should be the first step in any flooring installation. It is only by determining the extent of the problem that specifiers can correctly identify the appropriate waterproof treatment or barrier required to isolate the problem from the floor covering, and thereby prevent any subsequent moisture damage.

Enq. 196



Klargester

Correct installation and care is a pre-requisite for the long-lasting operation of any wastewater treatment product, such as a septic tank or sewage treatment plant. Now, anyone looking for off-mains expertise will find it online within a couple of mouse clicks. Klargester has added a new 'Locate a Specialist' section to its website (www.klargester.com/installers). The section contains details of wastewater professionals across England, Scotland and Wales who can help at any stage of an installation, from the early steps of system design, and the selection and installation of the correct equipment, to connecting to local drainage and electrical networks. Paul Usher, Klargester's installation network manager, says: "These are specialists who can help in terms of their high technical expertise and offer advice based on their local knowledge, so they will be able to give guidance in areas such as ground conditions and water table levels, right through to gaining consent to discharge." The 'Locate a Specialist' pages have been designed to deliver rich content direct to a customer's browser. A postcode search function allows enquirers to bring up all the installers within a particular catchment.

Enq. 197

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Enq. 198



Fernco Environmental

On October 1st 2011 in England and Wales, the ownership and responsibility of many thousands of kilometres of pipes and sewers will transfer from the homeowner to the regulated sewerage companies. This enormous shift will affect different sectors in different ways; we will all need to reassess elements of how we work, who we talk to, what we supply and how we promote ourselves. As well as ensuring the homeowner is aware of these changes, a key factor is having efficient, effective maintenance and repair systems to hand. Systems which are fit for purpose first time, are accredited, recognised for superb and reliable performance and that comply with relevant regulations. Flexseal and Fernco Environmental supply several such systems, all designed to be cost and time efficient for the contractor, satisfy the householder and provide a long term solution. Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more.

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Enq. 199

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Enq. 200

Lanes Group



Lanes Group has been shortlisted in two categories of the 3R Awards 2011. A delighted Michelle Ringland, Lanes' business development manager, said that the Lanes case studies had been selected for their inventive approach: "This is about projects which prolong the active life of buildings and infrastructure through solutions, which are preferable to new build. "Our Manchester Metrolink project to strengthen the utility infrastructure has been shortlisted for the 'Utility Facilities' award. Thanks to our work, sewers are able to withstand the weight of the city's trams. [...] In the 'Best Service Provider' category, we have been shortlisted for rehabilitating a corroded pipebridge carrying a mainline sewer."

Enq. 201

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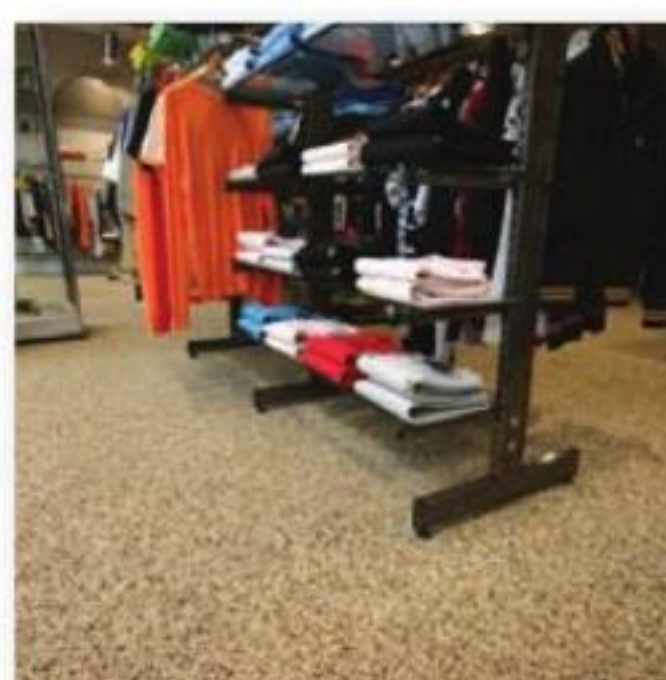
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Enq. 202

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Enq. 203

Delta Membrane Systems



Essential planning information for flat green roof systems for gardens, terraces, walkways and parking areas is given in the latest brochure from Delta Membrane Systems. This 32 page publication covers a wide range of subjects, including how users need to observe a variety of regulations applying to the various construction systems available. The actual configuration of a waterproofing system depends on the materials used, as well as on waterproofing standards, codes of practice for roofs with waterproofing, European product certifications, building authority certifications, and manufacturer's working instructions. This new brochure will prove to be an invaluable aid to all those involved in the design of 'green' roofs.

Enq. 204



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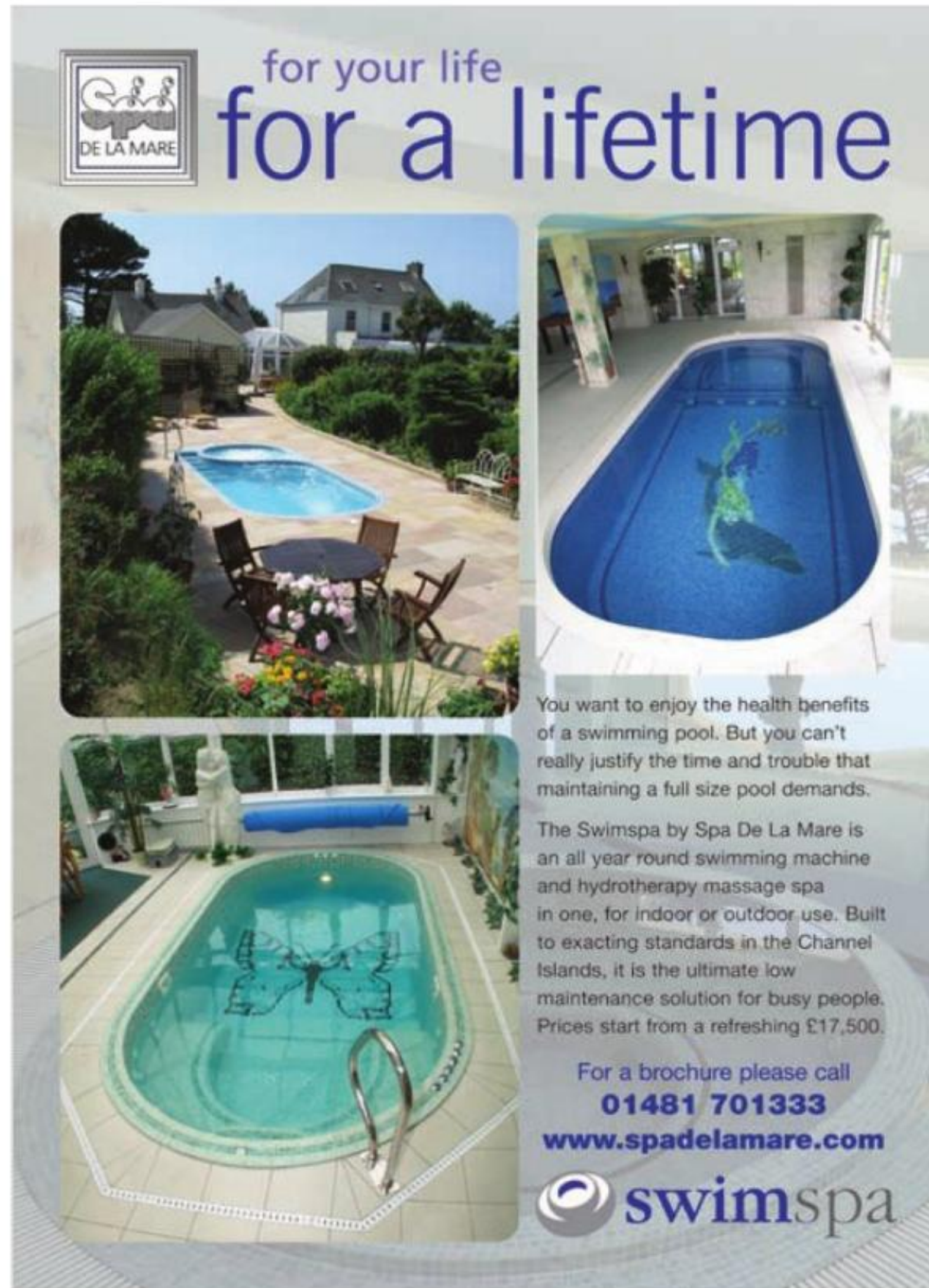
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Enq. 205



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Enq. 206



rainline sustainable rainwater systems in steel

Rainline – no matter what the colour, it will always be green

In Sweden they know a thing or two about manufacturing sustainable building products and their impact on the environment, so it's not surprising that Lindab's Rainline carbon footprint is significantly lower than many of the rainwater systems currently on the market.

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Enq. 207



the real thing or imitation?

Despite the emergence of look-alike rainwater products in various materials, cast iron rainwater systems still take a lot of beating for both looks and performance, remaining the first choice for traditional or listed properties. They are a popular choice for the discerning selfbuilder seeking the best possible external appearance for their property. Mike Rawlings of Saint-Gobain PAM UK looks at why this traditional material is still more than holding its own

In the self build market, the homeowner has the chance to choose the materials to create the home of their dreams, from the creative kitchen they have always wanted but didn't have the room for in their old home, and oak beamed rooms giving rustic character, right down to less glamorous but still necessary products such as the guttering and downpipes, draining water from the roof. The demands from today's rainwater systems can be minimal, or highly stringent depending on your viewpoint.

Often one of the last items on the shopping list, the rainwater system could be just a means

to an end or it could become an important aesthetic feature, the final piece in the jigsaw in completing that special quality appearance for all to see before they even enter the home. The rainwater system can just drain water from a roof, with appearance, performance, and expected lifespan not important, or be long-lasting and durable, requiring minimal maintenance and offering optimum sustainability. Most materials sit in one camp or the other – with cast iron rainwater systems the offer is clear.

Promoting the benefits of cast iron systems versus alternatives usually involves exploding the

myths often associated with this material. While cast iron products have traditionally been seen as a more expensive option, the picture looks very different when complete life cycle costs are considered: cast iron has a typical lifespan of up to 100 years, whereas plastic pipes, for example, usually only come with a 10–20 year life expectancy meaning four or five replacements during the cast iron system's lifespan. The argument that cast iron systems involve a lengthy on-site finishing process involving primer, undercoat and topcoat, which adds time and cost to the installation process, certainly does not apply to the latest pre-painted cast iron systems. Another myth is that of maintenance. Some alternative systems are quoted as maintenance-free with a 10-year guarantee. However, ten years fades into insignificance against the lifetime expectations of cast iron; indeed when cast iron systems do need replacing it is usually after a lifetime of service. The need for periodic re-painting only applies to cast iron systems supplied primed for on-site painting, while the coatings on cast iron systems supplied with an epoxy powder polymer should give an expected coating life of as much as 20 years depending on location.

Cast iron offers added value to selfbuilders wishing to combine cost-effectiveness and performance with traditional aesthetics

Today's cast iron gutter systems are simple to install using a low modulus mastic sealant, or gutter jointing kits for the half round profile that uses rubber gaskets but still carry all of the traditional benefits of strength, durability and rigidity. The strength of cast iron offers better security against severe weather conditions such as snow and high winds, while at the other end of the scale, it will not twist or creak when temperatures rise. The inherent strength of cast iron also makes it highly resistant to accidental damage and vandalism.

For the green and economical homeowner who wants to capture rainwater for uses such as gardening or washing the car, cast iron systems include rainwater diverter kits that connect to standard water butts available on the high street.

Finally, there is the issue of environmental impact. Cast iron is produced from 97 per cent recycled material (scrap) and in turn is 100 per cent recyclable and has a residual value at the end of its life. This provides the incentive necessary to ensure it is recycled, rather than used for landfill. While alternative systems claim a level of recyclability, this is often complicated and costs more to achieve than it is worth.

In terms of a cost-in-use analysis, longevity, minimal maintenance and inherent performance benefits make cast iron the prime option for rainwater systems. Given that aesthetically cast iron is also well ahead of its counterparts, it is no surprise that it also offers added value to selfbuilders wishing to combine cost-effectiveness and performance with traditional aesthetics that other materials simply cannot match.

Enq. 208



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Enq. 209

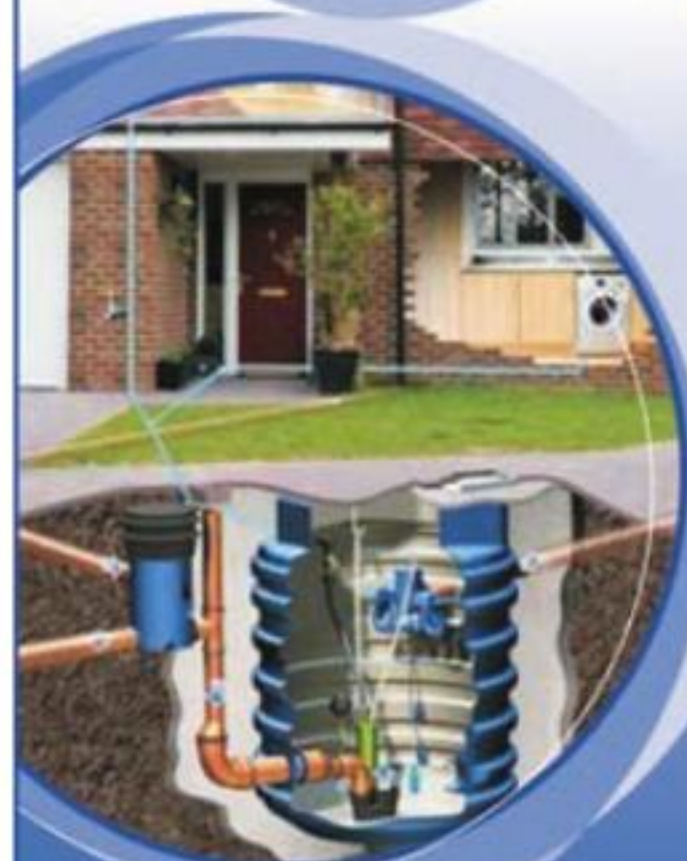
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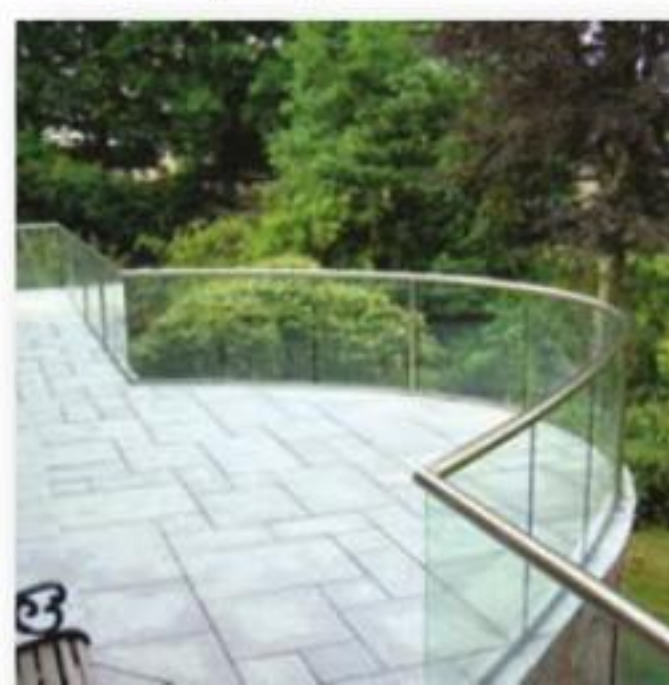


Polypipe Building Products is celebrating the success of its enhanced and extended Elegance cast iron effect uPVC rainwater system with the addition of the revolutionary notched gutter concept for its Ogee profile to add to the original and highly popular half round profile. The Elegance range has been designed in such a way that each profile in the range utilises a common downpipe, making installation and ordering very simple. The new notched Ogee profile guttering provides a secure fit and counters the problem of gutters becoming dislodged from their retaining clips during warm weather due to heat expansion.

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Enq. 211

Balcony Systems



When a Cheshire householder added a wraparound terrace to her canalside home, she turned to Balcony Systems for the low-maintenance 39-metre curved and straight glass balustrading solution to keep the views. A key factor in Lynda Hadfield's choice was Balcony's innovative self-cleaning glass coating, which creates a smooth surface that quickly repels water, dirt and grime to keep the glass cleaner for longer. This double-sided coating reduces cleaning and does not require harsh chemicals to do

the job effectively. Balcony Systems supplied 26 metres of straight glass and aluminium balustrading, plus nine metres of curved panels, with the shiny Royal Chrome handrail finish replicating the look of stainless steel.

Enq. 212

Gas Safe Europe



A decision by the All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group and Greg Baker MP, minister of state for climate change, to make fitting CO alarms a statutory requirement in every 'at risk' home – and insist on regular functionality checks – has been welcomed at Gas Safe Europe Ltd. Gas Safe's John Stones, inventor of the company's Detectagas product, has campaigned for more than 15 years to make these vital sensor checks a requirement and believes it is a move

that will save lives. Multi award-winning product Detectagas, as the name suggests, tests the viability of the alarm's sensor simply and inexpensively using a harmless spray of gas from a Detectagas aerosol.

Enq. 213

Ultra Fire Group



Ultra Fire Group is once again ahead of the field in fire protection by launching the first Sidewall water mist nozzle to be tested by the BRE under the new BS9252 residential fire protection standard. Also successfully tested was Ultra's new 8mm diameter self-releasing thermally activated Concealed Cap with integrated heat element, designed to operate with both Sidewall and pendant water mist nozzles. These new products represent the leading edge in fire protection

technology; exceptionally effective at suppressing flames and heat, minimising water damage and offering a solution that is virtually invisible to the observer.

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Enq. 215



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Enq. 216

sustainable design and construction innovators asked to come forward and be counted

Building on the resounding success of the 2009 inaugural Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards, Hertfordshire local authorities are on the lookout once again for those individuals and organisations that make Hertfordshire and its built environment greener and more sustainable. Developers, architects, local authorities and homeowners with a flair for innovation, creativity and groundbreaking design, are being called upon to put themselves forward for the biennial awards, which recognise excellence in building projects.

Entries for the awards can be submitted by anyone who wants to acknowledge and reward sustainable development in Hertfordshire. So, if you're a selfbuilder with an ingenious way of reusing precious building materials, or have a thirst for water conservation, you can

enter for this year's awards.

Any development is eligible, no matter how big or small, and candidates may be either self nominated or nominated by a third party. Eligible schemes include new build, conversion and retrofitting in the residential, commercial, retail, education, health and leisure sectors. There are only two conditions that need to be met:

- The project must be located in Hertfordshire
- It must have been completed between 16th September 2009 and 16th September 2011.

Once entries are received, they will be assessed by an expert panel of judges who are all leaders in the fields of sustainability, urban design and architecture. This year's judges will be: urban designer Jeremy Caulton; architect

Barry Shaw; sustainability expert Dr. David Strong and sustainability consultant Isabel McAllister who developed the original Building Futures guidance.

Richard Thake, Hertfordshire County Council's executive member for environment & community safety, said: "The 2009 Building Futures Awards were a great success and highlighted the innovation and creativity which is behind sustainable development in Hertfordshire. Entries were exceptional, and I've no doubt that those this year will be equally excellent. With almost half of CO₂ emissions coming from the use of buildings, I believe we should be seeking to reward developments coming forward in the county, which demonstrate how we can make real inroads into cutting our emissions."

Neil Evison, chair HBCEC from Constructing Excellence in

East of England – Herts and Beds Club, said: "The biennial Building Futures Awards are a great way not only to celebrate sustainability and eco friendly design, but also to reward the innovation, skill and vision that goes into making such design a reality. As the 2009's awards highlighted, there are some truly excellent examples of sustainable building projects taking place all the time across Hertfordshire, and these awards are a perfect platform to give sustainability pioneers the acknowledgement they deserve."

Cate Hall, executive director services at Watford Borough Council, said: "There are lots of great projects in the area which deserve commending, and I'd strongly suggest entering the awards if you have been involved in an eco-friendly project in the last two years."

Entries must be received by 5pm on 14th October. To find out how you can enter the awards, visit www.hertslink.org/building-futures



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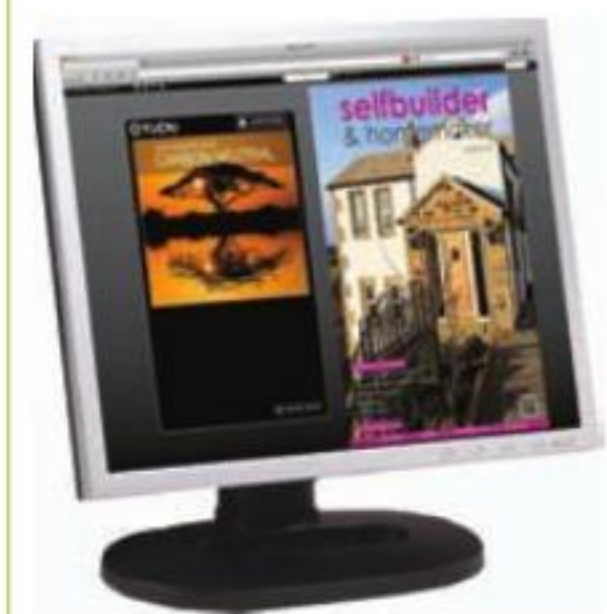
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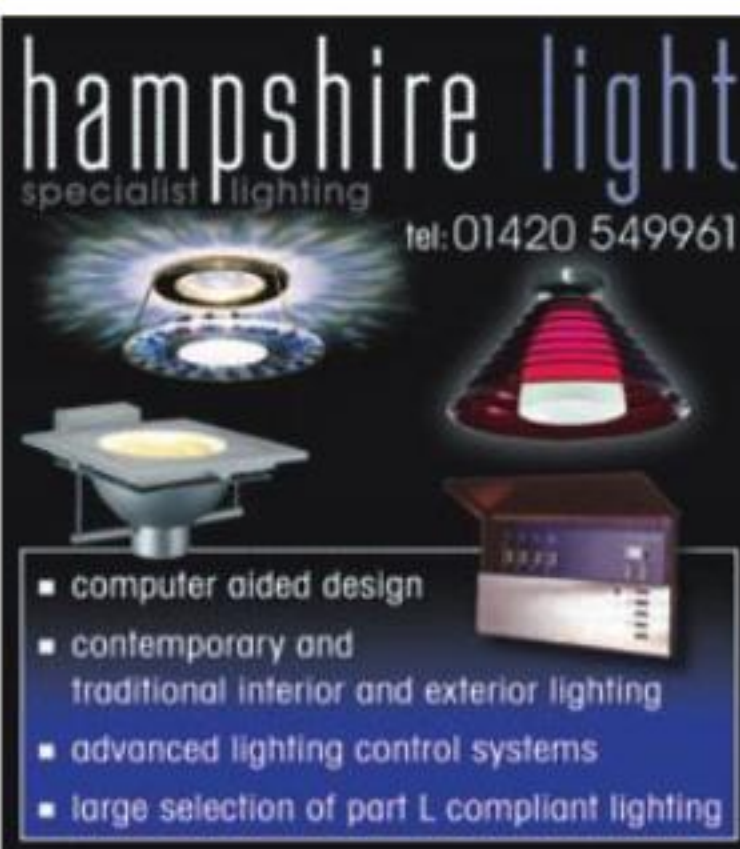
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